

Pittsburgh District Church of the Nazarene

177 North Road, Butler PA 16001

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David L. Marker, Editor - admarker@comcast.net



February
2014



Rev. J Bret Metcalfe
District Superintendent

As we begin this New Year, we have a blank page ready to be filled. What will you fill your year with? Some of you will make resolutions; many of you who make resolutions will find them broken way too soon. May I make a few suggestions? First of all, just because you have a blank page does not mean you cannot make plans. However, when you make your plans, run them by the Lord first, for He knows more about tomorrow than we do. As Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, they are plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (ESV). By seeking His plans, you are saying to Him that His plans are greater than your plans (Isaiah 55:8-9). When you seek first His kingdom, you are allowing Him to bless you beyond measure (*Matthew 6:33*). Before you make any decisions, spend time with the Father and see what He says, then in obedience, follow Him.

The second suggestion that I have is to love others the same way that Christ loved you (*John 13:35*). Also, 1 John 4:19 says, “We love because he first loved us” (ESV). While there are many more passages about loving others, the only way we will be able to enter into a relationship with those who do not know Christ, in an attempt to share Christ with them is if we love them with a love that comes only from the Father. This is not always easy. However, in our quiet times we can work through our struggles with the Father so that we can live out His will in our public times. That does not mean you have to like what others do, but you can love them with the love of Christ so they will know we are Christians (*John 13:35*).

The last suggestion that I have is to live at peace with each other (*Romans 12:18*). We will not all think alike, nor will we all understand situations the same. However, we can try to understand the other person, listening to what they have to say and then if nothing else, agree to disagree and move forward for the kingdom. The more we are “at each other” the more reasons the world has for not wanting to become a Christ follower. If you serve Christ, live like you do and point people to Him. It is Christ that draws people to Himself, but we can be a catalyst. May we all do what Christ calls us to do and live as He calls us to live so that the kingdom grows and the people will know there is a God who loves them and cares about them.

Your co-laborer, J Bret

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Rev. David Smith
SDMI Chair

Sunday School Discipleship Ministries International

PghDistrictSDMIChair@aol.com
Home/Office: #814-437-2586
Cell: #724-388-8928

SDMI Treasurer:

Ron Schaeffer

141 Tressler Drive
Confluence, Pa 15424
Phone: 814-395-5168

e-mail: ronnel62@verizon.net



SUNDAY SCHOOL | DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Find Us Faithful

We are excited about what God is doing in Sunday School in the local church. My prayer for your church is that the people who come to Sunday School will realize that we are a people of prayer, a people who engage in the word, and a people who make Christ-like disciples.

I know that this time of year can be depressing and discouraging with all the bad weather we have had. But I'm finding that whether it is snow, hail, rain or even if the sun is shining, we should be encouraged because God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Ephesians 3:20-21: *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.*

I have asked Christina Siordia to announce our New Kidz Camp Directors. We are still in need of a Family Camp Kids Director. If this is an area you feel God leading you and you are interested in serving the District in this position, please contact Christina or myself.

I am also including the SDMI Budget report from Ron Schaeffer to let you know what your Sunday School has paid year-to-date as of December 2013. I want to thank you for your faithful and consistent giving. Without your support, we would not be able to continue the District SDMI ministries. May the Lord bless your church as you faithfully give.

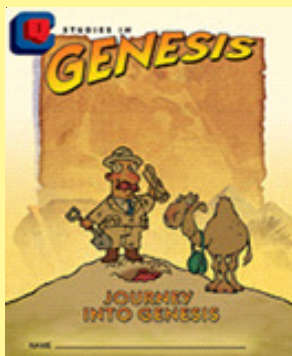
Pastor Dave Smith, District SDMI Chair

We are so excited to introduce our new Kidz Camp Directors, Becky Baily and Kolaya Horne. Becky comes to us from Waynesburg Church of the Nazarene where she serves faithfully in the Children's Ministries Department. She has worked in a variety of areas within the ministry for the past four years and provides the consistency needed in developing solid relationships with children. Kolaya Horne comes to us from Kossuth Faith Church. Kolaya is a Pastor's wife and is instrumental in her home church serving as the prime support to her husband, Reverend Troy Horne. She serves within Children's Ministries and other ministry areas as needs arise. She has a love of music and drama and brings energy and fun to all she does. These two gifted women will co-direct this year's Kidz Camp. Please join me in welcoming them to our District Children's Leadership Team and praying for God's direction as they plan together Kidz Camp 2014.

In His Grace, Christine Siordia
District Children's Pastor
Waynesburg Church of the Nazarene
724-627-7593

Pittsburgh District SDMI Budget Report Ending – 12/31/13

Church	Received	Church	Received
Albion Wesleyan	\$175.00	Monaca New Beginnings	\$ 41.34
Allison	\$ 0.00	Monongahela	\$178.28
Anita	\$ 0.00	Nanty Glo	\$ 0.00
Atlasburg	\$ 0.00	New Brighton	\$201.17
Beaver Falls College Hill	\$ 0.00	New Castle Middle Cross	\$ 0.00
Belle Vernon	\$ 94.66	New Galilee	\$ 0.00
Bethel Park South Hills	\$250.00	NuMine Bible Fellow.	\$ 0.00
Boswell New Life	\$ 51.12	Oil City	\$193.05
Bradford First	\$231.37	Paris	\$129.24
Brookville Calvary	\$ 0.00	Philipsburg	\$ 0.00
Bunola	\$ 34.00	Pgh Lincoln Place	\$190.00
Butler First	\$200.00	Portage	\$ 0.00
California Calvary	\$270.00	Punxsutawney	\$ 51.12
Clarion	\$ 30.00	Riceville	\$ 0.00
Clearfield	\$ 13.34	Ridgway	\$ 77.56
Confluence	\$100.00	Scottdale	\$ 0.00
Coraopolis	\$128.00	Sharpsville	\$ 0.00
Corry	\$ 55.46	Sheakleyville	\$ 0.00
Curtisville Deer Lakes Comm.	\$ 0.00	Sligo	\$ 4.64
DuBois Emmanuel	\$ 11.61	Smithton	\$175.00
Duquesne City of Hope	\$ 0.00	Somerset	\$110.00
Ebensburg Lakeside Comm.	\$ 0.00	Springboro Conneaut Valley	\$ 0.00
Edinboro Hillcrest	\$ 70.00	The Gathering	\$ 0.00
Ellwood City	\$ 0.00	Titusville	\$ 0.00
Emlenton Lighthouse	\$ 0.00	Union City	\$ 0.00
Erie First	\$ 0.00	Uniontown	\$ 0.00
Erie Millcreek	\$ 0.00	Vanderbilt	\$ 0.00
Erie New Life	\$ 21.90	Waltersburg	\$ 0.00
Franklin	\$222.59	Warren First	\$ 0.00
Fredonia	\$ 0.00	Washington First	\$ 97.00
Freedom Pine Run	\$105.00	Washington New Hope	\$ 0.00
Glisson Ridge Community	\$ 0.00	Waterford	\$ 14.14
Greenville Lifeway	\$ 0.00	Waynesburg	\$830.00
Grove City	\$129.65	West Mifflin Terrace	\$ 0.00
Hampton Community	\$ 0.00	West Sunbury United	\$ 0.00
Hawthorn	\$ 0.00	Windber	\$ 0.00
Hermitage Gentle Shep.	\$350.00	Zelienople	\$104.39
Homer City	\$233.00		
Imperial	\$ 0.00		
Indiana First	\$ 0.00		
Irwin Norwin	\$200.00	Totals	\$ 5,786.31
Jefferson	\$ 94.59	Expected Income:	\$16,000.00
Jerome	\$ 0.00	Percentage of Budget Paid	36.16%
Kenwood	\$125.74	Comparison of % from last yr:	37.34%
Kittanning	\$ 60.30		
Kossuth Faith	\$ 60.02	Checks Payable: Pittsburgh District SDMI	
Meadville First	\$ 12.12	Mail to: Ron Schaeffer (814) 395-5168	
Mercer	\$ 59.91	141 Tressler Dr.	
Milesburg	\$ 0.00	Confluence, PA 15424	



CHILDREN'S BIBLE QUIZZING

Our 2nd invitational quizzes will be held on March 8, 2014, at Coraopolis and Faith Fellowship Alliance. Mark your calendars. Please use this e-mail address for any quizzing related messages:
pghnazquizzers@yahoo.com
God Bless you all,
Joanne



Colleen Baker,
NYI President



Regional Festival of Life (FOL)

March 19-23

We Choose You! to compete and/or spectate at Regional Festival of Life (FOL,) March 19-23. Teens in high school can participate in any open category or come and cheer on the vocal soloists, volleyball, and dodge ball teams. A deposit of \$125 is due with the FOL application by January 26th; the remainder of \$125 is due by February 23rd. Please contact Pastor Rodney Johnson (814)-573-8612 or at meadvillenazarene@windstream.net for more information.

North or South? Which will you choose?

Winter Retreat will be from February 28 - March 2, in TWO locations (for ease of travel and to allow more persons to attend). Teens and chaperones may choose whichever location they wish to attend, regardless of where they live. Please see the registration forms (attached) for cost and deadlines. Contact Pastor J. Maier (pastorj@kinzua.net) for more information on the Northern Retreat or Pastor Martin Burns (Martinburns2@gmail.com) for the Southern Retreat.

Questions?

As always, **get questions answered** and forms sent to you directly by e-mailing us at PittsburghNYI@gmail.com. *Like* us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for updates and pictures of events as they happen!



Fun & Fellowship!

*Make new friends
while you create
your scrapbook
memories!*



Complete the attached
form
and return it to
Mt. Chestnut Nazarene
Center

177 North Road, Butler, Pa 16001



Note:

*If you have any tips or
demonstrations you would like
to share with the group, please
let us know and we will happily
include you in our agenda!*

Weekend Includes:

- ❖ Devotions & Worship Service
- ❖ Food & Lodging
- ❖ Demonstrations & Tips
 - *Demonstrations for
Beginners*
 - *Tips for Experienced*
- ❖ The Cricut cutting machine:
 - *Create pages you thought only
the professionals could.*
- ❖ Card Making:
 - *Make great greeting cards
that can be used for any
occasion.*
- ❖ You may bring
miscellaneous items to sell



Contact Mt. Chestnut Nazarene
Center for additional
applications:

724-287-5867

pghdistnaz@zoominternet.net



Scrapbook Retreat

March 21-23, 2014

**Optional Extended
Retreat!**

March 20-23, 2014



Mt. Chestnut
Nazarene Center

177 North Road

Butler, Pa 16001



*\$125 for the weekend -
meals and lodging
included!*



Cost:

Fri-Sun: \$125/\$115 for commuters (\$160/single occupancy)

Extended: (starts Thursday) \$157/\$175 single occ.

\$147 for commuters

Includes:

Meals & lodging

Bring:

- bedding/towels
- a lamp (for your table)
- scrapbook materials

Time:

4PM Friday to 4PM Sunday



(Extended starts 4PM Thursday)

Devotions & Worship



Hi!

My name is Patti Smith, and I will be your host for this exciting weekend. I am looking forward to meeting you.

We are privileged to have a very special guest speaker who will share with us throughout the weekend. You will be greatly encouraged.

Make your reservations early, and don't forget to give us all your info. Deposits are non-refundable.



Scrapbook Retreat Registration

March 21-23, 2014

Deadline: March 7, 2014

(No refunds after this date)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Roommate Preference:

Food Allergies: _____

___ Yes! I want to extend my retreat and begin on Thursday, Mar. 20 at 4:00 PM for a total cost of \$157 (\$175 single occ.). Includes Friday breakfast and lunch.

2014 Greetings from NMI:

I hope you all have had a wonderful start to the New Year. Our NMI would not survive without ALL of you. You may be a small church or a large one but we are all the body of Christ.

In the past 2 months, I have had many questions about Deputation, Crisis Care Kits and our Kidz Project. I want to address these questions in this issue.

Deputation 2014: We do not have any missionaries scheduled for spring. The council has been working on the following schedule. We are going to schedule a missionary for a fall Friday night service at the South end of the District. Saturday afternoon, we will have a service at the District Center for all of us. Sunday's service will be at a church in the middle of the District. Sunday evening service will be towards the North end of the District. Churches are to take their offerings with them wherever they attend.

With this new planning, we know it is a different way for deputation but praying that churches will come out and at least try this. Let us know what you think and if your church is interested in hosting one of these events in the fall.

Thank you all for continuing to make Crisis Care Kits. I have had several calls on where to deliver them. If you are close to the campground, please bring them there. Contact Phil Heckman and he will open the Mission Station and store them there until we have a truckload. Please send your shipping check to Debbie Shutack, our treasurer. If you are not so close please store them and bring in June to our NMI Convention.

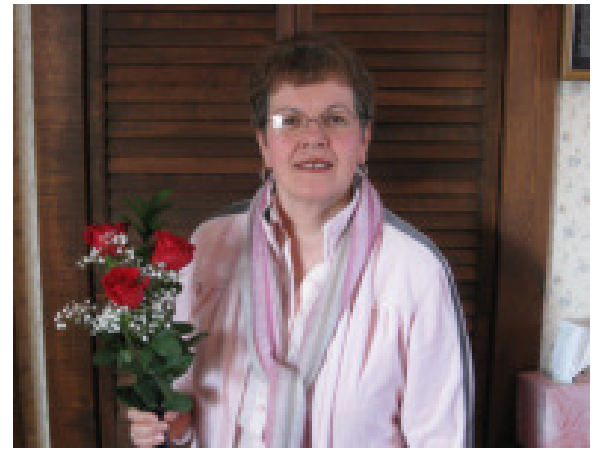
Last, remember our Children's project for the district. We are collecting money for motorcycles to deliver the Jesus Film into areas that cannot be reached by trucks and cars. The motorcycle can take the Jesus Film into the remote areas. Please pray and get our children involved in spreading the love of Jesus, through the Jesus Film.

This was in the most recent news:

Point Loma Nazarene University announced that after a yearlong search process it has hired Tim Whetstone to serve as university chaplain. Whetstone is an ordained minister and most recently served as pastor of New Start Church of the Nazarene in the South Hills of Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh District).

Typhoon relief shipment arrives in Philippines: Wednesday, December 4, 2013, Cebu City, Philippines. The Church of the Nazarene's relief efforts continue in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan. Asia-Pacific Communications provided the following update on November 25 about relief efforts in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan:

Thank you ALL for your help.
Serving the Pittsburgh NMI District
Sandy Greenlee



Ten Things Church Members Desire in a Pastor

by **Thom S. Rainer**: the President and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Prior to LifeWay, he served at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for twelve years where he was the founding dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism. He is a 1977 graduate of the University of Alabama and earned his Master of Divinity and Ph.D. degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Many of my articles come from the perspective of pastors. That will not change in the future. I am an advocate of pastors and I desire God's best for them. I have no plans to change my advocacy role.

As a change of pace, however, I recently asked a few hundred laypersons to write down what they desired of a pastor. Their responses were open-ended, and there was no limitation on the number of items they could list. Though my approach was not scientific, these laypersons did represent over sixty churches.

Here are their top ten responses in order of frequency. Since many of them gave one or more sentences as a response, I can provide a representative comment by each of the responses.

(Editor's note: The Pittsburgh District and the Promoter staff does not necessarily agree with any of the responses or the order listed.)

1. **Love of congregation.** "If we know that our pastor loves us, everything else falls in place. If he doesn't, nothing else matters."
2. **Effective preaching.** "I don't have any expectation that my preacher be one of the best in the world, I just want to know that he has spent time in the Word each week to teach us effectively and consistently."
3. **Strong character.** "No pastor is perfect, but I do want a pastor whose character is above reproach on moral, family, and financial issues."
4. **Good work ethic.** "I don't want either a workaholic pastor or a lazy pastor. Unfortunately, our last two pastors have been obviously lazy."
5. **Casts a vision.** "Our church has so much possibility; I want to hear what we will do to make a difference in our community and the world."
6. **Demonstrates healthy leadership.** "Most of the pastors in my church have demonstrated a good balance; they have been strong leaders but not dictators."
7. **Joyous.** "Our current pastor is a man of joy. His joy and enthusiasm are contagious. I love him for that!"
8. **Does not yield to critics.** "I know that every pastor serving today has his critics. And I know it's tough to deal with them. I just want these pastors to know that we supporters are in the majority. Please don't let the minority critics dictate how you lead and serve."
9. **Transparent.** "Every pastor that I have had has been open and transparent about the church and the direction we are headed. It sure has made our church healthier."
10. **Models evangelism.** "Our pastor is passionate about sharing the gospel. His heart and attitude are contagious."

What do you think about this list? What would you add from the perspective of either a pastor or a layperson?

This group knows holidays are a tough time to grieve

December 22, 2013 12:00 AM

By Brian O'Neill / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Almost three years ago, Paul Oyler lost his wife. She became very sick in December, but Mr. Oyler had to take her to an emergency room three times before a doctor offered the diagnosis: cancer. "We didn't know anything was wrong, and then a month later she was gone," he said. "That first Christmas, even though it was eight or 10 months later, it just devastated me. Just the emptiness of being alone at the holidays, it overwhelmed me."

Mr. Oyler has since remarried and is finishing studies for the ministry. As a leader in The Gathering Church of the Nazarene west of Butler, he has organized a series of "Blue Christmas" gatherings in the little white chapel at 177 North Road. They're intended for anyone who is grieving or simply craving company during the holidays.

I attended the first session last Monday night, with additional gatherings to be held the next two Mondays. I went partly because I'd seen no future minister in Mr. Oyler when I knew him 30 years ago. Back then, he and I were among the summer habitues of the right-field stands in a minor-league Salem, Va., ballpark, drinking beer and jeering the visiting club and laughing so hard that our section earned the nickname Rowdy Ridge.

By his own admission, Mr. Oyler drank and smoked too much in his youth, sampling "everything the '70s had to offer." But he found God in the mid-'80s, and his faith remains strong despite hard going since. Among the foursome I met at a small round table in an otherwise empty chapel Monday, faith and hard-won endurance were common attributes. We talked as pop Christmas tunes played.

Colleen Baker, the church's lead pastor, recalled the morning two days after Thanksgiving eight years ago, when a state trooper came to her door to tell her that her husband, Ron, had been killed in a car accident. In the surreal days that followed, nobody knew what to say to her, but they said it anyway. She boiled silently, thinking, "Oh, please, recite another Hallmark greeting." On one of the first hard nights, she lay on the bathroom floor repeatedly saying the Lord's Prayer as her 6-year-old daughter slept.

Her mother advised her, "You can be angry and bitter the rest of your life ... or you can draw on your faith and have Jesus pull you through." Rev. Baker has a ready laugh now. She has remarried and is expecting another daughter around Valentine's Day, but she can still remember with head-shaking bitterness that within two months of her first husband's death, a clueless friend was telling her, "Get over it."

Vicki Schiffer understood. She also lost her husband to brain cancer more than 11 years ago. She remarried the following year, discovering that "You can have hurt and joy at the same time. My way of coping is laughter."

Mr. Oyler's wife, Debbie, has a life story similar to his: a divorce, a remarriage, and then the death of her husband, Ron, four years ago. She spoke of a friend who lost her husband in May. A couple of months ago, she and Mrs. Schiffer took a friend who was recently widowed to Panera Bread, where the conversation whipped from sadness to laughter and back again. A woman at a nearby table fell into their conversation and they invited her over, and she told them she'd lost her husband in a shooting 20 years ago and had raised three children alone. The woman said she hadn't hugged anyone but her children in 20 years, but she hugged everyone at the table.

"We know what hurting people need because people did it for us," Mrs. Oyler said. Each member of this quartet shared a story of fellow church members making extraordinary gifts of time, goods and money to get them through tough times, yet this gathering had as much in common with group therapy as it did with Christianity. We never said a formal prayer in the hour-plus we talked. The idea for succeeding Mondays is to have the buffet and gab from 6 p.m. to 7:30, followed by a Christian service.

Rev. Baker wasn't surprised at all the empty chairs. When she was first widowed, "I wouldn't have left the house." But the "Blue Christmas" group hopes someone reading this will seek out their haven from the societal demand to "be all holly jolly," as Mr. Oyler put it. I left wondering how much courage it might take for an isolated person to reach out this time of year. In that old Beatles song "Eleanor Rigby," the title character and the equally lonely Father Mackenzie meet only at her gravesite.

District Events for 2014

February 8: NYI Quizzing (Zelienople)

March 1: Children's Quizzing (Coraopolis and Faith Fellowship)

March 8: Unity in Community Day

March 14-15: District Ladies' Retreat

March 20-23: District Scrapbook Retreat

March 29: NYI Quizzing (Warren)

April 5: District Children's Quiz Finals
(Butler)

April 12: NYI Quizzing – Practice for
Regional Quiz

April 12: Zone Children's Talent

April 25-26: Women In Ministry Retreat

May 17: District Children's Talent Finals

June 6-7: District Assembly

June 8: District Wide Worship Service

June 14: NYI Convention

June 20-21: NMI Convention

Dates are subject to change

Pittsburgh Promoter Mailing List?

If you want onto the Pittsburgh District Promoter E-Mail list, please contact : David Marker at admarker@comcast.net. The Promoter is published in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December of each year. Copies of all Promoter issues are also available on-line at the Pittsburgh District website at: www.pghnazarene.org.

DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS:

Thank you for your faithful giving to the District Ministry Fund and the other allocations. Please remember to send your district allocations into the District, SDMI, NMI and NYI. If you haven't started giving, it's never too late!

Payments can be made to the following:

District Ministry Fund:

Henry Twentier, District Treasurer
177 North Road, Butler PA 16001

Make checks payable to:

***Pittsburgh District
Church of the Nazarene***

NMI:

Debra Shutak

428 Great Belt Road

Butler PA 16002

Make checks payable to:

Pittsburgh District NMI

SDMI:

Rev. Ronald Schaeffer

141 Tressler Drive

Confluence PA 15424

Make checks payable to:

Pittsburgh District SDMI

NYI:

Tom Aaron

141 Supervisor Drive

West Newton PA 15089

Make checks payable to:

Pittsburgh District NYI

ENC:

23 E Elm Avenue

Quincy MA 02170