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# KOINONIA

“That the communication (Koinonia)(pronounced:coy no nee a) of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.” Philemon 1:6

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**NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH**

September 2009

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The President of the Alliance, Gary Benedict, recently wrote, “*Jesus is the big idea in the Alliance.*”

In the Bible, in church life together, in your life, and in the universe, Jesus takes center stage.

A good exercise that we recently did on Wednesday night was to complete this statement:

“Church just wouldn’t be church without . . .”

Here are some helpful responses:

~ The sermon . . . An open Bible . . . The Lord’s Supper and baptism . . . People . . . My friends . . . Singing . . . Prayer . . . Worship . . . An offering . . . Missions . . . Evangelism . . . Fellowship

Each part listed is a key element in church. The most essential however is Christ. In fact people throughout history have participated in all the above elements without Jesus being seen as central. The Lord was ignored or put in second place.

Church just wouldn’t be church without the Lord. We are in danger of not seeing the forest for the trees if when we think of church we do not immediately and most enthusiastically think of the Lord.

Only the Lord can bring real life to church. Jesus is the big deal in church. He is first and in Him all parts of church hold together. Keep Christ the reason for church and you’ll see your passion about His Body and your participation with them gain zeal.

Remember our prayer concerns for the time leading to Thanksgiving:

1. Pray to share Christ with another person
2. Pray to invite others to church with you.



Are you ALIVE in Christ?

Is Christ ALIVE in you? ?

Join us for our Contemporary style service on:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th  
6:30 pm

Message: THAT’S NOT FOR ME

Refreshments will be served following the service  
Childcare will be provided



## KEEN-AGERS

Calling everyone age 50 and over to join with those who are already a part of the Senior Citizens’ group of Norwin Alliance Church, and friends from the community who meet the 4th Thursday of each month except November and December when the meetings are the 3rd Thursday due to the holidays.

On September 24th the meal will be ethnic foods and the program will be vocalist Diane Duvall.

A cordial invitation awaits you. First time attendees do not need to bring anything for the meal, but others will be contacted as to their choice. Everyone is asked to bring his/her own table service. We will look for YOU!



Have you invited your family and friends to our all-American, old-fashioned, down-home Neighbor Day?

From the decorations to the activities, we will be celebrating our nation and the blessings God has given to us. The day will begin with a continental breakfast followed by worship on the lawn. There will be plenty of good music, prayer and a wonderful message from God. After the service, join us for a complimentary lunch sponsored by our fellowship committee. Following lunch will be games and fellowship for all ages ~ from our littlest ones to the adults.

A few new additions have been added to our Neighbor Day. A fruit pie/brownie baking contest, a Dunking Booth, and cookie decorating for the children. Do you love to bake? Get out that favorite recipe and enter it in our contest. Please contact the church office (724-864-1570) if you would like to enter the contest.

The day will conclude with our 1st AWARDS Ceremony where prizes will be given out for the pie/brownie baking contest and various games.

This is a very "comfortable" atmosphere for 1<sup>st</sup> time church attendees. So PLEASE, pray who God might have you invite and bring them along to Neighbor Day 2009!!

**Congregation Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**7:00 pm**

Please make every effort to attend this meeting. Some items of business that will be discussed are:

- ~ Nominating Committee members will be chosen.
- ~ The 2010 Church Budget will be presented and voted on.

Don't be left in the dark ~ come and hear what is happening at Norwin Alliance Church and let your voice be heard. \* \* A quorum is needed to approve the 2010 budget.

All are encouraged to attend ~ but only members can vote.

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 Responsibilities of the Nominating Committee:

~ Nominate Officers of Norwin Alliance Church (Ministry Board Secretary, Church Treasurer, Asst. Church Treasurer, Board Members at Large) to be elected at the January Congregation Meeting.

~ Nominate "positions of serving" to be appointed by the Elder Board.

~ Consider nominees from the Elder Board for the position of Elder and if desired, make Elder nominations to the Elder Board.

If you have any questions, or would like to suggest a person for an office, please contact the Board Members-at-Large (Dave Cain and Rachel Slafka) or Pastor Bob.



CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING



### NURSERY for EVERY SERVICE

Beginning September 20th, Nursery will be available at every service for children under the age of two ~ 8:30 am; Sunday School; 10:45 am; and the Contemporary Service the first Sunday of each month.

Parents ~ please complete a registration form for your little ones. These are found on the Nursery bulletin board across from the Nursery.

If you have any questions about our Nursery, please call Carole Sarber at 412-751-1973.

### **Set Your Alarms! Fall Adult Sunday School Classes Begin!**

This trimester the Disciplemaking Ministries Council is offering four adult classes ~ Bible study; Men's Class; Women's Class; and a class about raising children. Since Nursery will always be provided and we offer Sunday School for all other ages of children, all parents and grandparents can attend Sunday School. The following classes will begin September 20th:

**International Class** ~ Teachers: Mark Lazzaro and Bill Swope. They meet in room 22 (down ramp, next to Choir Room)

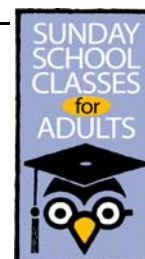
This class is a Bible study. The new theme is "Covenant Communities." In September, Old Testament leaders will be studied. October is the month devoted to Jesus and community. Finally, in November, communities will be related to their leaders.

**"Jesus, the Man Who Loved Women"** by Bruce Marchiano ~ Teacher: Connie Niedermeyer. This class will meet in room 35 A&B (across from the Nursery). There are thousands of words in the Bible to describe or name Jesus, the son of God, all of them wonderfully true. This class will learn about the example Jesus set for us as human men and women. Time and again, Jesus went against traditional conventions and treated women with respect and compassion, imparting value and significance to them. Jesus' pure love for women gives us hope and a new vision of who God created us to be. Come and learn how much you are loved!

**"Living with Confidence in a Chaotic World"** ~ Teacher: Wes Hughes. This class will meet in the Sanctuary. Dr. David Jeremiah authored this DVD study to help believers live with confidence in cultural chaos. The study will enable a believer to "cultivate an oasis of peace by staying centered in Christ, committed to His Word, compassionate toward others, consistent in your walk, calm in your heart, certain of His coming, and confident in your faith."

**"Essentials of Discipline"** ~ Teachers: Kevin Craycraft and Dennis Irwin. This class will meet in the Fellowship Hall. *Focus on the Family* presents ESSENTIALS OF DISCIPLINE and describes the curriculum in this way: "Every child needs discipline and Dr. James Dobson, founder of 'Focus on the Family', is here with answers, insight and solutions to one of the biggest challenges every parent encounters." "ESSENTIALS OF DISCIPLINE features the most up-to-date research on parenting, humorous animated vignettes, 'mom (and dad) on the street' interviews and the kind of practical approachable teaching that can only come from America's most trusted authority on parenting issues, Dr. James Dobson. In the ESSENTIALS OF DISCIPLINE videos, you will gain the practical understanding, dynamic Biblical principles and encouragement you need to shape your child's will without breaking his or her spirit, and feel confident in your ability to handle discipline in a positive way." Later in the trimester will be advice for raising children from Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott in their DVD series PARENTING: THE EARLY YEARS. These lessons discuss the godly traits parents should model so that their children develop these traits. If you want great advice for raising your children or grandchildren, this course is for you!

Come on Sunday, September 20th and attend the class of your choice. Class begin at 9:45 am each Sunday.




### THE WOMEN'S CORNER

By Janis Swope

Welcome to the column that is for and about women of all ages. The goal of this column is to let you know what ministry opportunities are available for women in our church and maybe throw in a little bit of information that will help you in your daily walk. If you have any ideas of things you would like me to include, just let me know.

**Ladies Bible Study Returns from Summer Vacation.** The Ladies Bible Study will be starting up again on Monday, September 14th at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall with a BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch). Beverages and dessert will be provided. This will be a time for us to get caught up on what we've been doing this summer (bring your vacation pictures!!) and the new study will be starting.

On September 28th at 10:30 am we will start Henry Blackaby's "Experiencing God." This dynamic study will certainly have an impact on your relationship with God and how you think about your walk with Him. We will be using Blackaby's book and workbook. Yvonne Simmons and Janis Swope will be leading the study. Come and join us if you want to expand your walk with God and experience wonderful fellowship with other women.

 **Norwin Alliance Women.** The Norwin Alliance Women will meet on Monday, September 21st at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss our plans for the upcoming Greensburg Area Fall Rally that will be held at Norwin Alliance on Saturday, October 17th at 10:00 am. A lunch is planned following the rally at Noon. Our guest speaker for the Rally will be missionary Carol Allen. We will also discuss our new theme "Pass the Salt" and upcoming fall and winter events.

A big THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped make the Missions Day at Mahaffey Camp a success. Almost everything we took for the missionaries and retired missionaries was taken. It was great to see so many happy faces when they saw something on our table that they really needed. Norwin is a very generous and loving church when it comes to helping the missionaries. The day wasn't without its ups and downs—our van got stuck in the mud of the parking lot and Kathy Bourne and Janis Swope talked so much on the drive to and from, Betty Kunkle could hardly get a word in!

Let's pray for our mini-women, young women, and Moms as they all make preparations for the new school year.

#### The Last Word . . .

*"It is a joy God never abandons His children. He guides faithfully all who listen to His directions."*

Corrie ten Boom

### Vignettes by Virginia

**Re-entry** is a book that was published by Zondervan thirty-eight years ago in 1971. Rev. Billy Graham wrote the forward.

**Re-entry** presents striking parallels between the news events at that time and Christ's Second coming. Reflect on the major events of the last thirty-five to forty years. The Vietnam conflict was a bitter confrontation. And since then we have endured (and still are enduring) other major battles. Technology has taken an ordinary place in our daily lives.

And what of believers - - the body of Christ, the Church? ?

**Re-entry** quotes from Billy Sunday, "The World expects the church to have a message, a message it too often does not have." And from the Secretary-General of the World Council of Churches, "confusion reigns supreme - - politically, theologically, socially." C.S. Lewis said "that church members are so comfortable in this world that they cannot bring themselves to think about going to another." (p. 113) See 2 Thessalonians 2:3

Reflecting on America's heritage, "The Puritans were a happy people because they attempted to live by the rule for every look you take at yourself, take ten at Christ. Too often today God hardly rates a glance." (p. 67)

The tiny country of Israel has always been paramount in the preparation for Jesus' return. A close watch of the daily news reminds the Church of the significance of God's chosen people. The Jewish people are returning to Israel from over 100 countries. The Old Testament prophets (Amos, Ezekiel and Hosea) prophesied the returning of the Jewish people to their homeland. "The world swings on the hinge country of Israel." (p. 133, 142) (remember the six-day war?)

Jesus, a Jew - - was sent to earth from heaven's realm. Jesus, the Light of the world, came to dispel the darkness of sin. As believers we are to continue the task of carrying the Good News to the ends of the earth. According to recent statistics there are 639 unreached people groups with a population of more than 100,000 without access to the Gospel. That is 2 BILLION people, or 1/3 of the world's population. It is easier to give money - - even in today's difficult economy - - than to go and tell. It is much more of a challenge to "Meet the real needs of the people we meet. It is amazing what can be accomplished in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" Alife, 08-09 - Authors: John Bechtel, Robert Fetherlin, and Peter Burgo.

It is still very appropriate as to what is written in **Re-entry** 38 years ago. "Life without God is too much in these modern times of stress and strain." (p.101) Continue in prayer. Search your heart so you (and I) can do our part of the mission of sharing the Good News. Then when Christ has His Re-entry, myriads of people will hear the trumpet and meet Jesus in the air. David Jeremiah quotes: "Every Christian is called to lead the Church in establishing Kingdom values in the world."