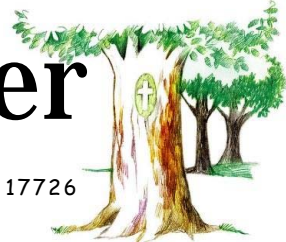


THE GOOD NEWSletter

Sharing the Good News of Christ

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Volume 11, Issue 5

September / October 2009

Ladies, is the hustle and bustle of everyday life getting you down? Do you need time to get away and reconnect with the Lord? Has it been awhile since you have had time to have fellowship with other women? Our Women's Ministry has the solution for you!!



September 25-26, 2009 is the Big Woods Women's Fall Retreat. The Women's Retreat offers you an opportunity to enjoy sound Bible teaching with guest speaker Dawn Sanford while reconnecting or meeting women in a relaxed atmosphere. It will be a wonderful time of learning and fellowship. It is a time to become renewed physically, mentally, and spiritually, to commune with the Lord, and to grow in relationship with

one another.

The retreat is open to women ages 16 and up, and the cost is \$35 per person which includes meals. It will be held at the Sylvan Hills Christian Camp. Check-in begins at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 25th and the retreat concludes at 7:00 pm on the 26th. Registration deadline is **September 11, 2009**. Brochures are available. For more information please call Laura Leslie at 814-355-3090 or you can email her at philnlaura@philnlaura.us.

Bring a Bible, pen/pencil, bedding (pillow, sleeping bag or twin sheets and a blanket), towel/washcloth, showering essentials, and a flashlight. We also encourage you to bring a friend!

CHURCH PICNIC

The annual Big Woods church picnic was held on Sunday, August 2 at River-view park. The Lord blessed us with a warm, sunny day and held off the rain until

after the picnic ended. We enjoyed delicious food and great fellowship. A special thank you to those who helped set up and clean up afterwards.



Thirty Big Woods men and children pitched their tents and set up camp at Little Pine State Park on August 14-15, 2009. The weather was perfect and the fellowship was memorable. The kids enjoyed playing in the creek, long walks, swimming, canoe rides (thanks Fred!)...and burning marshmallows. The men relished the leisurely pace, fire-cooked food, and jovial conversations.



Pastor Ted's Message

"The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade" (Acts 5:12).

When is the last time you saw a miracle in your workplace? Perhaps you prayed for a co-worker and they were instantly healed. Perhaps you prayed for a co-worker's financial problem and it was resolved. Perhaps you led a co-worker to Christ. Or maybe God gave you an answer to a major problem at work that benefited your organization. Or maybe you did a good deed that impacted the life of someone so much so that they shared it with others and God was praised. The early disciples were working people. They turned the world upside down not only because of their knowledge of Jesus, but because of their outflow of the power of Jesus through them to others. And this was done in the public square, where all could see. Workplace Bible and prayer groups are great, but you must transition to action if you want to change the spiritual climate in an organization. God actually shows up in a powerful way when we serve people. When we live the life of Christ that is different in its love and care and we are marked by his power non-believers check us out.

When was the last time you served people with a love that had no strings attached? When was the last time you someone saw something happen through your life that could not be explained other than God working in your life? When you begin to see this happen, you will be modeling ministry as Jesus modeled it. You will be bringing the Church to the people, not the people to the church.

Pray that God makes you a vessel of His power, a refreshing stream in the lives of people.

Pastor Ted Justice

- Sept 6 - God's Power in Us - Mark 6
- Sept 13 - The Heart: What Resides Within - Mark 7
- Sept 20 - The Heart: Why Do We React That Way? - Mark 7
- Sept 27 - The Heart: Ways We Can Keep It Right - Mark 7
- Oct 4 - Persevering to the Miracle - Mark 8
- Oct 11 - Persisting in God's Will - Mark 8
- Oct 18 - Faith That Makes the Difference - Mark 9
- Oct. 25 - Getting Serious with God - Mark 9



Communion will be observed during both worship services on Sept. 20 and Oct. 18.

From the LHU New Life Campus Ministers

The Ritz Family is on the cusp of some exciting changes and most of our energy has gone into gathering information to make important decisions, making those decisions, and then putting the wheels in motion to carry out those decisions. Drum roll please

... Sometime in the near future (Goal Date: Oct. 15th) our family will become Mission Service Corps missionaries serving in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania! This may seem like a huge leap of faith to you, but what I've learned along the way is that leaps of faith are actually made up of several babysteps of obedience. The first babystep happened two years ago when Jason started taking seminary classes - working toward a Master's of Divinity. The next came about a year ago when we contacted the North American Mission Board and asked to be considered as applicants to be career missionaries in the area of Collegiate Ministry somewhere in the United States. Over the next 9 months we would connect with some great old friends (John & Anna Ramirez), talk with folks from New York to Nevada about ministry opportunities, attend a collegiate ministry summit, and little-by-little learn that there are very few fully-funded collegiate ministry positions available outside of the Bible belt. The next babystep was a 12 hour drive from Nashville to Lock Haven, PA to visit the folks at Big Woods Bible Church and the New Life Ministry on the campus of Lock Haven University. This was probably the biggest "babystep" of faith of all for me. By visiting this location I was opening the door to the possibility that we may very well end up in a position where it would be necessary to raise support - which, in my mind, was synonymous with begging for money... I have a hard enough time asking someone to babysit my kid - let alone to give me \$50 a month!!!! But, everything we heard about the school and the community in Lock Haven seemed tailor-made for us, so we bit the bullet and took the trip up north. That trip sealed the deal. After meeting the people, seeing the area, and some heartfelt conversations, the questions changed from "do we really want to raise support," to "how will we go about raising support." We are so excited about this new adventure. Raising support is still a bit scary, but we are confident that God doesn't order what he can't pay for, so we are setting out to find ministry partners who will help us get the resources together that we need to do the work of the ministry there, knowing that God already has a plan and that we will be blessed as we seek it out!! PRAY FOR US!!!!!! The next babystep is a big one. We need to start meeting with folks and seeking out those who will become our ministry partners, and we need to do so with unwavering faith, trusting God to meet our needs. May God bless you the rest of this summer and help you to take the babysteps of obedience that will lead you into your next big adventure!



From the New Life website. Watch the Ritz' video at www.bigwoods.org

**From My Heart
to Yours
by Katia Hartman**

In recently reading the Bible in 1 John, I came to chapter 3 versus 1 & 2 "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called *children of God*! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us, is because it does not know him." The words *Children of God* got my attention, and I began to meditate on that phrase, and I meditated the rest of that week on this thought. What does it really mean, "*Children of God*"? We say this to each other, or think to ourselves, that we are God's children, but do we really understand the meaning of these words?

As it has been with every generation, we too are living through difficult times, reading the newspaper week after week we learn of more and more people loosing their jobs, and companies struggling to keep from closing. Faced with these kinds of trials in addition to the every day struggles in our lives we sometimes feel discouraged and doubt if God is really listening to our prayers. However, the Bible says "Cast your cares on the Lord, He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall" Psalm 55:22. Also, we have this promise from our Father that He will NEVER forsake us, if our confidence is in Him (Heb. 13:5-6).

To be a child of God does not mean that everything will go exactly according to our plan, and we will live life - happily ever after. First, we are not of this world and it hates us because it first hated our Lord, John 15:18. Second, there are no such things as super Christian men and women; only self deceived sinners with limitations, and frustrations whom by God's grace endure life's trials. Peter, in his first letter, makes mention of this in chapter 4:12-13, "Beloved do

not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you, but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings." In spite of our best efforts to avoid hardships Jesus said in John 16:33, "...In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world;" and through His overcoming, we can claim the same victory that He won! What's more, as the book of Hebrews explains, Christ is now seated at right side of God making intercession for us. Therefore, we are NOT alone!!!

I love my 17 month old daughter Julia, and it breaks my heart when my husband or I sometimes have to discipline her to correct her behavior. Because of our love for her, we instinctively want to protect her, to teach her right from wrong. The same is true of us with our Heavenly Father as adopted children. Proverbs 3:11 reads, "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent His rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those He love, as a father the son he delights in."

Moving to the United States I faced a truly difficult reality of leaving my family, my friends, and my former life behind for an uncertain future, but I simply trusted that God was in control. In moving to Florida and then being forced to move back, after loosing nearly everything, I thought to myself, "what a mess"; however, through this on going trial, our lives are being transformed, as our family is experiencing the faithfulness of God, by who's love, mercy, and goodness has provided for our every need, and continues to sustain us. No matter the trial, we are not orphans, we are God's children!



Women's Prayer

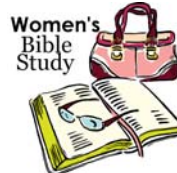
Ladies, as summer winds down and we look forward to a colorful autumn and normal routines, be sure to include time in prayer with your sisters in Christ. There are several times throughout the month when ladies gather regularly to fellowship and lift our prayers to Him. All women are invited to come 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.

- Sept 19th - 8:00 a.m. - Blue Chimney
- Oct. 17th - 8:00 a.m. - Yvonne Butville's home

Ministry Contact — Yvonne Butville— 753-5373



Women's Bible Study

The women's fall Bible study entitled "Relationships - A Mess Worth Making" begins Wednesday, September 9 at 9:30 a.m. Childcare is available on a donation basis. The evening book discussion will begin on Tuesday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m. The cost of the book is \$12. The people God places in our lives are very important. There is no mistake they are valuable to God and necessary for our growth and pleasure. Come study together how the Lord helps us build relationships that are all He intended them to be. Call the church office at 893-8274 for more details.

Ladies Scrapbooking/Stamping Day

We had such a great time, we decided to do it again! Join us for another fun-filled day of fellowship and a chance to work on your projects!

- Saturday, October 24
- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



More details to come!



It's been a fun summer! The children have been growing like weeds and have been learning new skills such as walking, learning their colors and letters, etc. Some of our little ones have turned 3 or are turning 3 this year, and will be eligible to move up to Pre-School. They are Asher Talbot, Elise Cygan, Jeremy Reese, Aaron Remick, and Nathanael Barrett. I apologize if I left anyone out.

We do have an opening for a helper in pre-school, so if you would like to get involved in our children's ministry, please contact Ellenee Barrett.

Date	8:00 a.m.	Babies 10:30 a.m.	Preschool 10:30 a.m.
Sept. 6	Zeller Family	Todd & Sue Powlus, and Jillian Best	Jim and Linda McCloskey
Sept. 13	Zeller Family	Brian & Bekah Cygan, and Teri White	Thane and Rachel Turner
Sept. 20	Zeller Family	Drew and Lynn Talbot	Mike Remick, and Katia Hartman
Sept. 27	Zeller Family	Ken & Jessica Hall, and Linda Justice	Kimber Brady, Helper Needed
Oct. 4	Zeller Family	Sherry Haffley, Janell Myers, Haylea Myers	Terina Marconi, Ellenee Barrett
Oct. 11	Zeller Family	Susi Gray, Marian Conn, Kathy Marcell	Billy and Donna Powell
Oct. 18	Zeller Family	Danielle & Adam Hardy, and Kelly Eck	Jim and Linda McCloskey
Oct. 25	Zeller Family	The Gaunt Family	Thane and Rachel Turner

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.

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



Children's Church Teacher

Are you passionate about children learning? We are looking for a teacher during the second church service for the children ages three to five. You will have assistance from the nursery workers as you teach. Please contact Pastor Ted if you are interested in this rewarding ministry.

- 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.



Congratulations to Scott and Melinda Heckman, Tim & Holly Wilson, Madelyn Laubscher, and Daniel Leslie who were recently baptized.

If you are interested in baptism, please use the tear off tab in the bulletin or contact the church office.

E-Mail Prayer



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.



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November & December issue of the newsletter is **Sunday, October 11**. Please submit your info for the newsletter by email to Traci at tracifotorny@embarqmail.com or place it in her mail folder in the Welcome Center at Big Woods.




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



Please let the church office know if you would like to continue to receive a paper copy of our newsletter, or if you want it emailed to you, or if you'll get it from the church website.

SEPTEMBER

2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Women's Prayer 8:00 am	4 Women's Prayer 6:00 am	5 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 am
6	7  LABOR DAY	8	9 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am	10 Women's Prayer 8:00 am	11 Women's Prayer 6:00 am	12
13 Church Business Mtg 6 pm Grandparents Day	14 Elder Mtg 7pm	15	16 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am	17 Women's Prayer 8:00 am	18 Women's Prayer 6:00 am	19 Women's Prayer Breakfast 8 am @ Blue Chimney
20	21	22 1st day of Autumn Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	23 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am	24 Women's Prayer 8:00 am	25 Women's Fall Retreat Women's Prayer 6:00 am	26
27	28 Elder Mtg 7pm	29 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	30 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am			

- 2 - McKenna Gray
- 4 - Scott Heckman
- 5 - Benjamin Turner
- 6 - Maddie Laubscher, Zach Eck
- 7 - Kimber Brady
- 8 - Ian Driscoll
- 12 - Haylynn Gaunt
- 13 - David Stankiewicz
- 14 - Rachel Sackett
- 15 - Allison Bennett
- 17 - BJ Conser
- 18 - Helen Barrett
- 19 - Heather Zellers



- ### Birthdays of the Month
- 22 - Laurie Zellers, Ken Hall
 - 23 - Aaron Remick
 - 24 - Erik Fotorny
 - 25 - Sierra Weaver, Cheryl Tressler
 - 26 - Zane Patalive
 - 29 - Bryce Gray
 - 30 - Michael Fotorny



- ### Anniversaries this Month
- 2 - Scott and Melinda Heckman
 - 13 - Phil and Laura Leslie
 - 15 - Kyle and Sue Johnston
 - 20 - Jay and Lynel Gaunt
 - 20 - Todd and Karen Stanford
 - 23 - Joe and Sherry Wilson

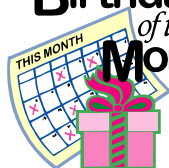
OCTOBER

2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Women's Prayer 8:00 am	2	3 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 am
4	5	6 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	7 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am	8 Women's Prayer 8:00 am	9 Women's Prayer 6:00 am	10
11 Newsletter Deadline	12  Deacon Mtg 7pm Elder Mtg 7pm	13 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	14 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am	15 Women's Prayer 8:00 am	16 Women's Prayer 6:00 am	17 Women's Prayer Breakfast 8 am @ Yvonne's house
18	19	20 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	21 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am	22 Women's Prayer 8:00 am	23 Women's Prayer 6:00 am	24
25	26 Elder Mtg 7pm	27 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	28 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am	29 Women's Prayer 8:00 am	30 Women's Prayer 6:00 am	31

- 6 - Haylea Myers
- 9 - Linda McCloskey, Julie Greene
- 12 - Keli Kwiatek, Kendra Heckman
- 13 - Joy Weaver
- 14 - Billy Powell
- 15 - Janell Myers
- 16 - Kim Kwiatek
- 17 - Carmen Russo
- 18 - Mitchell Borges
- 19 - Garrett Hagaman
- 22 - Melissa Blazina, Sedona Orsi
- 24 - Charlotte Conser

Birthdays of the Month



- 25 - Ella Talbot
- 27 - Phil Leslie, Jamie Bennett
- 29 - Toni James
- 30 - Melinda Heckman
Chrissy Conser
- 31 - Terina Marconi



- 7 - Gary and Helen Barrett
- 11 - David and Holly Muthler
- 15 - Matt and Ellenee Barrett