
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

NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH

DECEMBER 2010



This Christmas devotional prayer is from Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, former chaplain of the U.S. Senate. He uses Luke 2:20 as a text, "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and see."

"Lord Christ, You are the same yesterday, today and forever. Your faithfulness knows no end; Your love endures forever. The joy of Christmas is for every day of the year.

Thank you for promising me strength for whatever comes in every hour of the New Year. Knowing this; I plant to live each moment to the fullest. You have banished worry about tomorrow; now the future is a friend.

Like the shepherds who went back to work as different people because of beholding Your glory, I want to go back to my daily routine as a different person. I accept You as the gift who changes everything. Responsibilities remain. Nothing has changed but everything is different. The difference is inside of me. You have recruited me to be a Christmas messenger. Help me to communicate to people what it means to receive Your strength each moment. Amen."

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



- Nov. 28 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 5 Second Sunday of Advent
Commissioning Service for Rachel Wilson
All Gifts for Operation Christmas Joy are due to the church
- Dec. 11 Dramatic Music "The Christmas Song" ~ 7:00 pm
- Dec. 12 Third Sunday of Advent
Dramatic Musical "The Christmas Song" ~ 10:45 am
"Connection" Service—7:00 pm
- Dec. 16 Keen-Agers' Christmas Dinner
- Dec. 18 "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" showing at Destinta's.
- Dec. 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Children's Christmas Program ~ 10:45 am
Advent Festival Celebration ~ Noon
- Dec. 24 Church Office closed at 12:30 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~ 7:00 pm
- Dec. 25 HAVE A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS!



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him



The following items were approved at the Elder's meeting in November:

1. Met with new members: Earl & Dawn; Fred & Marcel; Ed & Kathy
2. Approved curriculum for the youth
3. Approved the youth volunteering at Sonshine Kitchen in whatever capacity is needed
4. Discussed Elder-in-Training Candidates
5. Approved additional service for the Choir Christmas Musical
6. Reviewed Emergency Procedures

The following items were discussed at the Ministry Board meeting in November:

1. It was approved to donate money to Samaritan's Purse to purchase Bibles (in their own language) for the children participating in the "The Greatest Journey" project.
2. It was approved to rent an electronic billboard on Route 30 to advertise the Christmas Cantata. The billboard is located across from the Dunkin Donuts.
3. Future building/property repairs; new roof over the Sanctuary; new boiler in the basement; parking lot repairs
4. Approved various youth events for insurance purposes.
5. The Ministry Board continues to review and update the NAC Policy Manual.
6. Monthly financial reports of the church can be found in the small narthex above the weekly service CD's.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about what is happening at the church, please contact Pastor Bob or one of the Board Members:

Elder (Jeff Ewing, Lead, Kevin Craycraft, Ron Dornin, Jim Himler, Wes Hughes, Denny Irwin, Bob Lynn, Charlie Metzger, Bill Sarber, Bill Swope)

Ministry Board member (Cindy Barnhart, Jeff Ewing, Roy Koch, Charlie Metzger, Mardy Rogers, Carole Sarber, Ken Simmons, Rachel Slafka, Bill Swope, Bob Tierney)



Choir Cantata
presentation of:

"The Christmas Song"

2 days:

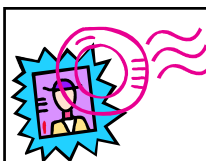
Saturday, December 11

and

Sunday, December 12

It's almost here! The choir is almost ready for a 2-performance Christmas Cantata, *"The Christmas Song"*. As we continue with final preparations, we ask for everyone's help. We will certainly need the usual helpers for scenery construction and set up; however, we will also need help getting the word out. It has been approved to do a performance on Saturday, December 11 at 7 PM, as well as, Sunday December 12 at 10:45 AM. We are viewing this as an outreach opportunity. Do you have friends and loved ones who are not anxious to attend church on Sunday mornings? Or maybe someone you know wants to come, but has work obligations. We are praying for a full house both services. Everyone has worked really hard and the message is there. Now let's get them in the door!

Also, please pray that our billboard advertisement will reach many folks driving through Irwin. The digital billboard is across from Duncan Donuts on Route 30. Our "ad" will be on both sides of the billboard beginning November 27 and running through December 12.



**SAVE YOUR CANCELLED
POSTAGE STAMPS**

Used, canceled stamps of all descriptions are collected, trimmed, and sent to Shell Point (a south Florida Alliance Retirement Center) where they are processed and sold to stamp collectors for monies to print Sunday School materials in Spanish for Center and South America.

Since the inception of the project, more than half a million dollars has funded printing Spanish Christian literature.

As Christmas Greetings arrive at your home; please remember to save your postage stamps. Bring them to the church and deposit in the box on the shelf in the small narthex.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS JOY

Thank you to all who participated in buying gifts for one of our District Pastors. ALL tags have been taken!

When the gift wrapped item or cash contribution is presented back to the Christmas tree, two things are requested: 1) Attach the tag taken from the Christmas tree to the wrapped gift. All money and should be put in an envelope and placed in the basket on the table; **AND** 2) fill out the information sheet located on the same table where the Christmas tree is. Remember to fill out the approximate cost of each gift. This will help us in reporting the approximate cost spent to the District Office. Do not put any reference to our church on any of the gifts or tags. All gifts are to be anonymous.

All gifts and money need to be returned to the church by **Sunday, December 5th** so we can have them to the District Office in time for the family to receive them for Christmas.

THANK YOU for helping out our District family whom have always been greatly encouraged by your generosity!



CHRISTMAS CARDS



The window in the small narthex will be covered with paper so you can display Christmas cards to the congregation. You may sign one card to the entire church family and tape it to the "window".

KEEN-AGERS

All adults 50 years and over



The Norwin Alliance KEEN-AGERS will meet on Thursday, December 16th at 11:30 am for our Christmas luncheon (one week earlier than usual because of Christmas).

The Christmas Dinner will be catered by K-Vays Restaurant . The menu will be *pork chops, Swiss steak, parsley potatoes, vegetables, salad, and peach and coconut cream pies for dessert.* Everyone will receive both entrees. Price per person is \$10.00. All checks should be made payable to "Norwin Alliance Keen-Agers" and given to Muriel Quinto, Paula Bittner, Ruth Long, or Betty Kunkle by **Sunday, December 5th**.

Phil Hughes, ventrioloquist, will present the program. The business portion of the meeting will be the installation of the 2011 officers.

All adults 50 years of age or older ~ this is YOUR invitation to attend the last meeting of 2010. Don't delay, get your reservation in soon. Anyone who has not paid by **December 5th** will not be included in the meal but are welcome to come for the program after lunch.

If you would like more information, please call Betty Kunkle (724-446-7605) or Ruth Long (724-863-2761).

Officers for 2011 were elected at our November meeting and will be installed at our December meeting. The 2011 Officers are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Co-Presidents | Betty Kunkle
Ruth Long |
| Vice President | Caroline Tinz |
| Secretary | Norma Wood |
| Asst. Secretary | Paula Bittner |
| Treasurer | Muriel Quinto |
| Asst. Treasurer | Paula Bittner |



November was a time for drawing close to God and seeking his will for our youth group. The youth invited the church to join them in a 30-hour FAST and draw near to God. While most people might initially think of fasting as abstaining from food for a certain period of time, the youth learned that a person can fast from anything that puts a barrier between themselves and God. Isaiah 58 paints a picture of true fasting—to seek God’s glory rather than our own.

The youth led worship and presented the “Everything” skit during the worship service. The skit showed the struggles that we often face in everyday life. Too often we fall away from God and ignore his will for our lives. God is always waiting to pick us up, dust us off and help us follow Him again. Shelli Prindle brought the message that night about ‘The Work of God’ which confirmed that God is still actively working in our lives just as he was for the Israelites when they fled from Egypt. Life too often feels like an uphill battle but God has already won the war. “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33



Kitchen Building Committee

The Kitchen Building Committee, as directed by the Congregation in September, contracted with Mr. Bob Frost (the Architect) who has been involved with other aspects of the church building. Mr. Frost is developing architectural drawings suitable for obtaining construction bids and submitting to State and Local Governing bodies for their respective approvals.

The Kitchen Building Committee submitted a package of preliminary layout drawings, preliminary kitchen equipment pricing, a fill out form, and requested financial reports to the C&MA District Building and Property Renovation Committee for their review and preliminary approval. The District Committee received the package and they are reviewing and considering our plans.

Any questions or feedback should be directed to the Kitchen Building Committee:

- Chairman Dave Cain
- Committee Pastor Bob, Pastor Wood, Bob Tierney, Bill Freise, Mardy Rogers, Elena Dornin

Upcoming Youth Events in December

- 11th Sr. Youth Bowling (TBD)
- 22nd Youth Christmas Party - 6:30 pm
- 29th Jr. Youth Bowling - afternoon Youth Group

Cardboard Tubes Needed

As you finish your Christmas wrapping, please save the cardboard tubes.

You can bring them in and place in the Youth Area as you are finished with them.

The more, the better . . .



Thank You!

“CONNECTION” Service
Sunday, December 12, 2010
7:00 pm

THE PERFECT BLEND
DECEMBER 12 | 7PM
Worship: Rachel Wilson
Message: Kevin Craycraft

••• connection
2nd Sunday each month
7pm

VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

Have you noticed that many Christmas carols/songs refer to angels? As you read about Christ's birth in the Gospels, angels play a prominent role in announcing and preparing the people of this glorious event.

One Christmas carol that often is neglected is "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear". Read four of the five stanzas that were written in 1849 by Edmund Sears by request of his friend Rev. W.P. Lunt of Quincy, Massachusetts. The melody was written by Richard Storrs Willis in 1850. Mr. Willis trained under talented musician/composer Felix Mendelssohn.

"It came upon a midnight clear,
That glorious song of old;
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From Heaven's all-gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
Thy bend on hovering wing:
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low;
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow.
Look now! For glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary the weary road,
And hear the angels sing."

"For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold;
When, with the ever circling years,
Comes round the age of gold:
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling.
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing."

Amen

This splendid carol was first sung in 1849 at a Sunday school Christmas celebration. More up-to-date, singers Hall and Oates had this carol as a number one hit in 2006.

**Children's Program and Advent Luncheon**

Sunday, December 19th is the date for our annual Children's Christmas Program (10:45 am) and Advent Luncheon (Noon).

Chris LoChiato, with assistants Shelly Denney and April Meyers, is busy preparing for this wonderful event.

Our Fellowship Committee will again be displaying their cooking skills with a roast beef luncheon.

Please plan to attend the second service and invite your family and friends for this wonderful celebration of Advent.

Merry Christmas!



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 - Last month I told you that we will be finishing our study in "Experiencing God" by the end of the year. Due to delays and scheduling changes we now plan to finish by January or February. We continue to meet in the Fellowship Hall the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Mondays of each month at 10:30 am. I'll be looking for you!

**Norwin Alliance Women**

Looking Ahead:

December 20th ~ Alliance Women's monthly meeting at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our agenda will include election of officers. The meeting will be followed by a Christmas luncheon. Everyone is asked to bring something to share. If you are interested in attending, please stop by - the more the merrier!

Spring Retreat 2001 ~ Date unknown at this time.

April 30, 2011 ~ Norwin Alliance's participation in the "Walk for the World" National Walk-a-thon. I hope you are preparing physically and spiritually for this event. In Ethel Fennick's latest newsletter, she provides the following information: "Did you know that walking reduces the risk of breast and colon cancer? Women who performed the equivalent of one hour and 15 minutes to two and a half hours per week of brisk walking had an 18% decreased risk of breast cancer compared with inactive women. Many studies have shown that exercise can prevent colon cancer . . . Don't forget to exercise your prayer life as well. One of the core values of the Christian and Missionary Alliance is: Prayer is the primary work of God's people. When engage in prayer, there is an intimate connection with our Father."

Annual Retreat June 17-18, 2011 ~ Shelli Prindle, founder and president of Hope and Passion Ministries will be the guest speaker.

Mahaffey Camp July 28, 2011 ~ AWM Rally - Guest speaker will be a mother and daughter team of Karen Conkle, Rachel Clason, and Rebecca McCabe.

District Conference September 28, 2011 ~ AW annual meeting and luncheon in Erie.

Celebrate 2012 September 27-30, 2012 ~ This get-together will be held at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort, Clearwater, Florida. Registration is \$275 and rooms are

\$100.00 for up to four persons per room. More information about this event will follow.

The Last Word

"The Truth is that our past - our upbringing, the ways we have been wronged, and the ways we have wronged others - these things do not have to hindrances. In fact, by God's grace, they can actually become stepping stones to greater victory and fruitfulness." Nancy Leigh DeMoss in "Lies Women Believer and Truth That Sets Them Free".

**Missions Moments**

by: Janis Swope

Missions Focus for December ~ CREATIVE ACCESS COUNTRIES

I Thessalonians 5:17-18 says "Pray continually: give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Let's use this verse to give us the push to continue praying for our Creative Access Countries. Over the past few months our emphasis has been on Creative Access Countries and you may be getting tired hearing about them, but keep on praying for these precious International Workers as they tirelessly work to present the gospel as living witnesses to those in countries where becoming a Christian can cost you your life.

Did You Know . . .

The following is an article that appeared on The Alliance internet site. The article is posted for November 17, 2010 and is by an Alliance worker serving in Guinea, Africa.

"Since Guinea's election results were announced Monday evening, things have gotten progressively more "hot" here. The two major ethnic groups (aligned separately with the two respective candidates running in the presidential election) have been in conflict. Up in the mountains, the Fula people (also referred to as the "Peul") have burned the houses of some Malinka people, chasing some of them out of their homes.

In Conakry (Guinea's capital city) the youth have been out protesting, and the forces of order have had a hard time controlling the situation. Some have reported security forces responding to the demonstrators with overly harsh treatment. A number of people have been killed in the confrontations. Because of the confrontations, the president has declared a state of emergency so that the military can help the police control the situation.

Prayer Retreat Still On

"We are feeling safe at home; the people are as friendly toward us as always. We have a prayer retreat scheduled to start tomorrow (November 18-21), and we hope to continue with these plans. People around us are scared and lack the basic necessities. Sekou* (a Fula man whom this Alliance worker is discipling) called me, letting me know he was using up his last bit of rice today. Although he's been paid, he can't cash the check at the bank since the banks are closed. Even if he had money, the stores are all closed out of fear that the merchandise will be stolen. Additionally, he lives in a "hot" neighborhood. When the police break up a demonstration, they often chase the kids into the neighborhoods, entering the courtyard of innocent families.

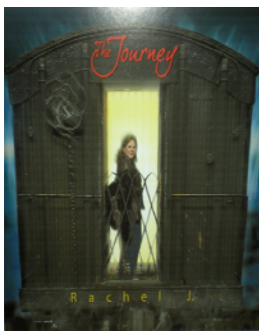
* Name changed

What You Can Do

"Pray for the people of Guinea during these challenging times," says our Alliance worker. "Pray for us as we seek to help those around us. Pray that God's people here would be lights that shine forth God's love brightly!"

At Norwin Alliance . . . A Shining Light

Watching and listening Rachel Wilson talk and sing about her call to serve God in Ethiopia is like sitting under a bright light. It is God's bright light that reaches out to dispel the darkness. Rachel, you are going to take all our hearts with you to Ethiopia. Thank you for letting your light shine.



Copies of Rachel Wilson's CD are available in the church office for a cost of \$15.00.

All check should be made payable to SIM USA. Please put "Rachel Wilson ministry fund #021165" in the memo.

All profits from the CDs go toward Rachel's ministry to Ethiopia.

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

On Saturday, December 18, Norwin Alliance will have its own theatre for the showing of C.S. Lewis's "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader", another adventure from "The Chronicles of Narnia".

The rating is PG; no previews of other movies will be shown.

This can be a very positive experience for a family during this Christmas season.

Please call Carole Sarber, 412-751-1973, or see her at church to make your reservation. 200 seats are available.

The tickets will be \$5.00. All money needs to be collected by Wednesday, December 8 so that any unpaid seats can be offered to another church.

**Children's Program Practices**

The Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 19th during the 10:45 service. The choir has been working hard preparing music, a praise dance and a skit to present to the congregation. The Toddler class has been preparing a special song, also. They are all very excited to perform and share a special message for Christmas.

PARENTS ~ some special dates to remember are:

Saturday, December 18th ~ Dress Rehearsal and Christmas Lunch ~ 10 AM to 12:30 PM. Special thanks to Betty Kunkle and her family who will be serving lunch.

Sunday, December 19th ~ Program

Please have children (age 5 & up) report to choir room promptly at 10:30 AM to prepare for service.

Parents of toddler class: please look for information regarding practice time for December 18th and where to assemble for the program. A letter will be sent home.

We appreciate everyone's participation and hard work. If you have any questions, they can be directed to any one of the persons listed below.

Chris LoChiatto (chrissymomof4@gmail.com)

Shelly Denney (shelly_denney@msn.com)

April Meyer (gwagirl@yahoo.com)