
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

JANUARY 2011



Shoulder to Shoulder Ministry from Christ in 2011. God says, “I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all may call on the Lord and serve Him shoulder to shoulder.” Zephaniah 3:9

Here are some shoulder to shoulder experiences the Lord provides for you with Norwin Alliance Church. These are relationship building times with God and His people. Jesus said that it is not our activity that produces fruit, it is our relationship with Him. (John 15:5)

- ◆ Shoulder to shoulder in worship on Sundays. Make this non-negotiable. Be a doer of the Word found in Hebrews 10:25. Meet Him here.
- ◆ Shoulder to shoulder in Sunday School and Ascend. Your spiritual health is best when learning with the local Body of Christ. If you feel you are educated in the Bible far beyond your level obedience, remember you don't know the Word until you put the Word into practice.
- ◆ Shoulder to shoulder in Wednesday services. Relationships. Singing. Praying. Looking into God's Word . . . what is He saying to you? Maximum participation equals maximum growth. Spiritual pride and laziness are healed by the Lord.
- ◆ Shoulder to shoulder in outreach and service. There is a place for everyone and everyone is to be in place. Be a friend to those around you

who don't know the Lord. No strings attached, no conditional love. Put into practice your Andrew Ministry and pray for our times of outreach. 90% of our time is spent in the lost world, and that is where 90% of our service to the Lord takes place.

God bless you for your best year yet with the Lord and His people.



YEAR END REPORTS

ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS.....from KEEN-AGERS, ALLIANCE WOMEN, ALLIANCE MEN, DMC, LEAD ELDER, LEAD TRUSTEE, TREASURER, ASST. TREASURER, YOUTH...All End-of-Year reports are due to Cindy Barnhart **NO LATER THAN JANUARY 9th**. Please make sure that your report includes a financial report also. If you chose to do your report on a computer, please put it on a CD and give it to Cindy (She will provided the CD if needed) or you may e-mail it to the church at ncma@norwinalliance.org.

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a meeting of the congregation on Wednesday, January 19th.

Even though only members are permitted to vote, everyone is invited to attend the meeting.

Please make every effort to be here.



KEEN-AGERS

The first Keen-Agers meeting of 2011 will be Thursday, January 27th at 11:30 am. All those who are 50 years of age and over are invited to the Keen-Agers in this New Year for a covered dish lunch and time of fellowship and fun.

Watch your bulletins for more information.



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

1. Discussed Elder and Elder in Training nominations
2. Discussed Deaconess nominations
3. Approved the following outreach event proposals for 2011:
 - A. 2 events – Easter Egg Hunt – and Ham Giveaway prior to Easter
 - B. Summer – possible block party for children
 - C. October – Garage Sale Giveaway
 - D. Thanksgiving – Turkey Giveaway
 - E. Christmas – Toy Giveaway for needy families
4. Approved allowing Josh & Abby Rattin to speak on 1/2/2011 about their mission trip to Uganda.

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

1. Approved the *Praise Partners* (Children's ministry) to visit Ruth Lauffer in January.
2. Discussed air/heat issue in Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.
3. Continue to review and update Policy Manual.
4. Discussed posting Elder lists on bulletin board the first of the year.

Adult Sunday School Classes



New classes begin January 2nd.

Assuring Hope ~ A study of God giving us strength with the birth of Christ. The Biblical study will be in Isaiah. Join this class to learn about Jesus as Messiah, Son of God, Servant, and His coming again. Meets in Room 22 (down the ramp)

Teachers: Mark Lazzaro and Bill Swope

30 Life Principles ~ Connie Niedermeyer and Bob Tierney will continue this study by Charles Stanley. Even though life can seem to be a struggle, Dr. Stanley's teachings will help you overcome and live triumphant.

Teacher: Connie Niedermeyer

Meets in Room 35 A&B (across from the Nursery)

Teacher: Bob Tierney

Meets in the Sanctuary

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ascend

ASCEND is a new ministry that is geared to reach individuals between the ages of 18 and 19. The goal and vision is to provide the foundation upon which other ministries can be built.

We are seeking to provide opportunity for deeper relationships within the body of Christ by focusing on the areas of fellowship, prayer, study and discussion. We will seek not only to pray together, but to build relationships through prayer groups and partnerships. Yes, we will study the Bible, but we will also seek to learn *how* to study the Bible to gain a better understanding of true Christian discipleship. We will break for group discussions to allow believers and non-believers to apply God's word to everyday life.

I'm in . . . now what? Grab your Bible, turn it to **1 John** and join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 am beginning Sunday, January 2nd to find out!

VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

In November 1967, Joni Erickson (Tada) was paralyzed from a swimming accident. Imagine being seventeen years old and finding out your future will be a wheelchair, or lying on the flat of your back, or suffering from numerous surgeries, or bedsores, or needing help for the very basics of daily living. Joni's book **A LIFETIME OF WISDOM**, reflects on her life in the hospital immediately after the accident and then 40 plus years later on the 'rubies' her life has given to her, especially a very special relationship with God. The extended title of her book is "Embracing the Way God Heals You". Let's look at a few examples of wisdom that she shares with us.

"You make the hard choices; God gives you the grace."

"Waiting on God is an active, confident trusting - - an instant obedience."

"Scripture calls every one of us to the throne of grace but doesn't tell us how to get there. Just COME."

"In the tightest, most confining of life circumstances, you can find a wide place to stand in the sweet presence and sustaining might of God who loves beyond measure."

"The harder we lean, the stronger we grow."
"Contentment is gritty determination and sufficiency."

"God doesn't waste things; He redeems them."

"God hasn't promised me happy endings to every life situation, but He has assured me of greater faith."

"If God says NO to one of our requests, it is only that He might say YES to something infinitely more valuable and beyond our reckoning."

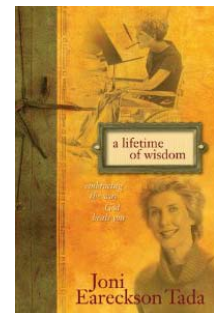
"You are never so far down and out that God is not near."

"When we're too weak and overwhelmed to come to Him, He will come to us."

"There is something about a song of praise rising out of brokenness."

Those quotes from Joni's book are just a small sampling of the wisdom Joni shares with us. When we think that our life is so hard and we do not know how we can continue, just remember some of the wisdom Joni shares from her wheelchair of 40-plus years. She admits that having spent all these years depending on God for the strength to just go day by day, is a journey of faith and trust that she would not have known IF she had not been injured at such a tender age. Her ministry to thousands of handicapped persons is an unexpected blessing, despite the difficulties of her life. "Suffering in the present turns our hearts toward the future. Earth's pain keeps crushing our hopes, reminding us this world can never, never satisfy us. God wants us to march into the reality He has in mind for us. It requires gutsy faith to do so, but as we trust God, we move beyond the present into the future. We bring the joy of Zion, the happiness of heaven, right into the present tense. So we set our focus no on what is seen, but what is unseen. And its price is far, far above rubies."

(NOTE: If you have read a good book recently, please share it with us. Ask Cindy to put a review in the Koinonia.)



MEN'S WILD GAME DINNER

Friday, February 18, 2011

Doors Open ~ 6:00 pm

Dinner ~ 6:30 pm

Speaker: Leo Wisniewski



Dress Available to anyone who can use it

2 piece lilac dress - size 14 regular
Long skirt - button down top

Coordinating purse included

If you are interested in this dress, please contact the church office.

New in the Church Library:

Dam Break in Georgia by K. Neill Foster

The riveting, true story of a rain swollen lake and old earthen dam 286 feet above the Alliance's Toccoa Falls College is now available for our church. It tells what happened to a college community when 176 million gallons of water smashed through the campus in the early hours of November 6, 1977. Meet unique people who, from all outward appearances were ordinary, are yet unforgettable. Your life may change, also, as you read this account of sadness and joy at Toccoa Falls.

The World's Greatest Collection of Fun Bible Trivia by Barbour Publishing

The "old you" has the Sunday School stories and memory verses down pat. The "new you" never knew you could know so much about the Bible. This collection is brimming with amazing facts and figures, followed by a Scripture reference, about favorite Bible stories and characters. It is page-to-page fun for Bible studies, Sunday School classes, youth or children's groups.

If you have never been to the library, please check it out. It is located in the lower level and there are books for all ages.



Kitchen Building Committee

The Kitchen Building Committee is waiting to receive feedback from the C&MA W.PA District on the package submitted in November. The Committee is also waiting to receive architectural drawings for the kitchen expansion to proceed with State and Local approvals as well as obtaining contractor bids.

The drawings are expected in February 2011. The Committee is evaluating, in parallel, what can be accomplished within the existing kitchen space without expansion.

We will continue to keep you updated.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

We would like to print an updated Norwin Alliance Church directory and need your help. Please fill out the form below and return to the church by Sunday, January 23rd. Please be sure to include your name, birth date and birth year to aid in keeping track of the age-groups of our church family.

Whether you have been here 30 years or have just begun to attend, we would like you to fill out one of these forms. Please feel free to contact the church if you have any questions.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Birthday (mo/dd/yr) _____

(please include name **AND** year)

Spouse's birthday _____

(please include name **AND** year)

Anniversary _____

Child/Children's Names

Birthdate

Thank you for your help!