

Community House Welcomed Our Newest Church Member on April 4



He's tiny and he's adorable. He came into this world on Saturday, April 4 and joined the proud family of Camille, Joseph, Esther and Ellie Nawrocki. His name is Joshua Joseph, and he's the newest member of the Community House Presbyterian Church. WELCOME Joshua!



Community House Celebrates Diversity and Inclusion

Affirming Our Families Super Sunday

Affirming Our Families Sunday will be celebrated at Community House on Sunday, May 31. The Community House church "family" is a collection of diverse family units - Mom and Dad and children, Mom and Mom and children, Dad and children, Mom and children, husbands and wives, loving partners, and single adult children of loving birth families. And, our families have members from different origins - Europe, Africa, South America and North America. Affirming Our Families Sunday is a day to raise an enthusiastic cheer in support of the most important feature of all these families - the love that flows through the elastic tethers that families provide.

Divulge one of the Northside's best kept secrets, that Community House is the place where a deep feeling of security floods the soul as God's love is preached as truly unconditional. Please extend an invitation to families that you know, who may find affirmation in short

supply, to join you here on May 31 for Affirming Our Families Sunday.

More Light Sunday

More Light Sunday will be celebrated on June 7 in Presbyterian churches across the nation and at Community House. More Light Sunday gives faith communities an opportunity to embrace and celebrate the rich qualities that individuals in the LGBT community contribute as members of the Christian faithful. Michael Beigay has invited members of the LGBT community to take leadership roles in the service and to provide the refreshments for coffee hour. Michael will lead our worship service that morning by sharing God's word.

Everyone is invited to attend and bring friends and family members to worship and to bear witness to the wonderful ways God extends blessing through the lives of persons in the LGBT community.

In our prayers

We are in unity with James Buczynski and his family as they both mourn the passing of his brother, Edward and remember the goodness of Edward's life. We also join James in prayer that Edward will find everlasting joy and peace in God's Kingdom.

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

Extending an Invitation to Join CHPC as a New Member - Wednesdays June 17 & 24

As the world continues to pose exciting and challenging opportunities to witness to the Love of God, we are increasingly aware of the value of being part of an inclusive church community that stands for peace, justice and equality for all God's people. If you, or someone you know and love could benefit from being an integral part of our growing church family, please invite him or her to attend the next pair of Welcoming Dinners on Wednesday, June 17 and Wednesday June 24 beginning at 6:00 p.m. These meals center around a conversation that explores the way God moves in all our lives and how our future can be guided by following the callings we hear in our conversations with God. Please see Wayne to accept the invitation.

Community House Weathers the Economic Downturn

Spurred by the difficult economic times, Community House continues to make adjustments to our operations to meet our budget challenges. As might be anticipated, community giving is falling short of last year's mark by a significant amount. In addition, CHPC investments have suffered a loss, though not as deep as other comparable non-profits. To counter these facts, Wayne and Jan have continued to work diligently to reduce and sometimes eliminate expenditures. Recent changes in our technology access will save a projected \$400 per month. Additionally, Wayne and Jan continue to pursue and be open to entrepreneurial opportunities tied to their extraordinary talent at producing stunning digital presentations. And, as always, we continue to spread the good news about Community House to encourage new members to join.

PrideFest 2009 - We're there!

The culmination of the weeklong 2009 PrideFest, which celebrates and raises awareness about individuals in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community, will take place on Sunday, June 14 between noon and 6 p.m. in downtown Pittsburgh.

The Pride Awareness March will kick off the day's events beginning at noon. Those lining The Boulevard of the Allies between Grant and Stanwix; Stanwix between The Boulevard and Liberty; and Liberty from Stanwix to Seventh Street will certainly be entertained by parade participants. Look for the Community House banner held by Rob and Michael.

Those who gather at the grandstand located at the PrideFest entrance at Liberty and 7th Street are surely in for a real treat.

Between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., Liberty Avenue, between

7th Street and 10th Street will be abuzz with activity including information tables representing more than 100 local, regional and national organizations, entertainment by local, regional and national artists, a family-friendly area featuring carnival games and inflatable attractions and, of course, great food.

Community House Presbyterian Church will be among those distributing information thanks to the work of Michael Beigay and Angela Lepley.

New this year is an Interfaith Worship Service. The theme for the service is "A time of reflection, meditation, and faith within the LGBT Community." The worship service will take place at 9:00 a.m. at One Church, 937 Liberty Avenue on the 3rd floor. The service was also organized by our own Michael and Angela.

The PrideFest event is free and welcomes everyone to come and celebrate!

What's coming up at Community House?

- **May 31 - Affirming Our Families Super Sunday**
Community House members are invited to bring friends and families for worship that celebrates the rich diversity and love that our families possess and share. Pot luck luncheon and cook out follows.
- **June 7 - PrideFest in downtown Pittsburgh**
Community House will be represented in the Pride Awareness March and with an information booth.
- **June 14 - More Light Sunday**
Welcomes members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community to join us for worship and fellowship.
- **June 14 - Single Payer Healthcare Conference**
Held at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, this is the first of 10 regional conference to discuss and **advocate** for the morally sound provision of universal healthcare through the single payer model.

With Hard Work and Prayers Comes Good News !

While we so often pray in our times of need, it's also important to pray with rejoicing and honor God's many blessings in our lives. Here are a few of the many accomplishments, triumphs, and accolades from our Community House family and friends for which we gratefully pray in thanksgiving:

Frances McBriar successfully recovered and has return to grace her special seat to worship with us on Sundays! You were missed while you were gone, Frances - WELCOME BACK. You are loved.

Rick St. John - Autumn House, where Rick is Executive Director, received a \$5,000 grant from BNY Mellon to enhance the AH website and to create an on-line poetry journal, Coalhillreview.com.

Jeanine Blackburn is now Dr. Blackburn, having earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Instructional Management Leadership from Robert Morris University – Congratulations to Jeanine and her family on a job exceedingly well done!

Camille, Joe, Esther and Ellie Nawrocki welcomed their newest family member, Joshua Joseph on Saturday, April 4. Joshua is the newest member of Community House as well. New life is such a beautiful gift.

Josh Peck, while serving the denomination as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Atlanta, heard God's call to become a Presbyterian minister. He has begun his journey as an "Inquirer" within the orientation process of the Presbyterian Church USA.

All this and he is also engaged to be married to Ms. Ginny Johnson on March 20, 2010! GO, JOSH!

Jen Saffron curated *CZECH It*, the international photography exhibit at SPACE Gallery with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. 300 people attended the opening party! (The exhibit remains on view at the SPACE Gallery at 812 Liberty Avenue through May 31.)

Derwin Rushing was elected to a six-year term as Judge; Magisterial District Court; District 05-02-40, serving the Northside of Pittsburgh. Congratulations on never losing sight of your life project!

Bob Baumbach was honored by the Historic Review Commission for his architectural work that preserved the historic integrity of the façade of the Aeberli Building while giving it a much needed structural renovation.

The Aeberli Building reigns at the corner of East North Ave. and Sandusky. It's new appearance is a welcomed change from the downtrodden visual of the past. Thank you and congratulations, Bob!

Mariah DePalma continues to impress with her success in gymnastics. Mariah recently took part in the State Gymnastics Competition where she medaled in floor exercise, uneven parallel bars and the balance beam. Her routines earned her third place in overall competition in her age group. WOW!

Emily Hayes-Rowan has found a job she not only loves, but one that boasts an understanding boss. Good show!

Trish Mahaffey, Darlene Durrwachter Rushing, and CH friend Joan Kimmel - These songstresses "represented," singing in an All-City gospel choir, and raising the roof with their spirited voices at Mt. Shiloh Baptist Church.

Claudia Detwiler continues to follow her heart in advocacy for single payer healthcare. She has worked with the Pittsburgh Presbytery to develop the first of ten regional conferences aimed at raising awareness about the qualities and justification for single payer healthcare. It will take place on June 14 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Gay Fogarty successfully underwent foot surgery with full recovery! YAY!

Darlene Durrwachter Rushing - spoke in April at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, giving an artist's talk about her glass artistry – part of the exhibition entitled *Transformations*.

Lynne Weber and business partner Joan Kimmel - On April 18, this dynamic duo kicked off a sure-to-be successful season at Urban Gardener, their lauded North Side business located at 1901 Brighton Road. (412) 323-4769

Linda Flower was honored at a special reception by Carnegie Mellon University for her role in the community literacy project with Community House Learning Center!

Amy Constantine's father is recovering from cancer! Hallelujah!

Peter and Bobbi Donovan's daughter, Hannah, will graduate high school on June 5. She graduated with high honors in both her academic and technical studies.

Our Members Shine

Jessica Heathcote has been working in Karagwe, Tanzania to improve the lives of children who have been orphaned by the HIV/AIDS epidemic there. She explains how the illness has fundamentally changed life in this country on the east coast of Africa. "In Tanzania, an AIDS orphan is defined as a child who has lost one parent to the epidemic. Without two parents, it is impossible to make ends meet in the area. Most of the children in this system are HIV negative, however they are often facing the reality that they will be the ones to support their younger siblings and take care of their elders as they succumb to the disease. In Africa, formal education is seen as the best way to both prevent HIV/AIDS in the younger generation and to begin to rebuild and strengthen the families affected."

Jessica put out a request for CHPC support to provide sponsorship for a child or two. Jessica informed us that a sponsorship of \$500 is sufficient to support one child's annual educational needs and includes their book fees, uniforms, and all other costs of living incurred while at the school, including medical care. She reminded us that the best hope for children who are orphaned due to HIV/AIDS is to attend a year-round program at a private, English-speaking, boarding school, because here they are not only fed and clothed (alleviating a burden on the surviving but often ill parent), but also receive a primary education that will enable them to go onto high school and college. She explained that it is essential that orphans continue on to higher education in order to be able to support their younger siblings.

Community House members came through, donating more than \$800 for the cause. Once back in Tanzania, Jessica will personally work with the AIDS Control Office in the village to insure that the funds are distributed properly so as to sustain the children throughout the year. She will return to CHPC on June 20th with lots of stories to share.

□□□□□□

Rick St. John will share his gift of poetry from his recently published book *The Pure Inconstancy of Grace* with gathered guest at two upcoming poetry readings in Pittsburgh.

Tuesday, June 30, 2009 – 8:00 p.m.
at Hemingway's Cafe, 3911 Forbes Avenue (Oakland), 15213
Reading with Jay Carson and Joseph Karasek.

Sunday, August 16, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.
at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 4400 Forbes Avenue (Oakland) 15217
Reading with Jay Carson, Judith Robinson and Michael Wurster.

□□□□□□

Linda Flower was an honored recipient of the newly established Mark Gelfand Service Award for Educational Outreach. In general, the award will be given annually to a member of the Carnegie Mellon University community who "has combined sustained, effective community service with academic coursework and a deliberate process of student reflection to enhance the learning experience and teach social responsibility to Carnegie Mellon students while improving some aspect of life in the community."

Linda earned the award through her long-time advocacy for young adults. The ground work for Linda's later and current work was laid in 1990 when she, along with Rev. Wayne and Joyce Baskins, established the Community Literacy Center. That effort developed into the Community House Learning Center, which provided the seedbed for both the CMU Community Think Tanks (giving voice to low wage workers), and for CMU Decision Makers (her current project with high school students with learning disabilities) in which both Doug Cloud and Jessica Heathcote have been key mentors. Linda is gracious in her description of the award as " sort of a Community House family affair."