

July 2013

# Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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# Summertime

# and Jazz



# A Letter from the President

One of my closest friends recently got married and I did what any good gal pal would do - I volunteered as the unofficial assistant wedding planner; my ever-capable friend of course took the lead position for her own nuptials.

As head of an advertising production company, I have planned many events large and small, but this one hit a little closer to home. It was a destination wedding for a couple who had been engaged for 28 years - not your average circumstances.

The teamwork quickly revved into full gear as we grew nearer to the wedding. Number one, pick a location. As a destination wedding, it of course had to have a theme -

bow ties (for him) and high heels (for her).

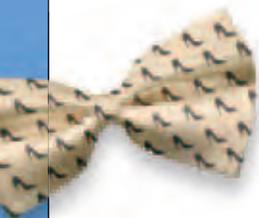
Design an invitation.

Find a dress (who knew two women on a mission could tackle all of the women's

floors in NYC's Saks Fifth Avenue in less than three hours - including trying on dress after dress, finding the perfect one and having it fitted.)

The old adage "*Hell hath no fury like a woman scorn*" comes to mind, but in this case it is "*Heaven hath no greater motivation than a woman in need of a wedding dress one month before her wedding.*"

I share all of this with you because when the wedding planning started, I was surprised to find how easy it was to create so many custom items for a wedding (or a special party) in this digital age. Ordering a custom item is not new, but what I found so surprising is the much lowered bar for the minimum number you had to order to have it make sense and the shorter timelines it takes to have it made. I thought my experience might be useful to some of you who have an event coming up or who want to order a custom gift for someone special.



Ordering custom stamps.

[Zazzle.com](http://Zazzle.com) was one of the first to offer custom printed stamps. Whether is it for a birthday party invite, a baby announcement or for a wedding invitation, the stamp on the envelope is the first thing people see when they receive your message in the mail. The online process is very simple. You can choose from their collection of images or upload a picture of your own, then order in sheets of 20 stamps each in the denomination you need. I suggest taking one of the invitations to your local post office and asking them to confirm the postage cost before ordering. We found "I DO" stamps on Zazzle that matched the invitation color perfectly.



Ordering custom gift bags. The British have an old war saying that has recently become popular in modern marketing - "*Keep Calm and Carry On.*" Imagine my delight when I found gift bags on [Zazzle.com](http://Zazzle.com) that said *Keep Calm and Marry John* - the groom's name! (You can actually customize the name when checking out if you happen to be marrying a David.)

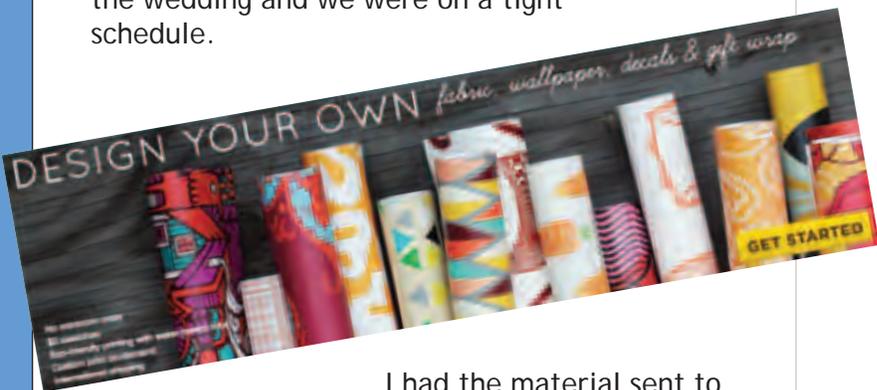
You can find many great custom gift ideas on this site. Check it out.

Ordering custom flip flops. With the gift bag chosen, we now needed to fill it beyond a wedding itinerary for the weekend. It was a beach destination so we chose custom flip flops for the ladies. [Cafepress.com](http://Cafepress.com) makes ordering custom flip flops a breeze. They layout is simple and straightforward and I can say from experience, that what you see is what you get design-wise. You have four flip flop colors to pick from and whatever image you upload is printed on the entire top of the shoe. When ordering, they show you



a template so you can set-up your file correctly and once you upload it to the site, it shows you exactly how it will be positioned on the shoes. Just so there are no surprises, the upper portion of the flip flops are rubber. The main image on the flip flop page shows a more upscale version, but we were not disappointed with the quality of the rubber upper version we received. Again, there are lots of different customizable gift options beyond flip flops on this site.

**Ordering custom bow ties.** Keeping in theme, we chose custom bow ties for the gentlemen. They were a little more challenging because I had to coordinate with two different online companies, but the end product was totally worth it. [Spoonflower.com](http://Spoonflower.com) has almost perfected the process for custom printed fabric. You simply upload the image you want to print, choose a pattern repeat style, pick a fabric (their cotton/silk blend is very nice for a tie) and you are on your way. I say "almost perfected" because I had some issues setting-up the file correctly for printing the 10 yards we needed for 35 bow ties and matching pocket scarves. (Your design may not be as complicated.) The other challenge is they do not have a phone number. All help inquiries are through email with a four-to-five hour initial delay. Once in contact though, they were very helpful and even checked the design when I uploaded it to make sure it was correct. They also expedited the order for no additional charge since it was three weeks from the wedding and we were on a tight schedule.



I had the material sent to me so I could make sure it was all that I had hoped for (it was) and then I sent it directly to [Beauties.com](http://Beauties.com) to be made into wedding gifts. I had spoken to them in advance so they were expecting the fabric and they immediately put the order into production when they received it. They are by far the most patient and helpful people on the planet. Jody in customer service

walked me through the process over the phone and gave me an education in tie making during the process. She even suggested embroidering the neckline of one of the ties (for the groom) with the wedding date, which I thought was a lovely touch.

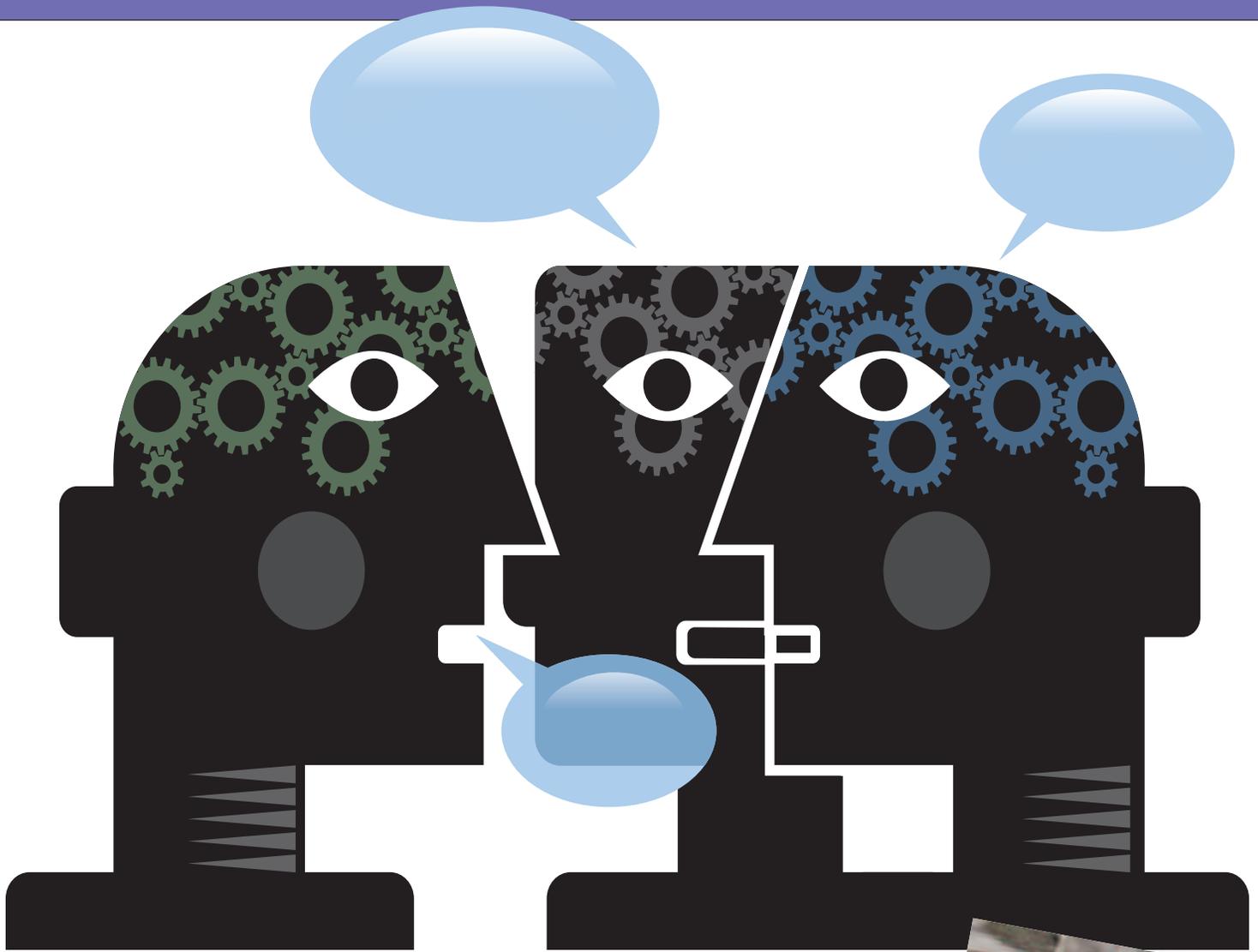
We used other sites for custom wedding paraphernalia, such as [Etsy.com](http://Etsy.com) (easily one of my favorite websites) for custom wedding date eyeglasses, lips and mustaches on sticks for the photo booth at the reception. They were a huge hit!



The wedding was fabulous and went off without a hitch. I hope my experience gives you a few ideas for your next party.

**Monica Watt**  
*HPCC President*





## HPCC June Meeting Minutes

Monica Watt, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm. The meeting was held at the Union Project due to the ongoing construction at St. Andrew's.

Monica gave a quick update on the Highland Park House Tour, which is tentatively planned for May 2014. Any homeowners who are interested in participating should contact her directly.

Davis Atkinson, HPCC Vice President and Education Committee Chair gave an update on the Fulton School Tour. Almost thirty parents attended the Fulton tour, and the event successfully introduced a diverse group of local parents to Principal Bivens and the school.

Jeffery Dorsey, Executive Director of UP, gave an update on the Union Project including some of their past challenges and current successful path. Meeting goers also got to see the new floor in the great hall first hand.



The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm. There is no July meeting so the next HPCC meeting is Thursday, August 15th at 7 pm. Due to the remodeling at St. Andrew's, the August meeting will also be held at Union Project.



Grab a blanket or chair and join us at the entrance to the Park for free concerts every Sunday evening in August. This years' performers include some of Pittsburgh's most renowned performers: Kenia, Jamie Moore, Flexure with Ben Opie and Michele Bensen. I have included a short bio on each artist below. Chose one or choose them all - either way you will be relaxing to jazz in a beautiful setting, just steps away from your front door.

## Sunday, August 4 - Kenia

Kenia Acioly's interest in music came early; she studied piano and learned to play the guitar by ear. Singing however, became her path to success in music world. Influenced by such Brazilian greats as the late Elis Regina, she also began listening to such North American artists as Sarah Vaughn, Carmen McRea and George Benson. And her choice of music to interpret came not from the bossa nova of the 1960s, but from the talents of the generation of composers that followed and put the Brazilian sound on the world map once again.

Arriving in the U.S. in 1980, Kenia quickly established herself as the new Brazilian singer on the scene and recorded her debut in the States with trumpeter Claudio Roditi on his album Red on Red. Several years later, she launched her solo recording career, producing four popular

and critically-acclaimed albums for the MCA and Denon labels between 1987 and 1991. She also established herself as one of the most popular and successful U.S. based Brazilian musicians since the heyday of Sergio Mendes and Brazil '66.

For the full bio go to [www.jazztimes.com/guides/artists/12410-kenia](http://www.jazztimes.com/guides/artists/12410-kenia)



## Sunday, August 11 - Jamie Moore

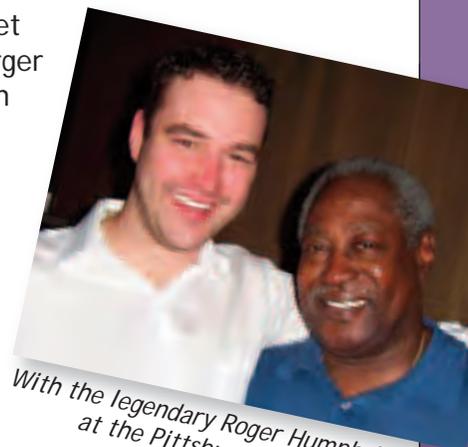
Moore is an active member of the Pittsburgh jazz community and is a member of the Roger Humphries quintet and The Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra. He is a frequent guest performer with Salsamba - Latin Jazz Group, Reggie Watkins A-List Ensemble, the Pittsburgh Jazz Legacy Band, the Murray Avenue Jazz Initiative, and the John Wilson Big Band. He has also worked with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra under the direction of David Baker. Additionally, he has performed with Wayne Bergeron, Jimmy Bruno, Toshiko Akyoshi, Sheryl Bailey, John Fedchock and Tim Warfield and the Lars Hall Jazz Orchestra.

Moore began his love affair with jazz at the age of 12. He attended West Virginia University (BM Jazz Studies, '03) and the University of the Arts in Philadelphia (MM Jazz Studies, '06). He is currently

pursuing a Ph.D in Jazz Studies at the University of Pittsburgh under the guidance of Dr. Nathan Davis where his areas of research have been jazz trumpet pedagogy and performance practice.

He has studied trumpet with Bonnie Miltenberger and jazz improvisation with Curtis Johnson, Paul Scea and Keith Jackson. While in Philadelphia he studied with jazz trumpeters John Swana and Tim Hagans.

For more information on Jamie go to [jamesmoorejazz.com](http://jamesmoorejazz.com).



With the legendary Roger Humphries at the Pittsburgh Jazz Society



## Sunday, August 18 - Flexure

*An excerpt from the January 2, 2013 article by Andy Mulkerin in the Pittsburgh City Paper...*

Ben Opie is a longtime figure in local music: The former CAPA music teacher and current instructor at Carnegie Mellon has had plenty of jazz groups over the years, from the Water Shed 5tet in the '90s to the contemporary Thoth Trio (with bassist Paul Thompson and drummer David Throckmorton) and OPEK (a larger ensemble that had its roots in playing Sun Ra compositions). Opie also played in '80s local legends Carsickness.

Flexure is one of his more recent developments: The group had its first show about a year ago. And it's a bit different from what Opie had been playing in recent years. He takes much of his inspiration from Bitches Brew-and-later Miles Davis.

"The groups I've had in recent years — Thoth Trio and OPEK and other similar things — are largely acoustic-based groups," Opie explains. "I first of all wanted to have something that I thought was more of an electric band. And I've definitely been digging into that Miles Davis repertoire from 1970 to about 1975, a very specific time in his career, and not wanting to copy that music, but kind of come from a similar approach. Sort of stripped-down compositions, and a lot of room for improvisation and group play."

To read the full article go to [www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/ben-opies-flexure-takes-up-residence-at-the-new-hazlett-at-least-for-a-few-days/Content?oid=1604649](http://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/ben-opies-flexure-takes-up-residence-at-the-new-hazlett-at-least-for-a-few-days/Content?oid=1604649)



*Flexure (Ben Opie, at right)  
Courtesy of Pittsburgh City Paper*

## Sunday, August 25 - Michele Bensen

*Bio courtesy of culturaldistric.org and jazznetworkworldwide.com...*

Born in Chicago and raised in Pittsburgh, Michele Bensen began singing professionally at age 16, performing in various Pittsburgh jazz nightclubs, theaters, hotels and restaurants. She studied trumpet for eight years in addition to taking lessons in dance, piano and musical comedy at the renowned Pittsburgh Playhouse. Michele has sung to audiences on the East coast including being the headline act on the Queen Elizabeth II and M/S Westward Cruise Liners. Bensen has been the opening act for Tony Bennett, the Four Freshmen, Lionel Hampton, Diane Schurr and Herbie Mann as well as being the headline act with her own band, "The Bensen Burners." More than 30 million children hear her as the voice of "Sara Bear" on the children's "Sticky Bear" software. Her radio voiceover work includes a national commercial for "A Drug Free America". Her recording of "At Last" featuring the Pittsburgh based Bensen Burner Band was recorded in Hilton Head Island, S.C.

She has been performing as a jazz vocalist in the Pittsburgh Area since 1967 and is viewed by many as one of the most powerful and evocative jazz singers in the area. Michele has won the "Walt Harper & All That Jazz" Award from Talk Magazine in 2009 and was inducted, that same year, into the Pittsburgh Jazz Hall of Fame.



For more information on Reservoir of Jazz go to [www.pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/reservoir-jazz](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/reservoir-jazz)

# EAST LIBERTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## to Host August Exhibition

*By Al Mann*

The East Liberty Valley Historical Society welcomes the community to an exhibition of historically-significant items at the Royal York Auction Gallery, 5925 Baum Blvd. Opening night will be Friday August 16, from 6 to 9 pm.

Many interesting items will be exhibited, including original portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lockhart. The current residents of the former Edward Bigelow mansion will lend portraits and relics. The Heinz History Center will provide original documents from the Negley and Winebiddle families, samples of artwork and stained glass windows made in the famous Rudy Brothers Studios, and a shovel used by Revolutionary War General St. Clair. Several antique cars will be on display. Suggested donation for admission is \$5 for adults.

The Society is still seeking the loan of additional articles to display from any historic period. Examples of such artifacts include artwork, first editions of books written by authors with ties to the East End, military items, clothing, items purchased in the East Liberty business district, documents, etc. Insurance and security will be provided.

The mission of the Society is "to encourage community esteem" and "to foster future growth and development through a broad understanding of our past." In 2008 the Society published Pittsburgh's East Liberty Valley, which contains narratives and photographs covering more than 250 years of East End history.

For more information, please contact Al Mann at (412) 661-5947 or [alfred.mann@verizon.net](mailto:alfred.mann@verizon.net).

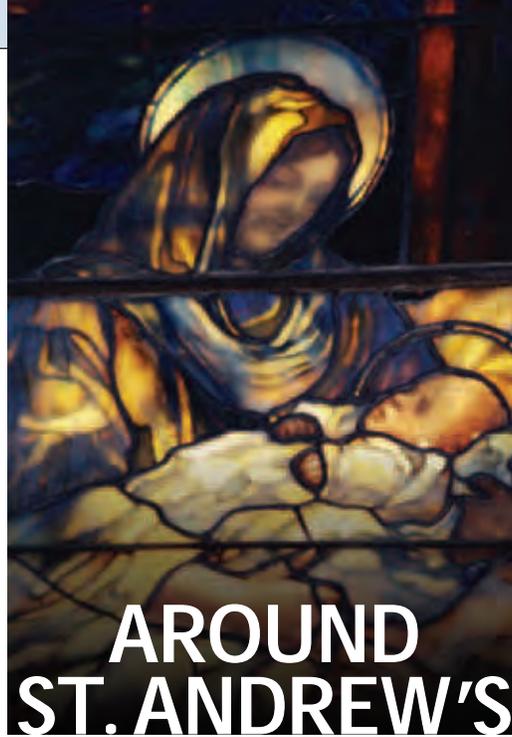


*While Charles Lockhart lived he was known to be among Pittsburgh's men of oil means; when he died it was found that he was probably among the wealthiest men of the Smoky City; but when the Allegheny County Board of Tax Revision looked over the estate it was discovered, to the surprise of all who had known the dead man, that the value of his estate hovered around \$200,000,000. – The New York Times*

Ah, temps in the 90's in Highland Park! Afternoons at the pool, jazz in the shade on Sunday afternoons, or just a nap on the lounge in the backyard – what could be better?

We're continuing through this Summer 2013 with a generational renovation of our lovely and historic St. Andrew's Church. The old and deteriorated flooring in the church is being replaced with red oak, and with quarry tile in the aisles; a new, attractive Parish Hall entry is being constructed with an elevator for three-floor accessibility and wheel chair-accessible restrooms; and the former St. Andrew's Nursery School in the lower floor of the Parish House is being renovated as a new community meeting space. Lots of short-term disruptions for us and for the many in the neighborhood who make such good use of Old St. Andrew's – but with the promise of great new possibilities now for years to come!

Because of renovations our summer worship schedule will offer one service of the Holy Communion each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For June, July, and probably some of August as well St. Andrew's is "on the road," with services taking place at the Hicks Family Memorial Chapel of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 616 N. Highland Avenue.



## AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

*By Bruce Robison, Rector*

It's been different, but fun, and we've enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of our PTS friends. Nursery Care continues to be available each Sunday, and a special Children's Chapel program will be offered as well during a portion of the 9:30 a.m. service on designated Sundays. Cool refreshments and conversation follow each service. And, of course, we're all looking forward to a wonderful return to "old St. Andrew's" for Sunday mornings later this summer.

In addition to Sunday services, the St. Andrew's parish family continues through the summer months with a rich (though perhaps somewhat more leisurely) schedule of social and educational activities for all ages.



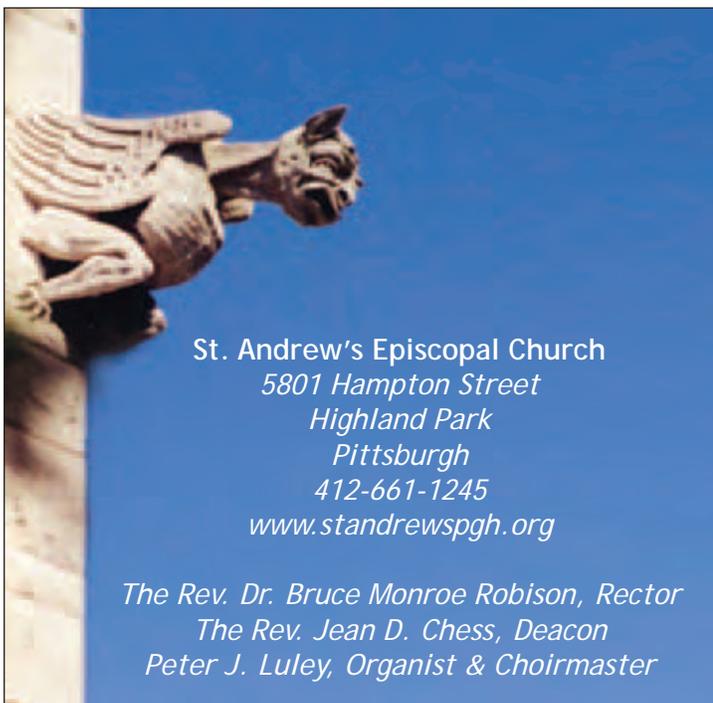
St. Andrew's with our Choir, Choristers, and Troubadours, all under the direction of our Organist and Choirmaster — and Highland Park neighbor — Peter Luley, offers opportunities for learning and expression and participation in choral worship in the rich Anglican sacred music for children, youth, and adults. Our highly regarded Children's "Godly Play" and "Tween" and Youth Group programs — under the direction of our Director of the Church School, Highland Park neighbor Liz Buchanan, and of our Coordinator of Youth Ministries, Highland Park neighbor Joan Soulliere — enrich the Christian life and formation of our families. And our midweek services and adult Bible Studies,

lectures, and special programs will all resume our regular fall schedule on "Round Up Sunday," September 8 — a day traditionally celebrated with a Parish Picnic in the Hampton Street Churchyard. Things are still going to be a jumble in the buildings, but it's the people that make it happen, and we're going to have a great fall. *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 (once the workers are finished this fall)

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 at [www.standrewspgh.org](http://www.standrewspgh.org), and "Like" us on Facebook (search for "St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Highland Park").



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
5801 Hampton Street  
Highland Park  
Pittsburgh  
412-661-1245  
[www.standrewspgh.org](http://www.standrewspgh.org)

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

### Sunday Morning Services

9 a.m. Holy Communion, in the Chapel  
11 a.m. Choral Holy Communion  
(Choral Morning Prayer on the  
2nd Sunday of the month)  
Nursery Care, 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Adult Bible Study, Church School and Youth  
Programs, Sunday Mornings, 9:45 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.

# FREE Home Energy Assessments

This summer the National Energy Leadership Corps (NELC) will be offering free home energy assessments to community members of Highland Park and the surrounding neighborhoods. The NELC is a collaboration between the Pennsylvania State University, University of Pittsburgh, and the Penn State Center based in downtown Pittsburgh. Together a team of students will be performing the home energy assessments with the goal of educating homeowners about energy loss and energy retrofits within the home.

Over the past several months, the student assessors completed coursework at Pitt designed to train them on how to identify home energy losses, recommend the

appropriate retrofits as a solution, and calculate cost savings for the homeowner. In addition to energy savings, the assessment also looks to improve health and safety of the homes.

If you have an interest in saving money on utility bills, improving health and safety within your home, or protecting the environment, then call or email to take the first step toward home energy savings.

Penn State Center:  
(412) 263-1754 - ask for  
Nicole or Chris or email  
[cmc5953@gmail.com](mailto:cmc5953@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.nelc.psu.edu](http://www.nelc.psu.edu)



## HPCC Officers

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Monica Watt (412) 980-4208

### Vice President

Dave Atkinson

### Treasurer

Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

### Secretary

Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

## HPCC Directors

Eric Randall

Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863

Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533

Nancy Schultz

Glen Schultz

Laura Smith

Vernon Simmons

Janine Seale

Christine Adams

## HPCC Committees

### Beautification -

Nancy Levine-Arnold

### Children's Events -

Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533

### Education - Dave Atkinson

### House Tour - OPEN

### Finance - Glen Schultz

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

membership@highlandparkpa.com

### Newsletter - Monica Watt (412) 980-4208

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 - Nancy Schultz

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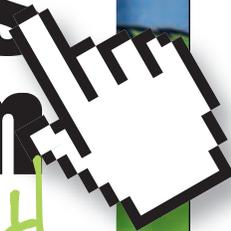
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