



HILLTOP NEWS

March 2008

Mike's Musings

One of the more significant insights gained through Evangelism Explosion for me was the idea of the "divine appointment." These are the opportunities that God brings into our paths each day to share the love of God with others.

Unfortunately, many of those opportunities go wanting because we have been too distracted, too fearful or unprepared to engage them. In the words of the late Dr. D. James Kennedy, founder of Evangelism Explosion, "There are opportunities to witness all around us. Our responsibility is to develop the alertness of mind and the zeal for sharing God's love that will enable us to take advantage of every opportunity the Lord leads us into, day in and day out."

Some of you know of my commitment to the Moraine Park Summer Festival with Steve Wingfield. In union with about 60 other churches and organization (with more being added) we are working to bring the gospel to our unchurched neighbors and friends throughout Western Pennsylvania in, what we believe, is a unique and winsome way (more on that later). A significant component of this effort is what we call the "Sharing Your Faith Course". This is a four hour session that gives those who participate the basic tools for sharing the gospel with others, for helping new Christians find direction for their lives, and preparing oneself to ably pray with others.

I'm excited about this Course. I'm excited because it has the potential of helping me in my calling as a "pastor and teacher" to "prepare God's people for works of service." (Ephesians 4:11-12) I'm excited because it can be a significant aid in our efforts as a local church to fulfill the Great Commission mandate of Jesus. I'm excited too because it offers us the opportunity to leave a legacy of evangelism for the next generation of our grace-driven family.



I've heard often of how Tom Clyde challenged our people to be more mission minded in his time as Pastor of Burry's. That challenge grew into a passion for missions and established our Benevolent Outreach as a core value of our calling and purpose as a church. Praise the Lord!

I think it would be wonderful if the next generation could say, "our training for the Festival in 2008, established evangelism as a core value of our ministry and mission." What a joy to imagine our children and grand children still proclaiming the truth of the gospel because we reaffirmed personal evangelism as yet another core value of our church. Just think what God could do with a church whose people are always "prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you

have" (1 Peter 3:15).

In April, following our Bible Conference with "Walk Thru the Bible", there will be a number of occasions and locations throughout our area to plug into the discipleship training for the Festival. Whether or not you plan to attend the Festival, you need this training. It will change you forever. It will equip you for the works God "prepared in advance for you to do." (Ephesians 2:10) It will make you aware of the "divine appointments" that God brings into your life each day, and it will remove the fear that so often accompanies the prospect of talking to others about Jesus.

Friend, there is no greater joy in the Christian experience than sharing your faith with another. Yet, as James Kennedy observed, "95% of the people in our churches have never led another soul to Christ? It's time to turn that trend around at Burry's. I pray that scores of you will plan to join us for this important time of training, encouragement, and challenge in April. It could well be the most significant four hours of your spiritual life.

Look for that divine appointment today, friend. It could well be the moment that makes the difference for eternity in the lives of those God puts in your path. Remember, the gospel is still "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. . ." (Romans 1:16)

See you Sunday!

Pastor Mike

People in the Pew: Jeff, Kristen & Trinity Vojtko

By Pastor Tom

If you could wear a costume everyday, what would it be? Jeff Vojtko's choice would be Batman. The Caped Crusader inspired Jeff to be a comic book collector and investor. Some folks like stocks and bonds, but Jeff's investments are more fun. Jeff is Burry's newest member along with his wife, Kristen and their daughter, Trinity.




The Vojtkos live in New Sewickley Township on Glen Eden Road. Jeff works in McKees Rocks for Trench Shoring Services, a company that rents trench boxes, bore pits, shoring frames, road plates or just about anything you need to safely "play in the dirt". At Trench Shoring, Jeff rents equipment, makes repairs, and teaches OSHA safety classes. Kristen works for HJ Heinz at the research lab in Cranberry as a secretary/receptionist.

Both work overtime at their "other job", parenting Trinity. It's the job they enjoy the most and can't wait to get home to do. Trinity was born September 27, 2007. But the story of her beginning goes back a few years earlier to 2002 when Jeff and Kristen met online. A few days after meeting, Jeff asked Kristen out for a date. Looking back, they see how they were meant to be together. Once they started dating, Jeff and Kristen didn't stop and have been together ever since. They tied the knot October 18, 2003.

The Vojtkos like worshipping at Burry's. Trinity loves to look at the stained glass windows. Kristen grew up at Burry's and came to faith in Christ as a child. Jeff grew up in the Valencia area, graduating from the old Richland High School and attended St. Killian's Church. Although, he heard about grace growing up, Jeff trusted Christ as his Lord and Savior in recent years.


Jeff and Kristen's favorite Scripture passage is Psalm 23, "*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*"

We thank the Lord for placing the Vojtkos in our grace-driven flock.



If you drive the church van, please remember to sign the log book in the van, and fill it with gas, if necessary, after use.

Recipe Corner

Ragu Chicken Parmesan - Joy Zahn 

- 1 26 oz. jar Ragu Pasta Sauce
- 1 c. Mozzarella, shredded
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 egg, beaten
- 3/4 c. Italian seasoned dry bread crumbs

Preheat oven to 400. Dip chicken in egg, and then bread crumbs. Arrange chicken in 13 x 9 baking dish. Bake uncovered for 20 minutes. Pour sauce over chicken; top with cheese. Bake 10 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink.

December Box Score Averages

Sunday School125	General\$2,234.83
Worship216	Benevolence..... \$934.70



Holy Week Calendar

Palm Sunday, March 16

10:30 am Worship

Maundy Thursday, March 20

7:30 pm Service of the Nails - Holy Communion

Good Friday, March 21

12 pm Community Service at Zelenople Church of the Nazarene

Easter, March 23

8 am Son-Rise Service

9:15 am Breakfast and Children's Program

10:30 am Easter Celebration

Super Saturday March 8, 2008



Pinewood Derby registration begins at 2 pm. The cost is \$10 per entry. Come and enjoy the "friendly" competition.

Silent Auction Registrations also begins at 2 pm. Donations for the auction will be accepted until 3 pm. Bidding will close around 5 pm. Absentee bids will be accepted for those not able to attend. We're certain there is something there for everyone.



The spaghetti dinner will begin at 5 pm. Come out and enjoy a great meal.

Proceeds from all three events will be used for the youth mission trip to South Dakota.

Please direct any questions you may have to Joanne Weil or Joy Zahn.

~Deudkdp #dqg#V dudk^#

The Adult Bible Class is selling tickets to see "Abraham and Sarah" at the dinner theater at Das Dutch Village Inn in Columbiana, Ohio on **April, 18, 2008** at **6:45 p.m.**



Everyone is invited. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. This includes a 4 course buffet as well as the show.

See Robert Young or Richard Householder by March 18 to make your reservation.



June 13-15, 2008

Moraine State Park

Volunteer Recruitment Rally

Monday, March 3, 2008, 7 pm - 9 pm

Community Alliance Church
800 Mercer Road, Butler, PA

Where you can make a difference:

Prayer Ministry - Finance Team - Women's Ministry - Security - Children's Ministry - Youth Ministry - Counselor and Follow-up - College Ministry - Publicity - Parking & Traffic - Usher - Marketplace - Office Support - Grounds/Facility

For more information, visit www.stevewingfield.org

Monthly Festival Prayer Meetings

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| 1st Thursday of the Month
7 pm - 9 pm | Chippewa Ev. Free Church
239 Braun Road
Beaver Falls, PA 15010 |
| 3rd Tuesday of the Month
7 pm - 9 pm | Highland Presbyterian
310 Franklin Street
Slippery Rock, PA 16057 |
| 3rd Thursday of the Month
7 pm - 9 pm | St. Paul's Community
2167 State Route 268
Chicora, PA 16025 |
| 4th Thursday of the Month | Covenant Life Church
220 W. New Castle Road
Butler, PA 16001 |

Faith Circle will be ordering tulips, hyacinths, and lilies for Easter. Orders are due by March 9th to Deloris Housholder or Eileen Bernd.



Order forms will be available in the bulletins on Sunday, March 2 and also on March 9th.

If you would be interested in housing a German intern from May – July, please contact Pastor Tom ASAP.

He is married and his wife will be visiting for a few weeks that are yet to be determined.

Thank you !

Mission Report

George & Joan Theis — Word of Life

George & Joan now have 5 grandsons and 5 granddaughters and they have been married 49 years. Their daughter Linda and her husband Keith are still at the Word of Life Institute in Florida and daughter Sherri and her husband Alejandro at the Word of Life in Argentina. Their son Steve and his wife Marissol are very busy with a loaded attendance at this summer camp in Sao Paulo. Please continue to up hold them in prayer over the camp season and for future ministry opportunities over the coming months.




George and Joan are continuing their ministry of preaching, teaching, recruiting, and discipling.

David & Eleanor Fiol — Mission to the World

The Children’s Home can receive packages of USED clothing and shoes, in good condition. So the Homes are asking for children’s clothing in good condition and particularly warm clothing; i.e. sweaters, jackets, hats. They have summer and winter there. There are boys and girls from 3 years old to 19. You can send clothing directly to the Home in India addressed: Children’s Home, Bhogpur, Dehra Dun Dist. UK 248143, India, marked clearly “USED clothing and shoes”.




**Saturday,
March 15,
10:00 - 11:30
a.m.
for children
pre-school to
6th grade**

Donations of candy, refreshments, and paper bags would be appreciated.



WINTER & SPRING SCHEDULE 2008

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

Sunday, March 16

5:00 Steadfast Practice
6:00 pm E.T.C. Youth Meeting

Monday, March 17

7:00 pm Steadfast Practice

Saturday, March 22

10:00am Steadfast Practice
11:00 am Son-Rise Service Practice

Sunday, March 23

7:00am Steadfast Practice
8:00am Easter Son-Rise Service
EASTER: NO E.T.C. YOUTH MEETING

Sunday, March 30

5:00 pm Steadfast Practice
6:00 pm E.T.C. Youth Meeting

April 4

6:00pm Dinner
7:30pm Walk Through the Bible
Spring Bible Conference

April 5

8:30am Breakfast
9:00am Walk Through the Bible
Spring Bible Conference

Sunday, April 6

12:30pm SD Missions Team Mtg.
5:00 pm Steadfast Practice
6:00 pm E.T.C. Youth Meeting

April 12

6:30am Sharing Your Faith Workshop

Sunday, April 13

5:00 pm E.T.C. Leadership Team Mtg.
6:00 pm E.T.C. Youth Meeting
(Game Night)

April 14

7:00pm Steadfast Practice

Sunday, April 20

5:00 Steadfast Practice
6:00 pm E.T.C. Youth Meeting

April 21

7:00pm Steadfast Practice

Sunday, April 27

5:00 Steadfast Practice
6:00 pm E.T.C. Youth Meeting
(Last E.T.C. Youth Meeting)



Acquire the Fire

May 2-3, 2008
\$55.00/Weekend
Leave: 4:00pm
Return: Midnight

Saturday, May 4

12:30pm SD Missions Team Mtg.
NO ETC YOUTH MEETING

Saturday, May 10

Noon E.T.C. Leadership Team Lunch
1:30pm-6:00pm Mother's Day Shopping Day

Saturday, May 24

9:00am Rummage Sale/Chicken Roast
(Benefits the SD Missions Team)

Saturday, May 31

9:00am-Noon SD Team Workshop

Saturday, June 7


9:00am-Noon SD Team Workshop
1:00pm E.T.C. Workday @ Church
(Benefits the SD Missions Team)

June 13-23

S.D. Missions Trip to Rapid City, SD

**Check out the bulletin each
week for schedule updates!**

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Barbara Blinn	3		Diane Calderone	20
Chuck Horstman	4		Brittany Yeck	22
Maryann Gutermuth	6		Leona DeRosia	23
Myron Bonzo	8		Marian Sullivan	24
Jeri Yeck	9		Jacob Aland	25
Jeremy Merriman	11		Cooper Young	25
Dick Graham	12		Crystal Anney	26
Tom Harley	13		Glenn Young	27
Anna Zahn	14		Jesse Ralston	30
Michael Dengel	15		Logan Shaffer	30
Richard Chenet	17		Jim & Christa Harley	5
Joshua Yeck	18		Dan & Joyce Brenner	22
Austin Garlitz	19		Glenn & Cindy Young	26
			Myron & Lori Bonzo	27
			Bertha Schaub	31
			Denise Sterrett	31
			Jenessa Young	31



This is a very belated thank you to Faith Circle for the wonderful Golden-Age Dinner, September 30 and the Gold Dollar bookmark and pictures of the Golden-Agers. Also, thank you to my sisters and brothers in Christ at Burry's for all the nice birthday cards and phone calls for my 80th on December 7. A special thank you to the Guiding Light Class for coming to sing Christmas carols to me, December 23 and the gift of a poinsettia and a donation in my name to the Book of Hope to provide copies to 3 children in India. Thank you for everything.

Love in Christ,
Lois Mignogna

Tom and I would like to thank Faith Circle for their thoughtfulness and the monetary gift they so graciously gave us. Also, we would like to thank all those who gave us food, monetary gifts, and beautiful cards. Tom and I are so blessed to have such wonderful sisters and brothers in Christ. Praise be to our God and Father, and may He bless each one of you with His richest blessings.

Love,
Tom and Leona DeRosia

Thank you for the cards, gifts, and telephone calls. Everybody is so good to me.

Arlene Blinn

We want to thank the ETC and all who were involved in the Valentine's Couples Dinner. The food and the servers were great. We very much enjoyed Laura Neely playing the piano during the dinner hour. Thanks, Laura. We enjoyed the entertainment after the meal. The singing and newlywed game were enjoyable. Thanks again and God bless each of you. Thanks also, for the picture.

Love in Christ,
Sam & Bertha Schaub

Thank you to everyone who lifted us up in prayer as I helped my father to struggle through his last year of life. We appreciated all of your cards, gifts, food and other expressions of sympathy at the time of his passing in January.

Love,
Ana, Pastor Tom, Evelyn, Katherine and Kristina

Thank You