



HILLTOP NEWS

April 2007

Mike's Musings

Among church leaders the word "visions" is a familiar buzz word. During my senior year in seminary, I recall how often guys who were interviewing with churches would talk about the congregation's "potential" and their excitement to get into harness and change the world for Jesus. They had passion for the ministry and a dream of doing great things for God.

Someone has described vision this way: "A vision is the dominant factor that governs your life. It determines all the choices you are making. It's what's left after all the layers are peeled away like an onion. Clinging like glue to the inside of your rib cage... It's what your mind naturally gravitates toward when it is not legitimately concentrating on something else. It's ... what determines your friendships and your relationships that you are cultivating ... It's what your prayers are about – what you dream about and are giving money toward." Phil Grant, Leadership, Vol. 15, no. 3.

There are myriad examples in the Scripture of people with vision. Consider with me just one: Noah. His story involves not one, but two great and tragic floods. The first, was the flood of evil that inundated the world in his day. It was so severe, that he was the only man left who honored God. The second flood, of course, was God's judgment upon the world's sin.

Now imagine what Noah's life was like once He accepted God's commission to build an Ark. Remember, he built that enormous ship hundreds of miles from the nearest ocean. Noah's obedience

to God meant a long-term commitment to that project. How many of us struggle to stick with something for just a few weeks – regardless if it's directed by God or not. Noah, however, stayed committed to his task for 120 years! What a glorious example of a life lived in gratitude of God's grace!

Noah remained faithful because He had received God's vision for his life. If we want to experience life as God intended, then we need to seek God's vision for our lives. Vision, you see, gives us purpose, it drives us, it enables us to live above mediocrity. When we seek and embrace the vision that God has for us, we live life on the highest possible spiritual plane.

So how do we begin seeking the vision God has for us? We start by understanding the following principles of vision (as Noah did):

1. Recognition of conditions that, as yet, do not now exist (Noah believed God before a drop of rain fell on Him.)
2. A resolve to accept the inevitable changes – Noah's happy, peaceful life was changed.
3. God given (not man-centered) – Noah allowed God to bring him the vision.
4. Focuses on what others think is impossible – Talk to Noah's neighbors
5. Always involves risk; invites criticism – Noah was laughed at and ridiculed regularly.
6. Always makes room for God's known will – Noah knew God's will and preached it.
7. Doesn't get derailed by fads, trends, methods – Noah didn't alter God's blueprints.

8. Never acquiesces to the status quo – Despite his discouragements, Noah never gave in.
9. Must never be side-stepped by human tradition over biblical truth – There were no shrines in the Ark.
10. The details must never be set in concrete – Noah never ran ahead of God to a conclusion, rather, he waited for God to speak.

God used Noah in a mighty way. He preserved the human race through the Great Flood. Guess what, God's still doing mighty works through His people. And I believe, He wants to do that with our grace-driven family. As I consider the rich history of Burry's Church, I am struck by the aspirations of the founding families who saw "a new thing" in God's plan for them. Burry's began her ministry in 1835 – 172 years ago. By God's grace, here we stand almost two centuries later. It started with a vision burning in the hearts of those pioneering families and pastor. It was sustained by the renewal of God's people in subsequent generations. It will continue only if God's people today catch a vision of what can be by His power and for His glory. And with a vision so infused, we can overcome whatever ocean of difficulty comes our way. What mission has God called you to pour your life into? May He so fill you with His Spirit that you can't help but say, like the Apostle Paul "Woe is me if I (do not fulfill my calling in Christ Jesus) (see 1 Cor 9:16).

Thanks for Listening. Hope to see you Sunday!

Pastor Mike

P.S. "He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!"



Paper Back Book Drive
sponsored by Faith Circle

The women of *Faith Circle* are sponsoring a book drive for the prisoners at Beaver County Jail. This is being coordinated by Chaplain Dennis Ugoletti of Christians United of Beaver County. If you have **PAPER BACK** (they must be paper back) books in good condition, with topics that would interest men or women, please bring them to the church. A drop off box will be located in the mail room. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Linda Sue at 724-452-6941. Thank you!

Congratulations to Tim and Carrie Young on the birth of their son, Cooper Logan, on March 25, 2007.

He was 6 lbs. 14 oz. and 20 inches long.

He is also welcomed by his sister, Paige; and is Linda Young's 10th grandchild.

We praise God for this Covenant Child!



Newspapers Wanted

Some farmers in the congregation have purchased a storage shed, placed it in the parking lot and are asking for your help.

They use newspaper for bedding their cows, and their supply is running low.

Please save your papers (no magazines), bag or bundle them and stack them in the shed.

Any questions, see Tom Weil, Bryan Yeck or Ralph Young.

February Box Score Averages

Sunday School	112	General	\$2,461.87
Worship	170	Benevolence...	\$1,290.63



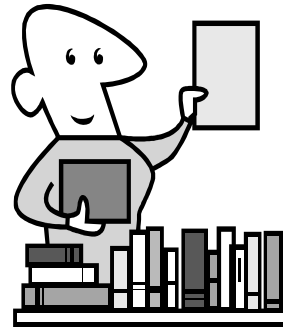
Library News

There are many new books and videos in the library.

Check Them Out!

The new Karen Kingsbury book - "Forever"

The book Pastor Tom has been talking about - "The Case For Christ" by Lee Strobel



Jan Karon books have been added, along with books by Lori Copeland, Tim LaHage and Jerry Jenkins

T. Davis Bunn's book "Winner Take All" is available also.

There are many DVD's and VHS tapes as well...

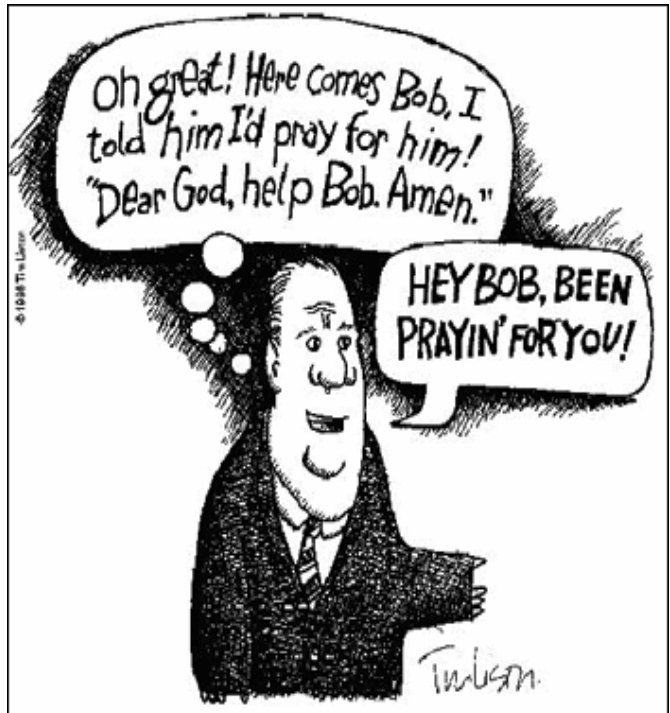
A new "Bibleman" is there and a new "Hermie" video.

There are types for all ages.

If you have any books or tapes you would like to donate, see Hedy Pflug or Joy Zahn.

Don't forget to

Check Us Out!



People in the Pew: David & Kay Allen
By Pastor Tom

Most folks who remember 1957, recall that President Eisenhower started his second term in office, the Russians launched Sputnik into space and the Dodgers played their last season in Brooklyn. David and Kay Allen fondly remember 1957 as the year they tied the knot on April 12th.



Reminiscing over the past 50 years, the Allen's repeatedly say how the Lord has been good to them and never let them down. Dave and Kay and their son, Jeff, have seen the Lord's hand through a variety of trials in their lives. Like near fatal accidents, medical emergencies and unexpected job losses. Yet, in and through all the difficult experiences they have seen the Lord's presence and provision.

Kay grew up at Burry's Church. As far back as she can remember, she always trusted in Christ as her Lord and Savior. Her commitment to Jesus deepened during a weekend Transport for Christ conference in the summer of 1981. David's journey with the Lord was a little different. He had attended church for most of his life, but it wasn't until he survived a bad truck wreck at the bottom of a mountain, that he began to appreciate God's sovereign presence in his life. Some years later, he walked an aisle and in his own words, "got right with the Lord".

David spent most of his working years as a truck driver. He retired this past February (2006) after getting a pace-maker. Kay retired as a nurse in 1998. Before she retired, they worked for the same company delivering mobile imaging labs to clinics and hospitals in our region. Dave drove the truck and Kay set up the equipment. They were more than a married team. Dave and Kay say they enjoyed working together because they are the best of friends. They miss the open road and the other truckers. The Allen's passion is to point truckers to Jesus and do so by supporting Transport for Christ, an international ministry to evangelize and disciple truck drivers through Bible studies and mobile chapels.

The Allen's have many favorite Bible passages but are most drawn to the book of Romans, which has much to say about God's plan of salvation. A good summary of their world-and-life view can be found in Romans 1:16-17 "*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*". We are grateful to the Lord, that the Allen's are part of our grace-driven family as we strive to "point people to heaven in 2007".

Junior Church

We are in need of a teacher for Junior Church (grades 1 -4) for the months of May and August.

Please see Joy Zahn if you are interested!



Faith Circle

The Spaghetti Dinner held on March 10 raised \$423.00 for Burry's Youth which will help them to attend the "Acquire the Fire" Youth Conference.

The Silent Auction (on the same day) raised \$1,252.00 which has been designated for the Playground Fund.

Mark Your Calendars!

Good Friday, April 6th -

Community Service at Prince of Peace at 12 pm

Sunday, April 15th -

Guiding Light Class Lunch at Uno's in Cranberry

Deadline for Mission Trip Sign-up

Thursday, April 19th -

Guiding Light Class - Road Cleanup on Hartzell School Road

Saturday, April 21st -

Annual Ladies Dinner at 6:00 pm

Sunday, April 29th -

5th Sunday Service at New Life Presbyterian

Spring Grace Groups

Next Door Savior

Michael Pflug's group will meet at his and Hedy's home on May 6, 13, and 20th to finish up the study of Max Lucado's "Next Door Savior" DVD.

Shepherding A Child's Heart

Pastor Tom will lead a 5 week group on Saturday evenings beginning May 5th and finishing June 2nd looking at "Shepherding A Child's Heart" - the book and video by Ted Tripp.

"Shepherding" is for shepherding your child's heart in the paths of life.

Snacks & childcare will be provided, if the weather is warm, we will meet in the picnic shelter.

4 Desserts

Pastor Tom will meet 4 times over desert to answers questions relating to Christianity in today's parents of any age child on how to speak to the heart of your child. It provides perspective and procedures for world. Topics to be considered: Creation vs. evolution, Islam & Christianity, post-modern culture, & heaven, hell and angels Sunday evenings: May 6th, 13th, 20th & June 3rd . Come to any or all.

Revelations Part 2

Pastor Mike will continue his Bible study on Revelations . Check future bulletins for dates and times on this and any of the above Grace Groups.

Recipe Corner - Frog Eyed Salad

by John Yeck

1/2 of a 1 lb. pkg. Acini de Pepe Pasta, uncooked
 1/2 cup sugar
 1 egg
 1 tbsp. flour
 1/4 tsp. salt
 1 (15 oz) can crushed pineapple, drained (reserve juice)
 1 (16 oz.) can fruit cocktail, drained
 1 cup miniature marshmallows
 1 cup Cool Whip (reg. size carton)

Cook pasta as package directs, drain. In a heavy saucepan, beat egg white until foamy . Stir in sugar, flour, salt and reserved pineapple juice. Over low heat, cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. In a large bowl, combine pasta with egg mixture. Chill thoroughly about 1 hour. Stir in pineapple, fruit cocktail and marshmallows. Fold in whipped cream. Cover, chill thoroughly. Stir before serving. Refrigerate leftovers.

I usually double this recipe and use the whole box of pasta. It makes a lot but keeps really well in the refrigerator. Great for lunch!



Women's Bible Study - Spring Session

Join us for something a little different this Spring as we explore how to make an impact in our community through a Focus on the Family video series. Topics include: Why Christians Need to Get Involved, Winning the War of Ideas, How to Speak Out for Truth, and How to Make a Difference in Your Community.

We will meet for fellowship, view a thirty minute video presentation, then have a discussion about what we viewed.

The study will begin the week of April 4th and run for four weeks. You may join us either Wednesday mornings from 9:30-10:45 or Wednesday evenings at 6:45-8:00. (Yes, we are meeting on Wednesday evenings not Mondays this time.)

Please bring a friend and mark your calendar because it won't be the same without you!

RSVP by filling in the following information and put it in the offering plate or the church office.

Name _____ Phone _____

Circle one: Evening Morning

Child care needed? Yes No

Number of children: _____



Cindy Lind	3	Mike Van Arsdale	21
Kathy Murphy	5	Shyann Komara	22
Kali Ralston	5	Ann O'Donnell	24
Julie Bernd	6	Amy Foeks	26
Kanda Usselman	7	Gale Zahn	26
Brandi Ward	8	Amanda Bable	27
Linda Garlitz	9	Beth Ettinger	28
Valerie Chenet	10	Marc Brenner	28
Trevor Emerick	17	Raymond Pflug	28
Hilda Harley	17	John Vild	28
Mary Lou Niedergall	18	Tim Dubovi	29
Jennifer Blinn	19	Jaden Maley	29
Rachel Ward	19	Arlene Blinn	30
		Carol-Lynn Dubovi	30
	Mike & Carol Dengel	5	
	John & Chris Yeck	9	
	David & Kay Allen	12	
	Harold & Erla Bernd	14	
	John & Ethel Winich	15	
	Dale & Marilyn Kryder	18	
	Bradley & Eva Young	20	
	Brian & Jen Komara	24	
	Dan & Kathy Murphy	24	

THANK YOU

The Ways and Means Committee of Faith Circle would like to thank each of you who donated, as well as bid on items for the Silent Auction. Without your help it certainly would not have been as successful as it was. We appreciate your support! Thanks also to those who baked cakes and donated items for the spaghetti dinner. Lives will be blessed because of your generous hearts!

Joanne Weil, Linda Young & Joy Zahn

Dear Members of Burry's,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers for my birthday. God has been so gracious to have given me so many years to live. We really do appreciate the love of all the people at Burry's. Thanks again.

God Bless You,

Bertha Schaub

Dear friends and family of Burry's Church,

Thank you for your many prayers, cards, visits and support over the last few years for mom and our families. With God's love and help, mom was a real trouper and was so appreciative of everything that was done for her. We were very blessed to have her after her stroke, and we hope she touched other lives around her as well. Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy.

"Seraphine and Earl - 53 years together, 9 years apart, together again forever, always in my heart"

The Seraphine Zahn Family

I want to thank the church and all who sent cards for my 84th birthday.

Anna Zahn

I wish to thank my church family for their prayers, cards, and calls while I was recovering. I also would like to thank Pastor Mike for his call and prayers and Pastor Tom for his visits and prayers.

God Bless,

Ethel Winich

Bruce & Pat Rathbun-Arab World Ministries

In February, Bruce & Pat went on a 4X4 expedition to a small village called Amalou, Morocco. They stopped to spend the night in a village on their way which they have been doing a number of educational and developmental projects with the local rural schools.

They stayed with a local teacher and were able to read, discuss the bible and pray with him. They continued their trip to Amalou the following morning to distribute needed supplies and gospel literature. They are asking for prayers for these people of Amalou who are cut off from all sorts of things in all sorts of ways.

Please pray for the group of interns coming between May & July. Thank you to all who have answered prayers for additional support by increasing their giving.



Allyn & Diane Huntzinger-Christar

Christar has accepted 15 new appointees who plan to minister to countries of Turkey, Spain, Jordan, Tunisia, Indonesia, France and China. Please pray for Allyn who is undergoing a heart catherization.

Bill & Debby Bosley-New Tribes Missions-Senegal

Elections in Dakar took place on February 15th peacefully. Prayers were answered when incumbent president Abdoulaye Wade was proclaimed winner. God has put this ruler in place to help bring the gospel to these people.

Prayers were also answered in Guinea where demonstrations have killed 100 or more people. In February, the president named

Breaking Free!

A practical, biblical approach to financial prosperity

Friday, April 20

6:30 - 7:30 pm Registration and Dinner

7:30 - 9:00 pm Session 1 *"Christ's Counsel on Financial Prosperity"*

Saturday, April 21

8:30 am Continental Breakfast

9:00 - 10:20 Session 2 *"Christ's Counsel on Materialism"*

10:20 - 10:40 Refreshment Break

10:40 - 12:00 Session 3 *"Free at Last!"*

Sunday April 22

9:00 am Continental Breakfast

9:30 - 10:20 am Session 4 *"Christ's Counsel on Financial Priorities"*

10:30 - 11:30 am Session 5 *"Christ's Counsel on Financial Happiness"*

Childcare provided for all sessions

**Register at www.burryschurch.org or call us at
(724) 452-6941 or (724) 766-1133**

Only **\$20.00** per person for a weekend of inspiration and information that is sure to change your way of thinking about your finances and your future.

Dr. Rod Rogers is the creator of The Dynamic Giving System™, and founder and president of Leaderskills International, Inc., a church consulting firm specializing in helping churches increase their giving 10–60%.

