

# Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202

## **A Baby in a Manger. A Simple Gift, with a Simply Amazing Message...**

This world is so full of busy choices, we want to offer you this choice of 2 hours to slow your pace and enjoy the world that Jesus came to save. Huddle together around a fire barrel, relax in a pew and let the songs of angels wash over you, let your children touch a warm woolly piece of the Nativity, break pumpkin bread together with your neighbors and remember that the simple beauty of the Nativity was created with you in mind.

Join together for this simple purpose; to remember the birth of a baby and the overwhelming love that simple gift brings to you. Let it lift your soul and bring you joy.



**On December 16th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** our church will host an event for the whole community. We will throw our arms and doors wide open this holy holiday season, so invite your friends, tell the neighbors and gather together.

- ◆ Our annual **Live Nativity** will appear on the front lawn, complete with real animals, the holy family, shepherds, angels and wise people. Recapture that spirit of joy at the birth of the new baby Jesus, as you gaze like shepherds upon the live Nativity
- ◆ Then move into the Sanctuary to warm your hearts with songs of the season as presented by the **Avonworth High School Chorus followed by a Hymn Sing**. Let it remind you of the glory of the angel's music on that first joyful Christmas.
- ◆ In the Fellowship Hall tour the **Simple Gift Creations and Ideas**. The whole family can make simple, meaningful items together that can be gifts of love to friends and family. You can also get creative ideas for other simple gifts you may choose to do on your own such as recipes, charitable donations and fair trade items.



◆ **Pal Craftaid** is a volunteer ministry of compassion, hope and healing. They sell quality olive wood sculptures and needlework made by Palestinian Christian artisans. Proceeds go to Palestinian Christian-managed organizations to support poor families and the elderly. Pastor **Jean Henderson** will be available to talk with you about the items and their benefits to so many. You may purchase these simple items if you choose.

We will need assistants to host various activity tables. This is a simple job of greeting guests to your table and showing them how to create the craft at your station. All of the crafts are quite simple and all of the supplies and directions will be provided.

**PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE  
NARTHEX TO FIND A CRAFT THAT MAY INTEREST YOU,  
THEN SIGN UP TO HOST THAT TABLE.**

# My View on Church Avenue

by Pastor Carol Divens Roth

## SESSION CORNER

by Peter Herchenroether, Clerk of Session

Dear Friends,

Nearly 35 years ago, our older daughter Kristin (at the time our only child) was coming up on her second Christmas. Mark and I were more excited than any child could be, because, unlike her Christmas #1, this would be the year she would know what was going on. She could share in the joy as we sculpted and painted dough ornaments, decorated cookies – and herself – and sought creative storage places in our tiny apartment for the packages arriving daily from grandparents in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh.

One day, in the midst of the mayhem, we got a call from relatives who wanted to talk to “the baby.”

“Tell them ‘Merry Christmas,’” we said, as we handed her the phone.

“Merry Kristin,” said the apple of our eye.

At the time we thought it merely cute that she had seen herself as the focus of the holiday. Every time someone spoke about Christmas, she heard it as Kristin.

Over the years I have come to understand that our two-year-old was even wiser than the magi.

God comes to us in Jesus Christ, a particular person, and so God comes *to* particular persons. Jesus Christ comes into the world for every Merry Kristin and Lee and Sarah, every John and Doug and Jeff. Each and every life is blessed by him. He comes as God incarnate, knowing our sorrows, longings, fears, joys, hopes and dreams, and calling us to a life of peace, to an understanding that each of us is precious to God, just as we are, 2 or 102, innkeeper or innsweeper, the color of the earth or the color of the sand.

The simple gift of Christmas is for each of us. The holy day is for you.

Merry Kristin to all *anna* new year abundant in the blessings of Christ.

Shalom,  
Carol Divens Roth  
Interim Pastor

December marks the end of the terms on Session for several Elders. Their service has been remarkable and steadfast. We appreciate the time and talents offered by **Ed Butcher, Clair Cranville, Ross Dillon, Ken DiNino, Doug Simmons, and Chris Skerlong** during their time on Session. (Clair, however, who was first elected in 2006, has been reelected for a full term and will continue to serve on Session!) A special thanks also go to outgoing Deacons **Laura Cranville, Kerry Crilley, Austin DeSimone, Betty Haughin, Sue Herchenroether, John Isherwood, Frank Somerville and R.J. White.**

Newly elected to Session are Elders **Jan Davis, Paul Fitting, Wendy Herchenroether, Beth Joyce, James Pool and Walt Robertson.** We are looking forward to having these dedicated members contribute to the work of your Session and the Church. They will be welcomed at a joint meeting of Session on December 4. Incoming Deacons are **Alan Bauer, Nancy Crawford, Maureen Kowalski, Lisa Kroen, Henry Mokube, and Ed Stauffer.** Youth deacons serving a one-year term are **Rachel Pool and Casey Cunningham.** All of these officers will be installed at the worship service on January 13.

We also need to recognize the service of our retiring Financial Secretaries, **John Ferguson, Royce Rice and Dick Schneider.** These men have diligently served our Church by handling the task of counting and recording the weekly contributions from both worship services and the Sunday School. It is a task that requires significant commitment and precision. They have performed this for us all week after week with quiet and professional devotion. Like so many acts of service in the Church, they have functioned without much attention or appreciation. It is time to give them our heartfelt thanks for a job well done for many years.

And finally, how can we say thank you for the past 14 years in which Barbara Barcoucky has served as Church Treasurer. She has unstintingly given of her time and talents to volunteer in an essential role. Please give her a pat on the back.

### Church Office to Be Closed December 24-28

#### Christmas Eve Services Will Still Take Place at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

The church office will be closed December 24-28. (Yes, Virginia, there will still be two services on Christmas Eve.) Most of the staff will be on vacation and regular meetings and activities will be on hiatus.

However, phone messages will be picked up daily. If you have an urgent situation, call Rev. Carol Divens Roth at 412-441-6004, Rev. Jean Henderson at 412-734-2263 or Clerk of Session, Peter Herchenroether at 412-766-2055.

**Lighting Christmas Candles - Giving a "SIMPLE GIFT"**

-by Jean Henderson, Pastor of Visitation

The Christmas holidays can be the best days of the year....or the worst. They can be the happiest...or the saddest. Memories flood back to us - memories of places we can no longer visit. Many of us will be living through the holidays for the first time without someone we've loved - someone who was always there for the festivities.



As members of the Body of Christ, I encourage each of us to be on the alert for signs and sounds of sadness around us. In the midst of all the hubbub of media and advertising, listen for - look for - ways you can give a SIMPLE GIFT - to light a candle of hope.

Howard Thurman's poem is a good reminder:

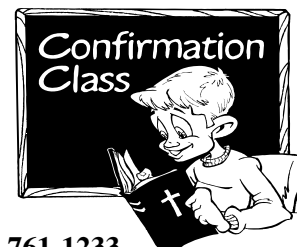
*I Will Light Candles This Christmas*

- ◆ candles of joy, despite all sadness,
- ◆ candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
- ◆ candles of courage for fears ever present,
- ◆ candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
- ◆ candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
- ◆ candles of love to inspire all my living,
- ◆ candles that will burn all the year long.

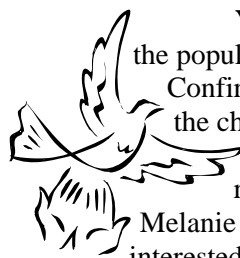
**Eighth Graders Invited to Participate in Confirmation 2008—Beginning January 20th**

8<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to take part in Confirmation. It is part of a passage to maturity, but also a time of fun, play and study about who they are, what they believe, how they fit into the life of the church and how God fits into the rest of their lives. We begin with a parent's meeting, followed by a **retreat** for all 8th graders.

The first meeting for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders AND their parents is **Sunday, January 20th at 12:00 noon** at the church. Lunch is provided.



**Please RSVP to the church at 761-1233**  
**Following the meeting, kids and staff will depart for an overnight retreat, returning the 21st. (Monday is Martin Luther King day with no school.)**



**YES** we will once again incorporate the popular **Mentoring** program into the Confirmation experience. Any member of the church is eligible to be a Mentor, no Biblical or Theological genius required. Please contact Todd or Melanie at 412-761-1233 if you may be interested in participating.



**GROWING IN DISCIPLESHIP**

**Growing in Discipleship Stewardship Results**

The partial results for the 2008 campaign were reported in church on Sunday, November 18. Since that time more of the cases have come in, although there are few of the actual travel cases "missing in action".

The latest highlights are:

	2008	2007	Change '08 vs. '07	2006
Total number of pledges	174	175	(1)	146
Amount pledged	\$388,470	\$403,514	(\$15,044)	\$333,805
New pledges	26	38	(12)	11
Increased pledges	80	71	9	49

We are thankful for the number of new pledges and increased pledges. Last season we reported the final results in the February issue of Revelations so it gives you some idea how much further along we are this season.

However, sometimes the numbers are just the beginning of another part of the story. The Stewardship and Finance Committee and Session now must juggle these results with the costs of our programs and come up with a budget for 2008.

We remain concerned over the large number of members who do not pledge at all. To date, there are over 180 members who have not returned their pledge cards. Won't you help us by making your pledge today?

## A Call to Safety to Our Whole Church Family

Dear Church Family,

As many of you may know, there have been some children injured in recent months during church events and fellowship time. While bumps and bruises are naturally a part of childhood play, we have reached a point of needing to increase our mindfulness of our children's play.

I am sure you will recognize this as an unusual step for me, as I have always advocated that our children feel comfortable and at home among their church family. But it is also so very important to make the church a safe place, where we learn to care for each other and look out for the least among us.

Parents, please be aware of your child's location and type of play while in the building. This needs to apply to older children as well, since younger bystanders or the elderly may also be injured. Please prevent rough or unsafe play or chase games, and discourage using the elevator or the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor balcony for play.

We are indeed a family, so I also ask our extended church family to help keep children safe. If you see dangerous behavior, please ask the children to stop, or see their parents.

For my part, the Christian Education Committee and I will look for opportunities to provide self-guided activity tables for children at church events and to find times in the future when parents can come together for much needed grown up conversation, with childcare provided.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me anytime. I am happy to talk with our church family on how to better minister to all. I thank you sincerely for your help and know that it really does "take a village" – or a congregation to raise healthy families.

We are blessed with a true Community here at CPCBA, and caring for each other has always been a cornerstone of who we are. I cherish that, and pray that this family of God will continue to build each other up, from 'gurgling babies to golden oldies' ...and beyond.

In God's Peace,  
Melanie Holcomb  
Christian Education Director



*For he will command his  
angels concerning you to  
guard you in all your ways.  
Psalm 91:11*

## New Adult Study Opportunities for January 2008

### Wednesday Morning Prayer Groups

Starting in January, the Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer group will study the book, *Praying for Jennifer*, by John Cobb. This slender volume explores intercessory prayer as it tells the story of a young girl left in a coma after a terrible car accident. As her friends and family gather around Jennifer, they all consider what it means to pray, how it does and doesn't "work," and who God is.

There are no easy answers provided, just thought-provoking discussion as we wrestle with the kinds of questions we all have in times of crisis. Copies of the book will cost \$5. You can sign up at the narthex desk to reserve a copy. **The study will begin January 9.**

### Sunday Morning and Thursday Evenings

*Five Marks of Spiritual Vitality*-an Adult Education Series

Sunday mornings, 9:15 a.m.

January 6, 13, 20, 27, and February 3. **AND**

Thursday evenings 6:45 – 8:00 p.m.

January 10, 17, 24, 31, and Wednesday Feb. 6 (before the Ash Wednesday service)

Do you feel like you're just going through the motions, struggling to keep up with the bills, the kids, the parents, the job, the spouse, the church, the holidays, the unfulfilled expectations, the...life! Where is God in all *that*???

The answer is in ALL of it, but we have to exercise our spirits to keep that perspective in the foreground. This class is meant to help you find new ways, or review old ways, to feel alive in Christ everyday. Rev. Jean Henderson and selected cohorts will focus on 5 ways by which we can attain greater personal spiritual vitality:

By being:

- Prayerful
- Biblically Astute
- Justice-Minded
- Intellectually Active
- Faith-Sharing

Results from the Church Assessment Tool identified *spiritual vitality* as an area of concern for our congregation. In this index, the survey measured the degree to which we believe our faith is central to our lives rather than peripheral or episodic. Compared to other churches of the same size, we scored ourselves the lowest in this area. This class may be one way that we, as a community of Christians, can gird each other up on our journeys with Christ.

## Advent and Christmas Events

*Simple Gifts* is the theme for Advent and Christmas at CPCBA this year. As you can see from the calendar below, the gifts, while simple, are abundant.

The Season of Advent is a time of preparation and expectation as the world awaits its coming joy. If a welcome guest were coming to your home, the whole family might be involved in making everything ready. Observing Advent is one way to keep *Christ* in *Christmas* because it keeps the focus on what's really meaningful at this time of year.

Daily devotions are helpful. An Advent calendar with daily scriptures, short prayers, and readings is available to any individual or family following the worship services. You can also pick up a copy from the church office at any time.

- ◆ From **December 5-19**, the Wednesday **Bible Study and Prayer Group** will explore the stories behind some of our beloved **Christmas carols** and their relationship to the scripture. Of course, we'll listen to and sing some of them as well. You don't have to be a "regular" to attend. Everyone is invited from 9:30-10:30 a.m. We conclude each gathering with intercessory prayer. If you cannot attend but have a particular prayer request, please give it to Pastor Carol. (The group will not meet December 26.)
- ◆ The Advent observance at CPCBA will begin on **Sunday, December 2**, with a family **communion** service at 10:30. On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we will light the Advent wreath with its candles bearing the light of *Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy* for all Creation. We will also have a simple gift exchange during each of the two worship services that day. Be not afraid, there's nothing to buy or wrap. It will be the gift of prayer for one another.
- ◆ Baptisms are planned for **December 9 and 23**. We will welcome children into the family of faith, as the entire community promises to uphold them and nurture their faith.
- ◆ The **annual Children's Christmas Pageant** will take place at the 10:30 service on **December 16**. With our rapidly-growing Sunday School, there will be a cast of dozens. Costume makers are working overtime to get everything in tip-top shape. Sorry for the baaaaad pun. All children will have an opportunity to be involved in the Pageant that morning. No previous experience required. If you have guests, bring them! No one will be left out. However, **if your child and/or guests would like to be involved in the service, they need to be in the Fellowship Hall by 9:00 a.m.** Volunteers are always welcome to help get children into costumes that morning.
- ◆ Later that day will be the annual **Community Christmas Festival from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** While CPCBA-ers enjoy the activities, this is meant to be a gift to our neighbors in the surrounding communities. Carrying out our Advent theme of *Simple Gifts*, there will be easy-to-do crafts in the fellowship hall, a live Nativity on the front lawn along with cookies and cocoa, and a performance by the Avonworth High School Chorus in the sanctuary. Church members have been writing Christmas songs to familiar tunes and the songs will be debuted at the festival for a sing-along. Be sure to extend a personal invitation to friends, neighbors and members of groups to which you belong.
  - ◆ While there's no charge for admission to the festival, we are inviting the community to bring a simple gift of mittens, gloves, hats, or scarves in children and adult sizes. These will adorn a tree in the narthex and will be donated to area homeless shelters, including the Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter and HEARTH, which are two programs we help to support in their ministry to men, women and children.
- ◆ Sunday, **December 23**, is still Advent, but we will segue into Christmas with a dialogue sermon at 10:30 between **Santa and the Preacher**. Carol created the sermon several years ago after driving past a Christmas lawn display which included the Holy Family in Santa's sleigh. The dialogue helps to get at the origins of Santa and connects him to the true meaning of Christmas. **Parents take note:** *Santa will be present in full regalia. Since the weekly message comes after the time when children have left the sanctuary for Junior Church, you can decide whether to have your child stay.*
- ◆ The Outreach Committee has other ways you can make love real at Christmas. The deadline has passed for the Angel Tree with donations for the Salvation Army, and there are only a few days left for Holy Family Institute's gift drive. You can take a name and gift idea off the narthex tree and purchase the gift for a youth who will be staying at the Institute over the holidays. You can also donate to either organization directly or make a check out to the church with Salvation Army or Holy Family in the memo line.
- ◆ Celebrate the birth of our Lord at either or both of the **Christmas Eve services**. The family service will be at 7:00 p.m. with the Rev. Jean Henderson leading the service. The Candlelight service will be at 9:00 p.m.
- ◆ Sunday, **December 30**, there will be **ONE SERVICE** of worship at 10:30 and no Junior Church. Sunday School classes for children and adults will resume January 6.

**Please Pray for our Military in Combat Zones**

Matt de Klaver  
 Jim Willis  
 Bob Hedglin (leaving soon)

If you know of others, please call the church office at 412-761-1233. Thank you!



**Look for the New Recycle Bin in the Kitchen**



Located in the church kitchen, please use the recycle bin for glass, plastics, etc. Even though Ben Avon Boro recycles, the collectors will not stop at the church. Volunteers will be taking the items home for recycling. All folks - staff, members, visitors - are asked to use the bin.

**Beulah Presbyterian Church is Looking for Volunteers to Continue Katrina Cleanup**

Beulah Presbyterian Church is planning to take a busload of 50 volunteers to Ocean Springs near Biloxi MS to work on Katrina clean-up. If you're interested or need more information, call Lynne at 724-212-3174 or visit their website at [www.beulahpresby.org](http://www.beulahpresby.org).

**No Sunday School on December 30th—**

There is no Sunday School on this day. Enjoy your time with friends and family. Read the Christmas story from your Bible and talk about the Magi arriving! A Blessed Christmas to you all.

**Series on Violence in the Bible presented by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in January**

During this season when we celebrate the Prince of Peace, we look to Scriptures for insight. We also find there evidence of the less than peaceful situations and teachings.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will offer a four-evening series on Violence in the Bible, January 9, 16, 23, and 30, from 7-8:30 a.m. at the seminary, 616 N. Highland Ave., Highland Park. Dr. Jerome Creach, professor of Old Testament, will present the lectures addressing the portrayal of violence in the Bible, paying particular attention to the theological and ethical implications of that portrayal.

The series will consider how we can use the Bible as a guide for faith and life, how we can understand God's nature, and if the problematic parts of Scripture can be in any way a testimony to Jesus Christ. Specific topics include "God is a Warrior", "The Problem of Conquest in Canaan," and "Psalms that Curse the Enemy."

The cost is \$60 and is open to all. For further information, call 412-441-3304 or go to [ConEd@pts.edu](mailto:ConEd@pts.edu).



November 11, 2007 - Mission Sunday Outreach Committee as "Blues Brothers (and Sisters)"

**Outreach Committee Sings the Blues...**

Some of you may have heard of the Blues Brothers, a duo developed by John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd on Saturday Night Live, and later featured in movies. They were ex-convicts whose performed the blues with zeal and were on "a mission from Gaaaahd."

On Mission Sunday, November 11, our own Outreach Committee –of whom we've all heard – boogied down the aisle to the tune of the "Brothers" *Soul Man*, dressed in trademark black fedoras, suits, and sunglasses to make the point they are on a mission from God! We give approximately \$60,000 to various missions each year as well as promote special drives to benefit people, including backpacks for students, coats, and food. See the complete list below. If you would like to volunteer for an agency or to serve on the committee, see Kate Colville.

*CPCBA Mission Agencies*

- Avonworth Meals on Wheels
- Bellevue Meals on Wheels
- Breachmenders
- Christian Literacy Associates
- Circle C Youth and Family Services
- East Liberty Family Health Care Center
- Family Guidance Inc.
- HEARTH
- Holy Family Institute
- North Hills Community Outreach
- North Hills Youth Ministry Counseling Center
- Northside Common Ministry
- North Suburban Adult Ministries
- Orr Compassionate Care Center
- PAAR- Pittsburgh Action Against Rape
- Pittsburgh Project
- POWER (formerly Zoar New Day)
- Samaritan Counseling Center
- Wooden Ladder Preschool

**Thank You To All Who Made the Pumpkin Patch a Huge Success Over \$2,200 Raised!**

The youth group's pumpkin patch was a success again this year due to all the help from the members of CPCBA. Thanks to your support we raised over \$2,200. A special thanks goes out to all who help by unloading pumpkins, working the patch each day, helping to clean up and of course buying the pumpkin. The success of this fundraiser shows the youth of our community that you care about them. Thank You.

**Youth Group News and Calendar**

**Middle School Youth Group Friday Nights 5-7 p.m.**

- December 7 -Night Out -Ice Skating  
We will make our annual trip to the PPG ice rink in downtown Pittsburgh. Bring \$10, a friend and warm clothes!
- December 14 - Truth and Dare - Get Along  
Today's dare from Jesus is to get along with others
- December 21 - Christmas Party  
Come celebrate Christmas. There will be fun and games and Christmas Cookies! Bring a gift worth no more than \$5.26 for a fun gift exchange.
- December 28 - No Meeting - Merry Christmas

**High School Youth Group Sunday Nights 6-8 p.m.**

- December 2- Nooma - Rich  
Come hear what Rob Bell has to say about the way we live our lives and how we can reach out to others
- December 9- Malawi Night  
Come hear about Casey and Todd's trip to Malawi. See pictures, eat Malawian food and learn about the wonderful people of this struggling country.
- December 16 - Community Christmas Festival
- December 23 - Christmas Party  
Come celebrate Christmas with your youth group friends. There will be good food and lots of Christmas fun. Bring a Friend!
- December 30 - No meeting - Happy New Year



**Member Thank You Note**

Dear friends at CPCBA

On behalf of our entire family, I would like to thank the congregation and staff for their kindness and support, expressed in various ways, during and following my Mom's last days.

On a personal note I have not, at any other church, felt the sense of family and belonging that I felt with you during this time. From the first, we knew that CPCBA was the right church for us. How wonderful to have it so beautifully confirmed at a difficult time. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

The Dillon and Chrvala families  
Lee, Ross, Kristin, Dwight, Andy, and Miranda

**Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon Directory**

Interim Pastor .....	Carol Divens Roth
Pastor of Visitation .....	Jean H. Henderson
Christian Education Director .....	Melanie Hughes-Holcomb
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries .....	Todd Tracy
Director of Music/Choir Director .....	David Anderson
Associate Music Director/Organist .....	Barbara McKelway
Administrative Assistant .....	Mary Susan Anderson
Hostess .....	Claire Wilwohl
Maintenance Manager .....	Don Evanochko
Clerk of Session .....	Peter Herchenroether
Treasurer .....	Barbara Barcoucky
Trustees, President .....	Doug Simmons
Deacons, Chair .....	Kerry Crilley
Junior Church, Coordinator .....	Jan Davis
Wooden Ladder Preschool .....	Larry Skerlong
Financial Secretaries: .....	John Ferguson
.....	Royce Rice
.....	Deb Sadowski
.....	Dick Schneider
Web Masters .....	Susan and Marty Houser

**Committee Chairs:**

Christian Education .....	Clair Cranville
Fellowship & Evangelism .....	Nancy Hamilton
Nominating Committee .....	Jennifer Knuth
Outreach .....	Judy Hay, Kate Colville
Property .....	Andy Kolenda
Stewardship & Finance .....	Ross Dillon
Worship .....	June Weletz

**Deacon Comfort and Joy Contacts**

(for meal assistance, transportation, grief support, etc.)  
Patti Timpani (412-766-1645) or Mary Witul (412-734-2772)

**Deacons Visitation Ministry**

Frank Somerville at 412-931-6584

(Please help the Deacons share the concern of our community by letting us know whether you, or a friend or family member, would welcome a visit. Requests can be made to any Deacon.)

**Church Office Hours are Monday-Friday—9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

† Phone: 412-761-1233; 412-766-1800 † Fax: (412) 766-1801 † E-mail: cpcba@verizon.net † Web site: www.cpcba.com  
Chapel is open daily from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for prayer and meditation.

**Community Presbyterian  
Church of Ben Avon  
Mission Statement:**

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon aspires to a greater service of God through a ministry mindful of the needs of our congregants, neighbors and, through the Presbyterian Church (USA), the world community.

We actively bind together this community of Jesus Christ through warm fellowship, inspiring worship, nurture, learning and a long, rich tradition.

We are led by the Holy Spirit to use our abundant blessings and diverse talents progressively for evangelism, discipleship, stewardship and mission.

**Revelations**

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon  
7501 Church Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

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Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 221

**"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." Revelation 22:21**



**The Pastor Nominating Committee Reports on Demographic Study**

Defining our geographic area of ministry was one of the earlier tasks faced by your PNC.

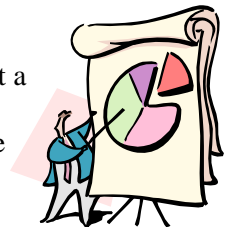
What defines the "vineyard" in which we labor for the Lord? It's not as simple as drawing a 10 mile radius around the church and calling that our market area. Natural and man made boundaries must enter into the picture; as well as what we consider normal travel routes.

The PNC studied data from the Presbytery as well as our own membership rolls to see where our members lived and decided that our Geographic Area of Ministry was an irregular shaped polygon that was roughly defined by a line running from I-79 at Glenfield, along Route 65 to Union Ave in Bellevue, then North to I-279 to Mt. Nebo Road to I-79, then South to the starting point in Glenfield.

When matched with US Census Data, and several other Databases maintained by Claritas, and Percept, the PNC was able to have a Ministry Area Profile generated that gave us the following information:

- ◆ The population of the area: 11,932
- ◆ Number of households: 5,200
- ◆ Average household income: \$65,144
- ◆ Average age: 40.5 (and projected to increase)
- ◆ 94% white
- ◆ 65% are "involved with their faith".

Your Session, Staff, and PNC spent a day at the Presbytery "wrestling" with this and other information including the survey results to help define who we are and what we are called to do.



We needed this information to prepare the CIF (Church Information Form) that has been posted on the Presbytery's website since the beginning of the month.

As a result of our CIF and referrals, the PNC is beginning to receive PIF's (Pastor Information Forms) that are similar to expanded resumes or CV's. We are where we, and the Session, targeted as the right place to be in our search. PIF's are being screened, friends are referring possible candidates, and we are praying for the Lord's guidance as we move forward.

Thank you for all your prayers and support.

**The Pastor Nominating Committee**

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Kim Cuneo      | Joyce Grater   |
| Walt Cronin    | Herb McLuckie  |
| Kristin Dillon | Tim Miller     |
| Ralph Fink     | Lyn Robertson  |
| Judy Fockler   | Dave VanGorder |