

East Branch News and Views

FEBRUARY, 2014

Christian Education is Not Just For Sunday School Teachers!

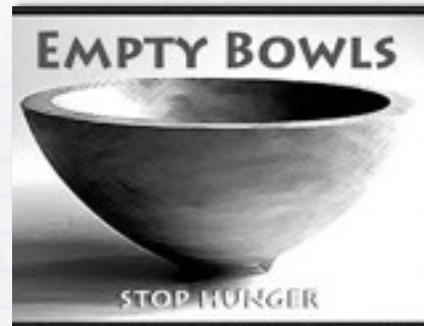
REV. DR. BEVERLY JAMES

This year's annual event for APCE, the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators, was held in San Jose, California. I attended the "ConnectED" conference along with Carolyn Leah and Tracy Belmonte from Beulah Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Maxine Jenkins. In addition to escaping the lingering winter in the Burgh, we had the opportunity to attend several workshops, join in worship, and hear challenging speakers.

Carolyn and Tracy led a workshop entitled: "Family Mentoring—Connecting Families with Where They Are" (continued on page 2)

19th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner

Sunday, March 2nd
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM



Rodef Shalom
Congregation
4905 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh

You are invited for a simple meal of bread and soup to raise awareness of hunger in our community. Proceeds benefit the Great Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Just Harvest Education Fund.

Highlights Include:

**Celebrity Soup Servers * Live Entertainment * Children's
Activities * Silent Auctions of World Class Ceramic Art**

Ticket holders also choose a beautiful bowl, crafted by local artisans, to take home.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at www.pittsburghfoodbank.org or by phone at 412-431-8960.



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS met in San Jose. Tracy Belmonte and Carolyn L. Leah (Beulah Presbyterian) presented a workshop.



WE CARE FOOD PANTRY AT SECOND UP. Volunteers from Northmont, Waverly Presbyterian Churches and Second UP prepare food for distribution to families in Wilkinsburg.



CHARTERING SERVICE OF THE UPPER ROOM

The subjects covered in the workshops all pertained to aspects of church life and ministry that are of vital concern to everyone who is concerned about the future of our churches and our denomination.

In an age where getting “connected” has never seemed easier, we are faced with the reality that our messages are not getting through to people of all ages. How can we improve our communication using the many social media tools at hand? How do we help churches to get and stay connected if they or their members cannot afford the latest and fastest tools?

In many congregations, the only time we have direct contact with individuals is for that one hour on Sunday morning. Can worship change to become more interactive, multigenerational, and educational? What do young adults (ages 18-30) want, and do not want, in a church they would attend? Do you know which age group prefers what social media? (Hint: Don't look for your teens on Facebook—exclusively.)

We Presbyterians value education. We believe in lifelong learning in Christian Education. We are facing enormous challenges to pass on our faith to the next generation. Please plan to attend the luncheon and conversations with those of us who attended the APCE conference on March 27th. We will have many ideas and resources to share!

Please make reservations by e-mailing bjames@pghpresbytery.org with the number of folks attending from your church by March 17th.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Faithfully,

Beverly

Around the Branch

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has named the Rev. Christopher Brown as church planting emphasis coordinator. In this position he will oversee the newly created Church Planting Initiative.

A \$200,000 grant from The Arthur Vining Davis

Foundations has enabled Pittsburgh Seminary to

expand its Church Planting

Emphasis within the master of divinity program into the

Church Planting Initiative. This Initiative recognizes that theological education historically has focused on preparing students to lead already established churches. However, today's seminary graduates face a world that also needs entrepreneurial, mission-minded pastors who are equipped to take the gospel to people in a wide variety of non-traditional settings.

Brown is the organizing co-pastor of The Upper Room Presbyterian Church.



YOU ARE INVITED!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH
11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM
PITTSBURGH PRESBYTERY CENTER

ENJOY LUNCH AND LEARN ABOUT THE LATEST HOT TOPICS IN EDUCATION.

RSVP BY MARCH 17TH TO
bjames@pghpresbytery.org

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