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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**

October 2014

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## FELLOWSHIP

Part 7

*“Your people will be my people and your God will be my God.”* Ruth 1:16

Young Ruth was stating her desired faithfulness to fellowship and to worship as she clung to Naomi in Ruth’s new life with the Lord.

*“Be faithful to the fellowship”* is an absolute essential in following Jesus. Adrian Rogers says when you attend church faithfully you are saying two things:

1. “God is very important to me.”
2. “Christian brothers and sisters are very important to me.”

It makes no sense to love the church universal and not love the local church. That’s like saying “I love marriage” but “I don’t love my wife.” The Bible says, *“they devoted themselves to . . . The fellowship.”* Acts 2:48 That was a local church. If you stopped going to church for any period of time, people assumed you were lost. I assume the same.

When it comes to “faithfulness to the fellowship”, God expects more than we can ask or imagine. (Ephesians 3:20-21). Here are some inspirational quotes to help me and you with this fruit of the Holy Spirit called *FAITHFULNESS*:

*“I am determined to love the church even if it kills me.”* A.W. Tozer

*“When we take God for our God, we take His people for our people.”* Matthew Henry

*“Fellowship is meeting the Holy Spirit with skin on Him.”* Henry Cloud

*“Lord, provide what You command.”* Augustine



1. Interviewed people for church membership (they were introduced in the service September 14th)
2. Approved the Irwin Male Chorus to come to NAC on Sunday, November 23rd.
3. Appointed Frank and Darlene to serve on the Nominating Committee
4. Approved the following DMC activities: Youth to attend *Ignition*, Youth Sunday school to have a “weiner roast” at Renee’s, All Church Petting Zoo Oct. 8, Jr. Youth to attend *Jolt* Oct 24-26, Creation of *Metoche* Small Group led by Renee Himler and Frank & Dannette Kolar, Samaritan’s Purse collection November 2
5. Approved the proposed 2015 Budget for \$327,549.60 (decrease of .2% from 2014)
6. New computers have been installed in the church office and sound room.
7. Discussed lawn care and restroom updates.

## Concert of Prayer

Sunday, October 26th

7:00 pm





## PASTOR APPRECIATION

**Sunday**  
**October 19, 2014**

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 19th has been designated "Pastor Appreciation Sunday" by our Elders. There will be a special luncheon (prepared and served by the Elders of our church) 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 19th.

"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



## 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 23rd 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. The program will be by Norman and Linda Lachimina, Bee Keepers and owners of *Crimson Creek Apiaries*.

This is YOUR invitation  
Please join us!



100% Pure Raw  
Honey just the way  
the Bees made it!



## Norwin Alliance Church Grocery Giveaway

Saturday, October 11, 2014  
9:00 am - 11:00 am

You are invited to help spread God's love to 200 local families. Our guests will be welcomed with upbeat Christian music and testimonials. After some refreshments and fellowship they are invited to "shop" in the grocery area.

There are many ways to volunteer ~ WATCH for a sign-up sheet in the narthex. One way to volunteer is by donating food for the grocery area. Grocery gift cards are also helpful to enable us to purchase any necessary items.

Collection boxes will be in the narthex

Top items needed (expired no sooner than Jan 2015):

Toilet Paper    Paper Towels    Kleenex

Diapers    Cereal

Packaged or Canned Meat / Seafood /  
Veggies / Fruit

Pasta & Pasta Sauces

If you have any questions, or would like to help, please contact Katie Barnhart-Smith 724-433-5524.

## VIGNETTES BY VIRGINIA

### Missionary Book Review

1. **A Foreign Devil in China**, by John Pollock, is a biography of Dr. L. Nelson Bell, the father of Ruth Bell, who became the wife of Rev. Billy Graham.

Dr. Bell was born July 30, 1894. he had a remarkable sense of humor, was an excellent story teller, and outstanding baseball player, and was remembered for his love of fellowmen.

In high school he met Virginia Leftwich, to whom he became engaged in August 1910. Both of them were very athletic and musical. After graduation, Virginia studied nursing, and Nelson studied law, but later he changed to medical missions when he was challenged in his strong yearnings towards evangelism and missions. (Nelson could have been a professional baseball player, but he gave up the opportunity to play in the major leagues to continue his training as an intern at memorial Hospital in Richmond, Virginia in preparation for the mission field.)

The country of China opened up for missions in May 1916. Nelson received his medical degree at the age of 21. He and Virginia married in June 1916; he passed state boards in July. He took up residency in the mountains of West Virginia as a doctor for miners. After only a few months as a resident doctor, he arrived in Shanghai, China on December 4, 1916.

The Bells traveled to Tsingkiangpu, a 275 mile journey that took 60 hours on the Grand Canal, finally arriving at the "Love and Mercy" Hospital, that had been opened in 1887 by the father of Pearl S. Buck. They immediately felt at home.

Work began - as well as adjusting to language school and the culture and customs. The family began to grow also with Rosa (1918), Ruth (1920), Nelson (1924 ~ who unfortunately died of amoebic dysentery and was buried in China), Virginia (1927 ~ in the States while awaiting to return to China during the war), and Clayton (1932).

Dr. Bell opened dispensaries in the country sides, ministered in the filthy prisons, operated on tumors (as large, or larger than, the patients), treated deadly diseases, malnutrition, eye problems, delivered babies, and numerous other physical concerns - - plus caring for the spiritual aspects of the Chinese population and teaching the Chinese

doctors and nurses who worked with him at the hospital/clinics. The "Love and Mercy" Hospital became the world's largest Presbyterian mission hospital in the world (with 380 beds) as of May 1930.

Besides all of his responsibilities in the hospital, Dr. Bell always kept his family his number one priority. His wife suffered from migraines and often was in agony with them. As an athlete, he made sure that there was time for tennis, swimming, hiking, and other sporting events, as well as entertaining other missionaries.

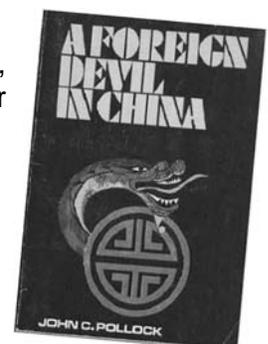
One of the hardships a missionary family faces is the education of the children. All of the girls went to school in North Korea via Japan, as it was still a safe place for an education.

Besides being aware of possible disease, a parent had to be aware of the evil effects of the culture. China had a history of total lawlessness, crimes, thieves, kidnapping, wars, abandonment of children, and other hideous practices.

War did break out. And the missionaries had to leave the country in 1941. Dr. Bell began working as an independent Presbyterian journalist affirming the authority of the Bible and the historic beliefs of the church, etc., plus continuing his surgical practice in Montreat, North Carolina. He was no longer an overseas missionary; but he worked on the Board of World Missions for the Southern Presbyterians, a position he held for 17 years. He also was a support and encouragement to his son-in-law, Billy Graham.

By this time, Virginia and Nelson were getting up in years. Nelson's heart was giving up. Virginia had a stroke and eventually could not walk. One morning Nelson did not awake on earth; he awoke in heaven. Shortly thereafter, he was joined by his wife. A few years later the Bell siblings were privileged to return to China to meet with some of those who remained at Tsingkiangpu. They were welcomed by a group of Chinese who knew the siblings and parents who gave so much and shared Christ's love to so many.

If you would like to read more, you can find the book in our church library.



**Connection Service**

Sunday, October 12  
6:30 pm

**BROKENNESS:  
COMING TO YOUR END,  
SO GOD CAN BEGIN**

Scripture: Psalm 51:17

Speaker: Rachel Wilson  
Special Music: Rachel Wilson

**PETTING ZOO  
A Family Event!**

October 8, 2014



6:30 - 7:30 pm ~ Petting Zoo  
7:30 - 8:00 ~ Program and Dessert

This event is for all the church - there will not be separate youth or adult studies this night.

**Ladies Night Out**



Tuesday, October 14, 2014  
Jacktown Ride and Hunt Club  
11369 Center Highway

6:30 pm

Please sign the sheet in the narthex and join the ladies for an evening of food and fellowship!

**JOLT 2014**

**JUNIOR High Retreat**

(for youth in grades 6-8)

**October 24-26, 2014  
Family First Sports Park  
Erie, PA**



Speaker:  
Bill Sanders

Worship Leader:  
Levi Smith



**The Women's Corner**

By Janis Swope

We are approaching the fall season. Bill has slowly been getting rid of the vegetable plants and annuals that are withering, collecting seeds and trimming those plants that are perennials. Summer is nearly at an end. I enjoyed my summer this year and I hope you did too! Even though we have not traveled much this year I have been blessed right where we are. I took a break from leading the Ladies Bible Study in August and because of the kindness of Connie Niedermeyer the ladies were able to continue assembling for study during that time. Thank you so much Connie for your willingness to step in for me. Bill and I enjoyed our spur of the moment drives through the countryside. One day we drove to Laurel Hill State Park and enjoyed sitting under a tree reading and watching people enjoying the beach. There just happened to be a large group of youngsters there attending camp and it was wonderful to hear them laughing and playing. I truly like the sound of children playing outside. One day a friend and her husband, who I had not seen in almost twenty-two years stopped by our house. You can imagine our surprise! We lost touch with one another because we were all busy working, Bill and I working daylight hours and Terri and John working night hours. Always missing running into each other but only living a few miles apart in the same community. Terri now attends the Ladies Bible Study and our friendship has picked up right where it left off. What a blessing for both Bill and I. Yes, summer has been good and I am sorry to see it go, but I am looking forward to what God has waiting around the corner for us this fall. Each season brings its surprises, some good, some bad. My greatest blessing with each season is in knowing that whatever God has in store for us, He is the one who ordains it and therefore I know He is with me in every event. Let God lead you in every season and enjoy the same blessing and assurance that each child of God can enjoy.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> we had our first meeting of the Ladies Bible Study since my little vacation from teaching. Last spring and into summer we discussed how we got our Bible. On the 15<sup>th</sup> we talked about different Bible versions and how important it is to know the tenets or doctrines of the Christian faith so that we can make informed judgments when reading various Bible versions. Our next step will be to cover the basic Christian doctrines and what the basics of Christianity are. We are using the book "Basic Christianity" by John Stott. Written in the 50's, this book is considered a

*Christian classic. If you are interested to know more about God's word, we would be delighted to have you. We meet Monday mornings at 10:30 in the craft room. And as always, we'll have the coffee on!*

The Last Word

*You formed us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless 'til they find rest in You. St. Augustine*



Bunk Beds, good condition	\$125.00
Air Hockey Table Game	\$125.00
Full/Queen Bed Franke	\$100.00
Piano	\$ 35.00

All items are negotiable!

If interested, please contact:  
 Bob/Connie Niedermeyer  
 724-864-9166

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like the shifting shadows."  
 James 1:17 NIV



## Operation Christmas Child

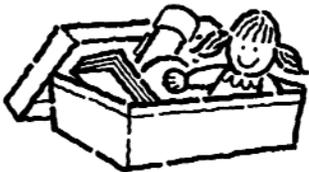
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

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.

At the January Congregation meeting, a challenge was made to donate 100 shoeboxes filled with goodies to the "Shoebox Ministry". Can we meet this challenge.

Boxes will be available on the table in the narthex.

All shoeboxes should be returned to the church by November 5th.



~ Fill a decorative shoebox (available on the table in the narthex) or 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).

~ 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.

~ Brochures and OCC boxes will be 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