

December 2011

# Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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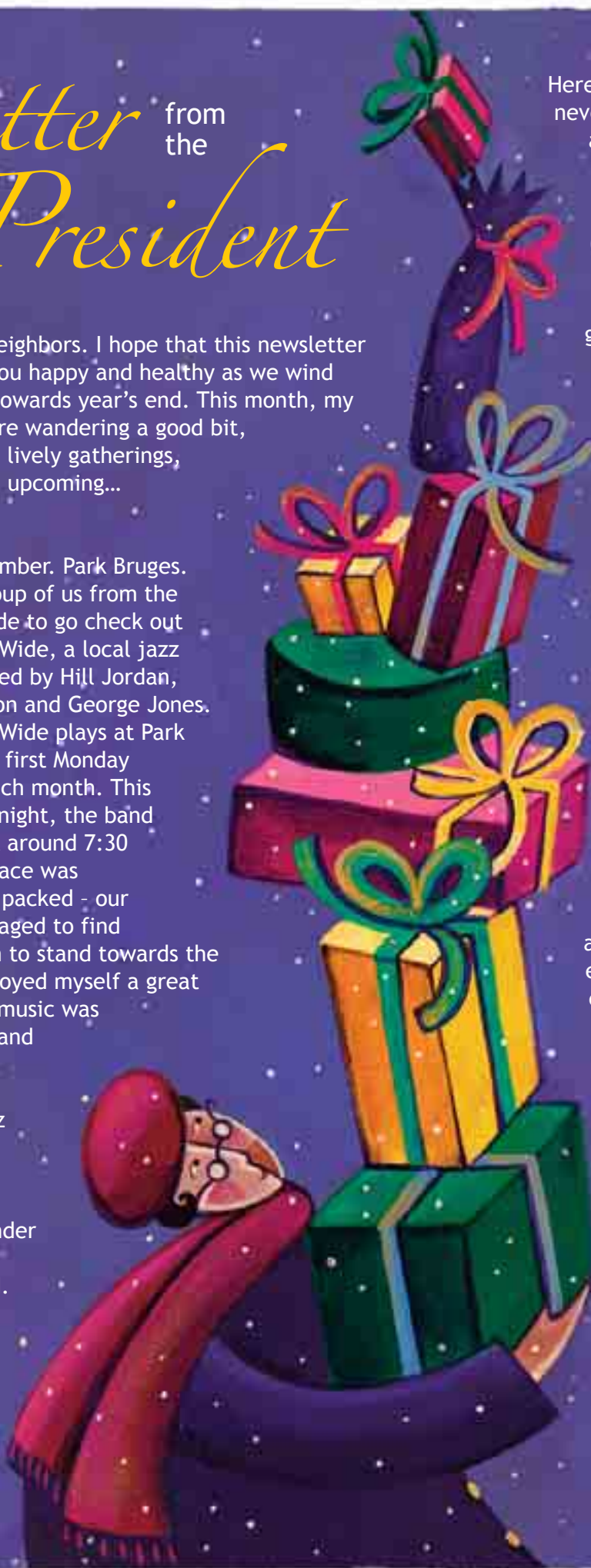
# A Letter from the President

Hello, neighbors. I hope that this newsletter finds you happy and healthy as we wind down towards year's end. This month, my thoughts are wandering a good bit, focused on lively gatherings, recent and upcoming...

Early November. Park Bruges. A small group of us from the HPCC decide to go check out SlideWorldWide, a local jazz band fronted by Hill Jordan, Eric Johnson and George Jones. SlideWorldWide plays at Park Bruges the first Monday night of each month. This particular night, the band went on at around 7:30 PM. The place was absolutely packed - our group managed to find some room to stand towards the back. I enjoyed myself a great deal - the music was top-notch and covered several classic jazz tunes as well as a number of Stevie Wonder songs I recognized.

Here's a hint - go early, or you will never get a table. The food smelled amazing, but without a table or a spot at the bar, I didn't get to try any of it. Mad props to the bartender - she was gracious in spite of the mob pressing to the bar for various drinks, and she was very efficient. Check out this great scene for local jazz and tasty food, when next you get the chance.

Late November. I am back in Cheltenham, on the outskirts of Philadelphia, for my twentieth high school reunion, two days after Thanksgiving. My old friend Matt, our class's equivalent of Bart Simpson (and who, shockingly, I didn't recognize when he walked in the door - he's gotten thin), has spearheaded the effort for us all to get together at a local Italian restaurant. I haven't seen most of these people since our belated 10-year reunion. I have made the tactical mistakes of (1) assuming people would want to eat food (most of my former classmates are content to hang out in the bar area) and (2) bringing my kids. The kids behave pretty well, but they want to eat, and so I spend much of the evening floating between my family at the table and my classmates at the bar. Actually, the boys behave pretty well. Cleo, my two-year-old daughter, is a little more rambunctious than my wife feels is appropriate for a semi-fancy Italian place. I have several of those "bad husband" moments where Sue is freaking out that Cleo is misbehaving in public and



I am not quite containing my amusement over Cleo's antics and Sue's reaction. As for my classmates, I get to see less of them than I'd hoped, and the interactions I have with them are... strange. They are so familiar, but they seem to be from another lifetime. Many of them go out of their way to tell Sue that I had been the smartest kid in our graduating class, which gets kind of embarrassing after a while. One asks me about my job, but I can't even get out a sentence about being an engineer at a nuclear power laboratory without her saying, repeatedly, "Of course you are!" I want to tell them all, but never quite find the words, that Cheltenham is a small town and that being one of the smarter high school graduates in your class counts for nothing once you leave and get to college (some of my classmates at Carnegie Mellon were trying to build rockets, for crying out loud) and that brains aren't everything - some people can be really book smart but also poor communicators, or jerks, or people who just don't know, really know, who they're supposed to be. I want to embrace these former classmates, hear their stories, tell my story, restore all of those missing years, feel - even more than I did back then - like I belong. The ten-minute snippets I manage to grab at the bar - between mouthfuls of calzone - are not sufficient to accomplish these lofty goals. My family leaves before Cleo has a meltdown. On my way out, I finally get two minutes to talk

to Matt, who was a closer friend to me in childhood than anybody else who's shown up to the reunion. Matt speaks in glowing terms to this day about my mom, which is really funny because Matt really got on my mother's nerves - similar to the reaction many adults had to Matt (or, for that matter, Bart Simpson).

Mid-December. Here we are, counting down to the winter holidays. I am genuinely looking forward to spending some time here at home with the family, having friends over for dinner and games, seeing a couple of college friends and their kids. We are staying in town for Christmas, we are not hosting overnight guests, I am done shopping, and my projects at work will get along without me for a week. About as low-stress as one could hope for - ignoring, of course, the three hurricanes that rumble through our house every day and no doubt will be ready for presents at the crack of dawn on the 25th. However, I've been having too many conversations with others who, for various reasons of their own, are dreading some aspect of the approaching holidays. I have a present I want to give to them, and to you, too. So clip this out and use it! I started doing it several years back, and I'm pleased to report that once you try it two or three times, it gets easier. Happy Holidays to you and yours...

Eric D. Randall, *HPCC President*

**This year,** I give myself permission to stop doing one thing I hate or dread, and start doing one thing I love or really want to do, to celebrate the holidays. If I can't quite make it this year, I give myself permission to start next year, or to alternate years between other people's expectations and my own desires, so that at least sometimes, I will have a little more joy or peace. I will embrace the holiday, but leave the hysteria behind. I will enjoy good memories from past holidays while embracing the freedom to make new and better traditions for the future.





# HPCC November Meeting Minutes

by *Bob Staresinic*

Eric Randall, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., with a quorum present.

The tree planting around Heberton and Winterton on 11/5 went well, with almost 40 trees planted by volunteers.

The East End Cooperative Ministry is having a ground-breaking ceremony on 11/18 at 11 a.m. for their building on Penn Circle.

There is a stop sign on Negley Avenue at Bryant Street that was just recently installed. It is poorly placed and marked, and many folks have missed it. (The stop sign was removed a few days after the meeting.)

Glen Schultz reported that the Verizon cell tower is up at the zoo, but the landscaping around it is not enough to hide it well.

David Atkinson reported that the Obama school is looking at community issues surrounding its move to the Peabody High School building on Highland Avenue. They will be asking for input from the community in the near future.

Bruce Robison reported that St. Andrews has many events coming up around the holidays. One of the events will be caroling and readings on 12/18 at 3 p.m.

Paul Miller is looking for volunteers to help with the Yard Sale in June. He is looking to do advertising earlier, and using the website to promote the event. The 2011-12 budget is still being created.

Scott Bricker from Bike Pittsburgh spoke about biking in the City and the issues of access and safety for bikes, cars and pedestrians. More bike lanes are being installed, and better signals and crosswalks at intersections are needed to make bike commuting in the City safe, convenient and as comfortable as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. The next HPCC meeting will be Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7 p.m. at St. Andrews Church, 5801 Hampton St. There is no December board meeting.

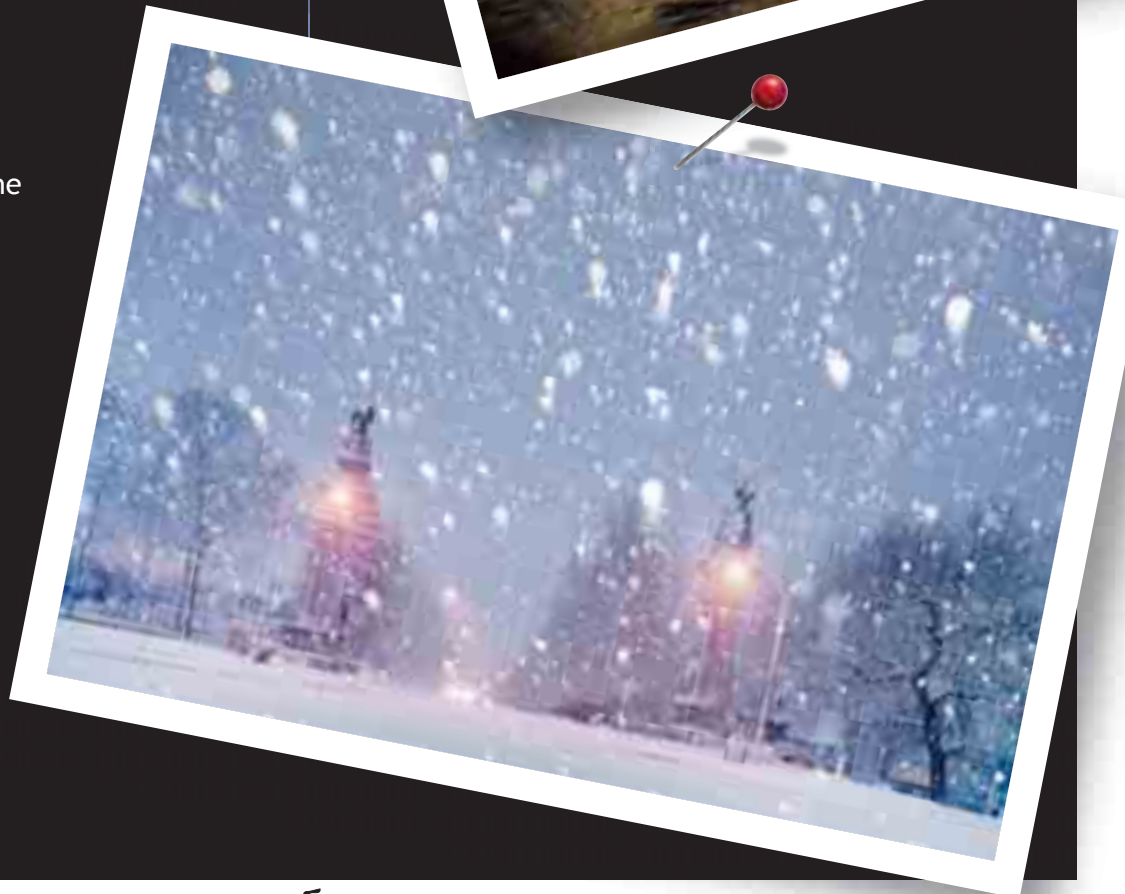


# Photographs of Highland Park

By David Aschkenas

I recently saw David's work from a trip to Prague and I wondered if he had any photographs of Highland Park that he would be willing to share. He was kind enough to send me a number of beautiful images that I share with you now.

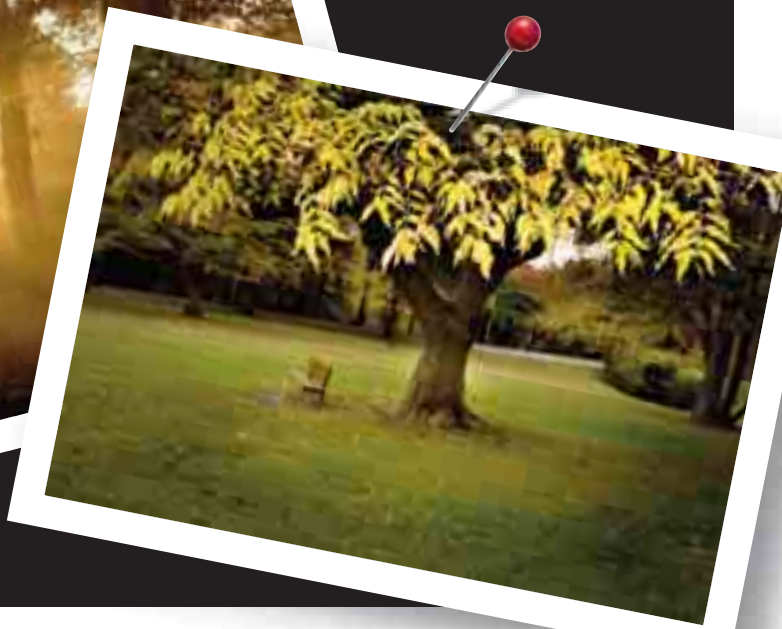
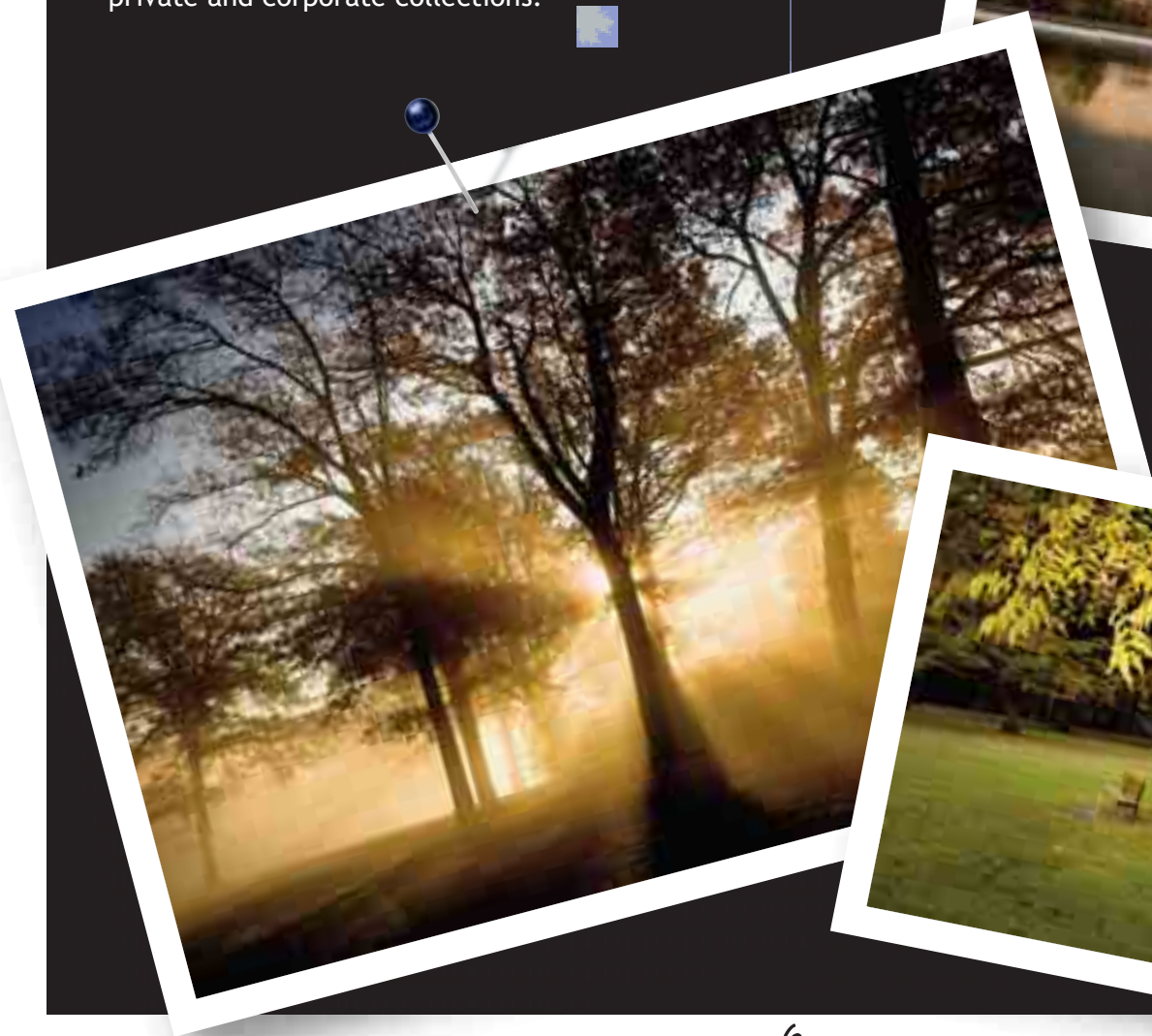
In the winter of 2004, I decided to lose a little weight and began the South Beach diet. To go along with the diet, I began to exercise daily by walking around the reservoir in Highland Park. Even though I am a lifelong Highland Park resident, in the past I would only visit the park a few times per year. To make the walking more interesting, as a professional photographer I decided to take photographs every day during my walks. Beginning with once around the reservoir and building up to four rotations each day, I became fascinated with the daily changes happening to the park's landscape. While we all know things change and appear differently during different times of day and different seasons, after photographing it on a daily basis for a few years, the body of work grew quite large.



After several years, I decided to put together a book of photographs of my favorite images. The photographs reproduced here are a selection from thousands made.

*David has self published a hard cover photo book of Highland Park (approximately 75 images), of which he has a few copies for sale. The cost per copy is \$100. If you would like to see more of David's work, Please visit his website, [daschkenasphoto.com](http://daschkenasphoto.com).*

David is a self-taught photographer doing fine art and freelance photography for the past 25 years. He has been the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Polaroid Corporation. His work is represented in the Carnegie Museum of Art (Pittsburgh), the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts, University of Alaska Museum (Fairbanks), The Polaroid Corporation, the Howard Heinz Endowment, the A.W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust Foundation (Pittsburgh), and in many private and corporate collections.



# A Letter From Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Dear Neighbors,

As the days become shorter and the temperatures continue to drop, it is clear that winter is fast approaching. There are many joys that come along with the winter season - the holidays and the excitement of the first snow - yet winter can also be one of the most difficult times for many Pittsburgh residents. It is a time when our City's culture of neighbors-helping-neighbors is most important to assist residents to overcome its hardships and enjoy the best that winter in our City has to offer.

Snow removal can be one of the most challenging aspects of winter and snow covered sidewalks can be hazardous for everyone. With Snow Angels, I aim to make snow removal less daunting for our elderly and physically-disabled residents. Along with fostering stronger community relationships, and relieving the elderly of the stress that comes from a snow storm, the Snow Angels initiative will also make our sidewalks safer for those who continue to serve despite the winter weather - such as postal service workers, firemen and police officers.

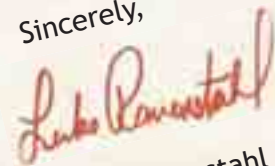
With this in mind, I am proud to announce a new program, Snow Angels, which will match willing volunteers with neighbors-in-need to shovel and de-ice their walks this winter season. The Snow Angels program launched in November. For applications to volunteer or receive assistance, please visit [snowangels.pittsburghpa.gov](http://snowangels.pittsburghpa.gov).

Snow Angels is one of my signature servePGH programs, which promote citizen service to impact local challenges. For more information, email [servepgh@city.pittsburgh.pa.us](mailto:servepgh@city.pittsburgh.pa.us) or call the 311 hotline and ask about the program. If you are calling from outside the City of Pittsburgh, please call 412-255-2621.

Thank you to the countless Snow Angels who already assist their neighbors with snow removal. I appreciate the precedent that you have set for local residents, and I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to join a Pittsburgh-wide effort to keep our sidewalks clear after winter storms and provide your neighbors with the reassurance that their community cares.

Together, we can make this winter an enjoyable season for everyone!

Sincerely,



Luke Ravenstahl  
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

Pens game tonight!



# New Laws Will Help to Make Roadways Safer

*By State Rep. Joseph Preston Jr.*

As a legislator, I work to pass laws that protect citizens of this commonwealth. I recently voted for various bills that accomplish that goal.

Legislation I supported that will ban texting while driving on Pennsylvania's roadways has been signed into law by the governor.

The new law, which takes effect in March 2012, will make reading, typing, or sending a text message while driving a primary offense.

More than 90 percent of Pennsylvanians agree that texting while driving should be illegal, and I'm proud to say our commonwealth now joins the ranks of other states with texting bans on the books.

Distracted driving not only puts those doing it at risk, but it also puts every other driver and pedestrian in harm's way. The results of countless studies have shown that the risk of an accident is as much as three to four times higher when drivers text behind the wheel. This, in my opinion, is common sense legislation that will save lives and enhance the sense of safety on our roads.

I also voted for legislation that will strengthen teen driver laws. The new restrictions will take effect on December 24, 2011.

The new law will limit the number of teen passengers to one in a vehicle for the first six months that a junior driver has a license, with

exceptions for family members. After six months, the limit would be three non-family members. It also will expand training requirements before a teenager could take a test for his or her license, adding 10 hours of nighttime and five hours of bad-weather driving to the current 50-hour requirement.



Sadly, car crashes continue to be the leading cause of fatalities among American teens. There are numerous studies and statistics that make clear the dangers teenagers face when driving alone or with other teens. Here in Pennsylvania the number of deaths from crashes involving 16- and 17-year-old drivers increased nearly 43 percent in just one year, from 2009 to 2010.

I believe these new laws will make a difference in lives of all drivers on our highways. I realize we cannot prevent every accident, but if we can save a life, our mission is accomplished.

As always, please let me know how I'm doing as your representative in Harrisburg by stopping by my office at 208 N. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206, or by phone at 412-361-3692.

*State Rep. Joseph Preston Jr. serves the 24th Legislative District which comprises Aspinwall, Wilksburg and portions of Pittsburgh.*





**T**he months of December and January, with the Church seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and then into New Year 2012, offer a very full and rich calendar of events and services around historic St. Andrew's Church. Through it all, we wish all our great neighbors and friends here in Highland Park a New Year filled with many blessings.

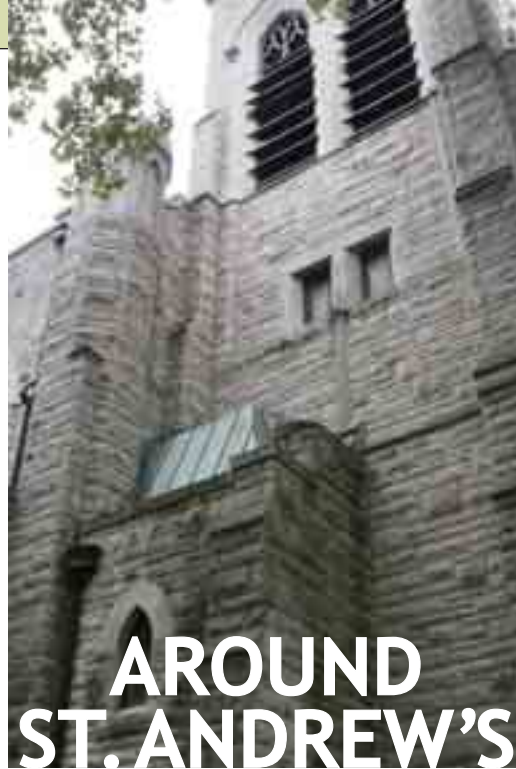
Before outlining our services for the season I would just like to mention our on-going Adult Education Series, in observance of this 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the English Bible, featuring our Priest Associate, the Rev. Dr. Philip Wainwright, in a series of presentations and discussions on the topic, "How the Bible Came to be Sacred Scripture." All are

welcome. The programs will take place from 4 - 5:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.

The first session was November 27, and programs continue on December 11, January 8, and January 22. Please join us for some stimulating and informative gatherings!



On Thursday evening in the first week of Advent, December 1, A service of Choral Evensong for Advent will be sung by the Parish Choir at 8 p.m., followed by a recital with the Aurelian Trio. One of the true highlights of the season is the traditional offering of the English "Festival of Lessons and Carols," with St. Andrew's Choir and Soloists and with readers from the wider community, beginning at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, December 18th. That event will be followed by a Holiday Reception and High Tea in the Parish Hall - and, again, all are invited.



## AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

*By Bruce Robison, Rector*

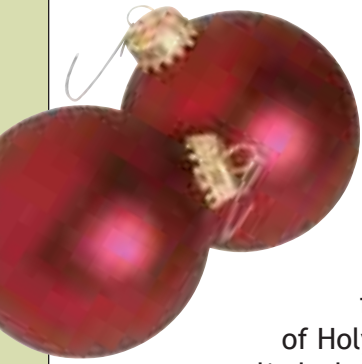
The traditional Children's Pageant of Christmas will be presented by our Church School earlier that Sunday morning, December 18, at 11 a.m.

One of the favorite community holiday events each year is the All-Ages Neighborhood Carol Sing, which is scheduled "around the bonfire" in the St. Andrew's Churchyard beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evening, December 20. Bring a flashlight! Bundle Up! We brave whatever weather finds us that evening for a half hour or so of hearty singing of familiar Christmas

carols and songs, then repair to the cozier confines of the Parish Hall for cocoa and holiday cookies. This is great fun for kids--usually with multiple renditions of "Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer"--and for the whole family, and all are invited.

On Christmas Eve at St. Andrew's, Saturday, December 24th, the always-energetic Family Communion, beginning at 4:30 p.m., includes the Blessing of the Creche and the Rector's Family Christmas Message. The traditional candlelight, midnight service for Christmas Eve begins at 10:30 p.m., with a Service of Music, Benjamin Britten's beloved "Ceremony of Carols," with Choir and Sierra Pastel, harp, and with the solemn Christ Mass, beginning at about 11 p.m. A service of Holy Communion on Christmas Morning, Sunday, December 25th, at 10 a.m., with carols and a homily. Please note that this is the only service that Sunday morning.





On Friday evening, December 31, we'll gather at the Church at 11 p.m. for a brief musical program, a recital by our Organ Scholar, Jeremy Jelinek, followed by a simple service of Holy Communion, and then we'll climb the tower and ring in New Year 2012 on the Great Bell. A champagne (or non-alcoholic alternative beverage) toast to the New Year will follow in the Parish Hall.

On Thursday, January 5, at 8 p.m., the Parish Choir will sing Choral Evensong, and with a special Cabaret Recital following in the Parish Hall, featuring chanteuse Dixie Tymitz.

And on Sunday, January 15, at 4:30 p.m. our highly-regarded Schola Cantorum will sing Choral Evensong, and with our Guest Preacher the Rev. Tara Lynn, who during this past year has served as interim pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Oakland.

St. Andrew's, in the 5800 block of Hampton Street, has been at the heart of this neighborhood of Highland Park for over a century now. If you have a pastoral concern we can help with - a baby to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, a sick or shut-in family member or neighbor who would appreciate a visit and a blessing, a family to comfort at the time of the death of a loved one - or if you simply would like to borrow a table or find some space for a family gathering too large for your living room, please feel free to give our Church Office a call at 412-661-1245 or check us out on the web, [www.standrewspgh.org](http://www.standrewspgh.org). We're always glad to hear from you.



*Happy  
Holidays!*

## Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Holiday Event

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will host their annual Advent Lessons and Carols Service Monday, Dec. 19, in Hicks Chapel. The service will begin at 5:00 p.m. and a reception will follow. The Boar's Head Wassail Consort, a wonderful caroling group of which PTS senior Kendra Buckwalter is a member, will sing this year. This event is FREE and open to the public.



# Tis the Season for Giving

A reminder that many of our local businesses and restaurants offer gift certificates!

E2 (Squared)

Enrico's Tazza D'Oro Café & Espresso Bar

Bryant Street Market

Joseph Tambellini Restaurant

Park Bruges Cafe

Smiling Banana Leaf (only \$50)

Union Project



**Food Glorious Food**  
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Thursday 10 - 6

Friday 10 - 6

Saturday 10 - 5

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**Secretary**

Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

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Al Mann (412) 661-5947

Nancy Levine-Arnold

Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533

Nancy Schultz

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**Education -** Dave Atkinson

**House Tour -** OPEN

**Finance -** Dell Ziegler (412) 363-0742

**Membership -** Kelly Meade (412) 362-0331

membership@highlandparkpa.com

**Newsletter -** Monica Watt (412) 361-7902

editor@highlandparkpa.com

**Nominating -** Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

**Public Safety -**

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public-safety@highlandparkpa.com

**Reservoir of Jazz -**

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## Bryant Street Market

Home Delivery  
Reminder

Our local market will  
deliver to your home!

\$30.00 minimum order.

### St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

*The Rev. Dr. Bruce Monroe Robison, Rector  
The Ven. Archdeacon Jean D. Chess, Deacon  
Peter J. Luley, Organist & Choirmaster*

At St. Andrew's

*Sunday Morning Services*

*9 a.m.*

*In the Chapel*

*11 a.m.*

*Choral Service in the Anglican Tradition*

*Nursery Care: 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.*

*Church School, Youth, and Adult Programs,*

*Sunday Mornings, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.*

*Wednesday Morning Service*

*Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.*

*Rector's Bible Study 11:15 a.m. – Noon*

*Choral Evensong*

*First Thursday of the Month, 8 p.m.*

*Third Sunday of the Month, 4:30 p.m.*

*Check our Website for Special and Holiday  
Services and Activities*

*You Are Welcome Here*

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412-363-4000 Ext. 736

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