



Evergreen News

February 2017

Pastor Mick's Musings...

Casting Stones... or Dirt Bombs!

I grew up in a large housing development called Green Hills. Adjacent to us was another large development called Village Green. Between the two developments was a stream, a meadow and some woods. The stream ran through the middle of the woods and was the imaginary border between the two developments. Although we went to school with the kids from Village Green and were great friends, the weekends were a different story. We would declare war on each other. It was a battle of nerves and name calling. The object was to see if you could advance across the stream and win the day. We had as many as twelve kids-review more on either side. Our weapons were not stones - that was against the rules. We used dirt bombs! Now a dirt bomb was a clump of dirt that stuck together quite well. Some were too lose for throwing while other were perfect projectiles. We would wait and come out ready to chuck our bombs at the enemy - the Village Greeners.

How ever much we planned an ambush, we would wait for the enemy to throw the first bomb. It was as if we, the Green Hills gang, did not want to instigate the battle. So we would get ready and move around find a tree or bush and get ready. Eventually, somebody threw one and the battle began. You would get hit with a dirt bomb and, according to the unwritten rules or engagement, you would fall down and play dead for fifty seconds. Why fifty and not sixty, I don't know. Eventually one group would cross the stream and declare themselves the winner. It was fun actually and the dirt bombs didn't hurt too bad. They stung but war is war.

I remember wanting to throw that first bomb. But something held me back. Some kind of decency or right behavior instilled in me from my upbringing made me hesitate. But once the first bomb was cast, I would defend myself and throw back. Sometimes I'd get hit and sometimes I would hit someone.

In the Gospel of John, chapter eight, Jesus encountered a bunch of people picking up rocks to stone a woman. She was defenseless, scared and sobbing. According to the Law, this was the right thing to do when someone does such a heinous crime such as adultery. Jesus bent down and started writing something in the sand. We do not know what it was He wrote. My best guess is that it was sins committed by those who would throw the rocks. He said, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Jesus started to write again in the sand and, eventually, they dropped their stones and began to move away.

Casting stones in those days brought on pain and death. However, today we still cast stones that cause pain and death. Casting a spiritual and emotional stone can cause as much pain as a real stone. That is what we throw these days. We throw accusations, insults and prejudice. We throw rumors, gossip and false witness. We hurl boulders at those who are hurting, sobbing and defenseless. We chuck rocks at those sinners!

Sometimes I feel like the adulteress and sometimes I feel like those who are picking up the stones. And all the while Jesus is loving me and saving me from myself. I believe that to Jesus, it did not matter if you were the accused or the accuser. It was the casting of the stone that mattered. It is the same today as it was then. Today, He asks me to drop my stones. He asks me to look around to see if anyone is justified to cast the first stone. He takes me and holds me and says to me, "I will not condemn you. I will not throw stones. Leave the stone throwing to others. Go now and leave your life of sin."

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I Corinthians 13

Valentine's Day is a day of love,
 For showing that we care,
 And if we read the Bible,
 God describes love there:
 If we speak like celestial angels
 From heaven up above,
 All our words mean nothing
 If we don't have Christian love.
 Love is patient, love is kind;
 It doesn't brag or boast;
 Love conquers pride and envy;
 It is never self-engrossed.
 Love is not rude or angry;
 Forgiveness counters wrong;
 Love stays away from evil;
 It sings a truthful song.
 Love is full of trust and hope;
 It always perseveres;
 Love never fails; It's faithful;
 To the Bible it adheres.
 And if you give this kind of love
 To your special Valentine,
 You'll be loving right in harmony
 With God's own sweet design.

By Joanna Fuchs



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FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 First Wednesday 6:30 pm	2 Men's Bible Study Choir 7 pm	3 Ladies PJ Movie Night 7 pm Youth Retreat	4 3M 7 am Youth Retreat
5 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Youth Retreat	6 WWW Bible Study 7 pm	7 Depart for Juarez Mission's Trip	8 Youth 7 pm	9 Men's Bible Study Choir 7 pm	10	11 3M 7 am
12 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	13 WWW Bible Study Tiny Timbers Board Mtg. 7 pm	14 Commis- sions 7 pm Board 8 pm  Return from Juarez	15 Youth 7 pm	16 Men's Bible Study Choir 7 pm	17	18 3M 7 am
19 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am New Member Recognition	20 WWW Bible Study 7 pm Tiny Timbers Closed President's Day	21 Tiny Timbers Closed	22 Youth Gym & Pizza Night at Midway COB 5 pm	23 Men's Bible Study Choir 7 pm	24	25 3M 7 am
26 Early Service 8 am 9 am SVPS Baby Shower Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	27 WWW Bible Study 7 pm	28 Deacon Mtg. 7 pm				

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So, I am done throwing stones! I will not play that game anymore. I don't care if someone throws the first stone, I will not retaliate. I will not condemn. Jesus has given me a new life and a new purpose and that is to love Him and love others like He loves me. I know I will fail from time to time. Then I will count to fifty and begin again to live and to love.

Love somebody today in Jesus' name,
Pastor Mick

From the DOYM

WGT Youth are in full swing for 2017.

Most recently on Thursday, January 12, our youth were featured on WJTL's Youth Group Night. We had the opportunity to be on air, learn about radio spots as well as enjoy some new music and food.

Looking ahead:

- *Youth Retreat – February 3-5 at 3 Springs Ministries
- *COBYs Bike & Hike Top Youth Group – Pizza & Gym Night – February 25
- *Youth Sunday – March 5
- *Confidence Conference – March 11

While this may seem like a lot, we are still seeking to grow in our knowledge of the Lord through a combination of study, service, worship and fun. Please pray for us as we seek to know what God has in His Story for us. Thank you to everyone for your continued interest and support of the Youth of WGT.



The children came back to preschool after Christmas break ready to learn and play. As the MWF teacher's assistant I have the privilege of making crafts with the students, reading to them, and working puzzles and other hands-on activities. It is encouraging to see how much better each one is writing their name and following instructions.

All of the children seem to really enjoy their time at Tiny Timbers, as Miss Sherry makes learning so much fun and interesting. The sensory table is always a place of hands-on learning. The students were excited to play with shaving cream, rubbing it all over their faces and hands. Bird seed mixed with rubber worms was also a big hit.

We are still waiting for the winter weather to arrive so we can play in the snow together. As long as the weather holds though we try to spend some time each day outside. Riding bikes and playing on the playground equipment is always a good way to expend some energy. It is a blessing to watch these children learn and grow!

God bless, Miss Teresa



Anniversaries

- 2/16 - Don & Ruthie Hollinger
- 2/25 - Mel & Brenda Geib
- 2/26 - Greg & Cindy Seitz

Birthdays

- 2/1 - Matt Ramsey
- 2/2 - Nel Bender, Sarah Clugston
- 2/4 - Jim Spickler, Charles Drescher
- 2/5 - Darlene Breneman, Charles Drescher
- 2/7 - Matt Martin
- 2/9 - Brad Drawbaugh
- 2/12 - Matt Haverkamp
- 2/14 - Donna Hollinger, Don Hollinger, Paula Brandt
- 2/15 - Barrett Youtz
- 2/16 - Karen Ginder
- 2/17 - John Townsend
- 2/19 - Clint Arndt
- 2/20 - Jean Landvater
- 2/22 - Brendan Haverkamp
- 2/24 - Jessica Tripp
- 2/25 - Doug Breneman

You're all invited!



What is it?? A baby shower!

Who is it for?? Babies all over our community!

When & Where? Sunday, February 26th 9 am in the Fellowship Hall

Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services is an amazing organization. They minister to moms and babies providing medical services, counseling, love, & supplies. They help moms choose life for their babies, whether that means raising the baby herself, or blessing another family through adoption.

So, have fun shopping and join us for a fun celebration of new life! We'll have cake, snacks and decorations. Bring your gifts or gift cards that day and the Witness committee will deliver everything to SVPS.

Sunday February 12th we will have a Mission Moment featuring SVPS to hear more! Check out the needs list below or go to www.svps.org , donate, then tangible giving.

Baby Boutique

There is a Baby Boutique located in each clinic and center. It is filled with new and like-new items that are helpful to clients as they care for their babies. Clients participating in our *Earn While You Learn* program earn CARE Cash to purchase diapers, wipes, blankets, baby clothing, and so much more. Your gifts offer practical assistance in Jesus' name.

Most Needed Items:

- New or like new double strollers, regular strollers, and umbrella strollers
- New or like new Pack n Plays
- New Boppy nursing pillows
- Bassinets
- High chairs
- Diapers: all sizes thru size 6, especially sizes 5 and 6
- Baby wipes
- Diaper ointment
- Crib bedding: pads and sheets (clients love earth tones like soft grays, mochas and blues)
- Clothing: infant to 4T - warm weather and cool weather
- New layette items: brush and comb sets, pacifiers, bottles, bibs, digital thermometers, baby shampoo, baby wash, baby towels, washcloths and receiving blankets
- Baby formula (especially Similac Advanced)

Please note that we cannot accept used toys or new or used stuffed animals.

Notice: Due to frequent recalls and strict government regulations, SVPS appreciates financial donations with which we can purchase larger baby items such as cribs, 3-in-1 strollers, and pack-n-plays online for the client to pick up at a local store. We also invite you to send us a Walmart gift card for the provision of large baby items.

February Servants

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Scripture & Sermon	"Commit" Colossians 3:12-17 Pastor Mick	"A Leap of Faith from Self to God" Jeremiah 17:1-13, Luke 17:1-6 Dave Stauffer	"I Am the Bread of Life" John 6:35 Pastor Mick	"I Am the Light of the World" John 8:12 Pastor Mick
Pianist/Organist	Sylvia Weaver	Brenda Geib	Leslie Allen	Ryan Arndt
Special Music	Choir	Allison Huber	Choir	Kari Slater
Chorister	Glenn Weaver	June Kolp	Sylvia Weaver	Regena Tripp
Greeters 8 am	Marlin & Rose Hibshman	Greg & Julie Ramsey	Don & Ruthie Hollinger	Adrienne & Grace Fellenbaum
Greeters 10:30 am	Bill & Regena Tripp	Jim & Ruthanne Gruber	Colton & Brienna Brown	Cody Schwanger & Greg Seitz
Welcome Center 8 am	Leslie Allen	Julie Ramsey	Sarah Clugston	Blaine Youtz
Welcome Center 10:30 am	Regena Tripp	Ralph Daniels	Colton & Brienna Brown	Glenn & Sylvia Weaver
Worship Leader	Scott Farmer	Dave Hawthorne	June Kolp	Matt Haverkamp
Ushers	Youth	New Horizons SS Class	Faith Seekers SS Class	Sojourners SS Class
Deacons/Anointing	Clint & Julie Arndt	Dennis & Ann Saylor	June Kolp	Jeff & Dori Schwanger
Sound Room 8 am	Jerry Huber & Nick Sieber	Jerry Huber & Cody Dupler	Jerry Huber & Zane Seitz	Jerry Huber & Justin Arndt
Sound Room 10:30 am	Jeff & Shane Schwanger	Duane Martin & Jason Leonard	Jeff Schwanger & Mick Sieber	Duane Martin & Shane Schwanger
8 am Nursery/Toddler		The Cannon Family	Donna Weaver	Linda Spickler & Hailey Tippet
10:30 am Nursery/Toddler	Kathy Martin	The Huber Family	Chad & Audrey Garber	Phil & Donna Hollinger

December & January Stats

	December 25	January 1	January 8	January 15
Total Worship	79	134	168	162
Sunday School	None	78	118	107
General	\$38,335.00	\$4,621.00	\$5,568.00	\$3,712.00
Building	\$6,100.00			
Deacon	\$100.00	\$40.00	\$159.00	\$100.00
Seminary	\$2,280.00			\$25.00

Community Christmas Day Dinner 2016

What a blessing to be able to serve others on one of the holiest days of the year! This marks our 6th year with this year serving over 350 people within our community and this year I heard sincere thanks from many for opening our doors and providing fellowship to those who would otherwise be by themselves for the holiday. In addition we now see several individuals returning from year to year and catching up with those who they've gotten to know from year's past. We're also able to bless a family with a Christmas dinner after their visit with their son in our cemetery. He was tragically killed in a car accident earlier in the year of our first dinner. They saw our ad for dinner that year, came and continue to come every year. They are so thankful to be here and stated this year that they're thankful to be here to have dinner with their son. Stories like these continue to affirm that we are doing good work and an awesome testimony of the power of showing God's love to others. I must admit that I am like most who get so caught up in all the hustle and bustle of the shopping, baking cookies, trying to do cards, etc. and with all that stress on top of feeling like something is missing from those I've lost recently, the Christmas dinner helped me gain perspective and bring back that holiday spirit.

As always I cannot thank all of you enough who help me pull this together every year. With over 50 WGT helpers my list would be long to mention you all. It's great to see the body pull together on such a wonderful event. Thank you, my West Green Tree COB family, you are the best and yet another blessing that I am extremely grateful for.

Tracy Drescher





740 Greentree Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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Mick Allen, Senior Pastor
pastormick@westgreentree.org

Paula Jones, Administrative Assistant
paula@westgreentree.org

Phone: 717-653-5367
Fax: 717-653-5056

www.westgreentree.org

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