

Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202



CPCBA is Stepping Out in Faith!
2007 Capital Campaign to Involve Entire Congregation

STEPPING OUT
in faith

During the month of October, Community Church will be *Stepping Out in Faith!* as we enter into the 2007 Stewardship season. This year's Stewardship Campaign is full of excitement and energy as we come together as a community of believers to support the programs and ministry of CPCBA.

Through Stewardship this year, we are embracing the concept that *we are all in this together* as we recognize that this is our chance to share with the rest of the world what God has so freely given to us.

On October 22, Stewardship Sunday, CPCBA will *Step out in Faith!* as travel cases with personalized stewardship material begin to travel through our neighborhoods. When the packet arrives at your doorstep, read through the materials addressed to you and remember all the ways that you have been

blessed by God. Prayerfully consider your contribution, complete your pledge card, seal it and enclose it in the provided envelope, and pass the travel case on to the next family on your route list. That's all you need to do!

October 8 will be our Campaign Kick-Off in worship. For the weeks following, you will listen to inspirational sermons and hear personal testimony from church friends about what CPCBA has meant to them. The travel cases will begin to circulate through our neighborhoods on October 22 and will be due back at the church by November 5. If you live in an outlying area, your stewardship material will be mailed to you.

Please begin to prayerfully consider your pledge for the upcoming year. Your generous gifts provide the operating revenue that funds the programs and ministries of CPCBA. Your pledge allows our church to build on a foundation of faith that serves people in our community and around the world. Remember now, and always, that...*we are all in this together!*

Stepping Out In Faith Sermon Series—October 2006

October 8—"Stepping Out on Faith"

2 Corinthians 5:1-7—"We walk by faith, not by sight."

October 15—"Side-stepping Sin"

Genesis 5:21-24; 6:5-9—"Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God."

October 22—"In the Footsteps of Jesus"

1 John 2:1-6—"Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."

October 29—"Stepping Up Our Witness"

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10—"Your faith in God has become known everywhere."



My View on Church Avenue

by Pastor Brent Dugan

When people you're concerned about the third quarter statement at work, you've overspent your budget on back-to-school clothes or college tuition, and Christmas is just around the corner, why does the church hold its annual stewardship campaign in the fall?

All you have to do is visit a Farmer's Market this time of year to discover the reason. Fall is the season of harvest. And tainted spinach notwithstanding, the racks and bins and crates are an overflowing cornucopia in this land of plenty.

But more than pears and pumpkins, consider the luxury of comfortable homes and nice cars, clothing you give away before it wears out, computers, gadgets, and entertainments galore.

You'll often hear critics of some preachers say: "All he talks about is money." To which the preacher might respond: "No, all *Jesus* talks about is money." Jesus knows its power for good or for evil. He knows the blessing of giving, how a life of grace and gratitude keeps people fresh and full of life, how miserliness makes us dry and lifeless.

Community Church is full of generous givers. But we've been on a plateau in our giving for many years. Some of our members do not commit to a pledge. And for some of our members there is no record of giving. The Bible calls us to return a meaningful portion of our harvest plenty to the Lord and his purposes on earth.

As we all "*Step Out In Faith*" this season in our exciting new annual campaign, let's remember the bounty of the harvest and the fullness of our lifestyle. Your officers are asking each pledger to increase their current pledge by 10%. And for new givers, they are asking a pledge of 1% of family income.



**FOR WE
WALK BY
FAITH,
NOT BY SIGHT.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

Acts Initiative Update

"So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew in numbers daily." —Acts 16:5

Community Church's *Acts Initiative* Team—comprised of members of staff, elders and the Planning Committee—recently attended a Presbytery-wide review and challenge of the process given by local church consultant, Dr. Stanley Ott.

This process will firm up the foundation of the church's programs, ministries and mission as a defining vision is put into place. This will help all existing committees and organizations of the church proceed with greater attention to the scriptures and prayer, a deeper fellowship, a commitment to disciple-making, and a clear focus for ministry and mission.

The Team is sending out a call for prayer warriors to lift up the *Acts Initiative* process in our parish. If you would be willing to spend time together and alone in prayer for this purpose, please contact the pastor.



Jazz Night Under the Stars Recap Many Thanks to All Who Participated

by Judy Hay and Kate Colville
Outreach Committee Co-chairs

September 15 was a wonderful Friday evening spent out on the front lawn listening to the music of Clem Rollin and the Jazz All Stars. The event raised \$1,300 towards our \$2,500 goal for the RHINO Project (Rebuilding Hope In New Orleans).

Eleven members of the congregation are flying to New Orleans on November 12 and will work with volunteers from the St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church as they demolish, clean, and refurbish homes still left devastated following Katrina's wrath over a year ago.

If you didn't have the opportunity to join us in September, you can still help! Donations will be accepted anytime, while in October a five minute slide show will be played during Sunday services so you will have the opportunity to learn more and also contribute to the RHINO Project.



Please remember to write RHINO in your check memo or use the RHINO Project donation envelopes that are on the volunteer desk in the narthex.

We thank you in advance for helping the Outreach Committee meet our goal of \$2500.

Venture Forth, Make Disciples

by Laurie McBride
for the Fellowship & Evangelism Committee

In the September issue of *Revelations*, we suggested that a desirable objective of our church would be: "**Each One, Reach One.**" The very existence of such a goal is an implicit recognition of our responsibility as Christians to seek out others who have never known Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and persuade them to become His disciples and responsible members of His Church.

It would be a fair question to ask just how this can be accomplished in our community which, from all appearances, seems so stable and unchanging. But did you know that in the last several years there has been a turnover in ownership of more than 20% of the homes in our ministry area? This statistic alone, suggests there are real opportunities for each of us to witness for Jesus Christ in this community

When you introduce yourself to that new family on your street, do you mention the church, leave a brochure describing Community Church, invite them to attend a worship service with you, help enroll their children in Sunday School or Preschool, notify the Pastor; or do you just let the moment pass without giving any thought to the opportunity which is yours to be an effective witness to your faith?

When Titus came back from Macedonia, he found Paul in the Corinthian synagogues arguing and "persuading". There is good Biblical basis for assuming that God frequently persuades through us. If we sit passively at home and neglect to present the Church to newcomers or the un-churched in our community, we deny them the privilege of hearing the "Good News", making an intelligent and informed response and becoming a disciple and responsible member of the Body of Christ.

The Great Commission was no chance utterance. It was God's eternal purpose that all men and women have the opportunity to believe and be saved. We all must venture forth to make disciples. Your community, your street is the best place to start.



by Deacon Austin DeSimone

Looking Back on the Picnic

"It was a great picnic!" That is what I heard from so many of you who attended this year's Annual Church Picnic at ACORD park. It WAS great! Despite an early morning downpour and threatening clouds, over 175 attended. We stayed dry and comfortable under the ample shelter, and did all that we do best at CPCBA – worshipped together, ate lots of good food, talked amongst ourselves, and enjoyed the fine music provided by Tom Franzak.

Personally, I find it hard to say which part I enjoyed the most: the picnic itself, or working with all the deacons, members of Fellowship and Evangelism, Worship committees and others, who dedicated a great deal of their time, talents and spirit to making it happen.



In one sense we were all deacons that day, in so many ways we served each other, literally, figuratively and spiritually. THAT is what we do best at CPCBA, that is the heart of our community and our communion. On an occasion like the picnic, it is easy, a small thing really, easy because it is about fun and food and good times.

But that should not lead us to underestimate the power that comes from serving each other. That power is something we can rely on. It is there in the good times, but it is even more 'there' for us in the hard times. When one of us enters a time of personal struggle, whether physical, emotional, moral or spiritual, we come together to serve that person's needs, each in our own way. When our community, whether that community is Ben Avon, or Emsworth, or New Orleans, or Malawi, is in need, we come together to serve.

We live in a world that is in a great struggle and in great need. God calls on us to serve that world. Let us pray that we will live each day serving each other and our world with the power God has given us. Let us all live our lives as deacons in His church.

Wednesday Morning Fellowship

New faces have been seen recently at the Wednesday Morning Bible Study held each week at 9:30 a.m. And no wonder! The discussion is thought-provoking and edifying, prayer is comforting, and the fellowship is uplifting.

Summer was a great time as the fellowship enjoyed a picnic brunch at Pepperhill Farm, went on retreat at Peak 'n Peek, and were hosted by our own Tex Wendt at ManorCare. Bibles are available, or bring your own. Reading schedules for each week are listed in the bulletin. So . . . come and show your face!





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Growing with God

the adventure continues...

Sunday School Open House

Sunday, October 29th at 9:15am

You are invited to our Sunday School Open House. Come see what our children have learned these first 2 months of class. The children will lead you through each of the Sunday School classrooms and tell you what they have been doing there, show you some of their work, and treat you to breakfast goodies. This is in place of the “normal” Sunday School hour for children, so parents are encouraged to come and participate with their children.



Join us at 9:15 in the beautiful basement.



The Life of David...rated PG-13

This Bible lesson is for the adults.

October 8—29th

9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall

He was a boy when he was chosen by God for greatness.
He slew the great giant Goliath with a sling and a stone,
when the armies of men failed.

But once he became King, temptation was too much to resist:
Bathsheba entered the picture.
Power corrupted his judgment.
And he betrayed his loyalty to God.

◆ **October 8th**—See the big picture.

Come learn about the life and events of one of the greatest Kings of Israel.
This is the “House of David”, the ancestor of Jesus. Led by Melanie Holcomb.

◆ **October 15th**—Artists throughout time have been inspired by the life of David.

Let Merle Culley lead you through a gallery of great old and new masterpieces
that tell of a life of faith, all from the comfort of your chair.

◆ **October 22nd**—Come experience the life of David through the eyes of artists and poets.

Learn about the young man who wrote and sang such beautiful Psalms of praise to God
and the emotion that can be expressed through poetry. Led by Barbara Koch.

◆ **October 29th**—Where did it all go wrong?

Join Judge Maurice Cohill and Attorney Patrick Abramowich to talk about the power of leadership,
the lure of corruption, and the justice of God and of Man as seen in the life of King David.

Sundays at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall

Beginning October 8th



Member Adam VanGorder to be Featured On Music Emphasis Sunday—October 22

-by David Anderson, Music Director

In October 2006, the music ministry instituted an ongoing series of “instruments of worship,” in which different musical instruments mentioned in the Bible have been featured in worship services. To date, we have featured the harp and the flute.

For our third in the series, we will be featuring Adam VanGorder, our youngest choir member, on the tuba. He will be playing “Amazing Grace” and will be giving the children’s sermon. Be sure to be there on October 22nd to hear Adam.



Why Adam? Why the tuba? The tuba isn’t mentioned in the Bible; in fact it wasn’t even invented until the 1800s. In this case, the instrument of worship is not the tuba, but Adam, one of CPCBA’s best human examples of an instrument of worship.

Adam sings in the Jr. Choir, he plays in the Bell Choir, and sings in the Chancel Choir. Last October, when I became music director, I noticed that Adam always attended choir practice. He was usually off to the side doing his homework, while his parents, Dave and Mary, rehearsed with the choir. One evening I asked Adam to join us and he has been one of our most dedicated members ever since.

Psalm 150 says, “Let everything that has breath, Praise the Lord.” Breathe on, Adam!

Just a Reminder...

All choir rehearsals have begun. Members are either singing or ringing in our desire to worship God through music. But, just because it's October and you didn't get around to coming to the choir of YOUR choice in September doesn't mean you can't come in October!

Our choirs, the Junior Choir, the Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir, love to welcome new members all the time. So consider this an invitation to join us. Welcome to the choir of your choice!

Junior Choir meets Sundays at 11:45 in the choir room, and the Bell Choir meets Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room.

Chancel Choir practice takes place every Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. All are welcome. You need not have a beautiful voice (see last month’s article), nor do you need to know how to read music. Choir participation is “small group ministry” at its most fun.




Our Family News

☞ *Deaths* ☛

MARLENE FORSYTHE
September 18, 2006

RODGERS HAMILTON
September 18, 2006



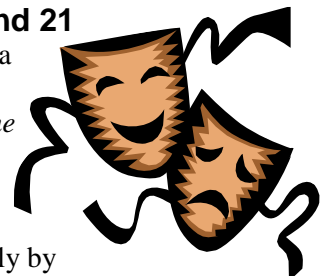
Outreach Committee to Collect Coats for North Hills Community Sharing Project

The Outreach Committee will be collecting gently worn winter coats to donate to the North Hills Community Outreach's "sharing projects" to help low-income families. Let us help our neighbors in need by cleaning out our own closets.

Please bring your donations to the coat rack marked with a “donations” sign located in the Rostrevor entryway.

Community Theatre Players Fall Production *The Savage Dilemma* to be held October 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21

It wouldn't be fall without a Community Theatre Players production and this time it's *The Savage Dilemma*.



This heartwarming comedy is a sequel to *The Curious Savage* done previously by the group. Our own Marj Simonds appears again as Mrs. Paddy.

The shows are all at 8:00 p.m. on October 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21. As before, there will be wonderful dinners at 6:30 p.m. on both Fridays.

Tickets for the play are \$7.00 with the dinners being an additional \$15.00 per person. Reservations may be made by calling Gail Buchanan at 412-734-2050.

A final plea...if you want to help with the plays, including ushering, call Mary Witul 412-734-2772.

**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



Pumpkin Patch Days



**October 15th to 31st on the Church Lawn
From 10:00 a.m. to dusk**

*There'll be pumpkin and gourds of all shapes and sizes,
A story time corner full of lots of surprises,
A corn stalk or two,
A ghost story night, BOO
For your pumpkins this year come and try us.*

All Proceeds from the Patch
will go to support the
CPCBA Youth
Summer Trips.



The Pumpkin Patch needs your help. This project will require many different people from our congregation in order to make it a success. Jobs include:

Working the patch/selling pumpkins
2 shifts each day 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and 3 p.m.-dusk

Unloading the truck/setting up the patch
Saturday October 14th 8:30 a.m.-?

Story Tellers
We need people to read children's Halloween stories in the patch.

Please sign up to help on the bulletin board in the narthex. It promises to be a "howl" of a good time!!