

Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202

Holy Week and Easter Observances

Officially, it will still be winter when Holy Week begins this year. Snow, rain, or sunshine, we will worship together and remember the events that led to an empty tomb and life full of resurrection joy. We continue along on the Path of Discipleship as we follow Jesus on the journey of that momentous week. The story is marked by contrast—from the shouts of “Hosanna!” on Palm Sunday to the Seder celebration and communion on Maundy Thursday to the crucifixion on Good Friday and the triumph over death on Easter Sunday.



Palm Sunday—March 16

- 8:30 a.m.—Worship with Communion
- 9:15 a.m.—Sunday School for children through adults
- 10:15 a.m.—Palm Sunday Procession from the Borough Hall
- 10:30 a.m.—Worship with Reception of New Members

Palm Sunday is associated with the pageantry of a procession making its way through the streets of Jerusalem as the crowd hailed Jesus as the one who might be the deliverer. They called, “Hosanna!” which means “save us.”

We will join the great procession at 10:15 a.m. at the “burro” hall on Church Avenue, waving eco-palm branches (the ones we use will be from renewable resources) and following a live donkey to the church. Weather permitting, the choir will be on the lawn, singing, as we arrive.

Maundy Thursday—March 20

- 6:00 p.m.—Seder & Communion, Fellowship Hall

Luke’s gospel tells us that the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples was a Passover meal, or Seder, which tells the story of the Exodus. We will have a modified version of that ritual and conclude, as Jesus did, with communion. This is meant to be lively, interactive and welcoming for all ages. There will be a simple meal and samples of the traditional Seder foods like parsley, horseradish, and matzah (unleavened bread). The setting is meant to be informal and a family celebration of God’s grace. The Confirmation Class will lead us in the liturgy.

Good Friday Tenebrae—March 21

- 7:00 p.m.—Service in the sanctuary

An old tradition gives way this year to something new as we observe the solemn events of the death of Jesus Christ. There will **not** be a three-hour Friday afternoon service led by the North Boroughs Ministerium. Instead, we will conduct a service here at 7 p.m. It will include the story of the Crucifixion from the gospels, music, and the Nails – readings from today that remind us that Christ is still crucified by our actions and inaction toward one another. As the service proceeds, the lights will be gradually extinguished. This darkening is known as Tenebrae, which means shadows. Another aspect of the service is removing objects from the chancel. At the end, the sanctuary will be dark, the chapel bare of ornaments. The last sound will be the thunderclap of the pulpit Bible slammed shut. To more fully comprehend the wondrous love of Easter, come to the Good Friday service.

The somberness of the service makes it not suitable for young children. Child care will be available.



(See Easter Service details on page 2)

My View on Church Avenue

- by Pastor Carol Divens Roth

Dear Friends,

It held the record for the longest-running Off-Broadway musical – *The Fantasticks* – and it is one of my favorite shows. It is simple and timeless about young love, growing up, parenting, and letting go. It’s life cycle.

The Fantasticks came to mind recently when I was looking at the garden in the CPCBA conference room. Part of the Confirmation Class tradition here is to plant seeds and foster their growth. The parents plant, then the confirmands and the church, represented by class leaders Todd Tracy and Melanie Hughes-Holcomb, mentors, and elders, nurture the seeds with water and light. By the time the Confirmation Class members reach Pentecost Sunday, May 11, the day they may join the church, there should be twelve pots of impatiens in bloom. That’s the plan.



There’s a song in *The Fantasticks* called “Plant a Radish.” It’s sung by the fathers of the play’s young love birds:

*“Plant a radish, get a radish. Never any doubt.
That’s why I love vegetables;
You know what you’re about”*

Plant impatiens, get impatiens. It’s predictable. Except, I want to throw in a flight of fancy about some of those pots bringing forth geraniums, or apple tree seedlings, or cacti, no matter what seed had been planted, because, as the apostle Paul writes, God gives the growth. It’s fantastical to think about God’s gift of life. I know that each confirmand has unique gifts that will continue to

blossom in his or her faith journey. That certainly holds true for each one of us.

In this season of Lent we have been emphasizing what it means to grow in discipleship. We have offered and will continue to offer opportunities for prayer, Bible study, outreach, worship, gift-sharing, intellectual activity, and spiritual renewal. The seed of faith has been planted in each. Who knows what foliage will burst into bloom.

Whether we come up as petunias or evergreens, God’s work of life is within us. Through the cold, gray, windswept days of Lent, all of us in our clay pots (Paul said we have such treasure in earthen vessels) are reaching toward the Son and the promise of life in all its fullness that greets us at the empty tomb on Easter.

Plant a radish, tend the soil, give water and light, make the commitment and trust God:

- ◆ get a member of the Outreach committee willing to be a fool for Christ and dress up as one of the Blues Brothers to rally support for mission...
- ◆ get a movie maven who begins to understand some important insights from Jesus Christ about the intersection of faith and politics...
- ◆ get a PNC listening for whom God calls to be the next pastor of CPCBA...
- ◆ get a steward who will see that the garden of children and youth growing here is worth raising his pledge...
- ◆ get a confirmand ready to be a gardener...

Get a blooming world. New life abounds. Happy Easter!

Shalom,
Carol

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

Easter Sunday—March 23

7:00 a.m.—Sunrise Service at Ben Avon Heights Park

A service led by Rev. Jean Henderson

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service with communion in the sanctuary

9:15 a.m.—Light refreshments in the Narthex in place of Sunday School through 10:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service with communion in the sanctuary



**Continue the Journey of Discipleship
into New Life!**



**Spring Forward!
Daylight Savings Time
Begins March 9**

Turn your clocks one hour
ahead or you'll be late for church!

The Pentecost Fund is in Need of Replenishment

Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another. John 13:34

The Day of Pentecost will be on May 11; the **Pentecost Fund** is for all seasons.

CPCBA has a special account known as the Pentecost Fund which is used to help persons within our congregation who find themselves in need of assistance. Sometimes a crisis occurs, there may be a medical emergency, an employment situation changes.

These are just a few of the circumstances in which members of our church can be act out their faith for one another. The Pentecost Fund has helped individuals and families at CPCBA through some crucial situations.

The funds in this account are currently low, and we would like to able to show the love of Christ within our church when needs arise. It was central to Jesus' message that Christians be a loving community among themselves as well as to the world. We would do a poor job of demonstrating God's love to the world if we were to let people in this church go without the security of home and health when they face some crisis. It is hard enough to be confronted by an unanticipated need. We don't want our neighbors in the pews to have to face it alone. The Pentecost Fund is a way of being there for one another.

You may make a donation of any amount at any time. Make a check out to CPCBA and mark Pentecost Fund on the memo line.



Communion to Be Observed on Easter Sunday, March 23

This year the Sacrament of Communion will be observed at 8:30 and 10:30 on Easter Sunday. For many worshippers, this will be a change from their experience. However, it is in keeping with our Presbyterian theology. We proclaim that every Sunday is Easter. Our Sabbath is observed on Sunday because that is the day Christ rose from the dead.

Although some of have grown up with a tradition of quarterly communion, our theological "founding father" John Calvin declared it should be held at least every Lord's Day. Because sacraments are acts of God's grace, they do not rely on our merit or our de-merit. We cannot spoil it by frequency any more than we can make it "right" by the way and time we observe the sacrament. Through festive liturgy and music, this will be a joyful celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord. It will be served in the pews at 10:30. Rejoice together in the Easter Day the Lord has made!



by Deacon Douglas Tjelmeland

What is New With Our Deacon Doings!

The year started with a wonderful Deacon training event led by Jean Henderson where we reflected upon our duties by looking at what we already know and at what we need to know. Also covered were the ordained office of the Deacon and the ordination/installation process.

We came together as a team discussing many other constitutional questions. There are six devoted individuals nominated and installed in each yearly class to serve a three year term. We meet once a month and our subcommittees are **Visitation** (of the elderly and home-bound headed by Woody Cunningham), **Comfort and Joy** (providing meals and succor to those to those dealing with the challenges of a trauma in their lives headed by Mary Witul and Andy Dean), **Correspondence** (sending cards to church members as needed headed by Patti Timpani), **Flower Duty** (ensuring that unclaimed flowers can meet their way to brighten someone's day headed by Betty Richardson), **Treasurer** (David Lancaster) and **Revelations** (keeping our congregation informed through articles in the newsletter headed by myself and Nancy Crawford). Our new business covered the upcoming Men's Shelter event and the Blood drive.

We, as Deacons, do not forget our white towel given to us a when newly inducted. This towel represents our dedication to serving our congregation just as Jesus used His clothes to clean His disciples' feet. We came together to help prep and serve for Bread and Soup Sunday that began the One Great Hour of Sharing collection.

One could say we bring comfort to all. In closing, I would like to share a poem with you from James Dillet Freeman that I often review when I am seeking comfort:

"I am There"

*Do you need Me? I am there
You cannot see Me, yet I am the light you see by.
You cannot hear Me, yet I speak through your voice.
I am the love you can cling to.
I am your assurance.
I am your peace. I am one with you.*

This poem I love and read by millions around the world and left on the moon in 1971 for future space voyagers – Hope you feel this and keep it close to your heart and mind. In each of life's precious moments, God is there and I am certainly never alone.

"Be strong and bold...it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail or forsake you." Deut. 31-6



**Annual Palm Sunday Procession, Sunday March 16
Gather at Ben Avon Borough Hall at 10:15 a.m.**

On Sunday, March 16th we will celebrate Palm Sunday—the day that we welcome Jesus with palm branches and shouts of Hosanna! This marks Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the beginning of Holy Week.

All are invited to gather at 10:15 a.m. down the street at the Ben Avon Borough Hall. We will make a procession (parade!) down the street and into the church for worship. We will be led by an actual donkey as we wave our palms and shout Hosanna!

Please join us, and bring your friends! We look forward to seeing you!



The New Pictorial Directories Are In!

Please note the following corrections in your copy...

Finally, the long awaited new directories arrived and have been available for members and friends of CPCBA who are on the church mailing list. The directories, (one per family address) are in the Narthex in alphabetical order waiting for pickup. Having the directories available in this manner helps to defray the cost of mailing. However, if you are unable to pickup your directory, please contact Sandy Stauffer at 412-761-0704.

A few changes to personal information along with some birthday changes have been noted and are listed below for your directory update.

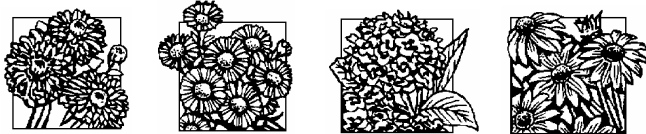
Page #	Name	Comment	From	To
----	CPCBA	e-mail	-----	cpcba@verizon.net
24	Fockler, Stephen	e-mail		
24	Forsyth, Margo	Address		
25	Kurtz, Evan & Rebecca	e-mail		
27	Shaffer, Robin	New address	January 23	January 22
29	Under April 28	Name	Signorino-Richter, Ariel	Richter, Ariel
30	Forsyth, Margo	Birthday	September 9	September 7
31	Sandrus, Dylan	Birthday	December 17	November 17
31	Tracy, Addy	Birthday	October 10	October 11
31	Tracy, Todd	Birthday	----	Add to December 5

Upon receiving your directory, please check your personal and birthday information, and if there is a correction please contact Sandy Stauffer preferably at [esstauff@ verizon.net](mailto:esstauff@verizon.net) with “**directory**” in the subject line or at **412-761-0704**. Further updates will be published in the April Revelations.

Thanks to All Those Who Helped Make the Directory a Reality

There are so many great people to “thank” for their contribution in getting the directory together from photo schedulers, host/hostesses, phone callers, photographers, candid photo layout selectors, proof readers, staff, all who gave hours of their time to make the directory a reality! So...Thank You!

Thank You
Thank You
Thank You
Thank You



Easter Flower Orders to Be Taken in March

Once again the Flower Committee will be beautifying the sanctuary with an Easter garden. Order forms will be inserted in the bulletin in early March. A variety of plants will be available for \$8 each.

Please consider taking this opportunity to not only give flowers in memory of a loved one, but to give them in honor of someone who has touched your life in a special way.

Look for the list of flowers available for purchase on the insert in upcoming bulletins.

Dates Still Available for Sanctuary Flowers

There are still many dates available to order sanctuary flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. If you would like to reserve a date, please call Mary Susan Anderson in the church office at 412-761-1233 to check which dates are open.

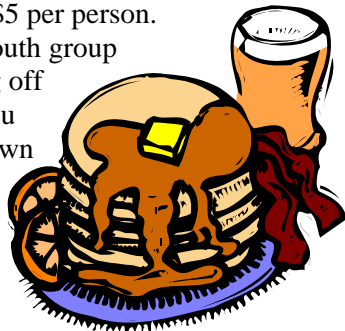
A suggested donation of \$35 would be appreciated to offset the cost of the flowers. And the gift does not end there! Unless otherwise requested by the donor, the Deacons of CPCBA take the flowers to shut-in members who are unable to come to the service.

There is a small group of members who participate in the Flower Committee and take on the responsibility for ordering or arranging the flowers each Sunday. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please call Judy Hay at 412-318-4998 or e-mail her at judyhay@comcast.net

Youth Group to Sponsor Annual Pancake Brunch & Service Auction Sunday, April 6 at 11:30 a.m.

The Youth of Community Church will hold their second annual Pancake Brunch and Service Auction on April 6 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The brunch will include pancakes and sausage and will cost a recommended donation of \$5 per person.

After the brunch, the youth group members will be auctioning off many different services. You can purchase car washes, lawn mowings, babysitting, and much more. All proceeds will go to help the youth with their summer trips. Don't miss this fun event.



Outreach Committee to Collect Nonperishable Foods for the North Boros Food Pantry in March

The Outreach Committee will once again be collecting nonperishable foods for the North Boros Food Pantry during the month of March. The pantry is run by North Hills Community Outreach, and is located at AGH - Suburban Campus, so your donations will support local families this Lenten season. Please look for the boxes in the church entryway and give generously.



Pastor Nominating Committee Update The Interview Process Has Begun!

As we move through the season of Lent and journey on the path of discipleship, the Pastor Nominating Committee continues to meet every week to prayerfully consider whom God is calling to be the next pastor of Community Church. As an update to the information in the Annual Report, we have received interest from 88 pastoral candidates.

We have reviewed all of them and asked for sermon tapes from approximately 10. Some PNC members have traveled to hear candidates preach in their own pulpits over the past month. In our weekly meetings, we are spending time structuring our interview questions to determine which candidates will be the best fit with the needs and the mission of our church. Equally important, pastoral candidates also have to discern if they feel called to lead our congregation in casting a vision for the future.

We are making tremendous progress and feel blessed that God has sent us many very strong candidates. The PNC has been meeting for less than a year (our first meeting was on May 10), and we continue to move at a pace necessary to make solid, sound decisions. We are very grateful for the expressed support of the congregation as we move forward. Please continue to pray for the work of the PNC, for our church, and for the mission to which Christ calls us.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee

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

Page intentionally left blank for church calendar.
Please watch website for updates.



Thank You Notes

Dear friends:

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, emails, calls, visits, food and my very own prayer shawl while recovery from my recent knee surgery.

I mentioned all that you have done for me (and for others) to my home health nurse and she commented on what caring church members you must be. Oh, yes, CPCBA is truly a blessed church. I am grateful that I am a recipient of that love.

My heartfelt thanks,
Nancy Hamilton



Friends,

My brother Philip and my sister Jannet and I thank you very much for the support of your prayers and the condolences that you have extended to our family upon the death of our mother Alice Brown. We also thank all of the kind souls from Community Church that visited with our mother when she was residing at Sherwood Oaks. She always loved to hear of any news from the church and the Ben Avon community. God bless you and your ministry.

Paul Brown

Junior Choir to Participate in Regional Children's Choir Festival Saturday, March 8

Members of the Junior Choir will be attending a Children's Choir Festival on Saturday, March 8 at St. Mary's Church, 2510 Middle Road in Glenshaw. During the day they will rehearse music they have been learning. (of course, they will have breaks and lunch!)

There will be a closing "mini-concert" at 2:45 conducted by Madeline Bridges, a well-known clinician with children's choirs. This festival usually includes about 150 singers from many churches in the area. Those who attend always enjoy the day.

This year Barbara McKelway is the accompanist. All are invited to attend the mini-concert.

New Book Donated to Church Library In Memory of Steve & Helen Emery

The children of Steve and Helen Emery have donated a book to our Pomeroy Library in their memory.

Speaking of Faith by Krista Tippett, creator and host of National Public Radio's *Speaking of Faith* addresses the concerns in our society breaking down the differences between religiosity and the wide array of spiritual practices and traditions.



Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon Directory

Interim Pastor	Carol Divens Roth
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
Maintenance Manager	Don Evanochko
Clerk of Session	Peter Herchenroether
Treasurer	Ross Dillon
Trustees, President	Steve Mellon
Deacons, Chair	Andy Deen
Junior Church, Coordinator	Jan Davis
Wooden Ladder Preschool	Larry Skertlong
Financial Secretaries:	Barbara Barcousky
.....	Chuck Hamilton
.....	Deb Sadowski
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	Wendy Herchenroether
Worship	June Weletz

Deacon Comfort and Joy Contacts

(for meal assistance, transportation, grief support, etc.)
Patti Timpani (412-766-1645) or Daryl Johnson (412-766-0895)

Deacons Visitation Ministry

Woody Cunningham (412-761-7154) or Ed Stauffer (412-761-0704)

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

**CPCBA Family Retreat, April 19-20, 2008
Come Fish for People...and Trout, Too!**

The Path of Discipleship, begun in Lent, leads next to Laurelville Retreat Center, a peaceful, natural setting for you to enjoy God's gifts, grow in God's love, and explore God's purpose for you.

The CPCBA Family Retreat will take place Saturday and Sunday, April 19 & 20 at Laurelville, a 250-acre conference and retreat center nestled in the Laurel Mountains. Ask anyone who has retreated there to hear how lovely it is.

Sharon Stewart, Director of Discipleship and Spiritual Growth for Pittsburgh Presbytery will lead the program for adults. The format will be interactive, as opposed to lecture. There will be spirituality centers, too. Sharon will lead us in exploring the richness of living in the way of Christ. Count on some great discussion, self-discovery, and community-building.

In addition to her staff role at the Presbytery, Sharon is an Elder and a Master of Divinity student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. A graduate of Westminster College, she is married to John and mother of two teenage daughters. She is frequently called on to lead retreats and workshops for churches. She has



served as a youth minister for many years and has been a consultant and trainer regarding sacred space to help children of all ages experience the presence of God.

The retreat begins Saturday, and ends after worship and communion on Sunday. Three meals are included. In addition to theme programming, there will be group activities, free time, and a labyrinth. An added bonus is the trout stream that meanders through the woods right next to our lodge. Trout season opens April 12, so don't forget to get a *required* PA fishing license.

A registration form will be mailed to all members in March. Return your form as soon as possible, to insure space. We will be staying in Solar House, where all rooms have private baths. After April 4, refunds cannot be given.

There will be more information on the bulletin board in the narthex. For questions, contact Nancy Hamilton at bigdog1@nauticom.net or 724-935-1754. Scholarships are available by contacting Carol Divens Roth. To check out the Laurelville "campus," go to www.laurelville.org.