



HILLTOP NEWS

May 2008

Mike's Musings

I realized today that I've had my laptop for about 5 ½ years. I purchased it when we were living in Tampa. It was a supposedly a "screamer" then; state of the art stuff. Thanks to Kevin Aland and God's mercy, it's still running, and it looks like it will serve me for some time to come.

It was a little disconcerting, however, when I ran an anti-adware program on it. For the less than computer literate crowd, adware is "any software package which automatically plays, displays, or downloads advertising material to a computer after the software is installed on it or while the application is being used." (Wikipedia) The "anti" is a way to detect all that unnecessary stuff, as well as finding errors in the computer's register and then magically fixing it (at least it seems magical to me).

Anyway, it was a bit disturbing to find that I had "2017 errors" on my computer! Unfortunately, when I hit the button for the "magic", I was informed that my "trial offer" would only clean 20 of the errors. If I really wanted to get my computer back up to speed and "clean", it would cost me \$29.95! Not having budgeted for that expense, I took the 20 and consoled myself that, at least, my machine was a little cleaner.

The whole thing got me to thinking about how easily infested our lives can get with things unnecessary and potentially harmful. Things that fall in the category of sin. Those include acts of commission (things we did that we shouldn't have) and omission (things we should have done that we neglected to

do). It's a rather insidious process, because, for the most part, we assume everything is "running" pretty smoothly.

We start to think like this: "No, we haven't prayed lately and we've been a little too busy to get to church, but we're still doing okay." All the while the affects of sin are slowly but surely taking their toll. Pretty soon compromising our faith convictions doesn't seem that serious or maybe it feels like too much to overcome.

I recognize that this is a universal struggle; not only because I am aware of my own sinful predilections, but because the Bible says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:6) Throughout Scripture, we see God's people wrestling with, what the writer of Hebrews calls "besetting sins". In Romans 7, the Apostle Paul evaluated his life and his personal struggle with what he called "the sin living in me" (v.17) or "my sinful nature." (v.18) It so perplexed him that he cried out, "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?"

Have you ever felt that way? The good news, for Paul, was that he knew about the "anti-sin" solution. His immediate response to his frustrations with the battle going on in his life was, "Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!" And what is the "anti-sin" solution for us? Simply this: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

The Bible is clear that we should be vigilant in "the race marked out for us." (Heb 12:1) That means we heed Paul's words to "put to death. . . whatever belongs to (our) earthly

nature." (Col 3:5) Matthew Henry is pretty clear about how to do this: "It is our duty to mortify our members which incline to the things of the world. Mortify them, kill them, suppress them, as weeds or vermin which spread and destroy all about them. Continual opposition must be made to all corrupt workings, and no provision made for carnal indulgences. Occasions of sin must be avoided: the lusts of the flesh, and the love of the world; and covetousness, which is idolatry; love of present good, and of outward enjoyments. It is necessary to mortify sins, because if we do not kill them, they will kill us."

The good news is, we do not have to fight this battle alone. We can access our anti-sin solution whenever we find our lives stained by sin or our hearts drifting from their spiritual center. We have an advocate who will help us; who loves us and is willing to get our lives clean again. 1 John 2:1-2 says, "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

It is a continuing and comforting assurance to know that God has promised to be with me in this battle and to clean me up when the world has infected me. What wondrous love this is! And the price for it was paid in full at Calvary! Hallelujah! What a Savior! May God help us to look to Him today to keep our heart clean.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Mike

People in the Pew: Eduard Kasper**by Pastor Tom**

When was the last time you met someone from Siberia? When you meet our German intern for the Summer, Eduard Kasper, you will. Eduard, or Edi as he likes to be called, was born in Gljaden, Siberia. He is what is called a “Russian” German (no, he doesn’t rush around). His ancestors moved to Russia when Katherine the Great invited German settlers to come farm the Russian steppes. Most Germans stayed together and kept their identity as Germans, but during WWII, they were resettled to the far corners of the Soviet Empire by Stalin. After German reunification, many of these Russian Germans chose to immigrate back to the land of their ancestors.

Edi’s wife is Eleanor, or Elly. She was born in Kyrgyzstan, but moved to Germany with her family when she was young. Their families live around Beilefeld, a small city between Brake (where the Bible school is) and Cologne. They met at a New Year’s Eve Party at a friend’s house. Edi and Elly were married in August 2005. Last month, they learned they are expecting their first child. They are excited and nervous first time parents.

Although he has a degree in finance, Edi has gone to the Brake Bible School to receive theological and ministry training. He is seeking the Lord’s guidance as to whether or not he should work in full time ministry. Edi says God has shown him that he works well with teens and young people. His internship with us will be a time to test his gifts not only with youth, but in other areas of pastoral ministry.

Edi grew up with a Christian mother and went to church as a child. At 16, he drifted away from the church. Two years later, some friends invited him to a youth group at their church. A few months later, Edi surrendered his life to Christ. His favorite Bible verse is Ephesians 4:29, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs that it may benefit those who listen.

He will be the first to admit, that his English is not the best, but Edi is bound to have some helpful things to say to us. We are grateful to the Lord that we can have him come and work with us from May 3 to July 11th. Edi likes working with young people, and loves to drink milk, so it seems a good fit that he is coming to a church with a vibrant youth ministry and many dairy farms. So, let’s make him and his wife feel at home in our grace-driven family.

**Recipe Corner** Caramel Custard Bread Pudding*By Bertha Schaub*

1 c. brown sugar	3 tbsp. oleo (spread on bread)
3 c. milk	2 eggs, beaten
5 slices bread	1/8 tsp salt
1 1/4 tsp vanilla	

Sprinkle sugar in bottom of 1 1/2 quart buttered casserole. Cut bread into cubes and put in casserole. Beat together milk, eggs, salt and vanilla, pour over bread. Sprinkle with a little cinnamon and bake in moderate oven at 350 for 1 hour. Enjoy!





Come as a group. Maybe do this as an activity for your Sunday School class, youth group or Bible study groups. Come by yourself, with your friends or with family. Everyone is welcome to come help us pray. Come for 15, 20, 30 minutes or come and pray all morning.

We look forward to seeing everyone come out and unite in prayer for this upcoming event. If you have any questions, call Connie Gratzner at 724-991-6516

Sud | hu# do#

P d | # # # # # # # # # #

Come join us as we walk along the south shore of Moraine State Park to pray for the upcoming festival.

We will have maps available with a path to follow and you will get a sneak preview of where each attraction will be located.


We will have places marked at each spot and what the specific prayer requests will be.




**MORaine PARK
SUMMER
FESTIVAL**
with STEVE WINGFIELD

June 13-15, 2008
www.SteveWingfield.org
724-431-2397

Yard signs are available. We need about thirty families willing to display one in front of their homes. Please call the office or let Pastor Mike know of your willingness to help.



Taxes! Getting a refund? What about that unexpected tax stimulus check that most of us will soon be receiving? Have you considered designating a percentage of these funds to the Maintenance Building Fund? If not, prayerfully consider it! We need your support to begin this project. If you are unable to support this project financially, please continue to keep it in your prayers! Thank you!



VBS

JULY 7-11

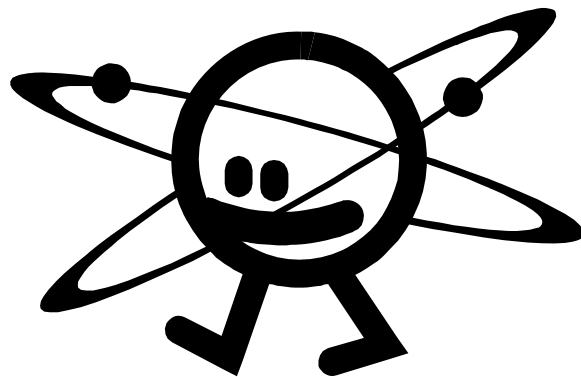
9:00 AM TO NOON

Mark your calendar today!

*Plan to join us on this exciting
adventure as we*

POWER UP WITH JESUS

*and discover the truths of
His miraculous power!*



Volunteers are welcome!

VBS Committee:
Linda Van Arsdale, Joy Zahn & Lynn Tweed

Our Summer intern, Edi Kasper will be arriving on May 3, and will be staying with Lois Mignogna from then until his wife arrives on May 23rd.

The Kasper's are in need of host family, with a cat-free home, from May 23 – June 28th.

Please contact Pastor Tom if you are willing to house them during their stay here.

Also, we would like to sponsor an old-fashioned "pounding" to help defer the cost of groceries needed for them. Contact Pastor Tom for more details.

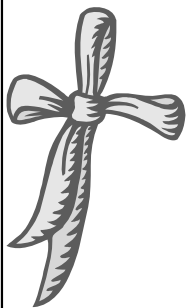


March Box Score Averages

Sunday School	128	General	\$3,155.10
Worship	210	Benevolence...	\$1,146.30
Easter Special Offering:		\$2,404.25	



Faith Circle News



Our monthly meeting was held at the church at 7:30 on April 16, 2008. President Joy Zahn opened with prayer.

The highlights of the evening's discussions were Meals on Wheels, the Soup Sale, luncheon on July 13, at the Watering Hole. We will also provide the lunch for the youth attending Acquire the Fire.

A bunch of delicious pies were provided by Linda Rahn and Joanne Weil. Our next meeting is May 20th.

Please try and come. We need your support.

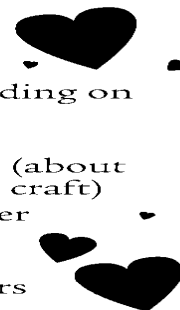
Barbara Tuma, Secretary

A HEART FOR MOM

Show Mom how much you appreciate all she does for you with this "heartfelt" craft. Give it to her on Mother's Day.

What you need:

- Floral stem wire
- Dried cranberries (about 100, depending on the wire's length)
- Pliers
- Decorative ribbon (about 12 inches for each craft)
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Hole punch
- Crayons or markers



What you do:

1. With an adult's help, thread cranberries, one at a time with no space between them, onto the straight wire.
2. Bend the wire into a heart shape.
3. With pliers, twist the wire together at the top of the heart.
4. Tie ribbon to make a loop atop the heart (so your mom can hang it up).
5. Fold the paper into a card, and write a message of love and gratitude to your mom. You might want to add a verse from Proverbs 31 that best describes her.
6. Punch a hole in the card. Attach it to the ribbon that's tied to the heart.



Part-Time Help Wanted

Registrar for Pine Valley Bible Camp

For detailed information contact Christine at 724-752-1661

ASAP!



WHO...ME?

As an icebreaker at youth group, I sometimes ask the youth to answer silly questions, like: "If you could be a fruit, what would you be and why?" or "If you could be an animal, what would you be and why?" Now if I asked you to describe yourself with a few words that best describe who you are; what would you say? Some might say they are Christians, farmers, parents, lawyers, engineers, loving,

caring, hopeful, etc... Those are all great descriptive words, but I wonder how many would have described themselves as evangelists or mentors?

Christ commanded the disciples to go into all the world to make disciples of all nations, to baptize them, and to teach them. Christ's command is often referred to at the Great Commission, and it applies to every Christian today. He calls us to be evangelists -- persons that shares the Gospel with others. Yet current research suggests that only 5% of Bible-believing Christians share their faith with others. After talking with the youth in our community, I am led to believe that less than 5% of our young people see the need to share their faith. Please take a moment to look at the stats. It is speculated that only 4% of the current youth in our country will be Bible believing Christians by the time they reach adulthood. That's only 4 out of 100! It also means, statistically speaking, that only 2 out of 1000 will share the Gospel with others. How does that make you feel?

I find those statistics horrifying! So we are starting to train our young people at the weekly E.T.C. youth meetings, and Praise God, we have a group of young people that possess a growing passion for the lost. Our young people really need adult Christian mentors that will serve as examples in serving and sharing the Gospel. They need YOUR encouragement. Please don't wait for someone else to get involved. Our young people need YOU!
~Chuck Horstman



SUPER SATURDAY MAY 24, 2008

RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE
9:00 AM to 7:00 PM
CHICKEN ROAST
NOON-5:30PM



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

ETC CALENDAR

May 2-3 ATF

4:00pm Leave Friday

Midnight Return Saturday

Sunday, May 4

9:30am Sunday School

10:30pm Worship

12:30 pm S.D. Team Meeting

Saturday, May 10

Noon E.T.C. Leaders Team Mtg.

1:30pm Mother's Day Shopping
@ Grove City Outlets

6:00pm Return to Church

Saturday, May 24

9:00am Super Saturday Starts

Noon Chicken Roast Starts

5:30pm Chicken Roast Ends

7:00pm Super Saturday Ends

Saturday, May 31

9a-Noon S.D. Team Workshop

1:00pm E.T.C. Workday @ Church

Sunday, June 8

9:30am Sunday School

10:30pm Worship

5-7 pm S.D. Team Workshop


June 13-23

S.D. Mission Trip to Rapid City

TEEN TIME Monday, July 14 6-8pm

Donations will be accepted from 9:00am-3:30pm May 20-23. Please NO Clothing or Furniture

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Laurin Bonzo	1		Alyssa Maley	14	
Shannon Goehring	1		Brian Stuck	14	
Amanda Young	3		Peg Young	14	
Martin Bonzo	4		Samantha O'Donnell	16	
Daniel Stuck	4		Bronson Strobel	20	
Wilmer Bonzo	6		Sam Schaub	21	
Judy Young	7		Nellie Rosenmund	22	
Bonnie Graham	9		Joe Brunner	23	
Samuel Hagen	9		Natalie Dubovi	23	
Gracie Donley	10		Mildred Perza	23	
Ashton Maley	10		Brandi Bonzo	24	
Liam Maley	10		Charlie O'Donnell	24	
R.J. Ward	11		Louis Dubovi	28	
Adam Strobel	12	Dot Pflug	28		
Neil Bonzo	13	Travis Strobel	28		
David Brenner	13	George Tweed	30		
		Jay & Gaye Lansberry	8	Rachel Usselman	30
		Woody & Rose Young	10		
		Keith & Crystal Brenner	11		
		Donald & MaryLou Niedergall	14		
		Francis & Arlene Pflug	15		
		Dale & Mary Bonzo	23		
		Mike & Alyssa Young	24		
		Donnie & Darla Ward	26		

I want to thank the church for the beautiful flowers for my birthday, also for the many cards I received.

Sam and I want to thank those who sent get well cards while we were not feeling well.

God bless all of you. It's so good to belong to a grace-driven family of God. Thanks again.

Bertha & Sam Schaub

I wish to thank everyone for your prayers, thoughts, visits, cards, flowers and food. I have received more than 100 cards during my illness.

The road to recovery is not over yet, as I have seven more weeks of treatment and tests to go.

Again, many thanks for all of your concerns.

Love to all,
Hilda Pflug



Neil Bonzo graduated from De Vry University on March 9, 2008 with an Associate of Applied Science Electronics and Computer Technology.

Neil will remain at De Vry for a Bachelor Degree in Electrical Engineering and Master in Business.

Neil's address is:

5725 Othoplis - Winchester Road
Canel Winchester, OH 43110

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jim and Carrie (DeRosia) Blawas on the birth of their son, Matthew Thomas on April 23rd. Matthew weighed 8 lbs. 12 oz. and was 21 ½ inches long. He is welcomed also by older siblings, Kate, Hannah and Michael, and of course by proud grandparents, Tom and Leona DeRosia.

