

Mountviews

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Do You See What I See?

There are many great benefits to being a pastor. One of which is simply the blessing of seeing God's work done through the lives of His people. While we are all able to see this, I generally get to see it happen on a much greater scale because of my daily immersion in church life. So let me take a moment to share with you some of things I have seen this Christmas season.

- D-groups Christmas caroling to our seniors
- D-groups adopting families in need and providing help in the form of food, clothing, gifts and financial assistance
- D-groups doing visitation, home cleaning, and assisting in baptisms
- Our church looking out for other members in this family of God in need and sharing with them resources like a bed, a dresser, or a washer and dryer
- Our church giving our Christmas Eve offering to help Neighborhood Ministries: a neighborhood Christian-action center that serves the youth of inner city Youngstown
- Our church giving on the first Sunday of the month to our communion offering which has actively been used to help people this Christmas season with rent, utilities, gas, food, and medical assistance

God has been using you in a most powerful way this Christmas. It has been written all over the Mountview landscape. Our preschool director, Pam, alerted me to a need that one of our families from the preschool had a few days ago. That same day, one of our young couples from the church emailed me to see if we had anyone in need that they could help. Within two days, in tandem with a D-group, food was purchased, gifts were bought, and an overwhelmed family from our

preschool cried tears of joy as Pam gave them the gifts from God's people.

While I know there is more to do, more we could be doing (there always is), and more we will do, I wanted you to just stop for a moment and catch a beautiful snapshot of what the Christian life is to be all about.

This incredible sharing of resources has made the

Acts 2:42-47 come to life for me:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The gift of Jesus was meant for us all. Thanks be to God that He allows us so many different ways of making Him known to the world.

Prayer: God you are good and we love you. Thank you for Jesus and our salvation. May we come to understand that we do not need a time of year to motivate us to give of ourselves to You, to Your work, and to others. Help this become not something we do, but a defining characteristic of who we are in Christ. In Jesus Name, your church here at Mountview prays, Amen.
In His Love,
Pastor Kevin

Announcements

Mountview Baptist Church,

I want to thank you for the very generous support you gave to International Ministries missionaries, Kit Ripley and David & Joyce Reed this year. I know they are deeply appreciative of your financial support as well as your prayers, endorsement, and encouragement. And, as you know, they are making a huge difference in many lives for the cause of Christ.

Rev. Ray Schooler

American Baptist International Ministries

Director of Church Relations

Dear Mountview Family,

We are so thankful for the incredibly gracious and generous gift that you gave this past Christmas. We could not be more honored to serve the Lord along side of each and every one of you as we strive to carry out the work of our Heavenly Father. May God be glorified for the amazing things He has done in both your lives and in the life of Mountview during 2009. As we begin this new year, may we continue to seek Him first and keep our eyes fixed on Him, striving to make disciples for His Kingdom!

In His Love,

Pastor Kevin, Pastor Kurt, Sarah, Pam, Dave, Lynn, Roxanne, Steve, Jim

The women's Wednesday morning Bible study will begin a new study 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. Contact Cindy Hinkle (761.0577 or cindyhinkle@sbcglobal.net) to join.

The foundations of Christianity class will begin on January 10, 2010 at 6pm in the conference room. This is a 12-week class that takes you through the basic foundations of the Christian faith. If you are inter-

ested in attending, please contact Russ Canestraro (rcanestraro@ageeclymer.com).

Mission trip meeting On January 10, we will meet in the youth center at 4:30pm. As a reminder your \$250 non-refundable deposit is due at or before the meeting. You can turn in your deposit in the offering plate. Please include your name and “Thailand” in the memo line. For up-to-date information and to get a copy of the information packet please visit www.mountview.org/thailand.

Church holiday hours The church will be closed for the holidays the following days: December 31, after 12pm only, and January 1. We will be back to our hours of Monday–Friday from 8am–4pm on January 4, 2010.

2010 offering envelopes are located at the welcome center. A member of the finance team is available to assist you. If you desire an envelope set please see a finance team member at the welcome center or contact Terry Lambert (finance@mountview.org).

Help wanted If you are looking for part-time work (15–20 hours per week) there is a position available at Easy Meals delivering food. Pay is \$9.50/hour and you must have a valid driver's license. Contact Wes Yohey (486.4932 or wyohey@columbus.rr.com) if interested.

Join us for our Meet Mountview luncheon on Sunday, January 24, immediately following the 11am worship service. We welcome all of those who are new to the church to come out and meet your new church family. We will gather downstairs in the fellowship hall for lunch and a time of connecting with others, learning about the church, and meeting the leadership. Please contact Lynn Swonger (office@mountview.org) to RSVP.

Student ministries

As many of you have learned or are currently learning, I am a bit of a computer geek. I enjoy working on apple computers, I have a smart phone, I have a twitter account and a personal website. It is something that I have always enjoyed. In addition to my own personal website I have also been involved in the online social community known as facebook. At first I used facebook as a way to reconnect with my friends from college, and then to reconnect with high school alumni. As facebook has become more popular I have also found it to be a source in which I can connect with the students in our youth group.

But over time I have noticed that facebook is beginning to change the culture of our world. It has created a new form of communication and has drastically affected the way in which we interact with one another. I have seen facebook used as a way to vent frustration to the world. I have seen facebook used as a source of gossip and rumors. When I was in high school the worst way you could get “dumped” by a girl was over the phone, but now, students are becoming boyfriend/girlfriend on facebook and breaking up on facebook as well.

The more I used and observed how facebook was being used, the more I realized that more often than not, facebook is used in an unhealthy way. I even found myself getting caught up in gossip after hearing a rumor about a college classmate and then spending almost an hour searching through facebook to see if I could validate or find evidence that the rumor was true. It was at that moment that I realized I needed to be done with facebook. So about a month ago I deactivated my facebook account and haven't looked back. Surprisingly, I haven't been shunned by all of my friends. I still have a social life. I still know what is going on in the lives of my close friends.

My challenge to you is not simply to delete your facebook account or to ban your children from using facebook, but rather, that you would simply evaluate it, the same way you should be evaluating all decisions in your life. In 1 Corinthians 10:23 Paul says “Everything is permissible’ —but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible’ —but not everything is constructive.” As I weighed the pros and cons of facebook, I discovered that it was not beneficial or constructive in my life and that it hasn't been very beneficial or constructive in many of my “facebook friends” lives either.

For those of you who are facebook users I would challenge you to make sure that you are walking through the pros and cons of using facebook. As a parent, I would encourage you to be doing the same thing in the life of your son(s) and daughter(s). As a parent I would also encourage you to be closely monitoring your child's internet usage. Facebook presents to the teenager a whole world of options, and many of them are very dangerous. If you aren't willing to put the time in to monitor and go through your child's facebook account on a regular basis, then maybe your child shouldn't have a facebook account.

Oh, and by the way, according to a study done by The Ohio State University, facebook users have on average a GPA that is one full letter grade lower than those who don't use facebook. Just another item for that pros and cons list. Click here to view the full article: (<http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/facebookusers.htm>)

Pastor Kurt Oberlin, student ministries pastor

Route 356 Traffic Report

Discipleship Dock

As we launch into a new year and continue our journey of disciple-making, I am reminded of an important part of the discipleship process: discipline. To us adults, it's something we want to have more of: more discipline to keep on that exercise routine, to not eat so much junk food, cut back on tv watching, etc. To a child (and also sometimes to us) it seems like a punishment, and we pretty much hate it. Discipline is getting grounded, a time-out, or cleaning your room.

But what is discipline? What's interesting to me is how linked discipleship and discipline truly are. I mean, they're practically the same word! Look at the word disciple, and there is the word discipline. To be a disciple means to discipline ourselves to become like Christ and to better ourselves through studying scripture, hiding it in our hearts, applying it to our lives, communicating with God through prayer, sharing and defending our faith, and praising God through worship and giving.



In January, this is what our elementary students will be working on: discipline. Spiritual discipline. Kids need to understand that they don't have to wait until they're older to get to know God; God wants them to start now. He's ready to help them, every step of the way, NOW. So this month we'll help kids to see how discipline, which is doing what you need to do now so you can grow stronger, can help strengthen their relationship with God. Each week we will be talking about disciplines we can practice if we want to know God better, including:

Week one: Read His book. 2 Timothy 3:16

Week two: Remember His words. 2 Timothy 3:17

Week three: Talk to Him. Philippians 4:6

Week four: Talk to friends about Him. Philemon 1:6

Week five: Make Him more important than anything. Deuteronomy 6:13a

Creation Station

Check out what our curriculum writers have to say about this month's theme in Creation Station: "This month we are teaching our preschoolers to 'Love God with all your heart'" (Matthew 22:37). What an important truth to tuck into those tiny hearts. We are to love God with our "everything." And who better to show us how to do that than Jesus?

By sharing how Jesus loved God while here on earth, we show preschoolers how we too can love God with all our hearts. Our preschoolers will hear how Jesus taught us to love God and love others. They will learn how Jesus prayed to God and how He prayed for others. Jesus is our greatest teacher, and we can love God like Jesus did." (myfirstlook.org)

Each week, we'll look at how we can love God like Jesus did by loving God the way Jesus taught us to:

Week one: Jesus did what God wanted Him to do. (Teaching in the temple, Luke 2:41-50)

Week two: Jesus taught us to love God. (The two greatest commandments, Matthew 22:34-40)

Week three: Jesus taught us to love everyone. (The two greatest commandments, Acts 9:1-30)

Week four: Jesus talked to God. (Jesus prays, Matthew 6:5-13)

Week five: Jesus teaches us to pray. (Jesus prays for others, John 17)

In His Service,
Miss Sarah

Mountview Christian Preschool and Kindergarten

I asked the staff to share some touching or endearing moments that have occurred in their classrooms this year. The following are three such moments:



Stephanie Kellenberger

- Mrs. Kellenberger overheard two students who were talking. One child said “Will God be mad at us?” and the other replied, “Why? He can’t see us, we are inside. Oh, maybe he looks at us through the window!”



Beth Knauer

- Ms. Beth and a student sat down to color some Christmas pictures while they waited for Mom at pick-up time. The little girl brought over the colored pencils and set them between the two of them and said “We can share them Ms. Beth, because we love each other.”
- One day in music I noticed a student sitting in his teacher’s lap as the two of them sat on the red squares. As I play the piano I try to turn around as frequently as I can to sing with the students and I noticed this little guy snuggling up to his teacher and placing sweet little kisses on her neck. It was enough to melt my heart and demonstrates the bond that occurs between teachers and students here at the preschool.



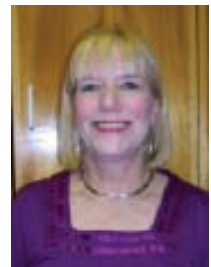
Pam Larson

It is such a blessing to be able to daily be a part of the children’s lives, to hear their voices and see their actions as they play, laugh, and praise Jesus! It just doesn’t get any better than this!

Blessings,
Pam Larson



Tami Parker



Darla Thomas



Suzie Jasper



Jenna Mann



Angie Dickman

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)

January birthdays

Tyler Reed	2
Corinne Heiden	5
Doug Marshall	6
Meghan Flannery	7
Ruby Simpson	10
William Engle	11
Mark Engle	13
Charlie Reed	13
Larry Schrumph	13
Kristen Baker	15
Cheryl Boyd	18
John Skelton	18
Colin Richards	20
Caleb Snyder	20
Meri Jo Warner	21
Jessica Abraham	22
Jeanne Gogolski	22
Lishia Stillwagon	22
Jack Puckett	24
Connor Richards	24
Michelle Suter	24
Ingrid Bloch	25
David Houchens	26
Danielle O'Leary	26
Luciano Canestraro	27
Pam Larson	27
Chadwick Richards	27
Patricia Dixon	28
Dempsey Ewan	29

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