



HILLTOP NEWS

February 2008

Mike's Musings

Some of you may remember the "Love is. . ." cartoons once seen in local newspapers. Each displayed a caricatured pose of a couple expressing their affection by completing that sentence. "Love is. . ." I never took them as deeply theological thoughts, but one in particular did stand out for its antithesis to spiritual truth. It said, "Love is - never having to say you're sorry."

That may sound quaint at first blush, but it is absolutely wrong. Except for God Himself, every one of us is guilty of sin. Much of that sin is what we have done, said, or thought in anger or rebellion against the Lord and our fellow human beings. For any who would attempt to exonerate themselves from this broad accusation, let me remind you, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8

Yes, we all stand guilty. We've slandered our brother or sister; we've used the Lord's name in vain; we've been guilty of gossip; we've spoken harshly to someone; we've misjudged others – you get the picture. In other words, when it comes to our relationships, we "all have sinned (fallen) short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. And Jesus makes it clear that in such situations, we need to be reconciled one with another.

In Matthew 5:23-24, He declares: "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there

remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." These verses indicated how seriously God takes any slighting of another person. My Reformation Bible annotations suggest not how remarkable it is that the command is given not to the plaintiff but to the accused.

Jesus also taught us to pray, "forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors." Matthew 5:12. Clearly, our Lord saw our need for reconciliation – not just with Him but with one another.

The Heidelberg Catechism reflects the meaning of verse 12: "Because of Christ's blood, do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are, any of the sins we do or the evil that constantly clings to us. Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, to forgive our neighbors." In other words, we must forgive because we have been forgiven. If we do not forgive others, we cannot claim God's forgiveness. This is Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:14-15, "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

So, contrary to the "love is" philosophy of life, if we truly love others, we need to practice the reconciliation. It's a humbling process, but it is an indication of our understanding and acceptance of God's grace. For He "demonstrates

his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

I know the "love" we celebrate on Valentine's Day isn't exactly what Paul is talking about in Romans 5, but I hope we will be encouraged to make it our resolve to demonstrate our love for the Lord and for others (The Great Commandment) by embracing the discipline of reconciliation. I pray that the Lord will help us to be pro-active in this. To help us along the way, let me close these thoughts with some profound words from the pen of the Apostle Paul. "Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:14-19

So, "Love is. . ." being willing to say "I'm sorry, I was wrong", and being ready always to respond, "I forgive you, for Jesus' sake." Amen.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Mike

People in the Pew: Jay & Gaye Lansberry

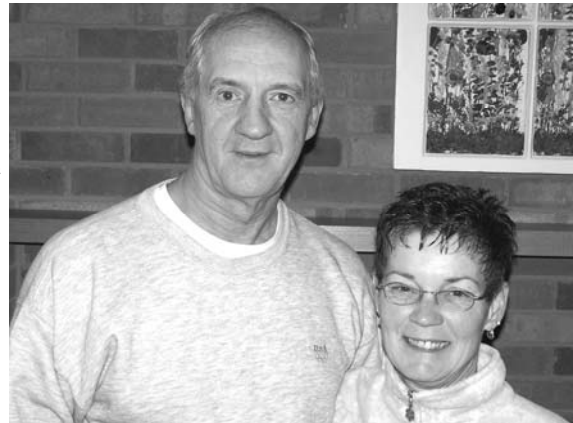
Most of us watch the space shuttle launches from Cape Canaveral and never consider all the little details behind the scenes. Jay Lansberry is one of the many thousands who contribute to the whole process. He works as an engineer, designing the firebricks lining the bottom of the launch pad. His employer, Resco Products, Inc. manufactures refractory materials used in making crucibles, furnace and incinerator linings. According to Jay if concrete is exposed to extremely high temperatures, it will pop apart as the moisture inside turns to steam (just like popcorn), thus, the need for high temperature firebrick.

Jay is married to Gaye, who is a homemaker. Both the Lansberrys are originally from Clearfield County. They met on a blind date through some mutual friends when Jay was on leave from the US Navy. Jay and Gaye hit it off and stayed in touch by mail when Jay shipped off to finish his enlistment. After completing his tour of duty, Jay went home to Clearfield County and the relationship progressed. Jay and Gaye were married May 8, 1970. Seven years later, they had a son, Gabriel, who is also an engineer.

Both Jay and Gaye grew up in Christian homes, attending Methodist and other types of churches throughout their lives. About four or five years ago, the Lansberrys discovered Burry's Church and began attending. The friendliness of the people and the style of preaching kept them coming back. Here, the Lansberrys experienced an awakening to the gospel they had grown up with. The gospel of grace is clearer to them as they profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and their walk with the Him has grown deeper.

The Lansberrys enjoy serving others through food and hospitality and are willing to apply their gifts here. They are glad to be a part of this grace-driven family. Their favorite Bible verse is 1 John 3:1a, "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!". We are thankful to God for making them a part of our grace-driven family.

By Pastor Tom



**Mark Your Calendar and Bring Your Friends
For a night of Great Inspiration!
Sunday, February 10, 2008 7:00 p.m.**

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

Sponsored by the Guiding Light Class.

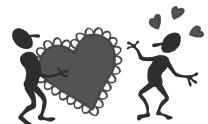
November Box Score Averages

Sunday School	140	General	\$3,599.54
Worship	231	Benevolence...	\$1,370.38

VALENTINE'S DINNER

FEBRUARY 15, 2008

6:30 - 8:30 PM



Our scrumptious menu includes: a Spaghetti dinner with salad, rolls, and dessert. The event is being hosted by the ETC Youth Ministry.

Entertainment will be provided by our in-house fun crew and praise team. All proceeds will benefit the Rapid City, SD Missions Team.

Please make sure to make your reservation by February 10 by calling the office at 724-452-6941

Council and Committees for 2008

Elders:

Michael Pflug, President
Wayne Harley, Vice President

Deacons:

Mike Bernd, Chairman and Benevolent Fund Treasurer
Duane Stuck, Secretary
Myron Bonzo

Trustees:

Dale Bonzo, Chairman
Ralph Young, Cemetery & Perpetual Care Treasurer
Charlie O'Donnell
Aaron Harley
Bryan Yeck, Memorial Fund Treasurer
Gale Zahn, Financial Secretary

*Dave Brenner, Current Funds Treasurer

Auditing Committee:

Dave Sterrett- 2009
Chris Yeck- 2010
Trevor Emerick - 2011

Nominating Committee:

Charlie O'Donnell, Chairman
Ann O'Donnell Mary Bonzo Tim Weil
Bryan Yeck John Yeck Wayne Harley
Julie Bernd Carol-Lynn Dubovi

Missions Committee:

Lori Bonzo Wayne Harley Kevin Hagen
DeeDee Brunner Judy Young Tom Weil, Jr.

*not a member of council

Evangelism & Outreach Committee:

Jodi Strobel Amy Foeks Richard Goehring
Jeri Yeck Mark Harley Ryan Murphy

Flower Committee:

Linda Young Joy Zahn Joyce Brenner

Parking Committee:

Joey Weil Bryan Yeck

Welcoming Committee:

Sam & Bertha Schaub Charlie & Ann O'Donnell
Bob & Marcella Young

Van Committee:

Jay Steinbach Tom McBride Todd Snavely

Harvest Home Committee:

Mary Bonzo Jen Young Gaye Lansberry

Historical Society:

Michael Pflug Hedy Pflug

Cemetery Committee:

Ralph Young, Chairman
Art Teets Aaron Harley

Library:

Joy Zahn Hedy Pflug

Long-Range Planning:

Wayne Harley, Chairman Tim Weil
Chuck Horstman John Vild
Barbara Young Carol-Lynn Dubovi



Lenten Lunches: Serve Like Jesus

Beginning Ash Wednesday, **February 6th through March 12th**, our Lenten services will be luncheon meetings held on Wednesdays from 12 – 1pm in the Education Building. We will do our best to keep our time together to an hour. Childcare will be provided. Reservations are not necessary. Please join us, if your schedule allows, for a time of good food, prayer and praise, and an informative lesson from God's Word.

Our series this year will be, "Serve Like Jesus". We will look at the Gospel accounts of Jesus' earthly ministry and study **what he did** (proclaimed the Word, prayed, healed, fed others, blessed children, etc.) and **why He did it**. Then we will consider how we should follow His example.

Mercy Matters:

When many factories and businesses closed or left Beaver Falls, the economy dropped. It dramatically changed the town's demographics. Census Bureau statistics show a third of the children in Beaver Falls live below the poverty level, and at least twenty percent come from single parent homes.

Started in 1988, **Tiger Pause Youth Ministry** set out to make a difference in the lives of children and youth in Beaver Falls. Tiger Pause opened a drop-in center directly across from the Big Beaver Falls Middle School where students receive a balanced meal and hear about Christ's love from the staff. The center has become a "safe haven" for youth against the dangerous and illegal activities, which many face in the inner city.

The after school program is the "backbone" of Tiger Pause. Four days a week from 3-6 p.m., students get help with homework, have organized recreation time, and receive a hot meal from director, Matt Nance and his team of volunteers from Geneva College.

Tiger Pause also has a year round program for kids, called "Eye of the Tiger" where they learn about Jesus through Bible study, worship, exercise, and community service. There is a boys' mentoring ministry in which boys without fathers are paired up with mature Christian men to show them the love of God and hold them accountable in their academics, behavior, and personal relationships. When school is out in the Summer, Tiger Pause runs a day camp program, a boys basketball league, and teenage girls' small group Bible studies.

Tiger Pause currently owns an empty lot and would like to build a youth center capable of handling all of their programs. The staff and volunteers dream of a center capable of hosting

church activities, running a coffee shop, and presenting a variety of performances and other services. Their mission is summed up with the acronym, Prrr (like a tiger); bringing **Peace** and **Reconciliation** between man and God, and man to man through the preaching of the gospel; **renewal** of schools, businesses, and government by building indigenous leaders. and **revival** through discipleship and the constant renewing of our minds.

Tiger Pause is looking for volunteer mentors and tutors. Would you prayerfully consider getting involved? If you have an interest, give Matt Nance a call at 724-846-6902, or drop by their center at 1600 8th Avenue in Beaver Falls after 3 p.m.

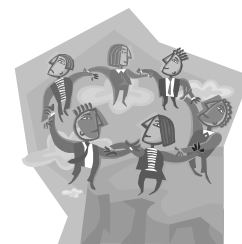
James 1:27 says, "*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*" Tiger Pause is one venue where many of us could "grow by serving" this year.

January 2008-Mission Report

Thank you to every one who participated with the "The Presents for Patients" program for Christmas. We provided 29 presents for residents at 2 local nursing homes — Creek Meadows and Friendship Ridge. Our youth group also helped out by delivering the presents while Christmas Caroling. The mission committee hopes to continue this awesome outreach to our community.

We had 10 volunteers make the trip to Biloxi, January 5th through the 12th. With them went 130 Freedom Band uniforms that were being donated to the American Red Cross in New Orleans. The uniforms were making their way to start-up schools that did not even have school colors. These uniforms were used to determining the colors. The Red Cross, reported that one of the two schools receiving the uniforms was planning to wear them for this year's Mardi Gras Parade. We're told that the band director and students were overwhelmed with the new uniforms and could not wait to wear them.

Thank you to the SANAMI volunteers for taking this trip and delivering the uniforms.

Small Group Leader Training

Pastor Tom would like to invite anyone who has led or would like to lead a small group to small group leader training

sessions **February 11th & 18th at 7:30pm** at his home, 370 Ridge Rd., New Brighton.

Topics to include such things as: ministry objectives, what to study, transforming group mind set, agendas for group meetings, warm-ups, wrap-ups, group prayer, fun group activities, encouragement outside of meetings, and outreach opportunities for small groups.

Drinks and refreshments will be served.



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

E.T.C. EVENTS

**FEBRUARY
is a BIG Event
month, so please
check your calendars**

February 3 Super Bowl Party
February 8-10 Snow Camp
February 14 Valentines Set-up
February 15 Valentines Dinner
February 17, 24 Youth Meetings

SWITCH MEETING

Sunday, February 17
@ Noon after Church

E.T.C. VOLUNTEER MEETING

SUNDAY, February 17
@ 5:00 PM

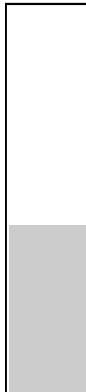
2008 SD MISSIONS TRIP MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

At the Goehrings' home MEETING AGENDA:

- ... MEMBER REGISTRATION FORMS DUE asap
- ... FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- ... SPIRITUAL PREPARATION
- ... VALENTINES DAY DINNER

We need to raise \$6600 by June 1

\$13,000.00
\$8250.00
\$6500.00



THE VISION

I praise the Lord for the vision that Burry's Church has for its young people. This vision started for me, seven years ago, when I was called to create a youth ministry that would reach the youth in this church

family and the surrounding community. We started as a small group of 4 active youth, and over the course of our first year, we grew to a dozen. I praise the Lord, as I've seen this vision that captured my heart seven years ago, become a reality. We now have a strong, vibrant youth ministry that consistently pushes the 40 mark in attendance.

2007 was a tremendous year of ministry as we had 13 youth accept Christ, and a greater number of young people rededicate their lives to Christ. After thinking about all that the Lord has done over the last seven years, I realized that: over 25 youth have accepted the Lord, that nearly 100 Burry's youth & friends have attended Snow Camp, ATF, Revolve Tour, and the Super Summer Break Camp, and that we've completed over 50 SANAMI's and acts of service, 3 Missions trips (Tiger Pause, Cherokee, SC, Jamaica), and are now preparing for our 4th to Rapid City, SD.

We've been able to touch numerous lives through this ministry, and have seen many lives changed and saved. We now have Steadfast, a vibrant praise team, and a bunch of maturing young people who want to serve the Lord in the church and community. I could continue to write about Bridge Builders, Teen Time, etc...but I think that you get the point...we have so much to praise the Lord for! Yet there is still much work ahead. Statistics reveal that only 4% of the current youth generation will be Bible-believing Christians by the time that they reach adulthood. So, please continue to keep our young people in your prayers this year, as I envision another year of tremendous ministry. I believe that if we commit, as a church family, to minister to our young people, we will see many souls saved from entering the gates of Hell. Our young people need you! It would be tragic to let them become a statistic!

It is my hope and prayer for 2008, that many lives will be impacted as we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and teach Truth. Our ETC Youth Ministry goals are simple, yet powerful:

1. To improve ourselves
2. To improve the world

Please consider how you, in 2008, might touch the life of a young person and encourage and empower them to become an active part of the church today.

Please keep our 2008 Rapid City, SD Missions Team in your prayers

Chuck Horstman, Karen Diehl, Rich & Linda Goehring, Ann O'Donnell, John Goehring, Joey Brunner, Liz Brunner, Sammie O'Donnell, Allie O'Donnell, Jenessa Young, Evie Smith, and Lauren Dubovi

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Josiah Dubovi	1
Christopher Harley	4
Tim Weil	4
Butch Tallon	5
Arlene Pflug	7
Wesley Sterrett	8
DeeDee Brunner	11
Tammie Kaufman	11
Tim Concelman	12
Anna Mae Wahl	12
Dean Ward	12
Lynn Concelman	14
Richard Young	14
Aaron Stuck	15
Andrew Stuck	15



David & Becky Yeck	4
Richard & Linda Goehring	7
John & Maryann Gutermuth	17

Sarah Yeck	15
David Young	15
Donald Niedergall	16
Charlotte Vild	17
Jennifer Komara	18
Jim Harley, Jr.	20
Keith Brenner	21
Emily Bernd	23
Jessica Blinn	23
Linda Van Arsdale	23
Ed Young	23
Marge Kaufman	24
Maggie Lind	25
Eileen Bonzo	26
Nikki Ward	26

WOMEN!



Faith Circle is a women's group in the church that does great things! We would like you to be a part of our group.

We meet the third Tuesday of the month beginning in February (the 19th) at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Building. We get together for a short time of devotions, business at hand (in February, we will be planning for the Silent Auction, Pinewood Derby, and Spaghetti Dinner in March).

We also share in food and fellowship.

We invite you to come and be a part of our women's group. Come out and learn more about

Faith Circle and what we do!

My List of Thanks...

To the pleasant visit with Sam & Bertha Schaub who brought the Christmas gift from the Adult Bible Class. To the Guiding Light Class for their gift to the Book of Hope" in honor of my name. For the Bible Club who came out and sang the Christmas message very well. They also brought everyone a snowman they had made to hang on the Christmas tree! Also the church group for singing the carols so pleasing and brought a poinsettia. Next is for the many Christmas greetings with such special messages. Also for the visits and gifts. For the prayers of the church staff. My prayer is for all good things in the New Year and God's care for all the sick ones. From **Laura Pflug**, with appreciation, love & God's blessing for all.

Dear Friends & Family,

Terry, the children and I would like to thank you all for the spiritual and physical nourishment sent our way.

Each and every blessing we've received - prayers, cards, calls, hospital visits, food and words of encouragement - mean so very much to us in easing our ongoing struggles.

Please know that you all are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Much love,

Terry, Mary, David, Scott & Amanda Young

I want to thank the carolers who came to my home to sing carols, and for the poinsettia plant. Thanks to the Guiding Light Class for the donation to Book of Hope. Also to the Faith Circle for the Golden Age Dinner and the chalk artist. God bless each and every one of the Grace-Driven Family of God!
~Harold Bernd

Thanks to everyone at "Burry's" for the beautiful flowers and cards we received for our anniversary. We're so glad to be a part of our grace-driven family of God.

God Bless,
Sam & Bertha Schaub

