
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

NOVEMBER 2011



Missions is God's sure plan for human history and for your personal history. Glorifying God in missions is a big reason why you and the church exists at all. As an added blessing, missions gets us beyond being stuck on ourselves or being self-absorbed as a church.

In a co-laboring way, God chooses to use us, but does not need us to fulfill His Great Commission. Jesus prophecy and promise becomes our privilege:

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14

“I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice.” John 10:16

The book, Operation World, provides some mission facts that will keep you giving thanks, praying, and working for the fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission. This is what the Lord has accomplished so far:

- ~ approximately 75% of the world has heard the good news of Jesus.
- ~ approximately 90% of the world has access to a New Testament in their own language.
- ~ approximately 99% of the world is able to have access to gospel radio ministry.
- ~ every nation on earth has at least some Christians living there.
- ~ international missionaries are more numerous than ever before.
- ~ approximately 90% of the world has a witnessing church in their region.
- ~ sadly, at least 4 billion people are still lost and headed for a Christless eternity.

See you at the Missions Conference on November 5&6! Get in on what Jesus is doing.



The following items were approved and discussed at the Elder's meeting in October:

1. A collection of bags of food and donations for the Turkey Give-Away.
2. Various DMC activities
3. Evaluations of Neighbor Day and the Garage Sale Give-Away

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

1. A blower for the sanitary vent was installed ~ hopefully this will eliminate the smell in the Sanctuary.
2. The church's insurance company has approved funds for the repair of the church roof due to hail damage. Bids from roof contractors are being obtained.
3. Monthly financial reports of the church can be found in the small narthex (next to the DMC office) 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:

Elders ~ Jeff Ewing (Lead Elder), Kevin Craycraft, Ron Dornin, Jim Himler, Wes Hughes, Denny Irwin, Frank Kolar (In Training), Charlie Metzger, Bill Sarber, Jim Worley

Ministry Board Members-at-Large ~ Mardy Rogers, Justin Metzger

Ministry Board ~ Cindy Barnhart, Jeff Ewing, Roy Koch, Charlie Metzger, Carole Sarber, Ken Simmons, Bob Tierney, Jim Worley

**Jr/Sr Youth Sunday School
(7th - 12th Grade)**

Jr/Sr (Youth) SS has completed a study of the Book of Ruth. Have fun with the word search (last page of this newsletter) that includes the main points covered in class!

Congratulations to Sean Daniels who achieved the most points for memorizing key scripture passages and identifying Boaz's mother and her significance in the lineage of Christ. Way to Go, Laura Buchanan and Alex Himler who tied in the review of the session!

IF you have a teen in Jr or Sr High School that isn't currently attending Sunday School class, I encourage you to bring them. We will be studying a hymn(s) between sessions to get to know who composed these words and Why?

Our next session explores "What does it mean to be **Alliance**? What do we believe and why do we believe it? How do these beliefs define our identity and drive our activity? What are the common threads that tie us together to other Alliance people around the world? We will be encouraged to discover and embrace God's plans, purposes, and empowerment for our lives."

We will find these answers while studying the Four-Fold Gospel from the CMA/DNA: "The "spiritual" DNA of every Christ follower is to glorify God. It's what we were created to do. The spiritual "DNA" of the C&MA is to make Christ followers of all people (Matthew 28:18-20). IF we and other Great Commission Christians remain true to our call, the whole world—every nation, tongue and tribe—will declare the glory of God. Then we will see the return of Jesus Christ, our Coming King (Matthew 24:14)."

In His Service,

J. Renee Himler



**ASCEND
Young Adults of NAC**



If you are not attending ASCEND (and are between the ages of 18 and 49), 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!





MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2011

November 5-6

Theme: *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light”* Ephesians 5:8

The 2011-2012 Missions Conference theme—*Points of Light*—reminds us of our sacred trust to be the bearers of His light.

Saturday, November 5th

Prayer Breakfast ~ 9:00 - 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. You must sign the sheet in the narthex for this event.

Pizza for Youth ~ 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Youth area. The youth and the Ords will meet over pizza.

Sunday, November 6th

Services with the Ords ~ 8:30 & 10:45 am

Sunday School ~ 9:45 am

Doug with the children ages 2-6th grade

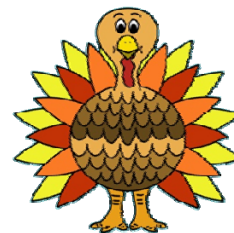
Naomi with the youth and adults

Luncheon ~ following the 10:45 service will be a luncheon for all.

Come out in November to hear Doug and Naomi Ord and how they were *light* in their neighborhoods in Colombia.



TURKEY GIVE-AWAY



Saturday, November 19th

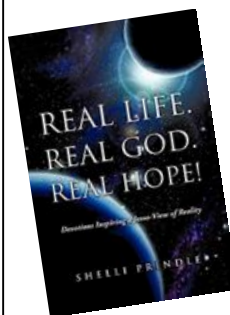
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

If you would like to volunteer on Saturday to help pass out turkeys, greet our visitors, or help pick-up turkeys, please sign the sheet in the narthex. Questions? See Mike Salvi.

In conjunction with the Turkey Give-Away, we are collecting non-perishable food items to be passed out with the turkeys. One or two items would be great, a bag would be greater. Would you step out in faith, open your hearts and hands and trust that God will provide and be willing to share some of the blessings we are fortunate to have. A table is set-up in the narthex where you can place your donated items. If you do not have the time to shop and would like to give a monetary donation, a box is also available in the narthex. Questions? See Lindy Charney.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me . . . I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 35-40

NEW DEVOTIONAL BOOK



Copies of Shelli Prindle’s (our Director of Youth and Young Adults) recently published devotional book are now available in the church office. The cost is \$13.00 (which includes tax).

“Real Life. Real God. Real Hope! is a must-have and deeply insightful word from the Lord. Each of the 146 pages gives a fresh reflection of a Scripture passage. You will read it over and over. Consider, also, giving a copy to ones you love.



PRAISE PARTNERS

visit

REDSTONE HIGHLANDS



On Sunday, September 25, Praise Partners, our elementary visitation team, visited Redstone Highlands. Becky Germy was their hostess. Shaylin and Keilah Craycraft (Becky's great-granddaughters), Dana and Jessica Ewing, Ashley and Alyssa Tomko were our young people who attended.

After Becky welcomed our church, the girls sang and read Scripture to the members who had gathered. Also, Dana and Jessica sang our national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner."

Then the girls visited Becky in her room. She had a big sign on the door welcoming them.

The girls also ministered to Muriel Quinto and Arnetta Shaffer, Virginia Wilson's mother.

Thank you, Janice and Mark Lazzaro and Beth Buchanan, for encouraging and supporting this ministry among our elementary children.

If your child is in the third through the sixth grade, and you would like him/her to be part of this ministry, please contact Carole Sarber.



KEEN-AGER



The Keen-Agers will meet one week earlier in November. They will meet on Thursday, November 17th for a catered Thanksgiving Luncheon beginning at 11:30 am

This year's Thanksgiving Luncheon will be catered by K-Vay's, and the meal will consist of ham, breaded boneless chicken, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, fruit cup, apple and pumpkin pie. Everyone will get BOTH entrees so no one will have to make a choice. Price per person is \$10.00, and all reservations and money must be in to Betty Kunkle, Ruth Long, or Muriel Quinto by Thursday, **October 27th**. The business end of the meeting will include the election of officers.

Mr. Haig, a retired Air Force Officer will be the guest speaker. Come here about his adventures as an Officer and his trips on Air Force 1 with several of our Presidents.

If you are age 50 or older, this is your special invitation to attend this meeting which begins at 11:30 am and concludes about 2:00 pm. Set aside the date, and make your reservations soon. We will look for YOU!!



Operation Christmas Joy

On Sunday, November 13th, a "family wish list" will be available for a District pastoral family that is in need during the Christmas holiday. This is a great opportunity to share the blessings God has sent our way.

For those of you who are new to the congregation, every year Norwin Alliance Church has helped a pastoral family that is in need during the Christmas holiday. Our district receives a "family wish list" for each member of the family under the age of 18 and our members provide the items noted on the "wish list". For the adult children (still living at home) and the parents, it is suggested that a monetary gift or gift certificates be given. All gifts are to be given anonymously ~ no reference to your name or the church name should be given.

Please keep your hearts open to the family selected for us and know that this family appreciates your kindheartedness!

All gifts should be returned to the church by Sunday, December 4th so they can be delivered to the District Office by December 9th.



Want to be a better Mother? You're not alone!
MOPS meets here at NAC on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

You do not have to join to be part of this group.

Come and give us a try.

We have devotions, food, fellowship and Moppets for children up to age 5.

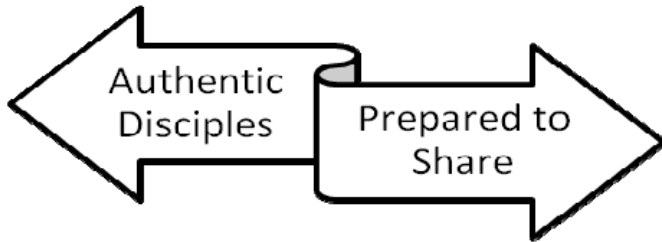
The fall study has just begun on "Momsense... Mom's Intuition + Common Sense". The lessons are on videos and then a discussion time.

So far, we've learned that we are the perfect Mom for our child(ren), appointed by God; and to eliminate some anxiety by making priorities for our family and structuring activity schedules based on our priority list.

If you are looking for a way to connect to other women going through similar times in their lives, join us **November 20th at 7 PM.**

We share and laugh and pray together.

Questions? Contact Vicki Booher at musicdirector@norwinalliance.org

UNDONE**Youth Group of NAC**

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 forward 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.

Upcoming Events:

- Oct 21-23 JOLT Junior High Retreat
- Oct 29 High School Bond-Fire
- Nov 5 Youth Night of Missions Conference

Our current youth leaders are:

- Kevin Craycraft
- Steve Meyer
- Adam Slafka
- Amy Slafka
- Rachel Slafka

For each of them, I am most thankful. They volunteer their love, time, and talent in this incredibly important ministry to young people.

Parents, thank you for entrusting your teens to our care. We are partnering with you for the glory of God!

In His Love –
Shelli Prindle



TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 8th



VIGNETTES BY VIRGINIA

During the month of November we are reminded to be thankful. However thankfulness/thanksgiving should be a continual habit -- not just one day celebrated with turkey and family.

This writer often does a simple written exercise to remind her of perpetual blessings. Maybe it could be part of your celebration. A young child can easily participate. Form an acrostic with the beginning letters of the word THANKSGIVING. This writer's example follows:

T ECHNOLOGY
H EAVEN
A RTISTIC ABILITIES
N AMES OF GOD
K NOWLEDGE
S AVIOR/SALVATION
G OD, THE FATHER
I NTELLECT
V ICTORIES
I NCOME
N EW LIFE
G RACE

World War I poet/novelist John Oxenham (1852-1941) writes:

*We thank you, Lord,
 That of your tender grace,
 In our distress
 You hast not left us wholly comfortless.*

*We thank you, Lord,
 That of your wondrous might,
 Into our night
 Thou hast sent down the glory of the Light.*

*We thank you, Lord,
 That all your wondrous ways,
 Through all your days,
 Are wisdom, right, and ceaseless tenderness.*

We truly have reason to praise and be thankful. (1) GOD LOVES US. (2) JESUS DIED FOR US. (3) A FUTURE IN HEAVEN AWAITS THE CHURCH.

The Women's Corner

by Janis Swope

Ladies Bible Study ~ We are studying the book of Acts. Chapter 12 certainly gave us something to think about. Herod decided to start persecuting the church to win the favor of the Jews. The first thing he did was arrest the apostle James and beheads him. (He was the first apostle to be martyred.) Then Peter was arrested. If you lived under a dictatorship and were arrested for being a Christian, what evidence do you think there would be to convict you? Ladies if you are available Monday mornings to ponder this and other questions about the New Testament church, we would love to have you attend. The time is 10:30 a.m. and the place is the Fellowship Hall.



Norwin Alliance Women ~ Our theme for the year is "Simply Fragrant."

Current News

The Fall Rally on Saturday, September 26th at the Ligonier Alliance Church was really interesting and enjoyable. Christian Queer, who is transitioning from her work in the Balkans to work here in Pennsylvania, was our speaker. In keeping with this year's theme, we were met with the fragrance of red peppers being cooked on the platform. We learned that the people of Macedonia love their red peppers and the fragrance of them cooking can be smelled everywhere. Christine encouraged us to use our lives as a sweet fragrant offering for Jesus.

On December 19th the Alliance Women will celebrate Christmas with a luncheon after our monthly meeting. This is a potluck luncheon. All ladies are welcome to attend. Please bring an item of food to be donated to the Westmoreland County Food Bank. This is a good time to come and fellowship with your sisters in Christ. Look for a sign-up sheet in November.

The November meeting will be on Nov. 21st at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will make our plans for the Christmas meeting in December and for upcoming projects for 2012.

The Last Word . . .

"If my private world is in order, it will be because I am convinced that the inner world of the spiritual must govern the outer world of activity." Gordon MacDonald from "Ordering Your Private World Expanded Edition"



Missions Moment

by: Janis Swope

At this point in time we are preparing and praying for great missions conference in a few weeks (November 5 & 6). I am looking forward to what the Doug and Naomi Ord have to tell us about missions in Columbia and about their plans for retirement and new ministry opportunities here in the States. The Ords started their mission work in 1979. Let's give them the best welcome we can when they are visiting with us.

For November, our focus mission country is Mali, Africa. International worker, Janet Schaeffer, wrote an update on her status in October. In it she tells about her work day as a nurse in Koutiala, Mali.

5:45am: Wake-up call – sick call from one of my nurses. My scheduling is so tight that there isn't anyone available to pick up the shift, so we'll just "make do". Back to sleep until the alarm goes off at 6:15.

7:15: Off to work with my nephews, Paul, David & Stephen (they stayed with me for 6 weeks for a summer internship at the hospital.) Two pediatric patients, Francois (leukemia) and Jara (juvenile diabetes) hurry over to help us carry our packed lunch and water.

7:30-8: Staff devotions: sing, listen to a devotional, and pray together to start our workday.

8-12:30pm: Administrative tasks + visits. This includes, but is not limited to: scheduling (of the 70 workers in our nursing dept), orientation program planning, discipline issues, evaluations, meetings, problem solving, machine fixing, and other such "fun"!

Visits: In case the administrative tasks get tedious, there are frequent interruptions from Peds patients wanting a little attention, as well as Salif (the young man I wrote about in my last update) and Pastor Samuel who has brought someone in from his village.

12:45: Lunch in the office plus more visits from peds patients.

1:30-4: Orientation class. Prep for class/grade quizzes, then off to class with 2 new nurses. Teach about IVs and blood transfusions.

4-6: Check on surgery progress in the OR since I'm on-call for anesthesia. Back to administrative projects and meetings with nurses.

6:15-7:15: Visit Nana, my friend who has 3 sets of twins and 1 set of triplets. Around 6:45, Nana sends her daughter out to the street to find out from others if it is time to break the fast. Nana is fasting during the month of Ramadan. Soon after, I am served tea and snacks. I ask for the road and leave just before Nana does her prayers.

7:30-8:25: Eat dinner that has been cooked by my houseworker. My nephews and I relax and check e-mail and Facebook.

8:26: Call from the hospital for a c-section. I open a drawer in my bedroom to get scrubs, and find some unwanted guests – termites. Spray some insecticide, change into my scrubs, and head to the hospital. 8:30-10: Provide anesthesia (a spinal) for a woman having a c-section. Baby boy looks good, mom to recovery room after surgery.

10-10:30: War with the termites. My nephews move my heavy wardrobe away from the wall to kill and clean-up. If it weren't for all the help and fun added to daily life by Paul, David & Stephen, the termites might have gotten the better of me! So grateful for them!

10:30-11:15: Prepare for another day. The house is back in order (mostly!). E-mail, read, straighten up, head to bed.

12:40: Awakened by...no, thankfully not the hospital...but a huge thunderstorm and strong winds. Enjoy sleeping under the blankets with "chilly" temperatures around 75 degrees.

As you see, our missionaries work very hard. Pray for the country of Mali that more Malian nurses will be found and that national workers will receive the training necessary for them to continue the good work of spreading the gospel to all in Mali.

Our Missionaries

Keep Rachel Wilson in prayer as she recovers from surgery to mend a broken leg. This will delay her return to Ethiopia for a while longer. Pray for a good recovery and rehab so she can go back to Ethiopia in tip top shape.

Pray for Doug and Naomi Ord to make a smooth transition from the mission field to retirement here in Western Pennsylvania.



Remember to turn your clocks **BACK** 1 hour on Saturday, November 5.

HELP WANTED!



People are needed to decorate the church for Christmas.

If you are willing, please contact the church office.

Thanksgiving Season

On Wednesday, November 23rd, Pastor Bob will lead us in a Praise and Worship service at 7:00 pm at Norwin Alliance Church.

Invite your family and friends to join us as we give praise to God for the bountiful blessings He has given us this year!



~Veteran's Day~

Friday
November 11, 2011

Thank you to all of those that have served, and are serving in the American Armed Forces.

Let your actions reflect your heart and love of the Lord. Reach out and bless someone this Veteran's Day.



Operation Christmas Child
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

All shoeboxes should be returned to the church **Wednesday, November 9th** so they can be dedicated on Sunday, November 13th.

Remember:

- ~ to use a standard size shoebox or a 6-quart plastic box only.
- ~ Enclose a check (made out to Samaritan's Purse ~ note OCC on memo line) for **\$7.00 per box** to cover shipping and handling cost.
- ~ Secure the lid with a rubber band.
- ~ Attach the appropriate label (girl/boy) and mark the appropriate age category.



inward.
outward.
upward.

CONNECTION Services

resume

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

7:00 pm



R	A	H	A	B	A	O	R	S	R	U	E	C	N	A	C	I	F	I	N	G	I	S	L	O	G
E	E	D	R	Q	P	Q	E	D	C	Y	S	S	E	N	E	L	T	N	E	G	H	K	P	O	K
M	S	Q	F	R	A	P	J	F	K	O	J	S	N	O	I	L	I	K	F	B	C	X	D	Z	L
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N	E	M	A	H	L	O	N	F	U	O	P	T	E	O	U	D	V	P	L	T	U	A	L	P	L
I	B	A	S	K	E	B	U	A	Q	S	L	Z	X	C	R	V	E	B	N	M	Q	F	I	J	E

Locate the **bold** words:

1. Theme of the Book of Ruth-**Grace** is extended to ALL people who exercise faith!
2. Characters: **Rahab** the Prostitute, Boaz's mother found in the lineage of Christ.

Boaz the Kinsmen-**Redeemer**
Ruth, foreign widow of **Mahlon**

Naomi, widow of **Elimelech**
Orpah, widow of **Kilion**

3. Key Verse: 1:16-17"...Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your **people** will be my people and your **God** my God...May the Lord deal with me, be it ever to severely, if anything but death separates you and me."
4. Setting: During the rule of the Judges. Dark days for Israel. From **Bethlehem**, Judah to **Moab** and back during the time of famine.
5. Naomi and Ruth-example of **loyalty**, **friendship** and **commitment** to another and God.
6. "Call me **Mara** (bitter)"—who said that? We all NEED at least 1 **faithful** friend!
7. At **Barley** Harvest, Ruth's loyalty to Naomi and her work ethic recognized. **Significance** in life doesn't depend on public recognition. Some of the most important things we do are NOT dramatic or memorable. Jesus will reward on Judgment Day for things that are seemingly insignificant to the world's standards.
8. Ruth and Boaz demonstrate **integrity**. Life is an open place of service before our God.
9. The **sandal** seals the deal! Boaz and Ruth marry. Blessed by son **Obed**, grandfather of **David**.
10. God is **Sovereign**. Naomi and Ruth's heartache turned by God into blessing. IF you ever feel abandoned, turn to Romans 8:28-39 and remember ".....nothing can **separate** you from the love of God that is in **Christ Jesus** our Lord."

From the study's memory verses:

Psalm 118:24 "This is the **day** the Lord has **made**; let us **rejoice** and be **glad** in it."

Galatian's 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, **joy**, **peace**, **patience**, **kindness**, **goodness**, **faithfulness**, **gentleness** and **self-control**. Against such things there is no law."

Micah 6:8 "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord **require** of you? To act **justly** and to love **mercy** and to **walk humbly** with your God."