

## CHPC Welcomes Our Newest Members, Jessica and Michael

It seems like yesterday that Jessica Heathcote and Michael Beigay were joining us for worship for the first time. Now we are pleased and grateful to welcome them as the newest members of Community House. What a blessing it is to have their energy combined with ours. We anticipate great Community House stories to be shaped by their contributions. If you haven't made a formal introduction, take a look at the pictures to the right, find the people they match and make their acquaintance. They are very nice people!



Jessica Heathcote



Michael Beigay

**GREAT**

### News from the Session of the Community House Presbyterian Church

The session set many goals for our church family in April of 2007. We are making strides toward achieving those goals. Of course, "we" means the Community House family. We are attending Sunday worship in higher numbers and bringing along friends and family members we think might find our House their home. We set a target for 2008 of averaging 60 adult members in attendance each week. We are circling around that target like we want to exceed it... and it's only March. We set a goal of adding an average of \$2,212 to our church stewardship collection each week. While there is weekly fluctuation, this goal, too, is being approached with gusto. All of this is very good news for a community that has so much to share. Please continue to spread the good news about the story being lived at Community House. It is one of such value and longevity, and well able to carry more players.

### Look Mom, a Special Collection!

We will have a special collection on May 11, Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Christian Church. This collection will reimburse our Treasure stewardship coffers for the amount Community House owed to the Presbyterian denomination as its annual apportionment assessment. If you are concerned about what *your portion* of the apportionment might be, you might start with the figure suggested by the denomination of \$21.25 per communicant member. If you can be more generous to offset those who will find that amount to be out of reach, may you be richly blest. Any amount will be welcomed since the shortfall will continue to be a debt against our Treasure account. If paying by check, please mark "for Presbytery" on the memo line. If paying with cash, please use an envelope and label it accordingly. Thank you to everyone for your anticipated generosity.

Have you got an idea or article you'd like to see published in our newsletter? Please give your idea or completed article to Jen Saffron at [jensaffron@comcast.net](mailto:jensaffron@comcast.net) or Bobbi Donovan at [bobbilee@comcast.net](mailto:bobbilee@comcast.net). Please get your ideas to either 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. Please put "For Newsletter" in the subject line. Thanks.

**Got a Church family?**

**H**ave you been a frequent visitor to Community House and found our message one that nourishes your soul? Have you needed what you found here, a caring ear, a heartfelt laugh, a life-changing message? Do you yearn for a place to feel a part of? Your wait is over, or nearly so. Community House will begin its next series of Welcoming Conversations for future members on April 9. The second session

will be on April 16. The third session will skip a week and follow on April 30. Welcoming Conversations are held around a dinner table (no surprise there) and explore ideas about faith and what it would mean to include your story in the leaves of the Community House text. So mark your calendars, listen to your heart, search your soul and join a family that celebrates life, life, and more life!

**Home Churchwork**

**R**ev. Wayne has talked about this many times in sermons and small groups. Now, it's time to make it official. What is your calling? What does that slight voice that only you can hear urge you to do to make better the world you inhabit? How can you make concrete progress

toward putting your stirrings into action? How can the other members of Community House help you in your adventure? Think about it. And be ready to ask for and offer support. A new wind is blowing. Can you feel it?

**On the minds and hearts of our members**

**T**he Community House special events committee has put together a tremendously important series to raise awareness about race. This event is an excellent opportunity to spread the news about our inclusive community by inviting neighbors and friends to join in the discussion. The series is appropriate for children age 10 and up. Childcare available for children under age 10.

Part III, "The House We Live In" will be screened on March 26 beginning at 7:00 p.m. This episode focuses not on individual attitudes and behavior but on the ways our institutions and policies give advantage to some groups at the expense of others. We see how benefits quietly and often invisibly accrue to white people because of the racialized nature of our laws, courts, customs, and perhaps most pertinently, housing. Dessert and discussion follow. If you attended either of parts I or II, you know that this will be a worthwhile way to spend an evening. If you were not able to view the first two episodes, fear not. Learning can come in *little* worthwhile packages too.

Episode Two of "Race: The Power of an Illusion" *The Story We Tell* will be re-screened after church on Sunday, March 16, for those who are interested in catching up.

**Special thanks to our sponsors**

Community House Presbyterian Church, Allegheny YMCA, Bistro-to-Go, First National Bank, National City Bank, North Side Lions, North Side Rotary, PNC Bank, Race & Reconciliation Dialogue Group, St. Paul Cathedral and Susan Shira Nilsen.

**Coming up in April**

*For the Bible Tells Me So* will be screened on Wednesday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. at CHPC. The documentary explores such questions as: Can love between two people ever be an abomination? Is the Bible an excuse to hate? Is the chasm separating gays and lesbians and Christianity too wide to cross? *For the Bible Tells Me So* offer healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity.

**What's coming up at Community House?**

**Race: The Power of an Illusion Part 3 - March 26, 7:00 p.m.**

**Welcoming Dinners - three Wednesdays in April : April 9, 16 and 30, 6:00 p.m.**

**For the Bible Tells Me So -- Wednesday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. (see above for details)**

**Race, Discrimination and Pittsburgh -- Moving Beyond 'Groundhog Day' April 30, 6:00 p.m.**

**Space for Grace Corner**

DATE		PRESIDER	CHOIR
March	12	James B.	yes
	19	Linda and Tim	yes
	26	Race Part III	no
April	2	Gay Task Force	yes
	9	Wayne	yes

## Keeping the Conversation Going

### ***Race, Discrimination and Pittsburgh -- Moving Beyond 'Groundhog Day'***

Community Conversation facilitated by Dr. Herman Jones, Slippery Rock University

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

6:00 p.m. light meal

7:00 p.m. discussion

In the movie, "Groundhog Day," the character played by Bill Murray continues to relive the same day over and over, until he's learned the lessons meant to improve his life. When it comes to racial justice in America, we know that discussions, reports, protests, workshops, marches, legislation and movements have been going on, not for years or decades, but for centuries. And it keeps coming up over and over again because it remains unresolved, unanswered, and unfinished. As a community, what can we offer to each other -- in terms of specific, concrete action steps for us all -- that will move us beyond a 'Groundhog Day-like' discussion of race and towards a more just and equitable community? Add your thoughts to the discussion that melds with a common meal. Coming up on the last Wednesday in April as a follow-up to our Race series.

### **Other Communities Connect with Community House**

In commemoration of the 5th anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq War, we have been asked by the Thomas Merton Center to join them for any of several upcoming actions to protest against the continuation of the hostilities.

**Thursday, March 13** noon to 3:00 p.m. -- Live video-cast of the "Winter Soldier" - vets testify about their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan. Community of Reconciliation Church 5th Ave and Bellfield Ave. (Oakland)

**Friday/Saturday March 28/29** Dawn to dusk vigil, Com-

munity of Reconciliation Church, 5th Ave and Bellfield Ave. (Oakland)

**Saturday, March 29**, 1:00 p.m. Gather at Software Engineering Institute (SEI) 5th Ave and S. Craig (Oakland) for a march to Flagstaff Hill for

**Saturday, March 29**, 2:30 p.m. Memorial Service for fallen victims of the Iraq War. Flagstaff Hill (Oakland)

### **Special need/offer**

Please contact Bobbi Donovan (412-445-7638) if you are interested in joining her and her sons in carrying a coffin (light cardboard) from the SEI to Flagstaff Hill

## Community House Kitchen

**T**his is a new section that will be included when a particular recipe catches the attention of members of Community House. We know the power of sharing food prepared with love, so that power is now transferable. Please enjoy! This is from new member, Jessica Heathcote. Proof of how nice she is.....

### **Jessica's Soul Food Sweet Potato Casserole**

#### Ingredients:

2 cans of Bruce's Yams (29 oz. each), drained  
1 cup white sugar  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Drain the yam juice, and then mash them in a large bowl. Add sugar, eggs, and cinnamon and beat with an electric mixer until smooth. Spray a 13x9 dish with Pam and spread yams in dish.

#### Topping:

2 cups Ritz cracker crumbs (about one sleeve)  
1 cup melted Oleo (2 sticks)  
2 cups brown sugar  
chopped pecans or walnuts (optional)

Mix all of the ingredients together with hands. Spread on top of yams.

Bake the casserole, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 30 minutes