
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

September 2020



Pastor's Corner

A Testimony About Four Faithful Witnesses

There were at least four men that God used to direct me to trust in the Lord and get connected to a church. Billy Graham would be #1, but I will mention four guys who knew me personally.

The first man was John Chesky. Johnny hardly knew me but lived down the street. He called me up one day and invited me to attend a house Bible study. I thought this was a dumb idea. Why would I want to talk about the Bible with people I did not know and with whom I had little in common? Strangely I went and ever since have been blessed by God's Word and His people.

The second man was Bruce Ramsey. Bruce invited me to church. It was an old church with an old pastor and old music and old everything. Bruce was a high school true friend so I went, thought God filled the service with Himself. Ever since then I have been blessed by church and everything about church folks.

The third man was Dick Eglinton. Dick was a college junior when I was a college freshman. He would stop by my room and invite me to the college fellowship, to Sunday school, to church, and taught me every part of life was from Jesus. Ever since then I have enjoyed inviting people to anything about the Lord which is pretty much everything.

The fourth man was Scott Barber. He asked me to serve others by praying, leading Bible studies, working at a day-care, and being quietly direct about how great God is.

I think you and I can do things like John, Bruce, Dick and Scott did. All these men are still following the Lord.



PLAN TO JOIN US

for a **Day of Joy** on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020, beginning at 9:30 a.m. with a Continental Breakfast followed by Worship on the Lawn, Lunch, & Games for all ages. You may choose to join us from the safety of your vehicle for worship as the service will be audible in the parking lot. We will have postcards available that you can mail to invite your family & friends. Please be in prayer for this day, who you can invite, & the committee who is working to make this a **Day of Joy** unto the Lord & His people & also adhere to safety guidelines. If you would like to help with this special day of worship, fellowship, and fun, please contact Vicki Booher.

PRAY FOR WHO YOU CAN INVITE!

*We hope to see you, your friends & family at this
Day of Joy in September!*



AWANA begins a new year with a KICK-OFF Family Night to be held outdoors at the church on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:45 pm.

We will have a BUTTERFLY theme for the new beginnings and in celebration of our new beginning to the club year.

We hope you will join us
for a fun night!



How God Blessed Me for 100 Years

By Jean Rohaly



On September 8, 1920 in the little coal mining town of Bens Creek, outside of Portage, Pennsylvania, I was born. I was the third child of eleven, born to immigrants from Czechoslovakia. My father was a coal miner. My parents had a little piece of ground, just enough to have chickens, a pig, and one or two cows and a large garden. We had a roof over our heads, plenty to eat and I wore hand me down clothes from my older sisters. We had everything we would ever want or need. God was good. For as far back as I can remember, when we got up in the morning, we went to the kitchen table, bowed our heads and thanked God for our breakfast. The last thing we did at bedtime was kneel down by the bed and thank God for the day and to keep us safe until tomorrow. Every Sunday we would walk three miles to Portage to attend church services. As we got older, we would also walk to church on Saturday for Catechism. During Lent, we would all walk to church Friday evening for "Stations of the Cross."

After eight grade, I had to quit school. The family was getting larger. I was wearing out too many shoes. It was time to go to work to help out the family. What kind of work could a girl my age do? I followed my two older sisters to Pittsburgh. They worked as housekeepers for

wealthy families in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood. I started working for a very nice family and made \$3.00 a week (yes, a WEEK!). That included room and board and I was grateful to God for that. Many nights I cried. I was fourteen, away from my home and family, in a big city. Thankfully my sisters and I were off on Sunday. We were able to go to church on Sunday morning and that gave us a little reminder of home. Even now at 100 years old, Sundays don't feel right without church. Since the pandemic, on Sunday mornings I watch services on TV or on-line.

I continued to stay and work in Pittsburgh and met the love of my life, George. George was the second in a family of ten. He also had to quit school after eighth grade and go to work to help the family. He was raised much the same as I, in a loving church going family. George's family was of the Byzantine faith and his father was a huckster.

George and I married in the Byzantine church and God blessed us with three wonderful daughters. We were together for 72 loving years until he passed in 2014 at the age of 97. When raising our children, we tried to teach them that God needs to be at the center of their lives.

My daughter asked me what the world needs now. I thought of an old song that goes:

*"What the world needs now is love sweet love.
It's the only thing that there's just too little of"*

What there's too little of is PRAYER! How many families have prayer in their homes? We've allowed prayer to be taken out of our schools. That's what there's too little of.





The following items were discussed/approved at the Elder's and Ministry Board meetings in August:

1. Preschool classes will begin October 1 for the 3yr old class and October 5 for the 4yr old class.
2. A "Dream Incentive Grant" was discussed in both the Elder and Ministry board meetings.
3. The Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 27th at 11:45 am.
4. The church books have been audited and everything is in order.
5. The proposed 2021 budget was reviewed. It will be brought back to the Ministry Board at their September meeting for final approval and then presented to the congregation at the Congregation Meeting September 27th.
6. The trustees will begin finding painting companies to paint the inside of the church building.
7. David Hargraves is going to build a playhouse in the children's courtyard for his Eagle Scout award project.

If you ever have any concerns to be brought before the boards, please contact Ken Sherman or Janis Swope, our Board Members-at-large.



Congregation Meeting
SUNDAY, September 27th
11:45 am

Please make every effort to attend this meeting. Some items of business that will be discussed are:

1. Nominating Committee members will be chosen.
2. The 2021 Church Budget will be presented and voted on.

Don't be left in the dark ~ stay and hear what is happening at Norwin Alliance Church and let your voice be heard. * * A quorum is needed to approve the 2021 budget.

All are encouraged to attend ~ but only members can vote.

Responsibilities of the Nominating Committee:

~ Nominate Officers of Norwin Alliance Church (Ministry Board Secretary, Church Treasurer, Asst. Church Treasurer, Board Members at Large) to be elected at the January Congregation Meeting.

~ Nominate "positions of serving" to be appointed by the Elder Board.

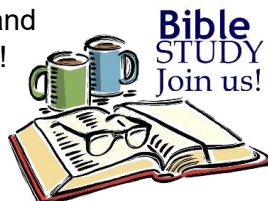
~ Consider nominees from the Elder Board for the position of Elder and if desired, make Elder nominations to the Elder Board.

If you have any questions, or would like to suggest a person for an office, please contact the Board Members-at-Large (Ken Sherman or Janis Swope), Lead Elder (Jeff Ewing), or Pastor Bob.

GUESS WHAT ? ?

Ladies and Men's Bible Studies are starting up again! 😊

Come for a time of fellowship and learning. Hope to see you there!



- When: Monday, Sept. 14th at 10:30 a.m.
- Where: Ladies will meet in the Fellowship Hall
Men will meet in the Youth Area
- What: The Bible will be our focus of course!
- How: Through the grace of God!
- Who: Janis and Bill Swope, leaders

The Women's Corner

By Janis Swope

Woooee! Can you believe that the last time I wrote to you all it was for the March 2020 Koinonia! How all of our lives have changed since then. So much has happened and our world seems topsy-turvey. We have gone through so much. Did you ever imagine we would be locked down in our homes. Getting up at 5:00 a.m. to be at Walmart at 6:00 a.m. so you could purchase food with the rest of the "old folks." Realizing you ARE an "old folk!" Yikes! Being grateful that you bought some extra toilet paper! (Or maybe not.) Not being able to spend time at a restaurant with friends, or visiting family. Discovering that there is a city in China called Wuhan and that what happened there would have such an impact on you and everyone that you know. Watching rioters and looters on the news causing turmoil and damage to several American cities. Having every school shut down for the last months of school and children being taught online. The big hassle as every school district and college tries to figure out how and when their students will get an education in the fall. And lastly, having a time when every major sport in the United States stopped playing? We weren't sure if baseball would ever have a 2020 season (if you can call what is being played in Major League Baseball a season.)

So, how have you been coping? If you are like me and several other women I have talked to, you have your good days and you have your bad days. You know what I'm talking about. Good days when you are content at home and are cleaning and cooking and being outside enjoying the sunshine. Bad days when you wonder if anything will ever be the same again and feeling there is no end in sight to all the uncertain days ahead staring at you. Don't think that you are in this alone. Many of us ladies are feeling the same way and going through depressing days as well as good days. We have never been through times like this before so we are in uncharted territory and it can be stressful. One thing that helps is to keep in touch with your family and friends. It always helps me to get in touch with my sisters and nieces (and in-law nieces!) and friends. I'm on Facebook and I know many of you are there too, but it's no substitute for the real thing, like picking up the phone and gabbing for an hour. Oh, yes, I've been known to gab for an hour (and even more) and when I get off the phone I feel better. I think "I'm not the only one in this boat. All my friends are in here with me. They are going through the same thing I am." But I have to tell you that there is another person in that boat with me. That person is Jesus Christ. He is with me and with you every day. It doesn't matter what we are going

through, Jesus is there going through it with us. It can be easy to forget that He is by our side, but we MUST work to remind ourselves that we are never truly alone in our trials and troubles.

While you are at it, remind yourself that nothing ever happens that takes God by surprise and He has given us what we need to get through difficult times. We have prayer and can communicate with Him all day long as we go through our day. Remind yourself that God is in control of everything. He has a plan and He is working it out. We just need to keep looking ahead, not back, and know that He is walking with us. He has promised not to give us anything that we could not handle. Remind yourself that you were born for such a time as this. It is in God's plan that YOU should be here and now at this time in history. God knew you before you were born and he planned that you should be here now. You can rely on Him to give you what you need to get through these times. Lastly, remind yourself how much God loves YOU. He loved you so much that He gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross for our sins so that we could spend eternity in heaven with Him. If He loves you that much, He loves you enough to see you through anything that can happen in these crazy times.

The Women's Sunday School Class is back and in full swing. We have started looking at 1 and 2 Thessalonians. I hope you'll give our class a try. We have some extra books if anyone is interested in joining us. You can see us in the Craft Room at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday.

GOOD NEWS! The Ladies Bible Study will be starting on September 14th at 10:30 a.m. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall so that we can practice social distancing and wearing of masks. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again. I have missed you all. The Men's study is still in the Youth Area at the same time so tell your husband and make it a date. All are welcome! We will have the coffee on! If it makes you feel safer, you can bring your own beverage.

The Last Word

"If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest." Corrie Ten Boom (1892-1983)



Vignettes by Virginia

“Faith in What We Don’t See”

Hebrews 11:11-12 read from THE MESSAGE: *“The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this FAITH, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It’s our handle on what we can’t see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd.”*

The King James Version of the same passage says: *“Now FAITH is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report.”*

How is faith defined? Faith is belief and trust in God; loyalty to God; complete confidence in God; fidelity to one’s promises; and belief in the traditional doctrines of a religion. Other verses to give reference are James 1:2-4; psalm 1; Psalm 42:1, 2; Psalm 63:1-8; and Galatians 2:20.

Moses is an excellent example of a man who depended on faith to obey God and lead the Israelites all those years. Remember another nation had the Israelites as severe workers; when they left the country, they were chased to water where a testimony is known for obedience.

Another man of faith is the prophet Elijah. As he stood before numerous people, Elijah knew he had God’s protection and a special message to give. Read this in I Kings 17 and following chapters.

Paul, a New Testament example, reminds us repeatedly of the Holy Spirit’s presence with the believer. Our FAITH is a sufficiency in God. (II Corinthians 5:7). Matthew 17:20,21 encourages us to have faith the size of a tiny mustard seed.

Max Lucado’s book “Anxious for Nothing Finding Calm in a Chaotic World”, has an enlightening, basic sentence on page 13; *“Let us know less fret and more faith.”* Another message is; *“Grace restores our soul; rejoice in the Lord’s sovereignty. Jesus offers perfect peace.”*

Most basic information we are aware of; BUT we get busy and often try to make improvements by ourselves, in our own time, and expect a different or quicker response than what comes our way. What should define our love and FAITH for Jesus, and God our Father, often gets an interruption; we try for an explanation that might be meaningless. It can be easier to look around to what is happening in our communities, and the world. Hold on much more tightly to the promises from Jesus—His love, our FAITH, our desire to serve/minister to others. As

William J. Reynolds has written: *“Share His love by telling what the Lord has done for you. Share His love by sharing of your faith.”*

The very basic Biblical promise JOHN 3:16 sends energy - love - purpose to mankind.

“FAITH is the victory. FAITH is the victory!! O glorious victory that overcomes the world.”

FAITH doesn’t always take you out of the problem, FAITH takes you through the problem.

FAITH doesn’t always take away the pain, FAITH gives you the ability to handle the pain.

FAITH doesn’t always take you out of the storm, FAITH calms you in the midst of the storm.

AMEN.

By Heavensoul



Our Upstairs Library is OPEN

Thanks to Jim Seibert, Janice Lazzaro, and Sara Masters, our upstairs library is ready to be used. It is located in the Board Room (down the ramp and last room on the right). Thank you to Jim for the beautiful shelves he built. Now they have children’s books, youth readings, and adult fiction on them. All these books are ready to be signed out.

BUT WAIT! Remember to wear your masks; the room is small. Only two non-related adults can be in the room at one time. A family can be in the library at one time.

Sign out the books you want. Return them when you are finished. A shelf is marked for returns. Periodically the book selections will be changed. Let Janice and Sara know what else you would like to see upstairs.

The library staff hopes you will enjoy these books.

