

Mike's Musings

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

I can hardly believe that Fall is upon us and, with it, the "official" season of Thanksgiving. Maybe it's been the unending political campaigns and the roller coaster economy, but somehow my spirit hasn't been altogether thankful recently. However, once again, I am reminded of "the will of God for (me) in Christ Jesus." It's what Paul declares in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, . . ."

For our nation, Thanksgiving is that time of the year recognizable by all the Christmas decorations at the malls and the hand sized representations of turkeys on the refrigerators of parents and grandparents with elementary-aged children. I guess I should be "thankful" that for at least one day our government encourages us to give thanks and recognize that God does truly exist.

That's kind of surprising in a culture that seems to be working overtime to remove every vestige of God's existence from the landscape. It's also troubling, because, to make it "universally acceptable", God can quickly be portrayed as "something" quite generic and extremely anemic; nothing close to who He truly is.

So let me encourage us all to take advantage of the day. Be sure and

give thanks, but make sure that you give it to the One who truly deserves it. After all, if you're going to say "thank you", it's likely going to be to somebody. I'm reminded of the story of Harriet Martineau, a noted atheist. One morning she and a friend stepped out into the glories of a beautiful Fall morning. As she saw the brilliant sun peaking through the haze, and the frost on the meadow, and the brightly colored leaves making their way lazily to the ground, she was filled with the beauty and burst forth with, "I am so thankful. I'm just so grateful for it all." And her believing friend asked, "Grateful to whom, my dear?" That's a good question at Thanksgiving.



We should also make sure that we give thanks "to God" for the "right reasons." Our family always takes a few minutes before the big meal for each person there to "thank God" for some blessing in their lives. Most often we follow the standard fare – family, health, job, and being together. Someone usually gives thanks for the Lord meeting "all (our) needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Phil 4:19 Of course, the list could easily go on and on (although we don't want the food to get cold), but I always hope that some of my family will give thanks like David in Psalm 103 (and, by the way, they often do – Praise the Lord!). He

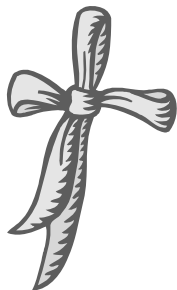
(David) began by thanking God for forgiving all our sins. I think he knew what was most important! Then he gives thanks that God "heals all (our) diseases." As a church, we've faced a lot of illness and other physical challenges. Are we thankful that God is still the Great Physician and that He knows the deepest needs of our lives even better than we do? I am so thankful that whether my needs are physical, psychological or spiritual, that God will always do that which is best for me.

Next, David gave thanks to God who, "redeems (our lives) from the pit and crowns (us) with love and compassion." Then he thanked the Lord who, "satisfies (our) desires with good things so that (our) youth is renewed like the eagle." What an excellent guide for giving thanks!

I've just decided that I'm going to throw aside my cynicism and get into the Thanksgiving spirit. I think I'm going to add King David's list to mine and resolve to daily give thanks to the God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. I resolve to thank Him for the joys & blessings He has showered on me throughout my life. If, with God's help, I keep my resolve, I believe that, first, my attitude will improve; second, I hope my kids and grandchildren will be encouraged to follow my example by becoming the grateful people God intends them to be. Third, I pray that in all of my thanksgiving the true God – the Almighty Sovereign Creator and the giver and sustainer of life – will be genuinely glorified. He alone deserves it.

Hope to see you Sunday!
Pastor Mike

Faith Circle met on October 21, 2008 at the church. Our projects for November are collecting a Love Offering for the Deacons' Fund; flowers for the church in December; election of new officers for 2009; making Christmas gifts for patients at Friendship Ridge.



We need your prayers and would love for more ladies to come to our meetings.

We do have fun and delicious food.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Barb Tuma
Secretary

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It's time again for Operation Christmas Child. This is a ministry outreach of Samaritan's Purse that enables caring people to share God's love with hurting boys and girls in the far corners of the globe.



Here's what you can do: take an ordinary shoebox and fill it with toys and other presents. Gifts are collected for boys and girls ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.

Forms are available in the vestibule and educational building. For more information contact Jodi Strobel at (724) 847-1194

Shoeboxes are due by November 23rd.

Thank you, in advance, for your support!

Christmas Parade

The annual Zelienople Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, November 29th. We are in need of lots of **candy** and **help** on Friday, the 28th, to assemble the float. Please place all donations in the kitchen.

We will also need **people** to be at the parade and on the float to pass out candy and brochures. Sign-up sheets will be available or contact Jodi Strobel (724-847-1194) to volunteer!

**Thanksgiving Eve
Holy Communion Service**

November 26 - 7:30 pm



If you are a shut-in, or know of someone who would like to receive Communion, please contact the Elders (Michael Pflug or Wayne Harley), or call the office.

Christmas Decorating at the Church

November 28th
6:30 pm

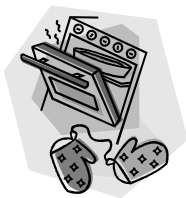
Everyone is invited to help!

Live Nativity

December 13 -14

Volunteers are needed for this popular outreach!
Please contact the office to volunteer.

**Recipe Corner
Hash brown Casserole**
by Joanne Weil



- 2 lbs. hash browns
- 8 oz. sour cream
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 med. onion, minced
- 1 8 oz. pkg. shredded cheddar
- 2 cups cornflakes, crushed

Mix all of the ingredients together and bake at 350 for 45 minutes. Enjoy!

September Box Score Averages

Sunday School	135	General.....	\$3,019.71
Worship	217	Benevolence ..	\$1,265.13



People In the Pew: Nellie Rosenmund by Pastor Tom

Nellie Rosenmund is one of our members who can not make it out to church. She lives in an apartment on the twelfth floor at the Beaver Falls Plaza. She attends worship services held in her building.

She started out life near Canton, OH. Nellie moved to Beaver County during her youth. In 1947, she met Calvin Rosenmund. A year later, Nellie and Calvin were married. They had one son, Richard. The Rosenmunds lived on the family farm in North Sewickley Township. In 1951, Nellie joined Burry's Church on profession of faith.

A kitchen job at McGuire Memorial Homes developed into nurse's aide position. Her supervisor saw potential in Nellie and recommended her to nurse's training. Nellie went to school in Ambridge and completed her training at Rochester General Hospital. After graduating from nurse's training, she went to work at various nursing homes in the area. Later she worked as a private duty nurse.

Nellie reads her Bible every morning. Her goal is to read four chapters a day. She could not recall any particular verse or passage that is a favorite for her. She misses Burry's Church and appreciates visitors and the carolers that come at Christmas time. Although, she can not be with us, we are glad she is a part of our grace-driven family and we thank God for her.



Burry's Church
Jesus Festival
(For Ages K-6th Grade)
Saturday, November 1, 2008
4:30 p.m.

Games! Prizes! Food & Friends!

Bring your tickets!
Bring a friend and earn 15 tickets!
If your guest has never attended a Burry's event,
they earn 50 tickets!
Earn tickets at the learning area!



LET'S TURN IT UP!



It's Getting Cold Out There!

Wow, it's really starting to get cold outside, but the E.T.C. is sizzling! October has really been an exciting month for the E.T.C. members. Our group headed to Fairview Church for a night of fun, as we played "Fairview Survivor." While at Fairview, our young people also played a game called Mega-Ball Volleyball. Just imagine playing volleyball with a 42" diameter ball! Now our young people insist on playing events such as

Super Lugby and Mega-Ball Kickball here at Burry's.

The E.T.C. youth ministry has also seen a lot of growth this past month, as more and more young people are becoming involved. That is exciting in itself, but I'm really excited about the fact that our young people are starting to understand and connect themselves with the 2008 E.T.C. Youth Ministry theme:

God loves you just the way you are, but He refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be just like Jesus.

God is at work among our young people, and I ask that you will seek out opportunities to encourage them as they mature in their faith. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on their journey of becoming like Jesus!

Chuck Horstman

E.T.C.



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E.T.C. LUGBY TURKEY BOWL

Saturday, Nov. 22
3:00-5:30 pm

Burry's Church, along with a couple of other churches will be competing for the 2008 Turkey Bowl trophy! Invite your friends for a fun time of competition and fellowship.



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

ETC EVENTS CALENDAR

November Sundays

November 2, 9, 16 & 30

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

6:00 pm E.T.C. Youth Group

NO E.T.C. NOVEMBER 23

E.T.C. Christmas Party

December 7

@ 6:00 pm

SUPER BOWL PARTY

February 1

SNOW CAMP '09

February 6-8

ACQUIRE THE FIRE

"HERE COMES TROUBLE"

May 8-9

SSB '09

June 28-July 2

DAILY DEVOS

Let Chuck know if you would like to be added to the daily devotional e-mail list. We send them out each Monday.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Casey Sterrett	2
Noah Yeck	2
Scott Bonzo	3
Kendal Komara	3
Richard Goehring	4
Melissa Stiteler	6
Walter Mohrbacher	7
Mark Donley	8
Christa Harley	8
Brad Baker	10
Viola Blinn	10
Crystal Brenner	11
Joseph Weil	11
Austin Brenner	14
Ralph Kaufman	14



David & Patty Emerick	11
Ralph & Marge Kaufman	14
George & Barbara Tuma	16
David & Crystal Anney	17
Arthur & Roberta Teets	23

Samuel Brenner	15
David Stumpf	15
Floyd Bonzo	16
Gena Tokar	17
Mary Dillon	19
Sara Bonzo	20
Craig Shaffer	20
Kevin Aland	21
Eleanor Hicks	21
Genny Weyand	22
Woody Young	22
Barbara Young	23
Quinton Sheets	25
Z.J. Ward	26
Mark Harley	27
Eileen Bernd	28

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and beautiful cards for my 92nd birthday.

~ Eleanor Gray

We wish to thank the members for the flowers Don received for his 81st birthday, and the flowers received on our 61st Wedding Anniversary. Also, our appreciation for the prayers and cards during Sella's eye surgery, and Pastor Tom's visit. Thank you for thinking of us.

~ Don & Sella Shaffer

My Thanks

To Pastor Mike Van Arsdale and Mike Pflug who came to Trinity Oaks on October 5, to give me Communion; for the beautiful bouquet of flowers from the church for my 104th birthday; to the Faith Circle for the Golden Age Dinner and the table of very good looking food of which I wish I could have eaten more; for the entertaining program, and greetings from the people; for the picture and list of changes from the past until now; for the visits, gifts, and all the special birthday greetings; and seeing a lot of friends.

Thanks to Francis and Arlene Pflug for taking me, and to all my family and friends that were able to be present. So my prayers and love to all with God's blessings.

From Laura Pflug (Hope I didn't miss any one)

The family of Arthur G. Goehring would like to thank the ladies who put on the great luncheon for our family and friends on the day of our dad's funeral. We appreciate all their hard work to make it such a nice time for us to visit.

We would also like to thank Deloris Cunningham for all she has done for our family, taking care of our dad all the months in the nursing home. Thanks to Pastor Mike Van Arsdale for coming and meeting with the family and helping with all the arrangements. Thanks to Chris Brenner for playing such beautiful music.

It was so nice to have Pastor Ric Raines there for the service and remembering on such short notice. It was so nice to be in the church where we grew up. Thanks to all who thought of our dad.

Robert, Gerald, Marnietta (Sissy), and Donald Goehring and their spouses, children and grandchildren

Thank you for the lovely flowers we received for our 57th Wedding Anniversary. ~ Wilmer & Sara Bonzo

We wanted to say thank you very much for allowing us to use the picnic shelter and playground to celebrate Trinity's 1st birthday. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect day.

~Jeffrey, Kristen & Trinity Vojtko