



HILLTOP NEWS

January 2008

Mike's Musings

Well, another year has come and gone. How time flies when you're having fun! I can honestly say (for the most part) that this was another "fun" year for Linda and me at Burry's. We've certainly grown to love God's people here more and more. Whatever distractions have come, they have merely been the tempering fires that have made our love for the Lord and His people stronger.

We started 2007 with a theme – a ministry focus. It said, "Pointing People to Heaven in 2007". I won't go into statistics right now (I'll save all of that for the annual report), but I do rejoice that God has blessed our grace-driven family with a renewed sense of the privilege and responsibility of evangelism. I believe it's reflected in our outreach efforts this past year and in the new friends who have begun worshiping with us since January. Praise the Lord! Great is His faithfulness!

The staff has been praying about 2008, and what we might give emphasis to for the glory of God and the work of His Kingdom. Our prayers, discussions and envisioning have produced a theme for the New Year: "Growing by Serving". We haven't exactly agreed on a theme verse, but I'm sort of inclined to Paul's words in Ephesians 6:7 "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you

were serving the Lord, not men." Colossians 3:23-24 holds the same sentiment, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

I believe these texts reflect the heart of our church family. How blessed we are with the way people reach out to others with compassion. Just look at our Mission Board in the Fellowship Hall. It shows how our people – past and present – have opened their hearts to serve God's people and reach the lost both in our locally community and "to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 Take a look at our Sunday School too. In our children's departments, we have classrooms filled to overflowing with tender young lives. I thank God for faithful teachers who have dedicated themselves to "pointing our children to Heaven". ETC continues to grow as well. I believe in large measure because Chuck and his "crew" are endeavoring to make a difference for eternity in the lives of young people. Obviously, I could go on, but you get the point. God has graciously opened the floodgates of opportunity to point people to heaven. I pray it will not end with 2007.

The new year will be filled with opportunities to serve too. All of

the "normal" ministries and programs – Sunday School, ETC, Bible Conference, V.B.S., Grace Groups, et al – will, of course, be doors of opportunities for service. We will also have the Moraine Park Summer Festival as a prime opportunity to pray for and invite our un-churched friends to a potentially life-changing event. It will also offer us a chance to train our people to share their faith with others.

Beyond that, as we focus on service for the glory of God in 2008, the sky's the limit! Maybe you can think of ways you can touch the hearts of your relatives, neighbors, and friends that will express your love for them and move them toward a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Just wanted you all to know that I'm anticipating a wonderful year of life and ministry with all of you in 2008. I pray that it will be a year of growth for our congregation, of great joy in service to our King, and of significant impact and influence for Christ in our community.

Linda and I want to wish you all a most happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Thank you for letting us be a part of this wonderful grace-driven family at Burry's.

See you next year!

Pastor Mike

People in the Pew: Todd, Melanie, Madison, & Luke Snavely**by Pastor Tom**

When you hear, “Mr. Goodwrench” you probably picture a helpful mechanic just like in the old GM commercials. We are blessed to have the real thing among us. Todd Snavely is a certified GM mechanic at McElwain Motors. Mrs. Goodwrench is his wife, Melanie. Along with their daughter, Madison (age 6) and son, Luke (3), the Snavelys are the newest members of our grace-driven family.



Todd and Melanie met during their junior and senior years at Beaver High School. Todd saw a picture of Melanie working at Bruster’s Ice Cream and something inside clicked. He knew he just had to track her down. Eventually, they connected and the chemistry was right. They dated in high school and after graduation, the relationship continued when Melanie went away to Grove City College.

After college, Melanie became a school teacher. She works at Seneca Valley as a 20th century history teacher. On October 7, 1995 Todd and Melanie were married. Since Todd worked in Ellwood and Melanie worked in Harmony, they bought a house somewhat in between on Route 68 across from Emerick’s Greenhouse.

The Snavelys were members at Vanport Presbyterian. Living in New Sewickley, they were interested in finding a church with a vibrant children’s ministry in the Freedom school district so their children could be involved with friends from school. Through Jen Young, they were introduced to Burry’s Church. Todd was raised in a Christian home and never knew a time apart from Christ as his Lord and Savior. Melanie was also raised in Christian home. She distinctly remembers accepting Christ as her Savior as a kid in a neighborhood Bible study.

The Lord is at the center of their lives. They can see God’s hand taking care of them through serious sickness and times of financial struggles. The timing of His provision has amazed them. They credit the Lord as their source of strength. Melanie’s favorite verse is Isaiah 40:31 *“But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”* Todd’s favorite Scripture is John 1:1-4 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.”*

The Lord has brought the Snavelys to our grace-driven family. Todd, Melanie, Madison, and Luke along with their English Lab, Maggie and their cat, Sweetie Pie will bless your socks off as you get to know them. We welcome the Snavelys to Burry’s Church and thank God for them.

October Box Score Averages

Sunday School135	General.....\$2,919.40
Worship204	Benevolence ...\$1,224.06



Thank you for the lovely flowers for our anniversary and for all the cards we received. Thanks also to the Adult Bible Class for the delicious cookies. We appreciated everything.



~Art & Roberta Teets

The Guiding Light Class

welcomes



Sunday, February 10, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Cookies and punch will be served at a fellowship time after the concert

You're invited to the
FESTIVAL LAUNCH
for the



June 13-15, 2008 Moraine State Park

The Launch will be held at

**Westminster Presbyterian Church
420 North Main Street, Butler, PA**

Thursday, January 17, 2008 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Festival Launch ~ Refreshments Follow

Meet the team and discover how you and your congregation
can be involved in this tri-state evangelistic outreach.

Information: (724) 431-2397 ~ MoraineParkSummerFestival@SteveWingfield.org

MERCY MATTERS: GROWING BY SERVING

In 2007, our theme was "Pointing people to heaven" to emphasize evangelism. The theme for 2008 will be "Growing By Serving" with more accent on service to others. We see a similar order in Ephesians 2:8-9 where we read that we are saved by grace through faith and then in verse 10 we find out why, "*we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do*". God saves his people for a purpose. We are to do all for God's glory (1Cor.10:31) imitating our Father as his dearly loved children (Eph.5:1) as we act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). The greatest command is to love God with all our being and the second command is like it, to love our neighbor as our selves (Matt.22:37-40) and we show love not merely with words but more so with actions (1 John 3:18).

The Mercy Matters column is intended to inform you of both opportunities of help available and how you can help others. Several of the local ministries which Burry's Church financially supports can be good starting points for service. If cooking and serving food is an area of interest, then the **City Rescue Mission** or **Uncommon Grounds Café** are good options. If building or repairing homes suits your interests and abilities, then **Hosanna Industries** could use you. If working with kids from difficult backgrounds appeals to you, then **Pine Valley Bible Camp** or **Tiger Pause** would be a good outlet of service. Perhaps your heart is drawn to the ministry of visiting others. You can get involved with **Christians United of Beaver County** and visit prisoners in the county jail or help our deacons with the monthly worship services at **Creek Meadows** and **Evergreen Nursing Home**.

Our deacons have had a busy year and will be just as active or more so

in 2008. Whether you are a past, present or future deacon, there are many diaconal opportunities to bless others here at Burry's Church. If you'd like to rake some leaves, fix a porch, or paint a wall, ask Duane Stuck, John Yeck or Tom Derosia and they will point you in the right direction.

You don't have to be a deacon to "See A Need And Meet It (SANAMI)". As we talk more about Growing by Serving in 2008, we hope to see an explosion of SANAMI's happening around here as we put the love of Christ into action. The good works that we do should flow from hearts touched by God's grace and as we work at serving others, may we grow into Christ-likeness. "*From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*" Ephesians 4:16. God bless you in 2008 with opportunities to serve.

Prayerfully Consider...

As you know, the Trustees are always evaluating the best use of the resources we have at Burry's. We have concluded that it would be very worthwhile for us to build a structure to protect our vans, lawn equipment, and to create some much needed storage here on the premises. As you know, we have very little storage in the church, and having a location for storing some of the extra items around the church would help us to maintain these items in the best condition.

The cost of the proposed garage (material only) is budgeted at \$29,500. We will rely on our talented congregation to build the structure in order to keep the costs as low as possible. We will ask for a vote at the January Congregational Meeting for your approval of this needed building. Also, we have had some women of the church offer to do some fundraisers to help us offset some of the nominal costs.

Our proposal is to place the two-story structure next to the current parsonage driveway. The top portion of the building will hold the vans (getting them out of the inclement weather) and the bottom unit will contain the lawn equipment, the extra tables, chairs, the Live Nativity structures, etc. The proposed multi-purpose building will be 28' x 30'. There will also be additional storage available above the van area in the gable are.

We ask that you prayerfully consider this request so that we can all make a well-informed decision at the meeting on January 16th. If you have any questions before then or would like to see the drawings, please do not hesitate to see any of the Trustees. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our needs.

Trustees (Dale Bonzo, Aaron Harley, Dan Murphy, Bryan Yeck, Ralph Young and Gale Zahn)





WINTER & SPRING SCHEDULE 2008

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

Sunday, January 6

Noon S.D. Missions Team Mtg.
6:00-8:00 pm E.T.C. Youth Meeting

Sunday, January 13

* SNOW CAMP REGISTRATIONS DUE *

Noon SWITCH Meeting
6:00 pm ETC Youth Meeting

Sunday, January 20

6:00 pm ETC Youth Meeting

Saturday, January 26

7:00 pm Family Music Night

Sunday, January 27

6:00 pm ETC (6:00-7:00 pm)

Sunday, February 3

Noon S.D. Missions Meeting
TBA Super Bowl Party

February 8-10

TBA Snow Camp

Thursday, February 14

6:00 pm Valentine's Day Set-up

Friday, February 15

6:30 pm Valentines Dinner

Sunday, February 17

Noon SWITCH Meeting
6:00 pm ETC Youth Meeting

Sunday, February 24

6:00 pm ETC Youth Meeting

Sunday, March 2

Noon S.D. Missions Meeting
6:00 pm ETC Youth Meeting

Sunday, March 9

Noon SWITCH Meeting
6:00 pm ETC Youth Meeting

Sunday, March 16

6:00 pm ETC Youth Meeting

Saturday, March 22

11:00 am Son-Rise Service Practice

Sunday, March 23

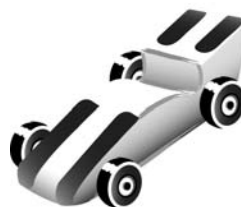
8:00 am Easter Son-Rise Service

Sunday, March 30

6:00 pm ETC Youth Meeting

April 4-5

TBA Spring Bible Conference



Pinewood Derby
Details: TBA



Spring Overnighter
Details: TBA



Acquire the Fire
May 2-3, 2008
\$85.00/Weekend
Register by March 2

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



Kevin & Nikki Hagen	6
Sam & Bertha Schaub	22
Joe & DeeDee Brunner	26

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

If you or a family member have an 80th birthday or are celebrating your Golden Anniversary (50 years) in 2008, PLEASE give that information to Linda Rahn or Joy Zahn so we can help you celebrate with flowers from the Burry's Church Family.

Pastor Tom, Ana and the family would like to thank everyone for their cards and the generous gifts that they received this Christmas Season. They wish everyone a very blessed 2008.



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People enjoyed last years program so much that we decided to have another family music night again in 2008. The idea behind the family music night is to showcase all of the musical talent that we have here at Burry's. Last years program ranged from soloists to small ensembles to full choirs. We also had beginners to established veteran performers, which allowed us to share not only what we have, but also what we will have in the future. We would love to have an even bigger and better show this year. We encourage you to pick out some music to sing/play or to ask some friends to join you in performing a song. If you would like to perform in the show please see Charlie O'Donnell (724-869-3399) for details.

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Holy Communion will be observed during the worship service on Sunday, January 6th. If you or someone you know is a shut-in and would like to receive Communion, please contact the office or one of the Elders, Michael Pflug and Tim Weil.

Our annual Memorial Service to remember our lost loved ones will be held on Sunday, January 13th.

Sunday School officers, workers, and teachers will be installed during our Dedication Service on Sunday, January 20th.

 We want to thank everyone who showed us such kindness and love this Christmas. We so appreciate your cards, notes and gifts. They are cherished reminders of our joy in being part of such a wonderful church family. May God richly bless you all of you. We look forward to serving you in 2008.

Pastor Mike and Linda Sue



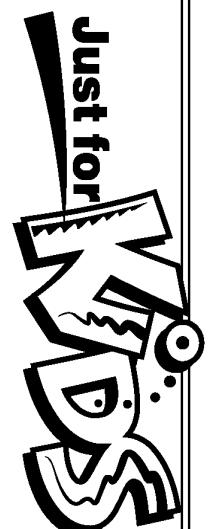
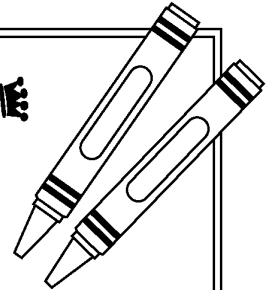
BURRY'S CHURCH

"A Grace-Driven Family of God"

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are!" ~ 1 John 3:1a

1835 Route 68
Rochester, PA 15074

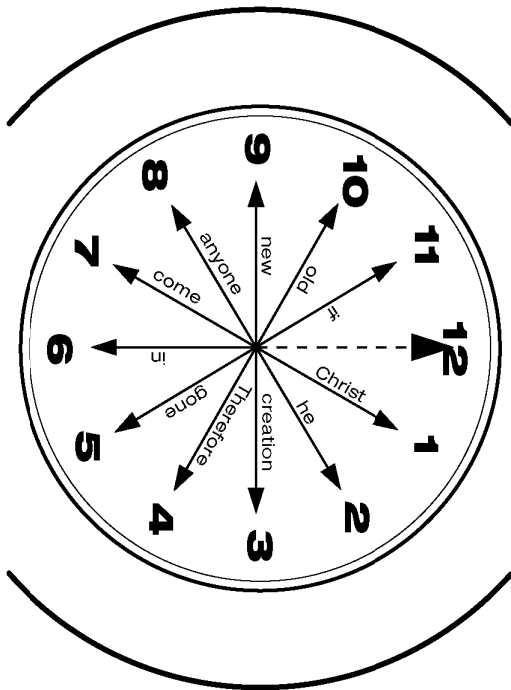
724-452-6941
724-452-2330 (Fax)
www.burryschurch.org
info@burryschurch.org



IN WITH THE NEW

It's "time" for New Year's resolutions! We should always want to improve ourselves for God, looking to Jesus as our example. God will work with us and through us when we come to him in prayer.

Using the clock's hour hand, copy each word to help you complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



"_____ is a _____, _____ is _____; the _____ has _____, the _____ has _____!"
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!