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# KOINONIA

*"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship (Koinonia) of the Holy Spirit be with you all."*  
2 Corinthians 13:14

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**NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH**

**DECEMBER 2014**

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## The Gospel in Christmas Hymns

As we sing hymns celebrating the first Christmas, listen for the gospel in our praises to God. Here are some song reminders of John 3:16:

### For God so loved the world

"Peace on the earth, good will to men  
From heaven's all glorious King."

### He gave His one and only Son

"Pleased as man with men to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel."

"But with mocking and scorn with a crown of thorn,  
They bore Thee to Calvary."

"Glorious now, behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice."

### That whoever believes in Him

"Let every heart prepare Him room."

"O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

### Shall not perish but have eternal life

"Now you need not fear the grave  
Jesus Christ was born to save."

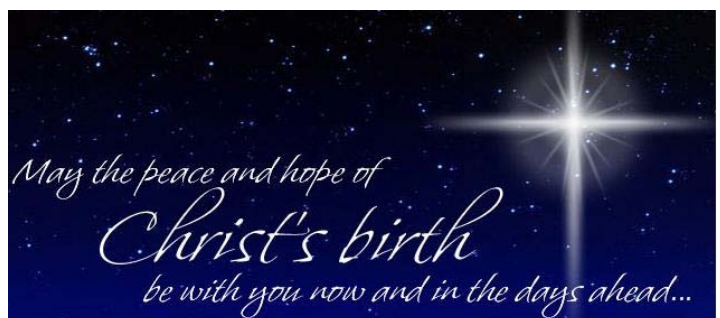


Invite friends, family, and neighbors to trust the Lord and join you in church for the good news!



## EVENTS

- Nov. 30 First Sunday of Advent  
Concert of Prayer - 7:00 pm
- Dec. 7 Second Sunday of Advent  
Children's Christmas Celebration and  
Toy Giveaway - 10:45 am
- Dec. 14 Third Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Cantata ~ 10:45 am  
Connection Service ~ 6:30 pm
- Dec. 18 Keen-Agers' Christmas Dinner
- Dec. 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Children's Christmas Program ~ 10:45 am  
Advent Luncheon ~ Noon
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~ 7:00 pm
- Dec. 25 HAVE A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS!
- Dec. 26 Church Office Closed



## Children's Christmas Celebration

Our 2014 Children's Christmas Celebration will be held Sunday, December 7, 2014. We are inviting families to join us in a Christmas experience.

Each guest family will be paired with a Norwin Alliance host family who will accompany our guest through the day. The morning will begin with coffee and conversation and then worship together during the 10:45 service. A hot turkey luncheon will be waiting for them after the service (the luncheon is for our guests and host families only).

After lunch, our new little friends will each receive a special gift.

The celebration is meant to be personal and intimate, giving us the opportunity to really get to know our guests.



Ways you can help: Sponsor a child, set-up on Saturday, Dec. 6, and PRAYER! Please contact Katie Barnhart-Smith or the church office if you can help. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated.



## CONNECTION Service

Sunday, December 14, 2014  
6:30 pm

Speaker: Shelli Prindle

Worship: Mike and Rachel Beckstrom





**Puggles** is our youngest AWANA group (ages 2 and 3). They meet Friday mornings from 9:00 - 10:00 am. Participating in *Puggles* will give your child a head start on the path to loving and following God for life.

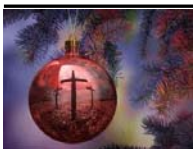
Please join us each Friday morning for a lesson, games, and fun.



The holidays are fast approaching! Do you have baking and/or shopping to do? With little children around, these tasks can be

challenging. We would love to help you out! ARE YOU IN NEED OF A BABYSITTER OR MOTHER'S HELPER? We would love the opportunity to babysit or help keep your children occupied so you can get some tasks accomplished!

We have completed the Red Cross Babysitting Course and have a lot of experience working with children. You can reach us by calling or texting Shaylin and/or Keilah Craycraft at 724-552-3122.



*"For God so loved the world . . .  
He gave his only . . . Son."*

John 3:16

God . . . Reaches to us - not only when we are at our best, but when we are at our worst . . . Not because we deserve Him, but because He desires us.

In the loving initiative of God's plan . . . His love still reaches all the way to where we are.

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR NEWS



**ISAIAH JONES**  
and the Seekers of  
The Lost Christmas Treasure

The Children's Choir will present their Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 21 in the 10:45 AM** service. It includes 8 songs, 8 drama scenes, and choreography. Aside from all the great musical and creative aspects, there is an important message that shines through: in giving us His Son, God gave us His most precious Gift. The secret to "winning the game of life" and finding your true purpose is living a life that is used by God's Spirit to give His love away to others. Please come and join our "adventurers" on their important journey!

### IMPORTANT REHEARSAL DATES

**Thursday, December 18, 6:30 PM** – Additional rehearsal in the Sanctuary for drama parts only.

**Saturday, December 20, 10:00 AM** – Mandatory dress rehearsal in the Sanctuary for entire group and Sound Room. Lunch will be provided for the kids after rehearsal.

*~We are also looking for help from anyone interested in working on scenery. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.~*





## KEEN-AGERS



The Norwin Alliance KEEN-AGERS will meet on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 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 *Swiss Steak, Broasted Chicken, Parsley Potatoes, Tossed Salad, Veggie Blend, Dinner Roll and Pie 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 Donna Kunkle or Ruth Long by **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**.

The program will be by Kevin Solecki, professional accordionist. The business portion of the meeting will be the installation of the 2015 officers.

All adults 50 years of age or older ~ this is YOUR invitation to attend the last meeting of 2014. Don't delay, get your reservation in soon. Anyone who has not paid by **December 14<sup>th</sup>** 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 Donna Kunkle (724-244-1336) or Ruth Long (724-863-2761).

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Officers for 2015 were elected at our November meeting and will be installed at our December meeting. The 2015 Officers are as follows:

Presidents	Donna Kunkle
Vice President	Ruth Long
Secretary	Norma Wood
Asst. Secretary	Paula Bittner
Treasurer	Georgia Conley
Asst. Treasurer	Bill Swope



## SAVE YOUR CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS

Used, canceled stamps (trimmed with a 1/4" border, please) are collected and sold to help fund Christian literature into Spanish for Central and South America. Half-a-million dollars has been raised since the project began with the Alliance in Florida.

Please save your stamps and deposit them in the box located in the narthex (on shelf above the coat rack).

## 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".

## Nursery

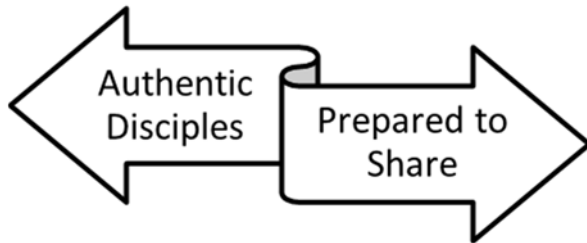


Our Nursery is in need of additional volunteers on Sunday mornings. Any amount of service will be a tremendous help. "Moms and Dads will thank you" ☺

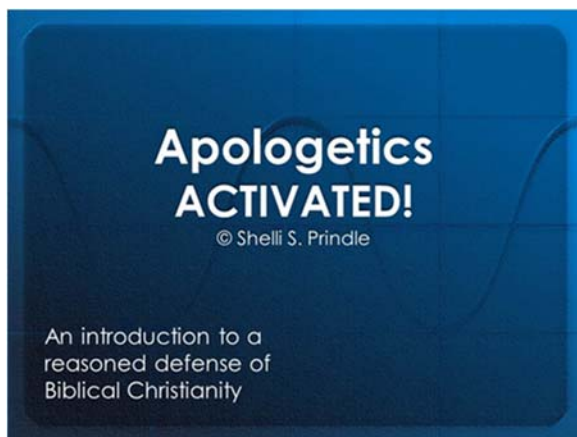
Please contact Lindsey Boone to get started or sign the sheet in the narthex with your name and contact information.



## Youth Group of NAC



**Wednesday evenings**  
**6:30 – 8:15 pm**



Do you have a teen in grades 6-12 who could really benefit from coming to know that the truths of biblical Christianity hold up to the toughest intellectual standards? Does your teen ask you questions about God that you just can't answer? Is his faith challenged at public school? Would you like her to be prepared to defend her faith in a real way?

Have your teen join us on Wednesday evenings. We just started our new series; it's a great, weekly adventure of learning Christian apologetics! ("Apologetics" is the reasonable defense of biblical Christianity.)

Please read the following quote from Alex McFarland, president of Southern Evangelical Seminary and the Veritas Graduate School – and speaker and writer for teen apologetics with Focus on the Family: *As for youth ministry, apologetics is often assumed not to be relevant to the lives of teens or too complicated. I disagree. I think we set the intellectual bar way too low. Youth ministry*

*should promote (among other things) critical thinking skills and the embrace of a biblical view in all areas of life. Many Christian teens are NEVER intellectually stretched at church. For fear of losing teens' interest or for fear that we'll appear boring, youth ministry has fallen short of imparting the deep truths of Christianity ... Apologetics and doctrine should be a part of every church's youth ministry! In my experience, Christian teens want to know the reasons why we believe what we believe. It's funny – I've never had a teen say to me, "My generation cares more about relationships than about truth" Never. Or, "Feelings are what convinces me of a point; evidence doesn't matter at all." No student I've interacted with has said, "Please stop! Don't you know that people our age aren't smart enough to understand Christianity?"*

Encourage your teen to join us on Wednesday evenings! We have incredible group prayer time, worship in music to contemporary, meaningful songs; and we play games together that bring laughter and encourage friendship. s the faith of your teen challenged at public school? Would you like him to be prepared to defend his faith in a real way?

### Upcoming Activities:

Christmas Caroling (Dec 13)  
Lock-in (Jan 9)  
Snow Tubing (Feb 13)  
Progressive Dinner (Mar 13)

### Active Youth Leaders

Bria & Kevin Craycraft  
Katie & Steve Smith

Serving Him with Joy –  
Shelli Prindle & Youth Leadership

**VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA**

Greg, a seminary student who went on a missions trip to SE Asia, shared a lesson he learned about "giving and happiness" when his funds were stretched beyond limits as a college student. He knew tithing was the right thing to do. But his resources were very small; and he needed the money for the trip. He did put the tithe in the offering and was given 'gifts' above and beyond the amount he placed that day. Greg learned that giving, not only in monetary ways, but also be investing in people's lives with time, encouragement, prayer, maybe a smile, and whatever may be needed at a particular moment is a joy and reward.

You are probably wondering what does the above paragraph have to do with Christmas? Christmas is a time of giving. We spend A LOT of time, energy, and money choosing the perfect (?) gift for our loved ones. We decorate, bake, send greetings, travel, worship, sing, spend, plus all the other activities we do on a routine schedule. WHY??? Because we want to . . . (back to Gregg - he mentioned in his article that givers are happier people because they invest in others. See 2 Corinthians 8 and Matthew 6:9-21).

The ladies in the Monday morning Bible study helped this writer answer the question, "what are gifts that don't cost money?" Their responses were: salvation, a baby's smile, a child's laugh, family, our church, health, birds singing, hugs, sunrays, a mother's love, friendship, compassion, sunsets, quiet times, birds at the feeder, prayers, waterfalls, and worship. You get the picture. God has given us so many wonderful things to enjoy that do not cost a penny. We need to share them with others.

As we contemplate and celebrate the Christmas season, remember that giving implies so much more than spending money. Randy Alcorn in his book, *The Law of Rewards: Giving What You Can't Keep to Gain What You Can't Loose*, writes, "Everything we have now will be destroyed . . . and everything we give to the Lord in life becomes treasures in heaven that cannot be destroyed or taken away." Meditate on that for a few minutes. Think about what you are doing with your time and earthly treasure.

This writer was originally going to entitle this "Giver of Gifts"; God the Father gave the greatest gift of all when He gave us JESUS!!! MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Reference material taken from Mission Frontiers Magazine, Sept/Oct 2014, by Greg Parsons, Global director, US Center for World Mission

**The Women's Corner**

by Janis Swope

Have I told you lately how good God is? Have I told you how He blesses us? In November, the Ladies Bible Study enjoyed celebrating Thanksgiving with a delicious luncheon feast. If you don't know by now, we have some really wonderful cooks in our congregation! Before the big feast I took some time to talk about being thankful for all the blessings we have and touched just a little bit on how important it is to thank God for what He has done in our lives. I then listed all the numerous things I was grateful to God for. When I was finished, I asked each Lady to share what she was thankful for. I had no idea what this would mean to me personally. It was totally moving and inspiring to hear the wonderful praises as each woman gave glory to God for the things God had accomplished in their lives in just this past year. By the time we had heard from the third woman to give praise, we were all in tears and just about stayed that way until we were finished listing our blessings. When I looked around the tables at each woman's face I could see the work God was doing and continuing to do in their lives. I was incredibly blessed in return. It was one of the best studies we have had, just telling about what God has done! I sincerely pray that God will continue to lead us all as we continue to seek Him and learn about Him during the Ladies Bible Study.

During this Christmas season, I hope you will all take some time to think about how you have seen God move in your life this year. Take some time to thank Him for all your blessings, both great and small. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

If you are interested in joining us on Monday mornings at 10:30 a.m., we would be delighted to have you. We are using the book "Basic Christianity" by John Stott. And as always, we'll have the coffee on!

**The Last Word**

*This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent - Jesus Christ.*

John 17:3

