

Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202

Pastor Nominating Committee Unanimously Approves Rev. Dr. Page L. D. Creach As Candidate for Pastor

Having worked conscientiously for almost a full year, the Pastor Nominating Committee is very excited to announce that they have unanimously chosen their final candidate, the Reverend Doctor Page L. D. Creach. Dr. Creach brings with her twenty years of experience in ordained ministry – as a solo pastor, an associate pastor for three congregations, and as an interim associate in many ministry settings. In all of her calls, worship and pastoral care have been at the heart of her ministry.

Ordained in 1988, Pastor Creach has continually served the Presbyterian Church (USA) with energy, compassion, and vision. She began her service in rural North Carolina as Senior Pastor of two yoked congregations, the William and Mary Hart and Nahala Presbyterian churches. She then went on to serve as an Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, a large congregation in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

Since moving to Pittsburgh in 2000, Page has served at the Shadyside, Fox Chapel, Sharon Community, and Carnegie Presbyterian Churches – while earning her Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. In addition, Pastor Creach has served Pittsburgh Presbytery as a member of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and the Disciple-Making and Spiritual Growth Ministry Team.

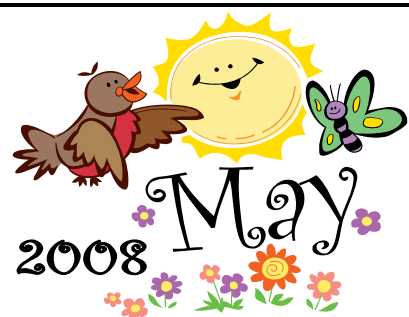
Page has also served the church as a retreat leader, teacher, and writer. She has published a sermon in *Preaching Hosea, Amos, and Micah* (Chalice Press, 2005), written three editorials for *Presbyterian Outlook* (1996), and has published a small group Bible study for young adults entitled *Living the Balanced Life* (Bridge Resources, 1998).

In 2000, Pastor Creach moved to Pittsburgh to join her husband, the Rev. Dr. Jerome Creach, in his call to serve Pittsburgh Theological Seminary where he holds the Robert Holland Chair as Professor of Old Testament Studies. Page and Jerome have been married for almost 21 years and have two children. Their daughter, Adair, and son, Davis, both attend school in the North Allegheny School District. They live in Franklin Park.

In a letter to the Pastor Nominating Committee, Pastor Creach included the following, “I commit myself to help the church articulate and participate in the vision of God for the reconciliation of the world. This is done through worship, Christian education, pastoral care, and life shared in community with Christ and one another. I consistently offer the church the teachings of Christ, the biblical story, and a communal life that is guided by the Holy Spirit as we gather together to discern what is truth and goodness, justice and peace and how to act toward these ends in the world.”

Meet Page Creach at the Informal “Meet and Greets” Hosted by the PNC Committee

This is a very exciting time in the life of Community Church! There are two opportunities for CPCBA members to meet and get to know Pastor Creach informally before the date of her candidating sermon. The PNC will host two Open House events – one on Saturday, May 10, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and the other on Wednesday, May 14, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Please choose the date that is better for your schedule and come at any time during the hours listed. Members of the PNC will be present to talk with you and answer any questions you may have. We hope to see you there!



Candidating Sermon to Be Given Sunday, May 18 at 10:30 a.m.

The PNC is excited to present Pastor Creach to the congregation for consideration as the next installed pastor of CPCBA. She will deliver her candidating sermon at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on May 18. With that being the only service offered that morning, a special meeting of the congregation will be held immediately following worship, its purpose being to call and elect Dr. Creach and approve the terms of call as presented by the PNC. The election is by paper ballot and members must be present at the congregational meeting to vote. There are no proxy ballots permitted.

Phone: (412) 761-1233/766-1800 Fax: (412) 766-1801 E-mail: cpcba@verizon.net Web site: www.cpcba.com

Thank You & Godspeed Claire Wilwohl & Todd Tracy

How will there be enough words to express our gratitude for the gifts shared by two of our staff members whose roles are changing and who have made an indelible impact on the ministry of this church and the hearts of this congregation?

CLAIRE WILWOHL



“Ask Claire.” It sounds like an advice column. Indeed, you could get lots of wise advice from Claire Wilwohl.

At CPCBA, when anyone would suggest, “ask Claire,” it’s because she knows the who, what, when, where and how of what it takes to accomplish everything from where to find the baptism water pitcher to how to get *Revelations* ready for mailing.

Over the past 21 years, Claire has served as custodian, sexton, and hostess in addition to the “regular” volunteer responsibilities of a church member. She has been the voice and face of welcome for members and visitors who have stopped at the desk to “ask Claire.” She has been a listening ear and always ready to help when there is a need.

The role of hostess is now being retired. We know that Claire individually cannot be replaced. She has graciously offered her assistance as volunteer when needed.

CPCBA has much to thank her for. We’ll try to do just that after worship on Sunday, June 1, when we honor Claire for her extraordinary service. Much of Claire’s family will be here. Join together for a banner celebration to (not ask but to)

“tell Claire” how much she is appreciated.

TODD TRACY



If anyone noticed a rise in the saline level at the church in recent weeks, it’s due to tears flowing at Todd Tracy’s announcement that he will be leaving at the end of the summer.

There’s a measure of joy in those tears, too, because Todd is heading off to Princeton Theological Seminary to pursue a call to ordained ministry. Todd, our Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the past seven years, has been accepted into a dual degree program which takes in only ten each year of all who apply. It is a signal honor for Todd.

During Todd’s tenure here he has led, counseled and laser-tagged numerous middle-school through senior-high youth through confirmations, baccalaureates, graduations, mission trips, pumpkins festivals, pancake breakfasts, and discovering what it means to be a young Christian in the twenty-first century.

Todd has just embarked on the first steps to ministry. The CPCBA Session has taken him under care (presby-speak for assuming the shepherd’s role). In August he will appear before the Pittsburgh Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry to seek their approval.

Our official send-off for Todd will come on August 15, the last evening of Vacation Bible School when everyone is invited.

Congregational Meeting to Be Held Sunday, May 18 to Elect New Pastor

A much-anticipated day in this congregation finally arrives Sunday, May 18, with the presentation of the Rev. Dr. Page Creach as the Pastoral Nominating Committee's candidate to become the next installed pastor of CPCBA.

Dr. Creach will preach at the 10:30 a.m. worship service (the only service being held on May 18). Immediately following worship, a meeting of the congregation will be convened for the purpose of calling and electing Dr. Creach as pastor and approving the terms of call.

"Terms of call" is Presby-speak for the covenant, or contract, between the pastor and the congregation. Because we have a presbyterian (elder-led) form of government, most of the budgetary considerations in the church fall under the authority and responsibility of the Session. It is, however, a fundamental role of the *congregation* to elect its installed pastor and to provide fair compensation for the person the congregation discerns is called by God to serve here.

As part of your discernment, you may want to meet Dr. Creach at either of two open house-style events being held for that purpose: *Saturday, May 10, 6-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, May 14, 2-4 p.m., also in the Fellowship Hall.* Members of the PNC are available to share with you their joy about the candidate they are presenting, and they are glad to answer your questions.

PNC Experiences "A Spirit-Driven Process"

The Pastor Nominating Committee convened its first meeting on May 10, 2007. A group of 10 members, chosen by the church Nominating Committee, was well representative of our congregation in age as well as length of membership. A committee of 5 men and 5 women, who knew very little about the Presbyterian procedure for calling a new pastor, set out with open minds and hearts to attempt to discern God's plan for the future of our much-loved church.

It has been an awe-inspiring process. With prayer and the weekly study of scripture, we often felt the Holy Spirit guide us through this important work. Our committee functioned well together; respecting one another's views, continually listening for the voice of God who we knew was the one who had the plan.

After six months of reviewing the information sent by interested candidates, we found ourselves to be in unanimous agreement on who we believe God is calling to be the next installed pastor of CPCBA, and we are excited to present Pastor Creach to you for your consideration. Please continue to pray for our church family and community as we move forward together during this time of transition.

Faith In Action Month to Begin May 18 Plan Now to Participate in Faith in Action Day—Sunday, June 8

Don't just go to church – BE the church! Faith in Action Month begins May 18th. During this month, we will focus on biblical compassion, service, and Christ's heart for those in need, through special worship services, Wednesday night Potluck dinners and small group sessions, and daily devotions.

Then be a part of a landmark day in CPCBA's history, when on Sunday, June 8th, we cancel all worship services and instead go worship through service in the community. By now you've received a Faith in Action mailing which includes a description of the various service projects and a registration form. Please pray about where God is calling you and your family to serve. Invite friends and extended family to serve with you. Registration is going on now. You can easily register one of two ways. For easy online registration, go to www.cpcba.com and click on the Faith in Action registration link.

Or, you can visit the Faith in Action table in the narthex before or after church until May 18th to sign up for your service projects, and order your Faith in Action t-shirts and Participant's guide. The participant's guide will lead you through the small group sessions and your Faith in Action daily devotionals. T-shirts are a bargain! Only \$3.00 for children and \$5.00 for adults. The Participant's guides are \$ 5.00 each.

Together, let us demonstrate our love of Christ and our discipleship through our actions. Together, we truly **can** make a difference in our community.



faith
in ACTION
BE THE CHURCH



Memo for Sunday, May 18 Items of note...

- ✠ Sunday School-palooza, 9:30 a.m., last day of Sunday School, Open House
- ✠ One Worship Service, 10:30, Rev. Dr. Page Creach, preaching; Dr. Creach is the candidate being presented by the Pastoral Nominating Committee to become the next installed pastor of CPCBA
- ✠ Specially called Meeting of the Congregation, 11:30 a.m., for the purpose of calling and electing a pastor and approving the terms of call
- ✠ Reception to follow the meeting in the Fellowship Hall

My View on Church Avenue

- by Pastor Carol Divens Roth

Dear Friends,

A quick summary of the role of an Interim Pastor is “to prepare a church for the calling of its next installed pastor.” The Pastoral Nominating Committee –its ten members unanimous in their choice – is ready to present the candidate they believe God is calling to be the second installed pastor of CPCBA since the church’s formation in 1987.

So let’s get on with the final steps of preparation. Consider first that you are one in a partnership in the call of pastor.

Another partner is Pittsburgh Presbytery. Pastors are not members of the congregation. They are members of the presbytery, which also votes on the call. The presbytery’s committee on ministry (COM) recommends the approval of the terms of call and seeks to provide pastoral care for pastors. The COM also interviews each candidate a PNC considers to determine if this is a good match.

Another partner is the candidate. A pastor discerning a call will ask if her gifts are a match with a calling church. What about theological perspective? What about culture and tradition? Vision? Becoming acquainted with the congregation through the Church Information Form, the PNC, meeting and greeting...is there a sense that this could be love?

All three partners –congregation, presbytery, and candidate – will consult the Senior Partner, Lord of All and Head of the Church, through prayer, the Scriptures, personal contact, surveys, and other ways to hear the voice of God.

As part of preparation, there will be two opportunities to meet Rev. Dr. Page Creach, one in the afternoon, one in the evening. Read the information that has been sent to you. Read Revelations. You elected the members of the PNC. You have prayed for their work. They ARE you, not an outside bishop or an elite group. Talk with them.

Listen to Pastor Creach’s sermon on May 18. Does it comfort, inspire, challenge, or attract you with God’s Word?

PRAY! Most important of all, listen for God’s answer.

And then vote. We Presbyterians sometimes come across as God’s Frozen People when it comes to the Spirit, but we do believe that the Holy Spirit is expressed through the vote of the body.

If you have questions about process or anything else related to the calling of the church’s new pastor, please call or stop by. You are in my prayers daily. Thank you for your interim partnership thus far.

Shalom,
Carol

Outreach Committee – Mission Spotlight HEARTH (Homelessness Ends with Advocacy, Resources, Training & Housing)

Every year, our congregation participates in an “April Shower” of gifts for families currently living at Benedictine Place. This year’s Get Organized Shower for HEARTH was described in the April issue of *Revelations*.

HEARTH (Homelessness Ends with Advocacy, Resources, Training, and Housing) receives support annually from our church’s mission budget. Since its founding in 1989 (as North Hills Affordable Housing), members of our church and other North Boroughs residents have been active in the organization, particularly during the early years of planning and fundraising for the residential facility.

Located in the former St. Benedict School, Benedictine Place accepted its first families 12 years ago. Since then, HEARTH’s transitional housing program has provided housing to about 150 women and more than 250 children. Benedictine Place can accommodate 15 families at a time – women with one to four children. Program participants must be free of substance abuse and committed to an educational program that will lead to self-sufficiency. For a typical resident, the period of transitional housing at Benedictine Place lasts about 20 months.

These are the residents we support with practical gifts during the “shower” campaign each April. Members of our congregation will be delivering the gifts on Wednesday evening, May 7th. They will tour the Benedictine Place facility, and talk with HEARTH staff members and program participants.

During the visit to Benedictine Place, the representatives of our congregation will also have the opportunity to learn more about a new project on an adjacent site. HEARTH at Benet Woods will be the first permanent affordable family housing development in Northern Allegheny County. Eleven two- and three-bedroom duplexes will be rented to individuals and families who earn incomes in the approximate range of \$25,000 – \$38,000. The project addresses an important need in our community.

For more information on HEARTH, visit the organization’s website (www.hearth-bp.org).



Outreach Project for Second United Presbyterian Church of Wilkinsburg

Second United Presbyterian Church of Wilkinsburg is a sister church that we have helped in the past by donating children’s books and providing back packs for school children. They are positioned to make an impact on a community in need. They are working in creative ways to draw people to the church and help them in a variety of ways. They have good ideas, a tight budget and a small, committed congregation. They have adopted the park that is adjacent to their church, and are already using the space for activities, and a vegetable garden. They are working to create inviting places for people to come and enjoy the outdoors. They have several small flower gardens with benches and would like to have additional similar spaces. We plan to work together with them on Faith in Action Sunday to make and plant a new bed.

Our day will involve building relationships through worship, fellowship and working together. In addition to a work crew, we are asking for help providing plants and used garden tools. On June 1 our sanctuary will be decorated with potted flowering annuals. We are asking that people purchase an extra plant or two to donate when they are shopping for their own beds. Plants should be brought to the church on Friday May 30 so that they can be placed in the sanctuary for the service. If you would like to participate but are unable to provide plants, we will gladly accept monetary donations for the purchase of plants in flats. Please indicate on the sign up sheet in the narthex if you will be donating flowers or contributing cash. We could use some sun-loving plants for the front of the church and a greater number of shade to partial shade lovers for the new bed. You can drop off tools in or near the box in the church’s front entry way. Thanks in advance for your support of this Faith in Action project.

CPCBA to Participate in Pittsburgh Presbytery’s Night at the Ballgame Friday, June 6—7:05 p.m.

CPCBA will again participate in the Pittsburgh Presbytery’s Night at the Ballgame. The date is Friday, June 6 at 7:05 p.m. The Pirates play the Arizona Diamondbacks. Ticket prices are Outfield Box, \$16.00; Grandstand, \$5.00. A portion of the ticket price will support the Presbytery Mission. Churches of 20 or more will receive recognition on the color LED Board during the game. The choir is invited to join other Presbyterian churches in the national anthem.

Those who went last year had a great time. Make your reservations by completing the ticket order form on the desk in the Narthex and return to Nancy Hamilton by May 23rd.

Dignity Robes Project

The response to the Dignity Robes Project from CPCBA has been heart - warming. Over 20 men and women have contributed to the ROBES project for women undergoing radiation for Breast Cancer at AGH.



The gifts of fabric, money, or time are all important to this on-going project. By May 1st, a dozen robes have been cut, sewn and delivered to the hospital for distribution. And our team of ‘happy stitchers’ is excited to be part of the “Faith-in-Action” work day in June.

Through the tem and your generous donations, CPCBA gave a gift of money to AGH Radiation Oncology Department to help support this project. Following is the acknowledgment letter:

Thank you and the members of the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon for the generous donation for the Dignity Robe Project. We sincerely appreciate your consideration and help in improving care for our patients.

*Sincerely,
David S. Parada, M.D.*

If you sew that would be great, but if you don’t we have other ways to contribute – anyone – anytime. Hot pink information sheets are on the desk in the Narthex. Thank you.

Please contact a CPCBA Dignity Robe Team member if you can help.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Gail Buchanan | 412-734-2050 |
| Jan Frisch | 412-761-2955 |
| Sue Herchenroether | 412-761-0479 |
| Sandy Stauffer | 412-761-0704 |
| Mary Witul | 412-734-2772 |

CPCBA Craft Nights Open to All

Join us in Fellowship Hall for monthly ‘Craft’ Nights! Have a project you’ve been meaning to work on? Bring your knitting, scrapbooking, needlepoint, or whatever you ‘craft’. Read, Write, Sort Pictures, bring whatever project you’ve been putting off! Come and work on your Prayer Shawls or on Dignity Robes! Or just come and chat.

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a night of fellowship and fun. Feel free to bring guests! Please RSVP to Susan Houser at 412-732-9599 or gandycat@comcast.net. It is optional to bring an appetizer or dessert to share, soda will be provided.

Upcoming dates:
 Friday, May 9th at 6:30 p.m.
 Friday, June 13th at 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, July 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Hospital Scrubs Collection to Benefit Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR)

Dear Friends,

During the month of May there will be a drive to collect hospital scrub sets, pajamas, and flip flops that will be sorted and packaged on Faith in Action Sunday and delivered to PAAR for distribution to their victim advocates. PAAR is one of the mission agencies that we support with Outreach funding.

Often times when a rape victim seeks treatment at the emergency room, she arrives partially clothed as a result of the crime, or her clothing is turned over to the police for evidence. In the past hospitals had the budget to issue a set of surgical scrubs to victims to wear when leaving the emergency room, but that isn't the case today. PAAR's victim advocates arrive at the hospital providing clean clothing for the victims. The advocates are volunteers who often times pay for clothing for the victims out of their own pockets which ends up being costly to the advocates. In the event that the advocate doesn't have clothes to provide, the victims have no choice but to scour the hospital lost and found for something to wear home.

By donating to this drive, you will be helping to provide a shred of dignity to women in the most vulnerable moments of their lives. There will be a board with cut out pictures of the needed items in the Narthex. Please take a cut out of the item(s) that you want to donate as a reminder to you and sign your name on the list next to the item(s) that you are donating. Donations will be accepted up until Faith In Action Sunday, June 8. On Faith In Action Sunday, the donations will be sorted and packaged by volunteers.

Here is what we are looking for:

- New or gently worn scrub tops or t-shirts
- New or gently worn scrub pants or pajama pants
- New Flip flops

NOTE: All items are available in Family Dollar stores, Goodwill, thrift stores, or your dresser drawers. They do not have to be expensive, new or fancy. These items are primarily for a one time use. Make your donation with the anticipation that they will be discarded once the woman has reached her safe place. We do ask that all gently worn items are washed and dried before dropping them off at church. A pair of pajama pants paired with a t-shirt is also acceptable.

As always thank you for your kindness and generosity. CPCBA members are some of the most giving people that I know.

Maureen Kowalski
Chair, Scrubs Project

Outreach Committee to Collect Books for North Hills Youth Ministry Annual Book Sale

North Hills Youth Ministry Counseling Center is once again looking for your books and audio/visual materials in good condition! Money raised at their 33rd annual used book sale provides scholarship funding for clients in need of professional mental health counseling and/or tutoring services. Please no magazines, encyclopedias, ex-library books, textbooks older than five years old, damaged books, Reader's Digest Condensed Books, or musty smelling books. Bring your contributions to the side entrance of CPCBA by Thursday May 1st. For those of you who volunteered last year, you remember all of the wonderful deals, and the fun and fellowship we had working for such a good cause. This year, we are in need of volunteers Monday, June 16th, from 4:30 p.m. until 9:15 p.m.. Volunteer for either a half shift, (4:30 – 7:00 or 7:00 – 9:15) or the full shift. We hope to have all CPCBA members working that evening.

Please note that the book sale location is again the Clayton Center at Memorial Park Presbyterian Church in Allison Park. Please call Walt Robertson (412) 761-7610 or email therobs1@prodigy.net if interested. There is also a registration sheet in the narthex.



Chancel Choir to Hold Vocal Techniques Workshop Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. to Noon

On Saturday morning, May 3, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, Paula Signorino-Richter will lead the Chancel Choir in a Vocal Techniques Workshop. Topics to be addressed in the first session (approximately 75 minutes) will include proper posture for singing, techniques of proper breathing, diction, including correct formation of vowels and consonants, etc.

For the second session we will move to the sanctuary where we will integrate the newly learned concepts into music we are currently rehearsing.

You need not be a choir member to attend. Many of the concepts to be discussed in the first half, specifically posture and breathing, are areas in which we can all improve, especially as we get older.

I promise to not badger any non-choirs members attending into joining the choir.

David Anderson

**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



**New Kids Corner Added to the Narthex!
Special Space Helps Make the Narthex a Safer Place for Children & Adults**

Narthex...

- Greek word meaning box, giant fennel
- A portico or lobby of an early Christian or Byzantine church or basilica, originally separated from the nave by a railing or screen
- An entrance hall leading to the nave of a church
- A big gathering space at CPCBA with a brand-new KIDS CORNER featuring low tables for snacks and a book collection

Making the Narthex a friendly and secure space is an ongoing goal at CPCBA. Your suggestions (to Melanie, to Fellowship & Evangelism, and/or the Property Committee) are welcome.

Please help the church achieve its goal by making sure that the accessibility ramp is not blocked or used as race course, that the steps are not blocked, and that the elevator is kept available for those who need to use it. Elevator play is not safe and may lead to maintenance problems. We don't want anyone to be hurt or left out from the church family.

Feel free to enjoy the user-friendly spaces for their intended purposes. In addition to the Kids Corner, there are chairs arranged for conversation. Also, have you seen the CPCBA people poster? How many times can you find yourself in the colorful picture of Jesus? Have you seen the Rembrandt etching? There is other art to look at and enjoy.

While we enjoy fellowship with each other, let's also take care of all our young ones so they don't get trampled underfoot and look after our members who need the accessibility that the ramps, stairs, and elevators provide.

P.S. To Families: It's 11:30 a.m. Do you know where your children are? Frequently after worship, there are rehearsals in the sanctuary or sound system work being done. While it's tempting to run around in the open space –for some reason the choir and organ area are a great temptation – please make sure that children are safe with you. Invite them to the Kids Corner. And let us know what you'd like to see added. Thanks!

Sincerely,
Minnibelle Church Mouse

