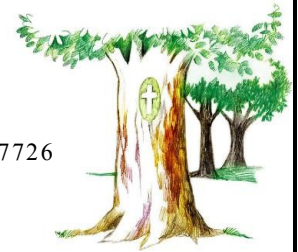


The good newsletter



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Winter Issue: Dec. 2011-Jan & Feb. 2012

TRUNK of TREAT

Snow had signaled a change of the weather and season two days beforehand. The snow was gone by that Monday Halloween night, but the cold temperature stayed. But it did not deter the fun and activity on the Big Woods parking lot that evening. In all, 17 families/groups from Big Woods came and opened their car's decorated trunk to hand out candy to the 60 or so families that came out from the neighborhood.

As they entered our parking lot, they were met by some of our men who greeted them warmly, giving out a brochure listing our church's mission, core values and type of activities offered for each age group throughout the year. The families were then directed to visit each car, and stop by the table to get some goodies, coffee or hot chocolate, and fill out a card for a drawing on a basket filled with family games, movies and snacks to have a family night at home. The basket was delivered to the winner later that week.

It was good to see the neighborhood children having fun, but also many of our own children there that night having a grand time playing together and fellowshiping in their way. A great night!

Thank you to the many who helped make that night a success. A Big thank you to Billy Powell who was able to borrow several lights from the Castanea Fire Company and spent a long time setting them up around the lot so we could see after dark, then took them all down at the end.



Left: Wendy and Pastor Tim Boger.
Center: Marci, Zachary, and Tony Beyer.
Right: Joy, Angelyn and Matt Trumbull.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
Jesus!

Come celebrate the birth of Jesus! Make a craft, sing songs, and hear the Christmas story! Light snacks and cake will be served. If you are able, bring a new unwrapped toy to donate to Mark the Shark's Toy Drive.

Saturday, December 10, 2011
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
ages 4 years and older
at Big Woods Bible Church

“What Are We Trusting In?”

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses but we will remember the name of the Lord our God” Psalm 20:7.



As a local church that strives to move forward for the glory of God and the extending of God's Kingdom, I believe it is of utmost importance to continually ask, “What are we trusting in?” At Big Woods, it is a joy to know that God has blessed us with good and godly elders, a beautiful building, great worship, a college ministry, lots of kids and youth and families...but I wonder is that what we are to trust in?

I remember when I was nine years old I learned a very important lesson on where my trust should always be. My Dad let me look inside a tiny metal cigar box that was shipped home with my grandfather's body after he had been killed in World War II. To this day I can still recall the odd but pleasant smell when I opened that box, a combination of sweet tobacco and Old Spice. You see, my Dad's Dad was a hero...a real World War II hero decorated and killed at the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. And this box, that held personal artifacts, allowed me to get a glimpse into my grandfather's life. I pulled out an old black and white photograph with the words “Rose, I'll love you forever” scratched on the back. Wow, Grandmom was so young, so pretty...and so thin! There was a worn gold watch with Roman numerals and a brittle leather strap, a journal with yellowed pages and hand writing that was as bad as my own, and a set of old, bent dog tags. One thing that caught my eye more than anything else was a couple of brass shell casings, with one squeezed a little at the top so it could be wedged into the other. I remember I had a hard time pulling them apart but when I did, I noticed a tiny metal statue fell out. I asked my Dad what it was and he told me it was an image of St. Christopher, “The Holy Saint of Protection”. Even as a little child I picked up on the fact if this tiny statue was shipped home with the very body it was meant to protect...it could not have worked very well. That is when my Dad reminded me of the Scripture that is found in Psalm 20:7, “Some trust in chariots and some in horses (or some in little, tiny statues) but we will remember the name of the Lord.” It was then and there I learned there is only ONE thing we are to completely put our trust in....and that is the Lord! I have never forgotten that.

Today, I believe when it comes to churches, our buildings, budgets, programs and other people can become our “tiny statues” that we put our trust in. I will tell you, without any hesitation, that is a dangerous thing to do. My prayer, as a pastor that stands upon the truth of the Word of God, is that we at Big Woods Bible Church will never put our trust in “tiny statues”, but instead, we put our trust always and only in the Lord for He alone offers the safest place for us to be. Over the next several months I ask you to pray with me that we will keep our trust in God and God alone!

The aroma was in the air as 66 women met together at Sylvan Hills for the Women's Retreat on Sept. 30 - Oct. 1st. Laughter, fellowship, wonderful praise and sound teaching was offered for the 24 hours together. Five churches other than Big Woods were represented with 15 women who had never been to a Big Woods Retreat before. And for 3 women, it was their very first retreat. We were blessed with a number of college women attending and for the first time 3 of our teens were with us! Our speaker, Amy Baker, shared from her heart about how Christ transforms our sufferings and taught on self pity, shyness and perfectionism, subjects close to the heart.

Subtle fragrances from the decorations filled the room and during free time we learned how to decorate an everyday cloth bag with a man's tie. Each one was a unique design. After lunch our annual auction was held with handcrafted items by our own women, gift certificates and custom made baskets up for bid. Through the generosity of the bidders, \$378 was raised for the Heart to Heart scholarship fund which provides registration fees for future events.

Though the retreat was awhile ago, we have learned about the sufficiency of God's Word for those difficult areas of our lives so that we may be the fragrance of Christ to others.

**From My Heart
to Yours
by Linda Gray**

A crowd, estimated at more than 300,000, takes to the streets of Washington, DC in January each year to 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 Monday, January 23, 2012. 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 Capital building to meet with our own local politicians in office. Yvonne Butville has attended this event every year since the early 1990s and is willing to take anyone interested in attending the March for Life in 2012. We will leave Lock Haven about 6:30 am and return about 10pm. 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 get the day off to attend. School children are welcome (with their parent's permission).

If you are interested or for more information, please call Yvonne at 753-5373.

Also view the web site at <http://www.marchforlife.org>

Elder Report

Greetings Church! It is an honor to serve the Lord standing shoulder to shoulder with the individuals and families that make up Big Woods Bible Church. We are blessed to have one another in our lives. Proverbs 27:17 states "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Pastor Tim just finished preaching a series titled "Get A Grip" that discussed the precepts of being a healthy church member. As each member of Big Woods improves their spiritual health, the result is a collective improvement in the overall wellness of the church. One of the exciting outcomes from this sermon series is that 17 individuals have expressed interest in joining the membership of the church. We are looking forward to all of this new "iron" to help sharpen the body.

Speaking of sharpening, we are very pleased with the maturity and wisdom that exists within our church. Our annual meeting offered a great time of fellowship (thank you Denny and Billy for the wonderful food!) and offered a valuable discussion between the elders and the church. Please continue to pray for God's clear leadership for the elders. There are numerous initiatives and circumstances that require the attention of the elders, and the elders desire God's wisdom for properly prioritizing, developing, and investing in these items. Thank you for your patient support and willing assistance to be part of the solution as needs are communicated.

Another exciting development in our church family is the impending hiring of a full-time Youth Pastor. God has richly blessed us with a fantastic collection of youth and we are excited to have this dedicated resource to equip our kids to take the gospel to their schools, sporting events, friends and families. Please continue to pray for God's leading in the selection of our Youth Pastor and for our youth to grow in their love, wisdom, and conviction for the gospel.

As discussed at our annual meeting, the elders are beginning to work on the re-establishment of our LIFE group ministry. It is essential for everyone in our body to be in regular fellowship with other believers so that we can encourage and be encouraged in our faith. The current plan is to officially launch this revamped ministry in the fall of 2012.

In closing, we are so blessed to be counted among the body of Big Woods Bible Church, and the count continues to increase! As the church grows in numbers, please pray for wisdom and discernment for planning how to accommodate our burgeoning numbers during our Sunday morning services. Discussions have been ongoing to creatively plan for our anticipated growth needs. If you have wisdom to share on this topic, or expertise to offer, please drop a note to the elders, or better yet, plan a visit to a future elder meeting.

New Life Student Fellowship

Bible Studies:

- † Tuesdays at 12:30pm in the PUB - *Boundaries in Dating and Relationships* - led by Carla Ritz (girls only)
- † Tuesdays at 7:00pm in Raub Hall - girls Bible study on the book of Mark - led by Nichole Gangawere and Erin Shay
- † Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in Woolridge Hall - men's Bible study - led by Daniel Healy
- † Thursdays at 6:00pm in the Ritz home - graduate student Bible study - led by Jason Ritz
- † Thursdays at 8:00pm at "the Guys Apartment" - men's Bible study - led by Aaron Batdorf and Ryan Swope
- † Thursdays at 7:00pm at "the Girls Apartment" - Girl's Bible study - led by Kate Beyer and Amanda Adkinson



Friday Nights: Every Friday night during the semester from 7:00-8:30pm in the PUB on campus for worship, announcements, teaching time, and fellowship.

Special Events:

- † Ladies Craft and Cooking Night - Dec. 3 from 3:00-9:00pm. We will meet at 3pm at the Law Enforcement parking lot on campus and drive to Williamsport to a few craft stores for supplies, then go to the Ritz's house and work on some crafts and make dinner together.
- † End of the Year Christmas Party - Dec. 4 from 6-11 pm at the Ritz house.
- † Silent Night at New Life - Dec. 9th - 7-8:30 pm
- † Graduation: Dec. 17th. Congratulations to Ashley Lindenberger, Emily Allison, and Alicia Guthridge.
- † PASSION 2012: Jan. 1-6th. We have 32 students signed up to go to this young adult conference in Atlanta, GA!
- † Missions Discovery Weekend: Feb. 24-25 in Harrisburg. A chance for students who are interested in missions to explore options and experience some of the unique challenges that missionaries face.

Prayer Requests:





- † Pray that we find vans and inexpensive housing in Atlanta for 32 people January 2-5 for the Passion 2012 conference.
- † Pray for the Ritz family as they travel to Louisville Dec. 7-11 for Jason's graduation from Southern Seminary.
- † Pray for the election of new student leaders in February.
- † Pray for many more students to come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior this school year!

Ministry Contact: Jason & Carla Ritz

theritzes@gmail.com www.lhunewlife.com

DECEMBER

2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	2 Men's Prayer 6am Women's Prayer 6:00 am	3 Church reserved for afternoon
4	5	6	7	8 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	9 Men's Prayer 6am Women's Prayer 6:00 am	10  HAPPY BIRTHDAY, <i>Jesus!</i> 9:30 am
11	12	13	14	15 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	16 Men's Prayer 6am Women's Prayer 6:00 am	17 Women's Prayer Breakfast @BWBC 
18 Communion Sunday	19	20	21 Potluck 6 pm	22 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	23 Men's & Women's Prayer 6:00 am	24  Christmas Eve Worship 6pm service
25  Christmas Day 10:30a worship service only	26	27	28	29 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	30 Men's Prayer 6am Women's Prayer 6:00 am	31  New Year's Eve

- 2 - Caroline Borges
- 4 - Laura Leslie, Roberta Muthler
Sarah Kramer
- 11 - Sherri Wilson
- 12 - Buzz Tressler
- 13 - Adam Hardy
- 17 - Victoria Lapriola, Jillian Best
- 18 - Dan Ulmer
- 19 - Rachel Turner
- 26 - Brad Marr
- 28 - Greta Russo, Aaron Stankiewicz
- 29 - Audrey Myers, Stacy Blazina
- 31 - Haley Karichner



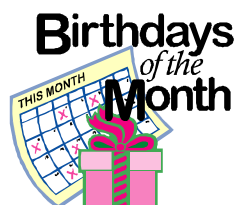
- 18 - Bill & Kathy Stankiewicz
- 21 - Scott & Traci Fotorny
- 27 - Brian & Rachael Montei
- 29 - David & Susi Gray
Jack & Evelyn Dingess

JANUARY

2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3	4	5 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	6 Men's Prayer 6am Women's Prayer 6:00 am	7
8	9	10	11	12 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	13 Men's Retreat Women's Prayer	14
15 Communion Sunday	16	17	18 Potluck 6 pm	19 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	20 Men's Prayer 6am Women's Prayer 6:00 am	21 Women's Prayer Breakfast 
22	23	24	25	26 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	27 Men's & Women's Prayer 6:00 am	28
29	30	31		Women's Prayer 7:00 am	Men's Prayer 6am Women's Prayer 6:00 am	

- 2 - Kylee Gaunt
- 3 - Sue Ulmer
- 4 - John Ross Kramer
- 6 - Drew Talbot, Kathryn Myers
- 8 - Cindy Sackett
- 9 - Jon Gray
- 12 - Heather Marr
- 13 - Jay Gaunt, Tim Blazina
- 14 - Nathan Ulmer
- 15 - Jim Stout
- 17 - Jim McCloskey
- 21 - Katia Hartman







- ### Birthdays of the Month
- 23 - Sarah Boger
 - 24 - Jonathan Dingess
 - 27 - Seth Boger
 - 29 - Olivia Lapriola
 - 31 - Ellenee Barrett, Daniel Leslie,
Vienna McIntosh



- ### Anniversaries this Month
- 12 - Scott & Joy Weaver
 - 24 - Trevor & Adrienne Smith
Doug & Katia Hartman

FEBRUARY

2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Newsletter Deadline	2 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	3 Men's Prayer 6am Women's Prayer 6:00 am	4 Men's Prayer Breakfast 
5	6	7	8	9 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	10 Men's Prayer 6am Women's Prayer 6:00 am	11
12	13	14 	15 Potluck 6 pm	16 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	17 Men's Prayer 6am Women's Prayer 6:00 am	18 Women's Prayer Breakfast 
19 Communion Sunday	20  PRESIDENTS' DAY	21	22	23 Women's Prayer 7:00 am	24 Men's Prayer 6am Women's Prayer 6:00 am	25
26	27	28	29			

- 1 - Brian Montei
- 3 - Dan Borges, Rich Butville,
Stephen Myers
- 8 - Don Reeder
- 11 - Dana Karichner
- 12 - Zoe Eck, Tyler Cygan
- 13 - Trey Wagner
- 16 - Mark Zellers
- 18 - Yvonne Butville
- 22 - Linda Gray, David Gray
- 24 - Rebecca Ulmer, Earl Myers



- 25 - Lynel Gaunt, Caleb Turner
- 28 - Julia Hartman



- 12 - Carson & Dana Karichner
- 14 - Don & Cheryl Reeder
- 28 - Jim & Vicki Stout