

## CHPC — Adding a Voice of Inclusion to the Dialogue

**O**n Wednesday night, October 24th at 6 pm, the Community House Learning Center will host a presentation of “Out of the Past; Out in the Present,” a multimedia exploration of the lives of GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender) Americans in their homes, in their society, and in their faith communities.

The presentation features the personal stories of Community House Presbyterian Church (CHPC) congregation members, historical video and audio, and an opportunity for community conversation as well.

In addition, an exhibit of “Telling Our Stories” will be available in the conversation rooms of Community House.

The event begins at 6:00 p.m. with a buffet supper, followed by the 60 minute presentation, and dessert with community conversation.

We are inviting members from churches around the Pittsburgh area through the More Light Network and the Task Force on Ministries with Sexual Minorities of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, and we hope for a large turnout. Anyone from CHPC who wants to contribute to this community education project is welcomed.

It is hoped that these kinds of projects will contribute to growing our church family in the future. Therefore, a visible presence of welcoming and affirming CHPC members is crucial. So, a special invitation goes out to those who do not normally come for Space For Grace on Wednesdays. It is hoped that you will be present on this very *important* Wednesday night to share our church family’s message of inclusion and acceptance.

Contact Stephen Jordan [sjt@cmu.edu](mailto:sjt@cmu.edu) for more details.

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

#### Time and Talent To Do List:

Please note the following small tasks that need completing at Community House - a great opportunity to volunteer your time and talent!

- 1) graffiti removal from the back post of our parking lot
- 2) hang mirror in second floor men's room
- 3) weed and collect litter around the perimeter of the

Community House

4) repair/repaint two to three small areas of wall damage on lower level of the Community House

A foam board with photos and more information about these items will be in the fellowship room during coffee hour. Thanks!

#### Positive Energy in Brighton Heights

Brighton Heights is humming. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, residents spent the morning sprucing up the intersection of Termon and California Avenues. Volunteers dug up spent annuals and planted donated perennials. The Annual Brighton Heights Halloween Parade will be Saturday, October 27, 2007. The Parade marches

up Davis Ave to Legion Park. Prizes will be given to the best homemade costumes. Judging begins at 11:30 near the start of the parade on Davis Avenue. The 2007 Fund Run in Riverview Park will be October 13 at 10 am. Registration starts at 8 am at Legion Park at the corner of Davis and Brighton. The race starts on the park side of the Davis Avenue Bridge.

## Growing Our Church—Around a Meal, Of Course

### New Member Dinners

**C**ommunity House is hosting New Member Dinners at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, October 3, 10 and 17.

These dinners are an opportunity for those interested in our church to share a meal with congregants. At these meals, we share our visions for follow-

ing a spiritual path of learning, growth and exploration, and we find out about Community House's role within the Presbytery.

If you have questions or are interested in adding your name to the growing list of participants, please call Rev. Wayne Peck at 412-780-1182.

### My Week at Camp Crestfield by Ethan McLure - 3rd and Final Installment

The fun activities included the Clay Pits, where we jumped into a giant hole of clay where you could splash around and be covered with clay (we wore old clothes and shoes that we could throw away)! We also played a game called Swamp Ball which is like kick ball, but all of the bases are giant puddles of mud that you can dive or slide into! We sat around the camp fire at night and cooked a Walking Taco, which is a bag of Fritos, with taco meat, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes and whatever you like - that was a good night. We also played a game called Gold Rush where all of the counselors took rocks that were spray painted gold and hid

them in the woods. Teams would go out to find the gold, without getting put into jail by the other teams and the bandits (which were the counselors), and the team with the most gold would win. Our team, the Cherries, won!! We also shot at targets with bows and arrows and went canoeing and climbed the rock climbing wall.

Next year I am definitely going back, you can count on it! Maybe we'll have more kids from Community House join us. I might even go twice!! I hope you enjoyed hearing about my visit at Camp Crestfield.

### 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 **Explorers** possible.

John Detwiler	Frank Lehner
Derwin Rushing	Sarah Springer
David Perkins	Martin Spangenberg
David Springer	Wayne Peck
Del Rodriguez	Jan Leo

### Affirmations and Intentions

- For Bailey Donovan during his search for healing.
- During Breast Cancer Awareness Month — for all women and men who are contending with the challenges of breast 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](mailto:jensaffron@comcast.net), or Bobbi Donovan, [bobbilee@comcast.net](mailto:bobbilee@comcast.net).

### Our Stewardship Progress

Our year-to-date total contribution of treasure is \$73, 434. Our giving to-date puts Community House on pace for an annual total of \$\$86,268. That's down for the third consecutive month. We set a goal of \$115,000 at the beginning of 2007. Perhaps now that vacation travel is over all those empty envelopes can be filled and passed with the collection plate. 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., Oct. 24, 6 PM** – Space for Grace: Out of the Past; Out in the Present, *sponsored by James Buczynski, Stephen Jordan*

**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.**

## Welcome Sunday 2007, A Reminiscence

The "Welcome Sunday" kitchen folk were busy about getting the food ready for serving. Some were heating greens and ribs, slicing turkey, others setting out plates, filling platters, they were taking their tasks seriously and loving it.

As I was passing through I overheard a puzzled newer member ask an older member a plethora of questions concerning our membership. One of the questions I had struggled with earlier and put aside to analyze, maybe another time. She was disappointed and confused and three of the questions were:

- how do people stay away from their church all summer, lacking in presence often means lacking in financial support?
- where are so many of the people that were here when I joined and don't attend any more? and
- where are so many of our members today?

She feared that we would look bad when visitors came and our full membership wasn't there.

She began to applaud her past church for at least one thing, the commitment of its members and how the church was a priority in their lives. She was talking and stirring a pot and all the while reminding me just a little of Martha. Martha worrying about being ready for the visit of a friend, Jesus. The older member said she had a theory as to the whys of those questions but that was a topic for another day. The two continued to slice, dice, stir, that conversation ceased and a newer, lighter one began.

I smiled as I walked away because I truly believe that God provides, so I wasn't about to worry about who was and who wasn't there, just what could I do to make the day great.

The members who had planned to be present stepped it up big time and there was food not only enough for

an army but it was excellent and fit for the queens and kings it was prepared for.

We were blessed as our Ana and young visitor Haley Brady shared their awesome talent. Rev. Shirley Lyle who was a teen in our literacy programs prayed an inspiring prayer and it was wonderful having her visit.

Thanks to our Set Up Committee the church was set up and ready very early (no setting anything up at the last minute). Thank you to all the fantastic folk who served on a committee or gave us a donation towards the food' well done good and faithful servants.

Programs and services like Welcome Sunday, Italian Dinners, Kwanzaa, Soul Food Sunday, Space for Grace, etc are perfect tools to invite others to see who we are and it's a beautiful thing when we can encourage someone to visit us.

We had several new folk who said they are planning to come again, praise the Lord!

Another cool thing that is a result of the day is that members are swapping recipes, like Susie's corn pudding and Molly's ribs, a great vehicle for staying in touch and building on relationships, what fun.

The best part of the day was that we were able to say "Thank you Pastor Wayne for 30 years of service to the Community House Church."

All in all it was a magnificent day and the Lord provided everybody and everything we needed.

God poured out His Holy Spirit and blessed those of us who were there.

Looking forward to next years "Welcome Sunday".

Joyce A. Baskins

**J**ust a reminder, this year's season at the International Poetry Forum might be of special interest to Community House members and friends. The six readings will feature eight poets, under the broad theme: "War and Other Losses."

It's a chance to a wide range of challenges through a human rather than narrowly "political" lens. It is, therefore, an opportunity to open up conversations with friends and relatives who may not share your political views.

The series begins Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, with Sam Hammill, national founder of Poets Against War. It

concludes April 2, 2008, with Brian Turner, a soldier-poet, whose recent collection *Here, Bullet* is a moving first-person account of the Iraq war.

In between, you'll hear fiddling, stories and poems from Alaska's Ken Waldman; diverse lyric poems from Andrea Hollander Budy and Bill Zavatsky; a Lebanese-American perspective from Hyan Charara; plus nationally-prominent Pittsburghers Terrance Hayes and Sheryl St. Germain.

For details and tickets, see [www.thepoetryforum.org](http://www.thepoetryforum.org) or talk with Rick St. John

## Dialogue about the Iraq War - the Conversation Continues

**P**ittsburgh Filmmakers, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, and Bricolage Theater Company have combined forces to present **In Service**, a multimedia presentation about the Iraq War. **In Service** combines projected multimedia and live stage narration, and focuses on Pittsburgher's experiences during the war in Iraq.

The multimedia component includes interviews shot for this project, photography by photojournalists covering the war in Iraq and in Pittsburgh, and footage recorded by those in Iraq.

Community House member Jen Saffron, who teaches the history of war photography, is one of the interviewers for the video component. The stage component consists of individuals telling their own stories of Iraq -

individuals who have served in Iraq as military personnel, journalists, and government officials. The photography is exceptional, the interviews are powerful, and the stories are incredible. This is an important project, and is an opportunity for Community House friends and family to continue the conversation from the July presentation by the Iraq Veterans Against the War.

### **In Service**

Oct 4-7 and Oct 11-14, 2007 at 8pm.

HARRIS THEATER

809 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15222

Tickets are \$24.

Call 412-456-6666 for tickets and visit

<http://www.pghfilmmakers.org/in-service> for more information.



### Member's Notes

One of my retirement projects this Sept. was to co-lead a workshop sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, the social justice arm of the Society of Friends (Quakers).

For me this event expressed the values of Community House Church-particularly learning to speak truth to power. The focus of the workshop was to understand the history and current practice of torture by the U.S. government.

While not an upbeat topic, the participants expressed gratitude for being able to give voice to their concerns about this secretive part of our national life. In addition to understanding the history and politics of maintaining this practice, the workshop included skills taught by the AFSC in their Iraq Veterans Listening Project.

If anyone would like to have this workshop provided for their school or community organization, we would be happy to do that-or to train you in providing a presentation yourself.

Claudia Detwiler

### What's the buzzzzzz?

You may have noticed the construction equipment and digging out front on Parkhurst. That is just a smidgen of what is to come in this part of the North Side, including a new library at the corner of Federal and Parkhurst!

If you are interested in finding out more about the newly proposed library, to replace the Allegheny Regional Branch (damaged in an electrical storm), please plan on attending the October 9 meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Children's Museum in their Lower Theatre.

For information, please call Mary Monaghan, Allegheny Regional Branch library director, at 412-622-1925.

The Community House Learning Center, a non-profit that is a partner organization to our church at Directed by Rev. Dr. Wayne C. Peck, is very interested in partnering with Carnegie Library as a way to reach out to neighborhood children through literacy programs - session members will be attending this October 9 meeting, as well.

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](mailto:constantineace@hotmail.com), 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 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. Thanks to all who have contributed thus far to making Unity News a worthwhile effort.