

## CHPC Session lays out 30-month plan

Committed to expanding the role of Community House in the lives of our members and the culture of our Northside community, the Session has prayerfully decided to focus on two major areas between now and June 2010. By focusing on increasing the number of people who choose to be Community House members and exploring all the meanings of stewardship, we intend to build our presence as a spiritual catalyst and a beacon of hope and action.

We believe that by working on the concrete steps outlined below that we will achieve or exceed our 2 1/2 -year goals of increasing commitment in Community House to 85 ministry and mission members and enjoying a gathering of between 80 and 100 individuals in attendance at each Sunday worship

### Our Message

We will increase our active forms of outreach to raise awareness that:

- Community House members are real and our message is compelling
- Community House is inclusive and celebrates diversity
- Community House members are known and loved
- Community House is a place to feel at home

### Physical Presence

We will make our presence more visible by:

- Installing exterior signage with our name, logo and message
- Completing the landscaping of Parkhurst and Sandusky with trees and perennials
- Better defining and incorporating the three T's (Time/Talent/Treasure) into each member's active stewardship of the church community to maintain and improve our building and grounds

### Our Community

We will increase our interaction with our Northside neighbors by:

- Making concerted effort to design events with hospitality to neighbors, friends and family members in mind
- Becoming active in "non-church" community-sponsored events
- Finding ways to interact with other community organizations
- Incorporating CHPC into the community by sharing our technological and educational resources

The Session will be in communication with church members on an on-going basis to inform about what progress is being made toward achieving these benchmark goals. We ask that if you have ideas, concerns, or questions to please contact a member of Session directly.

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

New Session members will be installed at our January 13 worship service. Welcome to Stephen Jordan, Gina Spangenberg and Bobbi Donovan. Many blessings to Stephen Jordan on the joyous occasion of his Baptism.

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.

### Expanding The Community House Circle

The next round of New Member dinners will be held on three consecutive Wednesdays, January 30, February 6 and February 13 starting at 6 p.m. at Community House. New Member dinners are inspiring and engaging times where we share and discuss our aspirations as progressive Christians. We invite those who are considering Community House membership to participate!

Consistent with hospitality and inclusiveness as central Christian themes, the dinners are catered meals where the conversations center around our spiritual journey and how Community House might support and nurture your spiritual growth. The dinners are

not indoctrinating. Rather, they focus on deep and enriching conversation about our hopes and dreams on many levels - personal, familial, community. People leave the dinners inspired and ready to begin a new chapter of life - pretty great!

In attendance at the table will be folks interested in having a conversation about membership, as well as members of Session, members at large, and Rev. Wayne C. Peck. We hope you will join us. Please RSVP by replying to James Buczynski at [james.buczynski@highmark.com](mailto:james.buczynski@highmark.com) or Jen Saffron at [jen-saffron@comcast.net](mailto:jen-saffron@comcast.net), so that we can reserve a place for you at the table.

### On the minds and hearts of our members

The 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. Coffee and dessert will be served after each showing. Appropriate for children age 10 and up. Childcare available for children under age 10.

**WHAT:**

Race: The Power of an Illusion is a free, three-session community conversation and screening of this provocative PBS documentary that questions the very idea of race as biology. Examine your beliefs about race, privilege, policy and justice in a supportive environment.

**WHEN:**

Three Wednesday nights at 7 PM  
 Jan. 23 – “The Difference Between Us”  
 Feb. 27 – “The Story We Tell”  
 March 26 – “The House We Live In”

**WHERE:**

Community House Church  
 120 Parkhurst Street,  
 Pittsburgh’s Northside 15212  
 (corner of Sandusky and Parkhurst, one block west of North Avenue, across from Allegheny General Hospital emergency room entrance)

**WHO:**

Sponsored by Community House Presbyterian Church, First National Bank and the Race and Reconciliation Dialogue Group, St. Paul Cathedral

**QUESTIONS? :** PBS Race: the Power of an Illusion <<http://www.pbs.org/race>> Community House Church <<http://www.communityhousepittsburgh.org>> Darlene at [drush68877@aol.com](mailto:drush68877@aol.com)

### Our Stewardship Progress

Session reports that the number of pledges has exceeded last year’s total, increasing from 35 to 47. The total pledged for 2008 was about \$104,000. If you are still in the process of prayerfully considering your level of giving for 2008, please know your pledge is still welcomed. 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?**

- Race: The Power of Illusion - the fourth Weds. of Jan., Feb. and March.**
- New Member dinners - three consecutive Weds. beginning Jan 30.**
- Black History Month every Sunday in Feb.**
- (See articles about these events for details)**

**Space for Grace Corner**

DATE	PRESIDER	CHOIR
January 9	Nancy	yes
16	Fritz	yes
23	Special event	no
30	Jen	yes
February 6	Gay Task Force	yes

## **T**he Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has received approval to build a new library at the corner of Federal Street and Parkhurst to take the place of the library's former location in Allegheny Square that was damaged in April 2006 by a lightning strike.

The new library is designed to have 15,000 square feet of space, compared to 12,000 square feet in the

Allegheny Square building. It will be accessible for persons using wheelchairs and strollers, have wireless Internet access, a teen section and more children's programming.

The new library is welcomed by many as an opportunity to revitalize this neighborhood of the Northside.

### **A HEARTFELT THANKS!**

**T**hank you to First National Bank and the Race and Reconciliation Dialogue Group, St. Paul Cathedral for their generous sponsorship of our series Race: The Power of Illusion.

### **Affirmations and Intentions**

As we approach the celebration of Black History Month and the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. , let us be thankful for the humanitarian contributions made by people of every race, creed and national heritage.

### **February, CHPC and Celebrating Go Together**

**F**ebruary is National Black History Month. Plan to celebrate the deep meaning of America's African heritage by participating in worship services here at Community House every Sunday in February. Better yet, arrange to have a friend or extended family member join you at all four worship services and the gatherings afterwards. Spread the news about the great community we celebrate every week here at Community House.

#### **February 3 will be our Kwanzaa celebration**

Traditionally, Kwanzaa consists of seven days of celebration. Kwanzaa highlights seven principles: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith). We'll condense it all into one Sunday.

#### **February 10 will be our Juneteenth celebration**

2008 marks the 140<sup>th</sup> Juneteenth. Juneteenth,

African American Emancipation Day, is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement.

#### **February 17 we'll celebrate Crown Sunday**

Covering the crown has turned into a fashion statement for African American women. Hats have served a purpose to cover the woman's head in church, but their styles and fashion have become their own statements. Wear your favorite chapeau and make your statement.

#### **February 24 will be our famous Soul Food Sunday**

What a great way to celebrate the best of African-American home cooking with friends and church family! Bring a covered dish of your favorite recipe or try a new recipe. Either way you'll impress us all.

### **Just a reminder,**

Shelter Meals - by Jen Saffron

**T**o sign up for a Shelter Meal, call me at 412-322-2110 or email [jensaffron@comcast.net](mailto:jensaffron@comcast.net).

To drop off food or clothing, please place it in the box in the vestibule. It's also an opportunity for you to share and experience people who are committed to turning their lives around.

Community House family members cook up and serve these fabulous meals, the first **Thursday** of the month - a reminder of the grace God grants to us, and an expression of hospitality to our neighbors in need. It's also a great opportunity for a family to serve together, or for a cub or girl scout pack to earn merit badges. P.S. I have a lot of recipes, so don't be shy.