

Mountviews

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A Christmas Gift for Our Community

While there are many moments that my poor memory cannot recall, there are those that are forever etched in my mind. Last Christmas Eve, for example, we were packed. Our 7pm worship service was brimming with people. There were many folks from our community that had come here for the very first time. It was awe-inspiring to see what God had done through personal invites we extended to family and friends and by way of about 3500 postcards we sent out to families in our neighborhood.

About 10 minutes into worship, I grabbed Doug Marshall, our head usher, and asked him how we were doing with seating everyone. And like the pro that he is, he looked at me calmly and assuredly and said, "No worries brother, we still have 4 left." He wasn't worried and as God would have it, there were literally just enough seats for all those that attended.

This year, as the church continues to grow and as we again invite families from our community and families that attend our preschool, we are praying and planning for even more people to come to Mountview on Christmas Eve. Because of this we will be offering two opportunities for worship on Christmas Eve. A family worship experience at 6pm and our traditional worship service at 7:30pm. It should be an awesome night of connecting with the unchurched and the unsaved as we worship the Lord together. In order for this to work your help is needed. Here's how:

6pm Family worship

If you are a family with preschool or elementary age children or are planning on inviting friends or family that fit this description, please plan on attending our special 6pm family worship experience. This will be a worship service that is specifically designed for our children to worship with their families. The music, prayers, drama, and lesson will be for kids and parents to share and experience together. I am looking forward to coming to this with my wife and son. If all of us who fit this description come to this service, we will be able to connect with brand new families who come (awesome!) and we will ensure that there will be plenty of seating for the 7:30pm service (again, awesome).

Nursery assistance

If you are able to help in the nursery that night for one of the worship services, that would be greatly appreciated. Providing care for people's little ones who are new to this church on a night like this means that a new family can worship with the peace of mind that their child is being loved and cared for properly. New parents have a tough enough time leaving their little ones period, let alone in a new and unfamiliar place with people who are strangers. Your warmth, smile, love, kindness, and assurance when you meet them will go a long way in helping to make their night, as well as to help make a decision to return to Mountview.

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Announcements

The women's Wednesday morning Bible study will begin a new study Wednesday, January 6, 2010. Join us in the church library from 9–11am for “Jesus, The One and Only” by Beth Moore, an in-depth study of the life of Jesus based on the book of Luke. Come along on a life-changing journey which will lead you through the hills of Galilee with the Teacher, across the lake with the Master, and finally, on the road toward the cross with the Savior. Get to know Jesus intimately, as though you had walked with Him during His days of earthly ministry. This 11-week, in-depth study includes personal assignments and weekly sessions during which you will view video sessions taped on location in Jerusalem and throughout Israel. Contact Cindy Hinkle (761.0577 or cindyhinkle@sbcglobal.net) to join. Childcare is provided. Women of all ages are welcome!

Nursery volunteers are needed for both the 6pm and 7:30pm services on Christmas Eve. If you are interested in volunteering in the nursery (age newborn–3 years old) please contact Betsy Koestler (529.8042 or bkoestle@columbus.rr.com).

Christmas Eve services will be held at two different times this year. We will have a special family worship service at 6pm and our candlelight service at 7:30pm. Nursery care will be available during both services for children birth to 3 years old.

Holiday office hours are as follows:
Thursday, December 24: 8am–12pm
Friday, December 25: closed
Monday, December 28: closed
Tuesday, December 29: 8am–4pm
Wednesday, December 30: 8am–4pm
Thursday, December 31: 8am–12pm
Friday, January 1: closed

The administrative ministry is looking for new team members to help serve in the church office on an as-needed basis. Some knowledge of computers and copiers is helpful, but you will receive training in order to be able to serve in this role. This is a great opportunity for those who are unable to participate in on-going weekly ministries, have a flexible weekday schedule, and enjoy assisting others with daily tasks. This ministry is a great blessing to the staff and the church. Please contact Lynn Swonger (451.8888 or office@mountview.org) to learn more and/or sign up.

Ushers needed If you are looking for somewhere to serve, we would love to have you join one of our ushering teams! Please contact our worship ministry team leader, Angela Ward (459.0014 or worship@mountview.org) with questions or to volunteer.

2010 directories are now available for you to pick up at the welcome center. If you would like an electronic copy of the directory, please contact Lynn Swonger (office@mountview.org) in the church office.

Thank You!

I just wanted to thank the congregation for the incredible amount of donations from the food drive that we dropped off at the Salvation Army. They were so pleasantly shocked to say the least! And could not have thanked us any more than they did. Mountview showed an incredibly generous spirit and came out in full force and it is very much appreciated. We couldn't have done it without you.

With sincere thanks,
Cammie McGowan

Student ministries

On November 6–8 our 33 students and 11 adults headed up to Marengo, Ohio for our student ministries fall retreat. It was an amazing weekend and a huge blessing to all of our students. During our weekend we spent time discussing what it means to be on the right path and helping the students understand the distractions and temptations that keep them from being on the right path. Our goal for the students was that they would surrender themselves to being led by God, to following His direction for their lives.



Now that I have been here at Mountview for almost two years it has been so exciting to see how God is working in the lives of our students. They did such a great job of caring for one another, treating one another with respect, and challenging one another to grow spiritually. After the retreat, on the following Sunday night, one of our students shared a testimony about how God has been using peers within the youth group holding her accountable to God and His desire for her life. Kevin has shared with you on several occasions the blessings of being a pastor and being held accountable by all of you. I have had the same blessing working with our students who have challenged me in the example they set and also in asking tough questions.

If you have not yet found a home in serving within our church and would like to know more about the unique opportunities to serve in student ministries please email kurt@mountview.org or call 451.8888 x203.

Pastor Kurt Oberlin, student ministries

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7:30pm Worship

Show up early, sit in the middle of the rows, and sit upfront. When we sit on the aisle and sit in the back, we force guests to have to walk to the front of the church in front of everyone or climb over us. While this might sound ridiculous to you, it means the world to someone who dropped their 6 month old off at the nursery, went to the restroom, and is walking in at 7:05pm. Also, meet and greet the people around you. You belong here, and they are our guests for the evening. Go out of your way to make them feel at home.

Friends, this year, of all years, it is going to take each one of us doing our part to make Christmas Eve a sweet offering unto the Lord. While worshipping him personally or with our families is wonderful, there are gifts we need to give others through our intentionality that God will honor in the life of His church.

I guarantee you this, our community is coming to Christmas Eve here at Mountview. Many came last year, were blessed by their time with us, and are coming back. Offer them and God the gift of your intentionality this Christmas Eve.

Thank you in advance!

In His Love,
Pastor Kevin

Route 356 Traffic Report

Discipleship Dock

December's theme in Discipleship Dock is COMPASSION. And who showed more compassion than God Himself, when He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ to save us? Each week we will focus on the following aspects of God's compassion on us:

Week one: God saw our need. You have to SEE a need before you can DO anything about it. Compassion requires us to look and see, too.

God saw our greatest need.

Whose needs do you see?

Week two: God sent His Son, even though it would cost Him. Compassion costs us something too.

God gave us the greatest gift.

What will you give?

Week three: God gave us hope when He sent us a Savior. Compassion is contagious; it spreads hope.

God gave us great news.

Who will you tell?

Week Four: God laid bare His great love for us when He gave us Jesus. Compassion demonstrates God's love when we show it for others.

God showed the world His love.

How will you show the world?

Creation Station

We've just finished talking about the days of creation and how God made me! Now we move on to talk about how Jesus wants to be my friend forever. All through December our lessons will focus on the key question, "How do we know God loves us?" Our bottom line each week is that "God gave us Jesus."

Each lesson will focus on the following:

Week one: God told us He would give us Jesus.

Week two: Jesus is born.

Week three: The angels tell about Jesus.

Week four: I am thankful for Jesus.



Christmas caroling event

It's that time of year again, time for our annual Route 356 Christmas caroling event! We'll get together as families (all are invited) on December 13, to enjoy lunch together downstairs immediately following the 11am service, and will then head out in carpools to sing Christmas carols to some of our shut-in members. If your family plans to attend, please let us know by December 6 (451.8888 or children@mountview.org).

In Him,

Miss Sarah

Mountview Christian Preschool and Kindergarten

The preschool will hold its annual Christmas program on Friday, December 11, 2009 at 7pm in the sanctuary. Following the program, which will consist of Christmas songs, recitation of the Christmas story, our traditional Christmas video, and adorable preschoolers and kindergarteners, we will meet for punch and cookies in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome!

On December 1 we welcomed our forty-seventh student! We also welcome Jenna Mann as an aide in the Busy Bees classroom. Jenna makes our eighth preschool employee, joining Angie Dickman, Darla Thomas, Beth Knauer, Tami Parker, Stephanie Kellenberger, Suzie Jasper, and myself. We, of course, are always supported by the Mountview staff, ministry leaders, and church members. Thanks to all who contribute in any way to the preschool program! Without your love and support this program would not be possible!

The preschool will be conducting a service project for the Dahlberg Center, a Franklin Country preschool that serves children with developmental delays. We are collecting mittens, hats, and gloves for the children that attend the Dahlberg Center. Contributions can be placed on the Christmas tree that is in the preschool playroom until December 11.

The Busy Bees and the Friendly Frogs attended a field trip to Great Harvest Bread Company on November 3. While there, they made their own bread, learned all about making bread and its ingredients, and were given the opportunity to taste items made at the bakery. They each went home with a sack of the bread that they had made.

November also found the preschoolers finishing up their participation in Operation Christmas Child. Some preschoolers attended the wrapping party for the shoeboxes that was held here at the church during Route 356 on Sunday morning, November 15. Another successful service project that the preschoolers participated in was bringing in contributions of food that was given to needy families.

The month of November ended with a wonderful Thanksgiving feast attend by many parents and family members in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, November 24. The celebration was held by the Busy Bees (4 year-olds) and the Friendly Frogs (kindergarteners) for their parents, who helped by bringing in food for the feast. The students dressed as Pilgrims or Native Americans and made the table decorations.

School will dismiss for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday, December 22 at 12:30pm and will be closed from then until we re-open on Monday, January 4, 2010 at 7:30am.

Blessings,
Pam Larson, director
451.8691
pam@mountview.org
mountviewschool.org

Weekly ministries

Sunday

9am	Traditional worship
9am	Middle school d-group
11am	Contemporary worship
6pm	Women's precept Bible study
6pm	Element

Monday

7pm	College d-group
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Wednesday

9am	Women's Bible study
6:15pm	Bell choir rehearsal
7pm	Men's Bible study

Thursday

6:45pm	HS boys d-group
7pm	HS girls d-group
7:30pm	Chancel choir rehearsal

Friday

6:30am	Men's Bible study
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Saturday

9am	Worship team rehearsal
10am	Prayers and squares (third Saturday)

December birthdays

Mikaela Marshall	01
Cindy Miller	02
Paul Kabakjian	05
Jim Allen	06
Connie Appel	06
Barbara Hix	07
Timothy O'Leary	07
Chelsey Summers	07
Steve Krzykoski	10
Denise O'Leary	10
Cathy Holbert	11
Kevin Kline	13
Kevin Snyder	13
Josh Edwards	16
Cole Holbert	17
Jason Roberts	17
Julian Bond	22
Mike Kline	24
Clara Baker	28
Jane Griffin	31

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