



Winter Newsletter

Coming Soon

Saturday, Nov 21 7 - 11 PM- Youth Hockey Hang Out

Wednesday, Nov 26th @ 6:00 PM- Thanksgiving Eve Dinner & Service

December 5th @ 6:30 PM - Annual Women's Christmas Dinner

December 5 @ 8:00 PM - Performance by Belladeux

December 6th 10 - 3 PM - Youth Philly Photo Shoot

December 13th 10 - 2 - Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

December 14th @ 6:30PM - Family Christmas Program

Christmas Eve Services:
5:30 PM Family Service
11 PM Candlelight Service

Security in the Midst of Surprises

One of my favorite movie series was the Indiana Jones Adventure series. In the beginning of his second film, Jones is flying in an airplane when the pilot parachutes leaving no one to pilot the plane. Jumping into cockpit, Jones notices they are about to run out of fuel! At last minute, through Jones' ingenuity, the remaining passengers jump out of the plane with a rubber raft that opens slowing their descent to the steep slippery slope of a snow covered mountain. They hit the side of the slope at just the right angle, such that now the raft becomes a toboggan rushing down at a high rate of speed. Just when you think everything is about to level out, the raft shoots over cliff landing in an aggressive white water river and drops over the edge of a water fall to quiet rivers below. Sometimes, life seems just like that. The surprises seem to be overwhelming, we never know whats next, and we find ourselves feeling like somehow, we have to keep all of this together.

The Surprises of life were no stranger to one teenage girl. Her name was Mary, and we find her story in the book of Luke. Mary is visited by the Angel Gabriel, who reveals to her that she is one who is "highly favored" and that she had "found favor with God." The angel went on to say, "You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the son of the Most High." We don't know exactly what Mary was thinking at that time, but we do get an idea from scripture. Mary asked the Gabriel, "How can this be?" She was probably confused as to how this all was going to happen, maybe even a bit fearful of her future wondering what was ahead for her. Perhaps you can remember a time in your life when you were surprised by something. Maybe it was a group of people jumping out and yelling "Surprise!" at your 16th birthday party, a phone call at 5:00 in the morning with news you didn't want to hear, or maybe it was the reflection of blue lights in your rear view mirror. Perhaps your response was similar to Mary's, confused or fearful, wondering what life might hold for you.

Truth is, we don't always know the answers or see how things are going to work out. Sometimes we feel like God has asked from us what seems impossible. Maybe you are facing a situation with work or with your family, and you know that something needs to be done, but you don't see any way out. Maybe it's a illness or financial difficulty. Maybe there is someone that you have been praying for and the answers don't seem to come. Maybe your impossibility is that God has asked you to give up something very precious, or to let go of someone. What ever it is, the task seems too large too overwhelming for you to face, and you find your self saying, "I hear what you want from me God, but I just don't know how I'm going to accomplish this.... It seems impossible for me."

Gabriel had a message for Mary, and in that message, Mary gleens hope. It's almost as if he were saying, don't worry Mary, God has everything under control. He has had this planned from the beginning of time. What is impossible for you, is not outside of God's power, because nothing is impossible for God. Sometimes we need to hear these words. And then, trust and respond, just as Mary. "I am the Lord's servant," ... "May it be to me as you have said." (Luke 2:38)

It's Great to be your Pastor,
Jamie

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Attention All Church Members and Attendees : We Need You!!!

In the spirit of these times we want to say to you "Yes, we can!" Yes we can? YES! We can clean up the Ashland Church campus! Saturday, Nov. 22 we will be raking and trimming and cleaning the exterior of Ashland and we need you to help. We will be starting at 8:00 AM but if you can't make it then, come out later. Bill Buzard was even heard to say "lunch will be provided."

Again, show up Saturday, Nov. 22 at 8:00 AM or show up after. (Oh... and be sure to dress for the weather.)

Thanksgiving Giving

We have the opportunity to reach out to families in need through a local elementary school this Thanksgiving. We will be collecting gift cards for local grocery stores that will be given through the school administration. Please consider picking one up as you shop. This is a great way to love your neighbor.

Christmas Gift Giving

If you know of a family that could use a little extra help with presents this Christmas please contact Janine Fleming (janine@ashlandchurch.org) with three items of their children's wish list. We don't need to know the children's or family's names, just a contact person to drop the presents to. There are many who want to give so please don't hesitate.

Also - if you'd like to donate a gift please keep an eye out for the giving tree in the church hall. There will be specific gifts and also non specific gifts for Youth on the Move, a Camden area

Gifts of Christmas

Gifts of song, poetry, and drama are being rehearsed and prepared to share with everyone, in honor of the greatest gift the world has ever known. We invite you to come and join children, teens, and adults on Sunday evening, December 14th, at 6:30, as we celebrate and honor our Lord, Jesus Christ, born to save us.

Every Sunday

Sunday School - Age appropriate and fun Christian Education for everyone (from infants to adults) at 9:30 AM. There is also an adult class @ 11:00 AM for those who attend the 9:30 AM service.

KIDS Church - Elementary children are dismissed during the 11 AM worship services for a multi-media, Biblical and (of course) fun lesson during the sermon time of the worship service. *Children whose parents are in Sunday School or worship team can sit in the front left pew and will be supervised 'till KIDS Church starts.*

Nursery - While their parents worship at the 11:00 AM service, infants through Pre-K have a fun playtime and lessons at their level.

Parents - the Sunday Children's Programs are set up so that you can be in a Worship Service and an Adult Education Class on Sunday mornings so please feel free to take advantage of this.

Upcoming Events

Youth Floor Hockey Hang Out - Nov. 21 @7-11 PM, \$5 for pizza.

Thanksgiving Dinner/Service - Wednesday, November 26 @ 6:00 pm followed by Service at 7:00 pm.

Annual Women's Christmas Dinner in Celebration of the 100th Year of Women's Ministries - Friday, December 5th. Belladeux, a Bell/harp choir, will be the entertainment. Everyone is invited to the program which will begin at 8 pm, after the dinner @ 6:30, which will be provided by Masso's

Youth Philly Photo Shoot - Dec. 6 from 10AM - 3 PM Take the train into Philly and bring a digital camera if you have one.

Ashland Family Christmas Show - Dec 14th @ 6:30 PM

Youth Christmas Party & "White Elephant" Gift Exchange - Dec 7th from 5:30-9 PM (this is a time for both Middle School and Sr. High students together.)

Youth Christmas Caroling - Check Youth Calendar for date & time

Look Who's Coming to Dinner - Friday, January 9, 2009 @ 6:30

100th Year of Women's Ministries Play Presentation - Friday, January 16th

Game Night @ the Cupschalks - January 24th, 2009

Youth Super Bowl Party - February 1st, 2009

Sweetheart Banquet - February 14th, 2009

Youth Winter Retreat @ Camp Sancanak - Feb 20 - 22, 2009 6th-12th grade, \$85 (Please Sign Up)

Ballroom Dancing Class - Saturday, March 14, 2009

Women in Ministry Breakfast - Saturday, March 21, 2009
Guest Speaker - Rose Ford

Always Going On...

Wednesday Night Kids - every Wednesday from 7 - 8 pm

English as a Second Language - Wednesday evening at 7 pm in the library

Foug's Crew - every Wednesday from 7:00 pm - 8:30

Middle School Youth Group - every Sunday @ 5:00 pm

Sr. High Youth Group - every Sunday @ 7:00 pm

Blanket Making /Knitting - 2nd Monday of the month @ 9:30 am

Prayer Shawl Ministry - 2nd Monday of the month @ 9:30 am

Men's Prayer Group - every Tuesday from 6:00 - 7:00 am

Adult Choir - every Wednesday @ 7:20 pm

Worship Team—every Tuesday @ 8:00pm

Future Events

Easter Egg Hunt - date TBA

Spring Rummage Sale - April 17th & 18th, 2009

Look Who's Coming to Dinner - Friday, May 1, 2009 @ 6:30

Women's Tea - May 16th, 2009

Church Picnic - July 12th, 2009

Wednesday Night Kids

Right now our Wednesday night kids are working on their part in the Christmas program. We're concentrating our lessons on the birth of Jesus and we've got plenty of fun games along the way. We will resume our SonWorld adventure on January 7, 2009 as kids learn more about choosing Jesus through His word, our great crafts and fun games.

ESL Update

Ashland Church is proud to announce the successful launching of our ESL (English as a Second Language) class. It began in September and meets every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Childcare is provided. If you know of anyone who would like to join the class, please pass this on. If you need more information about it, please contact Janine Fleming @ 856-429-8844 or janinefleming@ashlandchurch.org

Worship Arts Program

The upcoming seasons of advent and Christmas are times during which we may draw closer to our Lord: to break from our usual routines to experience Him in a fresh new way. During advent we may identify with Israel in the days of the prophet Isaiah, as she waited in hope and longing for the coming Messiah and the perfection of God's kingdom. Christmas is a time of exuberant joy and celebration of the incarnation of the Christ.

My hope is that our worship may fully reflect the hope and joy that we have in Christ Jesus. Many wonderful songs of the season allow us to worship using instruments of brass, strings, percussion, woodwinds, etc. It is a time to worship using all of the arts that God has given us (dance, art, media...) Our Chancel Choir will rehearse special music for Christmas on Wednesday evenings, at 7:20, Nov. 12th, 26th, Dec. 3rd, 10th, and 17th, for anyone who might wish to join us. I will arrange rehearsal times for additional instrumentalists: please contact me!

Blessings!

Carol Holmes

Men's Ministry

Over the past year we have been trying to create an active men's ministry at Ashland. It is a challenging task because many of us have careers and families which makes free time difficult, but we had a few who were interested in giving their time to make this happen. Our initial meetings were more casual and fun to give us an opportunity to get to know each other better. Then came the challenge. Our first meeting after a summer break was a BBQ night with fun and fellowship as well as a challenge presented by Ken Buck. He encouraged us all to take a more active role not just in the group, but in the church as well. It was decided that night that we'd start to take the men's ministry beyond just having fun, making it more an opportunity for us to challenge and encourage each other in our daily walk with God. From then on whenever we'd get together someone would be given the opportunity to share what is on their heart for the benefit of the men who gather.

At our second meeting, a pizza night, Fred Tahan spoke from the book of James on how our words can impact other people. We can use our words to either heal or to hurt. He encouraged us to choose our words carefully and to temper our words in the spirit of love and encouragement. This can be a hard challenge for us to keep, but we are hopeful that in the coming year as we gather together in fellowship we will challenge each other to speak the truth in love. Please keep an eye on your weekly bulletins for future events. We look forward to seeing this ministry grow.

The Men's Ministry Committee

From the basement....

I am overjoyed to report that we have an amazing youth leader staff! As you know, every believer has been gifted by God for spiritual service of his Kingdom. Our youth leaders seem to be hoarding those gifts! As the Youth Director it is imperative that the ministry is a shared ministry, that the students see that everyone has an important role to play in the work of God. So we have such a team.

One thing we try not to do is to wear out our volunteers, so we have tried to place the volunteer within their giftedness and passions. We also strive to allow our staff to serve as they have time and availability. So, with this as our backdrop, God has blessed us with a youth worship band, Bible study teachers, discipleship group leaders, facility servants, fund raisers, trip chaperones, etc... Each adult has been blessed by God through their own salvation and spiritual journey in Christ, and they then avail themselves to pass on the love of God to the teens.

Without these wonderful, talented and especially faithful volunteers our youth program would be rather two dimensional and limited to my personality and limited gifts. So I want to say to my volunteers, "Thank you!! Thanks for being co-laborers in the work of God at Ashland!" If you know someone who participates with the youth or children's programs, be sure to say a special word of thanks for they are in the business of keeping the church alive to live another day. Hug them, write them a note, take them out to lunch to say job well done!

Ken Buck

Women's Bible Study

The next Women's Bible study will be starting in Jan-Feb (stay tuned for the start date). The title is "Embracing an Aching Heart, A Biblical Approach to the Oppressed," by Jennifer Brooks. It's a six-week bible study of hope in the midst of horror. The Women's Ministry of the EPC has been called to a Faith Focus of modern day slavery called human trafficking. The goals of this study are twofold: The first is to explain what human trafficking is and to ground our Faith Focus firmly into the unshakable gospel mandate in Scripture. The second is to allow the Sword of the Spirit to transform our individual hearts, minds, and attitudes toward the oppressed.

Human trafficking is a global problem and the United Nations believes it has reached epidemic proportions over the past decade. We need not shrink away from engaging in this moral crisis as we follow the Holy Spirit's leading and rely on our Almighty God to empower us.

Stay tuned for more details.

Claudia Tahan

Rummage Sale

The Women in Ministry Rummage Sale was held on October 17th and 18th with lots of help from our youth, setting up and sorting on Wednesday night and the help of others on Thursday. When Friday morning came, we were ready to start selling. When I arrived at church on Friday morning there were at least five or six people waiting for the doors to open and the flow of people were nonstop. Saturday morning proved to be more of the same. People looking for all kinds of bargains.

Women in Ministry wishes to thank all those who helped make this rummage sale a huge success. And especially to our youth for their hard work on Wednesday night and for helping on Saturday to break down the tables and get things ready for Sunday morning. For all those who donated items our many, many thanks and for all who came and supported our goal.

As a result of this united effort we are able to distribute among our ministries and missionaries the total of \$1085.55. We distributed the monies as follows: Grace Mackin \$285.55, AEPC YOUTH \$200.00, Bill and Faith Foust \$150.00, Alan and Mary Ginter \$150.00, Bob McKimey \$150.00 and Bonnie Liefer \$150.00.

May Our Lord send His Blessings upon each and every one of you who helped in any way.

Blessings to all
Judy Saltzgueber
President of
Women in Ministry

Stepping Up - A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent

In this Bible study, we go back in time to the pilgrims of Israel who, each year, went up to the temple in Jerusalem for the three major feasts: Passover, First Fruits, and Pentecost (hence the term "Psalms of Ascent").

Beth Moore leads us along the path upward and encourages us to see our relationship to the Lord in the same way as the pilgrims did as they sang these songs of distress, of petition to God for help, of lifting us up, of asking for mercy in our sinfulness, of praise, of a love that surrounds us, of shouts of joy, of sowing the seeds of the word of God, of rescue, of hope, of redemption, and of harmony.

I have enjoyed this Bible study so much. It has given me insight into these psalms of ascent, whose designation I was unfamiliar with. Thanks to Tamera Cup-schalk and Claudia Tahan for their leadership.

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news." - Isaiah 52:7.

Alice Gilson

Young Adults

It is hard to believe that the new young adult ministry at Ashland is a year old. I consider myself very fortunate to be able to serve these fine people. Over the last year we have seen new additions into our family and soon the marriage of two people who have been a part of the church family for a long time. What a blessing it is to see the blessings God has been delivering to all of them. To watch them take initiative in the life of the group and watch them reach out to their various communities to welcome new faces into this ministry has been especially pleasing to me. Whenever I have worked in ministry you hope the people you serve will not just be spectators, but active participants in the greater work that is at hand. I can safely say that has been the case here. Our last meeting we gathered to welcome back my good friend Matt Milliner as our guest speaker.

In the coming year we are making a few changes to how we run this group. For one we will try to have a more steady rotation of speakers from within the Ashland family. Second, instead of meeting at the church we will be switching between my house and The Bucks. We are looking forward to continuing to grow both in numbers and spiritually as continue seeking God in our lives.

Dave Gorgone

Women in Ministry

We began our fall season with a Casserole Breakfast on September 20, 2008. If you did not attend you missed a special time to be with your Sisters in Christ. The tables were festive with pastel cloths and fresh flowers. The menu was a nice selection of various breakfast casseroles, a wonderful fruit bowl, pastries, orange juice, and steaming pots of coffee. Everything was delicious and we thank all of those women who contributed their special recipes.

Our guest speaker was Karen Oudyk from Grace Bible Church. Her presentation was titled, "He knows my Name". It was the story of how God protected Hagar then; and how He protects us now.

We also had as our guests Naomi Merrill and Shemeika Hudson from Christian Ministries, Inc. in Camden. They were recipients of four of the blankets, made by the ladies who meet on the second Monday of the month. A prayer shawl was also given to Naomi for her husband Richard, who has been sick for several months. He is the Director of Christian Ministries.

Everyone enjoyed the speaker, the food, and the fellowship. We look forward to the next event sponsored by the Women in Ministry.

Elynor Smith

Ashland Answers - Children and the Lord's Supper

In this section, from time to time we will examine questions about our Christian faith and practice. Today's question is: **When should my child participate in our celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Communion?**

There have been different answers to this throughout church history. The Orthodox Communion of churches practices infant communion, giving a small morsel of bread to infants as soon as they can digest food. Roman Catholics wait a bit longer, as their children participate in their "First Communion" at age 7-8. Presbyterians and other Protestants have tended to wait a bit longer still, typically admitting children around the early teen years (more or less). As in all things, we seek authority for our worship from the Bible, and our logic for delaying participation in the sacrament is based on two principles:

First, the correspondence that exists between the Passover and the Lord's Supper. The sacrifice of the Passover lamb is a type (picture, foreshadowing) of Christ's death as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). Christ's death, in turn, is the basis for our celebration of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:24-26). So the Passover and the Lord's Supper are related, in that both point to and get their significance from Christ's death.

Part of the Passover liturgy involves a son asking his Father, "What does this ceremony mean to you?" followed by the Father's retelling of the Passover miracle (Exod 12:26-27). So, following this analogy, the idea is that until the child should not participate until he or she is able to participate enough to ask intelligible questions about the meaning and purpose of the Lord's Supper.

Second, it is also helpful to look at the example of the Corinthians' celebration of the Lord's Supper. Paul warned them that

"Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself." (1 Cor 11:27-29, NIV)

These verses should serve as a warning to us all, not just to children, not to participate in the Lord's Supper in an unbelieving, ignorant, or unworthy manner. Indeed, some of the Corinthians were sick and even died as a result of their doing so (v. 30).

So how old must a child be before they can fulfill the intent of these verses? There is no one fixed age. Some will do so at an early age; others will come to faith later; still others may (sadly) never have a true faith in Christ.

Fortunately for us, our denomination has a Pastoral Letter on this very topic (available at <http://snipurl.com/385h7>), which lays out three criteria for younger children to be admitted to the Lord's Table:

The child had been administered the sacrament of Christian baptism.

The child presents a credible profession of faith as determined initially by his or her parents, and determined ultimately by the Session of the church.

The child is able to evidence to the Session a basic understanding of the nature of the sacrament as it is set forth in the Scriptures and in the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Because of the danger inherent in wrongly participating in the Lord's Supper, a child's parents and the church Session should err on the side of caution in admitting children to the sacrament.

So as a parent, where does that leave you? If you believe your baptized child is displaying a true faith, and desires to partake of the Lord's Supper, please talk to the Pastor or a member of the Session, and we can discuss further your child's situation.

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If you have questions that you would like me to *try* and answer, please email them to me at GregGoss@aol.com, and I may include them in subsequent editions of the newsletter. Thanks.

Westminster Confession of Faith, chapters 27 and 29, the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, questions 96 and 97, and the *Westminster Larger Catechism*, questions 168 through 177.

African Book Challenge



ABC continues passionately to fulfill its mission in Ghana. This past fall, the ministry delivered large quantities of school supplies, children's books, Sunday school materials, library books, toys, used clothes, and soccer balls to the kids in the village of Kwabeng. In addition, it awarded a contract for the construction of two new classrooms and modern restrooms for the Trinity Presbyterian Pre-school and kindergarten. When completed, the restrooms will replace the unhygienic outhouse used currently by nearly 200 children (ages 3-5 years) who attend the school. ABC also donated a new, wooden swing to the school, replacing the dilapidated and unsafe, metal swing the kids had been using. Finally, ABC plans to provide electricity in a couple of classrooms for the Kwabeng Presbyterian Junior High School.

The charitable donations and capital improvement projects are being made possible through the generosity of our Ashland Church family and friends of ABC within the local community. Although construction of the classrooms and restrooms is progressing steadily, ABC needs to raise at least, **\$2,000.00** more to complete the projects. ABC urgently needs your help! If you would like to give to this worthy cause, please use the ABC envelopes provided in the pews. Without your prayers, financial and material resources, ABC cannot accomplish its lofty goals. Thank you all for your invaluable support of this outreach ministry. Please visit the ABC website at www.africanbookchallenge.org to view photographs of the school and the projects.

Fred Twum-Acheampong

On behalf of the ABC Committee

EPC World Outreach, Berlin, Germany



As a college student, Phil minored in German and sensed God's calling while on a visit to Germany. Now, Phil and Diane live in Berlin, where only 1.5% of 4 million people are Christians. A majority of former East Berliners claim to be atheists. In this hostile spiritual terrain, the Thrashes work with one of three Presbyterian church planting teams.

This summer, the team held an open-air family festival and nearly 500 Berliners attended! The intent was pre-evangelism, providing an event that helped people sense the Kingdom of God through community and a loving atmosphere. Sandra is an example of one of the people they met at the festival who came to Christ. Relational evangelism, connecting with and sharing the gospel with their neighbors, is pivotal in their ministry.

The handsome Family Center is a centerpiece of operations, worship, events, programs for the neighborhood, and prayer. Phil is the team's intercessory prayer warrior. He teaches on prayer, organizes prayer walks, and prays for team members in their witness and harvest, as well as, talks with neighbors about Christ.

A praise for answered prayer: the EPC General Assembly passed a Benevolence Asking to initiate funding of a national church planter/pastor, Michael and Christiane Strub, who joined the team this fall.

Rev. Phil, Diane and Kelsey Thrash

Albania - Eagle's Wings



In the 1990's, Albania, situated between Greece and Italy, had many problems, one of which was a Civil War. These problems caused many children to be orphaned. Many of these children were left to live on the streets in poverty or in an orphanage. And, the children in the orphanages are forced to leave when they reach adolescence. Back on the streets, they are subject to many cruelties and will probably not have much of a chance to live a meaningful and successful life.

The Women in Ministry of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Ashland Church's denomination) has a mission, called Eagle's Wings, to help provide a safe and nurturing home for some of the girls forced out of the orphanages near Tirana, Albania. These will be faith-based homes where these girls will find their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs met and will have the opportunity to discover the specific tender love that God the Father has for them. This will give them the chance to have meaningful and successful lives. The three year project will serve to provide the financial resources for such support as:

Staff training	Appliances	Educational Resources
Home Furnishings	Health Training	Land Development to Support the Home



ASHLAND YOUTH

Urban Promise & Germantown

One of the best aspects of Youth Group are the summer missions trips, even though most of us don't think of them as your regular "missions trips". When we went to Germantown Hope Street Camp in Philadelphia and Urban Promise in Camden, we helped with the day camps for the kids and just serving in any way we could. It was so much fun building relationships with the kids and being there to be a part of something else besides the normal church activities we are all used to. A lot of times it was out of our comfort zones, but God was obviously working the whole time. It was also good for us because God opened our eyes to things that we didn't know about that many of us never saw as a reality. It also gave us a connection to be able to serve there again.

Megan T.

Wednesday Night Youth Group

I like to come to the Wednesday night youth group. I learn many things about church and also about my own life. Wednesday night is fun but we also learn. I hope that more people will come to have a bigger outcome than there is already. If this happens, God's message will keep spreading around.

Mike E.

Youth Events

I love going to the Youth Group events. They are fun and inspiring to me and show me that people in the church care. I feel welcomed in this church. I love you all.

Adam D.

Fall Craft Fair

On Saturday, November 8th the youth hosted a large craft and vendor show. Despite the rainy day, we had quite a good turnout of shoppers from both our church family and the community. We had some people even drive from 45 minutes away to do early Christmas shopping. The event was a very busy day for everyone involved. We started at 10am and had to move some heavy furniture and set up lots of tables to accommodate all the vendors but the event was a big success. By five pm all the clean up was completed and the youth had raised \$671 towards their missions/trips fund!

The craft show is a great way for people in the community to get to know the family of Ashland Church. Our vendors are greeted as they arrive by our youth and leaders as we work together to help them unload their cars. So many of the vendors comment on how helpful and friendly everyone is and how no other craft shows are like this.

As one of the youth leaders I was so proud of how hard and well everyone worked together. We look forward to another successful show in the spring.

Sonja Campbell

Hand Mimes

In preparation for the Christmas season, we have been practicing a hand mime routine that tells about the meaning of Christmas. Junior and Senior high students have been having a fun time getting ready to perform our hand mime routine on December 14th to the song We are the Reason. It has been really great learning to do hand mimes, which is something most of us have never done before, and meeting new people.

Ashley H.

Best One to Date !

Starting Wednesday, October 29th, John, Matt, Buzz (Mike), Sean, and Kevin started constructing the box maze for the fall outreach. This year's maze was the biggest and best to date. The majority of the work happened at night with John staying 'till 5 and 6 am. The maze is a great way to reach the neighborhood because the kids have fun in a safe environment, and the parents get to socialize with other adults from the church and neighborhood.

Love Sean C.

Amazing Role Models

Our Youth leaders are amazing role models. To name a few, Matt T., Kevin G., and Robin C. , but they are all great. Bonding is a great way to get closer and it is easier to talk about God and the Bible. Ken Buck is a good Youth Leader/Pastor. I love my youth leaders and how they deal with problems in a Christian way.

Jon G.

ASHLAND KIDS

What is Christmas?

Christmas is about Jesus	Star B.
A day that you get presents	Justin B.
Jesus' birthday	Caitlyn G.
A holiday that someone's birthday is on	David R.
Presents	Nicole B.
Jesus' birthday	B&B D.
Spend time with family	Alex M.
Time where I get presents	Liam F.
Reminds me my family loves me	Alex C.
The snowiest time of the year	Liam B.
A holiday	Zoe
Jesus' birthday	Nicole
The day we celebrate the birth of Jesus	Conner T.
When Jesus was born	Conner F.
It's about when Jesus was born	Noah B.
We celebrate Christmas because Jesus was born.	Nathan Z.
Christmas tree	Ashley W
Some snow for outside?	Haley W.

Christmas is a wonderful, winter holiday. It is a day when we give and receive presents. Most important, it is the day we celebrate the greatest gift we've ever been given, God's Son, Jesus!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

Fall Outreach

Just wanted to thank all those who turned out for our October 31st outreach. What a night! With "the best box maze ever" (Thank you Box maze engineers), games, crafts, hot soup and hotdogs, candy, and lots of friends it was such a great event. Thank you to all the volunteers who made it possible. We were thrilled to meet so many new neighbors and to catch up with those we've known. **We hope to see you all again soon.** Never hesitate to visit us.

It was a family event from infants to teens to grandparents. How wonderful to serve and enjoy time side by side. Let's keep doing so. The evening ended with a youth hang-out that also was a box maze clean-up event so thank you to all of our youth and their leaders! Can't wait till next year.

Janine Fleming
Children's Ministries Director

A Family Prayer Tip

With Thanksgiving rolling around the corner we are reminded to be thankful but a short prayer of thankfulness is a great way to introduce or enhance your family prayer time.

Let me just encourage you, if you do not already pray together, please consider doing so. You have no idea the impact it makes on a child to see the faith of their parents even in the simplest ways. I am so encouraged when we pray together and my boys see their father pray or my daughter mirrors my prayers. For them to see what they are learning at church exemplified in your lives is a lesson that our Sunday School teachers could never teach.

So here is a simple prayer exercise. Go around the table, or bed (depending on where you're praying) and everyone says one simple line - "Thank you God for" They may be thankful for silly things or may surprise you at their deepness, don't discourage what they say, just keep praying.

As you and your children grow more comfortable with praying together you can extend it, but this is a great place to start.

It is my prayer that each of our families will take time to spend together with God.

If you have any questions about this or need any encouragement or ideas, or would like to share an idea email me at janine@ashlandchurch.org

Your Kids are my Privilege

I just wanted to thank all of you parents for allowing me to see your kids grow in Christ. This past year I have seen so much growth in your children. Yes, they stand a bit taller, are a little older and wiser and have a bit more attitude, but I've been blessed to see them grow spiritually as well.

I have been thrilled to see the kids spouting back their lessons (even when they interrupt the teacher to tell them the rest of the story), asking questions so they can understand more and then turning it all around and applying it to their own lives. I'm amazed to hear them discussing quotes from Mother Theresa and asking their teachers how to deal with problems at school.

You have wonderful children and I am grateful to be a part of their lives.

I know that much of the growth, all being attributed to God, is because you have been faithful with bringing them to hear God's word and making it a part of your lives at home. Trust me, I know we all struggle with living out our faith at home and passing it on to our children, but I have seen in your families so many examples of it and I would encourage us all to do so even more. God is at work in our children and I'm glad to be along for the ride.

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Our Mission

**To seek the lost and grow disciples
who worship and enjoy our Lord.**

Our Vision

**To be a Covenant Family in our community which is transformed by the
Gospel, empowered by the Spirit, and focused by our Mission.**

Getting to Know Our Worship Teams

1. After many years of not running, I am running again and I am up to 3 miles.
2. I have a tattoo of a penguin with a crown and a scepter?
3. I have seen more bison than I care to remember?
4. I am related to Pocahontas.
5. I was in the NFL Pro Bowl in Hawaii.
6. I am a former professional musician turned Program Manager for a VA based contractor supporting the Federal Government.
7. I lived in South Africa as a child for two years.
8. I was in a robotics competition.
9. I once saved a man's life.
10. I was the shortest in my class when I was 13 years old.
11. I used to work in a hardware store.

Next Issue ...

Thank-you to all who contributed to this newsletter. Our next newsletter is scheduled to go out at the end of March. If you would like to write an article to include in the next newsletter please email it to terridyck@yahoo.com or drop it in Janine's mailbox in the office, by mid-March 2009, for staff approval. We love to receive articles from people of ALL ages!

Thank-you and God Bless.