



Christmas Greetings from the Pughs & Carters



“Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people...”
Luke 2:10b. This is the heart of the Christmas story. Jesus emptied himself of his heavenly glory and took on the very nature of man so that we may have abundant life in Him. That is reason for celebration! This year, let us do the “work” of celebrating Christmas in response to God’s great love for us and as an expression of our love for others.

We are profoundly grateful for Jesus. He makes our church a family. Dr. Gary Smalley states, “Life is relationships, the rest is just details.” We couldn’t agree more. All too often the “details” make greater demands and we think the relationships can wait. Sometimes all we need is a good excuse to get started. Take this Christmas season as a “good excuse” to do what you have been waiting to do. Remember, it’s “about relationships.”

We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you. We are planning our Christmas celebrations to be joyful occasions filled with deep love for our Lord and one another. We pray every one of you will know the reality of Christ’s love for you and receive His joy and peace this Christmas.

Pastor Todd and Tina, Pastor Paul and Jenny



Children’s Ministries

... “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mark 10:14

Kiski Valley Assembly of God is a kid-friendly church. Services for children coincide with adult services on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. All adults who work with the children are required to have a security clearance.

Nursery

The nursery is a warm, loving, and safe environment for little ones from birth to age three. TLC is provided by leaders Tina Pugh, Joyce Shearer, Sue Tiberio, Margaret and Jaclyn Jordan and Jessie Hall. The church teens also help out.

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Children's Ministries

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Sunday School

Husband and wife team Jim and Heidi Montgomery are the Children's Sunday School class teachers. Jim teaches the four to six year olds while Heidi teaches the seven to twelve year olds. Right now the children are learning about the book of Genesis through Bible lessons, visual aids and games played with the lessons. They are planning a Christmas party to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Children's Church

Children's Church is for kids ages four through 12. The children participate with the adults during the praise and worship part of the Sunday service. After praise and worship they go to their own service that is led by Krista Peterman or the substitute teachers, Matt and Nikki Marziale, Louise and Mandy Steinhauser, and Kim Stover. There they learn lessons from the Bible. Right now they are learning about the Old Testament through object lessons, games and Bible stories. They have a good time learning about the Lord.

Girl's Club

God's Girls is where girls ages four and up meet on Wednesday nights to learn about "Friendship First." Club leaders Vicki and Krista Peterman are teaching the girls what it means to be a true friend to Jesus and each other with Jesus being lifted up as the example of what true friendship means. The girls are making a paper "friendship" chain where each week they add a new link telling what they did to be a good friend such as share a smile or have lunch with someone. Vicki is sure that soon the chain will stretch the whole way around the room. The club averages ten to twelve girls. Recently two new girls have started attending.

Boy's Club

Ranger Boys is a place where boys ages four to twelve can come to have fun and learn about the Lord on Wednesday nights. During the meetings the boys have discussion time, where they talk about things going on in their lives, prayer time, where they pray for their needs and the needs of loved ones. They are also taught a lesson from the life of Jesus. After the lesson, they participate in an activity, this can be a craft or a game. One Wednesday night Del Haigh had the boys help paint some of the props for the Heroes Unmasked party. Sometimes, weather permitting; the boys are taken outside where they can run off some of that pent up boy energy. After the activity, the boys enjoy a snack. The Ranger Boys leaders, who are on a weekly rotating schedule, are Mary Hackley and Kevin Goughenour, Del Haigh, Marie Hilty, Bill Bell and Jamie Barclay.

Diane Swank

Beautiful Feet

Whew! Missions Month was a very busy time and a lot of preparation, but so rewarding. Thanks to so many who encouraged me during the month. I really enjoyed bringing news of our missionaries to you each week. Our church is so blessed to have such a wide-reaching presence in the world, and to support so many people in the work of bringing Jesus to those who need Him.

Romans 10:13-15 says: *for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

When we support our missionaries, we partner with them in the work that they do. Our support makes a world of difference to those who are doing the work, and an eternity of difference to the lives of the people those missionaries touch! When we give of our prayers and support our missionaries with our giving, we help to bring the Good News to people who are lost. And we too, have beautiful feet.

Sheree Collins

God's Faithfulness This Year

A while back, I ran into a girl while walking my dogs. She wanted to pet ours, she was missing her family's (the Hoe's) Labradors they raise. She told my girlfriend that God doesn't send people into our life without a reason if our eyes are open to it. "Maybe when Zanthé goes, our yellow Labrador who has had cancer for five years, we could get one of their puppies."

Everyday I thanked God for another day with Zanthé, and asked Him to prepare me for his death. The day came when we had to make the decision to put him to sleep after 12 years of his faithfulness. The Lord carried me through those sad days. Days later when shopping in a store I don't usually shop in, I saw an ad for Labrador puppies. I took the number and noticed it was an Apollo number. Wouldn't it be funny if it was the Hoe's family puppies?

Not sure if I was ready yet for a new puppy, I called the number. Only two were left and it was the Hoe family. I cried, and then told Mr. Hoe the story about meeting his daughter. He said, "Isn't our God an awesome God?" I still was not sure.

Soon I had an eye appointment, but they couldn't fit me with contacts, so I had extra money and only needed \$10.00 more for the puppy. I talked it over with Bill, still not sure. We'll have to sleep on it. When we went to bed Bill said, "We'll have to name it." I guess we are getting a puppy. When we went, there was only one left. His green eyes captured my heart. Mrs. Hoe cried and wanted to hug him again before we took him.

Mrs. Hoe sent home a Christmas ornament and a plaque about Heaven. In our puppy's packet were stories about Jesus and choosing Him before we die. That is their way of witnessing. Bless them.

Our new puppy's name is Zebadiah, the Lord's Gift. What a fitting name. God is faithful even in the little things. Are your eyes open to them?

Lisa Bell

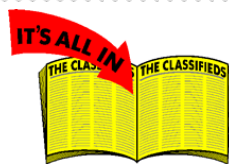
Build stronger relationships in the new year...

the **DNA** *of*
RELATIONSHIPS

Wednesday nights at 7:00, beginning January 10th, 2007
Discover how you were designed for satisfying relationships.
More than a 90 percent success rate in resolving conflict
and a 72 percent increase in relationship satisfaction.

Ladies
sleep*over

Friday, January 19th
A night of Fun and Friendship



FOR SALE – 6-1/2 foot Mountain King Christmas Tree – very full, lights, ornaments. \$25.00 – 724-845-7453

If you have a need or a blessing and would like it advertised, please submit it to one of the newsletter team members: Bill Bell, Ruth Hazley, Tina Pugh, Jim Montgomery, Diane Swank, or Bernice Wolfe.

Holiday Recipes

Peach Delight from Sherry White

- 1 12 oz. Bowl Cool Whip
- 2 cups mini marshmallows
- 1 16 oz. can peaches, drained and cut into small pieces
- 1 box Instant Vanilla Pudding

Mix all of the above together, chill, and serve.

Butterscotch Cookies

- 1 (18.25 oz.) yellow cake mix
- 2 large eggs
- 1 stick butter
- ¼ cup dark brown sugar
- 1 Tablespoon cocoa powder

-Stir the above until combined

Fold in:

- 1 cup butterscotch chips
- ½ cup chopped walnuts

Drop by level tablespoonfuls onto 2 greased cookie sheets (nonstick foil is great), and bake at 350 for 14 minutes. Cool 2 minutes before removing to cookie rack.

Makes 3-1/2 dozen cookies.

Grandma Margaret's Yeast Rolls

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| 2 pkg yeast | ½ tsp. baking soda |
| 1 cup warm water | ¼ tsp. salt |
| 2 cup buttermilk | 1 cup sugar |
| 1 tsp. baking powder | ¾ cup oil |
| 8 – 10 cups flour | |

Let water and yeast stand while mixing other ingredients.

In bowl: sugar, salt, soda, baking powder, buttermilk & oil.

Now mix yeast and water into sugar mixture.

Add flour to make stiff.

Make into rolls or cinnamon rolls and let rise. Bake at 350 until done and butter the tops.

Sweet Potato Casserole

- 1 large cans sweet potatoes or 3 large potatoes cooked.
- ½ cup sugar or Splenda
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter/oleo

Drain and mash sweet potatoes. Add sugar, butter, egg, and cinnamon. Put into 2 quart casserole. Put on topping and bake at 350 for 30 minutes

Topping:

- 1 cup crushed Ritz crackers (may use corn flake or generic snack crackers)
 - ½ c. butter melted
 - ½ cup brown sugar (or Splenda)
- Mix together and put on top of the sweet potato mixture

Oreo Cream Cheese Balls

1 pkg Oreo cookies (the recipe says you have to eat 8 of them but I think it works with the whole pkg too)

1 8 oz. pkg cream cheese

Smash cookies and mix with cream cheese (a food processor works great for this)

Form into small balls and refrigerate for a couple hours. Dip in melting chocolate and put on wax paper to harden.

Artichoke Spinach Dip

- 10 oz. spinach thawed and drained
- 1 cup mayo
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 small jar artichoke hearts drained & chopped
- pepper, marjoram, garlic powder, & onion powder to taste
- ½ - ¾ cup Romano cheese, divided
- paprika for topping

Mix ingredients reserving ¼ cup of Romano cheese and paprika for topping. Bake until bubbly on edges. Top with remaining romano cheese and paprika and finish with high heat or under broiler. Serve with sliced French baguette bread.

Things to Thank God For

For – The babies born in 2006: Isaiah Scrimshaw, Ronin Wilczek, & Riley Shearer

For – Ben Hilty's new Job at Penn United

For – Freedom

For – Our Missionaries. Please keep praying that their trials be few

For – Pastor Paul & Jenny who joined us this year

For – The blessings Dan Swank is receiving

For – All the blessings we each get daily and don't even think about

Did you know...

Both Elijah and Elisha smote the waters of the river Jordan and passed over on dry ground. 2 Kings 2:8; 2:14

Elisha performed a greater number of miracles than any other prophet except Moses. All are found in 2 Kings 2:14, 21, 24; 3:16, 4:5,35,41,43; 5:10, 27; 6:18; and 13:21, the final one I found – the resurrection of man.

Bernice Wolfe

Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men

Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our Peace.

Galatians 6:10 Let us do good toward all Men.

These scriptures sound like the inside of a greeting card that you may receive this Holiday Season. Where will you really find yourself as the season closes in? Will you be fretting about how few shopping days remain until Christmas, all those gifts to buy, and "I have to cook for twenty-five people on Christmas Day!" What to get for Uncle Joe, the kids, all the nieces and nephews? Oh yes the budget, how will I pay for all those things? It goes on and on!

I find myself losing my cool as I try to hang the Christmas lights, after blowing five fuses, knocking over the ladder twice, and tearing down the twinkle lights from last year that never all quite worked properly. Then the sixth "fuse" blew – mine. Do you yell at the person who just cut you off at the traffic light, or how about the little old lady who keeps ramming you in the back with her shopping cart? Oh yes, remember that "good will toward men" thing!

Actually peace and good will are the reason for the season at least in part. Christmas, yes the birth of the Christ child, our Savior, the Messiah who would preach, teach, live and show peace and good will to all, even those who would later nail Him to a cross and crucify him. TRULY HE IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON. Gifts were given that first Christmas to honor the Christ Child, as we give this season let us remember we give in honor of Him. May we share this as the giver and be thankful for this as the receiver. Christ gave us peace and goodwill through His life on earth, but especially through His death on the cross, offering us peace eternally in heaven with Him and also in our daily lives here on earth. All we need to do is make the choice to accept Him, seek Him, read His word, the Bible, and His peace will truly be revealed and given to us. He will equip us to show good will to all, even as fuses blow, time runs short, the kids play more with the boxes than the gifts inside, and yes, even to the little old lady who rams us with her cart.

Seek first the Lord as He is the reason for the season, and all else will fall into perspective!

Peace and good will to all ... in Christ's love, *Bill Bell*



Upcoming Events!

December 8 – Night at the movies to see “The Nativity Story”

December 9 – “Cooks for a day” at Teen Challenge

December 11 – Women’s Christmas Party at Cora Zubal’s – 6:00 p.m.

December 16 – Young Adult Party – 7:00 p.m.



December 17 – Church and Angel Tree Christmas party – 5:00 p.m.

December 20 – Christmas Caroling

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service – 6:30 p.m.

January 10, 2007 – The DNA of Relationships starts

January 19, 2007 – Women’s Sleepover Party



Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

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| Prayer | 9:00 a.m. |
| Sunday school | 9:30 a.m. |
| Morning Worship | 10:30 a.m. |
| Nursery Provided | |
| Children’s Church ages 4 – 12 | |
| Youth Service | 7:00 p.m. |
| Women’s Book Study & Men’s Meeting are the First Sunday at 6:30 p.m. | |

Tuesday:

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| Celebrate Recovery | 7:00 p.m. |
| For all kinds of hurts, habits, and hang-ups – Free babysitting provided. | |

Wednesday: *No Service on December 27 or January 3*

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| Boys & Girls Clubs | 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. |
| Adult Worship & Study | 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. |

2nd Sunday of Every Month:

Benevolence Offering – Used to help those within the church body or those referred.



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