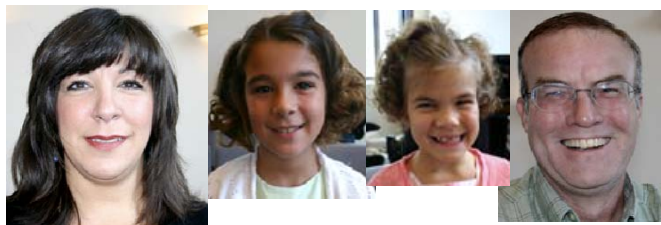


Community House Welcomes New Members!

Smiles, tears and inspiring words marked the Welcoming Ceremony on November 4 as five new adult members and their children joined the Community House family. In the Community House tradition, new members were asked to express their reasons for first visiting Community House, their reasons for returning and their hopes for the future. The crowd that gathered for Sunday worship was treated to hearing these stories that recalled a new found hope in living a more genuine spiritual life, a hope to provide themselves and young family members with a sense of belonging and personal value and their hope in living a life of purpose. Welcome all!



Ines, Haley, Keely and Michael Brady



Jody Nagel, Ema and Sharon Suritsky



Peter
Donovan

News from the Session of the Community House Presbyterian Church

The Session of Community House Presbyterian Church will be looking for nominations from the Community family for new Session Members. Please make prayerful considerations of this calling, whether it is to offer a name in nomination or to consider accepting another's nomination.

Community House is participating in a Beaded Prayer

project to offer, in confidence, prayers concerning the violence plaguing the Northside. Please see Michelle Jones for more information.

Our annual pledge of treasure is just over the horizon. Please carefully consider this important aspect of your commitment to our community and the principles for which we stand.

Updates about the Neighborhood

The Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission voted on November 7 to recommend to Pittsburgh City Council that our neighbor, the Garden Theater, at 12 West North Avenue be designated an historical site.

The Garden Theater, which opened in 1915, was designed by Thomas H. Scott. Since altering its fare from first and second run films to adult films in 1972,

the Garden Theater has been at the center of much neighborhood controversy.

The Garden was finally closed in March of 2007, having much of its original interior in tact.

With the Garden's pending designation as a historical landmark, there are hopes that the theater can be reborn as a concert hall or a site for other live entertainment events.

Have you got an idea or article you'd like to see published in our newsletter? Please give your idea or completed article to Amy Constantine at constantineace@hotmail.com, Jen Saffron at jensaffron@comcast.net or Bobbi Donovan at bobbilee@comcast.net. Please get your ideas to any of the above women by the 15th of the month or articles by the 25th of the month for publication in the following month's Unity News.

Celebrating Our Church and Community

Wednesday Space for Grace

Community House is the place to be on Wednesday evenings. Beginning at 6:00 p.m., the hustle and bustle of the outside world is put aside for a while and the spirit of contemplation and reflection is welcomed to stay.

Space for Grace offers a mid week respite, a chance

to talk with and get to know other Community House family members.

There are two special Space for Grace events coming up : November 21 Space for Grace Thanksgiving Common Meal and December 19 South West Christmas Dinner. Please think about how you can contribute to the celebration and contact the event sponsors.

A HEARTFELT THANKS!

Thank you to all of our wonderful adult volunteers for working with the children of our church from September 2006 through August 2007! This month we thank those who made **Camp Praise** possible.

Tim Flower	Bobbi Donovan
Linda Flower	Amy Constantine
Doug Sterling	Stephen Jordan
Rick St. John	Susan Shira Nilsen
Betsy O'Neill	Peter Donovan
Susie Ferline	Cheryl Lowitzer
Michelle Jones	Kim Kunckel

Affirmations and Intentions

- Thanks for prayers for Bailey Donovan. His recovery is underway.
- During Lung Cancer Awareness Month — for all women and men who are contending with the challenges of ending their addiction to smoking, to those who are fighting the effects of lung cancer, and all cancers, for the medical professionals who care for them and for the families and friends who love them.

Please send good news or prayer concerns to Jen Saffron, jensaffron@comcast.net, or Bobbi Donovan, bobbilee@comcast.net.

On the minds and hearts of our members

“You could hear when his soul cracked”

This was a quote from a former prisoner at Abu Ghraib, describing listening to someone being tortured. The prisoner speaking was interviewed in *The Ghosts of Abu Ghraib*, a documentary by Rory Kennedy. Another prisoner talked about how his father was held at Abu Ghraib for the sole purpose of making the prisoner watch while his elderly father was subjected to exhausting and humiliating “exercises”. The wives and children of some prisoners were held so that men knew they could be harmed at any time. The American Friends Service Committee has a copy of this video. Study information on this subject can be found at <http://www.tortureisamoralissue.org/> and <http://www.quit-torture-now.org/>; as well as from the local AFSC office.

Many other web sites are extremely helpful at understanding how we got here-including Amnesty, Church Folks for a Better America (I love that name); Human Rights Watch, and Witness Against Torture. I will be working with the AFSC on planning a spring conference on this issue. Anyone is welcome to join in this project. Please let me know if you are interested. *Claudia Detwiler*

Our Stewardship Progress

Our year-to-date total contribution of treasure is \$82,064.35. Our giving to-date puts Community House on pace for an annual total of \$99,240.61. That's a significant upswing from last month. We set a goal of \$115,000 at the beginning of 2007. Special thanks to all who used those summer-month envelopes to contribute to our community. Please be sure to consider prayerfully your level of giving for 2008. Thank you to all who are helping to keep Community House a vital part of the worshipping community in the Presbyterian Church.

What's coming up at Community House?

Wed., Nov. 21, 6 PM – Space for Grace: Thanksgiving Common Meal, *sponsored by Special Events committee*

Sat., Dec. 1, -- Artist Market and Celebration, *sponsored by Jen Saffron, Darlene Durrwachter Rushing*

Wed., Dec. 19 -- Southwest Christmas Dinner, follows Space for Grace, *sponsored by James Buczynski*

Fri., Dec. 28 -- Kwanzaa Celebration, *sponsored by Joyce Baskins*

Please see the event sponsor to volunteer.