

Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202

DON'T MISS THE STAGECOACH! VACATION BIBLE STAMPEDE DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, JULY 8



Howdy Friends! Our Vacation Bible Stampede at "Avalanche Ranch" begins July 23rd at 5:30 p.m. If you haven't signed on you'd better skee-daddle to get 'er done before July 8th!

The week will be a wild ride through God's Word with a whole herd of friends. Your whole family can be a part!

Kids will have Bible learning adventures in games, drama, amazing music, and clever crafts to help faith grow. Adults will have time of their own to explore their faith and real life connection in our adult forum tailored especially for you. (See Adult info below.)



All are welcome. Kids are NOT a requirement to attend! There's something for everyone.

Each night the dinner bell will ring at 5:30 p.m., and we'll stampede to classes from 6:00-8:00, then it's back to the ranch to hit the hay. Classes are Monday thru Thursday evenings, and we will end on Friday night with a closing party and cookout hoedown. Yee-Haw!

This is a great opportunity to 'rope' friends and neighbors into the life of our congregation.

Registration forms available at church.



Adult Vacation Bible School digs into Bible lessons - July 23-27

No kids needed—just a child-like heart...

Our VBS offers an excellent class for adults as well. They will follow the daily VBS lessons on an adult level with a little summer fun thrown in. Here is an outline:

Day 1 – Joshua 2. A story of spies, danger, ethics, and the courage of a very unlikely hero. God is real.

Day 2 – Joshua 3 & 4. The glory of the promise land, moments to remember and the music that lifts praise to God from the bottom of your toes. God is with us.

Day 3 – Joshua 6. The Battle of Jericho, the art that captures it and the strength of God to deliver us from the desert. God is strong.

Day 4 – 2 Kings 5. Kings, Prophets, miracles and the drama of crime and punishment. God is in charge.

Day 5 concludes with a good old fashioned cowboy cookout and party on the lawn. A great way to celebrate our time together and the great God that gives us times of learning and of joy with one another.

Registration forms are in the Narthex or you can call Melanie at the church. Deadline for registration is July 8th. Adults may join us for dinner at 5:30, or just come for class at 6:00 p.m.

We look forward to a fun and fulfilling time together!



My View on Church Avenue

by Pastor Carol Divens Roth

Dear Friends,

Sometime in late August or early September, you will be invited by the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) to have a CAT Scan of the non-medical variety but just as important in checking the vital signs of this congregation.

You've seen on the work map (shaped like a "W") that the PNC sent to you that the congregation conducts a mission study as part of the process of calling a new pastor. The mission of the church is the work God has called the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon to do. Why has God put a church here? The mission study is part of the discernment process to answer that question. I'm giving you a heads-up now, so that by the time you actually take it online, you'll have a sense of its importance and what it's designed to show. The Church Assessment Tool© (CAT) is a questionnaire. It's a little like calling everyone in the church together to say where each of you sees the church as it is and the direction you'd like to see it go.

You can imagine the scheduling nightmare that would ensue if we tried to pick a day most people could come. Instead, this is an online survey which can be taken at home at your convenience. Everyone's answers count the same because they are anonymous. No one voice is stronger than anyone else's.

Your answers give a picture of the church as it is now, based on YOUR perception of the church rather than an outsider's view. There is also a future component, asking where you want the church to place additional energy to expand and improve ministry and for you to say what's already being performed at an appropriate level of quality.

You'll provide individual data, as well, contributing to a snapshot of CPCBA which PNC can use in their search for an installed pastor and the church leadership can use to prioritize and focus the mission. Everyone 16 and older takes the survey.

The online participation allows for the surveys to be scored and returned to the church within a week after completion. Usually three weeks are allowed for everyone to take the survey. For those who do not have internet access, you'll be able to take the CAT at the church—only 30 to 40 minutes are needed and you don't have to be computer literate. Assistance will be provided.

The results are normalized, i.e., they show what is typical, exceptional, and problematic. Think of it as going to the doctor who says your cholesterol is 160. If you don't know much about the meaning of the number, you'd expect the doctor to tell you whether it's good or requires treatment. Some of the responses on the survey may indicate areas of ministry that need to be explored further.

We'll go over this in more detail as the survey draws closer.

Remember that this whole process is rooted in prayer. The Apostle Paul prayed for his beloved Philippian church "that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:9-11) The congregation, session and PNC are partners in discernment.

The PNC plans to have more gatherings like the one held on June 10 to fill you in on some of the info they have received. And do continue to fill in the Wall of Wonder in the fellowship hall. It's amazing to see our history from the personal perspective of the people who have been part of it.

Pray for our church, seeking to see through God's eyes CPCBA's best future of witness, worship and service so that God's will be done.

Shalom,
Carol



Rev. Dr. Jim Davison and Rev. Dr. Jim Mead to Provide Pulpit Supply in July

The Rev. Dr. Jim Davison, director of Continuing Education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will be guest preacher and worship leader on Sunday, July 15, while Carol Divens Roth and Jean Henderson are away.

Rev. Dr. Jim Mead, Pastor to Presbytery, will preach on July 22. This service will be followed by a reception in honor of Rev. Mead, who has recently accepted a call to ministry in Washington State.

**The Mellon Family in China
June 27 to August 11
Follow Their Journey Online at
www.chloecomeshome.com**

The Outreach Committee sponsored a Chinese dinner in April to help the Mellon family with their expenses to take a six week mission trip to China. The dinner was a huge success, and now we want to keep our CPCBA family up to date on their trip. The Post Gazette, where Steve is employed as a photographer, will provide technical support for a website in which Chloe Mellon will chronicle their mission trip to China. The site is www.chloecomeshome.com. Check it out this summer as Steve and daughter, Chloe, send text and pictures back here to the Post Gazette.

Many of us fondly remember the stories in the PG about Chloe when she and her mom, Brenda, first came from China to her new home in Emsworth. Those stories in the Post Gazette were called "Chloe Comes Home". We wish all the Mellon's a wonderful experience as they continue this heartfelt story.

Financial Summary Through May 31, 2007

- by Ross Dillon, Stewardship and Finance Chair

	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date	Over/ (Under)
Income	\$161,786	\$196,611	(\$34,825)
Expense	\$204,342	\$212,376	(\$8,034)
Difference	(\$42,556)	(15,765)	

Our projected deficit at this point in 2007 was \$15,765. Our actual deficit is \$42,557. We are in a transitional stage in the life of our church that involves extra expenses and larger deficits. Longer term, this will not be healthy for a ministry that contains lots of good things that we all want to keep.

An "extra month" pledge payment from everyone over the course of the summer would help greatly and would make us even better and more faithful stewards of the bounty of God's blessings.



Our Family News

Death

J. Lawrence McBride
June 15, 2007



by Deacon Austin DeSimone

**Announcing the Annual CPCBA
Church Picnic – August 26
at ACORD Park.**

Details will be included in next month's Revelations, but for now, here are some reminiscences of picnics past to get you in the mood. Thanks to deacon Beth Joyce for putting these together:

Every year we look forward to the annual church picnic. Being outside for church is part of the fun and the other is the food! Everything is taken care of by the deacons - main course and beverages, napkins and plates. All everyone else has to do is to come and to bring a side. Some will bring salads and some desserts. This is the best and most interesting part of the picnic for me. You never know what will be there! Some dishes I have brought went over well (not a crumb left) and some didn't. The year I brought sliced homegrown tomatoes was a definite hit, so was my chocolate cake. Last year's Jello salad – definitely not. Not one brave soul in the bunch! You chickens!!

Barbara Butcher said that she usually brings a linguine salad, or "dump" cake (the recipe is in our church cookbook), and these go over well. Her pumpkin rolls didn't last 5 minutes. What do you make? I'd love to hear about any traditions! Funny things happen every year too - the kinds of things that are funny later on. June Weletz shared her story with me about running out of toilet paper, and having to scramble to find the police to open the facilities. One year we were serving ham barbeques and we ran out of buns (that was my oops). Enough desserts? Low on forks? Things happen!!

Ask Peyton's mom (Margaret Bauer) what you do with a kid who decided that "Hey, a picnic" a picnic so go ahead and jump in that mud puddle!" In your Sunday best. Life is good. Remember the pre-packaged communion? Did the juice taste bad to everyone or was it just me? Heard that they are also expensive. I know that it takes more work, but the shortbread we usually get is so much better. June Weletz makes it. Thanks June!

This year's picnic will be a great time, bring the family or come by yourself. The deacons will be hard at work to make it nice for everyone.



Help is available for anyone needing it to get to the park, just ask a deacon.

See you there!

Meet Your Pastor No

The following individuals were elected at a congregational meeting in March 2007 to serve. A letter was mailed to church members in June detailing their activities to date and included the following information:
And most importantly, please remember to keep them

KIM CUNEO (CHAIR)



Kim lives in Ben Avon Heights and has been a member of CPCBA for 17 years. She and her husband, Rick, have a 17 year-old daughter, Katie. They also have 2 cats, Mookie and Tucker. Kim had worked for 10 years as a family therapist before raising her family. At CPCBA, she has been a Deacon and Elder, and is currently serving a second term on the Session. She is also

on the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

JUDY FOCKLER



Judy, a Social Worker, and her husband of 36 years, Stephen, live in Shannopin Highlands. They have 3 children, David, Becca, and Lindsay, and 2 grandchildren, Nico and Dani. Judy has been a member of CPCBA for 28 years. Her church activities have included serving as a Deacon, two terms on the Session, and as the Chair of the Fellowship & Evangelism and the Nominating

Committees. Currently she is on the Fellowship & Evangelism Committee.

WALT CRONIN



Walt and his wife, Lisa, have been CPCBA members since 2005. They have two children, Olivia and Patrick, both of whom attended the Wooden Ladder Preschool. Pixie, their dog, is also a resident at their home in Kilbuck. Walt has worked in cancer research at the University of Pittsburgh for 27 years. He is a Sunday School Teacher and is on

a Christian Education subcommittee.

JOYCE GRATER



Joyce has been a member of CPCBA for 20 years. She lives in Ben Avon with her husband, Paul, and their dog, Elliott. They have raised two daughters, Caitlin and Elizabeth. She is an oncology social worker at the Hillman Cancer Center. Joyce has served on Session twice and has also served on the Christian Education and Outreach committees. She

also served as Chair of a previous search committee for an Associate Pastor. Currently she is on the Adult Christian Education Committee.

RALPH FINK



Ralph has been a member since 2001 and resides in Ben Avon with his wife, Susan. All 3 of their children, Stan, Patrick and Katie, attended the Wooden Ladder Preschool. He is the Business Administrator of Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church and is an Adjunct Faculty member at Geneva College. He serves on the Personnel Committee of CPCBA.

KRISTIN DILLON



Kristin has been a member of CPCBA for 8 years. She and her husband, Dwight, live in Kilbuck with their two children, Andy and Miranda. At CPCBA, Kristin has served on Session, chaired the Worship Committee, and has been on the Acts Initiative team as well as the Fellowship and Evangelism Committee.

HERB MCLUCKIE

Herb has been a member of Woodland/CPCBA for 30 years and, with his wife, Marjorie, lives in Emsworth. They have two children, Scott and Jennifer, and 5 grandchildren. Herb was employed as a Lab Technician until he retired in 1992. At CPCBA he has been an Elder, member and Chair of the Property Committee, member of the Nominating Committee and a

member of the Choir.

LYN ROBERTSON

Lyn and her husband, Walt, live in Shannopin Highlands with their two dogs, Tali and Macey, and Maggie, their cat. She works at UPMC as the Associate Director of Cancer Control Services. She has been a member of our church for over 4 years. Her CPCBA activities include: Worship Committee, Acts Initiative, Flower Committee, Adult Christian Education, and

the Book Club.

TIM MILLER

Tim has been a CPCBA member for 15 years. He and his wife, Leslie, have 2 daughters, Sarah and Amanda, and they live in Franklin Park. They own a retail store, and he consults for a business that they formerly owned. His CPCBA activities have included: Session, Wooden Ladder Board, the Worship Committee and the Fellowship and Evangelism Committee. He

has been Usher Captain for the past 8 years.

DAVE VAN GORDER

Dave and his wife, Mary, live in Hampton Township. They have 3 children, Adam, Angela and Heather. He works as a Network Engineer. He has been a member of CPCBA for 18 years and has been a Deacon and served on the Outreach Committee. He is also involved in the Chancel and Bell Choirs.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update—July, 2007 Congregational Mission Study Planned for Late Summer

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting frequently over the past few months and is currently in the early stages of planning a Mission Study, which will take place for three weeks in late August/early September. The most important, underlying question for this mission study is this: What is God's mission for our congregation at this time? Prayer and Bible study are essential to this process and we ask every member of this congregation to make a commitment to personal spiritual growth and discernment. Please spend time in prayer for the mission of our congregation and for the seeking of God's revelation of purpose and direction as we move forward.

We would also like to thank everyone who joined us and perhaps participated in the "Wall of Wonder" activity during the fellowship hour on June 10. The PNC will host a second fellowship hour later in July during which time we will share additional information taken from a Percept Study. Percept is a company that collects demographic information specifically for religious institutions. From this type of information trends and conclusions can be drawn that may help in planning for the future. More information on this will follow as we receive it. Please feel free to speak with any member of the PNC if you have any questions.

CPCBA Continues to Assist the 'Yellow Ribbon Girls' by Collecting Donations for Soldiers

-by Jody Jackson



Five years ago, two sisters started sending mail and boxes to their brother who was stationed in Iraq. A few people in the area, with sons in the war, wanted boxes sent to their loved ones. Within a year the house of one of the sisters became overflowing with items and the boxes

were being packed on her bed. Her husband said, "You need to move to a larger space." That space ended up being in a room in the basement of their church. It is a small church in Ellport, Pa. near Ellwood City. Five years later, the room has expanded to the entire basement, even sending the Pastor's office to the upstairs. Once a month between 98 and 110 boxes donated by Avon, are packed and sent to the men and women in Iraq. Each box includes cookies, candy, handy wipes, toiletries, canned meat, books, magazines, pillowcases, lotions, special messages from school children, any thing that is available and useful, popcorn etc. They know all the soldiers and receive e-mails from many of them, with special requests that they fulfill. About 20 volunteers help each month and it is such a wonderful loving atmosphere. The postage is about \$1,500 a month, and they say they never worry...the money somehow appears on time. God is good and can be trusted.

I would like to thank all of our members who have come to the call and donated so many items and funds. I will continue with this program until the war ends. Let us all pray for the men and women serving our country and God bless them daily. You are a caring, giving community of friends and believers. Thank you.

A list of some of the recommended items is on the desk

Update on Pittsburgh Action Against Rape Scrubs Project

On June 23 and 24 Maureen Kowalski and Judy Hay attended the "Scrubs Project", a hands-on project to benefit the Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR), one of our mission agencies. Volunteers work with Paula Minyzak, a designer and seamstress from West Mifflin, to make hospital scrubs for rape victims. Since hospitals cannot provide clean, new clothing for rape victims, the "Scrubs Project" has volunteers make scrubs for about \$6 a set. More information is available at <http://www.myneedleseye.com/scrubs.html>

Thank you Note-



Mellon Family Extends Thanks

Steve and I would like to thank the over 160 people who turned out for an evening of food, fun and dancing on April 22. As a result, we collected \$2,900. That money plus the money from the Outreach Committee has helped to pay for our airline tickets.

We leave the United States on June 27 at 3:30 a. m., Pittsburgh time. So if you are up at that time, say a little prayer for us. As we announced at the dinner, Chloe is going to be documenting this trip. The Post-Gazette has agreed to host the Blog and possibly video. You can find it at www.chloecomeshome.com. We return on August 11 at 7:00 a.m., so PLEASE pray for a safe and uneventful return.

Again we thank you so much for your support during this mission trip and we will have so much to say when we return!

Brenda, Steve, Chloe, Brooke and Jessie

Thank You to All Volunteers Who Have Helped with the Time With the Children

-by Jody Jackson

Sometimes as many as fifty children come up front on any given Sunday, to listen to a message especially designed for them. They often include scary tales, comic relief, personal reflections and Bible stories. Many volunteers have answered the call to deliver these mini sermons and we are grateful for their preparation, thoughts, and prayers that over the years have gone into this very special part of our service.

The staff will be coordinating the children's time with the theme of the Sunday and to make themselves familiar to our children. Our thanks to the volunteers and Time With the Children organizers. You may be called upon again sometime in the future, so keep those wonderful inspirational thoughts handy.

Outreach Committee Will Once Again Provide Back to School BackPacks for Presbyterian Church in Wilkinsburg

Once again the Outreach Committee will be asking the congregation to help provide backpacks filled with school supplies for the Second U.P. Church of Wilkinsburg. This was such a wonderful success last summer that we know the children will once again love to receive a brand new backpack with supplies to begin another school year. Look for details later in July.



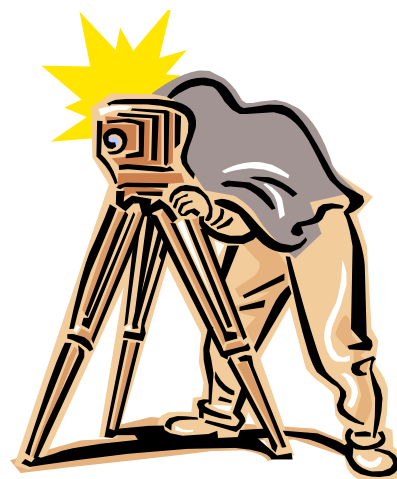
Pictorial Directory Sign-up Process Going on NOW!

Dates for photography and proof-viewing sessions with *Life Touch* will take place in the Fellowship Hall on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, **July 18th** 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, **July 19th** 2:30 to 9:00 p.m.
- Friday, **July 20th** 2:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, **July 21st** 10:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Lifetouch requests that we fill up the appointments for July before scheduling the September appointments. However, if you know that you will not be available for pictures in July, please feel free to sign up for the September dates:

- Saturday, **September 22nd** 12:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, **September 25th** 2:30 to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, **September 26th** 2:30 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, **September 27th** 2:30 to 8:00 p.m.



Who can sign up for a photo session?

CPCBA members, and prospective members may have their photos in the church directory. Non-members who worship with us regularly are also encouraged to be photographed to be included with our church family. Any one having a photo session may include anyone important to them including significant others, extended family and of course the family pet(s).

When and how will I be able to sign up for my photo session?

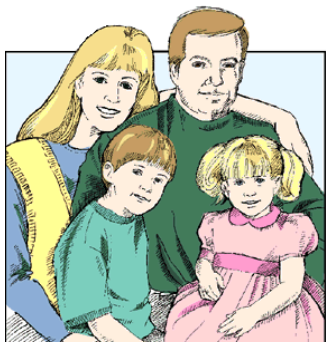
1. In person Sunday mornings before and after the 10:00 a.m. service in the Narthex on July 1, 8 and the 15th.
2. At your leisure by going to the church web-site www.cpcba.com. Scroll down the first page to the Pictorial article and click to go to the Lifetouch Church Directories site and make your appointment! Follow the directions and select an available date and time. You will then be asked for your name, phone number and e-mail address. A required field asks that you create a login and password to confirm your session and will allow you to return and change your photo time if necessary. With this information you will also receive a confirmation of your appointment and reminder e-mail a few days before your appointment. (**Note: Website scheduling will NOT be available on Sundays due to the personal scheduling at church.**)
3. If you are unable to get to the church for signup or have access to the church website, you can call Sandy Stauffer at 412-761-0704 or Gail Buchanan at 412-734-2050 to schedule your photo session.

Remember, those first to sign up get their choice of times!

Should I arrive earlier than my scheduled time for my photo session?

No. The time of your session (i.e. 3:40 p.m.) is the time that you should arrive.

It is important, especially when putting together a church directory that you notify the church office of any changes in your name, address, phone number and e-mail address.



*A pictorial directory
reinforces a sense of
belonging...
to a family of faith*

**MAKE YOUR
APPOINTMENT TODAY!**

Worship Service Moves to Air-conditioned Fellowship Hall for Months of July and August at 10:00 a.m.

As part of the ongoing capital campaign renovations, the sanctuary is scheduled to be painted over the summer. The decision was made by Session at their June meeting to move the Sunday morning worship services to the air-conditioned Fellowship Hall beginning July 1 and ending on August 19. (The all-church picnic will be held at ACORD park on Sunday, August 29.)

**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.

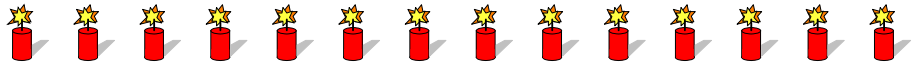
We are led by the Holy Spirit to use our abundant blessings and diverse talents progressively for evangelism, discipleship, stewardship and mission.

Revelations

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

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



SESSION CORNER

by Peter Herchenroether , Clerk of Session

My friends,

My term as Clerk has made me more sensitive to the constant flow of events in the Church. The minutes of Session meetings and the records of baptism, confirmations, transfer of letters, marriages, and deaths record the life of the Church through its members.

With Brent's passing, we reflect on the history of our congregation. As the first pastor of the consolidated church, formed in 1987, we need to remember his successful and vital service to us, which indeed knitted two established congregations together. In fact, his guidance created a whole new one, with its own identity. With the advent of new pastoral leadership in the next year, we should honor Brent and prepare to honor all of the future pastors to our congregation.

Your Session has considered this and determined to respect the traditions of our predecessor congregations, as well as create a separate tradition for CPCBA. At its June meeting, Session decided to complete the roster of the former pastors of both congregations by updating

and installing permanent plaques in their honor and to establish a new roster of pastors for CPCBA, recognizing it as a new and separate congregation. Brent's name would be at the top of this list, in honor of his leadership as our first pastor. All of these plaques will be prominently displayed. Further, it was decided that the wall in the hallway between the conference room and the Chapel would be the location for portraits of Brent and all future pastors of CPCBA. Finally, we will maintain a record of Brent's leadership by adopting a formal narrative of his achievements in the permanent minutes of CPCBA.

The goal of these actions is to preserve in a respectful, public and permanent manner, the history of the service of our pastors who have led the people of this Community for over 140 years, and to plan for the future, demonstrating the constancy of God's care for us by providing the right leaders to us at the right times throughout our lives.