

We have come upon another Easter Season. If we listen closely, we can hear the sounds of Easter all around us.....not sounds of bunnies carrying treats, but things such as...Hosanna, twelve men sitting around the table breaking bread and learning about servanthood; the sound of the trials in the garden; the sounds of a trial taken place, soldiers mocking Jesus; nails being hammered in the cross, or the women arriving at the tomb and finding out that Jesus was not there.



In his book "A Look at Life From a Deer Stand" Steven Chaplain talks about his first hunt. As he sat near a tree, the sun began to rise. As the rays of light peaked through the trees, the world around him started to come alive with all kinds of sounds he never heard before. He felt and heard the excitement that was in the air with new life, as a new day had begun.

As we begin to walk through this Lenten Season we unfold the Word of God. There are many different sounds that need to be heard. They are the sounds that can only be found in the Bible, they are the life of Christ. Let us, together, unfold these sounds to a world that needs to hear, seek, and find, and just imagine what would happen.

Pastor Lee

Men & Boys Prayer Breakfast

All men & boys are encouraged to attend the Men & Boy's Prayer Breakfast to be held Saturday March 21, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. at the Center Bethel Church of God. Please call your registrations to the church at 724-887-8259.

ARC Approved Speakers

The following speakers are approved by the Allegheny Region Conference for pulpit supply. You may call them to schedule speaking dates when the need arises.

Pastor Fred Bauer (Ord) Home Area/Church	724-446-9019 Madison, PA
Pastor Glenn Beatty (Ord) Home Area/Church	724-539-0593 Latrobe/Mt. Pleasant
Pastor Ron Follett (Ord) Home Area/Church	724-758-3830 or 724-944-9660 Ellwood City, PA
Pastor Thomas McGraw (Ord) Home Area/Church	304-442-8828 Smithers, WV/Kimberly, WV
Mr. Jack Feick (AL) Home Area/Church	724-628-5533 Connellsville/Mount Pleasant
Mrs. Linda Brown (LL) Home Area/Church	724-455-2133 Acme/Indian Head
Mr. Joseph Cranmer (LL) Home Area/Church	814-437-5968 Franklin/Franklin First
Dr. Christine Cheng-Florendo Home Area/Church	724-424-8902 Latrobe/Latrobe First
Mr. John DeVincent (LL) Home Area/Church	304-343-1239 Charleston, WV/Kimberly, WV
Mr. Don Dittman (LL) Home Area/Church	814-432-3344 Franklin/Hickory Grove
Mr. Samuel Grimm, Jr. (LL) Home Area/Church	724-984-8108 Champion/Indian Head
Mr. Roy Johnson (LL) Home Area/Church	724-547-4075 Mt. Pleasant/Fairview
Mr. Robert Newmeyer (LL) Home Area/Church	724-537-6226 Latrobe/Latrobe First
Mr. Lawrence Richter (LL) Home Area/Church	724-455-3718 Normalville/Clinton
Miss Sarah Sullenberger (LL) Home Area/Church	724-309-8458 Latrobe/Fairview

March Birthdays



3	.....	Mrs. Sue Spencer
5	.....	Pastor Troy Lilly
6	.....	Mrs. Julia Arndt
9	.....	Pastor Frank Stoner
13	.....	Mr. Roy Nelson
15	.....	Mrs. Kitty Havener
17	.....	Mrs. Rita Show
26	.....	Mrs. Flora Repine
30	.....	Pastor Glenn Beatty

Meetings & Events

March 6-8

Women's Weekend Retreat in Findlay, Ohio

March 14-15

Bible Quizzers Lock-In at Mt. Pleasant Christian Center

March 21 - 9:00 A.M.

Men & Boys Prayer Breakfast at Center Bethel Church of God

March 28 - 9:00 A.M.

Children & Youth Workshop sponsored by the ARC Youth & Family Ministries Commission

April 25

CGYA Spring Rally at Camp Sunrise Mountain

April 23-May 3 - 2009 Missions Impact

April 25 - Mt. Tabor Church of God, WV
April 26 - Kimberly Church of God, WV
April 26 - Kingwood Church of God
April 29 - West Newton First Church of God
May 3 - Kecksburg Church of God
May 2 - Lillyville Church of God
May 3 - Grange Church of God

May 8-9

Allegheny Region Conference Sessions at Camp Sunrise Mountain

Around the Region

Lillyville Church of God:

February has been a snowy month in Ellwood City but God is good and we have not had to cancel Sunday Services. Our praise this month is that before Christmas we had to install a new furnace at a price tag of about \$13,000 dollars. And even in this economically depressed time God is able to provide and we were able to pay for the furnace in full last Sunday. Praise the Lord! God is able to meet all of our needs according to His riches (not the stock markets) in glory. I would like to share an idea that we used to help the congregation give toward this project. Our church secretary Rose Nye came up with the idea. It is simple but effective. Each week she put an envelope in each bulletin. The envelope was labeled with the churches name and the project. This served as a reminder to pray and to give. Often announcements and appeals are forgotten once the person gets home. This was something tangible that could be put on the refrigerator or desk as a constant reminder of the need. We have used this idea with two different projects and both times God has really blessed it.

Your are Invited to a Workshop

WHEN: Saturday March 28, 2009

WHERE: Mt. Pleasant Christian Center

TIME: Registration begins at 9:00 A.M.

COST: \$25.00 (Register 4 get one free, 5 for \$100.00) The cost includes notebooks with printed material, and lunch

People interested in children and youth, including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, counselors, youth leaders, and pastors are encouraged to attend the Workshop sponsored by the Commission on Youth and Family Ministries of the Allegheny Region Conference. Pastor Lance Finley, Director of Youth & Family Ministries for the CGGC, will lead us as we look at ways to help children live their faith.

There are three sessions which include:

Session 1 – What Story are We Living In

Help understand what is really happening in our culture by looking at current and relevant statistics and looking at identifying the three key ingredients to helping kids become spiritually healthy.

Session 2 – Changing the Story We Live In

Helping our children walk in the storyline of God rather than the storyline of the world.

Session 3 – Wisdom: Walking in God's Storyline

Looking at ways children acquire wisdom and the seven marks of a wise person.

Registrations can be called or emailed to Pastor Beth Dunlap 724-872-7467, wncog@verizon.net, or you can pay at the door.

Camp Financial January 2009

Operating Fund Donations (Ind. & Groups)	\$ 3222.66
Donations Received (Ind. & Groups)	825.50
Income Received (Region & Rentals)	5650.00
Monthly Expenses	\$17369.38

New Camp Director

The Camp Sunrise Mountain Board of Directors is pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Steve White as Camp Director. Steve will begin his duties as Camp Director on March 1, 2009. Watch the next newsletter for more information.

A Note from the Church & Ministry Development Commission

Dear Pastors and Churches,

I am reading a book entitled, "Hit the Bullseye," written by Paul D. Borden. The book was given to the Church Development Commission by Pastor Lee Kline our Director, or as the book recommends we call him our "Consultant," and the Regional Office our "Resource Center." He begins the book with these words, "We live in a time when many people say there is little hope for mainline Protestant denominations. In many congregations, membership, attendance, and mission dollars are all declining in relation to former levels. This has led to a lack of hope and low morale among leaders and members of local congregations. His purpose, using his experience, is to offer principles, strategies, and tactics that will help congregations and regions move from a desire to survive to the evidence of hope, through transformation and growth. He says that the key ingredient to making changes that will lead to growth of congregations and the mothering of new congregations is leadership. Leader being defined as persons whom people are following. "We have observed that the biggest human factor in the process of transforming a dysfunctional congregation into a healthy one is the leadership ability of the pastor. It means finding good leaders who have the courage to perform, the wisdom to know what principles need to be adopted and the insight to implement effective strategies." God always looked for an effective leader before beginning a project. So we need to be in prayer for effective leaders to lead our churches and establish new congregations. Along with seeking effective leaders, regional leaders need to be known for empowering pastors and lay leaders to become agents of change and transformation within their local congregations. This means helping and protecting those leaders and congregations that are willing to take risks and be different. Training, coaching, and mentoring leaders needs to be an important component of the Regions ministry. I find it interesting that he has discovered that seminary training often has no correlation to effective leadership. We need pastors who see themselves as missionaries leading their people to reach their communities for Christ. The old way is killing us. We need to breathe new air, redesign structure and accomplish our mission. Paul finishes this section with this challenge: if an outsider looks at our churches would he not say "that our God is weak, finite and incompetent. Or at the very worst, God has chosen the wrong people to carry out His plan." Lets change this perception. Let us rise up in prayer and the strength of the Lord, and boldly and creatively reach our communities for Christ.

Dennis Arndt

Its Time To Come Together!

Our Conference Sessions are approaching. This is the one time during the year in which people from all of our churches gather together in one place to rekindle acquaintances, to sing and worship together, to hear what our Lord is up to in one another's churches, and to enjoy what it means to be part of a broader community in the Churches of God.

Back in the old days, it was a time of excitement, of anticipation. Our first Eldership meeting was held in 1844. Since that time, every year, pastors and representatives from our churches would make preparations to be gone from home for a week; they would pack up their things and travel by horse and buggy to the church hosting the meetings, sometimes traveling all day to get there. It was a highlight of the year, because after an entire year of laboring apart, it was at last time to come together.

To this day we share this opportunity, to rekindle old acquaintances, and to make new ones; to sing and worship together with our brothers and sisters who share our name in the Churches of God; to hear what God is doing across our Region and across the world as part of our shared ministry; and to have our mission reaffirmed, our vision sharpened, and our hearts encouraged, having spent this time together.

God is indeed at work in our Region! And Im looking forward to being together at this years Conference Sessions, and hearing all about it!

Pastor Rob Guy

ARC Website Has a Facelift!

If you haven't already checked it out - go to the Allegheny Region Conference website at www.allegheny-cggc.org and check it out. Mr. John Shaw, from the Center Bethel Church of God, has been working very hard to give us a new look and make more information available to everyone via the website. You will now be able to view, print, and subscribe to the monthly newsletter online. Our wish is to have everyone subscribe to the newsletter online by the end of the year. At that time we will only mail a monthly newsletter to anyone who does not have computer access. Please keep in mind that the website is a work in progress. We know there is information that needs to be changed and/or updated. Be patient - for now, all info is being processed by Mr. Shaw. Eventually Karen will be making all the changes and will be able to update info as soon as it is received. Take a few minutes now and log onto the website - give us any feedback you may have for improvements.

Our Final View From Vesper Hill

Many times as I passed by the cross on vesper hill and looked down at the Camp there was always the realization that someday the work that God has called us to here at Camp Sunrise Mountain would be passed on to someone else. But that always seemed years away. However, the time has come for Carol and I to step aside and to start another chapter in our lives.

The decision to leave has been a very difficult one. It is always hard to leave someone or something that you love. The work here has not been a job, but a great experience that has added so much to our lives.

For the Camp to function it takes a lot of people doing a lot of hard work, and for the last 18 years there have been those who have helped us in so many ways. We want to say thank you to just a few of them.

First, we want to thank the Camp Board of Directors for putting their trust in an "old farm boy" to oversee this great ministry and for their guidance and support over the years.

Then we want to thank all of those we worked with as employees of the camp, the kitchen help, the lifeguards, and maintenance help. You have given us many memories that made us laugh at the time and we still laugh today.

We want to give a very special thank you to everyone who served on camp staff. Many of you gave up a week of vacation or took a week off work to come and minister to the campers. The memories you have given us as we watched you play some dumb games or allowed a camper to dunk you in the pool we will never forget. However, the greatest memories are those when you sat with a camper and shared Jesus Christ with them. Tears would often flow from our eyes as we watched God work through you.

Our biggest thank you goes to all the people and churches of the Allegheny Region. Without you, Camp Sunrise Mountain would not exist. From those who started with a vision for the camp over 40 years ago to those who support our camp today, it has been you, the people and churches, that has made this ministry possible.

To say thank you hardly seems sufficient for the opportunity that you, the people of the Allegheny Region, have given us to work at Camp Sunrise Mountain. The greatest part of this job has been all the great people we have met.

Carol is working at a local nursing home as a nurses aide. I will continue as part time pastor at the Sand Spring Church and not sure what else I will be getting into. We have moved just up over the hill from the camp. Our new address is:

Pastor Nevin & Carol Umbel
361 Friendsville Road
Markleysburg, PA 15459
Phone No. 301-746-4084

May God Bless,
Nevin & Carol Umbel

Bible Quizzing Seeks New Director

Mrs. Molly Stickle, the Bible Quizzing Director of the Allegheny Region has announced she will retire as Quiz Director after the Bible Quizzing Lock-In at Mt. Pleasant Christian Center on March 14-15. Following is a job description for the position. If you, or someone you know, is interested in the position of Bible Quizzing Director please contact Mrs. Molly Stickle at 724-887-0555 for more information.

Bible Quizzing Director of the Allegheny Region, Churches of God Job Description

This is an administrative position (lay group) for Bible Quizzing and can be held by more than one person. The person(s) should have a desire to aid youth in securing the scriptures in their hearts and minds for quick and ready reference in times of decision and need. Bible Quizzing also educates youth to build a foundation for their beliefs, making them knowledgeable and devoted leaders of our churches in the years ahead.

Requirements and responsibilities include:

1. The Director is responsible for establishing the quiz grids for each Regional tournament, and for securing people to assist them in the other leadership roles (quizmaster, equipment judge [lights], scorekeeper, timekeeper).
2. The Director will typically meet with all coaches and quiz officials before or after a meet to answer any questions they might have.
3. The Director will communicate frequently and in a timely manner with all Bible Quizzing Coaches in the Allegheny Region to maintain efficient planning at regional meets.
4. Make final decisions, in consult with other involved parties, regarding cancellation or change in schedule of regional meets in the event of emergencies or conflicts, such as inclement weather, etc.
5. The Director is responsible for tabulating the overall team scores and the individual team scores following each meet. These scores will be communicated to each coach of each church in the Allegheny Region that is involved with Bible Quizzing.
6. Bible Quizzing news should be reported to the Allegheny Region Office for publication in the Regional newsletter.
7. The Director of Allegheny Region Quizzing will work closely with, and communicate frequently with, the National Conference Director of Bible Quizzing for CGGC.