
KOINONIA

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship (Koinonia) of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”
2 Corinthians 13:14

NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH

JANUARY 2023



New Year's Inspiration from Christian writer and missionary Bob Geoff, Professor at Point Loma Nazarene University.

- + Jesus jumped out of heaven on a mission to save you.
- + Plans work or they don't Love always works. Go with the sure thing.
- + Loving people like Jesus did is great theology.
- + Tears bring us to grace. Our pain is never wasted.
- + Since we are always repenting, expect to change.
- + God isn't an editor. He isn't looking for typos. God is the Creator. He is making new beauty in us.
- + Pride is always sizing up other people. Humility helps others know Jesus who is humble.
- + God designed us to need each other. Think bus. Not unicycle.
- + Sin is an enemy of obedience and love.

Preach a good sermon this year with your life.



YEAR END REPORTS

ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS.....from KEEN-AGERS, DMC, LEAD ELDER, LEAD TRUSTEE, TREASURER, ASST. TREASURER, YOUTH...your End-of-Year reports are due to Cindy Barnhart no later than Sunday, January 15th. Please make sure that your report includes a financial report (if applicable).

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a meeting of the congregation on **SUNDAY**, January 29th at **11:30 AM**.

Even though only members are permitted to vote, everyone is invited to attend the meeting.

Come hear how NAC did in 2022.



Norwin Alliance Preschool News

Each month the preschool children collect specific food items for the Irwin Area Food Pantry. If you would like to contribute, a box is available in the narthex. January's collection item: **SOUPS/ RAMEN NOODLES**

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.



The Outreach Ministry is looking forward to our 2023 Calendar of Events.

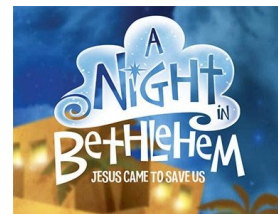
We begin our year with our Free Ham Giveaway for Easter in April. This is always a good time of witness to our community and an opportunity to tell people about Jesus’s love for us through His death and Resurrection.

Our “fun activity” for Spring is our Garage Sale Giveaway on Saturday, May 6th. This requires some pre-planning but is a great way to witness to all who attend. Now is the time for everyone to set aside items that are no longer wanted. Now that the holidays are behind us, perhaps there are some decorations that you do not want for Christmas 2023. We will designate different areas of the Sunday School wing for specific categories, one being Christmas items. Other areas will be Baby and Children, Household Goods and Toys. So, please begin to set aside things to donate (NO knick-knacks please - these should be items that are useful for those in need). Our Giveaway gives you a chance to declutter. We will have more details about the Giveaway in later bulletins and Koinonias.

In November, we will have our Turkey Giveaway for Thanksgiving.



Our year will conclude on Saturday, December 16th with “A Night in Bethlehem”, a unique Christmas event for the families of our church and community. Attendees will be transported to the city of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus’s birth. This is designed to bring attendees into a deeper relationship with God. It will require participation and help from our NAC family. All the tasks associated with this event will support God’s Will to spread the Good News about Jesus and doing His work of ministering to others. We will begin planning this event in early 2023. There are many roles to play and we ask that our church family begin to pray now for “Night in Bethlehem” and how you could participate. No role will be too small.



We are excited about all of our 2023 Outreach Events. We see each one as a chance for NAC to be a witness for Jesus and the Good News He has for everyone. Please begin to pray for the activities, for those who will help and those who will attend.



There is something truly special about spending the holiday season with 3 and 4 year olds. We had a wonderful month talking about all things Christmas. We shared the Nativity story with both classes and even had finger puppets to help them understand and visualize this very important story. We also made cards and homemade ornaments for our loved ones and put together a special gift for our prayer buddies. The classroom transformed into a holiday workshop with a tree lot, tree decorating station, gift wrapping station and a bakery. One of my favorite things was watching them wrap a gift from the toy shelf and give it to a friend. The gift giver and the gift receiver both had the biggest smiles on their faces!

In January, we will be talking about polar animals, hibernation and winter. We will transform our play room centers into an ice skating rink and a hot chocolate shop.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy New Year!



VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

When given a 'call' to missions, the support of believers encourages the person(s) who find his/her home in a distant, foreign country. Most often difficult languages and cultural habits must be learned and accept. When a missionary has the privilege of sharing the Gospel with others who have never heard of Jesus, it is such a joyful time and experience to share salvation and begin a 'church' and Bible study with new believers.

One missionary who serves in Ecuador was interviewed recently when in the States. Most of us know Rachel Wilson, who began 2000 in Paraguay. Four questions were given to her; they will be shared with you now.

1 ~ How did you know that this was the ministry God called you to?

"I believe that the reason that I know this is the ministry God called me to is because I'm doing something I did not believe or could imagine that I would do and that I love it. Also, as I look back, I can see how God was preparing me for this each step of the way. I have joy and I enjoy doing it. I've realized the longer that I'm walking with God that my desires become His desires and so this is what He desires for me. And there are so many times that I realize it's not in my own strength that I'm doing it but it's only through God and the Holy Spirit that I can do what He's called me to do.

2 ~ If you had not become a missionary, what do you imagine you would be doing?

"I really believe that If I had not become a missionary I probably would be teaching in public school, down south in the United States, probably lower income or Title One.

3 ~ What guidance would you give a youth who asked for information about saying 'yes' to Jesus in preparing and studying for missions or Christian ministry?

"I would recommend to them that they don't respond with the question of where but they focus more on the what because you can do most ministries anywhere in the world and there is a great need for people in ministry. I would also say you need to have an obedient heart and your have to be willing to be able to walk by faith and not always understand the why's. Be ready to grow and be flexible. Get involved in some sort of ministry as early on as you can and find a strong Christian to mento you and disciple you. I would also encourage you to memorize Scripture and study the Word of God. You need to be a good student and understand the Word of God in order to explain to others. Learn the different spiritual disciplines and one of those would be learning rest and solitude and what that really means from a Biblical aspect. And my first and final answer would be PRAYER. Invite people around you to be praying for you as you are seeking out what He has for you and as you are growing in your knowledge of the Word and taking on different responsibilities. Prayer is the most important aspect of ministry, yet it is the most overlooked one."

4 ~ "Special Scripture verses for me"

Proverbs 3:5-8; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Isaiah 40:11; 28-31; Deuteronomy 11:18-21; 31:3-6; Joshua 1:5-9; Psalm 23; Philipians 4:11-13; John 10:27-28

KNOW JESUS, LOVE JESUS,
AND GROW IN JESUS

ITEMS NEEDED FOR PRESCHOOL

The preschool is looking for the following Valentine themed items for their February Dramatic Play Area:

Artificial Flowers ~ Small/Med sized gift bags
If you are able to donate any of these items, please drop them off to the church office.

THANK YOU!

FREE Serta mattress
Firm - Twin - 2 months old

If interested please contact
Donna Kunkle at
724-244-1336



* Not a true picture of the mattress - using for affect only