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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 2015**

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## **Christians Give Good Council**

“The Lord has given to each Christian the Holy Spirit who dwells within us to be with us forever. The Holy Spirit is referred to as “The Counselor” among other titles. So when you give counsel to another person, the Lord makes you “competent to counsel” since His Spirit lives within you.

Unlike God, you are not infallible, but you can give solid directions to another person in need of guidance. Here are some core dimensions of helping another person given by Dr. Paul Holland of Geneva College.

1. Be empathic. See the world from the point of view of the person you are helping. Feel what they feel. God gave them those emotions. “Weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice” (Romans 14).

2. Respect the person in the trial. They have been made in God's image and Jesus has died for them. God gives them dignity and neither sin, nor troubles, nor the devil can take that away.

3. Be genuine. You are secure in Christ so your strength in the Lord along with your limitations should be clearly seen by your friend. God has given you a big heart to handle criticism, opposition, and difference of opinions from those you are attempting to help. “Open wide your heart” ( 2 Cor. 6).

4. Confront. Help the person hear the Lord and face their avoidance of Him. Ask, “What might you tell a family member if they were facing what you face?” Invite the person to love and obey God immediately. Knowing they are loved by God helps a person confidently take actions needed.

5. Share how you have struggled in similar trials. Briefly speak of how you have been overcome by troubles in the past. Don't make the conversation about you, but help the person see the Lord has brought you through the storm and He will bring them through the storm also. But do this without

minimizing the person's present pain. (2 Cor. 10:11-13).

God's calling for you in service to Him is to have Him counsel through you. “Stir one another on to love and good deeds, and encourage one another”. (Hebrews 10)



1. Approved the following DMC requests: Sunday School Lock-in, Youth attending a Corn Maze, Petting Zoo during AWANA, Bible Quiz Meet at NAC on Dec. 5th.
2. Nominated Lori and Wes to serve on the Nominating Committee.
3. Approved Pastor Appreciation to be held Oct. 18th. Joe Cox will preach.
4. Approved participating in the Baby Bottle Campaign sponsored by Women's Choice Network.
5. A 24-foot U-Haul was reserved to transport equipment to and from Irwin Park for the Community Service and Picnic.
6. It was approved for AWANA leaders to go to a training program at Grace Baptist Church in Monroeville.
7. It was approved to hold the fall Congregation Meeting on Sunday, September 27th.

## **Concert of Prayer**

**Sunday, October 25th**

**7:00 pm**



## FALL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

**Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am-2pm**

### FALL CLEAN-UP MINISTRY

*Members Serving Members*

Calling all volunteers from ages 12 & up

Come join us in a day of getting NAC member yards prepared for fall. All projects are outside, so come ready to enjoy the crisp fall air, and help out those in need.

Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help. Questions? Please contact Katie Barnhart-Smith.



**Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am-Noon**

### COAT DRIVE/ GIVEAWAY

\* \* Accepting donations of clean, gently used coats and winter wear until October 11<sup>th</sup> \* \*

Please use the box in the narthex for your donations.

Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help on Friday, October 16th to help set-up and/or Saturday, October 17th to pass out the coats. Questions? Contact Pat & Joe Beyer.



**September 27th -  
 October 18th**

### BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN



NAC can help to reduce the number of abortions in the U.S.A. The Woman's Choice Network is an

outreach ministry of Jesus Christ through His church. WCN is committed to presenting the gospel of our Lord to women with crisis pregnancies-both in word and deed. You can help by being a prayer partner and contributing to the Baby Bottle Campaign at NAC from Sept. 27-Oct. 18, 2015.

Please pick-up a bottle from the round table, fill it with your extra change, and bring back to the church by October 18th.

Questions? Contact Connie Niedermeyer.



**Sunday**  
**October 18, 2015**

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

This is a special year as it marks Pastor Bob's 10th year at Norwin Alliance Church. Sunday, October 18th 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 18th.

"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

## **PETTING ZOO** **A Family Event!**

October 7, 2015

6:30 pm



This event is for all the church.

There will not be separate youth or adult studies this night.

## **NAC Youth Group**

is doing the



### **When:**

Friday, October 9

### **Where:**

Lonesome Valley Farms  
(next to Westmoreland Fairgrounds)

### **Start Time:**

Meet at church at 5:00 pm

### **End Time:**

After our time at Lonesome Valley Farms, we will go to King's Restaurant for snacks. Estimated parent pick-up time at church is 10:15 pm, but we will call when leaving King's.

### **Cost:**

\$10 for the corn maze/transportation  
and \$ for King's.

Bring \$ for snacks at the farm if you want them, too.

### **Remember:**

**\*YOU MUST BRING A FLASHLIGHT FOR THE MAZE!\***

Dress appropriately to be outdoors;  
keep in mind that the maze could be muddy.

**\* \* Your up-to-date medical release /  
permission form must be on file. \* \***

## **JOLT 2015**

Junior Youth Retreat (Grades 6-8)

Speaker: Brad Mock

Worship: About A Mile

October 23-25

Family First Sports Park, Erie, PA



## **VIGNETTES BY VIRGINIA**

### **Autumn Literature Analysis**

Elisabeth Elliot is a wife, mother, grandmother, speaker, writer, missionary, friend, counselor, teacher, etc., etc. Most of us remember her as the wife of Jim Elliot, the missionary who was killed by the Auca Indians in Ecuador in the 1950's. (He was one of five missionaries who was killed. If you have not read the story, you need to read **"Through Gates of Splendor"**, and **"Shadow of the Almighty"**)

**Trusting God in a Twisted World and other Reflections on Asking God Why** is one of the many other books that Elisabeth wrote. "We are reminded that as children of God we can bring our questions to him with all the trust of a child in his earthly parent. When we overcome our fears and decide to ask God why, He will surely give us all the answers we need. The refusal of grace is like the refusal to put oil in an engine. The Christian's distinctive mark is love. We are here not to pester God but to adore Him." (As this writer was reading the mentioned book this summer, she also read in "Christianity Today" that Mrs. Elliot-Leitch passed into the presence of her heavenly Father.)

Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois, writes in his book **Just Walk Across the Room** of the simple steps to pointing people to faith in Christ. Most of us have excuses for evangelism. Mr. Hybel says that all we need is a heart that is in tune with the Holy Spirit and a willingness to venture out and be a friend to another person and join in his/her life. Our example is, of course, Jesus. Remember your own redemption story. Someone reached out to you. We know that people are watching us all the time. When an opportunity comes your way, be prepared in advance to use those minutes, or seconds, to let people know that God is love. That is the number one priority. Do not be condemning, or judgmental. Pray. Pray. Pray.

**Called for Life** is the fabulous retelling of Dr. Kent Brantly's struggle with the Ebola disease in 2014. Both Kent and his wife Amber share their story, their fears, their faith, their fight with network

news, their family concerns, and their hopes to return to the mission field one day. From the very beginning they knew the dangers on the field; they never expected it to be so severe. Their testimony has spoken to thousands and given opportunity to express the Lord's faithfulness and healing despite epidemic proportions. (Book has been placed in the church library)

A few statistics that blew this writer's mind: 26,575 children die each day of largely preventable causes related to their poverty; 350-400 MILLION children are hungry; a child dies EVERY 5 SECONDS. This is only some of the information from **The Hole in Our Gospel: What Does God Expect of Us?** by Richard Stearns, President of Worship Vision. Mr. Stearns was introduced to us from a previous Koinonia article. He has a heart to help hurting people, especially children. He has written; "Children, 'people' are NOT statistics to God. Every child is precious." African pastor, Morgan Chilulu, has said; "A church that lives within its four walls is no church at all." So what does that message tell us? ? At Norwin Alliance we have several outreach programs. AND THAT IS GREAT! ! Keep it up and PRAY that people are blessed by those ministries. "Faith is the fuel that powers the light that shines in darkness." We have the best message to share with the boys and girls, men and women who enter the doors of Norwin Alliance. Let's be ready to bless them, pray with them, and tell them that Jesus loves them! ! (The book belongs to Pastor Bob)

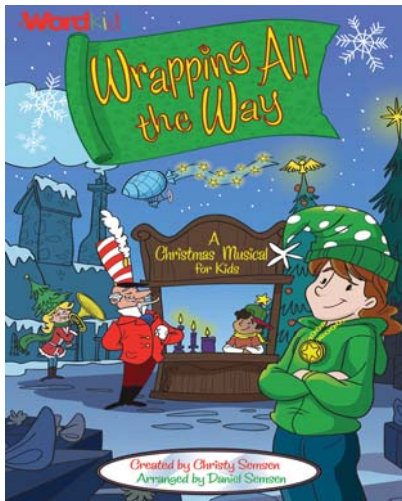


## CHILDREN'S CHOIR NEWS

Weekly rehearsals for the upcoming Christmas Program have begun in the 10:45 AM services.

We are excited to introduce ***"WRAPPING ALL THE WAY"*** the Christmas Program that the children will be presenting on Sunday, December 20th in the 10:45 AM service.

Children's Choir is for all kids ages 4 through 13. The children learn about God and serving in ministry through singing, drama, and choreography. Please encourage your child(ren) to participate in this important ministry.



*"Our choir will transform into 'Tunies', the townspeople of Tuneville, and they love Christmas so much that they celebrate it every single day. But in Tuneville, the glitz and glamour of the celebration gradually becomes more important than the true meaning of Christmas. As their 'Tinsel Mania' celebration comes to a crashing halt because of a Sleigh Bell Storm, the Tunies are left searching for hope when their plans have failed. Tansy and Filbert (the Christmas wrappers/rappers) remind King Dazzlebaum and the town that Christmas can be celebrated without the tinsel, glitter and lights. With their catchy combo of rhythm and (w)rap, Tansy and Filbert teach that we can celebrate and worship the Prince of Peace in many ways. From that moment on, each day the Tunies remembered God's great gift of light to a dark world, and the promise of hope to every heart that longs for peace."*



## KEEN-AGERS

The October meeting of Norwin Alliance Keen-Agers will be on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the program will be presented by Andy Blenko entitled, "75 Year of the Pennsylvania Turnpike—America's Super Highway." It should prove to be very interesting!

The meal will be soup or stew, salads, cheese try and ice cream sundaes. Please bring you own table service. First-time attendees do not need to bring a covered dish. Items for the Irwin Food Bank should be brought to the meeting.

A nominating committee will be selected at this meeting to propose names for offices for the coming year. Election will take place at the November meeting, and officers for 2016 will be installed in the December meeting.

Please be in prayer concerning officers for 2016 as some who have been serving feel it's time for a change.

Remember, all persons age 50 and over are cordially invited to attend Keen-Agers.

## Ladies Night Out



Tuesday, October 13, 2015

The Firepit  
Next to Target in North Huntingdon  
Square Shopping Center

6:00 pm

Please sign the sheet in the narthex by Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> and join the ladies for an evening of food and fellowship!

## Youth Sunday School 2015-2016

IF you are in the 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, we have a place for you!

### Curriculum:

We just completed our study *Alliance Distinctives*, exploring these issues:

“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? Through this study, we were encouraged to discover and embrace God’s plans, purposes, and empowerment for our lives.”

We found 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).” The Four-Fold Gospel’s central theme is Christ or Jesus Only as our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer and Coming King.

In the fall, we will explore World Views held by other religions and by the culture around us, in order better to understand what competes for possession of our hearts and minds, and better to defend the Christian faith.

### Activities:

We make every attempt to have one activity/quarter! Past activities have included touring Chick-Fil-A, Game Night, Movie Night, and Weiner Roasts, just to name a few.

### Ministry:

Youth Sunday School prepares the Valentine gift bags for our widows, widowers and shut-ins for Church distribution. Most of the members of the Youth Sunday School actively participate in the annual Vacation Bible School by teaching lessons and caring for the children through music, crafts/Projects with a Purpose, snacks and recreation. The students individually participate in the various ministries of Norwin Alliance Church.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Shelli Prindle presents at:

**NORWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**The**

**END.**

(According to God)

Saturday, November 7, 2015

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Call / Text **724.552.3122**


WALK-INS WELCOME

What if the **END** was really a **BEGINNING**?

What if there's a **PLAN** behind all the pain and all the joy, behind all that we know and all that confuses us?

What if we had access to the **TRUTH** about the **END**?

Would you listen if you knew God loves you and has a **PLAN**?



www.hopeandpassion.org.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
**Men, Women, & Teens**



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.

Boxes will be available in the narthex or you can contact the church office.

All shoeboxes should be returned to the church by November 15th.



~ Fill a decorative shoebox 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