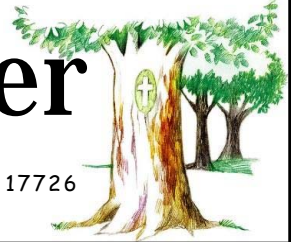


THE GOOD NEWSletter

Sharing the Good News of Christ

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November / December 2009



HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
Jesus!

Before you know it, Christmas will be here. On December 5, 2009, we will have our 3rd annual "Happy Birthday Jesus" party to celebrate the birth of our Savior, and to help donate some new toys to Mark the Shark's Toy Drive. If you would like to help with the party this year, please contact Valerie Bennett. In the near future, there will be a sign up sheet in the Welcome Center for children planning to attend. Please invite a guest to come with your child so that they can hear about the most loving gift we can ever receive. Watch the church bulletin for upcoming details.

Missions Sunday: Celebrating the Persecuted Church

Sunday, November 15 will be our Missions Sunday which will focus on the persecuted church. Distinct messages will be at both the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship services. Plan to attend both services. The featured speakers are Dr. Charles and Mrs. Elizabeth Sands. They were missionaries in Korea and other areas of East Asia with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1970 until they left the mission field a few years ago. They are still involved in short-term mission trips these days, often at the invitation of the host countries. Dr. Sands is currently the Dean of the School of Pharmacy at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. He was recently named a Health Care Hero for the city of Birmingham. Elizabeth trains individuals for certification in Teaching English as a Second Language, and recently returned from a missions trip to Indonesia.

During Bible Community hour, families will have a choice of three workshops designed to support the persecuted church (children must be accompanied by parents). Childcare will be provided for children aged 5 and under.

Plan to share a meal together at the International Potluck following the second service. Please bring your favorite dish from your own or some other ethnic heritage. For fun, label your dish.

Note: Dress comfortably and bring a blanket.



Family workshops during Bible Community hour:

1. Parachute Making: Learn about Voice of the Martyrs outreach to Columbian guerillas and sew a parachute which will be used to drop Bibles into guerilla-occupied territory. Families with children middle-school or older might choose this workshop.
2. Filling ActionPacks: Help to fill ActionPacks for Christians in need. Please bring one or two items from the list. Appropriate for children of all ages.
3. Letter Writing: Put together letters/cards to encourage believers imprisoned for their faith. Appropriate for children of all ages.

Items for ActionPacks:

Please bring one or two new or like-new items from the list below:

- Flat sheets (queen size)
- Blankets
- Jacket — child or adult size
- PLAIN t-shirt — child or adult size
- Gloves / knit-hat
- PLAIN sweater — child or adult size
- Bar soap
- socks



The annual Big Woods Christmas Cantata is entitled "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" and it will be performed at both worship services on Dec. 13th.

To learn more about the persecuted church:
www.persecution.com
www.opendoorsusa.org
www.barnabusfund.org



The state of this church is strong. While it is true that we have gone through and we will go through some struggle; I still say the church is strong. The church is not made up of one person; its work is not completely accomplished by one particular group of people. The church is this entire community of believers coming together under the cross of Christ, with a unity of purpose to glorify God, by worshipping Him, encouraging one another, and sharing His gospel from this community to the world. God has blessed us with strong and well grounded leaders, faithful and compassionate workers, and growing, young believers to fulfill that purpose. He has given us a love for one another which will overcome a multitude of sins. He has blessed us all with specific gifts to make this church whole. He has given us a community to minister to that desperately needs Him. We have faith that what God has started, He will carry on to completion.

We do, however, find ourselves in position of transition. Pastor Ted has resigned as pastor, and that raises the question, "what is our future as a church?" There is no short answer to that question, but there is a road to follow.

Here is a picture of the process that we are going to follow. The process can be broken into three basic phases. The first phase is a time of evaluation. What it is for, the questions we'll ask, and the things we will do in this phase are in the outline below.

Evaluation

- What it's for
 - Coming together
 - Building a foundation together
 - Realizing/affirming a purpose, identity, vision, and mission
- Questions We'll Ask
 - What kind of church are we?
 - Who are we?
 - Why do we need a pastor?
 - Why are we here?
 - What is our purpose?
 - Where do we fit?
- Things We'll Do
 - Call to Prayer and Fasting
 - Meet With Ministry Leaders
 - General Communication with Elders
 - E-mail: elders@bigwoods.org
 - Elders Meeting
 - Regularly Communicate With You

The next phase will be to form a pastor search committee, and then the third phase will be to call a pastor to the church.

As we get closer to enacting these phases further details will be communicated. For now, we ask the body to concentrate of the first phase of this process, and remember the encouragement of Romans 12:10-13: *"¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹²Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."*

Elders: Kraig Brady (753-5305), Art Gray (893-1253), Zane Patalive (769-7335), Drew Talbot (748-8345), and Matt Trumbull (769-7815).

Change of Heart

“And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people, and I will be their God; For they shall return unto me with their whole heart.” Jer. 24:7

My friend Melissa called me with excitement in her voice to share an answer to prayer. Melissa’s husband Jay had announced that he was ready to start reading the Bible. He wanted a Bible of his own — a camouflage Bible to be exact. For 10 years Melissa and I have been praying for the Lord to soften Jay’s heart and place in him a desire to know Christ. Jay had come from an abusive home. Jay’s heart was so hardened that he rejected anyone who tried to show God’s love to him.

Over the last ten years, the Lord has been

**From My Heart
to Yours
by Kelly Eck**

working in Jay’s heart. Slowly he has been changing. He has become a more involved and loving father as well as a more caring husband. He is much more relaxed. He now participates in family prayer time and now encourages his family to attend church although he has not yet attended.

I am so encouraged how the Lord is at work in our hearts to change even the most hardened of hearts. Yes, Jay received his camouflaged Bible. He immediately opened it and went to his room to read. He emerged from his room a while later, encouraged and excited. He had opened his Bible to find many verses relating to fishing and hunting. The Lord spoke to Jay in a very personal way.

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” Phil. 2:13



Women's Prayer

Ladies, I have been enjoying the very colorful autumn and I hope you have too. Are you also including time in prayer with your sisters in Christ at this time of year? We have the great privilege of coming before our Lord to pray together. The women of Big Woods Bible Church are constant prayer warriors bringing the needs and concerns of the church, its leaders, our nation, and one another before God.

There are several times throughout the month when ladies gather regularly to fellowship and lift our prayers to Him. All women are invited to come and share in these times of blessings together.

- Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. at Linda Gray's home. (Please note the new time.)
- Fridays at 6:00 a.m. at Lynel Gaunt's home

The third Saturday of every month at 8:00 a.m. is the women's prayer breakfasts. The theme for the year is Growing in Wisdom, using the book of Proverbs as a guide.

- Nov. 21 at Restless Oaks Restaurant - 8:00 a.m.
- Dec. 19 at Big Woods Bible Church - 8:00 a.m.

The last breakfast of the year is always a special one, held in our church that is beautifully decorated just for this event. Plan to attend on Dec. 19th to celebrate the birth of our Savior and sing praises to our King. Come enjoy wonderful fellowship time with each other.

I look forward to seeing you at the next breakfast. Watch the church bulletin for more information on these events as the dates approach, or contact Yvonne Butville if you have questions.

Ministry Contact — Yvonne Butville— 753-5373



Change for the Better

I am thankful our God is one who never changes — yesterday, today, or tomorrow! For us women, our bodies do experience change that is uniquely designed by God our Creator as we grow older. Join us and other women as we learn together how to cope with these issues, but more importantly, let's work together to find the larger meaning behind the mid-life years in a God-honoring way. Our time together will be in a safe atmosphere by valuing confidentiality, esteem others by actively listening, realize we are different and agree to disagree, seek to build up by keeping the conversation uplifting and positive.

Our group will meet on Monday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Linda Simcox (294 S. Jones Street, LH). If you are experiencing mood swings, fuzzy thinking, insomnia, memory loss, and other related symptoms, this meeting is for you! Come be encouraged and encourage someone else by sharing your heart. For more information, contact Helen Barrett at 893-8274.



October Women's Prayer Breakfast at Yvonne's house



Please arrive in the nursery 15 minutes before your scheduled time. If you are unable to work on your assigned Sunday, please find a replacement. If a replacement cannot be found, please contact Ellenee Barrett. If you would like to be reminded by email or through Facebook, please email Jessica Hall at stulljessica@hotmail.com.

Date	8:00 a.m.	Babies 10:30 a.m.	Preschool 10:30 a.m.
Nov. 1	Zeller Family	Mike & Tara Remick, and Helen Barrett	Kimber Brady, need volunteer
Nov. 8	Zeller Family	Katia Hartman, Jillian Best, Teri White	Art and Linda Gray
Nov. 15	Zeller Family	Brian & Beckah Cygan, and Ellenee Barrett	Kelly Eck, need volunteer
Nov. 22	Zeller Family	Drew & Lynn Talbot, and Linda Justice	Todd and Sue Powlus
Nov. 29	Zeller Family	Sherry Haffley, Janell Myers, Haylea Myers	Billy and Donna Powell
Dec. 6	Zeller Family	Ken & Jessica Hall, and Kayla Borges	Kimber Brady, need volunteer
Dec. 13	Zeller Family	Susi Gray, Marian Conn, Terina Marconi	Jim and Linda McCloskey
Dec. 20	Zeller Family	Danielle & Adam Hardy, and Joy Trumbull	Thane and Rachel Turner
Dec. 27	Zeller Family	The Gaunt Family	Mike Remick, and Katia Hartman

Nursery Coordinator — Ellenee Barrett— 748-5941 or ellie976@hotmail.com

4th & 5th Grade Bible Community Take on Puppet Ministry

Mrs. Roberta Muthler, a retired teacher and librarian, brought some of her collection of puppets to the 4th & 5th grade Bible Community class on October 11th. Some years ago, Roberta directed a children's puppet ministry which shared Bible stories and teachings using many different kinds of puppets. She allowed each child to try out a puppet while explaining the art of puppetry and letting them decide if they'd like to work towards presenting their own show. All of the children chose to participate by either being a puppeteer or by helping as part of the stage crew. It is hoped that their first presentation will be ready later in November to share with the residents of Susque-View home.



GREETER



The Coordinator for the Greeter Ministry has not been filled. If you are considering this role but hesitate because the task of coordinating and communicating the schedules seems daunting, there

is a solution. The worship team is currently using a web-based scheduling tool to similarly coordinate worship team participants, and it can be expanded to support other weekly roles, like greeters! With the tool, the coordinator can log into a web page, assign greeters to services for up to 3 months in advance and automatically send e-mail requests. When the potential greeter receives the e-mail request, they can click "accept" to be a greeter on the assigned Sunday, or click "decline" if they are unavailable. The coordinator receives e-mail replies to address any decline situations. Once accepted, the greeters will receive reminders on Wednesday before they are scheduled. The only requirement is that folks to be scheduled must have an e-mail address. If you would like to know more about this tool or process, please contact Dan Borges.



EXERCISE CLASS

Marian Conn and Susi Gray will be hosting a ladies exercise class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00-9:45 a.m. in the 4th/5th grade classroom at the church beginning on November 17. There is no charge to attend. They will be using videos and DVDs. Call Marian at 748-2948 or email her if you're interested.



The E.J.A.N. team has grown this past summer from a team of three to now a group of 10 people! We are very excited to see all the gifted people God has blessed us with and it is a blessing to work with each other! Rachael and Brian Montei have passed the baton of leadership over to Brett and Kim Everhart. Both Brett and Kim grew up as MK's (Missionary Kids) and have the life experience needed to take the E.J.A.N. team to the next level of effectiveness. The E.J.A.N. team has had many meetings to discuss the direction and effectiveness of the team for the edification of the church body. We are praying and are in the process of modifying E.J.A.N.'s direction using the Acts 1:8 Challenge to include local, state, and national missions to accompany what we are doing with international missions. We have been writing policy to help our team work more efficiently and hope to be able to bring our new policy before the church body to be discussed and voted on in 2010. We have been actively pursuing our missionaries and update the web pages as we hear from them.

We want to thank Brett and Kim for taking the leadership role of the E.J.A.N. team. We would also like to thank Jessica Hall, Art Gray, Laurie Neilson, Doug Hartman, Jim and Linda McCloskey, Nicole Lavalley, and Rachael Montei for their help and future involvement with the E.J.A.N. team.

We are looking forward to our Missions Conference coming Sunday, November 15th. We are also excited about the Operation Christmas Child opportunity we have as a church family to reach children around the world with hope and a message about Jesus—the true meaning of Christmas! Join us and fill a shoebox....or two or three! The information you need is in pamphlet form under the Missions Board in the welcome area of our church. The tag for each box is also included in the pamphlet. We appreciate your generosity and hope to have an amazing collection this year! November 22nd is the last day possible to bring your shoe boxes to the church! Thank you so much for your generous support of this project!

We as a team are thankful to see God raising up a team of people passionate about missions and serving the local body. Thank you for supporting our missionaries so generously and thank you for all your efforts in sharing Christ with those God has placed on your hearts! Jeremiah 9:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



The 4th weekend in September began seasonally warm at Sylvan Hills, this year's meeting place for the Fall Women's Retreat. Of the 59 women attending, over half were from other churches. It was good to have Carla Ritz and some of the college women from New Life with us. Despite the rain on Saturday, a time of praise, fellowship, studying the Word, and refreshment was enjoyed.

Dawn Sanford, our speaker from New Tribes, spoke on "being still" as she shared Scripture about Joseph and Moses and experiences from her own life. We were encouraged to be still and let the Lord work in our circumstances.

The evaluations indicated that women were encouraged by the music, speaker, time to rest, and time with each other.

Thank you to Rachel Montei, our emcee for the event, and to each committee head and their committees for a job well done. The Lord used you to bless others.

Garrett Hagan and Pastor Ted braved the cold water of the Susquehanna River on October 18th for Garrett's baptism.



This series is an 8 part study. Each part of the study consists of a 20 to 25 minute video, followed by a group discussion using the provided study guides. We will meet weekly on Wednesdays at 7 pm Wednesdays at the church. We will meet as follows:



- Nov. 11 — part 5
- Nov. 18 — Potluck dinner (no video study)
- Nov. 25 — No meeting due to Thanksgiving
- Dec. 2 — part 6
- Dec. 9 — part 7
- Dec. 16 — part 8
- Dec. 23 — Potluck Christmas dinner
- Dec. 31 — no meeting



The deadline for the January & February 2010 newsletter will be **December 20, 2009**. Please email your information to Traci at tracifotorny@embarqmail.com or put it in the Fotorny mail folder at the church.



March for Life records highest attendance ever. A crowd estimated at more than 300,000 took to the streets of Washington, DC on January 22, 2009 to express their dissatisfaction with 36 years of political indifference to the tragedy known as the American holocaust. Under the banner of the March for Life, pro-life advocates from across the country converged on their nation's capitol to once again remind their elected leaders that the indiscriminate destruction of preborn babies is not only an unmitigated tragedy of moral indifference, but a reprehensible legacy of shame for future generations. You can be a part of the upcoming March for Life to be held in Washington, DC on Friday, January 22, 2010. This is an all day, outdoor event that begins with many pro-life politicians and clergy speaking at a rally, then a mile walk to the Capitol building to meet with our own local politicians in office.

Yvonne Butville has attended this event every year for over 15 years and she is willing to take anyone interested in attending the March for Life in 2010. We will leave Lock Haven at about 6:30 a.m. and will return around 10:00 p.m. There are people who travel for days on buses from across our country to be present, and some even come from foreign countries. Among the faces are every age and racial group, babies in strollers, and individuals in wheelchairs. Many of the attendees are teens and college students. This is an issue that affects each one of us in God's family. We presently have a president who has voiced his total support for every type of abortion for any reason, therefore, it is very important to let the nation and those in power know that every unborn life is precious and sacred. Will you be one to stand for the unborn that day? It is a day of peacefully showing your support for those who can not speak for themselves.

Plan now to attend. School children are welcome with their parents' permission. If you are interested in attending, or for more information, contact Yvonne Butville at 753-5373. You can also visit the website www.marchforlife.org.

E-Mail Prayer



Listserve

To sign up for the prayer listserve, send a blank email with the subject SUBSCRIBE to prayer@bigwoods.org. Once you join, you can send prayer requests to the listserve at prayer@bigwoods.org.

Please remember the listserve is for prayer requests and praises, so please don't forward junk emails. If in doubt, please contact the church office or an elder for approval.

Life Chain '09

The afternoon of Sunday, October 4th, the annual Life Chain was held on the Golden Strop in Williamsport. There were not as many people participating this year as in years past, but there were still people of all ages from over 60 churches and organizations in the area who were there to support the sanctity of life. Within that group, about a dozen people represented Big Woods Bible Church.

Both sides of the road were lined with people silently and peacefully holding pro-life signs while in individual and group prayer for one hour. The event provided a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion is wrong and that our church is opposed to the killing of unborn children. It is important in this day to support the sanctity of human life. Thanks to those who committed that hour to stand and pray against abortion.



- Please help us take care of our chairs in the sanctuary by not allowing children (or adults) to stand on the chairs. We have had several chairs break.
- When borrowing items from the church, please fill out the request forms (located outside the church office) at least two weeks in advance.
- In order to minimize distractions during worship service, please do not bring beverages into the sanctuary. Also, please limit movement during the services. Feel free to enjoy your beverage in the sanctuary during the Bible Community hour.
- The last Sunday to drop off your Operation Christmas Child shoebox at Big Woods is Sunday, November 22nd.






Be sure to visit our church website at www.bigwoods.org on a regular basis. You'll find information about our missionaries, photo albums, ministry information, upcoming events, the newsletter, and much more.

November

2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	4 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am 7pm Video Bible Study	5 Women's Prayer 8:00 am	6 Women's Prayer 6:00 am	7
8	9 Elder Mtg 7pm	10 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	11 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am 7pm video Bible study Veterans Day	12 Women's Prayer 8:00 am	13 Women's Prayer 6:00 am	14 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 am followed by a work day at the church
15  Missions Sunday	16	17 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	18 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Potluck dinner	19 Women's Prayer 8:00 am	20 Women's Prayer 6:00 am	21 Women's Prayer Breakfast 8 am @Restless Oaks
22  Shoebbox Deadline	23 Elder Mtg 7pm	24 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	25	26  Thanksgiving	27 Women's Prayer 6:00 am	28
29	30					

- 2 - Thomas Cygan, Paula Ardner
- 4 - Grace Remick
- 5 - Lindsay Borges, David Muthler
- 7 - Grace Whyte, Sandy Patalive, Rachel Hall, Tim Wilson
- 8 - Corrie Dingess, David Dale
- 11 - Norm Hale
- 12 - Bekah Cygan
- 16 - Donna Powell
- 18 - Bobbie Jo Simcox
- 20 - Laura Neilson



- 21 - Isaac Brady, Bill Stankiewicz
- 28 - Zeb Zellers, Jessica Hall
- 29 - Bill Sackett



- 13 - Bo and Terrie Hagaman
- 20 - Steve and Rachelle Sheets
- 26 - Denny and Trina Marconi

DECEMBER

2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7pm video Bible Study	3	4	5  HAPPY BIRTHDAY Jesus party
6	7	8	9 7pm video Bible Study	10	11	12
13  CHRISTMAS CANTATA	14 Elder Mtg 7pm Deacon Mtg 7pm	15	16 7pm video Bible Study	17	18	19 Women's Prayer Breakfast 8 am @ BWBC
20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23 Potluck dinner	24  Christmas Eve Worship	25  Christmas Day	26
27	28 Deacon Mtg 7pm	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 		

- 2 - Caroline Borges
- 4 - Laura Leslie, Roberta Muthler,
Sarah Kramer
- 11 - Sherri Wilson
- 12 - Buzz Tressler
- 13 - Adam Hardy
- 16 - Caleb Blazina
- 18 - Dan Ulmer
- 19 - Rachel Turner
- 26 - Brad Marr
- 28 - Greta Russo, Audrey Myers, Stacy Blazina
- 31 - Jerry Fourroux III



- 18 - Bill and Kathy Stankiewicz
- 21 - Scott and Traci Fotorny
- 27 - Brian and Rachel Montei
- 29 - David and Susi Gray
Jack and Evelyn Dingess