



BURRY'S CHURCH

A Grace Driven Family of God

HILLTOP NEWS

December 2011

Earning the Right to Whisper: God's Method of Evangelism

There is little debating that the world has changed greatly over the past 50 years. Transportation, communications, computer technology, and ideologies have made quantum changes, some for the good and some for ill. When those of you who are in my parents' generation were growing up, it was virtually unheard of to live near or work with someone who identified themselves as Muslim, Atheist, or of some other non-Christian religious affiliation. Now such a scenario is not uncommon.

There was a time when references to Biblical people or events could assume to be understood; more and more we are losing the cultural "vocabulary" of the Bible.

The way people think about new ideas has also changed. The culture in which my parents grew up was dominated by ideas that were either true or false, right or wrong. Evangelism was about winning the argument and showing the other guy that his ideas were incorrect. Propositional Truth dominated the discussion. Today, in our post-modern culture, that is not the case. Truth is no longer defined with a capital "T," but whatever seems to work for you becomes truth. Everything is relative, driven by the context, and subject to change and modification based on one's preferences. At one time, you could win the argument by saying, "The Bible says..." Today, people respond, "Yeah, well I'm glad that works for you, but it doesn't work for me." There was a time when an evangelistic conversation typically began with, "Let me tell you what Jesus has done for me in my life..." Today, people often respond to statements like that with the words, "Great, now let me tell you what

Transcendental Meditation has done for mine..."

So how are we to respond to the cultural changes? Some would make a blanket condemnation and still use the paradigm they are comfortable with even though it does not communicate much to a new culture. This group rationalizes that the cultural change is bad so we will try and force people back into our older way of doing and thinking about things. If we take but a short look at the culture around us, such an approach has not been effective. Not only is there a rise in the number of people who would identify themselves as non-Christian, but kids are leaving the Christian church in droves, and unlike in past generations where parents assumed that rebellious kids would leave the church and eventually come back, that is not happening in the culture. So, what do we do?

The world into which Jesus came was much more like our current generation than it was like my parents' world. Sure, Jesus was born into a predominantly Jewish community just as we live in a predominantly Christian one, but the Jewish community into which Jesus was born was dominated by a Pagan Roman world. It was a world with lots of religious options and where no one religion was considered to have the exclusive copyright on Truth. Even within the Jewish circles, many had taken bits and pieces of Roman idolatry and incorporated them into their Jewish religious practice. Under Roman rule, travel and communication had made a quantum leap forward, and thus even people in the smaller towns were exposed to a wide range of new ideas and customs. And truth, in the Roman world, always carried a lower-case "t" (unless it came from the Emperor's

mouth). Sound familiar?

So how did God engage this culture? This time he did not speak from Sinai as he had done with the Israelites in the wilderness; instead, he took on flesh and lived amongst the people. He built relationships with people and developed a credibility in his own culture. He was called a carpenter (Mark 6:3), not just a "carpenter's son," which means that he had learned and put into application a trade, just like everyone else of his day. And, Jesus waited until he was 30 years old to begin his public ministry. Jesus is God, he could have begun it as early as he opened his mouth to speak, but sensationalism was not Jesus' approach, genuine relationship was. And note who Jesus hung out with — not the "good Jewish folk," but those outside of the accepted Jewish community (prostitutes, sinners, and tax collectors of all people!).

In the business world, one of the things that marketers are talking about is that the traditional model of advertising on television is no longer effective. The television commercial was designed to reach those who sit down in front of a television show and watch from beginning to end. Most people don't watch that way anymore. People have televisions that mute commercials, TiVo that allows them to skip commercials, or watch television on the internet where they can watch without commercials at all. At one time, the guy who shouted the loudest got everyone's business. That is not the world in which we live in anymore — and which of you actually listens to those telemarketers that call?

In the business world, the one who can whisper his message gets the business. Why? Because the product (or the

(Continued on page 2)

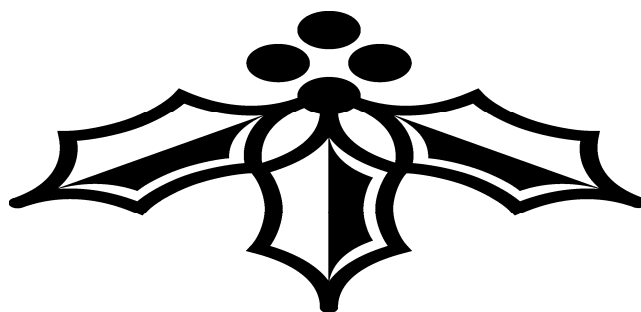
(Continued from page 1)

message) is so good or so unique that it sells itself. But the right to whisper into people's lives comes not just from having a good product; it comes through building a relationship of trust and then speaking within that relationship. Friends, this is the model Jesus chose to use. Sure, he spoke mighty sermons and did some remarkable miracles, but he did not begin doing these things until he had also spent 30 years living amongst those to whom he would speak. He was authentically human and authentically Jewish, and because of that, people listened. Christmas is a time for us to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ, but let us not leave that there, let us also recognize the birth of Jesus as a beginning of an evangelistic relationship through which God earned the right to whisper into his people's lives. May we too, follow this model of relational evangelism and ask ourselves, are we developing honest and authentic relationships with people who are not Christians and then are we using those relationships to draw those friends to the Truth?

October Box Score Averages

Sunday School.....113

Worship.....180



Recipe Corner

Christmas Eve Mice - Lila Lorenz

- 1 (6 oz) bag semi sweet chocolate chips
- 2 tsp. vegetable shortening
- 24 red maraschino cherries, with stems, well drained
- 1 bag of Hershey Kisses
- 1 lg bag of slivered almonds
- 1 sm tube red decorator icing
- 1 lg cookie sheet with wax paper

Microwave/melt chocolate chips and shortening until smooth when stirred. Dip each cherry and part of stem in chocolate. Place cherry on wax paper and put bottom of Hershey Kiss on cherry opposite the stem. Cherry is the body and tail of mouse. Hershey Kiss is head with painted nose. Use 2 almond slivers as ears by attaching to chocolate between Kiss and cherry. Put two eyes on with decorator icing between ears & nose.

If you enjoy this recipe, be sure to pick up a copy of the Burry's Church Cookbook in the church office. The cost is \$8.00 and proceeds benefit the ETC.

I would like to thank Pastor Win for his many visits to the hospital. Also, for all those who prayed and sent words of encouragement and visited during my recent hospital stays and recovery.



Dick Miller

P.S. A happy heart is like good medicine. Keep Smiling!

Faith Circle will be collecting soup, crackers and canned fruit during the month of December, for the local food bank. We appreciate your continued support of this ministry. You can place your items in the box in the vestibule or on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you. Faith Circle

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Nancy Bonzo | 1 |
| Patty Emerick | 2 |
| Sella Shaffer | 2 |
| Carl Young | 4 |
| Jade Farnsworth | 5 |
| Jim Harley, Sr. | 6 |
| Lane Ward | 6 |
| Lois Mignogna | 7 |
| Donnie Ward | 10 |
| Tim Young | 10 |
| Jesse Forsythe | 11 |
| Melanie Snavelly | 11 |
| Gaye Lansberry | 12 |
| Nicole Brenner | 13 |
| Hilda Pflug | 14 |
| Heather Yeck | 14 |
| Dan Brenner | 16 |



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, *Jesus!*

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Rich & Cindy Lind | 7 |
| Richard & Peg Young | 7 |
| Bronson & Jodi Strobel | 16 |
| Butch & Donna Tallon | 18 |
| Richard & Valerie Chenet | 26 |

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Todd Snavelly | 18 |
| Scott Stiteler | 19 |
| Jan McBride | 21 |
| Dan Murphy | 21 |
| Alice Weil | 22 |
| Dawn Shaffer | 24 |
| Les Bonzo | 26 |
| Kara Aland | 27 |
| Sara Aland | 27 |
| Susan Graham | 27 |
| Becky Pflug | 27 |
| Liz Bostanic | 29 |
| Tom Weil Jr. | 29 |
| Daisy Ward | 30 |
| Ron Stauffer | 30 |
| Stacie Aland | 31 |

Once again a reminder: If you, a member of your family, or a member of the church family is going to be **80 in 2012** or you are celebrating a **50th wedding anniversary**, please pass that information on to Linda Rahn. We want to celebrate your special day with you. Also, we would encourage anyone who would like to put flowers in the church for a worship service. You can do this to honor someone, a special day or event, or as a memorial. Please contact **Linda Rahn** to help you with this. When the flower committee orders the flowers, it becomes part of the worship service and you will avoid the PA state sales tax, and the florist we use has a key, making delivery easy on everyone.



December 2011

Removed from web version for their safety..



REPORT FROM
THE MISSION FIELD



"The Sunday school teacher says this'll be a true test of my acting ability. What does she mean by that?"

A GriefShare **Surviving the Holidays** seminar, which will be held **December 1st**, in Burry's Church offices from **7:00-9:00 pm**, will offer practical, actionable strategies for making it through the holiday season.



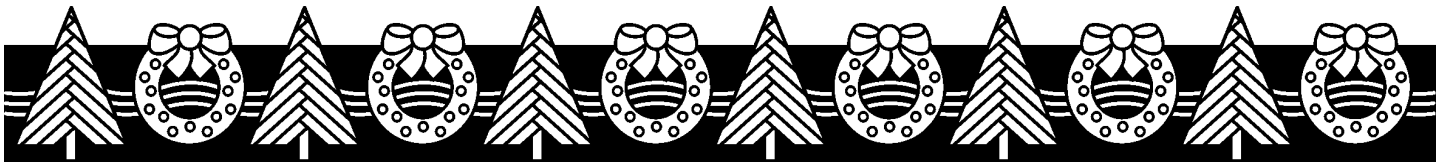
To register or find out more about GriefShare **Surviving the Holidays**, call Christa Harley at 724-452-6941 or email secretary@burrychurch.org.

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close. It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. At GriefShare, you'll learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life.

The weekly GriefShare groups will meet every **Thursday at 7:00 pm** at Burry's Church, 1835 Route 68, beginning **January 5 - March 29th**.

Flowers and the Organ Console

We are asking the church family to please avoid putting **ANYTHING** with water or moisture, especially flowers or plants, on the organ console. If you must use the console **PLEASE** put something waterproof under anything you place there to protect the wood finish. If you need help with this, please speak with Chris Brenner, Linda Rahn, or Charlotte Vild. The finish on the organ is lovely again, and our wish is to keep it beautiful.



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 18th.



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.

Faith Circle News

The ladies of Faith Circle are again volunteering at World Vision in Sewickley on **Tuesday, December 13**. Anyone wishing to go along should meet at the church at 9:00 am and bring a sack lunch. We will return around 2:30 pm.



All ladies are invited to join Faith Circle for Christmas Fellowship at their meeting on **Tuesday, December 20**, at 7:00 pm. There will be a \$2.00 gift exchange, and each lady is asked to bring a favorite snack to share.



E.T.C. Youth Events

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|--|
| Dec. 11 | 6:30 pm | Christmas Musical |
| Dec. 17 | 5:00-8:00 pm | E.T.C. Christmas Party |
| Dec. 18 | 5:00 pm | Burry's Christmas Caroling |
| Dec. 30 | 7:00 pm-9:00 am | Girl's Overnighter |
| Jan. 8 | 6:00-8:00 pm | E.T.C. Youth Meeting |
| Jan. 14 | 8:00 am-1:00 pm | Multi-church Service Project @ World Vision |
| Jan. 27-29 | | Creation Museum |
| Feb. 10-12 | | Snow Camp |
| Feb. 17 | 6:00-8:00 pm | Valentine's Day Dinner |
| Mar. 2-11 | | Joplin, MO Mission Trip |
| April 8 | 8:00 am | Easter Son-Rise Service |
| May 13 | 6:00-8:00 pm | Last E.T.C. Youth Meeting |



Salvation Army Bell Ringing Service Project

Dec. 3 & Dec. 16

Please help by serving for an hour shift



E.T.C. Christmas Party

December 17 @ 5:00 pm

Please bring a gift to be exchanged in the white elephant gift exchange.

E.T.C. Girl's Night
December 30-31, 2011
7:00pm to 9:00 am
Free!



World Vision®

Multi-Church Service Project @ World Vision

January 14, 2012

8:15am-1:00 pm

SNOW CAMP 2012
GEEKFEST
 “A CAMP FOR THE
 SOCIALLY AWKWARD”

February 10-12

Register by 1/15/12 to
 receive the early-bird rate of
 \$105.00



Mission Trip Opportunity
 to
Joplin, MO
March 2-11, 2012
 Please see Chuck for
 further details



Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Services 10:30 am
Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm
No Sunday School December 25
Christmas Day Worship Service
10:30 am

All committees should have their
 annual reports to the office by
Sunday, January 8th.

The Nominating Committee is
 preparing a list of candidates for our
 elections at the Annual
 Congregational Meeting. If you have anyone in mind
 for the offices of Elder, Trustee, Deacon, Nominating
 Committee, or Auditing Committee, please advise any
 of the following committee members: **Brian Stuck,**
Jay Steinbach, Jeri Yeck, Duane Stuck, Gale Zahn,
John Yeck, Matt Weil and Alyssa Young. Also, if
 you are a committee head that is coming off in 2012,
 please contact the Nominating Committee with
 candidates for your replacement.

**Congregational
 Meeting**



December 2
 Guiding Light Class to Das Dutch Haus


December 5 - 6 pm
 Adult Bible Class Dinner

December 11 - 7 pm
 Christmas Musical
 Dude, You Hear What I Hear?

December 17 - 5 pm
 ETC Christmas Party

December 18- 5 pm
 Church Caroling

December 19 - 7 pm
 Faith Circle Christmas Party



Burry's Church A Grace-Driven Family of God

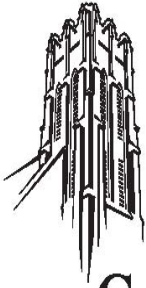
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



2011

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|-----------|--|--|-----|
| | | | | | 1 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm GriefShare Surviving the Holidays Seminar | 2 Guiding Light Class to Das Dutch Haus | 3 |
| 4 - Second Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Christmas Musical Practice 2:00 pm Nursing Home Services | 5 6:00 pm Adult Bible Class Christmas Dinner 6:30 pm Volleyball at Church of God | 6 7:30 pm Missions Committee | 7 6:00 pm Bible Club | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| 11 - Third Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Fellowship Sunday 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Christmas Musical - Dude, You Hear What I Hear? | 12 7:30 pm Volleyball at Church of God | 13 9:00 am - 2:30 pm Faith Circle trip to World Vision | 14 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 6:00 pm Bible Club 7:00 pm Elders/ Deacons/Trustees 8:00 pm Council Meeting | 15 | 16 | 17 5:00 pm ETC Christmas Party | |
| 18 - Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:00 pm Christmas Caroling | 19 | 20 7:00 pm Faith Circle Christmas Party | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship | |
| 25 - Merry Christmas 10:30 am Worship | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 7:00 pm ETC Girls' Pajama Party (until 9:00 am, Saturday) | 31 | |



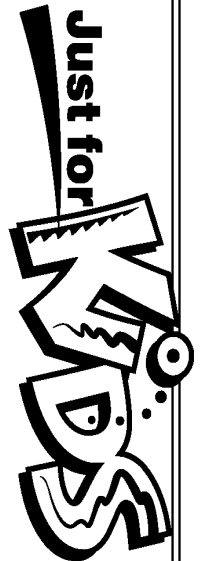
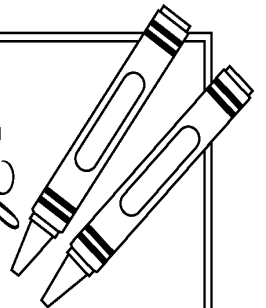


BURRY'S CHURCH

A Grace Driven Family of God

ST. JOHN'S UNITED EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT CHURCH
1835 ROUTE 68 • ROCHESTER, PA • 15074

"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!" 1 John 3:1a



The Son of the Highest

A new baby brings joy and the anticipation of what he or she will grow up to become. Jesus' birth was miraculous, but His life was prophesied and planned by God.

Unscramble the words below, matching them to their correct spelling. Then use the numbers to fill in the correct words to complete Luke 1:32-33 (NIV).

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|------------|---------|
| 12. taerg | he | 2. nos | forever |
| 8. eh | Jacob | 11. seouh | end |
| 13. gHhi | father | 5. northe | Son |
| 7. aDvid | give | 1. roevfr | house |
| 10. bocla | great | 6. dingmok | throne |
| 3. reafth | High | 9. den | kingdom |
| 4. vieg | David | | |

"He will be _____¹² and will be called the _____² of the Most _____¹³. The Lord God will _____⁴ him the _____⁵ of his _____³ _____⁷, and _____⁸ will reign over the _____¹¹ of _____¹⁰ _____¹; his _____⁶ will never _____⁹." *Luke 1:32-33, NIV*

Answers: 1. forever 2. Son 3. father 4. give 5. throne 6. kingdom 7. David 8. he 9. end 10. Jacob 11. house 12. great 13. High