
KOINONIA

“That the communication (Koinonia) (pronounced: coy no nee a) of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.” Philemon 1:6

NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH

APRIL 2011



Jesus' Cross and Resurrection

People are silent at the cross. People cry. No one speaks of their own rights, expectations, opinions or goodness. The most hardened pagan simply says, "Surely this man was the Son of God." (Mark 15:39). God changes lives at the cross. People feel loved by God there. Jesus prays for our forgiveness at the cross and offers us heaven there (Luke 23:34, 43). A hymn says, "Jesus keep me near the cross." The Apostle Paul wrote to intelligent spiritual zealots in Corinth, "I resolved to know nothing with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." (I Corinthians 2:2).

People sing at Jesus' empty tomb. Disciples run. The broken start to hold onto Jesus and tell others He's alive (John 20). Life begins to be lived before the face of Jesus because He promises we are always in His Presence (Matthew 28:20). People feel loved by God at the empty tomb. A hymn says, "Jesus, and all in Him is mine". Sin, death and hell are conquered by our risen Great Savior.

Author Timothy Keller is paraphrased in these words: "Jesus' death means no more death for us. Jesus resurrection means our resurrection. Losing God because of our sin is changed into our greatest gain as God rescues us through Christ. Life with Christ is really like that. Happy Easter."

Passion Week Schedule of Events

Sunday, April 17th ~ Palm Sunday

- 8:30 am Worship Services
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship Services with Special Music by the Children's Choir



Wednesday, April 20th

- Noon Community Mid-Week Lenten Service at the First United Church of Christ, on Main Street in Irwin. Sponsored by the Norwin Men's Prayer Fellowship. **Virginia Wilson** will present the special music.
- 6:30 pm Club NAC Easter Party
- 6:30 pm Youth
- 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study

Friday, 22nd ~ Good Friday

- 7:00 pm Good Friday Service at NAC



Watch your bulletins for more information about the Good Friday Breakfast and also the annual "Walk of the Cross" through downtown Irwin.

Easter Sunday Activities

- 6:30 am Sunrise Service
- 6:45 am Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 am Morning Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
- 10:45 am CANTATA ~ "FINISHED - Today, Hope Is Alive!"





1. Elders approved participating in "Relay for Life" on July 16th as a church function. Cindy Barnhart and Vicki Booher will be the captains. Watch for more information.
2. Pastor Bob will teach a six-week course on Tuesday evenings for the PA Bible Institute in April and May.
3. A Men's trip to Oakhurst Tea Room was approved.
4. A Church Clean-up Day was approved for May 21st. Please contact Carole Sarber if your group needs storage space within the church. Watch for more information.
5. It was approved to support the Alliance Women's Walkathon/Rockathon on April 30th to support Creative Access Countries.
6. Ken Simmons has been talking with concrete contractors to remedy the deterioration of the drain trench at the entry of the parking lot. This entry will be temporarily closed until the work is complete.
7. The furnace in the basement needs a new core unit.

Elder and Ministry Boards

If you ever have any questions or concerns about what is happening at the church, please contact Pastor Bob or one of the Board Members:

Elders ~ Jeff Ewing (Lead Elder), Kevin Craycraft, Ron Dornin, Jim Himler, Wes Hughes, Denny Irwin, Frank Kolar (Elder-in-Training), Charlie Metzger, Bill Sarber, Jim Worley

Ministry Board Members-at-Large ~ Mardy Rogers, Justin Metzger

Ministry Board ~ Cindy Barnhart, Jeff Ewing, Roy Koch, Charlie Metzger, Justin Metzger, Mardy Rogers, Carole Sarber, Ken Simmons, Bob Tierney, Jim Worley

Elder Shepherding for Families

Each active family in the church is assigned an elder who prays for you on a regular basis and desires to be of help to you in your faith in the Lord. They will contact you a few times a year with a card, phone call, etc. to see how things are going with you. Enjoy getting to know your elder. They enjoy getting to know you and will help you know the Lord better.



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday

April 9, 2011

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Ages 1 - 10

Invite your friends and family and join us for lunch, fun, games, puppets and magic.

4.10.2011
700P - 830P



**WARNING:
COMBUSTIBLE**

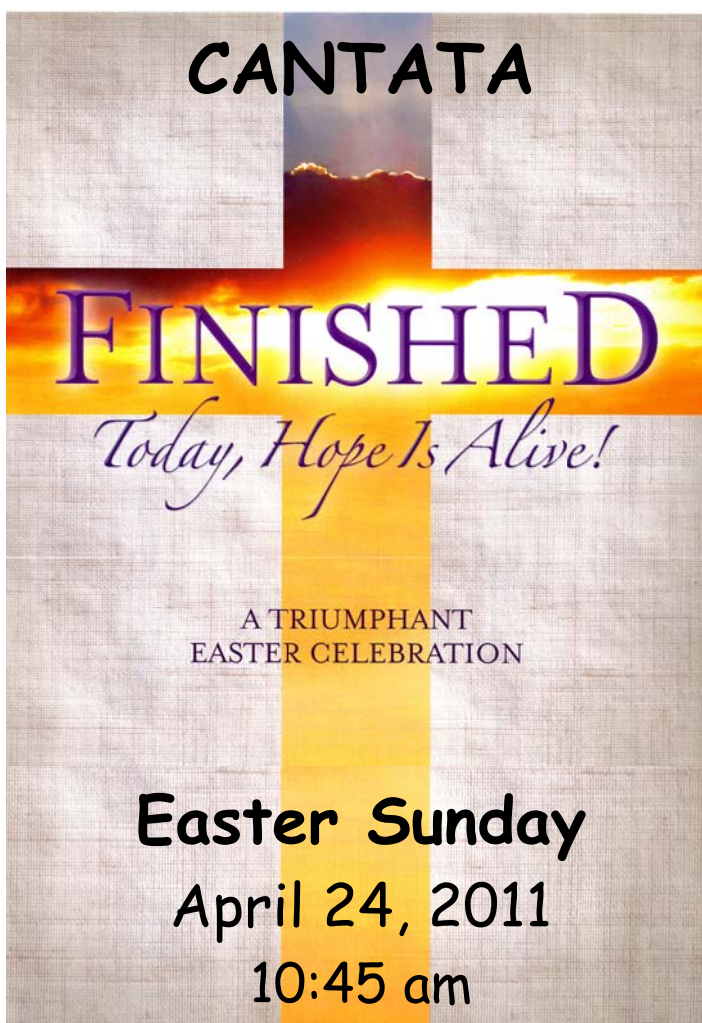
MESSAGE:
KEVIN CRAYCRAFT

WORSHIP:
NAC PRAISE TEAM

••• connection

norwin alliance church
farview drive | north huntingdon
norwinalliance.org

CANTATA



FINISHED
Today, Hope Is Alive!

A TRIUMPHANT
EASTER CELEBRATION

Easter Sunday
April 24, 2011
10:45 am

When Jesus cried "It is finished!" on the cross, it meant the work for our redemption had been accomplished for all time . . .

Hope is alive . . . It is FINISHED!

HOME REPAIR MINISTRY

Do you have minor repairs that need done at your home? Is there something that you just can't manage yourself? Norwin Alliance Church's Home Repair Ministry would love to help. Please contact the church, Ken Simmons, Wes Hughes, or Chris Hasbrouck ~ they will come check out the job and determine if they can do the work.



**Club NAC
Easter Party**

Wednesday, April 20, 2011
6:30 pm




KEEN-AGERS

Seniors 50 and over ~ Come to the Keen-Agers meeting on Thursday, April 28th at 11:30 am for Good Food, Good Fun, and Good Fellowship.

Our menu this month is: Ham barbeque, side dishes, and fruit salad/cookies. Our program will be by Vicki Booher.

We would love to see you at our meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Long or Betty Kunkle, Co-Presidents of the Keen-Agers.

MILITARY PICTURES

Anyone who has a loved one (including close friend) currently serving in a branch of the military, please send their photo (preferably in uniform), name, and connection to you to:

musicdirector@norwinalliance.org by April 1, 2011. They will be used in a special music presentation on Memorial Day in the morning worship service. If you have questions, please contact Vicki Booher. If you are unable to send the picture via e-mail, please leave a copy in the office by Wednesday, March 20th. All pictures will be returned to you.





Our youth ministry has been blessed as of late. More than ever, our teens are developing great relationships and reaching out to their friends. Sometimes during events I will have to take a moment just to appreciate the work God is doing among these students. We have students at every step of the faith journey interacting and blessing one another.

We recently served a meal at Sonshine Community Ministries in McKeesport. It was an awesome experience to share with the students as we served the less fortunate. The reality of poverty and need was brought into the light for our students to encounter. We were blessed by the opportunity to give of our time and talents to see 'the least of these' cared for. We are excited to go back very soon!

Our Senior High students will be embarking on our annual retreat weekend April 15-17. Breakaway is the District retreat, held in Erie. Please pray for our students and leaders that God will continue to reveal Himself. As of the writing of this article, we are taking 24 students with six leaders. Many of the students you would recognize, some you might not, but all are significant pieces of God's plan and our youth ministry. We are hopeful for what we will experience in Erie.

Guys—Nick Beckner, Evan Buchanan, Jason Bucklew, Sean Daniels, Ron Dornin, Josh Fetterhoff, Alex Harley, Justin Himler, Alex Himler, Chas Hoffman, Zac Huffman, Alex Niedermeyer, Mike Slafka, Thaine Woodrow

Girls—Olivia Bartmas, Jenna Bucklew, Melissa Hensler, Sami Johnson, Kensey Johnson, Megan Morrell, Dani Noble, Justine Schaefer, Julie Schaefer, Catherine Simmons

Leaders—Kevin Craycraft, Steve Meyer, Bob Pazehoski, Adam Slafka, Amy Slafka, Rachel Slafka

Thank you for your continued prayerful and financial support for the youth ministry. It is no secret that teens face great challenges every day. Your support opens doors to share the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

BREAKAWAY 2011 Senior Youth Retreat (grades 9-12) April 15-17, 2011



"Reunite with Jesus"



Kitchen Building Committee

The Kitchen Building Committee received Preliminary Approval from the Western PA C&MA District on February 22, 2011. We have to provide the district with our final plans and numbers but we have their Preliminary Approval to move forward. The District is also aware we are evaluating a "Plan B". Once a final decision is made, the final plans and numbers will be forwarded to the District. The Committee also received Preliminary Construction Bid Documents from Mr. Frost, the Architect, on February 17, 2011. These documents are suitable for Contractors to bid the Kitchen Expansion project. The Committee reviewed and discussed these documents at their March meeting. The next step will be to submit these documents to Contractors for their bids.

Any questions or feedback should be directed to the Kitchen Building Committee:

Chairman Dave Cain
Committee Pastor Bob, Pastor Wood, Bob Tierney, Bill Freise, Mardy Rogers, Elena Dornin



If you are age 16 and over and would like to play on the NAC softball team, please sign the sheet on the round table in the narthex. Practices will begin in April. The season runs from May until August.

If you have any questions, please contact Justin Metzger or Bill Freise.



Thank you for all the meals made, cards sent, and prayers given during my recent surgery and recovery. May God's blessings be upon each of you.
~ Norma Wood

PHOTO WALL



If you attend NAC, we would love to have your picture included on our photo wall. Please contact the church office to schedule a Sunday you are available. Pictures are taken immediately following the 10:45 service.

Mahaffey Summer Camp

With spring in the air, thoughts of school summer vacation are not far behind. The Christian and Missionary Alliance Conference and Camp Center in Mahaffey, PA offers age appropriate camps from 1st grade through teens. Mahaffey also offers soccer camp, horse, and wilderness camps. There are sizeable discounts for early; paid-in-full; and 'parent volunteer help' registrations. Any camper who has attended will verify this excellent experience. Brochures are available on the shelf in the narthex or go to www.mahaffeycamp.com for more information.

Family Camp Country Craft Shop

Items needed for the Country Craft Shop include: birdhouses, wooden shelves, quilt hangers, wall hangings, decorative wreaths and pillows. Also, any knitted dishcloths, hand towels, wooden items or dolls. Quilted placemats are always popular. All items received are always appreciated and benefit the camp.

CALLING ALL LADIES:

MOPS is coming to Norwin Alliance Church.

MOPS groups are communities that strive to meet the needs of every mom with children from birth through kindergarten. MOPS recognizes that urban, suburban, and rural moms, stay-at-home and working moms, teen, single, and married moms all share a similar desire to be the very best moms they can be. MOPS groups can help! MOPS groups meet regularly to celebrate the joys of motherhood and to encourage each other through the challenges.

The MOPS program is built on several foundational principles:

- **Community:** MOPS provides an open, caring, and accepting atmosphere where women can come together to share this important season of life.
- **Mentoring:** Mature women listen, encourage, and offer information and perspectives gained through experience.
- **Practical Instruction:** Teaching focuses on areas of common interest, offering inspiration and information that is relevant to the life of a mother.
- **Leadership Development:** MOPS groups are organized and run by mothers of preschoolers, as well as for mothers of preschoolers. Women who are involved in MOPS gain confidence in their leadership skills through the training and experience they receive from MOPS.

The above principles are carried out through different aspects of a MOPS group such as discussion, teaching, activities and MOPPETS.

Our first organization meeting will take place on Sunday, March 27 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you are even a little interested in the group, please come and hear about our newest group at Norwin Alliance. Babysitting will be available for children Kindergarten age and younger. Please RSVP to Vicki Booher at musicdirector@norwinalliance.org or 412/751-3169 so that we have enough help available for sitters.

We ask that everyone be in prayer for this ministry. Ladies who have older children, please pray about the opportunity to mentor or be a speaker for the group. Our success depends on everyone actively supporting us. **WE WELCOME THIS AS ANOTHER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY.** Please invite your un-churched friends.

VIGNETTES BY VIRGINIA

Most of us admire the simple life of the Amish population. However we are not inclined to live without electricity, computers, vehicles, the very disciplined and hard work of farm-life, and other conveniences we take for granted. Suzanne woods Fisher has written Amish Proverbs Words of Wisdom from the Simple Life. This small, but verbose book, has some excellent thoughts that we should take to heart. Family and faith are the most important aspects of the Amish community. Good, old - fashioned common sense helps a person understand why and how the ups and downs of life can affect our attitudes and lifestyles. Let's look at a few Amish expressions; ponder them, and see how much sense they really can make to improve your life.

"Waiting isn't a verb. It's an attitude. The seasons cannot be rushed." "One thing you can learn by watching the clock is that it passes time by keeping its hands busy." "Patience is a virtue that carries a lot of wait." "Many times we are climbing mountains when we ought to be quietly resting."

Concerning money/finances: "Money is a tool, not a goal." "If fools have much, they spend much." "Those who let God provide will always be satisfied." "You are only poor when you want more than you have." "The debt that is paid is best."

On faith: "It may be difficult to wait on the Lord. But it is worse to wish you had." "He who bows lowest in the presence of God stands straightest in the presence of sin." "You can't stumble when you are on your knees." "A heart at peace gives life to the body."

Children and family: "Children need models more than critics." "A house is made of walls and beams; a home is made of love and dreams." "Parents who are afraid to put their foot down usually have children who step on their toes." "Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see." "A father ought to help his son to form the habit of doing right on his own initiative rather than out of fear of serious consequences."

Work ethic: "Encouragement is oxygen to the soul." "The soundness of your ideas is more important than the sound of your words." "The key to contentment is to realize life is a gift -- not a right." "If we live right each day, we need neither be afraid of tomorrow or ashamed of yesterday."

Education: "Learning is far more valuable than education." "A man cannot be robbed of his learning."


And Just for Fun: "Better to die honest than to live in disgrace." "Those who have no children know best how to raise them." "Every family tree has a little sap." "A woman's work is not seen unless it's not done." "Nothing is quite so annoying as to have someone go right on talking when you are interrupting."

The Women's Corner
by Janis Swope

Welcome to the column that is for and about women of all ages. The goal of this column is to let you know what ministry opportunities are available for women in our church and maybe throw in a little bit of information that will help you in your daily walk. If you have any ideas of things you would like me to include, just let me know.

There is a lot to talk about in this month's article so let's get right to it.

Ladies Bible Study ~ *We are studying the Book of Acts. I don't know about the other ladies, but this book gets real about the early church. The church is in its infancy and it is exciting to see how the Holy Spirit worked to established it. This week we studied Ananias and Sapphira. If you don't know who these two are you better read Acts 5. You might be surprised at what happens to them. Ladies if you are available on Monday mornings we would love to have you attend. The time is 10:30 a.m. and the place is the Fellowship Hall.*

 ***Norwin Alliance Women*** ~ *At our February meeting we elected Virginia Wilson as Assistant Director, Yvonne Simmons as Secretary and Karen Watkiss as Treasurer. Thank you for accepting these positions, ladies! The Discipline of Simplicity will be discussed during our March meeting on the 21st. That should be interesting, huh? Do we*

even think about that as a discipline? Hope you can be there – 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Looking Ahead ~

April 16th is the Spring Rally. Ruth Ann Davis will be the guest speaker. Ruth Ann and her husband, Bill, served several years in Brazil and will now transition to Portugal when their current home assignment is over. The rally will held at the New Stanton church and will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run until noon. A soup and sandwich lunch will be served afterward. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex. We will be car-pooling and leaving the church around 9:00 – 9:15 a.m. We should return by 1:30 – 1:45 p.m.

April 30th get ready to Rock or Walk! Norwin AW is partnering with the youth to sponsor a Rockin' Walk-a-thon. The purpose of this special event is to raise awareness and money for special projects in Creative Access countries. The walking and rocking will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. The walkers will strut their stuff at North Huntingdon's Indian Lake Park and the rockers will rock away in the teen area of the church. Afterward, the walkers will get together with the rockers in the teen area for a sandwich lunch. If you would like to participate, look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex. We will be accepting donations for the Alliance Women's National Project beginning March 27th and on through the month of April. Look for our special donation box after Sunday services.

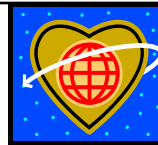
June 17th and 18th is the Alliance Women's Retreat in Johnstown. I hope you've been saving your pennies to attend the retreat this year. Shelli Prindle is the keynote speaker and she has been working hard for a long time to prepare for this event. Shelli is the current Administrator of the Christian Fellowship Christian School in Jeannette as well as the President of Hope and Passion Ministries. If you don't know it, she is a local lady and we are looking forward to supporting her with a big cheering section at the retreat! Keep an eye out for the sign-up sheets in the narthex. I am happy to announce that Denise Tierney is our Retreat Coordinator this year. Thanks Denise!

July – Mahaffey Camp – Missions/AW Rally – Watch for further information.

The Last Word . . .

“Just living is not enough,” said the butterfly. One must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.”

Hans Christian Andersen



Missions Moment

by: Janis Swope

As you know, this past weekend Japan suffered through an 8.9 earthquake and a gut-wrenching tsunami. Now it is facing another potential disaster because of the nuclear reactors that were damaged during the earthquake. It is a relief to know that the C&MA international workers in Japan are all safe (remember David Kindervater from a missions conference a few years ago?). Although they are safe, it is important that we continue to keep them in prayer. Let us also pray that God will use this time of unsettling to bring many Japanese people to believe in Jesus as their Savior.

The following is an adapted excerpt from an update Jill and Alan Kropp, who serve in Japan, sent on March 13, 2011:

“As we follow the reports and see the images on the news, we are in shock, disturbed, and dismayed by what has happened. The land of Japan, the place we now call home, and the people whom we love so dearly have experienced unimaginable devastation and loss. As one international colleague said, “I think it is safe to say that Japan will never be the same again!”

Over the last 24 hours, we have appreciated your e-mails and messages via Facebook. We, along with all of our other Alliance colleagues, are safe. We feel encouraged knowing that you are praying for us and for the Japanese people during this disaster.

We ask you to continue praying! Pray for the 126 million people of Japan, of whom less than 1 percent know Jesus. Pray that God will give us wisdom as we seek to be Jesus' hands—visible instruments of His love and hope during this tragedy. Pray that the Church of Japan will become a united force tangibly showing the love of Jesus—ministering to the whole person. “

Compassion and Mercy Associates (CAMA) is that part of the Christian and Missionary Alliance that rushes in to help people get their lives back in order after a disaster strikes. If you are interested in giving to CAMA, you may do so online. Their web address is www.camaservices.org or you may contact them at CAMA, P.O. Box 35000, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-35000.

Missions Conference

The missions conference with Jim Kendall (Indonesia) was great and just wasn't long enough.

Missions Moments continued

Jim was such a nice and interesting guy that we all could have listened to more of what he had to say about his and Sharon's ministry of conducting marriage encounters and his new job as field director. One thing he managed to convey was that they will be very busy when they return to Indonesia in June. Don't forget to keep them in prayer as they travel Pennsylvania visiting churches and preparing to go back on the field.

Rachel Wilson

Virginia has advised that Rachel is doing well in Ethiopia, but is still having a difficult time adjusting to the altitude. Did you know she is living at 8,000 feet above sea level? That makes our Pennsylvania Mountains look a lot smaller, now doesn't it? Please pray that she will be able to make this adjustment soon.

Don't forget Doug and Naomi Ord and Roberta Clogg Adair, too!

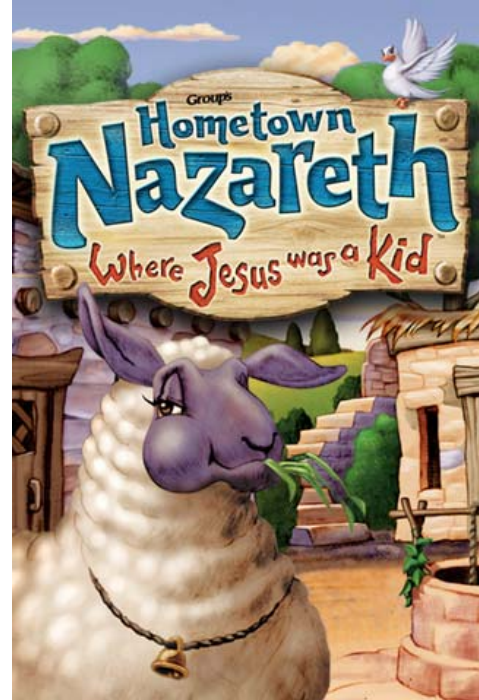
Spring Cleaning Day

Please mark Saturday, May 21st on your calendar. This is the day for our church clean-out. Before this date, all church groups who have belongings in the attic will tag what they want to keep. Any item that is NOT tagged will be disposed of.

We need helpers this day ~ with many workers, the task will be accomplished quickly. Please plan to help our church on Saturday, May 21st. A sign-up sheet will be available the end of April. Contact Carole Sarber if you have any questions.

**LOOKING AHEAD:****Vacation Bible School**

June 19-23



All children ages 2 through 6th grade are welcome to attend.

Shelli Prindle will lead the youth and adults.

Set-aside these dates ~ we'll see you in "Nazareth"!

Church Picnic**Saturday, August 6, 2011****White Oak Park
Tulip Pavilion**