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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**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

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Last month at Eat'n Park, I was arguing with another Christian about church practice and policy. I became so loud and insulting that people around us began to look at me and snicker at my behavior. I wouldn't blame anyone for thinking "whatever he believes is not working for him."

God's Word says, "You show that you are a letter from Christ" as your words and actions are known and read by everyone. 2 Corinthians 3:3

That's a theological fact. And we do need Jesus' help to live that out. At the restaurant my behavior spoke louder than my doctrine. Lost guys are not interested in the truth of doctrine until they see the truth of doctrine lived out.

Jonathan Edwards once wrote that our sin can harm the gospel more than the devil himself. My sin can quench the Holy Spirit, the devil cannot. R.T. Kendall noted, "What impacts the lost world most is changed lives for which there is no natural explanation."

An old poem is true:

*"You're writing a gospel, a chapter each day,  
By the deeds that you do, and the words that you say.*

*And men read what you write, distorted or true,  
So what is the gospel according to you?"*

Jesus died for our sins and rose again to be received as Lord and Savior. The good news of the life of Christ in you is a living letter from God.

If you were to raise physically from the dead, it would not be as miraculous and impressive as you being born of God's Spirit. So as an oldie says, "What's your story . . . about His Glory?"

**inward.  
outward.  
upward.**

**CONNECTION SERVICE**

**Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm**

**Speaker: SHELLI PRINDLE**

 **connection**  
2nd Sunday each month  
7pm

Max Lucado quotes:

"You weren't an accident.  
You weren't mass produced.  
You aren't an assembly-line product.  
You were deliberately planned,  
specifically gifted,  
and lovingly positioned on the earth  
by the Master Craftsman."

\* \* \* \* \*

"God loves you just the way you are,  
but He refuses to leave you that way.  
He wants you to be just like Jesus. "

**CONGREGATION MEETING**

Wednesday, January 18, 2012



The following were elected as Officers and Staff for the year 2012 during the Congregation Meeting in January:

**Ministry Board Secretary**

Cindy Barnhart

**Church Treasurer**

Bob Tierney

**Assistant Treasurer**

Roy Koch

**Board Member-at-Large (2-year term)**

Bill Freise

**Elders (3-year term)**

Kevin Craycraft

Denney Irwin

Frank Kolar

**Elder-in-Training (1-year term)**

Fred Angiolieri

**Trustee (4-year term)**

Ed Sandsmark

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**Highlights of the meeting are:**

- ◆ It was approved to use up to \$18,000.00 from the Budget Reserves for Outreach as needed
- ◆ It was approved to renovate the existing kitchen by replacing the floor covering, obtaining a newer freezer (similar to the refrigerator we now have) and a convection oven.
- ◆ It was reported that the budget giving exceeded the budgeted amount by 0.6% ~ thank you for your faithful giving.

\*\*\*\*\*

Extra Annual Reports are available on the shelf in the narthex. If you would like to read more about the ministries of the church in 2011, please pick up a copy of the report.

**Ministry Board Members**

The Ministry Board is made up of the following positions and people:

- \* Secretary (Cindy Barnhart)
- \* Treasurer (Bob Tierney)
- \* Assistant Treasurer (Roy Koch)
- \* Lead Trustee (Ken Simmons)
- \* 2 Board Members-at-Large (Justin Metzger and Bill Freise)
- \* DMC Director (Carole Sarber)
- \* Lead Elder (Jeff Ewing)
- \* 2 Elders (Charlie Metzger and Bill Sarber)
- \* Pastor Bob

Duties of the Board Members at Large ~ Members at Large are elected by the congregation to round out representation of the congregation on the Ministry Board. They are on the Board as elected representatives, not as those who are on the Board because of their office of service, such as Treasurer, Elder, etc. All Ministry Board members are amenable to the membership of the church, and are representatives of it.

If you have a concern about anything happening within the church or you have a program you would like see started, please bring your concerns and ideas to one of the Board Members-at-Large. They will in turn bring these to the Ministry Board meetings on your behalf.

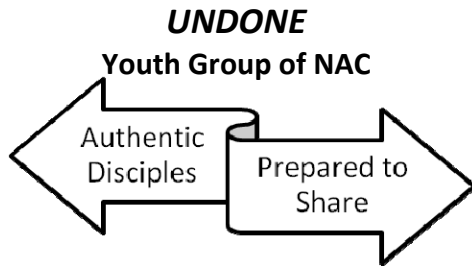
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**Elder Board Members**

- † Kevin Craycraft
- † Ron Dornin
- † Jeff Ewing, Lead Elder
- † Wes Hughes
- † Denney Irwin
- † Charlie Metzger
- † Bill Sarber
- † Pastor Bob

Elder-in-Training ~ Fred Angiolieri

Pray for a :

**JESUS for PEOPLE**  
focus at Norwin Alliance Church.



**Wednesday evenings**  
**6:30 – 8:00**

**Parent Info**

Current Course: ***Apologetics Activated!***

**Description:** The Christian faith of the Bible is based on fact. Jesus is the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer of all reality. *Apologetics Activated!* equips believers by providing an introduction to a reasoned defense of Biblical Christianity. Topics include:

- The function of reason
- The origin and nature of reality
- The nature of truth
- Reasons to believe in the Bible
- Reasons to believe in God
- The radical nature of Christianity

**Goals:** After completing this course, your teen will be able to –

- Appreciate God’s involvement in every aspect of life; including the physical universe, the life of each person, academic studies, recreation, relationships, etc.
- Better defend the biblical Christian faith in both an academic setting and a casual setting.
- Recognize and use vital terminology in our engagement with the world about our faith.
- Explain his/her reasons for believing in God and the Bible.
- Make the vital distinction between true Christianity and other religions.

Parents, please be in prayer for us as we go continue in this study. We are attempting to defy the well-known, discouraging statistics about the faith of many church-going young people. We take seriously our responsibility to make disciples who are authentic and prepared to share.

Activities:

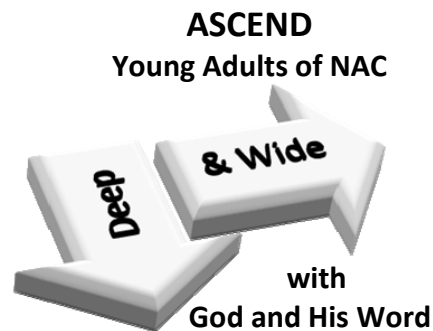
Our recent lock-in was much fun for everyone who attended. We saw our young people enjoy true fellowship and build new friendships.

We are currently planning snow-tubing for the month of February.

On March 10, the youth Sunday School class will be challenging the Ascend class to basketball at the Hempfield Athletic Complex.

We thank you, the parents and families, for supporting your teen in his/her walk with Jesus by allowing them to be a part of NAC Youth!

In His Love – Shelli Prindle



If you are not attending ASCEND, you are missing out! Our growing class is focused on **deep** study of the Word of God so that we can **apply** His Word widely to our own lives and the life of His world in general.

The “buzz” about ASCEND:

- “The enthusiasm and approach is exciting! We are being fed spiritually.”
- “I can’t say how much it means to our family for me to be inspired and challenged in this way.”
- “A great place to be!”
- “I have been helped with a personal situation through the application of God’s Word. He met me right where I needed to be met.”
- “A tremendous class! My spouse and I talk through the notes and ideas all week long.”

Our ministry for people ages 18-49 happens every Sunday morning in the fellowship hall from 9:45-10:30 am. Join us!

Activities:

Last November, we all went bowling and out for ice cream. What a great time was had by all! Okay, so not all of the Ascend people are the best bowlers . . .

On January 28, we will be having a night of dinner and games here at the church. We can’t wait, as the fellowship is a vital part of growing together!

## KEEN-AGERS



Do you have the mid-winter blahs? You have not tried coming to Keen-Agers have you? Try us!! There's time to talk and visit; we'll put a smile on your face, feed you, and send you home with lifted spirits.

Join us on Thursday, February 23rd at 11:30 am. You will enjoy a lunch of Italian food, side dishes and cherry pie with ice-cream for dessert. Special speaker is Shelli Prindle who will share a message about the preeminence of Jesus in science and the everyday reality of life.

Please contact Betty Kunkle or Ruth Long (Co-Presidents of the Keen-Agers) if you have any questions.

If you are 50 years of age and older, we'll be expecting you!

### "Stamp Ministry" Volunteer Wanted

Someone is needed to collect and prepare the church's canceled postage stamps. This Alliance ministry is headquartered in Ft. Myers, Florida. Our denomination has funded over \$750,000 to publish Christian literature into Spanish for Latin America.

Do you have a little time to perhaps trim, sort, and send our donated stamps? This could be a "family project".

Please contact Cindy, in the church office, or Yvonne Simmons.



## VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

During the month of February we think of Presidents' Day, the beginning of Lent, and VALENTINES DAY. All of us yearn to love, and to be loved. Love is defined in numerous ways depending on whom is asked, and when, and why, and how. Children often have the best responses. But our heavenly Father is the very best example of love. The simple little chorus, "*Jesus Loves Me*" tells the story in the most easily understood message. A hymn that keeps popping up to this writer's mind is: "*The Love of God*", from Jeremiah 31:3. Read the words intensely.

1. The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell, It goes beyond the highest star, And reaches to the lowest hell; The guilty pair bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win; His erring child He reconciled, And pardoned from his sin.
2. When years of time shall pass away And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall, When men who here refuse to pray, On rocks and hills and mountains call; God's love so sure shall still endure, All measureless and strong; Redeeming grace to Adam's race--- The saints and angels' song.
3. Could we with ink the ocean fill And were the skies of parchment made, Were every stalk on earth a quill And every man a scribe by trade, To write the love of God above Would drain the ocean dry; Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Tho' stretched from sky to sky.

### CHORUS:

O love of God, how rich and pure!!!  
How measureless and strong!!  
It shall forever more endure the saints and angels' song.



Rental unit available:

One side of a two-story duplex located at 45 Lincoln Ave. in North Irwin. Newly remodeled. "Move-in" ready.

If you are interested, please contact Bob or Kathi Menzies at 724-864-4722.



NAC rents a dumpster from Waste Management that is picked up every other week. If items placed in the dumpster do not allow the lids to sit flush on the dumpster, Waste Management can charge the church an additional service charge.

If at all possible, when placing trash in the dumpster, make sure all boxes are broken down and the dumpster lids can be fully shut.

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY  
GOD'S WAY**

How fast can you unscramble these biblical words of love?

[www.any-occasion-free-christian-game.com](http://www.any-occasion-free-christian-game.com)

Couples From the Bible

See how well you know the Valentines of the Bible

1. NUIYT
2. NAFTHUIFESLS
3. NMMNDCTESMAO
4. FYLAMI
5. YTRLOELOV BHER
6. IARTHYC
7. FVSEGNISIOER
8. NAISOMPCSO
9. SHNIRGA
10. GINCRA

1. Adam
2. Abraham
3. Isaac
4. Jacob
5. Boaz
6. Samson
7. Ahasuerus
8. David
9. Joseph
10. Moses

Choose from:

- A. Rebekah
- B. Eve
- C. Bathsheba
- D. Sarah
- E. Zipporah
- F. Rachel
- G. Delilah
- H. Ruth
- I. Esther
- J. Mary

Answers on back of calendar

**Norwin Alliance Church's  
MEN'S "WILD GAME" DINNER  
FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2012**



**Doors Open ~ 6:00 pm      Dinner ~ 6:30 pm  
Guest Speaker: Joe Toomey**

Calling all Men and Boys ~ you are invited to attend Norwin Alliance Church's Annual Wild Game dinner and a program featuring Joe Toomey. Joe Toomey is from the W.PA District Office of the C&MA and is an excellent speaker. Come meet Joe Toomey and fellowship with other men from the area and sample the "catches" of the year (domesticated foods will also be served).

Circle March 9<sup>th</sup> on your calendars, invite your friends, and come enjoy an evening of fun, food, fellowship, and a great testimony. \* \* Parking will be at a premium that evening ~ carpooling is encouraged

Please fill out the slip below and place in the offering plate or slip under the secretary's office door before **Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**. Please don't delay ~ reserve your spot today.

\* \* \* \*

Did you have a successful "hunting" season? Do you have any game you would like to donate? If so, please call the church at 724-864-1570 asap. We would like to have all donated meat to the church by Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> so "dishes" can be planned and prepared.

If you have a favorite recipe you like to make with your wild game and would like to prepare a dish for the dinner, please contact the church with your intentions by February 7<sup>th</sup>.

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**MEN'S "WILD GAME" DINNER REGISTRATION  
Friday, March 9, 2012**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

**No reservation will be accepted after  
Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

**PRAYER CHAIN**

New Prayer Chains are in the process of being put together.

What is the Prayer Chain and what does it do?

Those members and adherents of Norwin Alliance Church who wish to be prayer intercessors for the church family are placed on Deaconess' lists. When the intensive prayer chain is activated (for emergency or critical needs of our immediate church family), your Deaconess will call you for your prayers. This chain is also activated to inform of service closings. All other prayer requests are circulated through the Deaconesses and Elder for prayer.

Not all prayer requests go through the intensive prayer chain. As stated above, only emergency or critical needs of our immediate church family are placed on the intensive chain ~ unless the family specifically requests that the full chain be activated. Some prayer requests are of a personal nature and only the Elders and Deaconesses are contacted for prayers.

When calling in prayer requests, if you want the intensive prayer chain activated, please indicate this when calling. In the same manner, not all requests are printed on the Praise and Petition sheet. We try very hard to honor everyone's privacy. If you would like your request printed on the Praise and Petition sheet, please state this when calling in for prayer.

When called to prayer ~ pray as though the need was for a member of your own family ~ we are all a part of God's family.

If you are not already a part of the Norwin Alliance Prayer Chain and would like to pray for the needs of your church family, please see Judy Himler, Lead Deaconess, so she can add you to a list. Also, if you have any questions about the Prayer Chain, please contact Judy or Pastor Bob.



*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

*I Thessalonians 5:17*

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**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY  
GOD'S WAY**

Answers from page 5

UNITY	1.	b
FAITHFULNESS	2.	d
COMMANDMENTS	3.	a
FAMILY	4.	f
BROTHERLY LOVE	5.	h
CHARITY	6.	g
FORGIVENESS	7.	i
COMPASSION	8.	c
SHARING	9.	j
CARING	10.	e

Couples From the Bible

Answers from page 5