

Community  
CONNECTION

Community United Methodist Church  
3487 Route 130, Irwin, PA 15642

Non Profit Organization

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# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Vol. 14, No. 7

August 2010

**Change Service Requested**

**DATED MATERIAL: Please Expedite**

**Community Church**

**A United Methodist Congregation**

*Pastor: Rev. John E. Ciampa - jciampa@communityumc.info*

*Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rich Phipps - rhipps@communityumc.info*

*Director of Pastoral Care: Rev. James Decker - ajdecker@comcast.net*

*Director of Youth Ministries: Frank Audia - faudia@communityumc.info*

*Director of Music & Creative Arts: John Smialowski - jasmialowski@comcast.net*

*Director of Christian Education: Patsy Ciampa - deaconpatsy@yahoo.com*

*Director of Connectional Ministries: Elizabeth Somes - esomes@communityumc.info*

*Discipleship: John Toellner*

*Evangelism: Rodger Holsing*

*Fellowship: Pam French*

*Ministry: Jamie Greenier*

*Worship: Liz Wade*

*Communications: Katie Morgan*

*Church Secretaries: Carole Helsel and Wendy Johnson*

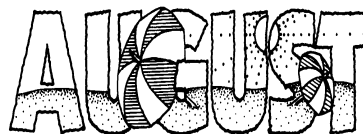
**Phone: (724) 744-3413 FAX: (724) 744-4758**

**E-mail Address: info@communityumc.info**

**Church Web Page Address: www.ShareChristWithOthers.org**

**Worship Services**

- **Saturday Evenings – 6:00 p.m.- Contemporary Worship Service**
- **Sunday Mornings – 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.**



*Community Connection is published monthly for members and friends of Community United Methodist Church. Deadline for submission of articles is the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month unless otherwise noted. Articles can be delivered to Pastor John or to the church office.*

## STAYING FOCUSED...

It's 4:00 in the morning. Matthew's getting a new molar so for the past thirty minutes I've been cuddling a growing boy on my shoulder. Pastors John and Patsy are probably awake, too. Liz is getting married tomorrow. My hunch is that they're having some sleepless moments, cuddling thoughts of their daughter on their shoulder. Whether it's rocking in the night or walking them down the aisle, the growth of our children mark the growth of our family.

Families grow in amazing ways. We make it through the cutting of teeth and "giving away" of daughters to find that with every transition we're more than we were before. And even though some of our nights may be sleepless, they are not fruitless. We find that, even through the trying times, in God's grace He is calling us and carrying us into new levels of love and new seasons of joy.

The church family grows in much the same way. There are growing pains and sleepless nights, yet as we remain faithful to God He shapes us into the family He calls us to be. In the last few months my family has seen this firsthand. Transition is hard. Yet through all of the upheaval and uncertainty we've watched God's hand move. With beautiful gestures of grace, you have been His hands and His voice and His heart to us. Through you He has comforted us through sleepless nights, growing us into a new season of joy.

What I'm discovering is that the Phipps family is not the only one that needs this. Our community is filled with people who are unchurched or de-churched. There are a lot of growing pains out there. People are in life transition. They're going through a lot of sleepless nights. They're searching, and we have Who and what they need. In a culture where jobs are lost, love is lame, and families are falling apart, God invites people into real hope, real faith, and real Life. As the family of God we have so much to offer: a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and a living fellowship with other believers.

*Continued on page 2*

*Staying Focused continued from page 1*

In **John 10:10** Jesus said, **“I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full.”** What a message we get to share! And as we do, we will find God growing us. We will become more than we were before. We will welcome new people into our family and rejoice as they become members in the Kingdom of God.

Church family, thank you for all you have done and are becoming to us. But let’s not stop! We are God’s messengers to the world. Let’s hold out the invitation to all we know that Jesus offers them Life!

Serving Him,

Pastor Rich

### **Meet the Phipps Family Regional Gathering**

Come and meet the Phipps family in a smaller group at a regional gathering near your home. RSVP by calling or emailing the party host for which you are planning to attend is requested but not required.

**North of Route 130:** Sunday, August 15 4-7:30pm @ Stephen and Brooke Jackowski 100 Don Robin Lane Irwin; Pool party; bring a pool food to share and a towel; RSVP [jackowskis@comcast.net](mailto:jackowskis@comcast.net)

**North Huntingdon:** Saturday, August 21 4-7:30pm @ Jerry and Kristen O'Donnell 1507 Jennifer Court N. Huntingdon; bring a dish or two to share for a potluck dinner; RSVP 724-863-7404 or [gpodonnell@comcast.net](mailto:gpodonnell@comcast.net)

**South of Route 130:** Sunday, August 22 4-7:30pm @ Chris and Tammy Fleming 512 Saddle Ridge Court Irwin; hotdog and hamburger cook out bring a side dish or dessert; RSVP 724-861-8336 or [tamelajfleming@comcast.net](mailto:tamelajfleming@comcast.net)

**Trafford/Level Green:** Saturday, August 28 11am-2pm @ Ty and Erin Kerstetter 720 Shady Drive Level Green; ham BBQ and hotdogs provided bring a side dish or dessert; RSVP 412-373-2637 or [erin\\_kerstetter@yahoo.com](mailto:erin_kerstetter@yahoo.com)

**AUGUST**

Sundays	9:30 a.m.	Disciple 3
	10:00 a.m.	Women's Emmaus Group (Son Catchers)
	7:30 p.m.	Community Ringers (begins August 29th)
	8:30 p.m.	AA's Open meeting
Tuesdays	7:00 p.m.	Cruise for Christ meeting
Wednesdays	7:00 p.m.	Stephen Minister Training
Thursdays	9:00 a.m.	Busy Hands Sewing Group
	11:00 a.m.	Stroke Support Group
	6:00 p.m.	20 Something Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Worship (grades 7-12)
	9:00 p.m.	MMR reserved
1st & 3rd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministers Supervision

Monday	August 2	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
Tuesday	August 3	12:00 p.m.	Super Seniors luncheon & meeting
		4:00 p.m.	Noah's Kids Registration
Wednesday	August 4	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Saturday	August 7		F.E.A.S.T. following worship
Sunday	August 8		F.E.A.S.T. following worship
Tuesday	August 10	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Care Team
Friday	August 13	7:00 p.m.	Scout Belt Loop
Saturday	August 14		Scout Belt Loop
		1:00 p.m.	Carnival
Saturday	August 21	8:30 a.m.	Angel Food pick-up
		4:00 p.m.	Regional gathering (see page 2)
Sunday	August 22	4:00 p.m.	Regional gathering (see page 2)
Monday	August 23	7:00 p.m.	Staff Parish Relationship Committee
Tuesday	August 24	7:00 p.m.	Summer Reading group
Wednesday	August 25	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Saturday	August 28	11:00 a.m.	Regional gathering (see page 2)
		3:00 p.m.	Cruise for Christ
Monday	August 30	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee

Disciple continued from page 6



**New Disciple I classes will be offered as follows:**

- ◆ Wednesday Mornings - 9:00 a.m. Leader: Pam French
- ◆ Wednesday Evenings - 7:00 p.m. Leaders: Drew & Jackie Patrick  
(other times may open up depending on need)

**Disciple II:**

Wednesday Evenings - 7:00 p.m. Leaders: Susan Byerly & Don Dolhi

**Disciple III**

Wednesday Evenings - 7:00 p.m. Leaders: Scott & Sherry Mains

**Disciple IV**

Sunday Mornings - 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Patty & Jim Blosat

**Disciple Bible Study Commitment Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fall 2009 Disciple Class (1<sup>st</sup> Choice) \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify preference Day or Evening Class \_\_\_\_\_ I need childcare. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**After completing this form, please place it in the offering plate, or return it to the Church Office as soon as possible so that we may make the necessary plans for the Fall 2009. If you have any questions, please call John Toellner at 724-433-7628 or email at johnt555@gmail.com**

## AUGUST SCHEDULE

### ACOLYTES - Contact Michelle Yakubisin - 724-744-3312

Aug. 1	8:30	Justin Moser & Meara Rundle	11:00	Nick Pasek & Zachary Tusay
Aug. 8	8:30	Shanna Ciongoli & Stephanie Hilderhoff	11:00	Jared Wright & Trent Somes
Aug. 15	8:30	Luke Fabac & Nathaniel Mischen	11:00	Kacy Williams & Lauren Myers
Aug. 22	8:30	Meara Rundle & Darrian Sepe	11:00	Aria Markijohn & Sydney Smith
Aug. 29	8:30	Adam Power & Michael Yakubisin	11:00	Alyssa Higgins & Lauren Myers

### LITURGISTS - Contact Judy Newport - 724-744-4995

Aug. 1	8:30	Tracy Sepe	11:00	Judy Newport
Aug. 8	8:30	Jim McMahon	11:00	Drew Patrick
Aug. 15	8:30	Nancy Moser	11:00	Patsy Ciampa
Aug. 22	8:30	Donna Auckerman	11:00	Jay Newport
Aug. 29	8:30	Allison Reynolds	11:00	Carol Decker

### SUNDAY GREETERS - Contact Sandy Wessel 724-744-3754

Aug. 1	8:30	Christine & Tom Grove and Jean & Frank Antoline
	11:00	Peg & Watson Lupher and Cindy & Ron Hawranko
Aug. 8	8:30	Pat & Warren Barkell and Jane & Larry Brammell
	11:00	Nancy & Andrew Husak and Margie Book
Aug. 15	8:30	Cindy, Jessica & Bill Beal
	11:00	Jodi & Chris Blasi and Pat Stawicki
Aug. 22	8:30	Toni & Don Buddemeyer
	11:00	Sunny & Rich Nickle and Nancy Gombos
Aug. 29	8:30	Yakubisin Family
	11:00	Amy & James Frey and Pam & Neil French

### SUNDAY KIDS KINGDOM - Contact Bettina DiMatteo 724-861-9387

Aug. 1	8:30	Michelle Watson & Christy Keenan	11:00	Melinda Gilmore
Aug. 8	8:30	Jackie/Harry Hoover & Kara Forsyth	11:00	Rich Hollerman & Glenn or Jill Huffman
Aug. 15	8:30	Jamie Grace and Brian Coiner	11:00	Lisa Rager & Amy Pleins
Aug. 22	8:30	Erin Kerstetter	11:00	Tiffanie Rupp & Jennifer Burmeister
Aug. 29	8:30	Tracey Sepe	11:00	Tracey Powell

### SATURDAY GREETERS - Contact Sandy Wessel 724-744-3754

July 31	Diane & Rich Mishler and Sunny & Rich Nickle
Aug. 7	Vanessa & Rick Baugh and Sunny & Rich Nickle
Aug. 14	Patty & Jim Blosat and Jackie & Paul Donatelli
Aug. 21	Sunny & Rich Nickle and Linda & Bill Blank
Aug. 28	Morgan Family



**How does mission occur in a church?** - A truly missional church occurs as a result of its faith in Jesus Christ as well as its faithfulness to the Holy Scriptures. Faith in Jesus and the Scriptures form the foundation to many functions of the church of which one is mission. When mission becomes a focus of the congregation, it not only serves to be a living fulfillment of scripture, it allows us to serve as Jesus' light to the world. Whether we serve our brothers and sisters in Africa, West Virginia or in Penn Township, we are fulfilling the mission of Jesus in our world today. This all comes back to the basics of our life here at Community where our study of scripture and our faith in Jesus, serves as the foundation of our lives.

**West Virginia Mission Trip** - Plans have been set for the August 15th mission trip to Oak Hill West Virginia. A group from our church and the Latrobe Bethany UMC are combining efforts to join the Oak Hill UMC in this effort. Eighteen people have signed on to go so far. Home repairs will take place in Fayette County West Virginia for elderly, handicapped and low-income persons. If you can help with supplies, needed are: 2 each, lemonade mix and ice tea mix (Sam's Club size), Small packs of tea, lemonade, and G2 to be placed in water, bottles each of non-refrigerated orange, grape and apple juice, homemade cookies, 3 cases of water, 3 packs of juice boxes, a case of pepsi, diet pepsi, sprite, diet sprite, and root beer, 2 large packs of napkins, 200 plastic spoons, 2 bottles of hand sanitizer. Sign up sheets and a bin are located in the narthex. Thank You!

**Uganda Mission Team Update** - We would like to say "Thank You" to our church family for your continued support. Our main fundraiser is the selling of Giant eagle Gift Cards. We are close to achieving a profit of \$6,000!! For those of you who may not know or understand the program, it's quite simple...we sell the Giant Eagle Gift Cards to you at their face value. You then use them to buy groceries, gas or any of the retail gift cards available at the Giant Eagle Stores. You receive all the perks Giant eagle offers...it's a win-win for everyone! It costs you nothing extra, Giant Eagle pays us a percentage for our sales. Please remember us when going out to eat at the many restaurants available, home improvement projects, and also all the "Back To School" shopping! We have a list of all the Gift Card Selections available in the Welcome Center. Check out the list before you go shopping! You can find us on Sunday mornings after both church services in the Welcome Center and at the back exit near the stairwell. The church office keeps a supply on hand if you need them during the week. You can also call Shirleen Johnston at 724-244-4525 for cards or any questions. Thanks again!  
2011 Uganda Mission Team



### Births

- ◆ Congratulations to Jim and Bonnie Patterson on the birth of their 5th grandchild, Ryan Van, born to Marc and Annie Patterson
- ◆ Best wishes to RJ and Matti Jackson on the birth of their daughter Whitney James Jackson. Proud grandmother is Peggy Jackson
- ◆ Congratulations to Noah and Megan Fulton on the birth of their son Grady Edward. Proud grandparents are Jim and Carol Fulton

### Baptisms

- Congratulations to Andrew and Deeann Polakovsky on the baptism of their daughter Emma Mae

### Weddings

- Best wishes for a long and blessed life together to Michael and Nicole (Hynes) Cole who were married on May 29, 2010



### Deaths

Condolences to the following persons who recently lost loved ones:

- ◇ Scott and Sherry Mains and family on the passing of Scott's father Kenneth Mains
- ◇ Friends and Family of Helen Kistler
- ◇ Rob and Lisa DeFilippo and family on the passing of Rob's father Joe DeFilippo
- ◇ Bob Ludwig and family on the passing of Bob's wife Norma
- ◇ Jim and Carlie Rudick on the passing of Carson



**NOW ENROLLING: THE ARK Preschool and Playgroup Plus** are accepting applications for the 2010/2011 school year. Please contact Lori Begg at 724-744-3413 ext 150 or [arkregistrar@windstream.net](mailto:arkregistrar@windstream.net) for more details. Check out all our updated information on our website: [www.ShareChristWithOthers.org](http://www.ShareChristWithOthers.org)

THE ARK Ministry consists of THE ARK Preschool, 5 YR OLD Preschool, Playgroup Plus and Noah's Kids Before and After School Care and Kindergarten (AM and PM) Kare programs.

\* The Preschool is designed for students 3 1/2 -5 yrs old and is offered in 2 sessions: M,W,F from 9-11:30AM and 12:30-3 PM. Tuition cost is \$120/month.

\* The 5 Year Old Preschool is designed for students who are 5 prior to Sept 1st, but want another year of preparation prior to entering Kindergarten. This class is offered M,W,F in the PM Session ONLY (12:30-3 PM)

\* The Playgroup Plus is designed for students 2 1/2-4 yrs old and is offered in 2 sessions: T,H from 9-11:30 AM and 12:30-3 PM. Tuition cost is \$100/month.

\* Noah's Kids (Before and After School Care) is offered in 2 sessions: Morning Session: 6:30-9 AM and Afternoon Session: 3:30-6 PM. Tuition fees range, but are under \$9 per session.

\* Kindergarten Kare provides care and transportation to or from school, depending on whether the child is enrolled in the AM or PM session. AM session runs from 6:30 AM-12:45 PM. Our PM session runs from 11:45 AM-6 PM. Individual session fee: \$20, \$90 for a week.



Joyce Lynn Wright  
1618 9th Avenue  
Irwin, PA 15642  
724-864-1445  
Husband: Jeffry

Zachary & Julie Kessler  
1006 Calmar Drive  
Jeannette, PA 15644  
724-372-4060  
Children: Andrew & Leah

William & Carol Soule  
2091 Wilcox Circle  
Murrysville, PA 15668  
724-519-7084

Hilary Schramm  
1175 Harrison City Export Road  
Jeannette, PA 15644  
724-744-7350  
Wife: Martha

Brittany Grubbs  
12620 Virginia Avenue  
Ardara, PA 15615  
724-863-3516

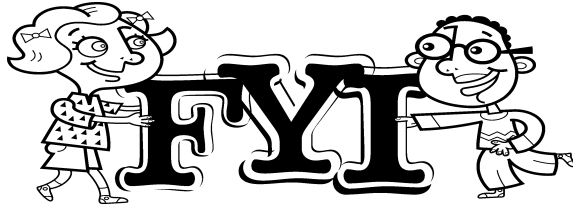
Gregg Hultberg  
14040 Easy Street  
N. Huntingdon, PA 15642  
412-973-4033

Michael & Liane Palaschak  
105 Elizabeth Drive  
Jeannette, PA 15644  
Michael: 412-298-7179  
Liane: 724-433-6836  
Child: Melanna Lynn



Here's a shout of Galactic "Praise God" to our Vacation Bible School directors. Dawn Albright, Tammy Fleming and Erin Kerstetter did an outstanding job of organizing leaders, recruiting volunteers, and registering children for Community's Bible school. We praise God for them, and for their spouses and children, who shared their moms for a busy week of VBS.

The creative art work of the "cosmos" was the gift of Melinda Gilmore. The starry night sky, beautiful blue earth, and the spiffy rocket ship set the climate for our gatherings each day. Our station leaders taught our Bible stories and the science experiments. Thanks to the leaders in the arts and crafts, the snack time, and the recreation periods. Crew leaders were wonderful in shepherding their small group of children from one activity to the next. Don't forget to thank Carla Fabac and her active leaders who lead the 4th and 5th grade program. To Commander Smiley and Miss Molly Mosquito, to the lead singers and the childcare workers, a round of galactic gratitude for a job well done. Our children raised enough offering to purchase 241 bed nets to protect young children in Africa from Malaria.



**Altar Flowers** are available for August 22nd; September 19th; October 17th, 24th & 31st; November 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th; December 12th, 19th & 26th. If you would like to reserve one of these dates in honor of or in memory of someone, please contact the church office at 724-744-3413. Cost per vase is \$15.00.

**Summer Reading Group** continues so join the club! Meeting Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. August 24th to discuss "Have a Little Faith" by M. Alborn. Contact Lynda Risnear for details at 724-744-1975. Books available in the Narthex.

**Graduate** - Congratulations to Jonathan Lamanna on his graduation from Penn State Behrend Campus

**Saturday Evening Children's Worship** - There will be no Saturday Evening Children's Worship for the summer. Saturday Evening Children's Worship will resume in September, providing we have enough volunteers to continue the program.

**Cruise for Christ** - A benefit car cruise and rib fest will be held on August 28, 2010 from 3:00-8:00 p.m. here at Community Church. Schedule of events is as follows:

- 1:00 parking lot opens for car entries
- 3:00 gates open for spectators and food booths
- 5:00 all show cars must be parked and worship service begins
- 7:30 trophies are awarded to car owners as voted by the fans.

The event is free to attend and free for cars to enter and there will be free parking shuttle from PT High School. Food proceeds and donations benefit the 2011 Uganda Christian Solutions Mission trip.

**THE ARK Ministry Council** is now accepting applications for our annual Fall Craft Show. All crafters and vendors are welcome. It will be held on November 6th from 9am-2pm. For information call 724-744-3413 ext. 160 or email at [info@communityumc.info](mailto:info@communityumc.info)

**THE ARK Ministry Council** will no longer be hosting our annual Spring Craft Show. We were hoping that an organization or group from CUMC would be willing to continue the show for us. The Spring Craft Show date has already been reserved for May 7th and it would be beneficial for the group to experience the fall craft show in order to understand the process. Should you or your group have an interest in this profitable fundraiser, please contact Amy Pleins at [pleins@windstream.net](mailto:pleins@windstream.net) or 724-744-3413 ext. 160.

**Change of Address**

Andrea Geiger  
447 Sharon Road  
Apt. A-6  
Coraopolis, PA 15108

John & Jenna Johnston  
46 Pine Street  
Oxford, PA 19363

Jason & Christy Keenan  
2001 Ashley Court  
Jeannette, PA 15644

David Geckle  
317 Duquesne Avenue  
Trafford, PA 15085

Charles & Rebecca Miller, Jr.  
519 N. 7th Street  
Jeannette, PA 15644

Terrie Yates  
580 Reed Court  
Jeannette, PA 15644

Mary Delo Room 109  
Baldock Health Care Centre  
8850 Barnes Lake Road  
N. Huntingdon, PA 15642

Michael & Carly Duddy  
338 Rowe Road  
Harrison City, PA 15636

Richard & Kathryn Florek  
2000 Rivendell Court  
Claridge, PA 15623  
724-600-9619

**Change of Name**

Brianne Zelczak to Brianne D'Ambrosio

**Remove**

Helen Kistler - death  
Norma Ludwig - death  
Carson Rudick - death

# DISCIPLE

*If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples. - John 8:31*

Disciple Bible Study begins this fall and class times and leadership roles are taking shape. This is a very exciting time for us all as we each continue on our Christian journeys. The Disciple team invites everyone to become a part of this in-depth Bible Study. Please read below for a brief description of the Disciple program. Please note that Disciple I is required before going on to II, III, or IV, after which they may be taken in any sequence.

**DISCIPLE** is an in-depth, discussion-based small group Bible study, whose purpose is to transform our lives by strengthening our faith while guiding us into service. Following a series of testimonials starting in August, our Disciple Bible Study Program will commence with a general Disciple Orientation Meeting September 8<sup>th</sup> with classes starting the following week. Please check the Bulletin for times and dates. All classes will meet weekly on a designated day/evening for approximately 2-2 ½ hours. You will be asked to purchase a study manual (approx. \$35) that will be combined with a DVD that we supply to guide your reading of Scripture with discussion being facilitated by a Disciple class leader. *Note that after completing Disciple I, subsequent Disciple class studies may be taken in any order.*

**DISCIPLE 1: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study** is the class to take if you've never completed a Disciple Bible study. Participants will read over 70% of the Bible over the course of 34 weeks, spending an equal number of weeks studying the Old and New Testaments. No prerequisite required. **Class offerings (day and time) will be based on interest.**

**DISCIPLE 2: Into the Word, Into the World** builds on the biblical knowledge gained in Disciple 1, and helps us to continue our walk of faith as we strive to become Disciples of Christ. This 32-week Bible study class moves deeper into the word with a study of Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Acts. Completion of Disciple 1 required to take this class. **Existing class offerings include Wednesday PM; other class offerings will be based on interest.**

**DISCIPLE 3: Remember Who You Are** challenges us to remember our biblical heritage as a people "set apart" for service while renewing our vision and place of community. This 32 week study concentrates on the writings of the Old Testament prophets and on the Letters of Paul. Completion of Disciple 1 required to take this class.

**DISCIPLE 4: Under the Tree of Life**, the final 32 week study in the four-phase Disciple program, concentrates on the Writings in the Old Testament and the Gospel of John, 1,2,3 John, James, Jude and Revelation in the New Testament. Completion of Disciple 1 required to take this class. **Class offerings (day and time) will be based on interest. Existing class offering will be Sunday AM right after the 8:30AM service; other class offerings will be based on interest.**

*Continued on page 9*



**Ladies:** Are you looking for a new way of fellowship and a way to join a group of women who challenge the world they live in to support, create and expand the concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church? Are you looking for a way to connect with other women in the community or to connect with old friends you haven't seen for a while? If so please plan on attending a meeting of the UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW). Each month from January to May and from September to December meetings are held at the church to do just this. **Among the many projects and missions the ladies of UMW support or are involved with are:** Lenten Lunches and Dinners, World Day of Prayer, This-N-That Sales, Holiday Helping Hands, World Thank Offering, Free Clothing Giveaway and Funeral Lunches.

If your family has experienced the loss of a loved one and would like to have a funeral lunch, please consider letting the UMW help you in this time of need. More details regarding this special ministry can be obtained when you speak with our pastors.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month (except for June, July, August) in Fellowship Hall starting at 7:00 p.m. All women are welcome to come and share this very special type of ministry.

Please watch for notice of our meeting in September as we kick-off our fall schedule. Our Fall This-N-That Sale will be in September as well, so start saving your household items for donation to the sale.

We pray you're having a safe summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

## Good Grief Corner

### **“Death of a Pet”**

We were just sitting in the house when we heard the screech of tires. We didn't even know she had gotten out and there she was lying lifeless on the ground. We took her to the vet, but there was no hope. I had no idea how I was going to explain it to the kids. It never seemed right to me to try to get a replacement dog, or tell them we had their buddy put to sleep. Maybe it will help when I tell them I tried to save her.

The first death experienced for most children is the death of a pet. Pets hold a very special place in the lives of children and the children in all of us. They are friends, confidants and good buddies. Their loss is a significant one for families, one that should not be minimized.

Each family member has made a significant emotional investment in a pet. They become part of the family. With the pet's death, that investment - that part of the family - has been taken away.

What is helpful in healing is acknowledging the loss as a loss. Allow for family discussion and the open expression of emotions. It's important to create a ritual of good-bye. That might mean burying the pet cat, dog, bird or gold fish in a special place. The ritual might include a song and a wooden marker.

It is not helpful to ignore the importance of the loss or to be embarrassed by it. Also potentially damaging is attempting to deny the importance of the pet by quickly acquiring a replacement pet. Instead, allow the death of a pet to be one of those training wheels that life provides to help us learn about grief.

*“Being willing makes you able”*

*- Guidepost -*

## God's Devotional

I'VE SUFFERED A GREAT MANY  
CATASTROPHIES IN MY LIFE.  
MOST OF THEM NEVER HAPPENED.

*“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*  
2 Timothy 1:7

A military chaplain once drew up a “Worry Table” based upon the problems men and women had brought to him through the years of his service. He found their worries fit into these categories:

- ◆ Worries about things that never happened - 40%
- ◆ Worries about past, unchangeable decisions - 30%
- ◆ Worries about illness that never happened - 12%
- ◆ Worries about adult children and friends (who were able to take care of themselves) -10%
- ◆ Worries about real problems - 8%

According to his chart, 92% of all worries are about things we can't control, concerns which are better left to God. The truth is, the most of our anxieties are rooted in a failure to trust God.

We simply don't believe He is big enough or cares enough to handle our problems, give us the desires of our hearts, and keep us - and our loved ones from harm.

Knowing God's character, we can easily see how we worry for nothing most of the time!

## God's Daily Answer

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

*~ 1 John 1:9 ~*

You may find it difficult to forget your mistakes, your missteps, your sins. But God doesn't - He forgives and forgets. Imagine a piece of paper filled with confessions of your past indiscretions. Suppose every single sin you ever committed appeared on that page. Like a child might hand a paper with a bad grade to his or her parent, you reluctantly give the list of your sins to God.

God takes that paper and crumples it into a tiny ball. Then He throws it into a burning fire - it is consumed - never to be remembered again.

God's forgiveness is just like that. Once He has forgiven you, He will never bring it up again - so why would you? Go on your way and sin no more!

*“Forgiveness does not mean the cancellation of all consequences of wrongdoing. It means the refusal on God's part to let our guilty past affect His relationship with us.”*

*~ Author Unknown ~*



## Stephen Ministry Moment

*By Elizabeth Somes*

This month marks the first year anniversary of Community Church becoming a Stephen Ministry congregation. Last August 2009, Jamie Caruso and myself attended the Stephen Ministry Leader training in Pittsburgh. Upon returning from that training, we interviewed, selected and trained about a dozen Stephen Ministers who were commissioned in February 2010. Several of those who received training have been assigned care receivers and all continue to meet regularly to pray for and encourage each other through Stephen Ministry.

In May we started our second training class of Stephen Ministers and this month we are sending an additional two, Lori Madeira and Karen Smith for leadership training in Pittsburgh. We expect to finish the new training class and commission the next set of Stephen Ministers and leaders in September or October.

Stephen Ministry is off to a good start in its first year at Community Church. However, we still need your help. We need people to care for. We know people are hurting and could use a listening ear as they journey through the difficult circumstances that life sometimes brings --- change in job, children leaving home, death, divorce, financial stress, illness and the list goes on. We can only minister to those in need if we are made aware of the need and the individual agrees to meet with a Stephen Minister.

Please remember Stephen Ministry when you talk to your friends and neighbors. You do not have to be a member of Community Church to receive Stephen Ministry and all the information that is shared is confidential. If you hear of a potential need, ask them about Stephen Ministry and contact me or one of the Pastors. Furthermore, request a minister for yourself if you are struggling. No matter is “not important” or “unworthy” of a Stephen Minister if you or someone you love is hurting.

If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry or share information about it with a friend, check out the feature recently on PBS (link below). Also, fliers are available in the pews, at the Welcome Center and on the bulletin board beside the bathroom on the second floor.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/april-9-20-10/stephen-ministry/6044/>

## Making Memories

*Elizabeth Somes*

Perhaps this summer you have been making memories. My family has just spent a week at the beach with Tad's parents and now the kids and I are visiting my folks in Alabama. The memories are being made and the memories already made are being recounted.

This year particularly the stories of good times past were abundantly remembered. Part of our visit this summer has included celebrating my parent's 50th wedding anniversary. My sisters and I hosted a reception in honor of my parents at their church. Brothers and sisters, cousins, grandkids, neighbors, church friends, former work friends and a few old school friends of my parents all showed up to celebrate their love for each other and their lives together. Fortunately, much love, much laughter and many good memories were shared.

One memory I have growing in this place is church on Wednesday night. Each Wednesday our church hosted a mid-week meal and an assortment of activities to participate in following the meal. No matter what, our family was there on Wednesday night. After-school activities and homework assignments were planned for accordingly so we could be there and on more than one occasion, I showed up in my ballet or cheerleading clothes. I'm quite certain I never got a good bath if at all on Wednesday night. My parents were set on us being there ... whether it was because my mom didn't want to have to cook on Wednesday night after teaching school all day or they were certain we all need to be there for our spiritual developmental is unclear! But, we were there and it stands as a vivid and formative memory in my mind.

This fall our church will begin making a new memory. Beginning on Wednesday, September 8, we will start serving mid-week meals. This is “no walk down memory lane” or “just another thing on the church calendar” but instead a time when families can eat a meal together that provides physical and spiritual renewal. Hopefully, this will be a spot of joy and connection in our lives mid-week as we go about our busy lives.

Each week after the meal, we will be offering a host of classes for anyone to sign up for. The schedule is still being formed however, several Disciple classes will be offered on Wednesday evening and a few short term studies. Sign ups will be in the upcoming bulletins and your prayers are appreciated as we put the finishing touches on the upcoming fall session of groups and classes.

What will our kids remember in 20-30 years? Will they remember that church was a priority to us? Looking forward to making new memories!

# Worship Corner

## The First Gleam of Dawn

*The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day. Proverbs 4:18*

“Righteousness, Righteousness is what I long for; Righteousness is what I need...” asserts a beloved worship song that frequents the worship of Community Church on Saturday evenings. Another admonishes us, “Shine your light and let the whole world sing for the glory of the Risen King...”

...a thin line of deep rose appears in the charcoal sky. Slowly the light increases, and the color changes from rose to orange to gold. Stars fade and disappear. The sky lightens to palest blue, then deepens to the azure of a robin’s egg. The first rays of sun streak across the landscape heralding a new day. Darkness has fled.

The writer of Proverbs pictures the way of the righteous as being like that first gleam of dawn. God’s wisdom gradually brings light to our journey and enables us to walk in straight paths (4:11). His understanding illuminates the dark places in our lives, bringing healing and new life, and transforming our confusion into his wisdom. *God is light and there is no darkness in him at all* (1 John 1:5). As we listen to His Word and obey His instructions, His light transforms us. We reflect back this light to the world like the gleam of dawn.

We can offer up the Mozarabic Prayer...first spoken in the sixth century, *Hear us, O never-failing light, Lord our God, the fountain of light, the light of your angels, principalities, powers, and of all intelligent beings, who created the light of your saints. May our souls be lamps of yours, kindled and illuminated by you. May they shine and burn with the truth and never go out in darkness and ashes. May the gloom of sins be cleared away and the light of perpetual faith abide within us.*

*Continued on page 17*

*Worship Corner continued from page 8*

Let’s ask ourselves...in what areas of my life do I *need* God’s light today? Is it an attitude that keeps changing, a relationship that requires forgiveness, or a neglected sin that should be brought to light and confessed? Let’s ask God to shine His truth on each of us throughout every day.

“...so take my heart and form it; take my mind, transform it; take my will, conform it to Yours, to Yours, O Lord...”

*Godspeed,  
John*

# Music & Creative Arts News

## Community Church Chancel Choir

Our first rehearsal of the Fall semester is Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7PM SHARP!! Our first Sunday in the Chancel will be September 12<sup>th</sup>!!

**KC<sup>3</sup>**

## (Kids’ Community Church Choir)

We’ll begin our Fall semester rehearsals on Sunday morning, September 12<sup>th</sup>!! If you’re in 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade, JOIN US!! We meet after the Offering during the 8:30AM worship service until 9:45AM.

## Community Ringers

## (Our beloved Handbell Choir)

Rehearsals start Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM sharp!! If anyone is interested in learning this musically artistic craft to ring praises to Christ Jesus, contact Director Lois Jackson at 724-744-3398.

*Continued on page 18*



### Testament Players

(Community Church's Drama Ministry Team)

We will have many more opportunities to express dramatically the Truths of Scripture and life. SIGN UP by contacting John by phone, text or email. 724-309-0513 or [jasmialowski@comcast.net](mailto:jasmialowski@comcast.net).

### Contemporary Worship Team

There's a HEAP of talent in our congregation. Our Worship Team has experienced a significant move of God's Spirit over the last year and we're excited about what God is doing with our contemporary service. If that music resonates deeply with you and you wonder how God may be calling you to perhaps serve on this team, please contact John or Pastor Rich to schedule a meeting to discuss these opportunities.

\*\*\*\* Coming in Fall to Community Church \*\*\*\*

(watch the bulletin for details)

### Community Church Cantor Club

Rehearsals will be as needed. Initial meeting to be determined.

*Adelfo* (Greek for Brother)

### Community Church's all-male vocal ensemble

Rehearsals on Tuesday evenings: time and start date to be determined.



## "Created By God"

A Study in Human Sexuality for Fifth Sixth and Seventh Graders and their Parents

We invite families to register by October 24th to attend the study "Created by God." This course begins, for parents and small group leaders, on Thursday November 11th. Our resource leader is Rev. Dr. James Ritchie, Jr., pastor at Center UMC. He has devoted his ministry in recent years to leading this program for our children in as many churches as possible across the nation. We are honored to welcome Jim as our leader. He has a heart for this age-level, and understands that these pre-teens are still eager to know what their parents believe about important issues like human sexuality. Community UMC offers this course, with its Christian theology and perspective on faithful, healthy lives, to families who have sons and daughters of 5th-7th grades.

Each session builds on the previous session, therefore, full attendance is required. Student session #1 begins on Friday evening November 12th, from 7-9. Student Sessions 2-3 begin at 9 a.m. Saturday November 13th, includes lunch and snacks, and will continue until 3 p.m. Student session #4 begins Sunday November 14th at 2 pm, with a dinner at 5p.m. with parents. The concluding session with parents is from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Families which need child care for younger children during the "Parent sessions" on Thursday and Sunday should please complete this form.

A registration fee of \$25.00 per child or \$40 per family if there is more than one child attending, will help defray the cost of resources, food, and supplies. We are asking for a commitment of your time and resources, so that your son or daughter will have the knowledge and courage to live faithful and healthy Christian lives. Further questions are welcomed. Please phone or contact Patsy Ciampa at 724-744-2289 or Mike Fabac at 724-744-1897 of church office 724-744-3413, Ext. 214.

**Yes! We plan to participate in *Created by God!***

FAMILY NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_ F\_\_

PARENT(S) ATTENDING PARENT SESSION \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT(S) ATTENDING STUDENT/PARENT SESSION \_\_\_\_\_

I will need childcare during the parent sessions (Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return form to the church no later than October 24, 2010.**