

# HAMILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4500 HAMILTON ROAD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15236-3370  
TELEPHONE 412-884-2722

May 2012



*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.  
Jeremiah 29:11*

Dear Beloved,

There is an old saying that goes something like this, "If you don't know where you are going, how will you know when you get there?" Map Quest always asks for a destination before it suggests a route to follow. Retirement planners tell us we need to know "our number" or follow the "green line" to success. School counselors will tell you, you need a goal to know what courses to take.

There's another old saying, it goes like this, "If you always do what you've always done, you will always have, what you already got." In other words if you don't change, nothing around you will change either.

Understanding the need to look beyond today and to plan where we are going the Session unanimously voted to adopt "Moving Forward Together and Sharing the Good News with One Voice;" a strategic planning process. Using congregational surveys, community demographics, focus group discussions and organizational assessment, the process will seek to answer the questions: Where are we now? Where do we want to be? How will we get there? Who must do what? And how are we doing?

To begin this process we will be holding an Informational Open House on Wednesday May 16, 2012 at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. Your input into the future of Hamilton Church is critical.

If you have questions concerning the plan or the process, please call me or talk to a member of Session.

God Bless,

*Lance*

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#### Special points of interest:

- Preschool News
- Announcements, Reminders and Notes
- Music Schedule
- Youth Group Calendar
- Birthdays
- Events Calendar



### **"Moving Forward Together and Sharing the Good News with One Voice"**

Please join us as we work together in planning the future of Hamilton Presbyterian Church!

*Informational Open House  
Wednesday, May 16, 2012  
7:30 PM*



Well here it is, our last full month of Preschool and still so much to do!

In May we will take our field trips, host our Mothers Day Tea Parties, Show and Tell our Blues, review Xx, Yy and Zz, our number 10, dress up for Beach Day, review all of our shapes with our Circus Day, enjoy the water with a Sink or Float science classes and end our year with our Graduation Picnics.

What a wonderful year!

### Quotes from the children:

- ☺ When you have the Calendar job at school you also get to pick one of three songs that help us learn the days of the week. One day a 5 year old boy had this job and when I asked him what we would be singing he said, *"I hope you don't mind but I made up my own song today."*
- ☺ After making snow cones for the children one day a little guy asked me,

*"Where did you get that machine?" I told him I bought it at Walmart. The next thing I hear is "What aisle?"*

- ☺ One of our 3 year old boys has been watching a few too many shows about weather lately with his Pap. When he came to class, he had all the children collect "their things" and had everyone hide in the play house. The next thing I hear is *"You guys, this is the situation a Nortado is coming and we have to take cover!"* When I questioned him about his TV viewing, I asked him if he watched Storm Stories with Jim Cantori, to which he answered a little irritated with me, *"No, I told you I watch them with my Pap!"*
- ☺ **Uu** Day! The clue given to the class was: This is something you wear *under* your clothes. The class yells out Underwear with roaring laughter. When the noise dies down a hear one boy tell another, *"I am wearing my sexy panties today."*
- ☺ A young man came into class pointing to his

forehead and announced proudly, *"Eight stitches!"* The boy next to him boasts, *"Well I got stung yesterday."* A friend in the group steps forward to share that he had hurt his big toe that very morning. The last boy in the group gives himself a once over and says, *"I just got warts."*

- ☺ Our flag holder job is very important. The other day a 4 year old boy was in charge and after saying the Pledge he told the children, *"I have a Jolly Roger flag. I don't think we have a prayer for it though."*
- ☺ After returning from a long Spring Break the 4 and 5 year olds were struggling to get back into the groove. At 10:30 AM one of the girls (who was getting very hungry) approached me, put her hand on my shoulder and pointed to the clock telling me, *"It's 4 o'clock, shouldn't we get on with it?"*

Thanks again for all you do,  
The Preschool Staff

**HAVE FUN & ENJOY!**



### Preschool "Scrip" Fundraiser



We are extremely appreciative of your support of our preschool by ordering of "Scrip". Order forms are always available in the back of the Sanctuary, in the Church Office, or call us and we will mail one to you. The forms are generally due in by the first Sunday of the month with the Scrip delivered a week after the order is placed.

# Announcements



## *Cookies Under the Tree Summer Fellowship Time*

Believe it or not, summertime is just around the corner and we need some volunteers to bring cookies for our fellowship time following 10 AM worship. Drink mixes will be available in the kitchen so all you have to do is stir them up.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the Church Office so that you can pick a Sunday convenient for you between May 27, 2012 and September 2, 2012. We need everyone to think warm sunny thoughts and be a "cookie volunteer" this summer. See you under the tree!



## **PLEASE NOTE**

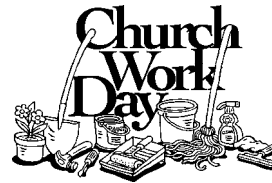
We will be changing to our summer worship schedule soon. This means that effective May 29, 2011, Worship Service will begin at 10:00 AM.



Your *Mission and Marketing (M&M) Ministry Team* will be offering group and adult volunteer opportunities several times this year. Our first opportunity will be with the

General Assembly the week of June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 6<sup>th</sup>. [See Article in this issue.] We will be working with our General Assembly Coordinator, Lynn Turnquist.

The next opportunity we will be offering the congregation will be with the Habitat for Humanities, in Washington County. The date will be Saturday, July 14, 2012. Reserve it now, and join us to make a difference in someone's life. More information will follow on this event.



"YOU ARE  
CORDIALLY INVITED"

The Facilities Ministry Team will be holding a Spring Clean-up Day on **Saturday, May 12th** at 10 AM to 3:00 PM. *Lunch will be served!*

We will be working together to beautify our church inside and out! The sun is going to shine! Hope to see many of you at the Facilities Fellowship Activity!



## **Hamilton Ladies' Tea**



*Saturday, May 19, 2012*

*Noon to 2 PM*

*Hamilton Social Hall*

Young Ladies Age 13+ Welcome

Floral Demonstration

Door Prizes

Chinese Auction

[Benefiting: WOF Transportation Fund]

Tickets Available: \$12



## **Special Congregational Meeting**



**Immediately Following  
Worship Service  
Sunday, May 6, 2012**

The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports from the Facilities Ministry Team and from the Nominating Committee.

Please plan on staying for this important informational meeting.



### Mother's Day Car Wash!

Everyone knows the perfect gift for your mother is a clean . The **Youth Group** will be having a Car Wash on **Saturday, May 12, starting at 10:30 AM**. Location is TBA. Watch future bulletins for updates.

All proceeds go to funding the Mission Trip. Donations of any kind accepted.



### Bake Sale Results

Thank you so much to everyone who baked, bought, and stopped by Easter Sunday for the **Youth Group Bake Sale**. We raised \$300 and had very few baked goods left over. Please continue to pray about possible donations you can give to the Youth Group for their Mission Trip in June.



The "**God Squad**" is making a special request as we approach our 2012 Mission Trip to poverty and flood damaged areas of West Virginia. Again this trip, we are asking everyone to help out by donating any of the following:

**Gatorade Sports Drink**

**Propel Sports Drink**

**Bottled Water**

**Large Boxes of Cereal**

**Lunch Stuff** – fruit cups, granola bars, boxes of small bags of chips, pretzels, etc.

Also, a huge expense that has changed from what we had anticipated is gas prices. Therefore, we are asking those who are able to consider **Visa gift cards** to be used to defer gas costs at whatever stations we would need to use in our travels.

Please place donations in Sunday School Office by June 3<sup>rd</sup> so we have time to inventory and shop for those items we will still need for our trip.

Thanks for all of your help!!



## Music Schedule



May 6 Youth Sunday Service  
Celebration Choir

May 13 Truly Free  
[Mother's Day] Amanda Ayers, Soprano

May 20 O Master, let me Walk with Thee  
Chancel Choir

May 27 **Note:** Rehearsal at 9:15 AM  
[Pentecost] First 10 AM service  
There Is a Time Chancel Choir

June 3 Sing Hallelujah, Praise the Lord  
Chancel Choir

June 10 TBA Chancel Choir

June 17 **Note:** Rehearsal at 9:00 AM  
[Father's Day] Men and Boys Chorus



## Youth Group Calendar

May 6 YOUTH SERVICE AT 11 AM  
[Practice at 9:30 AM]

May 12 Mother's Day Car Wash  
@10:30 AM—Location TBA

May 20 Games, Food and Funtastic  
6:00 PM—7:30 PM at Church

May 27 NO MEETING [Memorial Day]

June 10 Pool Party [Details to Follow]

June 17-23 Mission Trip to West Virginia

### JULY & AUGUST

We hope to meet over the summer for fun events, service projects and an after-VBS Party.

We will keep you posted.

## Special Thanks

Thank you to all of my Hamilton friends for your thoughts, prayers and cards during Ray's illness and upon his passing. I especially want to thank Lance for his support and comforting presence. My sincere appreciation to the Deacons for the wonderful luncheon following the service.

Bobbie Bitters

To My Hamilton Church Family,

Thanks to all of you who prayed for me during my recent time of dealing with sever pain. I was grateful, also, for all the calls, cards, visits and food.

Again my Hamilton friends helped me to recover.

Yours in Christ  
Grace Geddis

Dear Hamilton Family,

Thank you for your kind words of support, hugs and sympathy cards on the passing of my brother, Don Bieri.

In the moments when I needed to be strong for my mother I drew strength from your prayers and belief in the promise of eternal life that awaits us all.

Much love,  
Gail Anwyll



**God Squad needs volunteers!** The youth group is in need of anyone who likes to chaperone events, gather/buy supplies, teach occasionally, advertise, or make/gather snacks and food. If you are busy and only want to help once a month, all help in any amount or form is welcome. If you can't come to meetings, emails and phone calls are good enough. If this sounds like you, please call or contact Jessica Carlton.



## Nathan Roth's Eagle Project

Nathan Roth will be doing his Boy Scout Eagle Project in June, 2012. He is building a staircase at an elementary school in Bethel Park that later will be landscaped and mulched.

Each scout is required to fundraise for their project in order to purchase all of the items necessary to complete it. *As a fundraiser, Nathan has chosen to work with TGI Friday's at 2800 Oxford Drive in Bethel Park (by South Hills Village). Dates for the fundraiser of May 15 and May 16, 2012.*

Anyone eating at *Friday's* on those days, can turn in a preprinted coupon to the server. [These coupons will be distributed to patrons as they enter the restaurant.] The restaurant will donate 20% of each meal total (\$10 meal check = \$2 donation) towards Nathan's Eagle Project.

*It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider patronizing that TGI Friday's on those dates.* You get to enjoy a good meal at no additional cost and Nathan earns money for his worthwhile Eagle Project.



**SHIM** is still in need of plastic grocery bags for use by their food pantry clients. Please bring your extra plastic carrying bags (from Giant Eagle, Shop 'n Save, Wal-Mart, etc.) and place them in the blue tub marked as such in the Church Kitchen.



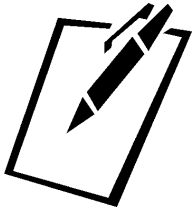
The **2012 Chancel Flowers Calendar** still has many openings remaining on it. If you would like to reserve a special Sunday, please sign up on the chart in the back of the Church or contact the Church Office. Thanks to the thoughtfulness of The Violet Bouquet Flower Shop, the cost remains the same at \$30 for two arrangements.



*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord (Ps 33:12)*

**Thursday, May 3, at 7 PM**  
Bethel Park Community Center

Join us in prayer for our nation and our leaders.



**MEMO FROM:  
Hamilton's Men's Fellowship**

The Men's Fellowship had quite a success on their hands with their first Slow Cooker Cook-off which followed worship on Sunday, March 18.

The top three winners of \$100 each were:

- Patty Heasley—a “delectable” fruit compote
- Lance Chapman—a culinary pleasure of pulled pork sliders
- Howard Ritenbaugh—Coca Cola Beef Roast “delight”

The winners designated the following charities as beneficiaries for their awards:

- Patty: American Cancer Society  
Lance: Youth Mission Trip Fund  
Howard: Hamilton's Lift Fund

Congratulation to our winners and, of course, their designated recipients.

Dear Hamilton Friends,

The Mission & Marketing Team continues to support the **American Cancer Society Relay For Life** by serving breakfast to relayers who have walked and camped overnight. Lance has provided a worship service to relayers on site for several years as well. Hamilton has even had a few teams of relayers participate in the event.

Would you like to be part of this year's team, “The Heart of Hamilton”? I will be serving as Team Captain and would love to have you participate in whatever way you feel called. The event is held at the Bethel Park Community Center Park Avenue Field for 24 hours beginning at 10 AM on Saturday, June 9.

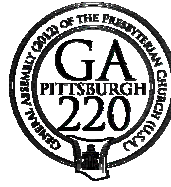
As of now, you may support the team in the following ways:

1. Become a team member to help plan team needs
2. Commit to walking the track for an hour or more (Would you like to be one of our team “zombies” – walking the wee hours of the night?)
3. Donate through the web site link – team name, “Heart of Hamilton” [http://relay.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY12EC?fr\\_id=37472&pg=entry](http://relay.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY12EC?fr_id=37472&pg=entry)
4. Honor a loved one who's life has been touched by cancer with a luminaria (use above web link)
5. Visiting the event June 9 to see what all the fun is about

If you would like to commit to being a team member or a walker, please see me at Church or E-mail [pjheasley@comcast.net](mailto:pjheasley@comcast.net)

Thank you very much for your continued support of ACS's goal of “celebrating more birthdays”.

Patty Heasley



**General Assembly**

In June 2012, the 220th General Assembly will take place at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center from June 30, 2012 through July 7, 2012.

Wondering what the General Assembly is all about? It's the highest governing body in the Presbyterian Church (USA) engaged in eight days of deliberations, worship, and decision making about the mission and ministries of PC (USA). It's a Presbyterian “family reunion” with thousands of Presbyterians coming from all over the country – and the world.

As members of the host Presbytery, we will have many opportunities to ensure that the 688 Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders, the General Assembly staff, and the many other members of our denomination who come to observe and worship with the delegates, go home knowing that Pittsburgh truly deserves that title of “most livable city.”

The Committee on Local Arrangements (COLA), through Pittsburgh Presbytery, is responsible for recruiting volunteers to carry out the many tasks that will need to be done to make the General Assembly run in an effective and organized manner. More than 2,000 people will be needed over the course of the week, and there are too many possibilities for involvement to list here. Hamilton is already scheduled to welcome a group of GA visitors for worship on Sunday, July 1, with lunch to follow. But we hope that our involvement in this major denominational event will go beyond our own back yard, with Hamilton members filling some of those volunteer slots.

Visit the COLA website – [cola2012.org](http://cola2012.org) – if you want to check out the possibilities for being part of General Assembly. Lynne Turnquist, our congregational representative to COLA, also will host a volunteer information session this month to talk more about volunteer opportunities and will help interested members with the online registration process.

Whether you are able to travel to the Convention Center in July or not, everyone can support GA by asking for God's blessing on our denomination and all who take an active role in leading us.

## Hamilton Family May Birthdays



Wish These Friends a  
"Happy Birthday!"

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>5/01 Stefani Markis</p> <p>5/03 Scarlett Steele<br/>Matthew Pepper</p> <p>5/04 Bill Hartz</p> <p>5/06 Florence Ban<br/>Dave Campbell<br/>Thomas Dowker</p> <p>5/07 Erica Allen</p> <p>5/08 Betty Davis ✧<br/>Kathy Hawk</p> <p>5/10 James Madine</p> <p>5/11 Gail Campbell</p> <p>5/12 Amber Shipp</p> | <p>5/13 Allen Davis ✧<br/>John Boyd</p> <p>5/16 Nicholas Pickell<br/>Dave Torkos</p> <p>5/17 Alana Hixson<br/>Carley Kimmell<br/>Larry Hubbard</p> <p>5/18 Jill Dowker</p> <p>5/19 Linda Hubbard<br/>Kelsi Baxter</p> <p>5/20 Jayne Lloyd<br/>Dave Ritenbaugh<br/>Isabella Shipp<br/>Charlee Polcawich</p> <p>5/21 Ashley Payseure<br/>Samantha Hawk</p> <p>5/22 Bonnie Stoker<br/>James Koontz</p> <p>5/23 Avis Sweeney<br/>Shawn Myers</p> | <p>5/23 Autumn Brooke Howard</p> <p>5/24 Jane Boucher ✧<br/>Rayna D'Alessandro</p> <p>5/25 Chuck Wesley</p> <p>5/26 Fran Culotta ✧<br/>Morgan Denson<br/>Clarence Hawk<br/>Taryn Brown<br/>Carly Molnar<br/>Jacob Kelly</p> <p>5/27 Brenda Payseure<br/>Kim Shipp<br/>Jaxson Kolling</p> <p>5/28 Meghan Coyle</p> <p>5/29 Dave Shero</p> <p>5/30 Heather Blair</p> |
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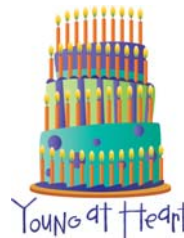
Birthday Not Listed?  
Please contact the Church  
Office if you want to be  
added to our list!



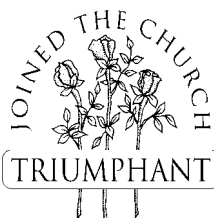
### ***Congratulations and Special Birthday Wishes***

May God continue to bestow His blessings upon our following members who are "ninety" years young (or more) in May of this year:

✧ Jane Boucher    ✧ Fran Culotta  
✧ Betty Davis    ✧ Allen Davis



Young at Heart



#### ***Barbara Geiger***

11/2/1921 - 4/21/2012

#### ***Mary Alice Regan***

3/27/1923 - 4/22/2012



Be mindful of those who are sick or physically unable to worship with our community of prayer, especially our shut-ins:

Ann Church  
Isabel Curran  
Pauline Finlay  
Edith McKinley

Dorothea Peach  
Gertrude Schaefer  
Jean Snyder  
Bill Walter

#### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor - *Rev. Lance E. Chapman*  
Directors of Music - *George & Obbie McClintock*  
Coordinator of Instrumentalists - *Devon Smeal*  
Coordinator of Children's Choirs - *Heather Blair*  
Celebration Choir Assistant - *Caroline Church*  
Sunday School Superintendent - *Carol Karel*  
Youth Leader - *Jessica Carlton* [304-203-7403]  
Office Manager - *Sharyn Ott*  
Treasurer - *Karen Betler*  
Custodian - *Mike Walters*  
Nursery Attendant - *Linda Kinast*

Hamilton Presbyterian Church  
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**May 2012**

# THE SPIRE



## *MISSION STATEMENT*

The members of Hamilton Presbyterian Church proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We live to praise, honor, serve and glorify God. We are committed to a balanced ministry of worship, education, fellowship, service and evangelism. As Christians, through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will:

- † Worship together regularly as a community of faith
- † Promote an intimate relationship with God
- † Lead others to Christ
- † Instill Christian values through the preaching, teaching and living of God's Word
- † Use the time, talents and finances of our membership to carry out the will of God
- † Love, support, nurture and encourage one another
- † Provide caring and love to all who enter our doors
- † Serve and support the needs and concerns of others — locally, nationally and internationally

This, our mission, will be accomplished through the grace of God and the love of Christ.