

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 2017

From the Pastor’s Desk

Praying is more intense by God’s people leading up to Easter as we focus on Jesus’ sacrificial death and victorious resurrection.

Cry (pray) is a word used 30 times in the Psalms expressing intense seeking after God. Here are some powerful prayers:

- + *“Listen to my cry for help, my God and King”* (5:2)
- + *“God does not ignore the cry of the afflicted.”* (9:12)
- + *“Hear my cry for mercy . . .”* (28:2)
- + *“The righteous cry out and the Lord hears them.”* (34:17)
- + *“Lord listen to my cry for I am desperate.”* (142:6)

Crying out to God teaches us three good truths:

1. We are helpless. Without Jesus, we are sinful, hopeless, lost, and spiritually dead. There is no good in us without God.
2. We can’t fix it. Religious practice, self-effort, additional knowledge, and temporary repentance won’t redeem us or make us holy, happy people.
3. We need help from God and God’s people. Life again is found in Jesus. Life again is found in God’s people because Jesus lives in them. You have the Wonderful Counselor and the best counselors in the world in the Body of Christ.

Cry out to God for the world’s problems (sin) and your greatest troubles (sin). The Lord is faithful and He is risen.



BENEFIT CONCERT SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH FOR RETIRED ALLIANCE MISSIONARY

TED SAUVE



Ted is facing Huge Health Cost due to his recent illness. Its our hope to help him with that burden.

Location : Bible Alliance Event Center
1300 Mt Pleasant Rd
West Newton, Pa 15089

Time : 6:30pm

Questions : text or call 412 302 0031

Music :
Coalition
Worship Team

Father’s Heart
Choir



Sponsor
Friends For Ted



Daylight Savings Time

Please be sure to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before retiring for the night on Saturday, **March 11th**. Daylight Savings will begin at 2:00 am Sunday, **March 12th**.

CONGREGATION MEETING

Sunday, January 29, 2017

The Annual Congregation Meeting of the Norwin Alliance Church was held Sunday, January 29th. The meeting was held at 11:30 am.

With 70 members present, a quorum was met and the meeting was called to order.

Since only one name appeared under each Ministry position, a motion was made and approved to accept the ballot as presented.

The officers elected for 2017 are:

Ministry Board Secretary	Cindy Barnhart
Church Treasurer	Terry Blair
Assistant Treasurer	Roy Koch
Trustee –	
3 year term	Scott Reichert
4 year term	Tim Booher
Board Member at Large	
2 year term	Lori Nelson

Pastor Bob shared:

- † Approximately 80 people serve in some capacity at Norwin Alliance Church. This is high and growing. He would like to see one unified ministry that we all do together..
- † Norwin Alliance ministers to around 200 people. We have a hard time growing past this. We are an older congregation. Children and youth are strong ministries. We encourage outreach and church assimilation to unchurch children and youth by our whole church.

New Business:

1. By-law addition regarding the Faith Community and Mission of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and Its Ecclesiastical Entities. This came down from the National Office, to the District Office, and down to each church. The motivation for this by-law addition is for safety communication (for marriage and church building use). The by-law was approved with the following amendment: omit the sentence *“except in rarest of circumstances where other biblical, moral principles prevail, such as where it is medically impossible to save the life of both the mother and the child.”*
2. A motion was approved to give the Keen-Agers \$700.00 from reserves to help cover the cost of

having speakers come in to their meetings. The Keen-Agers currently operate on their own offerings.

3. The following 10 outreach ideas came from the members of the congregation. If anyone really wants to see these events come to pass, they need to get leaders in place and type up a proposal for the March Elder meeting. An insert will be placed in the bulletin.
 - A. Outreach for service men/women ~ both active and veterans
 - B. Dave Ramsey ~ “Financial Peace University”
 - C. “Church in the Park” more frequently. Maybe not on the scale that we do in September.
 - D. Bible Outreach
 - E. Evangelism
 - F. MOPS Ministry
 - G. Speaking to Muslims
 - H. Apologetics Class



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

1. Heard testimonies from prospective members.
2. DMC activities: Youth Retreat was approved for August 4-6 at Ligonier Camp and Conference Center. Grades 6-12 included. Monies will be taken from the LIFE fund since no youth attended in 2016.
3. Elected Jeff Ewing to serve as Lead Elder for 2017.
4. Elders Joe Cox and Bill Swope will serve on the Ministry Board.
5. Sock, T-shirts, Undie collection for the Veterans was approved.
6. We encourage additional outreach events to reach the children and youth in the community by our whole church.
7. Dana Rogers will continue to maintain the interior and exterior lights.
8. Installation of electric hand dryers in the restrooms was discussed and tabled.

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

VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

It is very interesting to learn when a person says “yes” to the Lord and then prepares to serve as a “missionary”. In today’s society many are asked: “Why do you even leave the United States? Look around; Listen to the news; See the mess in your neighborhoods; hundreds of people locally (even in SW PA) are unaware of Jesus’ love and salvation. Why do you want to go to another country when the needs in your own backyard are so tremendous? (statistics from Christianity Today magazine, January 2017).

Romans 16:25-27 and the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 are excellent Scriptural teaching passages for us, and to teach others as well. Apostle Paul reminds us that the Gospel lets all nations know what we believe. Paul was considered as one of the first missionaries. What an example he was to many persons, of many nationalities at that time.

With this and a lot of other Scripture in mind, and heart, a person who knows God him/her to service, he/she prays for God’s direction and His will in their life. Most often this means learning a difficult language - - or using a talent, a skill, or a creativity in a different or unusual culture. How about eating particular food!! As Andy Crouch, editor of Christianity Today has written: “Either way, we will be ready to be the people of God in our cities and neighborhoods, among every ethnicity and nation,

living faithfully within our particular cultures and trusting God to weave out of our faithfulness the cosmic redemption He has promised and accomplished through His Son. Which is to say, we will be, “the church.” (July/August 2016). We are reminded to love our neighbor despite where we live.

We are reminded again that in a very quick time period that the Russian government adopted a new anti-missionary law that could be used to shut down evangelical churches across the country. Many meet in homes instead of churches. It is reported that MILLIONS still have not heard the Gospel in this country. It is amazing that we have missionaries who have the privilege of serving at this time. That might be taken away AGAIN. Think of their history. “Anti-Missionary Law is closing the Door in Russia !!!”

And in China it is a blessing that 20,000 people daily ask Jesus into their hearts!!! Remember their population. Pray for the Christians who teach, pray, and minister to these people.

Written by Daniel Darling: “Very important persons whether you’re speaking to thousands or a select few, the fact is you’re a person of influence. So what are you going to do about it?” With that in mind, each of us influence different people most every day. Ask God to direct your life in a positive, faithful way. Remember Jesus is coming back soon. We want others to join us when He returns!!



Ladies Night Out



Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Abruzzi's Restaurant
9745 Route 30 ~ Irwin

6:00 pm

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

Veteran Support



I want to thank everyone for the overwhelming response to the Valentine's for Vets. They were well received, to say the least, by the many veterans in the waiting room. One couple in particular, two weeks after their wedding, the husband was deployed to Vietnam for a year.

Looking ahead, desiring to bless our service members in a more tangible way, I will begin a "Basic Comfort" campaign. Accepting NEW, all sizes, male and female, undergarments including T-shirts, socks and any style briefs.

A collection box will be available.

Many Thanks and God Bless!

Deborah DeClaudio

Help Wanted

An additional bookcase is being requested by Sara Masters for the library downstairs. Rough dimensions for a new unit would be 6'4" H x 36" W x 12" D (to fit between an existing outlet and wall switch). Would like the unit to match the existing free-standing one in terms of materials and finish.

Please see Scott Reichert (trustee) if you are willing to take on this project.



Keen-Agers

(50 and over group)

Thursday, March 23rd

11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Lunch and Entertainment

March is GREEN month for St. Patrick's Day. (March is green for me because it will be Spring soon). Wear your green if you are of Irish descent, or if you just like wearing green to celebrate the month of March.

Lunch Menu ~ Chicken and Biscuits, Side Dishes, Green Desserts.

Entertainment ~ AJ Dobbin - Bagpiper

Food Bank Collection for the Salvation Army sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church in Irwin. Please bring any non-perishable items to our meeting.

All Senior 50 and over are invited to join us for our meeting.

Please bring a covered dish and your table service.

Hope to see you all at our meeting in March. We are looking forward to having a great afternoon together.

Sincerely, *Joe and Pat Beyer* (Co-Presidents)

CONNECTION Service

Sunday, March 12

6:30 pm

"Where Is My Sign?"



Message
by:

**Randy
Brown**