



# The Belle

VOLUME XII, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY—APRIL 2012



## BE A VOICE FOR LIFE!

By Barb Liberati

Bellefield observed Sanctity of Human Life Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, along with thousands of other churches across the country. During a 'Minute for Mission', we heard from Amy Scheuring, the Executive Director of Women's Choice Network (WCN) of Pittsburgh. The mission of WCN is to empower abortion-vulnerable women to choose life. We all can partner with the five, soon to be six, centers located in strategic neighborhoods across the city to fulfill this mission. The following is a short list of some of the ways you can get involved:

- Be a prayer partner and receive a monthly prayer email.
- Volunteer: RN's, sonographers, peer counselors, office help, assistance with baby clothing and supplies, general up-keep in the centers (maintenance/cleaning), and more!
- Host a baby/mom shower in your home or with your small group.
- Give financially.

The centers are located in Oakland, Monroeville, Wilksburg, Wexford, McKeesport, and in the spring, a new North Side location.

Learn more at [www.mypregnancycenter.org](http://www.mypregnancycenter.org) or contact Barb Liberati, Bellefield's church liason, at [bliberati@verizon.net](mailto:bliberati@verizon.net)



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## Transition Team Update

By Harry Kunze

The Transition Team continues to press on as we navigate through the transition period. Areas of focus right now are:

1. **Mission/Core Values** - The church leadership met on Saturday, January 21st, to revisit and refine our mission and core values. John Stanko, Associate Pastor at Allegheny Center Alliance Church, acted as the facilitator, leading us through a process that helped clarify our thinking and identify open issues. Key “TO-DO’s and “NEXT STEP’s” were documented and a follow-up work shop is being planned for late February/early March.
2. **Preaching** - Jay Slocum will continue to be our primary teaching pastor on Sunday mornings. He is also serving Bellefield by helping with ministry direction, strategic thinking and staff encouragement.
3. **Communion** - We now have a definitive decision from the Pittsburgh Presbytery that states that a PCUSA pastor must officiate at communion. That being the case, we have arranged for Carl Templin, founder of PRISM, to lead us in this sacrament during worship on February 19th. We are also contacting other PCUSA pastors about their willingness and availability to serve communion during this transition period.
4. **Moderation of Session** - Recently, the Pittsburgh Presbytery replaced Bob Long as moderator of Bellefield’s session. Ken White, Associate Pastor at Southminister Presbyterian Church, was appointed by the Presbytery to assume the role as the moderator of our session. We expressed our disappointment in a letter to the Presbytery, but to no avail. Please continue to pray over this situation and join us in thanking Bob for his unselfish service and leadership during this difficult time. I’m sure his influence will still be felt as we move through this transition period.
5. **Pastor Care**— The Elder on Duty (EOD) and Deacon on Duty (DOD) are continuing to respond to needs as they come into the hotline. If you know someone in need, please call the hotline (412-567-6461) so the EOD and DOD can make sure they are being properly supported.

If you have a concern that you would like to share with the Transition Team, please contact Harry Kunze at 412-979-9587

## Who do I contact at Bellefield Church?

<b>General Contact</b>	www.bellefield.org	office@bellefield.org 412.687.3222
<b>Elder On Duty</b>	Varies weekly	412.567.6461
<b>Clerk of Session</b>	Larry Williams	BellefieldClerkOfSession@verizon.net
<b>Music Director</b>	Kathy Emmons	kathy@bellefield.org x21
<b>Director of Young Adult &amp; Graduate Student Ministries</b>	Greg Burdette	greg@bellefield.org x13
<b>Director of University Ministry</b>	Rev. Chris Ansell	chris@bellefield.org x20 www.cornerstone220.org
<b>University Staff</b>	Bobbi Perkins	bobbi@bellefield.org x16
<b>University Staff</b>	Andy Moore	andy@bellefield.org x17
<b>Associate University Staff</b>	Sarah Ansell	sarah@bellefield.org 412.651.4768
<b>Director of Children, Youth &amp; Family Ministries</b>	Sherri Murray	sherri@bellefield.org x23
<b>Nursery Coordinator</b>	Kathleen Carpenter	nursery@bellefield.org
<b>Church Business Administrator</b>	Katherine Cosentino	katherine@bellefield.org x12
<b>Executive Admin Assistant &amp; Vocal Leader</b>	Meg Van Dyke	meg@bellefield.org x10
<b>Building Manager</b>	Roberto Cantillo	roberto@bellefield.org x14
<b>Finance Secretary</b>	Wendy McConahy	wendy@bellefield.org x12
<b>Treasurer</b>	Greg Bruns	treasurer@bellefield.org
<b>Pittsburgh Region International Student Ministry (PRISM)</b>	Scott Boyd Jeanne Griffith Ken Wagoner Adrian Ciganic Sandeep Thomas Cori Hill	412.683.0342 www.prismphg.org office@prismphg.org
<b>Deacons</b>	Betty Kunze Martha McElhattan	kunze6384@comcast.net kdmjm@verizon.net
<b>MOPS</b>	Ann Watson	www.MOPS.org annredfoot@hotmail.com
<b>Women's Ministry</b>	Glad Cantillo Barb Liberati	cantiloglady@yahoo.com bliberati@verizon.net
<b>Resource Center</b>	Missy Horner	resources@bellefield.org

The **Belle** is the official newsletter of Bellefield Church. It is published quarterly by members of the church to honor God through faithful writings and artwork, illuminating the Gospel of Jesus Christ and encouraging biblical principals in both print and production. Readers are invited to submit short articles, news, reviews, prayers and other material of interest to Bellefield church and our visitors.

Please submit content suggestions or story ideas to: [belle@bellefield.org](mailto:belle@bellefield.org) or place them in the Belle mailbox in the church office



## Ministry at Pitt Law School

By Greg Burdette

How do you know when a lawyer is lying?  
*. . . His lips are moving.*

In my experience, when people hear me talk about lawyers or law students, they usually have one of two reactions. The first is to talk about how much money they are going to make, how set they are in life, and how wonderful it is to garner such power and respect from a profession. The second reaction is to make a lawyer joke. Both are certainly understandable reactions, given the reputation of the legal profession but recent data has shown that another reaction is warranted: concern for those in the profession.

Here is a quote from an article in the February issue of the American Bar Association's own magazine, *ABA Journal*: "Law professor Larry Krieger of Florida State University studies how the law school experience affects students' mental health. He has reported that between 20 and 40 percent of law students suffer from clinical depression by the time they graduate; that the incidence of clinically elevated anxiety, hostility and depression among students is eight to 15 times that of the general population; and that, out of 104 occupational groups, lawyers rank the highest in depression and fifth in incidence of suicide."

In addition to the general environment of overwork, over anxiety, and unmet expectations, Christian law students are in a place that varies in its attitude towards Christianity between disinterest and outright hostility. When asked about what the hardest thing about being a Christian in law school is, Becky Grinstead, a second year law student involved in the Christian Legal Society, responded this way, "Law and policy are hotly debated in law school, and often the most offensive thing to bring up during a conversation with colleagues is faith. Law students are usually secure and decided in their belief systems, and most of my friends have pointedly rejected Christianity: what they consider to be an unloving and judgmental religion."

Despite these ominous statistics and testimony, there is a vibrant Christian community that is growing in the law school at Pitt called Christian Legal Society. Each week, CLS meets Tuesdays from 12PM-1PM to encourage and challenge one another through Bible study, prayer, and a time to get to know one another.

Christina Hayes, another second year law student said these times have helped her "better understand every aspect of life in an integrated way. Weekly CLS meetings at Pitt and meetings with Christian lawyers have helped me to view my profession as a vocation in which I am called, as every Christian is, to be faithful in working for justice." Danielle Storm says that CLS, "has provided a Christian community where I feel valued, encouraged and supported." And Becky says, "Christian Legal Society has been a refuge for me these past two years."

However, the weekly meetings are not the only things CLS does. There are many ways that CLS looks to nurture Christian law students and reach out to the wider campus. This semester, CLS will be kicking off a mentoring program between Christian lawyers and law students, with the intention of making deeper and more meaningful connections between those two groups. We also have a weekly coffee hour that we run, where we offer free coffee and baked goods to those studying in the law school. It is a great entry point for those that would otherwise have no interaction with CLS, and we have seen some wonderful things come out of that time; from getting co-sponsors for events to inviting new people to come to the weekly Bible studies.

One of the new things that many people in CLS are very excited about is a monthly speaker series we are running for law students, that brings in lawyers working in various fields of the law to talk about issues of justice in that field with law students. Here is a sample of the feeling towards this series: "I feel relieved to finally have a place to invite my non-Christian friends who are not willing to attend a Bible study or church, but who are seeking meaningful dialogue about important issues. I actually want to jump out of my seat with excitement thinking about it! Yay!"

Thank you for your support of CLS, and we would covet your prayers as we continue to try to support one another and reach out to those that have not heard about the freedom that can be found in Christ.

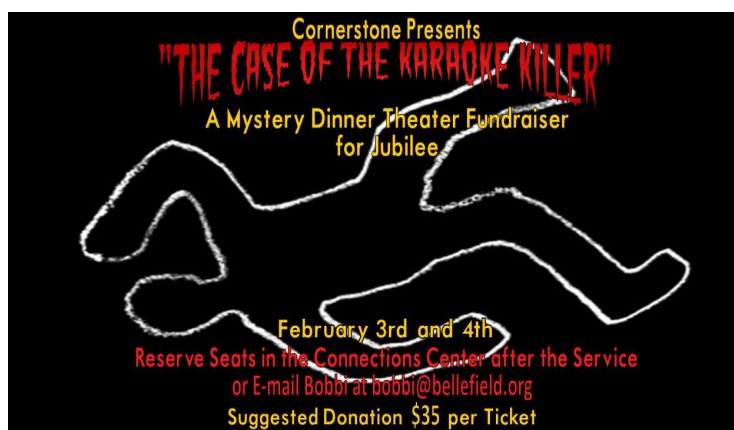
## Times of Jubilee

By Ben Schneider



February is a busy time for Bellefield's University Ministry. Besides being a short month, it is crammed full of exciting things that are happening or about to happen. Every year, Cornerstone takes a group of the student body to a conference called Jubilee. It is a three day event that brings in guest speakers from all over to share messages about the Christian life. While there is a large assembly time for amazing worship and lessons, there are also multiple break-out sessions that allow the students to find a topic that suits what currently interests them. The students and staff stay overnight during the weekend, which allows them to take a break from their class work and truly focus on how God is moving in their lives. Although the conference is a tiring whirlwind of activity, the students and staff members leave feeling energized by God's word.

To help reduce the cost of Jubilee for the students, Cornerstone recently held a mystery dinner theater production. As a fundraiser, it helps drop the cost for all the students that helped put it together. This year's show, if you were sadly unable to attend, was about a karaoke singer who opens up a new club to revive his dwindling career. An opening night show is put together, and the whole cast go through some crazy ordeals to put it together. The main character steps on one too many toes, and by the end of the night, he's mysteriously found dead. Everyone that got to attend the performance had a chance to figure out who it was that killed him. It was a great time, and we hope that next year you will be able to join us.



Another fantastic time that is coming up in the life of Cornerstone is spring break. This year, there are three separate trips that students are able to go on during their week off. There will be a group traveling to the Dominican Republic to serve the Haitians there. Another group will be traveling to the NAOMI house in Arizona. NAOMI stands for Native America Outreach Ministries Inc. It is a foster home for Native American children, many of whom have been abused. Finally, the last group will be traveling to Washington D.C. to see local Christian efforts in the inner city. All these trips are a great time, and if you want to learn more, contact any of the Cornerstone staff.

*Students playing with Haitian children in the DR.*



*Students at the Naomi House in Arizona.*



## International Student Ministries Update

By Jeanne Griffith

Pittsburgh Regional International Student Ministries (PRISM) is a vibrant and growing ministry that has been housed at Bellefield for over 31 years. Perhaps we are not a very visible ministry, because most of the internationals we work with do not worship at Bellefield on Sunday mornings. In fact, most do not worship anywhere. The majority of internationals we work with are not yet Christians. Our mission is to “see every international student and scholar befriended, led to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and discipled for his service.” We seek to share the Gospel with the 7000 international students, scholars and their families in the Pittsburgh area. We do this in partnership with Bellefield and a number of other area churches.

We make great use of our office space at Bellefield for our staff and for meetings. In a week’s time, you can also find us in many other rooms. Wednesday mornings we use the conference room, the 3-5 grade classroom and toddler nursery during the International women’s bible study. On Wednesday evenings we can be found having English conversation class in the worship center. Follow your nose on Friday mornings to the kitchen and you will find the PRISM cooking class. Saturday mornings there is a men’s Bible study in our office and a women’s Bible study in the resource center. Finally, most Sunday nights we have our Open House program in Fellowship Hall. This program has about 75 internationals and Americans gathering for a meal and discussion time.

In December we had a hosting weekend, a Christmas party, an outing to the Celebration of Lights at Hartwood acres, a visit to a church Cantata and a trip to Lancaster to the Sight and Sound Theater. We had a hosting weekend to Trinity Presbyterian Church in Mercer, PA the first weekend of December. The host families all had a good time sharing small town USA, the community band concert and the Advent service. The internationals participated in a variety of activities with their hosts. One saw new baby sheep, one cooked cake for his family for breakfast, one visited a very commercial “Christmas” store to see a contrast. Two took a hike after church with their family. Here is what one Chinese scholar wrote to her hosts:



*Dear Carol and Harry,*

*L. and I had a wonderful time with you this weekend. It's our great pleasure meeting you. I appreciate for your kind and warm hosting. L. always asks me a question. Why people are so nice to us internationals although we are strangers to them? I used to say that it is because they're nice people. They wanted to show their warmness to us. After I know Jesus, I replied that it's because of God. God wants them to be nice, to help us having a special life experience abroad. She said that she wanted to be a nice people just like you when she grows up. People around her in United States had affected her whole life greatly. I think getting to know God is an extremely important experience for her. We're going home next month. I invite you and your children to travel to our hometown in the future. Let me know if you have a plan. I would host you warmly as you host us. Thank you so much and have a great Christmas Season."*

We invite you to participate with us in this ministry of sharing the Gospel with the 7000 internationals in Pittsburgh. The world is at our doorstep. International student ministry is an opportunity to do mission right here, right now. Please pray for us and our programs. Perhaps your small group could provide dinner for one of our Open House meetings. Finally, you can get involved by being a Friendship Partner. Could you commit to spending time with an international student or scholar once a month? We always have a waiting list of internationals who want to connect with an American. We have a great opportunity to connect them with Christian Americans. Contact the PRISM office at 412-683-0342 or [office@prismpgh.org](mailto:office@prismpgh.org) to get involved.

## Responsibility Rooted in Joy

By Zack Duncan

*“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there no more need.” Malachi 3:10*

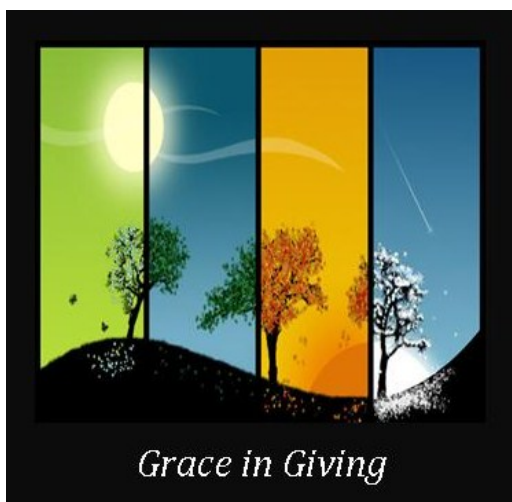
As a small child I received one dollar a week in allowance from my parents. I was taught that 50 cents of that was mine to spend, 40 cents went into my savings account, and at least 10 cents went to God as a tithe. It was a very simple idea to grasp. God was really great and loved me, my sisters, and my parents. Giving Him no less than 10% of the money I received for cleaning the car, making my bed and doing my other chores always seemed like the least I could do.

Twenty-something years later, the principle is exactly the same. But at times it can seem a bit more complicated, can't it? No longer does giving more to God simply mean that there is a little less in the candy and toy fund. Instead, there are now mortgage payments, student loan debt, and credit card bills to juggle while trying to keep an eye on future financial needs. For me, there was the temptation to view my tithe as just one more expense to manage as we worked through our monetary obligations each month.

When this happens, I know that I'm failing to see things from an eternal perspective and I miss the point about what it's all about. Yes, giving to God's work is a responsibility, but it can be a responsibility rooted in joy rather than drudgery – being content and secure in the knowledge that we're following God's plan. Supporting a church like Bellefield has helped my spiritual maturity as God continues to show me that giving is a wonderful opportunity to serve Him.

Our contributions in the offering plate (or through direct deposit as the case may be) directly reach international students as Bellefield provides meeting space and helps support staff for PRISM. Additionally, the church opens its doors to the Indonesian Christian Fellowship and the Arabic Christian Fellowship. There are groups geared towards all members of the Bellefield family: the Men's and Women's Ministries, the Children's Ministry, and the Youth and Young Adult Ministries. And of course, there is the great impact that Bellefield has on the University community through Cornerstone. Everything from Spring Break Trips to the Fall Retreat, as well as Bible Studies, movie nights, and Bar-B-Qs that allow college students to form lasting relationships with each other and with God, are made possible through the support of the church.

In the upcoming editions of the Belle this year, keep an eye out for updates from some of the groups listed above. You will see how your faithful support has a real and tangible impact. Thank you for giving to God's work at Bellefield and in the surrounding community.



### 2012 Stewardship Campaign Update

**During the recent stewardship campaign, 55 pledges were submitted by the people of Bellefield. Praise God!**

**It is not too late to make a financial pledge as a commitment and expression of love to Bellefield.**

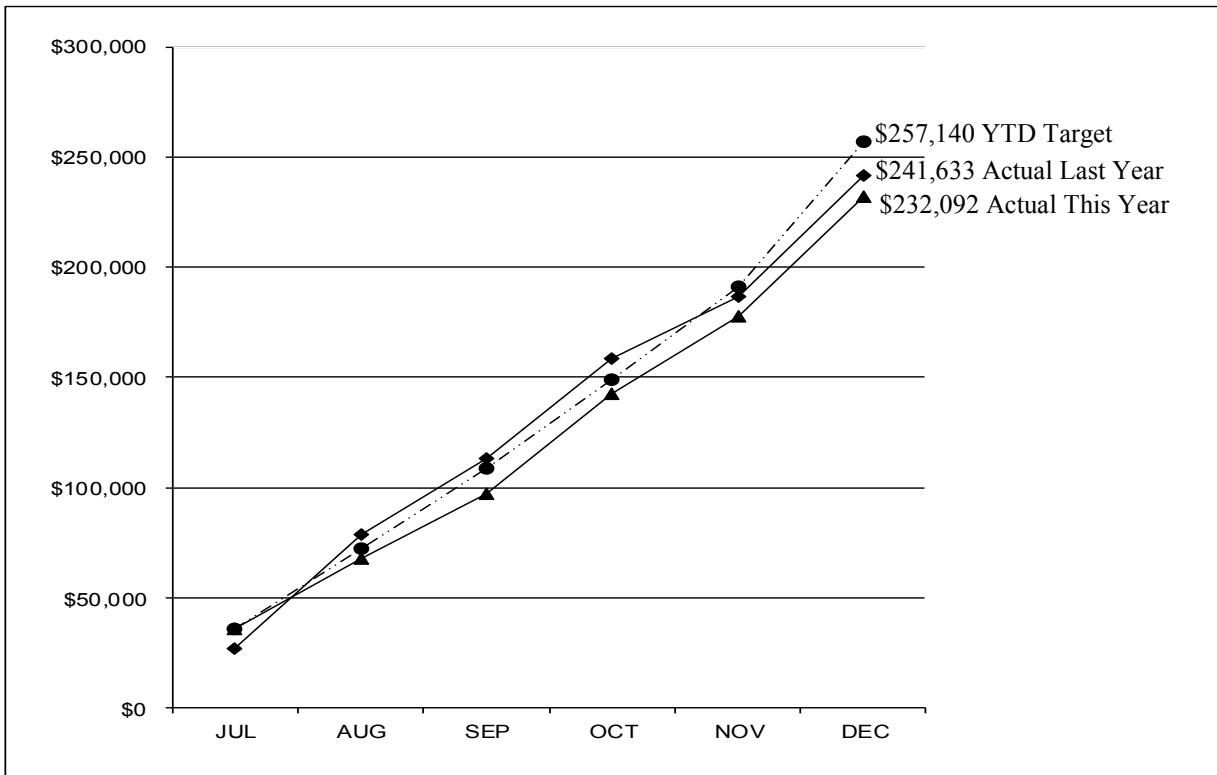
**To fill out a pledge card, sign-up for electronic giving or for more information, please contact Katherine Cosentino at [katherine@bellefield.org](mailto:katherine@bellefield.org) or 412-687-3222 ext. 12 at the church office**

## General Fund Offerings

We are grateful for your financial support for the ministries at Bellefield. This is our status as of December 31st, 2011 which is the midpoint of our fiscal year. Offerings are:

- at 90% of our year-to-date target (\$25,049 behind target)
- 4% lower than offerings for the same period last year

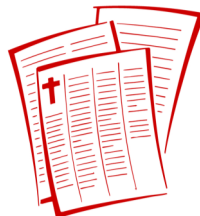
As we start the second half of the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year, please remember that your increased support is vital to the ministries at Bellefield.



### Contribution Statements

2011 Year End Contribution Statements were mailed on January 19th, 2012 to donors with contributions in July—December 2011.

If you did not receive a statement or if you have questions about your statement, please contact Wendy McConahy at [wendy@bellefield.org](mailto:wendy@bellefield.org) or call 412-687-3222 ext. 12.



**Contribution  
Statements**

Average Sunday Attendance			
	FY '10-'11	FY '11-'12	Difference
<b>OCT</b>	358	308	-50
<b>NOV</b>	333	352	19
<b>DEC</b>	286	277	-9
<b>JAN</b>	358	343	-15
<b>Average</b>	334	320	-14



4001 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-687-3222 ext 0  
[www.bellefield.org](http://www.bellefield.org)

**Our mission is to be witnesses of Jesus Christ,  
making committed disciples of all  
peoples in the communities  
where we live and in the  
university community  
at our doorstep.**

**Worship Schedule**

Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am  
Spiritual Growth Classes: 9:45 am  
Contemporary Worship: 11:00 am

## Upcoming Events 2012



- **Women's Ministry Intergenerational Lunch**  
*Sunday, February 12th at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall*  
Women of Bellefield!! Join us for an intergenerational lunch where we will share a meal together and introduce a new Mentoring Program!
- **ALL Church Retreat!!**  
*March 23rd-March 24th*  
In this time of transition in the life of Bellefield, many things can get lost in the shuffle. We want to make sure we are providing ways for our congregation to connect and find meaningful relationships. While we're sure many of you find connections in your small groups, connecting with others who may not be in our normal sphere of life is something that can help us grow. So we are having a much needed ALL Church Retreat! Stay tuned for details and we hope to see you there!
- **Holy Week**  
*April 5th-8th*  
We have lots of events being planned for Holy Week. As services and events are confirmed, they will be posted on our website, announcements and in the Sunday bulletin.
- **Honduras Missions Trip**  
*May 25th-June 1st*  
The Honduras Missions Team is still taking applicants for the trip. Please contact Kara Liberati at [liberatik@gmail.com](mailto:liberatik@gmail.com) if you're interested!