



Evergreen News

December 2016

Pastor Mick's Musings...

True Christian Christmas

Christmas isn't showy gifts or glittering decoration;

It's honoring our Savior, Jesus Christ in humble adoration.

It's serving those less fortunate, meeting their needs before our own.

It's making sure at Christmas time, that no one is alone.

It's taking what we would have spent, on things that no one needs.

And using it to help someone, with service and good deeds. Our Savior showed us how to live, with charity, faith and service.

It makes the holidays a joy, more peaceful, and less nervous.

So let's remember Christmas is about our Savior's birth.

That's the way to happiness.

The way to peace on earth.

Joanna Fuchs

INVASION!

⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 1:5-15

Can you imagine being a foreigner in a strange land? A land that is hostile to anyone who comes across its borders. I contemplate the life of a secret agent who leaves his own beautiful country and embarks on a mission to infiltrate and be a change agent for another country - a country full of turmoil. The idea of going to a foreign land with the hopes of taking it over for the good of its people is exciting and perilous. Invasions are usually thought of as being bad -like one country taking over another. But what if that other country was so evil and oppressive that everyone was a slave to the regime. Would you invade to save the people? Jesus did. Jesus did the moment he was born into this hostile world.

In *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis entitles his chapter on the Incarnation "The Invasion." Perhaps a more accurate description would be "The Infiltration," because Lewis writes, "Enemy-occupied territory - that is what the world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us to take part in a great campaign of sabotage." C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, (New York Macmillan, 1952), p. 36.

Jesus, the rightful King of this kingdom, came into this world to save sinners. He came not out of conquest, but compelled by love. His enemy is not the sinners of this world. Those are ones He wishes to save. The enemy is the power and principalities of the air. In other words, Satan and all his minions who, by deceit, became the rulers of this world.

So in a little town called Bethlehem, God set His plan in motion to reclaim what is truly His - this world and every human being on it. As a babe in a stable He came, accessible and vulnerable. On earth it was quiet and peaceful that night. In the heavens, the angel armies could not hold back their exhilaration. And for one brief moment, they were allowed to break through to our realm and proclaim the Good News - only to a few shepherds. But it was enough. Jesus our King has arrived. He has invaded the sinful world and has found those who will believe and carry out the mission.

Now His mission has become our mission. We are change agents for the King of kings, infiltrating and invading this world for his cause. You and I are foreigners working for our Lord until He returns. And when He returns... WOW!

Have a blessed and very merry Christmas!

A change agent for the King,
Pastor Mick

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December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				¹ Men's Bible Study Choir 7 pm	² Deck the WGT Halls! 7 pm	³ Fellowship Hall Reserved
⁴ Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	⁵ Secret Sister Reveal 7 pm	⁶ Autumn Saints 10 am	⁷ First Wednesday 6:30 pm Youth 7 pm	⁸ Men's Bible Study Choir 7 pm	⁹ Fellowship Hall Reserved	¹⁰ Fellowship Hall Reserved
¹¹ Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Hall Reserved	¹² WWW Bible Study 7 pm Tiny Timbers Board Mtg. 7 pm	¹³ Autumn Saints 10 am Commission 7 pm Board 8 pm	¹⁴ Youth 7 pm	¹⁵ Men's Bible Study Choir 7 pm	¹⁶	¹⁷ Fellowship Hall Reserved
¹⁸ Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	¹⁹ WWW Bible Study 7 pm	²⁰	²¹ Youth 7 pm	²² Men's Bible Study	²³	²⁴ Christmas Eve Service 6 pm
²⁵ Combined Service 9 am Community Meal 1 pm - 3 pm Christmas Day	²⁶ Office Closed Fellowship Hall Reserved	²⁷	²⁸ Youth 7 pm	²⁹ Men's Bible Study	³⁰	³¹

DoYM

The Youth of WGT are grateful to everyone who supported their efforts to provide dinner prior to the CBM. This event raised over \$340! This money will help defray the costs of future activities. When the newsletter goes to print, the youth will have raked leaves in an effort to serve those that could benefit from this service as well as an opportunity to help those that want to assist the youth.

As the year is coming to a close, we are looking to end the year with a Christmas celebration on Wednesday, December 21. We will also be wrapping up a series entitled SHAMELESS on Wednesday evenings in November. SHAMELESS is focused on the fact that God does not desire us to feel shamed and unworthy, rather He sees us, loves and forgives us. In December, we will spend a couple Wednesday evenings looking at a series entitled Another Christmas Story.

We are looking into some exciting opportunities in 2017. We continue to seek God, and grow in our knowledge of Him.

If anyone is feeling God nudge you to support the youth in any way, please see Shawn or any advisor. Perhaps you are gifted in preparing delicious snacks, or are feeling led to make donations to special events, leading a Sunday School lesson occasionally, praying for the youth and the leaders or something beyond our wildest imagination, we would be interested to hear what God may placing on your heart.

Shawn O'Brien

Licensed Minister Report

During the summer term at Evangelical Theological Seminary, I completed Culture, Context and Mission. This course was great in that it highlighted that cultures are diverse. Various cultures can exist within an organization, including but limited to generational cultures and socioeconomic cultures. Communication is most effective when differences in culture are considered. I am currently taking Pentateuch and Joshua. This course explores the first six books of the Old Testament. I am gaining a better understanding of the story God tells in these books. Up until this point I have only taken one 3-credit course at a time, but I plan to take 6-credits in the first semester of 2017 (prayers appreciated for this increase of study).

As part of my licensed status I am required to have an Ordained mentor outside of the congregation. This is something that affords another way of learning and is beneficial. I recently attended the District Conference, which was an experience worth having. I look forward to attending the National Conference in the summer, as I have been elected. This are all great opportunities to learn and grow as.

I am no longer teaching Faith Seekers nor the Frist and Second graders, but have been meeting with the youth on Sunday mornings. I recently accepted the position of Director of Youth Ministries at WGT. I have had the opportunity to preach and be worship leader during the second service. Mick has offered me the opportunity to preach again in December and January. I continue to regularly sing with the praise team during first service. I had the privilege of joining Mick in the water for baptisms in September. I was also able to do some visitations to some members who are not able to attend church.

I continue to be grateful for my time at West Green Tree. I am able to experience great opportunities that enable me to grow. I am grateful for the continued support that my church family provides, I most certainly would not be able to endure without it. God is good all the time and praise is due Him always.

Shawn O'Brien

**Anniversaries**

12/14 - Jerry & Allison Huber
 12/19 - Jim & Linda Spickler
 12/29 - Dick & Sandra Dickason

Birthdays

12/1 - Tanner Hawthorne
 12/5 - Stephanie Collman, Lexi Youtz
 12/8 - Linda Spickler
 12/10 - Jason Slater, David Arndt
 12/11 - Dan Grose, Hailey Tippet
 12/12 - Brenda Drawbaugh, Cody Schwanger
 12/15 - Lisa Cannon
 12/16 - Ruthie Hollinger, Cindy Seitz,
 Holt Mease
 12/17 - Wanda Winters
 12/19 - Ellen Bowers, Henry Harry
 12/21 - Matthew Harry
 12/24 - Bill Tripp
 12/25 - Jean Hollinger
 12/28 - McKena Smith, Todd Shelly
 12/29 - Nichole Hawthorne, Carlyle Hinshaw
 12/30 - Erma Fazenbaker, Mike Hawthorne
 12/31 - Jere Fellenbaum



Give thanks unto the Lord, for HE IS GOOD !! The Tiny Timbers TTh class are so thankful for each child in our care. This year the am and pm team are Miss Ruthie and myself, Miss Natalie. We count it a privilege to play a small part in the lives of these preschool children God has entrusted to us for a few hours each week.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah was a word that was common in our songs of praise on Nov.17 for the parents. We did a program of praise to Jesus while the parents and friends listened in. They did their job very well. The children were decked out in their Wampanoag mantles and headbands and others in Pilgrim outfits. They played drums and sang their hearts out. The refreshments served were apple sauce previously made by the classes in September and pumpkin muffins made in October.

In October we had a wonderful time at Strites Orchard in Middletown which was our first field trip of the year. A fun and educational time was had by both classes and their families.

The classes have adjusted to the schedule, daily routines and classroom manners. Identifying their names and learning to write them along with counting, days of the week, months of the year are well on the way. Cutting and just holding the pencil correctly has proved challenging to some but all are trying their best.

We love the outdoors and bikes and recently had a great leaf pile to rake and jump in! Great fall fun!

We just completed the Shoebox for Samaritans Purse service opportunity. Many participated and the children really understood the concept of sharing with others who don't have much. Sharing the JOY.

In our Bible curriculum our children have learned Bible verses as well as character builder charts connected with the Bible story i.e. Good Samaritan (helping others), Prodigal son (forgiveness) and a wonderful time with Pastor Mick talking about how God made ME special.

As we approach the Christmas season, we will focus on the true meaning of Christmas which is Jesus' birthday. We will celebrate with a special program and all are welcome.

Thank you to all the families and church members who do so much in supporting Tiny Timbers.

Praise ye the Lord.

T/Th team JOY Miss Natalie and Miss Ruthie

Fall Fest Winners

The winners of the chili cook-off were:

- 1st- Anita Youtz
- 2nd- Julie Ramsey
- 3rd- Ann Saylor

The winners of the pie contest were:

- 1st- Nick Sieber
- 2nd- Allison Huber
- Ann Saylor
- Angie Harnish

First Wednesday

Mark your calendars for First Wednesday event on December 7th at 6:30 pm. Come to enjoy good fellowship & a great meal. Please see Heather Haverkamp with questions.

Any offerings that you would like credit for in 2016 must be received/postmarked by the church office by December 31st. Anything received after this date will be credited for 2017.

December Servants

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
Scripture & Sermon	Luke 1:5-25 Make Ready & Prepare Pastor Mick	Luke 1:26-38 For Nothing is Impossible With God Dave Stauffer	Matthew 1:18-25 You Are to Name Him Jesus Shawn O'Brien	Luke 2:8-20 Peace on Earth on Whom His Favor Rests Pastor Mick
Pianist/Organist	Sylvia Weaver	Brenda Geib	Leslie Allen	Ryan Arndt
Special Music	Choir	Mixed Group	Choir	
Chorister	Glenn Weaver	June Kolp	Sylvia Weaver	Regena Tripp
Greeters 8 am	Scott & Christie Farmer	Cindy Collins	Mindy & Noelle O'Brien	NONE COMBINED
Greeters 10:30 am	Shawn & Lisa Cannon	Jason & Holly Leonard	Duane & Kathy Mar- tin	Luetta Hess & Heather Haverkamp
Welcome Center 8 am	Kathy Martin	Mary Jane McClena- ghan	Mandy & Noelle O'Brien	NONE COMBINED
Welcome Center 10:30 am	Ralph Daniels	Colton & Brienna Brown	Regena Tripp	
Worship Leader	Julie Arndt	Tracy Drescher	Phil Hollinger	Cody Schwanger
Ushers	Youth	New Horizons SS Class	Faith Seekers SS Class	Sojourners SS Class
Deacons/Anointing	Jeff & Dori Schwanger	Rose & Marlin Hib- shman	Matt & Heather Haverkamp	Jerry & Julie Ruhl
Sound Room 8 am	Duane Martin & Zane Seitz	Jerry & JJ Huber	Jeff Schwanger & Justin Arndt	NONE COMBINED
Sound Room 10:30 am	Jeff Schwanger & Jason Leonard	Shane Schwanger & Nick Sieber	Duane Martin & Jeff Schwanger	Jerry Huber & Jason Leonard
8 am Nursery/Toddler	The Cannon Family	Marcia & Aiden Haw- thorne	Hailey Tippet & Lin- da Spickler	NONE COMBINED
10:30 am Nursery/Toddler	Chad & Audrey Garber	Jason & Holly Leonard	Jackie Hemperly & Jordyn Gutshall	

October & November Stats

	October 23	October 30	November 6	November 13	November 20
Total Worship	141	160	159	173	198
Sunday School	88	None	112	105	91
General	\$3,707.00	\$4,710.07	\$4,607.00	\$3,875.00	\$6,593.00
Building				\$200.00	\$300.00
Deacon	\$25.00				
Seminary	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$700.00		\$25.00

Adventures in Uganda: Blessings

Hello church family! I hope this update finds you all doing well! I hope you are enjoying the cooler weather of fall and fun fall festivities! As Thanksgiving approaches, it always makes me stop and think about everything that I am thankful for. When living in a third world country, I realize there is so much to be thankful for. Things that I take for granted every day. And I realize I need to appreciate who God is and what He has given to me and what He has done for me, not just once a year but every day of my life. The people in the village of Zirowwe don't waste their time complaining about how hard their life is and how much they are struggling for food, school fees for their children, and basic necessities. They are grateful for everything in life, even the fact that they woke up in the morning and are still alive. They are always thankful and joyful and keep their focus on the goodness of God instead of dwelling on their pain and struggle. This is a huge lesson I continue to learn from my village neighbors. We have to be grateful and joyful despite our circumstances. Ephesians 5:20 reminds us, "Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."



Here in Uganda, things continue to go very well! I can't believe that I only have a month left here! I will arrive home on December 16th. The time has gone by so fast and it's hard to imagine that I will be saying good-bye in a month. It will be a bittersweet time. I'm excited to come home again, but it's going to be hard to leave the place that has come to be my second home, and the people here that have become a part of my family. Please pray for me as I come to the end of my teaching experience and return to life back at home.

Teaching has been going well and it's so awesome to see how much the children are learning! They are learning more Sight Words and are able to read the books that I make with the Sight Words and other vocab words! We've been learning about sounds in the environment, outdoor objects in the environment, things we use to take care of and clean our bodies, and other themes. It was fun when learning about outdoor objects to do leaf rubbings with them and have them spell letters of the alphabet with sticks. They loved using these familiar things found outside to do classroom activities! My favorite part of the day is spending break time with the children. The girls love jumping rope and the boys enjoy playing soccer on the soccer field. Since we don't have soccer balls at school, one of the boys brought a ball from home. Now this soccer ball isn't your typical soccer ball. It's a ball made from many plastic grocery bags put together in the form of a ball and then tied together using pieces of string, yarn, or cloth. And it works as a ball and stays together pretty well! The boys play soccer every day and love it! It's amazing how resourceful the people are here and what they make with the things that we throw away! I brought jump ropes from home when I came and every day when the girls are finished with their porridge they ask me, "Teacher Kelsey, ropes?" and then I say yes, and all the girls run to the door of the classroom and stand there to wait with their hands in the air! They especially love it when I jump rope with them! Being with them at break time helps to ease the stress of teaching and just enjoy them as kids!



I only have one more week of teaching, one week of Final Exams, and then a week to grade their exams and do report cards. Then the last day of school is December 9th.

On October 25th, I had the opportunity to go on the school field trip with 4 other teachers and about 60 students. We travelled to Jinja, Uganda, which is about 2 hours away from Zirowwe. Our first stop was a textile factory. We had a tour of the factory and saw the entire process of how clothing and textiles are made there. Our second stop was a farm and they gave us a tour of the farm as we observed different types of cattle and other farm animals, like pigs and goats. They showed us the real tools that are used with the cattle and then they gave us a live demonstration of a dehorning of one of the small calves. After that, we went to a bread factory. We had



a tour of the factory and saw the process of how bread is made. It smelled so good in the factory, I just wanted to take one of the small cakes off the rack and eat it! Then, the last part of the field trip was the favorite of all of the children. We went to the Source of the Nile River. All of the kids and teachers were able to go on the boat tour and travel a short distance down the Nile River to the source of the Nile, which is the spot where Lake Victoria meets the Nile. The kids LOVED being on the boat and getting to see the river! After visiting the Source, we headed back to Ziobwe after a long, but fun-filled day!

On November 16th, I visited the home of one of my students, Esther. I have gotten to know her older sister, Moreen, really well because Moreen helps the team teach Sunday School and she also helps us when big teams come for Medical Camps or Sports Days. Moreen is finished with high school but was waiting for a sponsor so she could go to nursing school. Well, last Sunday Moreen informed me that she received a sponsor and would start nursing school in a week. Since she would be leaving, I said that I wanted to come to her house and spend time with her, Esther, and the whole family. So after I was finished teaching that day, I went with Moreen, Esther, and 3 other siblings to their house. When I arrived, their mom was excited to see me and ran to give me a big hug! I also know their mother really well because she cleans the guesthouse in the village and she is very involved in the church. She was so happy that I had come to visit and spend time with the family! We played BINGO and they all loved it so much! Esther loved giving herself a sticker after each round and sticking them all over her face! I brought Hot Wheels cars and her little brother loved them and played with them from the time I got them out of my bag until it was time to eat! Then we went outside and jumped rope, blew bubbles, and threw a small ball back and forth. Then it was time to eat! Her mom prepared a special meal just because I had come! She prepared pork (it's rare for these families to eat meat, it's only saved for special occasions), rice, posho (a food made from corn flour), beans, and soda. It was so delicious! Then we played BINGO again and this time even their mom played! I loved watching Esther explain and teach her mom how to play! It was such a wonderful time just playing together, having fun, and getting to experience a bit of home life with them. It's an experience that has truly blessed me and I'm so thankful for the love that the children and families show me here.



This experience has definitely had its challenges but the blessings far outnumber any difficulties I have faced. In the challenging times, I have seen Satan try to knock me down, steal my joy, and try to keep me from what God has called me here to do. In doing missions, life may look fun and exciting always because I'm in a new place and getting to have lots of new experiences, and while that is somewhat true, it is also one of the hardest experiences I've ever had. Satan attacks us and tries to keep us from doing what God has called us to do, and I have definitely felt that during my time here. Whenever I felt those attacks, I had to use prayer and promises in Scripture to combat the Enemy. It also helped to have the support of staff members at Empower and family members back home to help encourage me and pray for me. It was a beautiful picture of how the body of Christ works together to uplift and care for one another. When we try to do life on our own, it becomes overwhelming and unbearable when we face difficult times. However, when we become vulnerable and transparent and let others help us through the pain, we see how the body of Christ is meant to work together.

As I experience my last month here, please continue to uphold me in your prayers. First, just praise God for His provision, protection, and presence during my time here in Uganda. Please pray for strength as I finish teaching and that I can enjoy being with the children and that I will make the most out of the remaining time that I have with the children and people here. It's going to be hard to leave Uganda, so please pray that God would prepare my heart for leaving and transitioning back to life at home. Thank you so much for all of your prayers and support!

Blessings to you,
Kelsey Hollinger

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WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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Our Purpose Statement
*"We intentionally develop friends of
Jesus Christ by sharing God's love
through words and deeds."*

Sunday Service Times:

Contemporary Worship 8:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Traditional Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday Service Times:

Jr. High Clubs @ 7:00 pm

Sr. High Clubs @ 7:00 pm