



Thrive in '08



You may have noticed the schedule is full and the bulletin is packed this year. Is there a reason for all this activity? In a recent staff meeting with Pastor Todd and coordinator Vicki Peterman, they shared how intentional and filled with purpose these plans are. Each New Year a theme forms in our hearts which helps guide our efforts and plans for the church year. This year, it's just one word – **THRIVE**. To *thrive* is to live with confidence in God and to grow personally and relationally whether life's circumstances are pleasant or challenging.

To that end, all kinds of events designed to develop *thriving* relationships were planned. Relationships are an irreplaceable tool God uses to change lives, that is why the activities and organized small groups are a vital part of the overall church mission. God amazingly coordinates our corporate efforts to meet our individual needs.

It is hard to explain the benefit of being with people until you really know them and become known by them. You begin to value them more, and you feel more valued – that's a recipe for *thriving*. Whether it's singing, learning, crocheting, serving, discussing, recreating or even eating, you will discover the stories of others – their strengths and struggles, joys and concerns. You'll share yours, and you'll find yourself *thriving*.

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:17b-19

Let us be determined to *thrive* and lead others to do the same!

Tina Pugh

Youth Group Corner

During a normal Sunday at Kiski Valley Assembly of God, the congregation congregates (because that's what congregations do) in the sanctuary for sensational services, in the dining hall for Sunday School, and in the kid's room for Children's Church, and in the kitchen where people get their wakeup call from Mr. Maxwell.

At high noon, God's masses are released back into the world to spread the word of His saving grace. During the midday, the church becomes the home of a plethora of activities depending upon the time of year. These activities turn the church from a place of worship to a place of construction, crocheting, or my personal favorite, CHOCOLATE!

Finally, when night falls, the church is then again transformed. It gets taken over by the energetic, hormone driven, myspace addicted people of the church we commonly refer to as the youth.

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Youth Group Corner (continued)

When Nikki and I took the reigns of leading the youth, the situation was a little shaky. Youth attendance was low, energy was lacking, and the youth room was drab. On top of that, Nikki and I have never raised children (especially teenagers), and I had never given a sermon. Were we nervous? Yes. Were we well prepared? No. Were we excited? Heck yes! We learned a big lesson quickly; it was not our youth group. We were supposed to buy the drinks and snacks, and God would do the rest.

Since then there has been a learning curve of interesting experiences, but few months later, we all seem to be moving right along.

We don't know why or how, but the youth room has been changed from a splinter ridden eye sore to a terrific haven for the youth. This may be the bi-product of a couple of knee and head sized holes in the sanctuary drywall, or maybe it was caused by a mysteriously broken table in the dining hall, or possible it could be linked to a magically broken door in the storage area behind the dining hall. Either way, we would like to extend our thanks to the church. The youth has a place to call its home.

The youth attendance has grown in leaps and bounds. A normal service attendee will not recognize around one-third of the youth students. When we first accepted the positions, the youth attendance would average eight to ten students. The attendance is now averaging over 20 students on any given week. This takes into account the fact that we have a different mix of youth every week. Either God is working in the youth, or this youth group has been blessed with the best looking male youth leader in this great country. Believe what you want. Either way, it's a wonderful blessing!

Finally, the youth has taken part in many activities, including a Convention in Hershey, a lock-in in the church, and a Christian concert at Evangel Heights. There are many upcoming plans we have for the youth, but some may be tricky to pull off, so I am putting nothing in writing. Some of these activities will include interaction with other youth groups in the area. During this, the youth will make new Christian friends that they will see at school. Besides, I think we all know, there's no friend like a Christian friend.

Nikki and I do this as a team. She's the brains behind the operation. I'm just the one with the big mouth. Actually, that is pretty much how we do everything. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to be blessed by the youth every single week, and we look forward to many, many more Sundays of fun and blessings.

Matt Marziale

A Book Review

“Thus Saith The Lord?” by John Bevere

Someone has told you he has a word for you from the Lord. You are told you will be used to touch thousands of lives, you will be very successful, maybe even famous, and your deepest desires will be met. These words feed your ego, maybe even your secret hopes and dreams, but are they really from the Lord? Through his book, “Thus Saith The Lord?” John Bevere helps us understand what true prophesy is as defined by scripture. He also uses scripture to teach us how to discern true prophesy from false, how to deal with false prophets, how to know a prophet by his fruits, how to keep ourselves from being deceived, and so much more.

I John 4:1 tells us, “...but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” John Bevere’s “Thus Saith The Lord?” teaches us how to do just that.

Diane Swank

Easy Sticky Buns (Bernice Wolfe)

- 2 T. butter or margarine
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 2 T. maple syrup
- ½ cup chopped pecans or walnuts
- 1 tube refrigerated biscuits

1. Heat oven to 425° or to temperature indicated on biscuit package.
2. Melt butter, add brown sugar, syrup and nuts: mix well, put into 8” round pan.
3. Break apart biscuits and carefully place on top of sugar mixture. Bake 10 – 12 minutes.
4. Remove from oven. Place a plate on top of the pan. Invert and remove from pan. Syrup will harden as it cools.

COME YARN WITH US! Get those hooks and yarn out! Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to learn?

Come Yarn with us Group is meeting at 10:00 a.m. on the 3rd Saturday of every month to make items for the babies of Tri-City Life Center clients and nursing home residents. Call the church for details!



A New Look!

The Fellowship Hall has a new look, paint, floor, and tables.

Praise God, for those workers who unselfishly gave up their time to make this possible. They have blessed us with their talents.



Did you know...

The Last Supper – “Communion Wine”

At the last supper, when Jesus held up the cup, he called the content the “fruit of the vine.” (Matt 26:29, Mark 14:25, Luke 22:18). The blood in Christ’s body was unique since He was born of a virgin (Matt 1:23). The blood type of the child comes from the seed of the Father, and Joseph was not the father of Jesus. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, thus the blood of Christ came directly from God in the same manner that God imparted blood into the first man, Adam (who was not born through a natural birth process). Because Christ was without sin, His blood was untainted with the sin element in the manner of the sons of Adam!

During Communion, the pure blood of the grape, the fruit of the vine, represents the sinless, incorruptible blood of the Son of God. While some churches use fermented wine, which is produced by a decaying process, we use pure grape juice for this reason.

Bernice Wolfe

Help for Hire (not for free)

Cleaning/Organizing

Cyndi Crise: 724-845-2689

Springtime is here. It's time to clean the house. If you see the spring cleaning projects as an undertaking you are not looking forward to, call Cyndi Crise. She is willing to help clean and organize any home. Nose to the grindstone all day, and do not have the energy left for the home? Call Cyndi. Not able to get around like you used to and your house is in need of some tidying up? Call Cyndi. Want your house cleaned while you are at work? Call Cyndi. Hours best for Cyndi are midday (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) on weekdays and any time Saturdays.

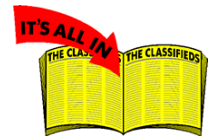
Handymen

John Crise: 724-321-8380

John is a handyman who can handle just about any job. He'll work weekdays and Saturdays. He can help in an emergency situation (e.g., Broken water pipe, broken drywall) at the drop of a hat, but prefers appointments. Recent projects were done at KVAG, Ron and Cheryl's, and Heidi and Jim Montgomery's.

Harold Rearick: 724-882-2537

Harold is a handyman who is a jack of all trades. His specialty is Electrical, but his talents go far beyond that. He can do plumbing, drywalling, painting, and just about anything dealing with household issues. His most recent projects have been focused on working at KVAG. Weekdays and Saturdays are good days for working.



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, Matt Marziale, Tina Pugh, Diane Swank, or Bernice Wolfe.



March 30 – *How to Make Choices You Won't Regret*
(start of 6-week class 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings)

April 6 – *Basics of Christian Faith & Life* (9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings)

April 12 – Trip to Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh.

April 25 – Assembly of God Day at the Pittsburgh Pirate game

June 21 – Family Fun Day at Idewild Park

Small Groups:

A study of Ephesians – every Thursday night at the Gaillot home, 7:00 pm (3176 Vermont Drive, Lower Burrell, 724-339-3049).

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Mary Hackley – 707 Seventh Street, West Leechburg. (724-845-4261)

Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

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.	

Wednesday:

Adult Bible Study/Prayer	7:00 p.m.
Extreme Kids Club (4-12 years old)	7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

2nd Sunday of Every Month:

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

3rd Saturday of Every Month:

Come Yarn With Us	10:00 a.m.
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**219 Market Street
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