

**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



Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ON MAY 21!
CPCBA Planning Committee to Survey Congregation**

The Planning Committee will be surveying worshipers at both the 8:30 and 10:30 services on May 21 to find out what you value. The U.S. Congregational Life Survey - <http://www.uscongregations.org/> - a religious research group housed in the offices of the Presbyterian Church USA in Louisville, has developed a survey that asks about four fundamental building blocks of congregational life: spirituality and faith development, involvement in groups and leadership roles, community involvement, and priorities and future directions. Your answers will remain anonymous. The survey results will benchmark us against other similarly sized congregations and against PCUSA churches generally, and will help Session, committees, and staff to establish goals and objectives.

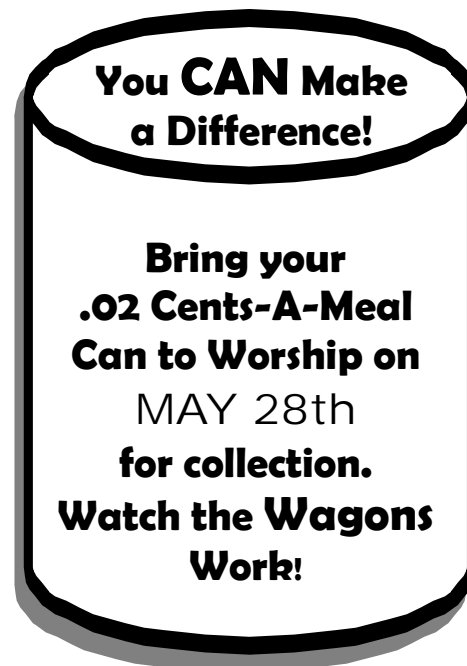
The Session, Planning and Fellowship and Evangelism committees invite you to a special brunch after the 10:30 service on May 21 in appreciation for your participation in the survey. Everyone is welcome to come into Fellowship Hall, enjoy delicious food and set aside some time to visit with your CPCBA family. No reservations needed.

BOOKS GALORE!

The Outreach Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous donation of books for the North Hills Youth Ministry Counseling Center's Annual Book Sale, which will run June 5th - 10th at Northway Mall. At this point, we are in **need of volunteers to work the sale on Thursday, June 8th from 4:30 - 9:00 PM.** Even if you are unable to work the entire shift, we can certainly still use you! It takes 16 - 20 people a shift to work the sale. Please contact Kate Colville at (412) 486-2975, e-mail robjcolville@msn.com, or in person if you are interested.

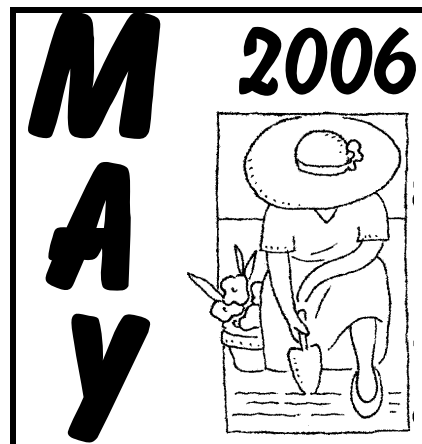
The wonderful collection of children's books is being donated to the 2nd Avenue Presbyterian Church in Wilksburg for their children's nook. Again, thank you for your many donations.

More thanks to those of you who picked an umbrella from the Hearth Kitchen Shower display and purchased items for our "adopted" family. We will be attending Hearth's Kitchen Shower and delivering your "gifts" on May 11th.



Children's Sunday, May 21st

Children's Sunday on May 21st will celebrate the end of the Sunday School year as well as the joyful learning of all of our wonderful (and plentiful) children. It is a day to remember to celebrate the GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT and our children will do their very best to show you how. Let them touch your heart in worship to the Lord who has the greatest heart of all, a heart for you. Join us at 10:30 for this wonderful time. We will also take this opportunity to recognize those who have helped us along the way. If you have been a teacher for our children this year, won't you join us? We want to thank you for the difference you made to these children.



**SUNDAY, JUNE 4th
CONFIRMING A FUTURE OF FAITH**



Pentecost Sunday, the day we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit. We also have the opportunity to share in the witness and support of our church's eighth graders as they become adult members of the church. We celebrate the spirit present in these young people, and embrace them as brothers and sisters in Christ. Join us for the service of Worship and Confirmation at 10:30. **Don't forget to wear your colors of flame and fire!** These symbolize the flame of the Holy Spirit that hovered over the heads of the disciples on that first Pentecost day.

My View on Church Avenue

May 14th is Mother's Day. For Protestants, it's one of those church *High Holy Days* . . . or used to be. I remember as a boy going to Warren, Pennsylvania with my family every Mother's Day.

My mother would pick some flowers to pin on our lapels: colored flowers because all our mothers were still living. We'd plan to go to church with Grandma Lawson who, even though it was Mother's Day, would prepare a bounteous feast for my entire maternal family—all my aunts and uncles and cousins, about 18 of us.

At the First Church of the Nazarene in Warren, Mother's Day was bigger than Christmas! All the mothers and grandmothers and great-grandmothers would be asked to stand. Potted flowers would be given to all, but special awards would be given to the mother who had the most children, the grandmother with the most grandchildren, the mother who had come the greatest distance, etc. etc. Rev. Andree would preach about the faith of mothers, and the service would always conclude with the hymn: "My Mother's Old Bible Is True."

It makes me rather sad that Mother's Day isn't that grand church day it used to be, that women don't wear those beautiful, gaudy orchid corsages they used to pride themselves with back when, and that preachers only give a nod to mothers on their special day.

Well, I'm planning to properly lift up mothers in our services on May 14th. You see, my mother suddenly turned "old" this past year. After years of spritely good humor and hosting gracious parties, and cooking for family gatherings, and church activity, and being a leader in her Book Club, and wrestling with a golden retriever, and enjoying grandchildren, and riding a hot air balloon, she's not been feeling well of late.

She moved from her home to a senior citizens apartment last fall, and she's been in and out of the hospital since Christmas. She's now using a walker, and her once-beautiful handwriting is shaky. I love my mother and want to lift her up specially this Mother's Day.

Lift up your mother as well, and show your love. Obey the commandment which says: "Honor your father and your mother." Cherish the blessed mother of Jesus, and celebrate the gifts of women this May 14th.

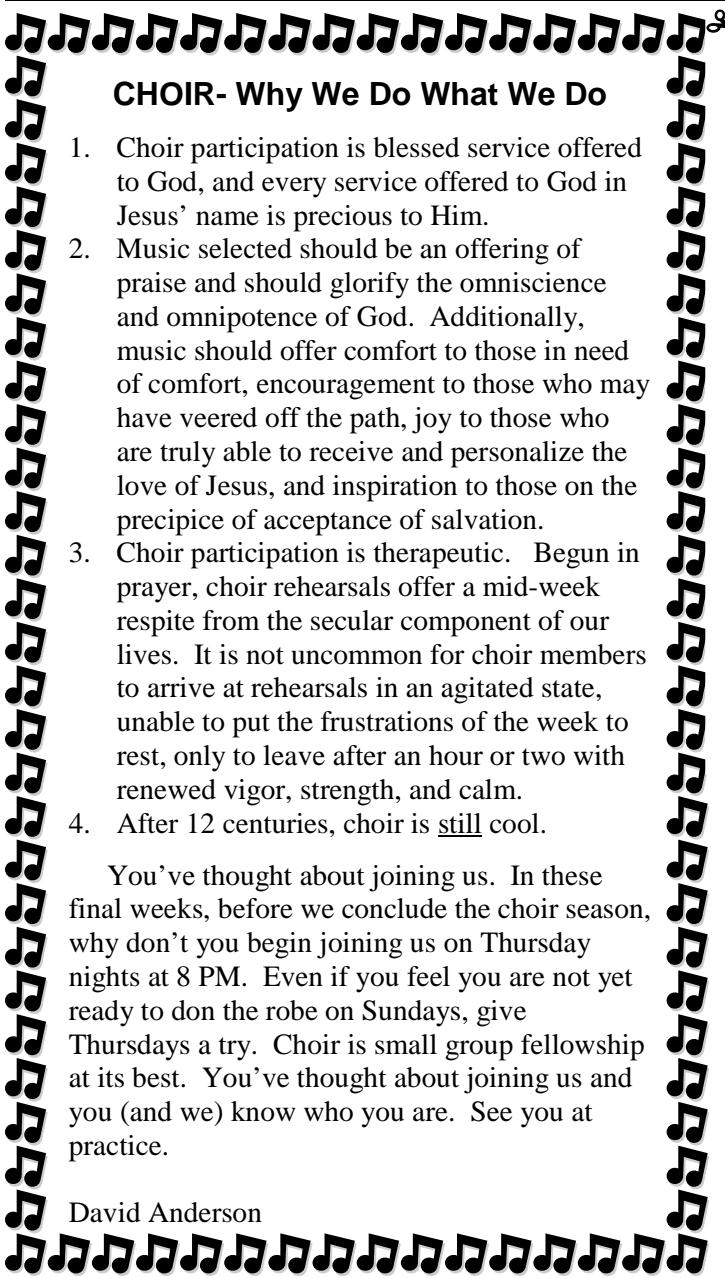
Your pastor,
Brent Dugan

Lent and Easter 2006 . . . Remembered

As we move on into spring, and as we continue our Easter celebration, we remember and gift thanks for:

- The Deacons who hosted fellowship hours during the Lenten Season, and who cared for and cheered our sick, shut-in, and residents of retirement communities.
- The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee who hosted luscious midweek suppers throughout the season . . . and to staff members who led creative worship services. And for a wonderful and meaningful church retreat hosted by and led by the committee and staff.
- The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee who have brought new members into the fellowship.
- The Board of Community Theatre Players who offered two weekends of wholesome entertainment to the community; and to all who prepared and served dinner-theater evenings.
- Mary Witul, Barb Barcoucky, Dick Schneider and Claire Wilwohl, who took over office responsibilities while Mary Susan Anderson was on maternity leave.
- The choirs and music staff who provided such lovely and inspirational music at so many services during that holy season
- The Worship Committee who prepared and served communion services and who set a bounteous table on Easter Sunday.
- Melanie Hughes-Holcomb and her volunteers who led us to a Jerusalem Marketplace.
- Staff and mentors who have nurtured confirmands.
- Don Evanachko, our maintenance engineer, who keeps our facilities sparkling and our grounds beautiful.
- All who should have made this list of Thank-yous but were overlooked.

And for all of you who attended services and programs and invited neighbors to such. Our Palm Sunday attendance topped 300, the community Jerusalem Marketplace Event topped 200, and our Easter services brought 400 to worship. God bless you! And to God be the glory!



CHOIR- Why We Do What We Do

1. Choir participation is blessed service offered to God, and every service offered to God in Jesus' name is precious to Him.
2. Music selected should be an offering of praise and should glorify the omniscience and omnipotence of God. Additionally, music should offer comfort to those in need of comfort, encouragement to those who may have veered off the path, joy to those who are truly able to receive and personalize the love of Jesus, and inspiration to those on the precipice of acceptance of salvation.
3. Choir participation is therapeutic. Begun in prayer, choir rehearsals offer a mid-week respite from the secular component of our lives. It is not uncommon for choir members to arrive at rehearsals in an agitated state, unable to put the frustrations of the week to rest, only to leave after an hour or two with renewed vigor, strength, and calm.
4. After 12 centuries, choir is still cool.

You've thought about joining us. In these final weeks, before we conclude the choir season, why don't you begin joining us on Thursday nights at 8 PM. Even if you feel you are not yet ready to don the robe on Sundays, give Thursdays a try. Choir is small group fellowship at its best. You've thought about joining us and you (and we) know who you are. See you at practice.

David Anderson



Craft and Scrapbooking Night!

Join us in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 17th from 6:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M. for the second of a series of monthly CPCBA Craft Nights! Have a project you've been meaning to work on? Bring your knitting, scrapbooking, sketch book, or whatever you 'craft' for a night of fellowship and fun. Vicki Carlson from Creative Memories will be on hand to offer a free beginner's scrapbooking class. She will have products on hand to purchase and 15% of the profits will be donated to CPCBA! Please RSVP to Susan Houser at 412-732-9599 or gandycat@comcast.net and indicate if you will be attending, what your craft is (for space consideration) and **if you'd like to join in the scrapbooking class**. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, soda will be provided.

If you have a talent you'd be willing to share for a 'beginner's class', please contact Susan so you can be added to the schedule!

Wooden Ladder is selling their new cookbook. The beautiful spiral bound cookbook will feature 250 recipes from local residents in 7 different full-color sections—all for \$10.00 per copy.

Ten percent of the proceeds from the cookbook fundraiser will be donated to Angels' Place (www.angelsplaceph.org) a total family development program for single parents who are continuing their education. The remainder of the funds will be utilized for new classroom equipment at Wooden Ladder.



Come experience the
**Wonders of
Worship**

**Sunday, May 28
6:00 p.m.**

Be sure to come and bring a neighbor or friend to this casual service with contemporary praise music led by an inter-generational worship team.