



East Branch News and Views

JULY, 2014

From the Associate Pastor's Desk

REV. DR. BEVERLY JAMES

I am a Pittsburgh Pirates' fan. I have been all my life. Without revealing too much about myself, I can admit to attending baseball games with my church youth group at Forbes Field. I have seen with my own eyes the outstanding catches of #21, Roberto Clemente.

So, I know how the ups and downs of the home team can wear on one's good humor, hope, and faith in the future. I was delirious with joy when the Pirates made the play-offs last year. I suffer a little bit every time they make unforced errors, or fall to the walk-off home run of a dreaded rival.

Being a Pirate fan, or a sports fan for any team that exists for the long haul, is not for the faint of heart or the fickle of soul.

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SEE YOU at the ZOO!!

FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP, and FLAMINGOS!

The East Branch Annual Picnic will be at the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium on Saturday, July 26th from 10:00 AM-6:00 PM. Lunch is catered by the Zoo and will be served at the Village Pavilion (near the top of the escalators at the Zoo entrance) between 11:30 AM-1:30 PM.

Cost of admission, including lunch, is \$10 for adults.

Children under ten years of age are free. Payment may be made the day of the event, but please **RSVP to cmiller@pghpresbytery.org** or 412-323-1400, ext 321 as soon as possible or before July 21st at the latest!



FIRST UP OF TURTLE CREEK CELEBRATES ITS FINAL SUNDAY ON JUNE 29TH.



THE VIEW FROM THE URBAN MOUNTAIN GATHERING PLACE The Presbyterian Church of Mt. Washington has a beautiful space to rent for meetings or other events. Call 412-481-0425 for information.



REV. JOHN CREASY AND THE REV. MICHAEL STANTON AT GARFIELD FARM.

Being a Christian in the PCUSA also demands a strong and steady body, mind and spirit. Regardless of where any one of us stands in relation to the recent decisions of the 221st General Assembly, we remain members of our denomination.

Over the years, and the decades, we have weathered many debates and votes. It is true of baseball, and it is also very true of Presbyterian actions. NONE of us “win ‘em all.” Within the thirty-seven churches of our East Branch, we do not all agree about issues that matter to us.

But we do all confess Jesus Christ as Lord and as Savior. We have pledged our membership to congregations that have come to be family to us. There are many things we can do together to be positive and engaging witnesses to the love of God in our communities despite our disagreements.

I'm keeping all my Pirate hats, T-shirts, and bobble heads. They remind me that I am not a fair weather fan. I do not doubt that there are winning seasons yet to come for the Pirates. And also for the Presbyterians.

“May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”. Romans 15:5-6

Enjoy summer, and the second half of the season!

Beverly



Around the Branch



The Rev. Dr. David Antonson begins as the Interim Pastor at Shadyside Presbyterian Church. Dave is pictured here with his wife Judy.

YES, THERE IS A FREE LUNCH!

JOIN US! FUNDS AVAILABLE
FOR TEAM PLAYERS!

JULY 23RD 11:30 AM-1:30 PM AT THE PITTSBURGH PRESBYTERY CENTER

Come learn about ITeM, Intentional Team Ministry, over lunch. The East Branch has received a generous grant from the Synod of the Trinity to help fund pilot projects between and among pastors and congregations willing to explore intentionally working together as a team. Meeting together, praying together, working together, planning together does not add to the work load, but makes church life more enjoyable and exciting!

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another,...” Hebrews

10:24-25 **Please make a reservation by July 21st at cmiller@pghpresbytery.org, ext 321.**

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Send it to bjames@pghpresbytery.org