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

March 2015



Resurrection Grace

During this Easter season, remember Jesus' rescue mission with the theme of GRACE. Grace is written 130 times in the new Testament. Grace is unique to the gospel and is not found in any competing world religion.

Grace is amazing. Grace abounds.

Grace is sufficient. Grace is an attribute of God. Grace justifies freely. Grace is an unmerited gift. Grace works. Grace and truth filled Jesus.

Grace upon grace is what we have received.

Grace is anything outside of hell.

Grace is often resented and rejected.

Billy Graham's grandson gives these pictures of God's grace. Let God's grace revive your soul:

- Grace reminds us we are not good at being good.
- Grace reminds us how far we have run from God and how far God has run to us.
- Grace frees us from the pressure of having to fix ourselves or others.
- Grace frees us from performing, pretending, and perfection.
- Grace teaches us to say no to sin and to live righteously as a gift.
- Grace says God will change us because He loves us.
- Grace is 100% earned by Christ for us at the cross and 0% earned by us.





The following were discussed and/or approved at the Elder and Ministry Board meetings in February:

- 1. The Missions Conference will be held April 18-19 with Pat and Ellen Walsh as guest speakers.
- 2. Pastor asked the boards to consider having a renewal weekend type of event for the entire congregation.
- 3. Vacation Bible school will be held June 14-17, 2015
- 4. Reviewing the new laws regarding clearances/background checks for all youth and children workers. This will include FBI clearances with fingerprinting.
- 5. Joe, Becky, and Jen will audit the church financial books.
- 6. Another Trustee will be needed to fill David's position.
- 7. Lawn Care bids will be solicited in the coming weeks.
- 8. New fans will be installed in the Sanctuary.
- 9. 3 new toilets were installed in the two restrooms in the small narthex.
- 10. After being endorsed by the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County, NAC's water regulator valve was removed from service and replaced with a 3/4" flex line. We are hoping this will help with the low water pressure coming into the church (this is a municipal issue on Farview Drive).

If you have concerns regarding the church, please see Harold or Paul, our Board Members at Large. They will bring the concern before the board for discussion.



Daylight Savings Time

Please be sure to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before retiring for the night on Saturday, **March 7th**.

Daylight Savings will begin at 2:00 am Sunday,

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Beginning March 1, a large tin will sit outside the Sanctuary. The purpose is to collect pennies for AWANA.

If you can donate, we THANK YOU!

AWANA clubs all over America are collecting pennies for a special purpose. Our Missionary, Marlin Fuller, has a mission program to bring children to Angola Prinson in Louisiana to meet with their fathers for one whole day. These pennies go to help the expensed.

This is our third year to be a part of the program. The first tow years, we collected \$50.00. We hope to collect more this year for this worthwhile project.

If you can help with pennies, or other coins/contribution, we THANK YOU!

Connection Service Sunday, March 8 6:30 pm

Speaker: Shelli Prindle

"WHAT IF JESUS SAILS YOU RIGHT INTO THE STORM?

Worship: NAC Worship Team



CONCERT of PRAYER Sunday, March 29th



First United Church of Christ Downtown Irwin

Music and Singing -11:30 am Service - Noon

Each Wednesday of Lent beginning February 18th.

Theme: Promises, Promises, Promises" God Redeems Us

Mar. 11 Speaker: **Abraham Sandler**

Topic: "The Land Covenant"

Mar. 25 Speaker: Shelli Prindle

Topic: "The Davidic Covenant"

Lunch will be provided by Colonial Grille at 12:30.

Cost: \$6.00

Ladies Night Out



Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Jacktown Ride and Hunt Club 11369 Center Highway

6:30 pm

Please sign the sheet in the narthex and join the ladies for an evening of food and fellowship!

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The Norwin Alliance Keen-Agers will meet on Thursday, March 26th at 11:30 am. The lunch will consist of: chicken and biscuits, sides, and GREEN desserts.

We will be collecting for a local food bank. Please bring a non-perishable item with you to this meeting.

Our program for March will be by Marty Smith.

Everyone age 50 and over is cordially invited to attend this and all Keen-Agers meetings. First time attendees are not asked to bring a dish, just come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

If you would like to learn more about Keen-Agers, please contact our President, Ruth Long.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR NEWS





We are excited to introduce 'Back To The Cross – A Kids Musical Adventure Through Time", the Spring Program the children will be presenting on Sunday, May 17th in the 10:45 AM service.

"Abandoned long ago and nearly forgotten, the H/O-2000 is discovered by the kids in our story while attending the annual VBS program at Midway Community Church. A series of time-traveling escapades ensue, taking our intrepid gang of time-jumpers on a wild ride, immersing them in strange times and cultures (including the totally tubular 1980s, the roaring '20s, the Wild, Wild West, and even the Garden of Gethsemane!), all leading to a point of discovery about the importance of the Cross and the message of the Gospel."

Children's Choir is for all kids age 4 through 13. Please encourage your children to participate in this program. Weekly rehearsals will begin on Sunday, March 2nd and are held on Sundays during the 10:45 AM services. Attendance to rehearsals the first two weeks is very important. This is when we get to know who is interested in participating and doing a speaking/singing or non-speaking part. Assignment of parts is done rather quickly after that time. The kids will be dismissed during the service to attend rehearsal the same way they are dismissed for Children's Church. We are looking forward to getting started! "So jump into the H/O-2000, buckle your seatbelts, and embark on a Biblical truth-seeking trek through time!"

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The Women's Corner

by Janis Swope

Before we talk about anything else, let me get this off my chest. Woohoo!! Spring begins this month! Ok, I feel so much better now.

I have just received a news update on my IPad. Allegedly ISIS militants have burned 45 people alive in Iraq. Did you ever think you would live to see the day when such atrocities are becoming so prevalent in our times? Christians and Jews being targeted for killing. Beheadings, burnings, crucifixions! These things are taking place in the Middle East and are horrific. But what about in our country? Lying, murders, children killing children, children killing parents and parents killing children, abortion on demand, adultery, legalization of mind altering substances, drinking? The list could go on for a few more lines at least. What is at the root of all this violence and self-destruction that we see reported in the newscasts and newspapers on a daily basis? It is something that we have been talking about in Ladies Bible Study recently. That something is SIN, that old fashioned term that you rarely hear talked about these days. This word is at the root of all the problems in the world. What are we as Christians called to do about the abundance of sin that we see ourselves surrounded by? believe that first and foremost, we are called to pray. Pray for those who have not heard the Good News about Jesus and what He accomplished on the cross. Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who are being persecuted around the globe. Pray for our missionaries as they work creatively to bring the Good News to a world that is in chaos. Pray that the churches of America will take a stand against sin and call it out for what it is – rebellion against God. Pray that the leaders of our country will seek God's wisdom in quiding us through these difficult times. Pray and again I say pray. Unlike those who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus, as Christians we have the wonderful privilege of being able to go before God with our prayers and petitions. Do not give up on prayer. It is the least we can do and for some, maybe the most.

If you would like to join us for Ladies Bible Study we would love to have you. We meet Monday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the craft room. And as usual, we'll have the coffee on! (You might even come across a donut!)

The Last Word

When other people commit them [sins], you are startled, but when you commit them yourself, they seem absolutely natural.

Elspeth Huxley (1907-1997), journalist, broadcaster, author of 30 books, including <u>"The Flame Trees of Thika,"</u> about her childhood spent with her parents on a coffee plantation in Kenya, Africa.







A sharing, communion, fellowship

Greek for

"a sharing, communion, fellowship"

"Met-okh-ay"

30-College, career under the age 30

So, graduated from high school to the age of 30!

March 7, 2015 7pm - ??

monthly meetings with devotion, activities as planned!

Norwin Alliance Church.

sponsors: Frank & Danette Kolar, J. Renee Himler

Plan to join us for fellowship and study of Francis Chan's "Crazy Love."

Pizza provided!

QUESTIONS: CONTACT

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VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

April 18 and 19 is "Missionary Weekend" at Norwin Alliance. With that in mind, here is a missionary biography:

Eugene Erny was born July 10, 1899. He became a vice-president of the family business, a very wealthy enterprise. But God had touched his heart and called him to be a pastor/evangelist. He graduated from Asbury seminary in 1925. In 1930 he began tent evangelism in an Oriental trip to Japan, Korea and China. In 1931 he married Esther Helsby, also a missionary to China.

Learning the Chinese language was a difficult struggle for Eugene; although Esther was able to progress with the language faster. In time, Eugene could preach his messages in Chinese, but often used an interpreter. A revival swept through Asia for seven years in the 1930's with evangelist John Sung. Thousands turned to Christ for salvation.

The Ernys came to the USA for furlough and were anticipating their return to China. However, plans were changed, which saved their lives because they missed being arrested and interned in the Japanese POW camps during WWII. Instead of going back to China, they moved to the city of Bangalore, India where a million people resided. The missionaries were responsible for two Bible schools and two new centers for language study, etc. (The language was Hindu)

During the continuing WWII, several missionaries left the field. The Erny family moved to the northern part of India to Allahabad, to the city of Landour. Mr. Erny was a man of 'action grounded in prayer'. With the other missionaries there, the Allahabad Bible Seminary was opened.

The teaching/preaching ministry was only a part of the work. There was also physical labor of clearing the land in summer temperatures of up to 125 degrees. Often the missionaries suffered with malaria and amoebic dysentery, as did the natives.

The missionaries also ministered to the military

stationed on Indian soil until 1947. This outreach included Bible studies, meals, singing, prayer-times and fellowship. Many servicemen found the Lord during that time.

The Ernys served in India until 1950 when Eugene became President to the Oriental Missionary Society (now the One Mission Society), from which he retired in 1969. Eugene Erny is quoted: "God's work done in God's way will never lack for God's supply". Eugene Erny entered heaven on February 11, 1987.

This information is taken from the book, <u>This One</u> <u>Thing: the Story of Missionary Leader Eugene</u> <u>Erny,</u> can be found in the church library.



