

## Smithfield United Church of Christ

620 Smithfield Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Phone: 412-281-1811  
Fax: 412-434-0155

http://www.smithfieldchurch.org  
Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Worship: 12:10 p.m.  
Office Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., M-F

### Senior Minister

J. Douglas Patterson

### Associate Minister

Susan Cherian

### Director of Christian Education

Hannah Judy

### Congregation President

Regina Sewall

### Business Administrator

Rena Thomas

### Music Director

Jim Varner

### Secretary

Sean O'Donnell

### Nursery Supervisor

Megan Carman

### Custodian

Arthur Salvatore

## Pittsburgh

A Poem by Lois K. Emanuel



A spot *someplace special* is Pittsburgh this time of year/As signs of its renaissance ever appear/We think of the things that have brought us our fame/Let's mention a few that have won us a name/If beauty we're seeking, we look to our hills/We've coal, iron and steel in our mills/Though schools, buildings, churches are places of show/Industrial works bring our living we know/Our finest of products are known through the land/For glass, paints, aluminum, pickles we stand/Of our native sons all the world knows a few/Carnegie and Mellon to name one or two/In Oakland the Medical Center is found/Where museums, library, concerts abound/The Pirates, Pens, Steelers, Pitt, Tech and Duquesne/And all other sports teams high honors attain/We've rare flower shows out at Schenley it's true/At Highland the kiddies all flock to the zoo/While riding and swimming and all sorts of larks/We know can be had at our north and south parks/We're proud of the Gateway, Heinz Hall, Mellon Square/Arena and stadiums past all compare/Our inclines and tunnels have added their bit/To make our fair city for tourists a hit/The first movie house in the world earned us fame/The pioneer station of air we can claim/In hist'ry the block house is known far and near/For old Fort Duquesne was at last captured here/Go south, Station Square and the Fleet may be found/Go north, there the birds and the stars will abound/Regatta, Wind Symphony, both play part/The Benedum, races, exhibits of art/In bridges we're really the very last word/Of three mighty rivers we're sure that you've heard/They form at the point a triangle of gold/And future of triumph we know is foretold.

\*\*\*\*\*

Lois K. Emanuel was a member of Smithfield United Church of Christ. She passed away on November 28, 2003. A special thank you to Dee Fickley for submitting the poem.



Smithfield United Church of Christ  
620 Smithfield Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Permit No. 531



# The Spire

Smithfield United Church of Christ

October 2011

## In Spired

A monthly column by J. Douglas Patterson, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

A movie was released in 2000 titled *The Perfect Storm*. It starred George Clooney and was derived from a book by the same name (better, in my opinion, than the film). Based on a true story, it portrayed the convergence of colliding weather fronts which formed the "perfect" storm, a storm of such magnitude that it ultimately took the lives of several New England swordfishermen aboard the ill-fated Andrea Gail.

An interesting subplot centered on the *Mistral*, a small yacht caught in the same seas. During the height of the storm an argument developed between the captain and one of the passengers over whether or not a Mayday message should be sent. As the encounter came to a head the captain shouted, "This is my boat!" To which the female passenger angrily replied, "This is my life!"

Many in the Christian community have been raised with the notion that thinking about oneself is arrogant, prideful and, indeed, sinful. I know a woman who claims to live with JOY (Jesus – Others – Yourself), in that order. I do not dispute the fact that we should always be conscious of Christ's presence or that we should be mindful of the needs of others. Indeed, sacrificial living for the common good is a faithful response to the miseries of the world.

But routinely placing individual needs, feelings, and wants on the backburner invariably leads to the resentment of those for whom you presumably care. Even worse it causes the loss of true identity, the person God created, along with the accompanying talents, gifts and skills. If you've ever mumbled "who am I?" to yourself then you know exactly what I'm talking about. This is not humble living. Nor is it godly.

Many great words and phrases have been claimed, and I would say abused, by certain segments of the Christian family. So much so that to even utter them elicits feelings of distrust and negativity. One of those is "born again." To be born again does not mean, as popularly assumed, that one has officially become a member of a certain political party or is aligned with a particular theological persuasion. I rail against these notions. Being born again means that we have reclaimed our God-given identities and that we have learned the satisfaction of using our natural talents, as opposed to living with the stress of acting out the parts we think others want us to play. Being true to, not denying, oneself is the true humility.

Thank God I'm born again! This is my life!

Sincerely,

J. Douglas Patterson

### In This Edition

The Match Game: People & Pets	2
Tour Smithfield Church	2
From the President's Pen	2
Neighbors in Need	3
New Church Directory	3
Been Around the World	3
Minute by Minute	3
Attendance & Income Report	3
News From Our Church Family	4
Birthday Bags	4
New Director of Christian Education	4
Smithfield School Needs You!	4
Calendar	5
Pittsburgh: A Poem	6

### After Worship Lunch Returns!

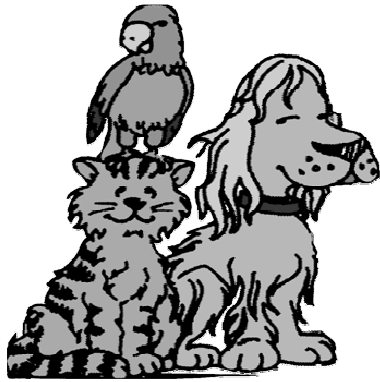


After a summer hiatus, the after-worship lunch program will resume on **Sunday, October 2nd**. The program will be on a rotating schedule, serving a full lunch

with dessert on the first and third Sundays of the month and a dessert-only menu on the second and fourth Sundays. All the meals will be homemade and a vegetarian equivalent will always be offered in addition to the regular meal. The menu for the inaugural meal on October 2 will include chili, vegetarian chili, tossed salad and corn bread. If you would like to bring a homemade dessert, please sign-up in the social hall. All are welcome!

*The Spire* is published monthly by Smithfield United Church of Christ and welcomes contributions from members and friends! If you have a news item, committee report, letter or photo to share, please drop it off in the church office or e-mail it no later than October 15: smithfield@verizon.net

### The Match Game: People and Pets Edition



You know your fellow parishioners, but do you know their pets? Bring in a 4 x 6 picture of you as well as an additional separate 4 x 6 picture of your pet and take part in a fun match game event! We will create a bulletin board from the submissions with one side being the pets and the other side being the people. Please label the photos with the names of the people and the animal, as well as any fun facts you'd like to share (age of pet, cute pet tricks, training, type of animal, adoption location, etc). The results will be revealed in a potluck meal in October/November. Date TBA. You can drop off the pictures at the church office or at the hospitality table. Make sure your last name is on the back of both pictures so we can return them!

### Boiler Room to Belfry: A Tour of SUCC

Jon Colburn, facilities chair at Smithfield UCC, will conduct a tour of the church on **Sunday, October 2** at **9:45 am** and **Sunday, October 16** at **9:45 am** and **12:15 pm**. Come see parts of the building you have never seen before while learning about the needs of our wonderful building. Each of the three tours will be limited to 10 people, children under 14 MUST be accompanied by an adult. Sign-up will be first come, first served on each date. Sign up through the church office at smithfield@verizon.net or by calling 412.281.1811. Wear comfortable shoes and clothes that you can get dirty and be prepared to climb several flights of stairs. Additional times (weekday/evening) will be offered based on interest.

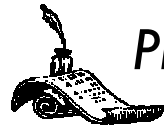


### You Might Have Noticed...

The weekly church bulletin recently underwent a change. The information box at the bottom of the page now offers a welcome to first time visitors:

*"Welcome to Smithfield United Church of Christ! We know that a large number of people worshipping with us today have never done so before, and if you are one of them we are especially glad to welcome you. While you are among us, feel free to participate fully in all that we do: greet the others around you, sing praises to God, take part in communion if it is celebrated today, put a card in the offering plate to let us know who you are or if you would like to learn more about our church, and join us for refreshments after the service! We hope that we could help you find what you were looking for today and that you will come back. Today we rejoice that we are all together as God's people!"*

### From the President's Pen



#### Beginning a Journey

Six years ago, on October 30, 2005, I became a member of Smithfield United Church of Christ. At that time I was finally sure that I wanted to make a commitment to attending church regularly, as I had already been worshipping here for a few months. It took me a while to make my decision because I wanted to take things slowly and just "blend in" for a little while. Silly me. What became apparent when I finally paid attention is that there is a difference between blending in and acceptance. The vibe I got from the sermon messages and from the interaction with the people I was meeting was one of welcome. Many people, like me, came from a different religious background and they were also continuing to try to define their beliefs. I didn't have to be "perfect" or be held to a particular set of beliefs. I found it wasn't blending in that I wanted but acceptance which I am sure is what all of us want.

The main reason I decided to try a downtown church was because I wanted diversity of people and ideas and beliefs. I wanted to experience a church community with people from all backgrounds and ages and experiences who could challenge ideas and who could also respect differences of opinions. As I am getting to know you more and more I like that within the group we can all be friendly, serious, spiritual or funny, and maybe a bit quirky. We can accept differences from each other because we learn how alike we really are with our core values. What spoke to me six years ago is still what I value most. It is the UCC belief that "wherever you are on your journey...you are welcome". To me this extravagant welcome is not only what we say but also what we put into practice.

I am still growing in faith and eager to continue on that journey wherever it leads. The journey has so far brought me along to a place that I could not predict and did not expect. I want to thank you for welcoming me when I first came six years ago. Like in the expression "pay it forward" I will try to do what I see all of you doing so very well. I will continue to try to pass on that extravagant welcome to visitors and friends. You never know when it might make a difference in a person's life. It made a difference in mine and for that I feel blessed.

*Regina Sewall*

## OCTOBER 2011 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>Happy birthday, Ellie Harrison!</i>  11:30: Bethlehem Haven Banquet
2 <i>Special Offering: Neighbors in Need</i>  9:45: Church Tour w/ Jon Colburn 10: Smithfield School 11: Worship with Holy Communion; sermon: "Faith Phobia," Rev. Patterson preaching 11:15: Children's Chapel & Pilgrim Adventures	3  10: Staff Meeting 7: Council Meeting	4	5 <i>Happy birthday, Donn Neall!</i>  12: AA 12:10: Worship, Rev. Patterson	6  10-2: Women's Fellowship	7 <i>Happy birthday, Charles Brauchler!</i>  12: AA 5: Rehearsal	8  4: Wedding
9 <i>Happy birthday, John Canning!</i>  10: Smithfield School 11: Worship; sermon: "Make Us a God," Rev. Patterson preaching 11:15: Children's Chapel & Pilgrim Adventures	10 <i>Columbus Day</i>  10: Staff Meeting	11	12 <i>Happy birthday, Art Salvatore!</i>  12: AA 12:10: Worship, Rev. Patterson	13  10-2: Women's Fellowship	14 <i>Happy birthday, Pat Arledge-Benko!</i>  12: AA 5: Spire Deadline	15 <i>Happy birthday, Colin Helbling!</i>
<b>Help Week: Food Bank Open</b>						
16 <i>Happy birthday, Amy Keller!</i>  9:45: Church Tour w/ Jon Colburn 10: Smithfield School 11: Worship; sermon: "An Opening in the Rock," Rev. Patterson 11:15: Children's Chapel & Pilgrim Adventures 12:15: Church Tour w/ Jon Colburn 2: Ostomy	17  10: Staff Meeting	18 <i>Happy birthday, Hannah Patterson!</i>	19 <i>Happy birthday, Roxanne Tuinstra!</i>  12: AA 12:10: Worship, Rev. Patterson	20  10-2: Women's Fellowship	21 <i>Happy birthday, John Titus!</i>  12: AA 4: Rehearsal	22  2:30: Wedding
23 <i>Happy birthday, Rena Thomas!</i>  10: Smithfield School 11: Worship; sermon: "You Don't Always Get There," Rev. Patterson preaching 11:15: Children's Chapel & Pilgrim Adventures	24  10: Staff Meeting	25 <i>Happy birthday, David Knapp, Rod Ramsey!</i>	26  12: AA 12:10: Worship, Rev. Patterson	27  10-2: Women's Fellowship	28 <i>Happy birthday, Rachel Canning!</i>  12: AA	29  10: RCC Rehearsal
30 <i>Reformation Sunday</i>  10: Smithfield School 11: Worship; sermon: "Wade in the Water," Rev. Patterson preaching 11:15: Children's Chapel & Pilgrim Adventures	31 <i>Halloween</i>  10: Staff Meeting	<b>Coming in November:</b> Daylight Savings Time Ends (November 6); Veteran's Day (November 11); Thanksgiving (November 24); Advent Begins (November 27)				