

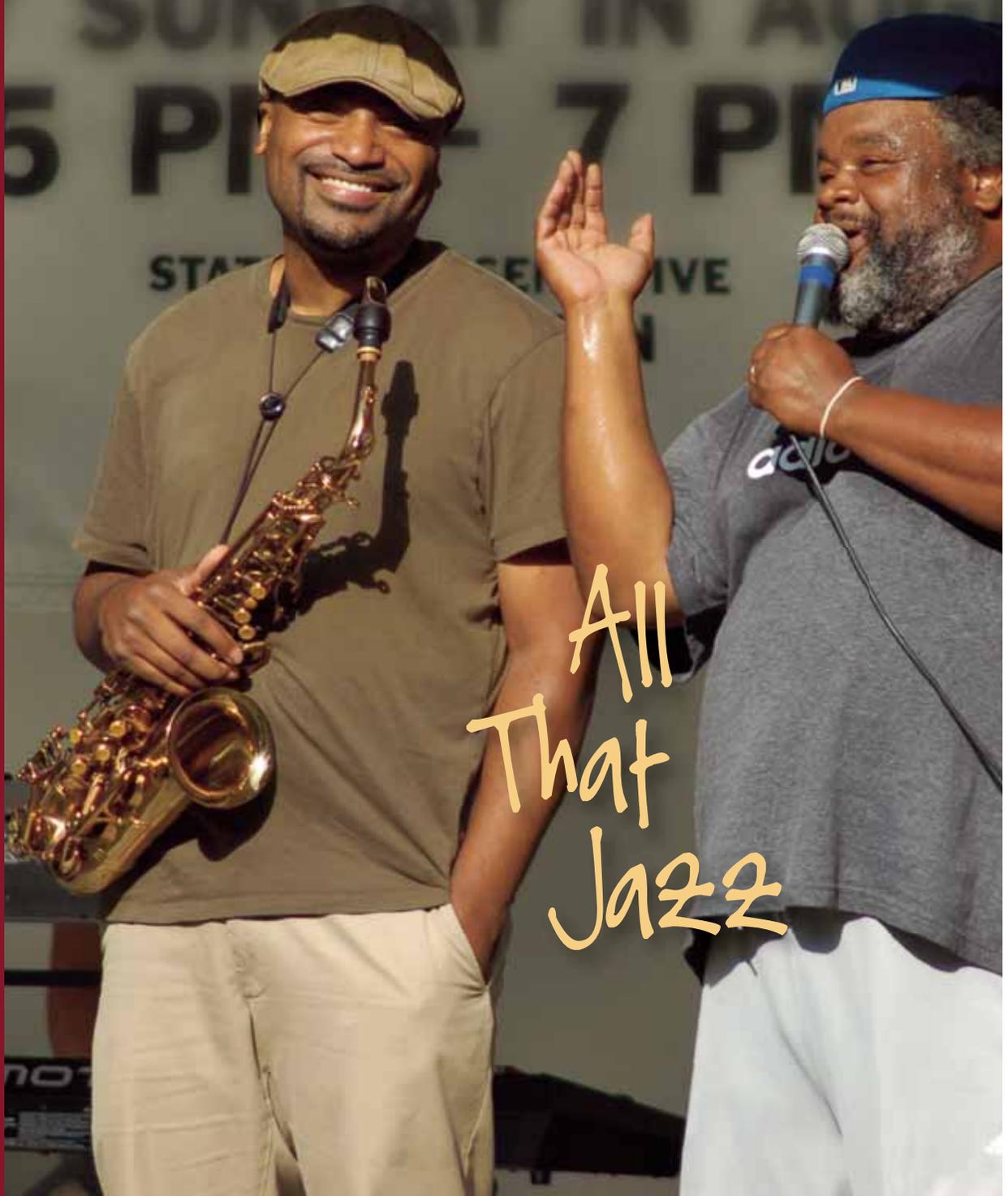
July 2012

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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All That Jazz

A Letter from the President

During the June HPCC meeting, our guest speaker was Elizabeth Style from the City; she spoke to us about the Mayor's new "Block Watch in a Box" initiative (more details at www.pittsburghpa.gov/mayor/article.htm?id=1438). Elizabeth talked us through the nuts and bolts of how a group of neighbors can set up a block watch. She noted that block watches can take many forms, but each of them has, at its core, a set of neighbors who have banded together for the purpose of looking out for each other.

I've had quite a bit of experience trying to build stronger ties with my neighbors. Invitations to game nights and dinners have been extended, with mixed results. Patrick Dowd once observed that some people are intimidated by the notion of going into the house of someone who may be a neighbor, but is still essentially a stranger. Sometimes, he said, an icebreaker event on more neutral territory is called for. Block parties tend to be really great, because people are out on their own porches or on the street, so the "my-house-your-house" issues go away. And boy, was he right. Since my next-door-neighbor Melita and I started organizing our block party this summer, people I've never met (and who, in some cases, don't actually live on our block) have come crawling out of the woodwork to let me know they've heard about the party and are excited about coming. And some of the neighbors I've met while passing out fliers seem to think it's just about the coolest thing to happen to them in all the years they've lived here. This is great stuff. Overall, I'm struck by a couple of different aspects of this affair; one, no matter what else is going on, there are lots of people who are always up for a good time; and two, no matter how much

fun or goodness is there, waiting to be claimed, there always needs to be someone who is willing to do the work to pull it off.

Communities, like almost all good things, take work. The Highland Park Community Council has long taken an active role in maintaining our neighborhood. One aspect of this role is our attention to zoning issues. I personally haven't been around long enough to tell you the details of how we got to where we are today, but we have a strong tradition of inserting ourselves (in an informal and neighborly way, where possible) into any zoning issue that comes up within Highland Park's borders. We encourage property owners seeking variances to come and talk to the HPCC before formally requesting the variance from Pittsburgh's zoning board. If we're convinced that the variance is good for the community, we support it; if not, we make our opposition known to the zoning board. I believe we have, in the past, supported variances sought by the Pittsburgh Zoo and the Union Project. In general, we are trying to make sure that we don't have overcrowding, with too



many units in too small a space, often compounded by inadequate parking and/or neglect from a long-distance landlord.

We had a case develop late last year with a property near Highland Park's southern border. The owner was seeking a variance to be allowed to continue to operate seven apartment units within a property that had previously received a variance for only three. The seven-unit variance was approved, in spite of multiple police drug raids at this property during this owner's tenure, in spite of the fact that the seven units had been operating without a certificate of occupancy, and despite opposition from the neighborhood. The HPCC then joined forces with the Councilman Dowd's office, the Highland Park Community Development Corporation, and nearby property owners to fund and file an appeal to the zoning board's decision. A few weeks back, we received notice that we'd won. After reviewing the case on its merits, the appeal judge reversed the zoning board's original decision, and the property in question will need to revert to three units. My thanks

go to the many individuals who worked tirelessly to ensure that our neighborhood's best interests are served, including Dell Ziegler (chairman of our zoning committee) and Mr. David F. Toal, Esquire, who blessed the HPCC with his pro bono work representing us in court.

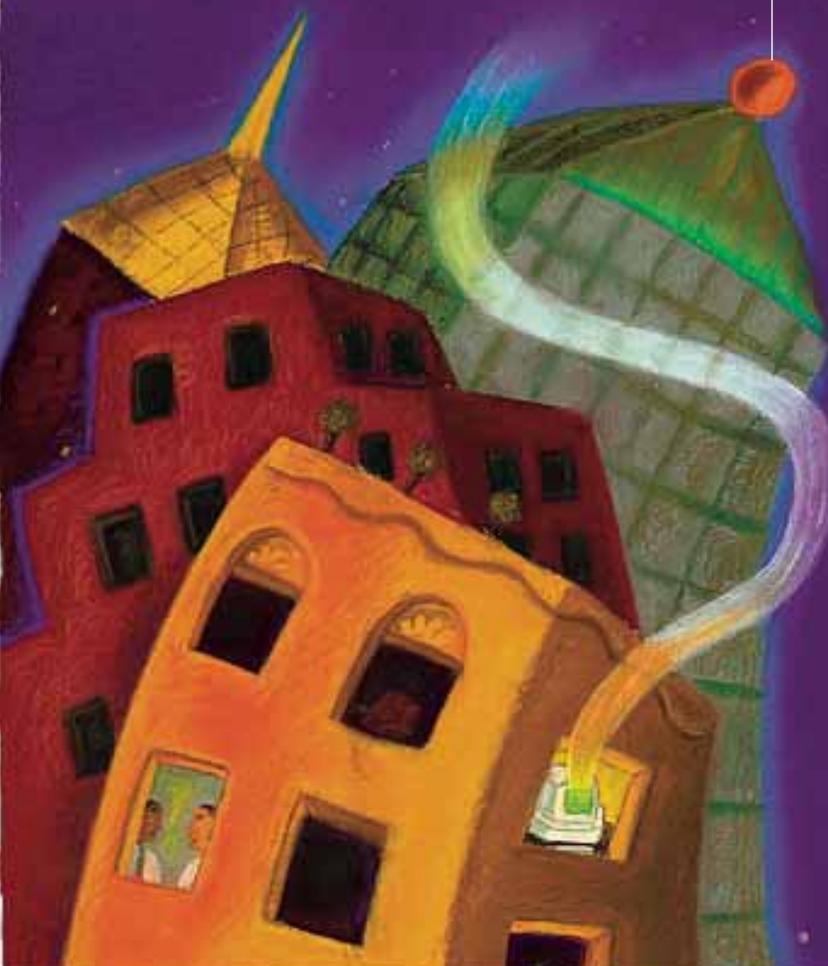
It's this kind of attention to detail, this kind of commitment to action, this willingness to do the work, that helps keep neighborhoods strong. And it's one example of what the HPCC has been doing for our neighborhood for years (see page 7 of our May 2005 newsletter at www.highlandpark.pgh.pa.us/org/hpcc/newsletters/200505.pdf for other zoning-related examples).

That's why it's so important for you to get involved - with your time and energy, we can do even more. Please check us out on the HPCC website, www.highlandparkcc.wordpress.com. There are details there about how you can become a member, become a part of what we do. As autumn approaches, we are looking for new board members to help improve our neighborhood's big-city appeal and small-community-feel. We'd be delighted if you would join us.

In the meantime, enjoy your summer! The HPCC takes off for the month of July, so our next meeting will be on August 16th. It's tentatively slated to take place at the Union Project on the corner of Negley and Stanton; Jeffrey Dorsey, UP's Executive Director, will be sharing with us about the progress they've been making and their three-year business plan; there will also be a facility tour. Be on the lookout for a ListServ announcement. There also, of course, will be the famed Reservoir of Jazz concerts taking place in Highland Park on Sundays in August. We hope to see you there!

Eric D. Randall,
HPCC President

P.S. A shout out to Allison Haley and her neighbors in East Liberty who are working to figure out how to start a community group. Our neighborhoods need more people like you. Keep up the good work!



RESERVOIR OF

JAZZ

2012

This summer you can once again relax on the lawn at Highland Park to the sounds of jazz performed by Pittsburgh's finest musicians, thanks to the ongoing commitment of the Highland Park Community Council. The FREE concerts are held every Sunday in August from 5-7 p.m.

This year's line-up includes:

AUGUST 5 - Spanky Wilson

Spanky Wilson is an American soul, funk and jazz vocalist, born in Philadelphia. She lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania until 1967 when she moved to Los Angeles, California and then Paris, France. After a health

scare, she returned to Pittsburgh to be near family. We are very pleased to welcome her to Highland Park.

I came across the interview below while trying to learn more about Spanky. I thought it was very interesting and wanted to share it with you.

www.pghcitypaper.com/FFW/archives/2012/04/27/extended-interview-spanky-wilson

Except from the *Pittsburgh City Paper* interview by Margaret Welsh...

You have such a great name. Was it a nickname?

“ (Laughs) Well, actually, yeah. My father gave it to me when I was about three. I was a bad little kid. I liked the name so much and I really despised my real name, so I just took that, and the only thing my real name is on is my birth certificate. ”





AUGUST 12

- World Jazz with Preach Freedom & Friends

Preach Freedom is a singer, songwriter, composer, percussionist, multi-instrumentalist, teaching artist, and most of all, a father. He is currently the lead singer for One World Tribe as well as the drummer/percussionist for Rusted Root. With a background in gospel and R&B, Preach has

brought his talents as an arranger and composer to dozens of gospel programs in Northwest Pennsylvania and western New York. Preach is also a serious student of Afro-caribbean music and culture and has been a visionary in melding more traditional American styles with World Music. Listen to a little of his music here:

www.reverbnation.com/preachfreedom#!

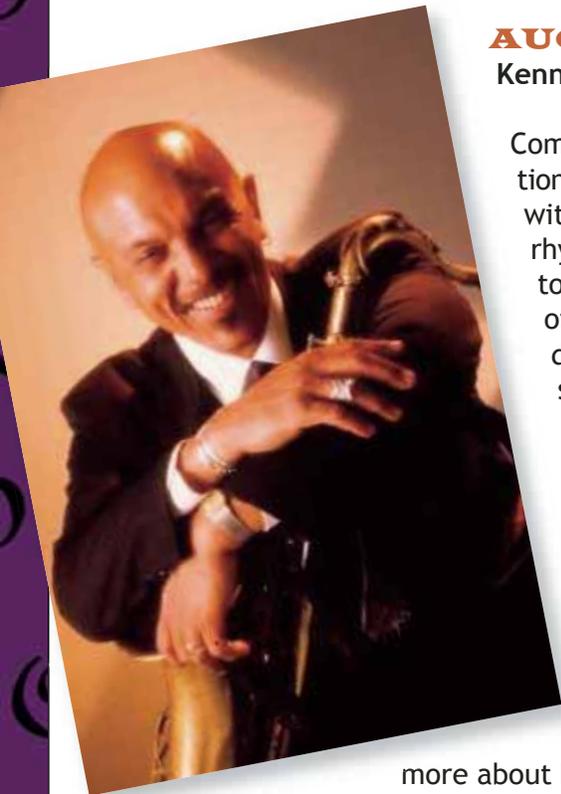
AUGUST 19 -

Kenny Blake

Combining traditional jazz leanings with modern rhythm and blues to make some of the most distinctive sounds of the genre, Blake brings over 20 years as Pittsburgh's local jazz hero to his recordings and appearances.

Find out more about Kenny here:

www.concordmusicgroup.com/artists/Kenny-Blake/



AUGUST 26 - Dave Throckmorton featuring Bassist Tony Grey

It was actually difficult to find information on Dave Throckmorton. I did locate this short Q&A, which should give you some insight to his personality...

Drummer Dave Throckmorton

Influences: Beastie Boys, Wayne Krantz, Miles Davis, Ornette Coleman

Favorite movie(s): Pulp Fiction, No Country for Old Men, Anchorman, Goodfellas

Favorite Pittsburgh restaurant(s): Pasta Too

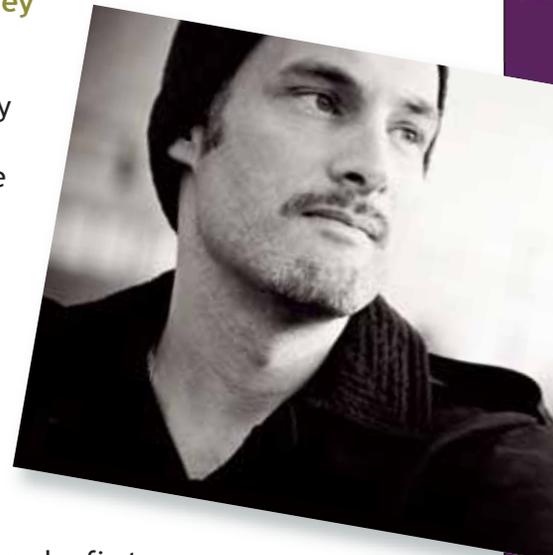
Favorite sports hero(s): Michael Jordan

Favorite Concert(s): John Patitucci trio with Brian Blade & Joe Lovano



Bassist Tony Grey

Some people know from early childhood what they want to be when they grow up. For others that revelation doesn't come until much later. Tony Grey was an 18-year-old laid up with a broken back when he first picked up a bass guitar. Since then, he has played with the likes of Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Mike Stern, Hiromi, Zakir Hussain, Branford Marsalis and John McLaughlin.



QUANTUM THEATRE

Performs in Highland Park

by George Moura

Quantum Theatre takes pride in performing in adventurous spaces. For its next show, the company is creating a stage that's bold even for them - one floating on Lake Carnegie at the bottom of Highland Park.

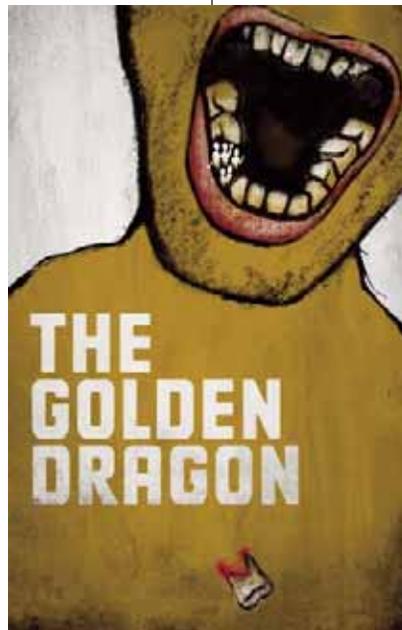
The Golden Dragon is a darkly comic allegory for our increasingly intertwined global community. Five actors play many characters whose lives are connected through a street-level Asian restaurant and the apartment building over it... which could be anywhere on the planet.

Magical and surreal things happen in The Golden Dragon. A tooth lands in a bowl of soup. Two airline stewardesses speak to boat people from 30,000 feet above the Atlantic. A boy travels thousands of miles home on the currents of a

river. An ant and a cricket wage a moral battle better left in Aesop's fable.

Water is the connector of people, in the community of Highland Park as well as the world of the play. Beloved little Lake Carnegie, murky waters and all, surrounded by the diverse crowd of the Park, is the perfect place to stage - and see - The Golden Dragon.

Playwright Roland Schimmelpfennig is the most-performed contemporary German dramatist in the world, famous for such works as *The Arabian Night* (produced by Quantum in 2003). Steering this ship is Artistic Director Karla Boos, with designers Susan Tsu, Tony Ferrieri, C. Todd Brown and Joe Pino supporting its floating world.



Each community to which Quantum travels is an integral part of the artistic vision and Quantum is committed to benefitting its host neighborhoods economically. Through a continuous effort called The Neighborhood Initiative, Quantum brings its thousands of patrons to Pittsburgh's East End neighborhoods and encourages them to support local eateries, shops, and businesses. Chef Kate Romane of E2 says, "E2 is so excited to have Quantum in the neighborhood for its next show. The shows they produce are always so memorable and I can't

wait to see how they use the lake in the park this August." E2 will prepare box lunches available for patrons who would like to picnic in the park before the show (call Quantum to order).



Highland Park Community Development Corporation's Ernie Hogan commented, "It's exciting to have an outstanding organization like Quantum Theatre choose Highland Park as its stage. We are sure their guests will be as excited as we are about our community." Quantum agrees, and will begin its run with a Community Night preview performance on August 2nd, in which Highland Park residents are invited to experience the show with their neighbors (starting with a pre-show reception at 6:30p.m.). A limited number of free tickets for Community Night will be distributed through the Union Project. Contact Carol Spencer-Royall (412-363-4550 ext.21) to reserve a Community Night ticket.

Can't make it to Community Night? A special discount is extended to Highland Park residents who are new to Quantum. Use the coupon code HP15206 when ordering your tickets to receive a \$5 discount.

Other special events include a post-show discussion on Sunday, August 5th; and Ladies Night on August 8, which is a women's-only viewing with a pre-show reception.

Where: Lake Carnegie

When: August 2 - 26

Tickets: \$35-\$48; Call 1-888-718-4253 or visit www.quantumtheatre.com



Learn more about the cast:

www.quantumtheatre.com/season/the-golden-dragon/



Curtis Jackson

Co-Founder and Member of Silent Theatre Company, Curtis has appeared in *Noir*, *A Charlie Chaplin Christmas* (Artist...



Gregory Johnstone

is proud to be in his second Quantum show. His first was *Richard II*. He was last seen on the cover of *City Paper's Best of...*



Catherine Moore

Regional theatre credits include: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Indiana Repertory Theatre, and *Human...*



Aidaa Peerzada

is a rising senior in the Carnegie Mellon school of Drama and awaits her BFA in acting in the spring of 2013. In 2009 Aidaa graduated...



Mark Conway Thompson

performed on Broadway, in Europe and in South America as an actor, dancer and mime before settling in Pittsburgh. He has a strong commitment...

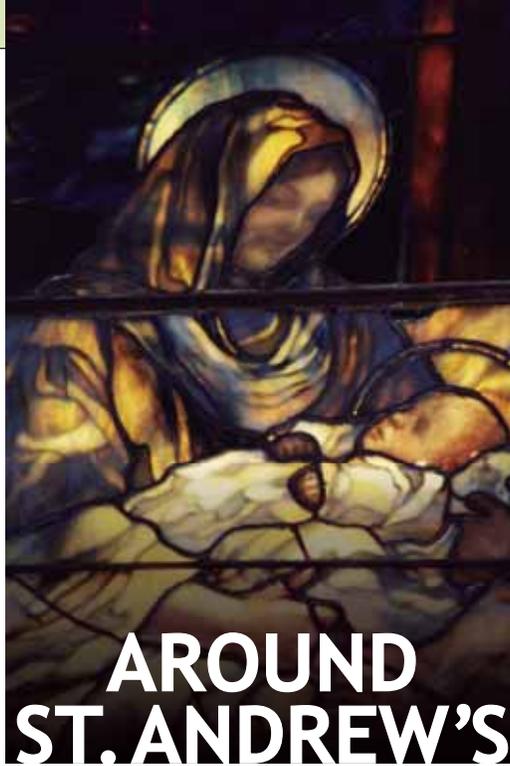


☺ ummertime in Highland Park!
Afternoons at the pool, Jazz
on Sunday afternoons...
what could be better?

Sunday services at St. Andrew's during July and August follow a summer schedule, with services at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. (The regular 9 a.m./11 a.m. schedule resumes on the first Sunday of September.) Cool refreshments and conversation follow each service, and we're all invited to continue to browse through the ongoing Summer Used Book Sale in Brooks Hall.

Great bargains, and proceeds support the St. Andrew's Lecture in the Fall.

☀ While our Choir is taking a bit of a summer break, the 10 a.m. services each Sunday will include the singing of service music and hymns and musical offerings by a variety of vocal soloists, choral ensembles, and instrumentalists. During July and August as well our children's programs are scheduled as a Children's Chapel during a portion of the later service hour.

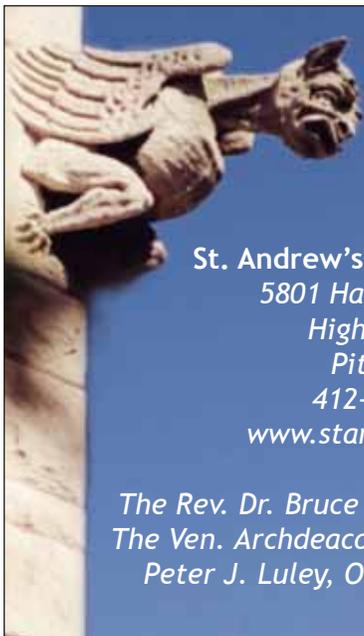


AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

By Bruce Robison, Rector

St. Andrew's with our Choir, Choristers, and Troubadours offering opportunities for learning and expression in sacred music for children, youth, and adults, and our highly regarded Children's "Godly Play" and "Tween" and Youth Group programs, our midweek services and adult Bible Studies, etc., will all resume our regular fall schedule on "Round Up Sunday," September 9, a day traditionally celebrated with a Parish Picnic in the Hampton Street Churchyard. All are invited!

St. Andrew's has been on the corner of Hampton Street and North Euclid Avenue, at the heart of the Highland Park neighborhood, for more than a century. If there is a pastoral need that we can help with - a baby to be baptized, a wedding to celebrate, a sick or shut-in friend or neighbor to be visited, a family to support at the time of a death - please feel free to be in touch. Or if you need to find some space for a meeting or family gathering, or to borrow a few chairs: we'll be glad to help if we can. Call us at 412 661-1245, check us out on the web: www.standrewspgh.org, and "Like" us on Facebook.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
5801 Hampton Street
Highland Park
Pittsburgh
412-661-1245
www.standrewspgh.org

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

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.

HPCC June Meeting Minutes



Eric Randall, HPCC President, called the meeting at order at 7:05 p.m. with quorum present.

Commander O'Connor from Zone 5 reminded us to keep doors and garages locked when you will not be within eye-shot of them to prevent theft. An arrest was made recently after a neighbor reported a motorcycle being stolen, and those individuals are suspected in other thefts in the area. The Commander reminded everyone to call 911 for emergencies and 311 for chronic issues, and all of those reports go into the system to be followed up on.

Nathan, from Councilman Patrick Dowd's office, invited everyone to the monthly public safety meetings, the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Union Project.

Paul Miller, Treasurer, reported that the Yard Sale showed a profit of \$1628.00 this year. The Bryant Street Festival came in under budget, due to fundraising and donations from businesses. Rob at the Bryant Street Market is planning a fundraiser over the Labor Day weekend, where a portion of the profits will go to the HPCC.

Monica Watt, Vice President, reported that she has begun discussions with officials about the parking issue around Bryant Street. Lake Carnegie has been overrun with algae and trash. The City has begun to look in to safe ways to deal with the algae.

Stevie and Karla from the Quantum Theater introduced themselves and spoke about the upcoming production at Lake Carnegie during the month of August. They are looking for community input and participation.

Teri Rucker, Childrens Committee, reported that there will be bike decorating and a parade around the fountain on July 4th from 10 a.m. to Noon.

Nancy Arnold reminded everyone to help with garden maintenance at the Highland Ave entrance to the Park on the third Wednesday of each month.

Nancy Shultz reported that she has been in contact with CTAC about changing the status of the HPCC to a 501(c)3.

Dave Atkinson reported on the first of the movies in the park, where over 125 folks were there. The first Monday of the month in July and August will be the next showings of movies in our park.

Elizabeth Style from the Mayor's Office presented information about the City's new "Block Watch in a Box" program. There are packets available to help organize block watches, which are a great way to keep in contact with your neighbors and report issues to authorities. Anyone interested in starting a block watch can contact Liz Style at elizabeth.style@pittsburghpa.gov or 412-255-4772.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is August 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., at St. Andrews Church, 5801 Hampton Street.



HPCC Officers

President

Eric Randall (412) 661-1176

Vice President

Monica Watt (412) 361-7902

Treasurer

Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Secretary

Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

HPCC Directors

Dave Atkinson

Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863

Al Mann (412) 661-5947

Nancy Levine-Arnold

Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533

Nancy Schultz

Glenn Schultz

Laura Smith

Sarah Trbovic

HPCC Committees

Beautification - Nancy Levine-Arnold

Children's Events - Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533

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 - Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863
public-safety@highlandparkpa.com

Reservoir of Jazz - Tania Grubbs

Super Playground - Monica Watt (412) 361-7902 &
Vernon Simmons (412) 661-1366

Yard Sale - Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Welcoming - Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

Zoning - Dell Ziegler (412) 363-0742

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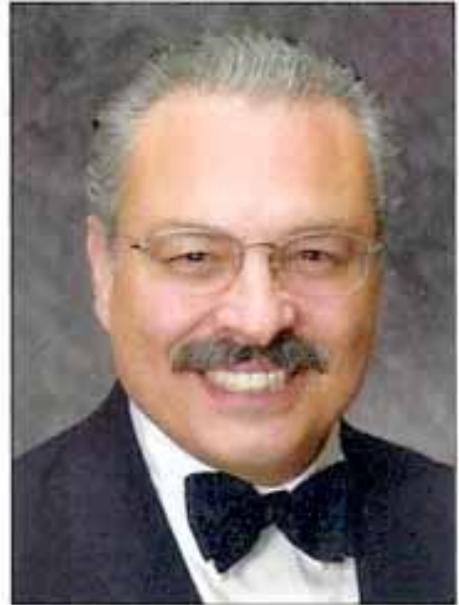
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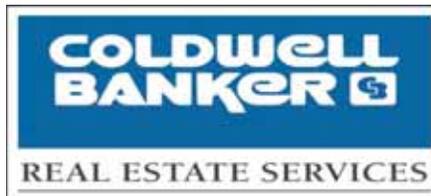


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