

THE BELLE

January 2001

From Pastor Dave

Inside this issue:

Session Notes	2
Mission Notes	2
Name That Room	2
New Members	3
Deacons Desk	3
Sunday School News	4,5
Thanks for Giving & Thanksgiving	6
Order Flowers for next year...	7

I can hardly believe there are just a few more days until I get to celebrate my first Christmas with the Bellefield family! The five months since I arrived from Seattle seem to have zipped by. I'll admit that I will miss all the gatherings with dear friends who live in the Northwest, but



most of all, I'm grateful for the wild, reckless, unconditional love of God offered through Jesus Christ—

I'm grateful to be here where God has called us to build new friendships and ministries. I'm grateful for the cold and snow (folks, it sure beats constant drizzle!). I'm grateful to belong to a church, neighborhood and city with which it has been so easy to fall in love. I'm grateful to live within driving distance from my two older children and my in-law clan. I'm grateful for our wonderful old house and yard (daily becoming an inviting home). I'm grateful for my family who've so graciously jumped with me into this Pittsburgh adventure. And, most of all, I'm grateful for the

wild, reckless, unconditional love of God offered through Jesus Christ—especially apparent at Christmas.

The Scottish preacher Robert Murray McCheyne wrote a hymn about our awareness of all God's gifts to us when we get to heaven. A couple of the stanzas read:

When this passing world is done,
When has sunk yon glaring sun,
When we stand with Christ in glory,
Looking o'er life's finished story,
Then, Lord, shall I fully know,
Not till then, how much I owe.

When I stand before the throne,
Dressed in beauty not my own,
When I see Thee as Thou art,
Love Thee with unsinning heart,
Then, Lord, shall I fully know,
Not till then, how much I owe.

Owing more than I can know or express, Merry Christmas!
Dave

January Sermon Series



Next month, Pastor Dave's new sermon series will be: "Three Things God Loves (That Will Surprise Most People)".

One hint: each "thing" begins with the letter "L". So come celebrate God's presence each Sunday morning, invite a friend, and maybe you, too, will be surprised to discover new dimensions to God's grace.

sermon
series

Session Notes: December 2000 Top Ten

- Session is working to improve the way the congregational meetings are conducted so that they will be more glorifying to God.
- As we looked at the goals that were set for 2000, we were encouraged that while we set a goal of a five percent increase in our membership, we the Lord has granted us a ten percent increase.
- The Council dedicated to Developing Disciples of Christ informs us that 37% of those who attend worship are involved in Sunday School. While that is encouraging, we would like to challenge each of you to seriously consider taking advantage of this opportunity.
- Pastor Van Dyke will be taking his study leave from February 5 through February 11 to attend a conference in Phoenix Arizona on "The Culture-Friendly Church; A Daring Approach to 21st Century Mission".
- Session voted to designate the offering from the Christmas Eve Service to the PRISM Ministry.
- We have hired Mr. Bob Poole to be our Sunday Custodian/ Security/Maintenance man. Look for him on Sunday mornings and extend a warm welcome.
- Session approved the budget for 2001 as it was presented at the November Congregational meeting.
- Session took a position supporting the following amendment to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church: "*Scripture and our Confessions teach that God's intention for all people is to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or in chastity in singleness. Church property shall not be used for, and church officers shall not take part in conducting, any ceremony or event that pronounces blessing or gives approval of the church or invokes the blessing of God upon any relationship that is inconsistent with God's intention as expressed in the preceding sentence.*" Pittsburgh Presbytery will be voting on this issue on Feb. 8, 2001 and we ask you to keep both our presbytery and our denomination in prayer regarding this issue.
- This was the last meeting for Dwight Fox and Jake Horner who have completed their terms on Session, and the first for Gary Liberati and Ellen Rine. We are grateful that the Lord continues to raise up godly people to lead our church. Please keep them and the rest of session in your prayers.
- It is Session's sincere hope that our Lord and God will bring you and your family closer and closer to His awesome presence on a daily basis through 2001.

Missions Notes...

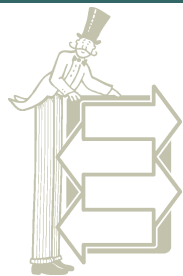
Vic Norman wrapped up a Sunday school class on missions with a time of prayer. As a result, those in attendance have most of the material that I was going to excerpt and share this month. If you have enjoyed that Sunday school class and would like to learn more about missions, the [Perspectives on the World Christian Movement](#) course may be of interest to you. Beginning January 8, this course will be offered Monday evenings at the World Vision International Distribution Center in Sewickley. The purpose of Perspectives is to "mobilize and equip Christians to invest their unique abilities to advance the Kingdom, whether locally or internationally. It helps individuals and churches discover their strategic place of service." The course is offered as an audit, or can be taken for undergraduate credit through Geneva college and undergraduate or graduate credit through Trinity International University. If you're interested contact Marleana Cochran at Memorial Park Church – (412-364-

9492 or mrcochran@memorialparkchurch.org).

Annetta Tanious came up with the closest response to last month's quiz: "Why, during this upcoming holiday season, would a Muslim be relieved if one is likely to mismatch one's socks?" As it turns out, this year the Islamic holy month of Rhamadan started after Thanksgiving and lasted until Christmas. A devout Muslim would have been fasting while it was daylight. During this time one would break fast every evening as soon as – according to one tradition – one could no longer distinguish between a white thread and a black thread. Look for another question in upcoming Belle's!

Charlei George
-- for the Missions Council

Name That Room!



The trustees are looking for input on naming the three meeting rooms in the "new" catacombs. Please send any suggestions/ comments to me at therines@pfnmail.net, or 361-2778.

Thanks for your ideas!

Steve Rine
--for the trustees



New Members

The 4-week long New Members Class held throughout December in Bellefield's chapel was a welcoming and informative introduction to the Presbyterian church and the Body of Christ.

In a relaxing environment including coffee and donuts, we examined Bellefield's history, the principles of Presbyterian beliefs, the church's mission and role in Pittsburgh, and what it means to be a part of Christ's church.

Church-seekers and students, along with long time visitors of Bellefield, were able to get to know Pastor Dave Van Dyke as well as other church leaders before committing to membership.

The class was not only a helpful review of Christian beliefs and Presbyterianism, it was an invitation to join the Lord's church through Bellefield.

As the Scriptures say in 1 Corinthians 12:27, "you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

– Mitchell Hill



Top Row (L to R): Michael Peters, Jake Stewart, Mitchell Hill, Mike Ramsay, Geoff and Jen Moak, Pastor Dave

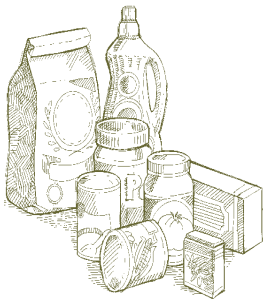
Middle Row (L to R): Carisa Youngman, Alexis Tretiak, Richard Cox

Bottom Row (L to R): Steve Bolibruck, Shannon Bolibruck, Chantal Blake, (Caris Gagnon) Jan Van Dyke, Carol and Robert Gagnon

Missing: Gene Puskar

from the Deacon's Desk...

The last article I wrote for the Belle listed many ways you could get involved with the ministry of the Deacons. We haven't gotten much response from that article yet, and there still are a lot of ways for any of you to help us minister to the shut-ins and the needy in our community. However I would like to take an opportunity to say a resounding "THANK YOU!!" to all of the Bellefield family. Did you know that the Deacon ministry is not supported by the general church budget? The only source of funds we have comes from the special envelopes in the bulletin on communion Sunday. This is money donated by members of the congregation above and beyond what they already give to the church.



Thanks to everyone's generosity we are able to buy over 1500 pounds of food from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank several times a year. Every month an average of 20 to 25 needy households in the Oakland area are able to have two grocery bags filled with wholesome foods like peanut butter, pasta, powdered milk, cereal, and canned goods. These people are able to take home a bag of gently worn clothes donated by you, or clothes we have purchased from Goodwill. They are able to get home on the bus with these things, because a bus ticket is purchased from the Deacon's fund for them. We also have a short time of devotions and prayer together. Some of the clients have even become regular attendees at Sunday School and the worship service because of this outreach. Feel free to stop down and peek in Fellowship hall to see what is going on the last Sunday of the each month.

The other way your donations are put to use is through special needs. We have been able to help with medical, utility and other bill paying, as well as other needs. This is done confidentially, with payment given directly to the provider of service. We try to be good stewards and never just hand over cash to an individual. If you are aware of anyone with a financial need, especially someone within the church family, please let them know that we can help. So far we have never run out of money to meet the needs of those who ask.

Thanks again for all of your generosity in so many ways.

Cindy Gormley

– for the Deacons

Sunday School

Children and Youth – 9:30 until 10:30 am

Nursery (newborns to 2 years): Staffed by two loving adults experienced in childcare who use a sign-in/sign-out system to ensure security (second floor)

Little Lambs (2 to 3 years): Katrina Woodworth and Rosie Wagoner welcome your toddler into a loving environment where they will learn about God through hands-on activities, music, and Bible stories. (second floor).

Children in Worship (4 years to 2nd grade): This program offers a unique and innovative worship experience for young children. This is an hour where children may experience worship by interacting with one another and God's Word. (second floor)

Grades 3-5: Get the scoop about places and people in the Bible by playing games, discussion, and other interactive ways.. (basement by the kitchen)

Junior/Senior High – Sunday Morning Breakfast Club: Sunday mornings begin at 9am with a group breakfast, followed by junior and senior high Bible study and discussion at 9:30am. (basement)

Adult Classes

Mornings: 9:30am – January 7th–March 10th

Living in the World as a Christian – Taught by Bonnie Budzowski & BJ Woodworth

When our commitment to Christ becomes all-important, we want it to impact every aspect of our lives. Unfortunately, it is not always clear just how this should work. We wonder how our faith should impact our understanding of work, rest, and play. We struggle with what exactly it means to be a Christian citizen in a secular world, a Christian professional in a high-tech culture, or a Christian artist on a post-modern stage. Author Paul Marshall discusses these issues and more in his book, Heaven is Not My Home. Join us in a discussion class based on this book as we explore what it means to have Christ as the center of our entire lives.

Evenings: 4:30-6pm – Further Up & Further In–January 21-February 11

Hunger in God's World – Taught by Melissa Hicks & Alexis Tretiak (Sr. @ Pitt)

Hunger is not a hopeless situation! *“The world has made tremendous progress in reducing hunger in the last 25 years. The number of hungry people has declined even as the world's population has increased. A great challenge remains, however, with over 800 million still chronically hungry. But workable solutions exist. While wars and tyrants will always cause some to go without, we already have the ideas, experience, financing and technology to put nearly all hunger behind us-if we have the will to do it”* (excerpt from Grace at the Table.)

This book has rocked our world and opened our eyes. We've learned that one of the biggest obstacles to overcoming hunger is a *lack of education* for those who are well-fed. Not sure you'd like to get involved in this sticky problem? Well, you are involved already... by the very fact that you're a well-fed American who helps consume 70% of the world's resources. So come find out how you can also be a part of the solution to end hunger and not just part of the problem! This class will be very conversational and experiential in its teaching style.



These children from our Children in Worship program participated in the morning

New Board Members

At the Congregational Meeting in November we elected new elders, deacons and trustees who will take on their new duties in January.

The Session welcomes Ellen Rine, and Gary Liberati in the class of 2003, as well as a renewed 3-year term for Karl Williams. Thanks to Dwight Fox and Jake Horner for their faithful service as elders.

The deacon board will be joined by Jake Bryant, class of 2002, and Kathy Clark, Jaime Oliva and Jenny Fox, Class



of 2003. They will miss the hard work of Ginger Crosbie as moderator, and also Kristin Horner, Jessie Gormley and Erick Fox.

Mayvis Bauman is saying good-bye to the trustees; thanks Mayvis! Glenn Vernon will be returning for a 1-year term, and Vic Norman is in the class of 2003.

Remember to keep our elders, deacons and trustees in your prayers!

Operation Christmas Child Update

Thanks to everyone who contributed shoe box Christmas gifts. We collected 22 boxes. Several people said they enjoyed doing this and it was a worthwhile family activity. There were also four international families who participated. We helped make Christmas a bit more special for kids throughout the world.

Thanks again and hopefully we can do this each and every year.

Bill Griffith

New Books in the Resource Center

Could you or your children use some counsel from a biblical perspective on how to be a good steward of the financial resources God has entrusted to you? The Finance Committee has ordered some materials written by Larry Burkett and placed them in the Resource Center for your use. There is "Debt-Free Living", "Women Leaving the Workplace", and "Financial Parenting" for adults; "Get A Grip On Your Money" for teens; and "Your Child and Money" for younger children.

Dwight Fox
– for the Finance Committee

Adult Christian Education Survey

Introduction:

Last summer a survey was sent to Bellefield members and attendees to discover what people want in an adult Sunday school program. The CE Council carefully crafted the survey to solicit information that would be useful in planning future classes.

Results:

110 surveys were sent. Of the 39 households that responded, 29 currently attend Sunday school and 10 don't. Most people felt that Bellefield usually offers a class that appeals to them and that challenges them to grow in faith. The majority prefer classes that alternate in topic every 4-6 weeks AND those that last 3-4 months. People seem to like a combination of the two formats over the course of a year. When asked what areas of study most interest people, the response was as follows:

- #1. Bible Study
- #2. Prayer
- #3. Relationships & Family Life
- #4. Contemporary & Social Issues
- #5. Evangelism & Missions
- #6. & #7. = tie between Creative Faith & Worship and Basic Christianity

Survey participants said the most effective way to get the word out about classes is: #1. the bulletin; #2. email; #3. church newsletter; #4. direct mailings. Others volunteered that small groups, signs around church, and announcements before worship are also effective tools for communication. Reasons people listed for not attending Sunday school included: conflicts with work schedule; out of town on Sundays; a desire to meditate & pray by oneself; and other responsibilities during the Sunday school hour such as teaching, music rehearsal, and other duties. Here is a sampling of additional comments:

'Each semester I think it would be good to have a book study, book of the Bible, something on practical evangelism and a basic intro to Christianity. If we are inviting new people, it would be a good introduction for them and could provide opportunities for members to become more biblically literate and focus on outreach.'

'One might consider offering a serious course (requiring homework) for pro-

spective church officers or others who are serious about their faith.'
'Individually and as a church, we need to be grounded in God's word. Sunday school is about the only time for corporate Bible study.'

Our Response:

The Christian Education Council carefully considered the survey results and has planned accordingly. We started the fall with a 7 week bible study on the character of David lead by Jerome Creach of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and then continued with a class on missions through December 17th. Still in the planning stages, the spring semester holds several bible studies, a class on prayer, a book study/discussion on living with Christ at the center of our lives, and perhaps a class for young couples. Please refer to *page 4* for new classes starting in January, and stay tuned to future newsletters, the bulletin, and email to find out more about upcoming adult Sunday school classes. And by all means . . . let us know if God is calling you to teach a class!



Final Comments:

It's important to distinguish between the purpose of Sunday school and other activities at Bellefield. Sunday school is not meant to be a time of personal bonding and friendship within a closely knit group of people, such as in a small group or Second Sunday program. If this is a byproduct – wonderful. The goal is to gather for one hour a week to increase our biblical and spiritual literacy in a mutual effort to be as Paul exhorted the Ephesians, "enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe" (Eph. 1:18). The Christian Education Council encourages you to attend Sunday school for your own, personal growth and to encourage and build up your brothers and sisters in Christ. Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30am and in the evenings from 4:30-6pm.

Amy Meyer
– for the Christian Education Council

Thanks for your Giving!

Oftentimes many of you in Bellefield Church make contributions to the Cornerstone Scholarship Fund, through buying an Entertainment Book (which we still have few left), making a donation at the Jubilee Pancake Brunch (coming up this February), or just writing a check designated to this account. Every year we are able to send students to our Fall Retreat, the RSVP Conference, the Jubilee Conference, Spring Break Service Projects, Summer Mission trips and The Ocean City Beach Project, Leadership and Discipleship Project. Through your giving many students lives are transformed by the seeds of the Gospel being planted in and through these events.

In November I had the opportunity to speak at RSVP (the CCO's fall evangelistic Conference). I took three seeking students with me. Through the conference and our conversations throughout the weekend many seeds were planted in each of their lives. We sent two of those students for free, whom other wise would probably not have come!

Here are their words of thanks to you:

"I just wanted to thank you for your financial generosity which enabled me to attend the RSVP 2000 Conference. The weekend was amazing – I had the opportunity to hear a talk on social justice and hear the keynote speaker Bart Campolo discuss his life and ministry. The conference was inspiring – I felt challenged to focus on helping and loving others rather than myself. I just wanted to let you know how your generosity affected my life."

"I'm sending my love out to those kind enough to give so that others may receive. The weekend was fabulous. Great speakers, wonderful people, indoor soccer and tons of fun were all found at RSVP. Thanks for caring!"

Thank you Bellefield Church for your generosity in word, in deed and in financial support; thank you for your undying commitment to college students and to your vision for transforming students to transform the world!

BJ Woodworth
–for the University Ministry

PRISM: A Memorable Thanksgiving

Our family has been fortunate to have always enjoyed a full table on

Thanksgiving with family and friends. This year we decided we had room for an international family, after hearing about the need for host families over the years. We were a little apprehensive about the situation, as we wondered how difficult it would be to communicate with them and vice versa. The day turned out to be a great experience for all of us. The couple and their two children left Korea only three months earlier but their English was much better than we expected.



All of our guests seemed to enjoy each others company, an answer to our prayers. It was fascinating learning about a nother country and their culture. They were also anxious to learn more about our country and to be able to work on their English with native Americans. We plan on getting together again with this family and hope to plant some seeds that will bring them closer to God's kingdom. Once again, God showed us that when we step out of our comfort zone in service to Him, we are the ones who are richly blessed.

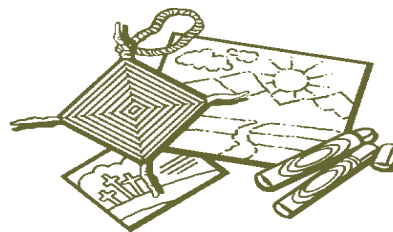
Barb Liberati

Ladies' Night Out

Several Bellefield women have been meeting on the third Friday night of each month for craft night. Usually there are several diehards working on our Scrapbooks. Some women visit, do counted cross-stitch or other crafts. Recently we have been joined by some international women from the PRISM Bible study.

Mark your calendar now for Friday, January 19th from 6:30PM to 9:30PM. This is a good time to invite a friend for a first introduction to Bellefield Church.

Jeanne Griffith



Bring your current craft project or scrapbook...

2001 Chancel Flower Request Form

- If you would like to contribute and dedicate chancel flowers for a Sunday morning Worship Service, please complete this order form and return it to the church office at your earliest convenience.
- Please circle the 2001 date(s) you prefer. The dates will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.
- Complete this form and send it *(and a check made payable to Bellefield)* to:

**Bellefield Presbyterian Church
Flower Fund
4001 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

Details:

- Each arrangement costs \$23.
- Circle your Sunday on the chart on the left.
- Please write your name and address and special dedication below exactly as you would have them appear in the bulletin.

Sample Statement for Bulletin:

• For date _____: "The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in _____ (loving memory **OR** in honor) of _____ by _____"

• For date _____: "The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in _____ (loving memory **OR** in honor) of _____ by _____"

MONTH	SUNDAYS				
JAN	7	14	21	28	
FEB	4	11	18	25	
MAR	4	11	18	25	
APR	1	X	X	22	29
MAY	6	13	20	27	
JUN	3	10	17	24	
JUL	1	8	15	22	29
AUG	5	12	19	26	
SEP	2	9	16	23	30
OCT	7	14	21	28	
NOV	4	11	18	25	
DEC	2	9	X	X	30



Mark Your Calendar!

January:

- 1/3 International Women's Bible Study resumes at 10:00am
- 1/6 Arabic Bible Fellowship - 5:00pm
- 1/7 Communion Sunday / Installation and ordination of new officers
- 1/8 Deacon meeting
- 1/9 Tuesday Women's Bible Study resumes at 9:30am
- 1/9 Annual Reports due to the church office (you know who you are...)
- 1/14 2nd Sunday Event - White Elephant Exchange
- 1/17 Session meeting
- 1/19 Ladies' Night Out at 6:30pm
- 1/22 Deadline for contribution to February "Belle" newsletter
- 1/24 Trustee meeting

Looking ahead:

- 2/4 Ecclesiastical/Congregational meeting
- 2/11 Youth Sunday

January Birthdays

- 1 Erica Norman
- 2 Rob Rogers
- 3 Greg Long
- 5 Elena Woodworth
- 6 Janet Fox
- 6 Alice Maunz
- 6 Emily Vernon
- 7 Lisa Edwards
- 8 Barb Smelser
- 15 Rosie Wagoner
- 19 Noah Lafferty
- 27 Karl Williams
- 29 Becky Mazariegos
- 30 Andrew Hastings
- 31 David Libaerati

Bellefield Presbyterian Church
4001 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Phone: 687-3222
Fax: 687-3899
Email: bellpres@bellatlantic.net

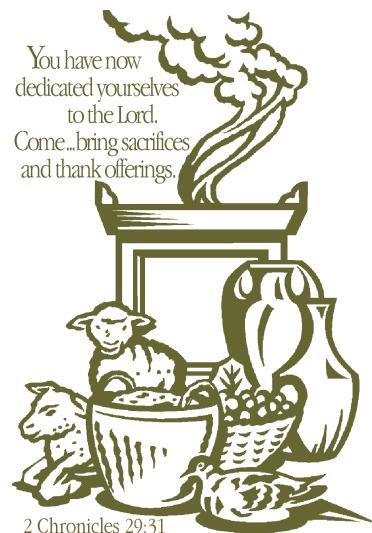


Bellefield Presbyterian Church

Committed to Christ and Community

from Treasurer Tom

	<i>Giving</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Difference</i>
<i>September</i>	\$15,071	\$18,147	\$-3,076
<i>October</i>	\$23,362	\$20,700	\$2,562
<i>November</i>	\$21,469	\$20,700	\$769
<i>Year to Date</i>	\$227,524	\$204,723	\$22,701



You have now
dedicated yourselves
to the Lord.
Come...bring sacrifices
and thank offerings.

2 Chronicles 29:31