

HILLTOP NEWS

January 2007

Mike's Musings

Well, it's been a wonderful week of celebrations. Worship, the Christmas Musical, our candlelight service. It all helped me get into the spirit of the season. My thanks to everyone who shared their talent, their prayers and their faithfulness to help make Advent and Christmastime a joyous reminder of the Incarnation.

In the Christmas Musical, "The Next Noel," the kids sang an interesting song called "The Main Thing." It was a reminder to keep our focus on the reason for the season. It's also what's on the minds of our staff as we focus our attention on the ministry opportunities before us in 2007. As I write this, Pastor Tom is preparing to preach a sermon entitled, "Doing All We Can to Point People to Heaven." It's a message (I presume) to help us focus on the "main thing". We hope to make that our main theme in 2007 – pointing people to heaven. In fact, we even have a kind of slogan to help us focus on this important purpose: "Pointing people to heaven in 2007."

I know the theme may seem obvious. After all, it's core to the "Great Commission – ". . . go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

(Matt 28:19-20) In Mark 16:15, Jesus said it this way: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." He makes it clear in these two passages that our "Modus Operandi" for proclaiming the good news includes "going" to and "telling" others about the love of God in Christ

Jesus our Lord.

This is our goal for 2007 because we believe that a high impact church (a church that's making a difference for the kingdom) is one that is intentionally reaching out to win souls to Christ.



So we want to make it our emphasis in the year ahead – and, hopefully, in the ensuing years – to see tangible evidence of the winning of souls. What does that look like? Well, it begins with making sure our programs and activities have an evangelistic emphasis. It won't always be the main focus, but we want to always be aware of the opportunities God gives us to share with others the saving message of the gospel. Thus, at a softball game in the Summer, we want to "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks (us) to give the reason for the hope that (we) have." (1 Peter 3:15) As we parade the streets of Zelenople on July 4th to honor our veterans and celebrate our national freedom, we want to be sure

we share the "good news of great joy" too. The Jesus Festival is always filled with moments of fun for the kids. We want to be sure that we also let them know (along with their parents) that Jesus loves them and died to save them.

For this to be effective, it will have to be more than just the staff working and praying to see souls saved. We will need your help as well. Inviting friends to join you for worship and fellowship. Making prayer for lost loved ones a priority of your devotional time, and giving testimony of God's grace to you.

It is our earnest prayer that this emphasis in 2007, will be a catalyst by which God will grow our grace-driven family numerically as more and more souls come to Christ; and spiritually as we grow in our passion to share the love of God with others. I can hardly wait to see who God will add to His forever family in the year ahead! Thus my charge to you is what it is to my staff each week: "Let's go take territory for the Kingdom and for the glory of God!"

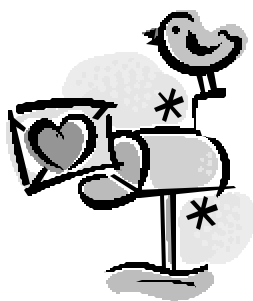
Linda and I already submitted a "thank you" to this newsletter to express our gratitude to your kindnesses over the past several weeks. Let me just add that I count it an honor to serve the Kingdom as the pastor of Burry's Church. Over the past two years, we have come to love you all dearly and truly count you as our spiritual family. If the Lord allows, we look forward to sharing many more years of life, love and ministry together with you.

May God richly bless you all and Happy New Year!

See you Sunday! Pastor Mike

Faith Circle

Ladies, if you have the name of a Golden-Ager from 2006 who has a birthday or anniversary in January or February, please continue sending cards.



We will pass out new names when we meet again in February.

Thank you for your help!

Linda Sue

Faith Circle Officers 2007

President - Linda Van Arsdale
Vice President - Lois Mignogna
Secretary - Judy Gerwig
Treasurer - Hedy Pflug

Dear Burry's Church Members,

Sam and I want to thank the Christmas Carolers for coming to sing in our home. It was beautiful.

We also want to thank the Adult Bible Class for the cookies and crackers. Thank you Guiding Light Class for sending the "Book of Hope" in our name.

*We're so thankful to be a part of this "Grace-Drive Family of God" Blessings to all!
Sam & Bertha Schaub*

November Box Score Averages

Sunday School..... 132 General..... \$2,836.86

Worship..... 198 Benevolence... \$1,321.26



Mercy Matters

"Mercy" has several definitions. It can mean "kind or compassionate treatment"; "relief of suffering"; as well as, "a fortunate thing to be grateful for" or "blessing". This is a new column for the Hill-Top News. The purpose is to let readers know about what our deacons are doing to help others, ministries we support, volunteer opportunities to meet congregation or community needs, as well as where to find resources for meeting basic needs.

Our deacons go about their work of caring for others quietly, out of the limelight. In the past year, they have provided food, fuel, gift certificates and help with yard work and home repairs for members and those who came to the church asking for assistance. If you know of anyone who you think may need some help for temporal needs, please tell our deacons, Tom De Rosia, Duane Stuck, or John Yeck or any of our staff.

Now that winter has arrived, keeping homes warm is a current need. Utilities have "customer assistance programs" or CAP. If someone is currently low income and interested in learning more, here are some contact numbers:

For Penn Power 1-800-720-3600

www.firstenergycorp.com/customer-care/

For Duquesne Light 1-888-393-7600

www.duquesnelight.com

The HOUSING AUTHORITY OF BEAVER County can provide information about Stay Warm PA for assistance with electric, gas, or oil bills at (724) 775-1220
Fax: (724) 775-8827.

If none of the above can provide immediate help to keep warm this winter, please let us know.

Remember the words of 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." May we all here at Burry's love mercy and proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

I want to thank my church friends who took the time to come and sing Christmas carols to me on Saturday evening. Also, for the donation to the Book of Hope given in my honor so a child could hear the Gospel.

Thanks to Sam and Bertha for their visit and the box of cookies from the class.

Miriam Cable



Playground Update!

Happy New Year – and what a wonderful year it will be for our young people when they discover the new Playground!! We are well on our way to making it a reality thanks to all of you! **To date, we have received \$8,042 with additional pledges of \$520 for a grand total of \$8,562.** As you know, the equipment is costing approximately \$14,500 and our total budget including fencing, gravel, etc is \$20K!

We are pleased to announce that the equipment has been ordered at the 2006 prices (with a minimal deposit paid)! We will need to pay 50% of the total in March and the balance at the time of installation! We are hoping to have the installation completed in April/May so that it is ready for the softball season! We are very grateful to all of you who have helped us to raise this money! *As you know, no money will be drawn from the investment fund to pay for this fabulous enhancement to our campus!* It is all being paid for through contributions and fund raising!

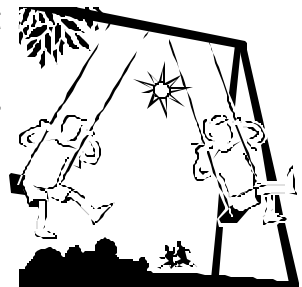
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a committee member – Elva Harley (chair), Stacie Aland, Eileen Bernd, Julie Bernd, Jeri Yeck and Barbara Young. Thank you again!

Please make a note of the following fundraisers for the Playground Fund:

Saturday, January 13, 2007 - Pancake and Buckwheat Breakfast from 8 - 11 a.m.

Wednesday, January 17, 2007 - Hoagie and Pepperoni Roll Sale - Pickup from 4:30 - 7:45 (before the Congregational Meeting). Items can be paid for at pick up.

Saturday, January 27, 2007 - Night of Music for the Family at 6:30 p.m. Come and enjoy church family talent. Refreshments and fellowship time will follow the program.



Pinewood Derby 2007

It will be here before you know it!



It is time to sign up for the 8th Annual Burry's Church Pinewood Derby on March 10, 2007 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate; grandparents, parents, young people, family teams...anyone looking for some good, clean, friendly competition.

The entry fee is \$10 per car, which will cover the cost of the car and proceeds will benefit summer youth mission projects. Sign up sheets will be available during Sunday School and in the Education Building. "Help" Days will be scheduled in February for those who need assistance building their cars. If you would like to race, but do not have the registration fee, the "Derby Santa" will make sure a car is made available. Please sign up before January 14, 2007 so that the cars can be ordered in time. If you have any questions or need more details, please contact Mike Bernd at 724-538-5400.

People In the Pew by Pastor Tom - *The 2007 Katrina Relief Mission Team*

Burry's Church responded to the Katrina disaster in the Gulf Coast by collecting money and sending teams in November 2005 to New Orleans and to Biloxi, MS in April 2006. We have formed a third team and plans have been made to return to Biloxi to help victims rebuild their homes.

At present, the team consists of Wayne Harley, Woody Young, Dale Bonzo, Kevin Hagen and his father, David from First Presbyterian in Beaver, and Pastor Tom. Due to unknown work schedules, there may be some last minute additions to the team. Most are veterans from one of the previous trips. They have seen with their own eyes the extensive devastation, realizing most affected homeowners are getting little if any insurance money to rebuild. Time is running out for those in FEMA trailers. Without outside help, many people will not be able to salvage their homes and move back in. The Burry's team hopes to help one or two families get back into their home.

The team will leave Burry's on Saturday, January 6 in a church van and drive the 1100 miles to Biloxi. The team should arrive in Biloxi mid-late afternoon on Sunday. They will stay in dormitory rooms provided by 1st Presbyterian of Biloxi (www.firstpcabiloxi.org)

Most of the work to be done is dry-wall installation, finishing and electrical. The team has plenty of experience in these areas and hopes to hit the ground running on Monday morning. Food and lodging is provided at no charge by 1st Presbyterian. The special Christmas offering will help cover the fuel and motel lodging en route. We are very grateful to all who have provided resources to help the team.

Prayer support for the team is what we covet. Beside safety in travel and on the job, we ask you pray for success in accomplishing much and in sharing Christ with others. 1 John 3:16-18 says "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but in actions and in truth." We are glad for this opportunity to show the love of Christ and to God be the glory! Thank you for your support.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Kevin and Stacie Aland on the birth of their twin girls, Kara Nicole and Sara Rose on Wednesday, December 27, 2007.

Kara was born at 2:54 p.m. and weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. and 20" long.

Sara was born at 3:03 p.m. and weighed 6 lbs. 3 oz. and was 19" long.

They are welcomed also by their brothers, Evan and Jacob.

We welcome these Covenant Children and praise the Lord that Stacie and the girls are doing well!



Thank You

Reta McElwee wants to thank the Sunday School for her crackers.

Craig Tuma wants to thank Pastor Tom for his visit and the cookies.

To my friends at Burrys - Thank you for the cookies and carolers.

~ Liz Bostanic

Many thanks to the Adult Bible Class for the cookies and the visit from Raymond & Dorothy Pflug. We also appreciate all the prayers and cards we received.

~ Art & Roberta Teets

Thank you for the sugar cookies from the Bible Class, the Book of Hope donation from the Guiding Light Class, the carolers and greeting card from Bible Club, the carolers from the church with the nice messages in the Christmas Carols. Also for the many special greetings, visits and gifts, and the prayers by the staff. God bless all with all good things for the New Year.

In appreciation to all from Laura Pflug

Thank you to the Guiding Light Class for the Book of Hope donation in our honor. The visit from the carolers was also greatly appreciated.

~ Ray & Dot Pflug



Snetselaar - NTM, Guinea, Africa

Cees and Corrine thank us for our support as they continue to reach out to the Jahango people. They continue to trust God as they build relationships with these predominately Islamic people and also provide member care for their co-workers.

On a personal level, for those who remember them when they worshiped with us, Geeske and Hanna are in Holland, where Geeske is studying at the art academy, and Hanna is working to earn money to be able to go to Bible School in August 2007. Ruthie and David attend the mission school and Jesse (their adopted son from the village, born August 2, 2004) is at home and growing fast.

Zook - NTM

Mark reflected that on Sunday, December 3, 1986, he first told the Mouk people of Christ's resurrection from the grave. He had taught the Bible chronologically for 3 months, beginning in Genesis. On Saturday, the portrayed by drama, Judas' betrayal of Christ and Sunday morning, the people arrived as soon as it was daylight to hear "the rest of the story". As the people learned of Christ's resurrection, many of them trusted in Christ for salvation. These people have remained faithful to the Word of God and teach their children to read and write. Each of the villages have believers numbering from 25 to over 300; many of them have ordained ministers.

On January 1, Mark will travel to the Philippines to do seminars for Chronological Bible Teaching. The first week will be ABWE missionaries and the second week will teach national pastors. They are projecting 50 pastors to attend; all of whom have to underwrite their own cost of attendance. They ask for funding of various needs -- the travel expenses; the Mouk Health Clinic; printing and sending Mouk Bible lessons; and a computer upgrade to make getting programs for the Mouk people more efficient.

Funk - Hooper Bay, Alaska

For those of you who may remember Grant and Lenna Funk (Grant and Chuck Gerwig were in Bible College in Alaska together)...The Funks serve in Hooper Bay, Alaska, near the west coast, accessible only by plane and water in the summer. In August, a fire broke out and gutted the small town, burning 35 buildings, including 14 homes, the grocery store and school. Samaritans Purse and Franklin Graham visited the next day, as reported in Samaritans Purse September and December mailings, and has helped with the reconstruction. Through the Funks' continued witness and the volunteers who came, the village is changing. The church of 45 has almost doubled. Grant has been wanting a youth ministry building and Samaritans Purse has also seen the need, so, next summer, they plan to construct a multi-purpose ministry building. This goes far above and beyond all Grant's hopes and will enable them to reach out to the nearby villages, and to every group in the village, from small children to the elderly.

This is the last column to be written by me, Judy Gerwig, as I will be rotating off the Mission Committee. As Lori Bonzo said in the Mission Minute, it's a good committee to serve on and you learn a lot. If you are asked to serve, please pray about it.

From the Church Council New Policy effective January 1, 2007

All members requesting reimbursements must obtain approval from one member of Council. It is recommended to have purchases approved before purchases are made. The treasurer will honor only request for check forms that are accompanied by a receipt and have a Councilmen's signature. It is the responsibility of the Trustees, and all members to honor God by being good stewards of all that He provides. These guidelines are necessary so that Council can monitor spending and stay within the perimeter of our budget.

Address Update

David Young has chosen to serve our country by joining the Air Force. He left for basic training in December. Let's show him our support and appreciation by sending him some encouragement in the form of cards and letters. His address is:

**AB Young, David M.
TSC 4
326 TRS/FLT 133 Dorm A-6
1015 True Emper Street, Unit 941011
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-6040**



Josh Maley	1
Arthur Goehring	2
Donna Tallon	2
Jay Steinbach	4
David Gold	7
David Allen	8
Kayla Lind	9
Lori Harley	10
Heath Landfair	11
Barbara Tuma	11
Shannon Merriman	13
Darla Ward	14
Bryan Yeck	14

Kevin & Nikki Hagen	6
Sam & Bertha Schaub	22

Boe Bonzo	15
Joyce Brenner	15
Lillian Poland	15
Brittany Landfair	17
Twila Young	20
Matt Weil	21
Douglas Foeks	26
Mel Sheets	27
Emily Bonzo	30
Robert Kaufman	30
Eric Brenner	31
Judy Gerwig	31



Congregational Meeting

The Congregational Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 7:45 p.m. Please have all 2006 reports into the office by Sunday, January 7, 2007.



Recipe Corner

Baked Beef Stew by Marcella Young



1 (14 1/2 oz.) can diced tomatoes, undrained
 1 cup water
 3 tbsp. quick cooking tapioca
 2 tsp. sugar
 1 1/2 tsp. salt
 1/2 tsp. pepper
 2 lbs. lean beef stew meat, cut into 1 inch cubes
 4 med. carrots, cut into 1 inch chunks
 3 med. Potatoes, peeled, quartered
 2 celery ribs, cut into 3/4 inch chunks
 1 med. Onion, cut into chunks
 1 slice bread, cubed

In a large bowl, combine tomatoes, water, tapioca, sugar, salt & pepper.
 Add remaining ingredients, mix well. Pour into a greased 13x9x2 inch or 3 quart baking dish. Cover and bake at 375 for 1 3/4 - 2 hours or until meat and vegetables are tender.
 Enjoy!

Burry's Church,
 I wish to thank the church for the beautiful flowers for my 90th birthday on November 19th.
 They were greatly appreciated.
 Love Always,
 Mary Dillon

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With Gratitude!

Thank you very much for the outpouring of love during the Christmas season. All of your cards, treats, and love offerings truly blessed us. We continue to rejoice at the gift of belonging to this Grace-Driven Family, and we look forwards to celebrating a new year of ministry with each and every one of you!
 Blessings in Christ,
 Pastor Mike & Linda Sue