

PORT AUTHORITY: HIGHLAND PARK UPDATE

Lynda Conway, Port Authority Director of Operations Analysis

Port Authority is pleased to have the opportunity to improve our services in the Highland Park area. Since the January 21 community meeting, staff has worked diligently to address the community's concerns. Internal meetings have been conducted to develop a comprehensive approach to resolve the issues; however, in the interim, the following has been implemented:

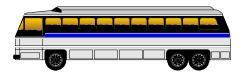
- Port Authority issued "Slow Orders" for routes operating in the Highland Park area. The orders re-affirm the bus operators responsibilities to adhere to posted speed limits and traffic regulations.
- Port Authority has increased efforts to have operators comply with "Shut Off Engines" policies.
- Checks are being conducted by Road Operations and other supervisory personnel to enforce the shut off engine policies, speed and traffic sign compliance issues.
- Port Authority is working directly with Councilman Ferlo's office to find a permanent solution to the bus layover situation.
- An analysis of the route structure and ridership shows excellent coverage within the community and multiple rider options. An estimated 3000

riders a day come directly from the Highland Park area. Rerouting buses may decrease ridership and limit service.

- At the request of the community, Port Authority has instituted an outbound bus stop for the Route 500 on N. Highland Avenue at Penn Circle North.
- Our new fleet of low floor buses will have an automatic engine shut-off feature.

In addition to the above, we will directly follow-up with all complaints. The more detailed information we receive about a complaint will enable us to improve our success rate in resolving the issue. At a minimum, we need the location, date, approximate time, bus number and issue.

Port Authority is committed to improving our services to the community and we will continue our efforts to satisfactorily resolve the issues.



Highland Park is East End's #1 Real Estate Value

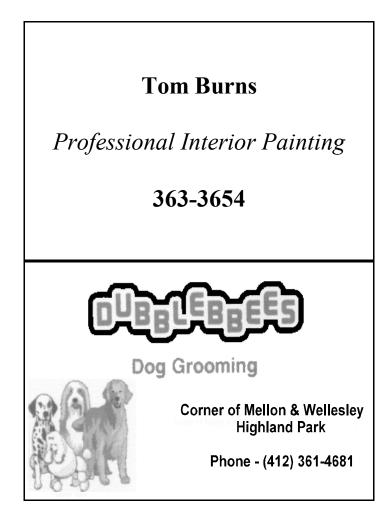
Tom Dickson, President of the Highland Park Community Development Corporation

As reported in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, for the second consecutive reporting period the median sales price of Highland Park homes rose significantly more than other prominent east end neighborhoods. This means that the value of Highland Park homes increased, as measured in percentage gain, more than homes in Shadyside, Oakland and Squirrel Hill. In fact, the average increase in median sales prices for Highland Park homes of 20% compares with no increase in Shadyside values over the same period.

As someone that works closely with investment professionals, I have always made the analogy that Highland Park real estate is like an undervalued stock. The statistics noted above quantify this belief, something most of us have intuitively felt for years.

Please use these statistics, along with the other, selling points when promoting Highland Park. I would be happy to provide copies of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. My phone number is 661-0879 and email is perform@pgh.net.

Source: The data was provided by RealSTATS.



H. P. C. C. Officers, Directors & Committees

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Committees Beautification: Dell Ziegler 363-1252 Block Watch: John Reinsel 361-7973 Children: Tania Grubbs 661-4054 Commercial District: Muzz Meyers 661-2315

Day Camp: Janice Burgett 361-2195 Education: Jay Gilmer 363-9100 Hospitality: Kelly Dougherty 362-9517 House Tour: Norma Lipscomb 362-6562 Membership: Kelly Meade 362-0331 Newsletter Ollie Rieley 661-1205 Program: Bruce Robison 361-4892 Public Safety: John Di Pucci 361-1023 Recreation: Charlie Peterson 441-2766 Reservoir Covers: Dave Hance 361-4935 Restoration: Debbie DeAngelis 363-4948 Super Playground: Steve Pettler 363-3978 Yard Sale: Judy Wolfe 441-7830 Voice Mail: Paula Flaherty 361-2203 Welcomina: Bob Staresinic 441-8972 Zoning: Barbara Howe 363-4699

Voice Mail 734-5261 C.O.P. 665-3644 - Pager 690-6008

Highlights of February 18, 1999 Meetlng

Paula Flaherty

Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M.

President's report:

Mitch provided a followup to last month's discussion with Lynda Conway, Director of Operations Analysis from Port Authority Transit and her collegues. She is looking into continuing problems of bus layovers, etc. She has reported that changing the routes would be too difficult. She encourages anyone with any problems, such as buses not pulling to the curb, etc., to contact her. Her direct phone number is 237-7225. *(Editor's Note: See front page article.)*

The coffee shop is official and should be open by May. All legal actions have been dismissed. Amy Enrico thanks the community for the continuous support.

Committee Reports:

Beautification: Del Ziegler needs some people to adopt gardens. Due to people moving there are several available. Please contact him if you have a green thumb.

Highland Park Business District Committee (Formerly Bryant St): Muzz Meyers reports that an exciting project is underway to renovate the Peppi's building complex, with the combined efforts of the committee, the URA, the Community Development Corp, Councilman Jim Ferlo's office, and Jim Trebac, the building owner. Also reported: plans for the Marathon are underway and a 24 hour (outdoor) MAC machine will be installed. Thanks to National City Bank! Cafe Bacci has been approved to feature live music to complement dining. A motion carried favoring a free coupon to the featured monthly business in the newsletter.

Safety: Officer Scalise reports she is focusing on abandoned cars (those with expired license plates, undrivable, on blocks, etc.) She will issue a warning then report them to the tow pound. The driver has an allotted number of days to remove the vehicle before it is then impounded. A club member made a complaint about the slow response time to her burglar alarm. Officer Scalise explained that the calls are prioritized and perhaps that alarm occured during response to a higher priority call; generally the response time is considered good. The Community Oriented Police (C.O. P.) station phone number is 665-3644. She tries to be there from 3:30 to 5:30, Monday through Friday; at other times messages can be left on the answering machine. Officer Scalise's pager number is 690-6008. Her normal shift is 3-11. She encourages you to contact her about ANYTHING but she emphasized that emergency calls should be placed to 911. She reminded the club members that we are the eyes and ears of the community and can be very helpful to her. She can also provide silent complaint forms to maintain anonymity. The issue of panhandling at the A Plus Mini Mart across from Peabody was raised. This will be looked into.

Education: A question was raised regarding the annual donation to Fulton School which began a few years ago. The donation was not made last year and a motion was made to get back on track and also

consider a donation to Dillworth School as well. The finance committee will meet and the issue will be revisited at the next meeting.

House Tour: Looking for houses, and goods and services for the silent auction. Please contact Norma Lipscomb. The date is June 13.

Treasurers: Some funds have been moved from savings to a CD for a better rate.

Newsletter: Diane DeNardo will send a notice to all former members who did not rejoin in response to last summer's membership drive and the several notices in the Newsletter.

Program Committee: The March meeting will feature Bill Woodward from Peabody High School speaking on the new Information Technologies Academy program which is sponsored by Microsoft, among others. This program is open to any student but does give preference to Highland Park students. The April meeting will feature Bob O'Keefe, the principal from Dillworth Academy.

Welcoming: Maureen Emerling has resigned and Bob Starsenic is now the chair. Please advise Bob if there's a house on your street that's been sold.

Children's Committee: Tonya Grubbs will be taking over the children's committee.

Meeting adjourned at about 9:15 P.M..

Opportunity at Eastminster Church

Kenneth A. Ironside

Eastminster Presbyterian Church will begin *The Alpha Course* on April 12, at 6:00 p.m., at the church building at 250 North Highland Ave.

This ten-week practical introduction to the Christian faith offers answers to some key questions. Each weekly session begins with an informal dinner, followed by a large group learning time, and ends with small group discussion and interaction. Alpha began in London and is now held in thousands of churches around the world. Join the thousands who have found answers to their questions about life and God and how they relate.

To learn more about the course, call 361-7788. This number can also be used to make reservations for the dinner meetings. Meetings will be held on Monday evenings, and there is no charge.

St. Andrew's Church

5801 Hampton Street * Highland Park

Sunday Morning Services - March

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel 11:00 a.m. Choral Morning Worship Nursery and Church School at 11:00 a.m.Wednesday Morning Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

Visit our Homepage: www.hows.net/15206saec

Community Portrait: Bruce Robison

Diane DeNardo

Bruce and Susy Robison moved to Highland Park with their family in 1994 from Bloomsburg, PA. Bruce had accepted the position of Rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Hampton Street. Although they didn't know much about Highland Park before moving here, in researching the position, Bruce spoke to members of the congregation who had very positive things to say about the neighborhood.

As Rector of St. Andrew's, Bruce oversees a wide array of volunteer activities. On Thursday afternoons, volunteers from both St. Andrew's and the neighborhood conduct tutoring as part of an East End Cooperative Ministry program. The students come from Highland Park, Morningside, East Liberty and other neighborhoods all over the East End. As part of another tutoring program, tutors from Fulton Academy walk students over to St. Andrew's during school hours to use the quiet parish hall for educational enrichment.

Bruce prefers that St. Andrew's "partner" with other agencies and organizations. He and his congregation provide physical space or resources, lend volunteer support and, in some cases, financial support. They are active members of the EECM and serve both the East Liberty Samaritan shelter and the food pantry located at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. Members of the parish also participate in Meals on Wheels. Bruce notes that St. Andrew's congregation is from a mixed geographic area. While the core is from Highland Park and the East End, many come from Pittsburgh's suburbs to worship at St. Andrew's.

The church has also served Highland Park families for over 30 years through St. Andrew's Nursery School, a non-denominational facility, which is located in the church's lower level. Bruce reflects that when he came to St. Andrew's, the church was already involved in volunteerism. His goal was to expand upon that tradition and to open up the church to more neighborhood involvement and interaction.

The Robison's became members of the HPCC in 1994 shortly after moving to the neighborhood and Bruce's volunteer activities began immediately. In 1996 he was elected to the Board of Directors and began co-chairing the Program Committee. When Janet Wilson moved away, Bruce became Program chair and is responsible for scheduling speakers as part of the organization's monthly meetings, which, incidentally are held in St. Andrew's Brooks Hall, as are many committee meetings. He is an important member of the Membership Committee as we attempt to make the HPCC a more inclusive organization representative of the neighborhood's population.

At HPCC meetings, where discussions have been known to become heated, Bruce provides a *voice of reason*. After everyone has spoken, he challenges us to widen our personal perspective, to step back and reflect on what is being said, to actually hear what our neighbor has said, and in some cases, to remove the blinders that we don't even know are blurring our vision. And, that's why I most appreciate Bruce's participation in our neighborhood organization--he encourages everyone's voice to be heard and respected.

As a proponent of historic preservation, I am grateful that St. Andrew's chose Bruce as its rector for yet another reason. In doing so they selected a person who values the historical and architectural significance of St. Andrew's which was built in 1906. Maintaining a historic religious property is a never ending series of fund-raising drives and projects. The congregation is about to begin a \$35,000 capital fund drive to repair the stress and damage to the 12 stained glass *Apostle Windows* that grace the east and west aisles of the church.

Fortunately for the neighborhood, these projects are done thoughtfully and not in a *patch-up* or *board-over* style that requires less time and money. Bruce's stewardship of the church will leave it in a condition that allows future generations to experience the beauty of the building. As he explains, "the history of the church is a reflection of Highland Park's history and the changes the neighborhood was seeing around the turn of the century as larger rnansions were torn down and smaller residences were being built. Neighborhoods like East Liberty and Shadyside have many religious properties that reflect their history, we have but two."

The architectural beauty of the church and its physical setting are shared with the neighborhood through a variety of musical concerts and holiday events that are open to all (see the newsletter for a monthly listing.) The church is open during the HPCC's Spring House Tours and the HPCDC's Holiday House Tours so that visitors from outside the neighborhood can experience the church as well.

In the short five years since they moved into the Rector's residency at St. Andrew's, Bruce, a native of California, and Susy, a native of Massachusetts, have made a tremendous contribution to Highland Park. Their son, Daniel is a sophomore at Peabody High School and their daughter Linnea attends Sterret Classical Academy, a Pittsburgh public middle school. As part of the Rotary, Bruce is involved in the Peabody High School Interact Program and this year became involved in the school's Junior Achievement program. So what does someone with a full-time job, a family and a full agenda of volunteer activities do with his spare time? I was amazed, but not surprised, to learn that Bruce is finishing his doctorate at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on Highland Avenue. Thank you Bruce for all of your volunteerism and all of the volunteer opportunities you have organized on behalf of Highland Park residents of all ages.

Zoo Superintendent Disappears!

Centennial History Book Sponsored by Mellon Bank Reveals the Details

A recent Pittsburgh Zoo report disclosed that one of its superintendents disappeared and has yet to be found. In fact, he's been missing for 72 years. According to Zoo sources, Harry Cook, who began working as superintendent at the Zoo after spending years in the animal trade and training business and traveling throughout the world on collecting missions and with various circuses, disappeared after leaving work on July 1, 1926. Despite three weeks of intense search and inquiry by city council at the time, he has never been seen nor heard from again.

This is one of a myriad of intriguing facts revealed about the Pittsburgh Zoo in its recently published, limited edition pictorial history book entitled "*The Pittsburgh Zoo: A 100-Year History*." It is underwritten by Mellon Bank and is now available for purchase. Written by Pittsburgh native and local historian Rachel Colker, the book portrays the Zoo's development over 100 years from its beginnings as a Christmas gift to the city of Pittsburgh by Christopher Lyman Magee, to its evolving role as a resource in the study and conservation of many animal species throughout the world.

While the 200-photo, 128-page history book records the Zoo's fascinating change of leadership, presence and purpose in the city of Pittsburgh juxtaposed with unique times in history like the Great Depression and world wars, it also logs unique facts and happenings that accumulate over the span of 100 years.

Zoo history book trivia:

The chief architect for the original Mother Goose-themed Children's Zoo employed his eight year-old son as a consultant. The child's insistence on a "squishy tongue" entrance to the whale exhibit made it the must popular Children's Zoo attraction.

A team of trained husky dogs once hauled food throughout the Zoo by sleigh or wagon.

In 1988, a Japanese macaque escaped from the Zoo, crossed the Allegheny River, and traveled for six months through parts of West Virginia and Ohio before being retrieved.

"The Pittsburgh Zoo: A 100-Year History" is available at several locations in the area. Call the Zoo at 412/365-2542 for more information. Proceeds will help fund construction of the new aquarium scheduled to open in 2000.

HPCC Newsletter

C.O.P. --- Community Oriented Police

Our current C.O.P. is Officer Christine G. Scalise, her office is tucked in between Walnut Market and Peppi's. Officer Scalise's shift runs from 3:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. She tries to be in the office from about 3:30 to about 5:30 every day. Most of the rest of her shift, she is out in the neighborhood. The office phone is 665-3644, if she's not there, leave a message on the answering machine. Her pager number is 690-6008. She is glad to talk over any problems or concerns we may have, however, she emphasizes that **any EMERGENCY call should go to 911**. Her phone numbers have been added to the Newsletter masthead.

Coffee Shop Update

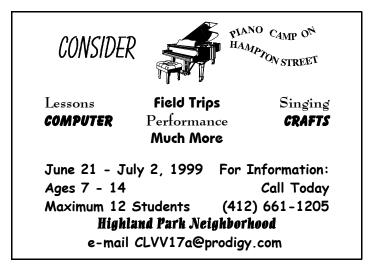
It has been reported that the appeal of the zoning Board of Adjustment ruling on the Coffee Shop in the old Marcus Pharmacy location has been rejected and there are no more appeals left. In the meantime the sale of the building to Ms Enrico closed so there do not appear to be any more hurdles to refurbishing the building and then opening the Coffee Shop. Congratulations, Amy, we can hardly wait to start sipping the coffee.

Missing Newsletters?

If you failed to get last month's and this month's Newsletters in the mail, perhaps you forgot to renew your membership when the renewal cards were distributed with last July's newsletter. If you don't have a card but want to renew, call Membership Chair Kelly Meade at 362-0331 for another card. She'll be glad to send you one!

Hey!!!

Don't you folks know a bargain when you see it. I'm referring to the discount pizza coupon published in last month's Newsletter. In conjunction with the article discussing PM Pizza there was a coupon which would get the bearer a large plain pizza for \$5.50. I thought that was a great deal and used mine, but as of February



MARCH, 1999

22 only four coupons had been used. Hmmm!

Peabody High School -Information Technology Academy

Based on information provided by Bill Woodward

The Parent School Community Council of Peabody High School (with the support of myriad people and groups within and outside the Pittsburgh Public School(PPS) system) has developed a plan to implement a new Information Technology (IT) Academy. This is a unique and innovative strategy to improve student achievement by providing the opportunity to obtain vendor certifications by meeting specific academic and industry goals and hence, improve opportunities for realistic employment. The intent is also to increase the student population of Peabody as a direct result of the IT Academy and the promise of enhanced employment and educational opportunities. The Pittsburgh School Board has unanimously given its approval for Peabody to proceed toward implementation of its new Information Technology (IT) Academy.

The IT offerings would be based upon the curriculum of product offerings of three successful technology corporations: Microsoft, Cisco, and A+. Students in these classes would learn application programs (Microsoft) as well as the "nuts and bolts" of computer and networking hardware (Cisco and A+). They could then take the standard certification examinations to earn competency documentation for individual applications or for entire programs that would demonstrate career skills attainment valued by industry. For students as prospective employees, the status of a certified professional translates into improved job and career opportunities in today's explosive high-tech marketplace.

Microsoft and Cisco have entered into technology partnership agreements with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In exchange for the state agreeing to standardize desktop software applications with Microsoft products, and networking systems to utilize Cisco products, these corporations have agreed io provide significant resources to educational institutions to help Pennsylvania residents become better prepared for the information technology marketplace. Peabody High School would be the first PPS School to concentrate on these high-tech partnerships to directly assist students.

Microsoft has agreed to provide free resources (training courses and software licenses) to allow the Pittsburgh School District to offer instruction in Microsoft Office User Systems (MOUS) and Windows NT, leading students to register for the Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) exams. Two district teachers have started taking classes in selected Microsoft application courses. This is in preparation for offering Microsoft (MOUS) application courses (WORD, EXCEL, ACCESS, POWER POINT, FRONT PAGE) within our Business Department curriculum beginning September 1999. The vision of the IT Program is to have at least three certified teachers providing instruction to over 300 students in grades 9-12. This will lead students to job and to internship opportunities even before graduation, utilizing their MOUS and Windows NT education. Cisco is recognized as the global leader in networking architecture and is the vendor of choice of PPS. Cisco has partnered with Communities in Schools to bring technological programming to urban areas as part of the national campaign of the America's Promise program. Communities in Schools has identified Peabody as an urban school deserving consideration as a site for Cisco's Regional Network Academy. Cisco has contractually offered to provide staff training and equipment resources to PPS and to Peabody High School to start a Regional/Local Networking Academy. Two PPS electronics teachers would undergo extensive training over a two-year period in order to become qualified to teach to Cisco's certification standards. Seventy-five to 125 students could ultimately be enrolled in this program after meeting Cisco's admission eligibility requirements. Students that passed that Certification would then be able to find employment right out of high school. Today's business market is paying over \$30,000 annually for those holding these Cisco certifications.

To succeed in the Information Technology work force, students need to become knowledgeable about how the computer equipment itself operates. A one period class in how computer hardware (monitors, printers, disk drives, etc.) functions and how to install, maintain, troubleshoot, and repair computer equipment will be provided through the curriculum provided by A+ Corporation. An electronics teacher would also teach this course. This course would be open to all students within Peabody, serving up to 50 students per semester.

The inclusion of Careerware within this course is significant. Students will become involved in their first year of high school with career exploration, interest surveys, and understanding emerging occupation growth trends leading to tentative decisions on a career cluster choice. Student created documents will be filed with their permanent counseling records outlining their scheduling needs during their remaining education time at Peabody. As a student progresses through Peabody, each student's disk can be updated to reflect academic performance, new resume information, assessment scores, and portfolio documents. Careerware will be loaded onto all Peabody classroom computers and onto the computers in the computer lab(s). This represents a management commitment from the PPS administration to this special emphasis program.

The Pittsburgh School Board has charged the district's administration with the task of academically rebuilding Peabody High School. The Information Technology Academy represents input from parents, educators, business, state and regional government, and community into what is needed within the district but especially at Peabody High School. Parents want to send their children to schools that can help best prepare for their future. Peabody High School wants to become not the last choice of students and parents within our feeder pattern, but the first choice.

(Editor's Note: Bill Woodward will present a program on this subject at the March HPCC meeting)

MARCH, 1999

Highland Park Resident Debuts with Pittsburgh Opera

Betty Rieley

Guenko Guechev makes his American opera debut in the role of Monterone in the Pittsburgh Opera production of Verdi's Rigoletto on March 13th. Guenko is a bass-baritone with extensive opera experience in his native Bulgaria, where he sang in the Stara-Zagora and Sofia opera companies. He also has sung with other European companies. Guenko and his wife, XuiRu Lui, a mezzo soprano, live on Beatty Street near Jackson. Congratulations, Guenko!

Seminary Happenings

Events at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary during March:

The Annual Schaff Lectures are being presented by Anne Streaty Wimberly and Edward P. Wimberly on March 16 and 17. The title of the lectures is: "Spirituality and Story: Learning and Growing through Narratives.

"Schubert in B Flat" will feature Pittsburgh Sdymphony Orchestra musicians Patrica Prattis Jennings, piano, Louis Lev, Violin, and David Premo, Cello in an all Schubert program. This concert, in the Seminary's inaugural concert season will occur March 20 at 3:00 P.M.

Call the Seminary at 362-5610 for more information on either

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Around St. Andrew's . . .

Bruce Robison

Folks with an interest in early music will enjoy the recital following this month's "First Thursday" Evensong, March 4th at 8 p.m., when the well-known ensemble "Millennium" will join us in recital. There's a donation basket by the door, but otherwise the service and program are entirely free and open to the public, and a most enjoyable reception will follow in Brooks Hall, hosted by the St. Andrew's Music Guild.

Other events at St. Andrew's in March will include an Adult Education series, entitled "Christ and Culture," to ask how people of faith understand and approach issues of the wider society in which we live. David Stangebye Houk, who is Seminarian Intern at St. Andrew's this year, will be leading the discussions--which will take place at various times on Sunday mornings and midweek. Please call the church office for details.

On the dining front, St. Andrew's Church School will sponsor a St. Patrick's Day (anticipated) Soup Luncheon on Sunday, March 14, beginning just after 12 noon, and our Middle School Youth Group will be cooking and serving a NEIGHBORHOOD SPAGHETTI DINNER as a fundraiser on Saturday evening, March 20th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Feel free to drop by for good food and conversation!

On the calendar as well, on Wednesday evening, March 10, 7:30 p.m., there will be the regular monthly gathering, "Interest in Writing," which is a "workshop/conversation" group for poets, novelists, journalists, letter-writers, dramatists, textbook editors, and any and all who dabble in the literary arts. All are welcome--just bring a sample to share with the rest.

Services at St. Andrew's during the Lenten Season are scheduled at 9 a.m. (in the Chapel) and 11 a.m. (Choral Services) on Sunday mornings, and at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. Programs for children and youth (from Nursery through High School) are available on Sunday mornings as well. Youth of Middle School age are also beginning preparation for confirmation later this spring.

For more information about worship and activities at St. Andrew's, please call the Church Office, 661-1245. We're always glad to hear from you!



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HIGHLAND PARK Community Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 5036 Pittsburgh, PA 15206

TIME VALUE

Voicemail: 734-5261

The Next HPCC meeting is 7:15 p.m., Thursday, March 18th at St. Andrew's

March HPCC Calendar	
MARCH 13	GUENKO'S DEBUT WITH THE PITTSBURGH OPERA - ADMISSION
MARCH 16 AND 17	SCHAFF LECTURES AT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, 11:15 A.M. AND 7:30 P.M. ON 16^{TH} , 9:35 AND 11:15 A.M. ON 17TH
MARCH 17	ST. PATRICK'S DAY - ITS OK TO WEAR GREEN!
MARCH 18	HPCC MEETING AT ST. ANDREW'S, 7:15 P.M.
MARCH 20	SCHUBERT IN B FLAT, CONCERT AT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, 3:00 P.M ADMISSION
MARCH 20	NEIGHBORHOOD SPAGHETTI DINNER AT ST. ANDREW'S, 5:30 P.M "FUNDRAISER" FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH