

Community House Welcomed Our Newest Church Members on March 15



Kelli Clevenger hails all the way from Kansas. She moved to Pittsburgh when a job opportunity became a job offer. Kelli now applies her talents as the Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society. She is an avid equestrian and even owns her own horse. It's no coincidence that Kelli is generally seated next to Rob Nichols. They're cousins!

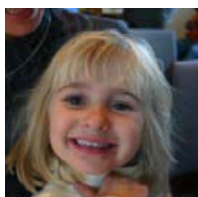


Trish Mahaffey was born in Wilkesburg but moved to Virginia at the age of three. Since her extended-family roots were nurtured while growing up and she created lots of happy family memories over the years, it was only natural for her to return to Pittsburgh

in 2002 when her extended family and birth city beckoned. Trish lives in New Kensington and works as a medical biller for a local physical therapist. She enjoys the outdoors where she bikes and kayaks with friends. She also enjoys singing and is a member of two choirs - the ever impressive Community House Choir and the Renaissance City Choir. Amazing as it sounds, with all this Trish still has time to attend Seton Hill College in Greensburg where she is earning a degree in psychology.



Joseph



Ester

The Narwocki family joins us each week from their home in Squirrel Hill. They are Pittsburgh newcomers, having arrived on our sixfold shores in 2002. Camille is a Chicago native who

worked as a Physician's Assistant with special training in surgery before joining Joe here after his transfer, spurred by a job promotion, from New Jersey. Joe spends his work hours as a Division Manager for Hoffman La-Roche Pharmaceuticals. Camille has trained for 10 years in cabalistic healing. She keeps a part-time practice in mind-body-spirit holistic energy healing going while being the fulltime mom of Ellie and Ester. The family spends together time taking advantage of the many offerings in the city:

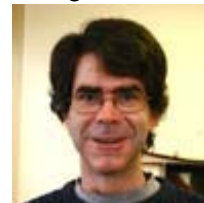


Ellie



Camille DiNicola-

hiking, museums, festivals and parks. They also enjoy visiting relatives in Wisconsin, Eastern PA and New Hampshire. As of this printing, baby boy Narwocki is still contemplating his grand entrance. He will be the family's 20th first cousin.



Andrew

The Swensen family moved to Ross Township from a small town near Concord, Massachusetts five years ago when Andrew was offered a job at the Pittsburgh Foundation. He has since moved to Pittsburgh Filmmakers where he is the Director. He enjoys playing piano. Backpacking and overnight camping are favorite pastimes for Andrew and Nicholas. Andrew has hiked trails in North Carolina, Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Alaska. Nicholas has joined his dad for trips in local state parks. Nicholas is proud of his creations as a master Lego builder and is the family ornithologist. Sofia is the resident jazz dancer. The entire family loves to read.



Nicholas



Sofia

Do you have an idea or article you'd like to see published in our newsletter? Please give your idea or completed article to Bobbi Donovan at bobbilee@comcast.net. Please get your ideas to Bobbi by the 15th of the month or articles by the 25th of the month for publication in the following Unity News. Please put "For Newsletter" in the subject line. Thanks.



News from the Community House Session

An Excellent Retreat

Session members gathered on February 28 for their annual Retreat. It proved to be a stimulating and inspiring adventure. Everyone brought a readiness to generate and consider fresh ideas to help Community House members along their path of personal and spiritual growth and to be more effective in communicating the good news about our progressive, inclusive faith community.

We identified some challenges that we have yet to meet as a community. We've got some ideas that we will be sharing. Please give them some thought as well and tell your group leader your ideas. (See page 3.) We are hoping to have lots of two-way discussions about meeting these challenges and moving beyond them.

- Being comfortable talking about our commitment to equality;
- Being comfortable talking about taking the Bible seriously though not literally;
- Offering more for families with young children;
- Advertising our progressive inclusive message;
- Talking about our mission without comparing it to those of others;
- Creating signage for the building;
- Creating worship services that are also "events" to introduce visitors to the best of both worlds;
- Improving racial diversity of membership;
- Talking effectively about stewardship;
- Capitalizing on the versatility and desirability of our space; and
- Remembering to focus on the interests of potential members not just on those of community members.

Super Sundays!

New in 2009, Community House will celebrate one Sunday a month in an extra special way. In general, the added attraction will be a community meal, either covered dish or purchased, and an activity either prior to or following worship. Please plan to attend and bring your friends and neighbors and *their* friends and neighbors. By combining the experience of our worship service and our hospitality, Super Sundays promise to be a great way to introduce newcomers to the possibilities for their spiritual growth that exist at Community House and to further our own sense of family.

Our next Super Sunday, **Community House Overnight**, is coming up on March 22, but for the brave, it really starts on Saturday March 21! After gathering for dinner on Saturday, participants will enjoy an evening of fellowship and fun - watching movies, playing games, and staying up late for those who dare. A big breakfast will be followed by our worship service on Sunday morning.

Our April Super Sunday will be on April 26 - **Sunday Afternoon at the Movies**. To celebrate EARTH DAY, participants will enjoy a potluck lunch before heading to the movie theater to see the debut of EARTH, the first feature-length nature documentary from Disney's new production banner, DisneyNature. EARTH takes moviegoers on an extraordinary tour of our home planet as it's never been seen before.

Mark your calendars for a super May 31 and June 28. Lots to look forward to on Super Sundays!

Interested in organizing/hosting a Super Sunday? Great! We have sponsors/hosts for January and February but are looking for other members of the community to come forward, as individuals or teams, to host/organize events on other months.

Here's to a great new way to extend the community of Community House

What's coming up at Community House?

- **March 20 - "Won't you be my neighbor?" Day**
Community House members are invited to donate new and used sweaters in honor of the 81st birthday of our favorite Pittsburgh neighbor, Fred Rogers. For details see Joyce Baskins.
- **March 21-22 - Super Sunday, Community House Overnight**
Dinner followed by fellowship and fun, sleep if you can then breakfast and worship. A really SUPER Sunday
- **April 26 - Super Sunday, Sunday Afternoon at the Movies**
Worship followed by a potluck lunch then a trip to the theater to see EARTH in honor of the planet we call home.

Find your group! -- Save this page!

Community House Session has established a new organized way to make sure CH members are included in all the important happenings of the church. Each Session member has been given a group of church members for whom s/he is the two-way communicator of information, meaning that group members are also welcomed and invited to contact their group leader in cases of questions, concerns or to pass on important information or prayer requests.

Also, please expect a call or conversation with your group leader to discuss what hopes and goals you have as a member of Community House.

The following is a list of all the Community House groups and the Session member associated with them. If you are interested in being included in a group, please talk with Jan Leo. You will be added.

Group A - Joyce Baskins

Lilian Akin
Shari Ferline-McClure
Peter Donovan
Mike and Ines Brady
Lynne Sowinski
Ron, Lori and Liz Church



Group B - Bobbi Donovan

Doug Sterling/Lynn Weber
Joe Narwocki/Camille DiNicola
Frances McBriar
Jay Carson
Rae Hodge/Sandy Marlin



Group C - Flo Shaner

Diane DePalma
John and Claudia Detwiler
Gay Fogarty
Jennifer Probert
Fritz and Betsy Graf
Jan Leo



Group D - David Perkins

Robert Blackwell
Rick St. John
Amy Constantine/David Ritz
Paco and Denise Mahone
Jody Nagel
Sharon Suritzky



Group E - Michelle Jones

Janet Holtz
Eric Holtz
Herman Jones
Susan Nilsen
Sarah and David Springer
Ken Turner
Del Rodriquez



Group F - Linda Flower

Doug Cloud
Jessica Heathcote
Rob Nichols
Dion Plater
Kelli Clevenger
Nancy Hayes
James Buczynski
Tim Flower



Group G - Michael Beigay

Jan Cox/Scott Stegman
Dean Stewart
Angela Lepley
Trish Mahaffey
Ray Wiethorn
Michael Merryman
Tom Whitefield



Group H - Jen Saffron

Bob Baumbach
Darlene Durrwachter-Rushing
Derwin Ruffing
Cheryl Lowitzer
Betsy O'Neill
Andrew Swensen
Robin Bower
Pedro Uceda



Group I - Susie Ferline

Sam Baskins
Martin and Gina Spangenberg
Edith Battle
Emily Hayes-Rowan
Kim Kunkel
Russell and Jeannine Blackburn



Word is getting around.....

Between Sundays, Pastor Wayne and Jan Leo, our Narrative Artist, are always hard at work introducing the concept of Sharing our Faith through Stories. From working on the beautiful "Pray with Eyes Wide Open" contemplative pieces we enjoy during worship to creating projects for other organizations, the concept is being taught in the most pleasing of ways. For instance, on Feb 18, Jan Leo, our Narrative Artist, presented to students and faculty of the English Department at Central Catholic High School in Oakland. The presentation centered around techniques and artistry involved in developing oral histories.

Jan was able to display a portfolio of work ranging from our Telling our Stories exhibit, historical accounts and personal memory stories, and several videos, which lead to a wide ranging conversation regarding how to compose interpretive pieces within everyday settings that speak to the larger issues of our society. The response was enthusiastic, and enabled Community house present its story agenda, this time in a high school setting.

Remember, Wayne and Jan are interested in learning of other venues and organizations that might be interested in purchasing their expertise. Contact either Wayne or Jan after worship or by phone.

Keep the attached page handy

This issue of Unity News has a special insert – new next page. The page was developed to provide new Community House members with a quick and easy place to find out about some basics about our church and community. Because there may be some current members who are unaware of some of the material, it is included here for you to read and retain. Remember, you can always find the newsletter on-line at www.communityhousepittsburgh.org/newsletters.htm, so you don't NEED to print the page. But knowing that it is somewhere is a good thing. It may be of interest to you in the future.

Your article here.

Remember, if you have a story you'd like to tell or an issue you'd like to share, contact Bobbi Donovan at bobbilee@comcast.net. We're always looking for interesting information to include in Unity News.

An Invitation to Engage in "God Talk"

This is a reprise of the article that appeared in the January/February 2009 Unity News. If you are interested in participating in Rev. Ron's discussions, now would be a good time to start. There is a good chance that the Church family will be moving to Arkansas in the near future.

Reverend Ron Church is taking his witness energies to the community. God Talk welcomes anyone who is interested in exploring their feelings about God in a relaxed, non-church atmosphere. Rev. Ron will share conversations about God over a cup of hot beverage at a level and pace that fits those gathered.

God Talk takes place on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the Affogato Coffeehouse located at 613 Lincoln Avenue in Bellevue. Everyone is welcome. Everyone is accepted.

For directions to or information about Affogato Coffeehouse: 412-761-0750 or www.bigreda.com.



120 Parkhurst Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412 321-3900

Info@communityhousepittsburgh.org
www.communityhousepittsburgh.org

Community House Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

At Community House Presbyterian Church we believe that there is no understanding of life or of scripture without interpretation. We choose to interpret in the light of Christ's life of radical inclusiveness and generous action. We tear away the labels that are created by society to degrade and disenfranchise others. We stand firm in our commitment to be a loving and open community that welcomes everyone to the table of grace, peace and light. We embrace and celebrate diversity, responding to the love of God that welcomes people of every race, culture, sexual orientation, and worldly condition. We believe that the presence of God in the world is realized in our actions for love and justice. We proclaim, celebrate and share the gracious love of God which we experience in Jesus Christ, embracing God's diverse family as we remove barriers to becoming one in Christ, by welcoming and including all of those of God's rich tapestry.

Community House Presbyterian Church Worship and Scheduled Activities

Sundays

- Worship 10:45 a.m. followed by an informal coffee hour
- Seekers 9:45 a.m. A contemplative spiritual reading/discussion group
- Choir rehearsal 10:15 a.m.

Wednesdays

- Space for Grace 6:00 p.m., Covered dish contemplative meal and discussion. First Wednesday includes a short, reflective worship service.
- Choir practice 7:15 p.m., 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesdays

First Thursdays

- Shelter Meal at Northside Common Ministries, Community House members provide and serve meal for 28 men.

Special Events

- When Special events are scheduled, they generally occur on the 4th Wednesday of the month or after Sunday worship. Check out the latest issue of Unity News for details. Unity News is available on line at <http://www.communityhousepittsburgh.org/newsletters.htm>. To get involved in special events, contact Michael Beigay.

Important Contact Information

Rev Wayne Peck, wpeck@communityhousepittsburgh.org,

Jan Leo, jleo@communityhousepittsburgh.org,

Your Group leader, _____



Community House Presbyterian Church 2009 Session Members

NAME	EMAIL
Joyce Baskins	queen63@comcast.net
Michael Beigay	gm2b@earthlink.net
Bobbi Donovan	bobbilee@comcast.net
Susie Ferline	sferline@earthlink.net
Linda Flower	lf54@andrew.cmu.edu
Michelle Jones	mjones@mcg-btc.org
Rev. Wayne Peck, moderator	wpeck@communityhousepittsburgh.org
Jen Saffron	jensaffron@comcast.net
Flo Shaner	floshaner@msn.com

Opportunities for answering your call

We at Community House believe that our spiritual growth can be encouraged in many ways. By exploring how you can share your talents and time, you will find the ways that are best for you. We have lots of opportunities for you to be engaged in the life of your new church family. Feel free to contact the persons listed below to see how you can get involved.

ACTIVITY	CONTACT
Assisting with Explorers (age 8 to 14) during Sunday worship	Ines Brady
Assisting with Praise (age 3 to 8) during Sunday worship	Susie Ferline
Providing music ministry during Sunday worship	Darlene Durrwachter-Rushing
Providing a Coffee Hour snack	Linda Flower
Participating in Space for Grace	James Buczynski
Preparing and serving a meal, donating food pantry items/ clothing for the Northside Common Ministries	Jen Saffron
Doing "yard work"	Rev. Wayne Peck and Jan Leo
Writing for Unity News	Bobbi Donovan
Planning Special Events	Michael Beigay
Serving on Session	Claudia Detwiler

Stewardship and YOU

As a member of Community House Presbyterian Church you are part of a special church family.

You will have heartfelt support and prayers during times of struggle and lots of people to share your delight during times of joy.

As with most families, you will be invited and encouraged to contribute to the family well-being.

At Community House, we talk about the importance of being involved in three ways: Time, Talent and Treasure. Our stewardship of this community relies on each member's prayerful contemplation of what that means to him or her.

By serving or taking a leadership role in Christian education of our young people, worship, special events, or special causes you can begin to answer your call and live your talents.

By contributing your treasure, you allow the careful stewardship of our spiritual life as well as our beautiful building and the resources used to keep it running smoothly. Our pledge campaign, held each fall, will give you the opportunity to put a monetary value on your commitment to the Church.

If you have questions about stewardship, please feel free to contact Jen Saffron or Michelle Jones.