

HILLTOP NEWS

August 2007

Mike's Musings

I'm taking the liberty of this forum to dream a little this month. I've been thinking about all that's been accomplished in and through our church fellowship these past three years. I've been blessed by the love and care given our people and our facilities. It thrills me that God is adding to our numbers "those who are being saved." (Acts 2:47) It all speaks to the wonderful hearts of God's people for the church.

I was particularly thinking of how we have been blessed with the laughter and energy of young children in our Sunday School, Bible Club, V.B.S., etc. I think the playground is a natural and healthy response to the growing number of children God has entrusted to our care. However, our "Theology of Children" – that is, how God would have us respond to the needs of children – goes beyond play. I'm reminded of the awesome responsibility of standing with parents in the spiritual development of children each time we celebrate a baptism (and that's been quite often over my time here).

We are blessed to have many ready and willing servants with hearts to teach and nurture these young lives. Our Sunday School, for one, is a good medium for supplementing the Biblical training of our kids.

That's reinforced in Bible Club where we also emphasize reaching out to un-churched kids and sharing the gospel with them. In V.B.S. this year we saw 12 young lives pray to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord. These are all wonderful efforts, but the need may be greater than we realize. In an ever-expanding post-Christian culture where Biblical values are considered extreme and a Christian world and life view is treated as intolerance, it is becoming more and more difficult to teach our children that "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; (and that) all who follow his precepts have good understanding." (Psalm 111:10)

There's a statement in our church's Constitution that intrigues me. It's under Article II "Doctrinal Basis". Paragraph 10 states, "Our (Burry's Church's) highest aim is the worship of God in spirit and truth, the advancement of the Christian Life through the preaching of the Gospel, the administration of the Holy Sacraments, and Christian instruction in Church and School." I haven't investigated the origins of that paragraph. I assume "School" refers to Sunday School. However, if you'll allow me to dream, what if we applied it to a weekday school? What if we could establish on our 40 acre campus

a training ground for malleable, young lives? What if we could incorporate Biblical training along with academic pursuits and, thus, reinforce the faith of children?

I recognize that not all my ideas are "the will of God." That's been a fact that has humbled me on many occasions. However, I believe that we could do something great in this place with such an effort. We could make an even greater impact on our community for Christ and His Kingdom. And we could establish a legacy of faith and truth for the future.

Obviously, it would take a lot of work, planning, and prayer. Maybe it's more than we're allowed to imagine. Yet, it's still true that nothing is impossible with God. Wouldn't it be great to make our campus a center for truth and a beacon of hope for the next generation? Wouldn't a Christian School be a good thing for the community growing around us? Wouldn't it bring glory to God to "let the children come. . ." to Jesus through such a ministry? And wouldn't it be a great way to help families "train up (their children) in the way they should go?" (cf. Prov 22:6)

Remember, I'm just dreaming. What do you think?

Hope to see you Sunday!

Pastor Mike



The Katrina Relief Mission Trip to Mississippi has been cancelled.

We will instead work in Aliquippa with Uncommon Grounds Café providing flood relief from Monday, August 6 through Friday, August 10th.

If you would like to help, the Vans will be leaving from the church each day at 8:00 a.m. that week. Lunches will be provided by Uncommon Grounds Café.

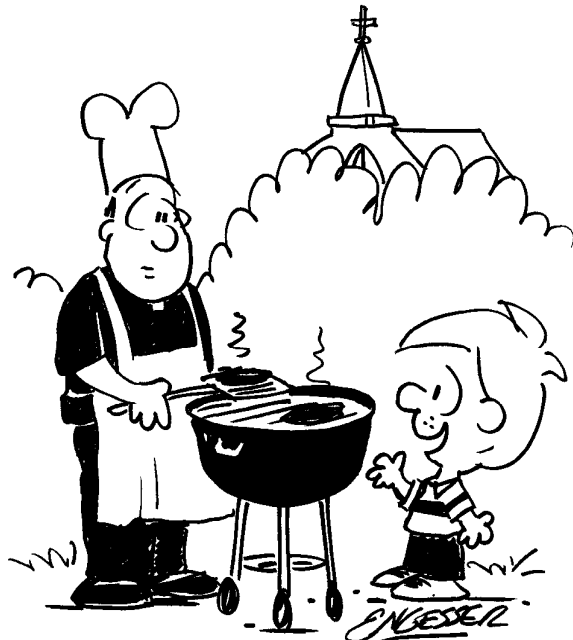
Kids' Club

Family Festival

Saturday, August 25, 2007

4:30 - 7:30 pm

Food, Fellowship and Fun for the entire family.



"You're grillin', pastor. That must make you a friar!"

Faith Circle

Women's Day Trip

Saturday, August 18, 2007

9 am - 3 pm

Tour of Wendell August Forge in Grove City, PA

Wendell August has pioneered the artistry of creating unique hand-hammered metal giftware since 1923.

Sit down Lunch at Magoffin House
A Bed & Breakfast in Mercer, PA

Choice of pork loin with apricot rosemarie sauce or roast turkey with stuffing.

Both meals come with a beverage, salad, bread, mashed potatoes, vegetable and choice of either caramel brownie pie or caramel apple pie for dessert

\$16.00

Reservation, Payment and Meal Selection must be made by **Sunday, August 5, 2007.**

Please contact Elva Harley (724-846-1808) or Hedy Pflug (724-843-5451) to register.

ETC CHICKEN ROAST FUNDRAISER

PICK-UP
August 11, 2007
4:30-6:30 PM

All monies raised will go toward the ETC Mission Trip to Rapid City, SD in 2008

Volunteers are needed for the Big Knob Fair Refreshment Stand on Friday, August 31.

The shifts are from 5 to 8 pm and 8 pm to close with 26 workers needed per shift. Please see Joy Zahn to sign-up.

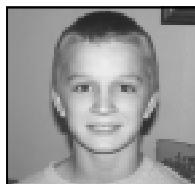
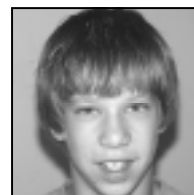
Teachers are needed for Junior Church in September and October. Please see Joy Zahn to volunteer.

Help Wanted

People in the Pew: Confirmation Class**By Pastor Tom**

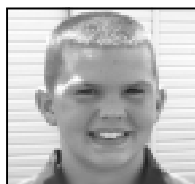
This year, we had four young people join Burry's Church by profession of faith and their completion of the Confirmation Class. Each was required to study and memorize the Heidelberg Catechism. All four are children of members and all are going into seventh grade. You may recognize their names and faces, but here's a little more information to help you to know them better.

Boe Bonzo is the oldest son of Myron and Lori Bonzo. Boe attends Freedom High School. At school, he is on the wrestling team. When not wrestling or working on his parent's farm, Boe likes to race his quad. He is currently involved in ETC and plans to continue his involvement at Burry's in youth ministry. Boe has also worked in the Live Nativity. Perhaps because of his strength training, Boe's favorite Bible story is about Samson.



Travis Strobel is the oldest son of Bronson and Jodi Strobel. He is a student at New Brighton. Travis is involved in baseball, football, and wrestling. He also likes to fish and hunt. His favorite Bible story is about Noah and the ark (it's the animals, he likes). Travis is active in ETC and hopes to continue being involved with ETC, and bring many of his friends to youth group. He also hopes to minister as a helper in Bible Club and with the nursery.

Katherine Smith is the second daughter of Pastor Tom and Ana Smith. She lives in Marion Township and goes to Riverside. She likes swimming, tennis, bicycling, horses, and reading. Her favorite Bible story is the story of Joseph, his coat of many colors, being sold as a slave, and rising to be prime minister of Egypt to save his family. Katherine is involved in ETC, Bible Club, VBS and plans to continue her involvement in these activities at Burry's as well as help in the nursery.



Donnie Ward is the son of Don and Darla Ward. Donnie attends Freedom. He is active in baseball and basketball. In his spare time, he likes to hunt and ride his quad. Like Travis, his favorite Bible story is about Noah and the ark. He plans to be involved with ETC and hopes he will be able to play on the Burry's softball team.

These young people go to different schools and have diverse interests and activities in their lives.

They do share in common, "one Lord, one faith one baptism, one God and Father of all" (Eph. 4:5-6).

We thank God for them, and that they are a part of our grace-driven family.

*From Our Missionaries***Kevin & Kathi Cram-Greater Europe Mission**

The newest couple added to our mission support, Kevin & Kathi hope to be in Cologne, Germany by next spring to start planting a church consisting of a network of home groups. They will be joining an existing team of foreign and national workers who seek to assist the German believers through sustained discipleship and evangelism. Outreaches include Bible studies, English camps for youth and community service projects. Please pray for Kevin and Kathi, for their needed financial support, and for their focus to reach the people of Germany with God's message.

Paul & Sandy Timblin-Word of Life International

After a furlough back in the states, Paul & Sandy are looking forward to getting back to Germany and into a more structured lifestyle. They have had a very exciting 30 years ministering to the people of Germany. Summer ministries at the Brake Bible Institute are in full swing. The summer camps are all full and the campus will be buzzing in the next 2 months. Please continue prayers for the staff and faculty.

For the past 40 years, Word of Life has been able to rent two large castles on a lake south of Munich for a very moderate price. They have just learned that the State of Bavaria plans to sell the castles. That would be a big blow to this ministry. Thousands of young people have been reached with the Gospel at this ideal location. Pray that the Lord will work in this situation and that His sovereign will be done

Mercy Matters: *by Pastor Tom*
Uncommon Grounds Café

A very unconventional coffee shop operates in Aliquippa. Uncommon Grounds Café at 380 Franklin Avenue does sell coffee, food and other beverages, but this place is not about making a profit. Its mission is to point people to Jesus Christ. Uncommon Grounds exists as a “listening space.” It is a place where people with problems can talk to a caring person who will listen. Visitors are encouraged to draw, write, paint, play board games, and play music on stage. They have open mike and activity nights. The café also provides a variety of social services to those in need, including but limited to free food.




Uncommon Grounds Café was founded by Australian missionaries, John & Alison Stanley and their sons. The Stanleys work for Church Army USA, a missions organization of the Episcopal Church USA. John started a similar café in Australia. In time, he would like to see the same type of coffee house started in other needy communities. Uncommon Grounds is always looking for volunteers to help out in the shop.

Due to the recent flooding in Aliquippa, Uncommon Grounds has been acting as a clearing house for local residents affected by the flood. During the week of August 6 - 10, the Burry’s Katrina Mission team along with other volunteers will meet at Uncommon Grounds in the morning to get assignments of homes needing work. The church van will leave the parking lot at 8:00 am daily.

Any individual interested in doing flood cleanup can show up at Uncommon Grounds between 8:30 - 9:00 am to get work assignments; or come along with the Burry’s team as we hope to share Christ through word and deed in the restoration of Aliquippa.

Recipe Corner

C a o -
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- 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
 - 4 c. hot mashed potatoes, unseasoned
 - 1 egg, beaten 1/3 c. onion, finely chopped
 - 1 tsp. salt dash of pepper
- Combine cheese and potatoes until well blended; add other ingredients.
- Place in greased 1 quart casserole and bake at 350 for 45 minutes.
- Serves 6-8 people. Saves last minute finishing before

June Box Score Averages

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|----------------|------------|
| Sunday School | 127 | General..... | \$3,060.69 |
| Worship | 215 | Benevolence .. | \$1,242.37 |



Dear St. John’s Burry’s Church,

Thank you for your partnership in God’s work here in Biloxi. It is exciting to partner with the many churches who have been involved in the ongoing work God is doing here along the Gulf Coast. I realize this effort requires the support of many Christians who can never physically come themselves to join us here, but who still are a part of this work through their prayers and contributions.

The donation you gave us will be used in several ways. One use of the money is to operate our work camp. We operate by faith and don’t charge individuals to stay here while they work. Another use of the money is to pay for necessary items for a house which the homeowner can’t afford to buy. As time goes on, we are forced to spend more of our funds repairing houses as the homeowners have very little money.

It seems as if lately the Lord is directing us more and more to repair houses belonging to fellow Christians. It is very common for us to show up to work on a house and be told by the homeowner that they had been praying for someone to help them.

Again, thanks for your very generous support, pray for our wise use of it.

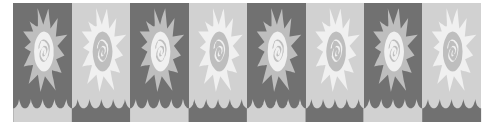
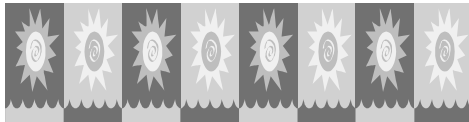
Robert E. Bolitho
 First Presbyterian Church; Biloxi, MS



| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Dale Foeks | 2 |
| Martha Stauffer | 2 |
| David Sterrett | 2 |
| Austin Tokar | 2 |
| Traci Murphy | 3 |
| Joanne Weil | 3 |
| Levi Bonzo | 5 |
| Kristina Smith | 6 |
| Chase Komara | 7 |
| Kim Maley | 9 |

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Tim & Carol-Lynn Dubovi | 4 |
| John & Mildred Steinacker | 16 |
| John & Judy Gerwig | 18 |
| David & Chris Brenner | 20 |
| Rob & Tammi Kaufman | 20 |
| Laurin & Eileen Bonzo | 22 |
| Scott & Melissa Stiteler | 23 |

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Ryan Murphy | 15 |
| David Emerick | 17 |
| Kurt Brenner | 18 |
| Alyssa Young | 18 |
| Reatha Bonzo | 25 |
| John Yeck | 25 |
| Zachary Garlitz | 26 |
| Amanda Pusateri | 29 |
| Christine Yeck | 29 |
| Hazel Smith | 30 |



I want to thank the church for the beautiful flowers for our 57th Anniversary and also for the beautiful flowers and cards for Harold's birthday. Praise be to God. ~Harold & Erla Bernd



Thank you so much for the cards and flowers I received for my birthday. ~Russell Zahn

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and cards for my birthday. ~Lois Miller

I want to thank the church for the beautiful flowers I received for my birthday and to my friends who sent me cards. ~Miriam Cable

Thank you for all of your prayers for us during Butch's illness. Day after day, our family felt your prayers for us and watched as our Father answered your prayers. He gave me the strength to endure each day and Butch the strength to very slowly heal. He gave the doctors and nurses the knowledge and wisdom to care for Butch. He gave our family strength to face each day and to safely make the daily trip to Allegheny General. A special thanks to Pastor Mike and Pastor Tom for all their visits and encouragement. Praise the Lord for your faithfulness to Him and to our family. ~Patty & Butch Weil

I would like to thank Pastor Mike and Pastor Tom for their visits and the congregation for their prayers and concerns while my husband, Chuck, was in the hospital for a month. It meant so much to me, and I give God the glory for the miracle He performed. God bless you all for lifting us up in prayer. ~Joan Fichter

Congratulations to Burry's Church Softball Team!

2007 Church Softball League Champions!



Congratulations to Mike and Alyssa Young on the birth of their daughter, **Erica Grace**, on Tuesday, July 17th.

Erica weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20" long. She is also welcomed by her big sister, Emily.

We praise God for this Covenant Child!





St. John's "Burry's" Church Youth Ministry

E.T.C. EVENTS

URGENT

DUE TODAY
2008 SUMMER
MISSION TRIP
REGISTRATION

E.T.C.
PITTSBURGH
PIRATES GAME

AUGUST 4
TICKETS HAVE ALREADY
BEEN PURCHASED

TEEN TIME
Monday Evening
Community Youth Event

6:00-8:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
EVENING
UPPER ROOM BIBLE
STUDY & PICK-UP
SOFTBALL STARTS
@ 6:00 PM

(Last Night Aug. 1)

Trivia Question: What is the average speed of a European Swallow?

JULY `07

PROGRESS



July was a LOUD month as fireworks went off during the July 4th celebration, as the E.T.C. members screamed on roller coasters at Cedar Point, and as wedding bells clanged at my brother's wedding. We had a bunch of big, loud, attention-grabbing events happen this past month, and we also had some powerful events such as Teen Time and the Bible Studies.

Teen Time met on Monday evenings and the Word was shared with the youth as they were challenged to make their faith real as they live for Jesus. The Wednesday evening girl's Bible study has been going strong, as the girls are being taught to live as positive teens. We also began building our 2008 E.T.C. summer missions team which plans to go to work with the Lakota Indians in Rapid City, S.D. Please pray for our team as we plan and prepare for this adventure in God's Kingdom! I also witnessed something that I thought to be rather rewarding. An article about the new playground was featured in one of the local newspapers recently, and I've noticed that people from the community are now using this facility on a daily basis. I keep hearing, "Your church must really care about children," as I've spoken to many of these people. I thought you might be encouraged to know that our vision is being fulfilled.



Alexis Bledel from
Gilmore Girls

"Love is not the way it is in the movies, and it's not some idealistic, huge, fantastic thing. It's very real and personal and not what we're taught in society at all."

- Alexis Bledel - *Seventeen*, July 2005, pg. 104

Hunter Education Course

Friday, August 10, 2007

5:30PM-9:30PM

Saturday, August 11, 2007

9:00AM-5:00PM

Wild Game Breakfast:

Saturday, August 11, 2007

7:30am to 9:00am

(Door Prizes & Guest Speaker)