

# Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202



## Community Presbyterian Church Continues to Step Out in Faith

Campaign Celebration to be Held  
Sunday, November 5th

*A reminder to support the  
2007 Stewardship Campaign effort.*

Many of you have probably already received a visit from a neighbor with your *Stepping Out in Faith!* Travel Case, carrying your personal stewardship material for this year's campaign. For some of you, who live at a greater distance from Community Church, you received your campaign material by mail. Whatever your situation, remember *we're all in this together!* Our 2007 Stewardship Campaign has all of us stepping out on our journey of faith to support the ministries and mission of Community Church.

If the Travel Case has not yet arrived at your doorstep, when it does, we ask that you follow the easy steps provided in the case and move it along to the next family on your route (within 24 hours, please!) Our

goal is that all seventeen Travel Cases, filled with our completed pledge cards, will be delivered back to the church by the last families on the routes no later than Sunday, November 5.

Our Session has asked all of us to be part of a goal of at least a 10% increase in every current pledge. If you are new to pledging this year, we are asking you to begin your stewardship commitment by pledging at least 1% of your total family income. The expansion of our ministry and mission of Community Church depends upon your pledge and upon your faithful giving.

The Stewardship Committee sincerely appreciates your enthusiasm and support of this new campaign. We invite everyone to join in joyful worship on Sunday, November 5 as we come together to give thanks for God's abundant blessings. Let us all gather together, share in prayer and thanks-giving, and *walk by faith, not by sight.*

### Special WoW Worship Service

**Sunday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m.**

**To commission CPCBA members for New Orleans Mission Trip**

A special WoW Wonders of Worship service will be held on Sunday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m. to commission a group of twelve Community Church members who will be traveling on Saturday, November 11 to New Orleans for a week of work in rebuilding the area devastated last year by Hurricane Katrina.

Donations to offset the costs of this trip are still welcome. Checks can be made payable to CPCBA, noting "RHINO Mission Trip" in the memo section.



Be sure to support these local missionaries by coming to this casual service with contemporary service led by an intergenerational worship team.

This would also be a great time to invite a friend or neighbor to experience the fellowship of our family of faith.



# My View on Church Avenue

by Pastor Brent Dugan

As you receive this edition of *Revelations*, you're participating in our fall stewardship campaign, "*Stepping Out In Faith*." Many of you are taking "travel bags" to a neighbor's door; others who live further out are receiving the good news of the life, ministry and mission of Community Church in mailings.

So I'm asking you to keep things moving and get those pledge cards in so that we can celebrate a complete wrap-up of a successful campaign on Sunday, November 5th.

As we've reported since June, Community Church is participating in the Acts 16:5 Initiative, a process for renewing life, mission, and vision in the local church. Forty churches of Pittsburgh Presbytery are committed to this prayerful process developed by Dr. Stan Ott, former pastor of Pleasant Hills Church.

Recently, your Session and Staff spent a weekend retreat studying the process and beginning to let it trickle into our lives and into our committees, boards, worship, mission, and into every congregational organization.

Some have asked: "When will we see results?" Answer: They might not be obvious, except as you talk to more committed, articulate and enthusiastic disciples; as you observe new ways of making committee meetings spiritual small-group fellowships; and following leaders who constantly seek the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in bringing all 450 members of Community Church into a life of transformation.

On each copy of *Revelations*—for many years, now—you have seen our wonderful Mission Statement. On retreat, the staff and elders developed a "yardstick" to measure all of our congregational activities . . . a *defining vision statement*.

***To know Christ,  
to make disciples,  
and to meet human need.***

Learn it by heart, friends. Measure your own spiritual life by that vision. And pray that Community Church will live up to the vision God has given us.

## Community Thanksgiving Service Thursday, November 23—10:00 a.m. St. James Lutheran Church in Emsworth

A Community Thanksgiving Day Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. at St. James Lutheran Church in Emsworth. The Rev. Robert Downs, for over two decades pastor of the Emsworth United Presbyterian Church will preach. Dr. Downs retires at the end of the year, so let's gather, in thanksgiving, to give our friend and neighbor in ministry a prayerful Godspeed.



## Congregational Meeting, November 12<sup>th</sup> To elect new church officers

An important meeting of the congregation has been set for Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, following the 10:30 a.m. service. As your privilege and duty, you are called to hear a report from the Church Officer Nominating Committee and elect officers. Child care will continue through the end of the meeting which will be followed by a fellowship hour.



## All Saints Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>

Celebrate our Christian hope as we gather for the tolling of the bell on All Saints Sunday. Saints of Community Church who have died in the past 12 months will be remembered with prayers of hope and thanksgiving.

At both services, we will join in the communion of the saints from all times and places, as we gather at the Lord's Table in anticipation of the great heavenly reunion banquet with the Lord Jesus.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

-Laurence Binyon

### Members to be Remembered

- Nan Duff
- Theodoris Egg
- Robert F. Espy
- Mary Priscilla Flaccus
- Marlene Forsythe
- J. Rodgers Hamilton
- Joseph Maguire, Sr.
- Virginia Rial
- Marianne Wolfe





by Deacon Austin DeSimone

### Members Share Memories with Deacon Beth Joyce

This month's 'Doings' is an experiment in a format suggested by deacon Beth Joyce—a compilation of recollections contributed by members of our congregation. Beth gathered them during informal interviews she conducted over the past few weeks. So, take it away Beth! --

When I spoke with members about how our church has changed over the years, I heard again and again that we were not just one church. "Well I went to Woodland", "I went to Ben Avon Presbyterian", "the Ben Avon churches were satellites of the Emsworth church".

Laurie McBride said that Tom Phillips had brought in Gladys' notes about the merger, and what a wealth of information is in there! For example, it will tell you about the feasibility of moving a large church organ, or how many people attended worship at Ben Avon Presbyterian Church on November 4, 1973 (194 people). This talk of merging wasn't new, it was being discussed back in 1932!

Here are some memories from the members that I spoke with:

Adda Ferguson - Adda ran a Missionary Circle for girls. They met once a month for study, picnics, and to do good deeds.

Laurie McBride - The men and women had separate Bible studies. Mother-Daughter Luncheons were held. Women did not serve on Session, the first leadership role held by women was Deacon. Laurie's mother was the second woman to serve as a Deacon.

Frank Sommerville – He remembers the youth group when he was young.

Betty Webber - No carpeting in the aisle, no cushions on the pews

Dorothy Rohall – She remembers the Christmas Tea in the beginning of December to kick off the holiday season. They would use linen tablecloths and serve the tea in china cups.

Jody Jackson - "Deck the Halls", a Christmas party. She said that a live tree (one of which apparently got loose one year on its' way down to the church) would be brought in and the children would make the decorations for it. One Easter they had an Easter Garden with a live lamb, peeps, and bunnies.

Marj Simonds - The choir did not wear robes, just their Sunday clothes. The ladies, of course, in hats. The choir was in a loft above where they are now. When the choir did get robes, they were black.

We know that there are more great memories out there. Our hope is that you have enjoyed these recollections and that you will perhaps be inspired to share some of your own stories. If so, please contact any of the Deacons and we will be happy to document your memories in a future edition of *Revelations*!

### Fellowship and Evangelism Committee Introduces "Ritual of Friendship"

The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee has introduced a "Ritual of Friendship" pad in the worship service. One of the things we value most in our church is the opportunity to know each other and extend a friendly welcome to those who worship with us.

In order to help us do that, you will find at the side pews and the left side of the center pew a "Ritual of Friendship" Pad. We ask that you pass this pad along the pew and all worshippers, both members and visitors alike, write their names and addresses in the spaces provided. When the pad reaches the end of the aisle, please pass it back to the other end of the pew, noting the names of the

persons who are seated next to you. This will give you an opportunity to greet fellow members, get acquainted with and invite visitors to join you at the Fellowship Hour after the service.



CPCBA is known as a friendly and welcoming church and this is one way we can extend the warmth of our fellowship to others. An added bonus to signing the Friendship Pad is that every name listed will be prayed for during the week.

**Fellowship and Evangelism Committee to  
Host 2nd Annual Turkey Dinner  
Wednesday, November 15—6:30 p.m.**

The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee invites you to come and enjoy a night of fellowship and turkey on Wednesday, November 15th at 6:30 p.m. when they host their second annual turkey dinner.

The Committee will provide the entire meal—they simply ask that you make a reservation by using a Reservation Card in the church pew or by calling the church office at 412-761-1233.

Major Lynette Reel, Associate Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army, Western Pennsylvania Division will be the guest speaker for the evening.

Use this event as an opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to experience the joy of community at CPCBA.



**Our Family News**

**☞ Deaths ☞**

MARIANNE WOLFE  
October 10, 2006

**☞ Baptisms ☞**

JAMIE LYNN  
JORDAN ELIZABETH  
daughters of  
Kurt and Beth Kokie Frisco  
October 15, 2006

**☞ Birth ☞**

ADELINE (ADDY) JOSEPHINE  
daughter of  
Todd and Heather Tracy  
October 11, 2006

**☞ Address Change ☞**

DAVID AND DORIS REES  
2103 Masonic Drive  
Sewickley, PA 15143  
412-761-8020

**Craft & Scrapbooking Night!  
Thursday, November 16—6:30-10:30 p.m.**

**Where:** CPCBA

**Cost:** Free! - Open to all!

Join us for an evening of crafts! Do you 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.

And you don't have to 'craft' to come. Write your Christmas cards, clean out your purse, whatever! Or come just for the fellowship.



It's optional to bring an appetizer or dessert to share—soda will be provided.

Please RSVP to Susan Houser at  
412-732-9599 or [gandycat@comcast.net](mailto:gandycat@comcast.net)  
Keep an eye out for dates in 2007!



**Thank you Note-**

Thanks to all who, in any way, helped with the Community Theatre Players dinners.

It was so nice to have new people get involved. What a nice way to make new friends.

Thanks again to all.

Claire Wilwohl and Leslie Miller

**Advent-Christmas Preview**

This year's Advent-Christmas schedule has been set, and the theme is "**Promise of Peace.**" In a world beset by war and calamity, we want to lift up the Prince of Peace as we celebrate the coming of Christmas this year.

We're hoping to keep the church calendar—and yours!—free from a hectic schedule this December. All events will be focused on Sundays . . . so keep them free for worship, preparation, and invitation.

One of the beautiful symbols of peace is the white origami dove. Simple sheets with folding instructions will be available for all members, children, and friends to make hundreds of these to adorn the sanctuary in an "art installation" to help us celebrate the **Promise of Hope.**



**2000 Doves for December**

**A Church-wide Project to Celebrate Advent Theme: The Promise of Peace**

This is a project for the **WHOLE CHURCH**.

During Advent we will be focusing on **The Promise of Peace** that Jesus brings to the world. As an example of the potential for miracles when we all work together for God's purpose, we will try to 'miraculously' transform our Sanctuary into a home for 2,000 doves. But not the real ones!

We will be handing out simple origami (paper folding) patterns and white paper to the whole congregation. If you will make a dove or two and bring it to church, we will gather and hang all of them. What a beautiful symbol of peace and of the beauty of God's family

working together to remember the promises of Jesus. You don't need to be an artist, we appreciate your willing hands and kind hearts.



**December Dates to Remember:**

- Dec. 3rd**—The First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 10th**—Music Sunday at 10:30 a.m. worship  
7:00 p.m. Hot Metal Philharmonic Youth Orchestra
- Dec. 17th**—Children's Christmas Pageant at 10:30 a.m. worship  
6:00-8:00 pm Community Christmas Festival
- 24th Christmas Eve**—8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Worship  
7:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve service  
9:00 p.m. Candlelight service



**"Christmas Around the World" Returns Sunday, December 17**

At past Christmas Festivals, our Fellowship Hall has been transformed into a global Christmas. Families have set up a table, corner, tree, dining area etc. with examples of how their country of heritage celebrates Christmas.

This year, with our *Promise of Peace*, we will again create this little world in a vision of peace on earth. Consider how you or your family can create a little piece of Christmas that reflects your heritage and your vision of peace. All types of displays and creativity are welcome. Gail and John Buchanan will be asking for folks to sign up soon, so get a spot early!

**SESSION CORNER**

by Peter Herchenroether  
Clerk of Session

**Session Retreat Focused on Acts Initiative**

The Session recently met in an overnight retreat at the Sandcrest Retreat Center, Wheeling, W.Va. The retreat focused on the Acts Initiative and how it can increase the spiritual life of our congregation.

**Generous Bequest Received from the Estate of Nan Duff**

The Session also received, with gratitude, a bequest of \$10,000 from the Estate of Nan Duff and directed that the bequest be added to the Endowment Fund, in lasting memory of Nan.

**Stewardship in Sunday School... The children are "Stepping Out" too!**

For the first time our children have been given envelopes to use for their Sunday School offering. They also had the opportunity to make a church-shaped holder for their envelopes, to help keep them in a place easily remembered.



Please talk with your children about the idea of giving back to God a portion of what God has blessed you with. The Bible calls this "tithing" or giving a tithe to God.

You can talk together with your whole family about how you give back to God with your service, charity, talents and money.

**The Show Did Go On (Miraculously!) Community Theatre Players Extend Thanks**

Never before have so many "savage dilemmas" occurred so close to the opening of a CTP production.

The set was redesigned in the last two weeks, and not one, but two cast members were replaced within four days of opening. It actually took a man and a woman to replace Marj Simonds.

Victor and Michael DeSimone and Mary Witul all made their CTP stage debuts. It's impossible to thank everyone since so many from our congregation filled key roles in the production; however, it must be said that Herb McLuckie has more than earned his spot in the CTP Hall of Fame. Thanks also to Claire Wilwohl for those delicious Friday night dinners.

Stay tuned for more news on CTP.

**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



**Pittsburgh Jazz Legend, Etta Cox, to solo with the Chancel Choir  
Sunday, November 19—10:30 a.m.**

On Sunday, November 19, 2006, CPCBA is privileged to have jazz singer, Etta Cox, as our soloist. She will sing "He Looked Beyond My Fault, and Saw My Need," and "I Want to Thank You Lord" by Moses Hogan.

Etta was raised in St. Joseph, Missouri, and like so many aspiring musicians, grew up singing in church, in her case, the Baptist Church. Early influences include opera great Joan Sutherland, and jazz artists Ella Fitzgerald, Nancy Wilson, and Sara Vaughan.

Etta is a respected educator, teaching at CAPA, Pittsburgh's performing arts high school, and performs more than 75 concerts a year for elementary school children through Gateway To the Arts.



**Thoughts of Thankfulness by  
Music Director David Anderson**

It is a Thanksgiving Dinner custom in many families for each person in attendance to say a few words about something for which they are grateful.

I'll start.

I am thankful for each person who contributes to the musical life of CPCBA, from our young choir members to our oldsters and everyone in between.

I am grateful for our Jr. Choir, our Bell Choir, for Barbara McKelway and Patrick Fink, our sound crew, our WOW musicians, our instrumentalists, and for a congregation which appreciates God's gift of music.

*Happy Thanksgiving to all.*

