
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

October 2011



PRAYER ~ A little boy was trying to move a huge stone. His muscles were bulging and sweat was on his face. The boy's father saw this and asked, "Son, are you using all your strength?" The son said, "yes, dad, I'm using all my strength." And his dad said, "No you're not, you haven't asked me to help you."

Prayer is our first relationship. By prayer, we receive Christ and learn to follow Him. Prayerlessness is sin. Jesus said, "always pray and don't lose faith." Luke 18:1

Adrian Rogers once preached, "There is no substitute for prayer. . . not energy, not enthusiasm, not intellect . . . The evil one mocks our plans, laughs at our organization, sneers at our buildings. But the evil one fears our prayers."

Andrew Murray once said, "What you are on your knees before God, that is what you are and nothing else." God loves prayer. God's people love prayer.

The Lord answers all our prayers with "yes, no, or wait." But if the Lord would answer none of our prayers, our lives would be changed to Christ-likeness because we had the blessing of speaking with the King of kings and Lord of lords. God is prayer's best experience. "God is near us whenever we pray." Deuteronomy 4:7



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

1. Elected Charlie Frank to serve on the Nominating Committee
2. Participating in *Operation Christmas Child* (The Shoebox Ministry) and *Operation Christmas Joy* (District sponsored ministry)
3. Various workers and events for the DMC

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

1. The Proposed 2012 Budget was approved and will be presented at the Congregation Meeting to be adopted.
 2. Neighbor Day ~ 14 first time visitors in attendance and 22 returning visitors. (6 of our returning visitors came for the 1st time in 2010 and 2 1st time visitors from 2010 are now regular attendees.) There were 5 commitments to the Lord! Praise God for a wonderful day!
 3. Signs have been placed outside on the hill in the lower parking so drivers do not try to use that hill.
 4. A plumbing company has been to the church to try to determine the cause of the smell in the Sanctuary. It is recommended to put in a fan in our sewer line. Estimate will be forthcoming.
 5. Roofing Companies and an adjuster from our insurance company have come and surveyed the roof of the church to determine if there was damage from hail. Estimates will be forthcoming.
 6. Elk Air will come in and put 2 new air ducts in the youth area along with an air-return. Another air-return will be placed in the hall by the Nursery and Craft room.
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Great Garage Sale
GIVEAWAY
Norwin Alliance Church
 10585 Farview Drive
724-864-1570
Saturday, Oct. 1 10:30 AM

Norwin Alliance hosts another great Neighbor Day!

Wow! What a great turnout we had and what a beautiful day!!

Thank you for all the effort you put into inviting guests (this was the first time we ever ran out of yard signs to put out) and helping the day run smoothly. I enjoyed getting to know some of our new friends, especially Charlie & Stephanie!

If you were unable to attend this year, here's what you missed . . .

- (Saturday) Teams went door-to-door delivering invitations in 6 different neighborhoods
- Breakfast & greeting
- Rev. Joe Toomey spoke - **5 people prayed for salvation.**
- We had a delicious lunch made by the wonderful Fellowship Committee.
- Game time included many activities for children, "Minute-to-Win-it" games for all and the annual dunk tank
- 14 first-time visitors and 22 returning visitors came.

We are blessed to see a few new faces as a result of their visit on Neighbor Day. Please make sure you get to know them!



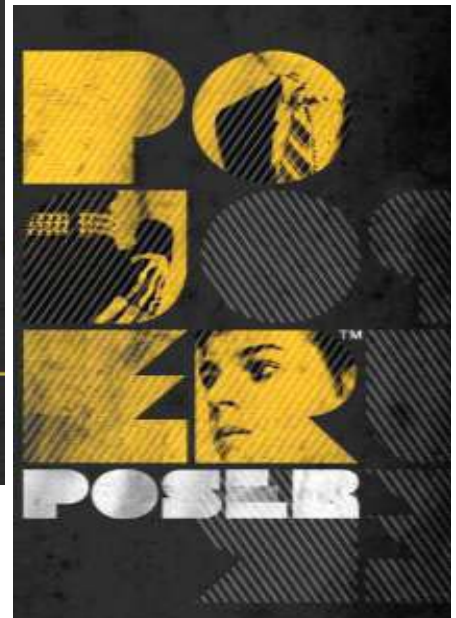
Featuring:

Jimmy Donaruma
and
Ryan Valdiviez

Junior High Youth Retreat

October 21-23, 2011

Family First Sports Park
Erie, PA



JOLT is a high impact weekend which is filled with opportunities for students to mature in their journey with Christ.

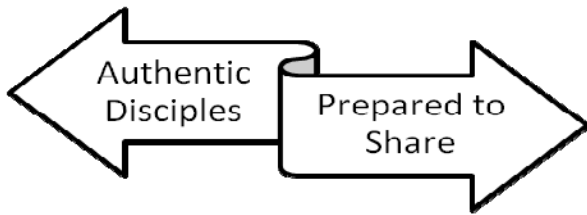
It's that time of year ~ the mice are coming in to keep warm and find food. Please do not leave food laying on the kitchen counters or in your classrooms. All food should be stored in plastic containers if they are to be left in the church.

Thank you for your help in this matter.



UNDONE

Youth Group of NAC



Wednesday evenings
6:30 – 8:00

Parent Info

We want you, the parents, to be informed and involved in communication with your son/daughter regarding all the vital things that are happening at *Undone*, the youth group at our church. To that end, please take time to read this recap of recent lessons:

Title of Series: *A Critical Question: Who Is God?*

Recent Emphasis: God is Holy

Key Texts: Exodus 11:1-6, Exodus 12:12-13, Psalm 136, Isaiah 6:3, John 1:29, Romans 6:23, I Peter 2:24, II Peter 3:13

Questions to Discuss with your Teen:

- What Anglo-Saxon word does “holy” come from?
- Why is Heaven called a “home of righteousness”?
- Why did God tell the Israelites in Joshua 10:40 to kill the inhabitants of the land?
- Why is God so serious about sin in our own lives?
- Explain the fact that God loves and hates.
- Talk about the oddity (but necessity) of all of Psalm 136.

- Explain what the Passover of Exodus has to do with us today?
- Why is Jesus “the Lamb of God”?

In the coming weeks, we will continue our study of God’s core attributes. Soon we will embark on an exploration of the basics of Christian apologetics. We want your teen to both grow deeper in his/her understanding of our very real God and be able to confidently articulate and defend biblical Christianity.

Please take note ***

*** Updated Medical Release/Permission Forms are needed for every teen who attends youth group and/or activities. Please contact Shelli if your child has not yet given you the form.

Feel free to “like” the facebook page of **UNDONE | Norwin Alliance Youth Group** in order to receive updates about events and bits of info concerning our lessons.

THANK YOU for your support of **UNDONE youth group! God is doing amazing things! Young people are making well-informed decisions to follow Christ and pursue a more vibrant walk with Him.**

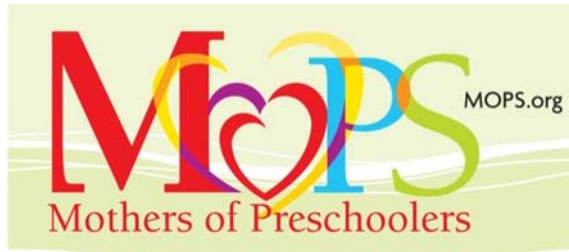


“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.” Exodus 12:13

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’” John 1:29

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!!

It's never too late to join us...
 Choir rehearses
 Thursdays 7-9 PM
 in the sanctuary.



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 **October 16 at 7 PM.**

We share and laugh and pray together.

Questions? Contact Vicki Booher at musicdirector@norwinalliance.org



Better Moms Make A Better World

We need you! If you love to sing and want to serve the Lord, come join us.

The Christmas Cantata is scheduled for December 10 at 10:45 AM. We will be singing "ONE KING". Rehearsals for just the cantata begin at 8:15. We welcome Cantata singers too!



**Sunday
 October 9, 2011**

PASTOR APPRECIATION

Pastor Appreciation Month is a special time that is set aside each year to honor pastor and their families for their hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings provided to their congregation.

Sunday, October 9th has been designated "Pastor Appreciation Sunday" by our Elders. There will be a special luncheon following the 10:45 service to honor Pastor Bob and his family. We would like to "shower" Pastor Bob and Regina with cards of thanks and appreciation ~ there will be a box available on the 9th.

"And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love."

I Thessalonians 5:12-13
 The Message Bible

Our Senses

Written by Becky Ewing and the
Primary Children's Church Class
(K-2nd grade)

"God is always with us;
This I simply know."
"How?" you ask, in disbelief.
"The Bible tells me so."

"He made me in His likeness,
Perfect and complete.
And gave me all five senses
To recognize His feats."

"I see God in the butterflies,
So light and full of grace;
In structures made with Legos,
Strong squares that stay in place."

"I see Him in the horses.
Their sleek coats, how they shine!
And in the glorious flowers of spring
And of the hope they sign."

"How about in bicycles?
The parts all work as one.
And in the skies with clouds above—
And look, the brilliant sun!"

"I see God in the books I read,
With pictures bright in hue;
And in the family He gave to me
And the one He gave to you."

"Can you hear God?" you ask of me,
With amazement in your voice.
"Of course I can, He's all around;
But listening is a choice."

"The pure, clear sound of a friendly whistle,
The horses' hooves a'beat,
The harmonic tunes of a haunting song
All bring me to His feet."

"I hear Him in the voices
Of my parents and my friends;
And in the steady heartbeat
From which my body sends."

"He's also there in a dog's big bark
And in my cat's meow;
But especially in an 'I love you,'
When a loved one tells me how."

"I'll give you that; it does make sense.
But what about a smell?"
"Oh, that's an easy one," I say.
"Sit back and to you I'll tell."

"The scent of perfume upon the air--
Woodsy aroma, so appealing.
And the pies and cakes assault my nose,
In a sniff which leaves me reeling."

"I smell God in the cookies baking
And in my mother's scent,
As she sits me in a chair
During the special times we spent."

"I also smell Him in the rose,
Which sets my nose a'tingling,
And in a pizza from the oven,
Those spices all a'mingling."

"Okay, okay, I kind of see
The point you're trying to make.
But in a taste, and on your tongue?
Please tell me, for goodness sake!"

"Oh, doughnuts, cookies, pumpkin pie,
In these tastes I delight.
And ice cream flavors so varied and rich—
Oh no, my belt is tight!"

"I also taste God in that square
Of chocolate, dark and creamy;
Melts on my tongue, my eyes they close,
And all at once, I'm dreamy."

"Let's not forget the main entrees,
Spaghetti and pizza pie.
Tomatoes, breads and spices, too;
My belly is where they lie."

"Mm, that does sound good," you say.
"But tell me, where is God?
Why can't I just feel Him?"

"Oh, but you can," I say, and nod.

"I feel God in a puppy's fur,
So silky, long and soft.
And as I touch a feather
While I send it back aloft."

"I feel Him in a piglet's skin,
So pink and new to touch.
And in a horse's shaggy mane;
It doesn't mind too much."

"I feel God in a velvet cloth
Or in a flower's petal.
I also feel Him in my arms
In the fur of my stuffed bear, Gretel."

"Wow!" you say. "I guess you can.
But, tell me, why can't I?"

"You need to talk to God today
And issue with a cry."

"Confess that you're a sinner;
Open your heart up wide.
Ask forgiveness for the things you've done,
And God will step inside."

"Accept His gift of the Perfect Lamb
To cleanse you from inside out.
And you'll be in the Book of Life!"
I tell you, without a doubt.

"Thank you, thank you! I think I see!"
You cry as you twirl around.
"I feel His power and hear His call,
Without Him making a sound!"

"I'm saved because you spoke to me
In child-like verse, it's true.
But if you had chosen to walk away,
I wouldn't know what to do."

"How to see Him? How to hear?
Oh my, I felt so lost!
So, thank you, Friend, for loving me
And speaking at all costs."



presents this inspiring event for
men, women, and youth.

Free Event ~ Open to the Public

Anxiety Undone

Shelli Prindle, Speaker

Saturday, November 12

6:00 pm

Greensburg Alliance Church

4428 Route 136 (at corner of Baltzer-Meyer Pike)

The pressures facing us every day
threaten to undo us ~ Come to **Anxiety
Undone** and let the Lord of the
Universe **undo anxiety** for you!

Questions - call 412.779.1357
www.hopeandpassion.org

"These things I have spoken to you,
so that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you have tribulation, but take
courage; I have overcome the world. "

John 16:33



KEEN-AGERS

If you are age 50 and older, this message is for YOU! The next meeting of the Norwin Alliance Keen-Agers is Thursday, October 27th beginning at 11:30 am. The meal will consist of soup or stew, salads, and desserts. Please remember to bring your own table service.

Business for the day will be the election of three people to a nominating committee. Watch you bulletins for program information.

This is YOUR invitation ~ please join us!

Vignettes by Virginia

The word DESIRE can be used as a noun or a verb. Desire means a strong wish or longing for, a craving, an intensity or ardor, a hunger or devotion for. Throughout Scripture we can find illustrations of people who ‘desired’ to meet or know Jesus (ex:Nicodemus, David, Abraham) Various verses from the Psalms and Proverbs relate to the author’s ‘desire’ to know the Father and worship Him. Jesus Himself told His disciples of His fervent desire to eat the Passover with them as it was the prelude to His death and resurrection. In a negative sense Romans 7:8 states, "Sin produced all manner of evil desire." (Also see I Corinthians 12:31 and 14:1; Colossians 3:5, James 1:12-18, and I Peter 2:2)

Ponder the words of a chorus that was often sung many years ago: "My desire to be like Jesus, My desire to be like Him. His Spirit fill

me; His love overwhelm me In deed and words to be like Him." And in a more contemporary rendition: "My soul desire to is to be used, An empty vessel longing to be filled by you. My soul desire is to serve you, Lord. To do your perfect will, to work each day and build Your Kingdom, this is my soul desire." The hymn "O TO BE LIKE THEE" also is a reminder of what we should ‘desire’ in our relationship with our Father. The words -- *This is my constant longing and prayer. Gladly I'll forfeit all of earth's treasures, Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear;* and from the third verse - *-Pour out Thy Spirit, fill with Thy love. Make me a temple fit for Thy dwelling; Fit me for life and heaven above.* The chorus ends: *Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness. Stamp Thine own image deep in my heart.*

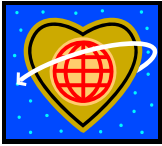
A benediction that is given to many congregations: "*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, oh Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer*" (Psalms 19:14) is an excellent ‘prayer’ for those of us who ‘desire’ to serve and minister to others as we worship the Father.

WHAT IS YOUR DESIRE?



O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.

I Corinthians 29:18



Missions Moment

by: Janis Swope

At a recent Alliance Women's meeting the ladies laughed when I told them about the "Do you know?" moments that Bill and I share. Both of us admit to being nerdy and when we discover a new fact I look at Bill or he looks at me and says "Did you know that....." Then we share the great information that we've just learned whether the other one wants to hear it or not!! Well, I have a great "Did you know" for you! Did you know that since August 1, every hour for 18 hours a day, a 15 second Alliance video segment has been broadcast in Times Square on 42nd street? The segment calls people to be a light in their world and points them to www.areloulight.org where they can discover the gospel message or learn how to shine the light they have. Sounds pretty impressive, doesn't it? That is just one way that the gospel message is being spread around the world. Think of all the people that pass through Times Square in New York City in one day!

Many countries around the world don't have means or resources to provide such a tool for evangelism and must rely on the good old fashioned way of doing it – telling one person at a time. This year our focus is going to be on helping national pastors and lay people get the education and training they need to spread the gospel and start churches in their own countries. Our country for October is Burkina Faso in Africa. When you pray for this country, please remember to pray for the education and training of its pastors and laity so that they may be shining lights in their own villages and neighborhoods. They may not have electric billboards, but their light can shine just as bright.

Our Missionaries

Remember to plan to attend the upcoming Missions Conference in November. Doug and Naomi Ord will be our guest missionary speakers. I can't wait to hear what they have to tell us about Columbia and how they are settling in to retirement.

Keep Rachel Wilson in prayer as she spends the remainder of her time in the states getting refreshed and ready to go back to Ethiopia.

October 30th will be the 5th Sunday in the last quarter of the year. Do you know what that means? It means we get to have another great Sunday school gathering to hear about how God is moving on the mission field. Hope you plan to attend!



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.

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



If your picture is not included on our Family Photo Wall, please contact the church office to set-up a Sunday that you are available to have your picture taken.

If you consider Norwin Alliance as your church home, we would love for you to be included.

The Women's Corner

by Janis Swope

Ladies Bible Study ~ Just as the kids went back to school, the Ladies Bible Study began our weekly study on September 12th. Everyone looked happy to be back. We reviewed the first 10 chapters of Acts and will resume our regular study on September 26th when we pick up with chapter 11. Ladies if you are available Monday mornings we would love to have you attend. The time is 10:30 a.m. and the place is the Fellowship Hall.



Alliance Women ~ Do you ever wonder how the funds raised by Alliance Women are put to use? The following update from the Alliance Women's website provides an interesting insight:

"Does giving through Alliance Women Ministries make a difference? It surely does! Recently funds AWM given to a project in Gabon, West Africa made a difference in many people's lives.

Gabon has a Mobile Medical Ministry through which they can reach out into the villages with love and the message of the gospel. AWM monies were used to purchase medicine and help with the transportation costs of the medical unit. A team was able to go into the slum areas of Libreville and to some villages outside the capital city and minister to people who have not had access to primary medicine.

Each caravan started off with a testimony and presentation of the Gospel, followed by a presentation, teaching to the people about malaria or HIV/Aids and healthy practices needed to prevent those sicknesses. Then there was opportunity for medical consultations. At each site they ministered on average to 50 plus patients, both in their eye team and regular medicine team. This mobile medical team consisted of nurses trained by Bongolo Hospital ... last year alone they had 450 professions of faith through this ministry.

So is it worth your investment? Absolutely! We will see the new believers in heaven one day."

Current News

As of this writing we are looking ahead to the Fall Rally on Saturday, September 26th at the Ligonier Alliance Church. Since we have been going regularly we have become accustomed to seeing our sisters from

the other Alliance Churches in our area and we look forward to seeing them again. Christian Queer, who is transitioning from her work in the Balkans to work here in Pennsylvania, is our speaker. We will give you an update on this event in the next issue of The Koinonia.

We will once again sponsor the shoebox ministry of Franklin Graham's organization in October and Operation Christmas Joy in November. Keep an eye out for more information regarding these special projects. Several folks have already told me that their shoebox is ready to go!

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. This is a good time to come and fellowship with your sisters in Christ. Look for a sign-up sheet in November.

The October meeting will be on October 17th at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Burkina Faso and Theological Education by Extension. Also on the agenda will be upcoming projects for 2012.

The Last Word

"If we were given all we wanted here, our hearts would settle for this world rather than the next."

Elisabeth Elliot

IRWIN MALE CHORUS



**at Norwin Alliance Church
Sunday, October 30, 2011
7:00 pm**

Our own Dave Helfrich is a member of the choir. Invite your friends and come out for an evening of music and fellowship.



Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. This program of Samaritan's Purse provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas ~ Jesus Christ.

Take an ordinary shoe box, fill it with toys and other presents, and you have an extraordinary gift for a child in need of joy and hope.

Please consider joining Norwin Alliance Church as we participate in this missions project to bring a little joy to a needy child.



~ Fill a **standard size shoe box** (men's size 10) or a **6-quart plastic box ONLY** with a variety of gifts and small toys.

(Please refrain from using larger boxes or containers ~ consider packing several boxes instead). **This year there are decorative shoeboxes available for you to use.**

~ 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.

~ If you would like to wrap the box, please wrap the lid separately and secure the lid to the box with a rubber band.

~ Attach the appropriate label (girl/boy) and mark the appropriate age category.

~ Please return filled boxes to NAC no later than **Wednesday, November 9th.**

~ Brochures are available on the round table in the narthex.

~ First ingredient to pack in your shoe box is **PRAYER** (1 John 5:14)

SUGGESTED GIFTS:

- √ **Toys:** small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.
- √ **School supplies:** pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.
- √ **Hygiene items:** toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, deodorant, washcloth, etc.
- √ **Other:** hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum (please **DOUBLE BAG** all candies), sunglasses, flashlights (with extra batteries), ball caps, socks, T-shirts, toy jewelry, hair clips, watches, Christian books/Bibles etc.
- √ **Letter from you** ~ add USA at the end
- √ **Picture of yourself**

DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- × **Used or damaged items**
- × **War-related items:** toy guns, knives, military figures, cowboy/Indians, violent books, any figure holding a weapon (remove the weapon)
- × **Chocolate or food:** taffy, soft candy, candy bars, M&M's, tootsie rolls, and perishable food, canned foods, Kool-Aid, powder Jell-O, fruit (including raisins), crackers/cookies, peanuts or peanut butter
- × **Liquids, lotions, or spillables:** glue, bubbles/bubble bath, shampoo, liquid soap, lotion, shaving cream, Vaseline (it melts!)
- × **Medications or vitamins:** Tylenol, baby formula, vitamins, cough drops, etc.
- × **Breakable items:** snow globes, glass containers
- × **Other:** aerosol cans, shaving razors, snakes, seeds, Pokeman, Harry Potter items, money, coin collections, play money