

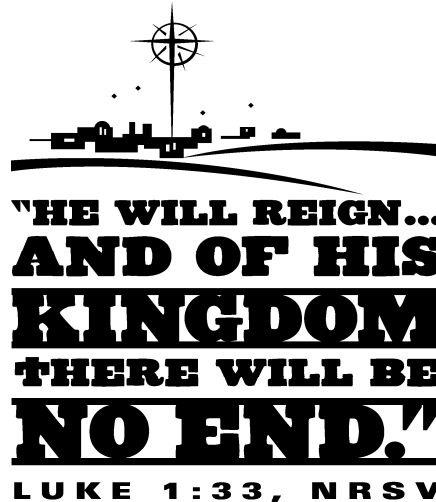
Mike's Musings

"We just finished our second annual "Van Arsdale Turkey Cook Off." It started two years ago (so I guess that makes it a bi-annual cook off??). Anyway, it began as a friendly competition between our boys and their mom (if I remember correctly). Someone began bragging about a special turkey recipe and, before we knew it, we were in the middle of a full blown competition (friendly, of course). The first year there were four turkeys (boy, did we have lots of leftovers!). This year, mom decided to join all of us in the "clap and cheer" section while three of our boys competed. Tim of Café 41:11 fame won the coveted "tea towel" this year.

This may well be the last time we have a cook off; at least for a number of years. Mike, our boy from Ashtabula and the true chef of the family, is moving to San Diego. For the next four years or so he'll be doing his military service in sunny California. Well miss him and his family. Unless mom decides to get back in competition, or I pick up the mantle, this may be our last cook off.

It really hit me today how quickly "traditions" change. In July, our oldest son, Mike, and his family moved to Anchorage,

Alaska. They'll be there for the next four years. We had them over for a few minutes this Thanksgiving but only by web cam. Our youngest boy, Jonathan, brought a girl friend to our celebration for the first time. Although I'm not making any predictions, this could be a sign of even more changes in the future. In a few years, we're anticipating even more changes as our grand children reach young adulthood. I guess it's all just part of the normal ebb and flow of family life.



I remember when I thought Christmas could only be celebrated at my grandma and grandpa Adam's house. Then, suddenly, they showed up at our house, and our traditions changed. When my mom passed away, my sisters, brother and I all started drifting in other directions during the holidays. It seems that the biggest tradition, for most of us, is that change is inevitable.

In the midst of all these changes, I am comforted that some things remain the same. Particularly regarding our faith. Jesus Christ is still LORD to the glory of God the Father. He is still the same "yesterday and today and forever." (Heb 13:80) The message He came to bring is still "good news of great joy. . . for all the people." (Luke 2:10) It's promise of "peace to men on whom his favor rests" still holds.

My prayer for you this Advent and Christmas season is that you will find comfort in the constancy of God's love and care for you. I'm reminded of the classic lyrics from the pen of Henry F. Lyte:

Swift to its close ebbs
out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim,
its glories pass away;

Change and decay in
all around I see—
O Thou who changest not,
abide with me.

May you know the joy of God's unwavering faithfulness as you continue to trust in Jesus for your salvation. Linda and I want to wish you all a joyous Christmas season and a happy and prosperous New Year. We look forward to sharing another year of life and ministry with you all.

See you Sunday!

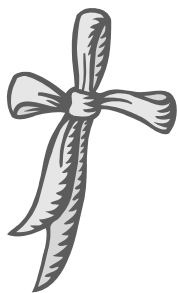
Pastor Mike

Faith Circle News

By Barb Tuma, Secretary

At our November meeting, we finished lap blankets for the nursing homes. We are looking for new projects for 2009. If you have a suggestion, please contact any of our officers which are:

President, Hedy Pflug
 Vice President, Joanne Weil
 Secretary, Barbara Tuma
 Treasurer, Judy Gerwig



We will sponsor flowers for Christmas. Please pray for our circle, and our new officers. We are always looking for new members. Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 16, at 7:30 pm. All women are encouraged to attend.

Guiding Light Class Christmas Party

The Guiding Light Class will have their Christmas party on Saturday, December 6, at 6:00 pm at Bill and Linda Rahn's home.

The cost is \$12.50 per person, due to Linda Rahn by Sunday, November 30 with an indication of your choice of stuffed chicken breast or stuffed pork chop. Any checks should be written to "Guiding Light Class".

There will be a \$1.00 gag gift exchange.

Guiding Light Class News

2009 Class Officers

President - Michael Pflug
 Vice President - Gale Zahn
 Secretary - Amy Foeks
 Treasurer - Linda Rahn

We will go to lunch at Max & Erma's on Sunday, January 11, 2009 after church.

The next class meeting will be January 16, 2009 at Gale & Joy Zahn's Home.

Nursing Home Christmas Gifts

Faith Circle is once again sponsoring Christmas gifts for the patients at Creek Meadows and Evergreen.

Everyone in the congregation is welcome to help with this project. There will be boxes in the mailbox room for each home. Gifts should be unwrapped and placed in their respective box by Sunday, December 14th.



A few suggestions: lotions, hairbrushes and combs, footies with grippers on the bottom, nail polish and remover, playing cards (large print), barrettes, bows and hair bands, manicure sets, etc.

Burry's Church

Live Nativity

December 13 & 14, 2008



**Performances at
 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30 p.m.**

Come and watch the story of Christmas from the comfort of your vehicle.

Bring the whole family!

Refreshments will also be served!

October Box Score Averages

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|----------------|------------|
| Sunday School | 131 | General..... | \$2,944.98 |
| Worship | 217 | Benevolence .. | \$1,401.88 |



Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers. They were all really appreciated.

~Deloris Cunningham

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and for all the cards we received for our anniversary.

~ Art & Roberta Teets

Missions Update: CEF Venezuela

Ms. Andreina Hurtado, CEF Director in Venezuela, reports in the past school year, there were 26 Good News Clubs reaching 650 children with 94 decisions for Christ; 22 Five Day Clubs reaching 523 children with 346 decisions for Christ; 26 VBS programs reaching 2204 children with 754 decisions, and one crusade that reached 6564 children.

Most of the CEF activities have been in the cities of Maracay, Barquisimeto, and Maracaibo (2nd largest city). Workers from CEF headquarters in Missouri were able to equip 80 teams. During Halloween, over 10,000 gospel tracts were given to children in schools mostly in the eastern part of the country where CEF does not yet have workers or programs. Many of the public schools throughout the country are open to CEF, but there are not enough workers to respond to these opportunities.

Praise the Lord for the thousands of children and their decisions for Christ. Pray for more workers and for the church leaders to value children's ministry. As Jesus said, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send forth workers.

The *Adult Bible Class* will have their *Christmas Dinner* on **Monday, December 8 at 6 pm.** It will be a catered dinner here at the church. Cost is \$12.50 per person and must be paid for in advance. Please make your check out to "Adult Bible Class" and give to Hilda Pflug or Bob Young by December 1st. Also, please indicate your choice of stuffed chicken breast or stuffed pork chops.

There will also be a \$2.00 grab bag gift exchange that evening.

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

To all who receive the Hill-Top News...this is my Christmas Greetings to all.

May your Christmas be blessed with His hope and peace. May His love go with you every day of the New Year.

I'm sorry, but due to my health and age, I have to send my greetings this way. But I send my greetings with God's blessings from me and my love, and of course, God's love.

I miss going to church.

From the Oldest Member of Burry's Church,
Laura Pflug



Living in a nursing home during the holiday season can be a lonely experience for those who do not have family to visit them.

Around this time of year, patients are asked what they would like for Christmas. The patient's name and three suggested gift ideas are written on a card. The cards are given to churches or individuals who "adopt" that patient. Burry's Church became involved when our Deacons purchased presents for 12 patients at Friendship Ridge in 2006.

This year, we will continue our outreach to seniors by adopting residents of Creek Meadows and Friendship Ridge. If you would like to adopt a patient, take a card from the Christmas tree in the Education Building, obtain one or more of the suggested gifts, wrap it, write the patient's name on it, and return it to Burry's by **December 14th.**

In addition to adopting a patient, you can also get involved by contributing money for gifts to be purchased and delivered to patients or by volunteering time at Presents for Patients headquarters in Gibsonia. Please consider how you can brighten the Christmas season for a resident at Creek Meadows or Friendship Ridge, or any of the local nursing homes or hospices.

People In the Pew: John & Millie Steinacker by Pastor Tom

Most folks remember the early 1970's TV sitcom, the Brady Bunch or the 1968 movie, "Yours, Mine, and Ours" about blended families but few have actually lived in one. John and Millie Steinacker have a blended family of his four and her three (but no "ours"). All seven got along well and still do to this day, getting together at Labor Day and Christmas.



Before they were married, John and Millie were acquainted with one another. Millie was confirmed at Burry's with John's first wife, Doris. John helped to haul milk from Millie and Ralph Beighey's farm. A few years after each lost their first spouse, John and Millie got to know each other better. John proposed marriage and they tied the knot, August 16, 1968 here at Burry's with Pastor Stewart officiating.

John and his children moved into Millie's house on Pine Run Road. It was a snug fit with 9 people under one roof. They enjoyed one another and it worked out for the few years they had together until the children graduated from school and moved out on their own.

Millie grew up at Burry's. Her father, Harry Ziegler was a well known Sunday School teacher. Growing up in a Christian family, coming to church several times a week and going through Confirmation, Millie heard the Gospel many times and in different ways. She can not recall a time she did not know the Lord and can see a gradual growth in grace in her life.

John has a similar testimony. His family's home church was Oak Grove Lutheran. He can not remember a time without the Lord in his life. Like his wife, John says, he has gradually grown in his knowledge of the Lord. Both see their need for the Lord especially during the trials that come along in life.

Millie's favorite verse is Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.". John's favorite passage is Psalm 23. The Lord has been a good shepherd to the Steinackers and has led them through both pleasant and difficult times. We are grateful He has brought them to Burry's Church and made them a part of our grace-driven family.



The Boylan & Glenn Kildoo
Funeral Homes
Holiday Remembrance Service

Wednesday, December 3, 2008 ~ 7 pm

Oldenski Hall at St. Ferdinand Church
2535 Rochester Road
Cranberry Twp., PA

Or

Thursday, December 11, 2008 ~ 7 pm
Harmony-Zelienople Methodist Church
123 N. Pittsburgh Street
Zelienople, PA

A time of fellowship and
refreshments will follow the services.

WELCOME

*Please update your directory to
include our newest members:*

Jill Sedoris and Elayna Snyder
1336 Mars-Evans City Road
Evans City, PA 16033
(724) 272-6150

Quinn & Heather Metheny
Lydia and Ella
2086 Camp Allegheny Road
Ellwood City, PA 16117
(724) 758-2443

BIGGER & BETTER!



Bigger & Better got even BIGGER this year!

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

Bigger & Better has become another E.T.C. annual tradition, and it has got so much BIGGER & BETTER since last year. The idea behind the event is to have a fun event for our young people, and to give them an opportunity to make contact with

the church family outside of the church walls. Each team is given a small item (i.e. Burry's Church pen), and they are instructed to try to trade the pen for something bigger & better. Then they take the newly acquired item to another person's home and try to trade it for something bigger and better. Some people gave the teams some cash last year, because they didn't know what else to give. I think the teams came back with a total of over \$200 last year. We didn't really know what to do with the money, because we had not anticipated that happening. So we used the money to help a local family in need during the holidays.

Our premise for this year's event had not changed, though we were prepared for any financial contributions that were gifted to our youth. We designated any received money to help another local family in need this year. Sometimes I am speechless, and that's what happened at the end of the event night this year. The people of Burry's Church blessed our young people on event night with refreshments, tremendous generosity, and with \$335.00 to be used to help a local family during the holiday season. I think Bigger & Better is a modern example of the feeding of the multitude. Jesus took 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish and fed thousands of people. Now He's taken three church pens and multiplied it into food, clothing, and Christmas presents. What a blessing it is for our young people to watch God at work!



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

ETC EVENTS CALENDAR

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

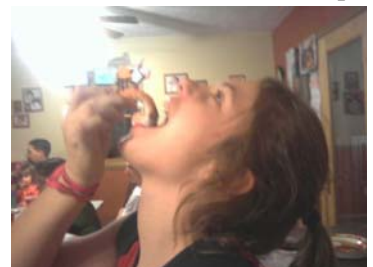
SSB '09
June 28-July 2

LAUREN D.



Peace Out Girl Scout

Chocolate Covered Shrimp



NINJA PENGUIN



SNOW CAMP '09

When: February 6-8, 2009

Where: Seneca Hills

Cost: \$70.00

All Money Due by January 11, 2009

**** Register by December 28 and receive a \$25.00 Scholarship ****

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

| | | | | |
|------------------|----|--------------------------|----------------|----|
| Nancy Bonzo | 1 | | Daniel Brenner | 16 |
| Patty Emerick | 2 | | Beth Stuck | 17 |
| Kody Komara | 2 | | Todd Snavelly | 18 |
| Sella Shaffer | 2 | | Scott Stiteler | 19 |
| Carl Young | 4 | | Jan McBride | 21 |
| Jade Farnsworth | 5 | | Dan Murphy | 21 |
| Jim Harley, Sr. | 6 | | Alice Weil | 22 |
| Lane Ward | 6 | | Dawn Shaffer | 24 |
| Lois Mignogna | 7 | | Les Bonzo | 26 |
| Corey Sterrett | 7 | | Kara Aland | 27 |
| Donnie Ward | 10 | | Sara Aland | 27 |
| Tim Young | 10 | Josh & Kim Maley | Susan Graham | 27 |
| Melanie Snavelly | 11 | Rich & Cindy Lind | Becky Pflugh | 27 |
| Clair Bernd | 12 | Richard & Peg Young | Eliza Bostanic | 29 |
| Gaye Lansberry | 12 | Bronson & Jodi Strobel | Tom Weil, Jr. | 29 |
| Nicole Brenner | 13 | Butch & Donna Tallon | Ron Stauffer | 30 |
| Hilda Pflug | 14 | Mike & Linda Van Arsdale | Daisy Ward | 30 |
| Heather Yeck | 14 | Richard & Valerie Chenet | Stacie Aland | 31 |



If you or a family member have an 80th birthday or are celebrating your Golden Anniversary (50 years) in 2009, PLEASE give that information to Linda Rahn, Joy Zahn, or Joyce Brenner so we can help you celebrate with flowers from the Burry's Church Family.

Ribbon Salad

by Hilda Pflug

4 sm. Boxes Jello (lime, orange, lemon, strawberry)

1 cup boiling water for each box Jello

½ cup cold water for each box Jello

2 cups milk 1 cup sugar

½ cup water

2 envelopes Knox unflavored gelatin

2 cup sour cream 2 tsp. Vanilla

Make lime Jello first. Put in bottom of a 9x13 inch dish; chill until firm. Bring to boil milk, add sugar, stir until dissolved, then boil ½ cup water and add the gelatin, stir then add this to milk. Then stir in sour cream and vanilla (I beat with mixer on very low speed). Divide this milk mixture into 3 large glasses. Let this mixture set out. Add 1 glass to chilled lime Jello then repeat each layer as former layer gets firm. Very pretty, delicious, easy to make, only takes time!



"See? The church is full now, but after you shake it and make it snow, the church is empty."