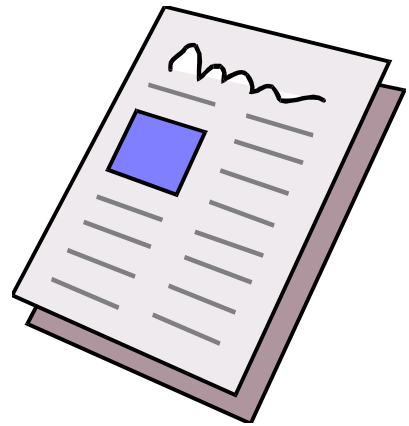


The communicator



*Gospel Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church in America*

161 McFann Road; Valencia, PA 16059

724-898-3322 724-586-6025

Fax: 724-898-3455

gospelfellowshipca@gmail.com

www.gospelfellowshipca.org

Rev. Dr. Nick E. Protos, Pastor

Volume XXXIII No. 2

February 2012

PASTOR NOTES

Come Alongside Her

One of the new ministries begun at Gospel Fellowship this past year is the Widow's Ministry called Come Alongside Her. We have twenty widows in the church family. Some have been widows for years others have lost their husbands more recently, and some just last year.

Come Alongside Her wants to minister to the needs of the widow but also wants widows to minister to one another. One of their goals is to develop a visitation ministry to widows who are shut-ins.

They have hosted a luncheon, have met for prayer and were the honored guests at a dinner sponsored by the deacons. Their ministry will come under the oversight of the Deacon Board since it is a mercy ministry.

They hope to work with the deacon board to provide some voluntary services and counsel to the widows in the area of car and home maintenance.

The idea for the ministry came from Lena Bagdon one of our more recent widows. As she struggled with losing Bill and the things all widow's struggle with; loneliness, grief, fear about the future, she realized there were others in the church silently struggling with the same things. She started ministering to our newer widows. When she read about a widow's ministry at Perimeter Presbyterian Church in Atlanta she contacted them and we were off and running. Pray for her and Carol Robinson as they give direction to this infant ministry. Pray it will truly help us as a church to be more biblical in this area since the Bible has much to say about the care of widows. James says, "that pure and undefiled religion...is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble..."

We'd like to send one or two women to the Widow's conference that Perimeter PCA is hosting this year. The widows will also have a fund to which members may contribute that will be used exclusively for the needs of widows. It will be administered by the Deacon Board.

We believe in gift driven ministries at Gospel Fellowship. By that I mean God gifts a few people for a particular ministry and gives them a burden for that ministry and the Session identifies this and encourages and equips them to do the work of ministry. Sounds biblical doesn't it? It is, see Ephesians 4:12. Pray for Come Alongside Her.

-Pastor Nick

CONGRATULATIONS

Elizabeth Ogershok and Zachary Root were married on January 7, 2012. They will be residing in Michigan. Congratulations to the newlyweds and to the parents of the bride, *Glenn & Cindy Ogershok*.

THE COOKBOOKS ARE HERE

They are in the church office. We are asking that you take one per family at this time and we are asking a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of printing. They may be picked up in the church office.

THANK YOU'S

“Thank you for brightening up my hospital room with the basket of flowers. Even after a week, they are still bright and lively.”

In Christ, Gloria Olszewski

Dear Gospel Fellowship Church Family,

Hello to our dear brothers and sisters at Gospel Fellowship, and we hope you are encouraged in your faith as we begin this New Year. Every day is truly a gift from our God.

We want to thank you for your generous gift to our ministry through your Thanksgiving offering and through the WIC ministry, and for your continued commitment to our work here in Italy. We know it is slow work, and at times seems impossible. Perhaps there are other opportunities where fruit blossoms and matures more quickly. We are sure of our calling, and remain convinced of the strategic nature of our calling and the work the Lord has enabled to grow here.

We anticipate 2012 being very significant. As I have been discipling two young converts, one a political scientist and the other a converted priest, we are about to meet to discuss the opportunities for strategic ministry together that could serve to speak to the entire nation. We would like you all to keep this discussion in prayer, and we will keep you updated.

The opportunities for the Gospel continue to abound – just this morning a request arrived to meet with a university student who is a recent convert to Christ and who would like to organize a time for me to come to speak to a group of students at the University of Siena. And we were just with two priests who are friends of a converted priest, and they are seeing the love of Christ at work in their friend's life, and are caused to ask some very difficult questions.

We cannot wait to see what the Lord has prepared for us this year, and know you will be praying for us. We desperately need that.

May the Lord continue to bless your faithful service to Him through your church ministry and throughout the world!

With love, *Perry, Betty, Samuel and David Huesmann*

PRAYER CHAIN

We have had a relatively quiet month on the prayer chain. We have been praying for *Danny Jenny* who injured his back and is undergoing therapy at this time.

We also prayed for *Cy Sedlak* who had a spot in his nasal passages and was having tests. We have not heard an update on him.

Riley Roxbury has been battling pancreatitis, went to Florida to be with family there and ended up in the hospital there. She has returned to Pittsburgh and Children's Hospital for treatment. Continue to pray for her and for her family.

Gloria Olszewski was hospitalized for a few days with congestive heart failure and is home now.

Vic Amrhein is hospitalized with health problems. Pray for him and *Wegie* as they have many problems right now.

Pray for *Edith Bartell* as she cares for her husband who is in the later stages of Alzheimer's.

We also prayed for *Jen Arnold's cousin, Amy* with colon cancer; *Molly Parsons* with multiple blood clots in her lungs (she is home and okay now); and *Scott Brown, friend of Andrew Wisler* who has colon cancer.

Remember *Elsie Case* who has 2 more chemo treatments to go. The first couple weeks following treatment she has a rough time.

Also remember our shut-ins and those in homes listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Pray for our expectant mothers, *Caroline Hahn, Elizabeth Ogershok Root, and Trisha Doverspike*.

As usual your prayers are greatly appreciated.
Jan Hohmann, Coordinator

*If you have a prayer request Jan can be reached at
724-443-3517 or janicehohmann@yahoo.com
Calls and e-mails received at the church office
will be forwarded to her.*

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN CHILDRENS HOME OF BHOGPUR, INDIA

We have it pretty good here in the United States. Our children have no shortage of options when they graduate from High School. Not so for most of the world. For example, life in India for a high school graduate of leper parents is serious. Imagine if you will, a son or daughter, wondering if they will have to return to the leper colony where their parents live following graduation. Life at a leper colony is horrible to say the least. They must literally beg for their own existence. The parents have no money and they are at the bottom of the social ladder. By God's grace these children of lepers have been raised in a Christian environment at the Children's Home of Bhogpur; educated, well fed, disease free and loved. Now this child faces graduation from high school and an uncertain future. They must return to their parents, outcasts in society. A grim reminder that life is not always fair!

There is hope. This is how you can help. These graduates have a plan. A plan with your help to finance it. Education!! A year's college tuition, room and board cost roughly \$1500. Trade schools costs less. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 by March 18th. The church will match the \$15000. While \$30,000 may not pay all the expenses for the graduating class of 2012, it would be a good start. Please make your tax-deductable check out to Gospel Fellowship PCA with "Bhogpur Education Fund" in the memo section. Please prayerfully consider your part in this ministry. You can make a difference in the life of a young one full of hopes and dreams. Tell your friends, relative, and neighbors, too. Thank you!

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Our WIC program kicked off the New Year with having a guest speaker for our first meeting. An artist from the area, *Sheri Finney*, displayed some of her beautiful work while talking about "Being created for good works" from Ephesians 2:8-10. She also showed a video of a dear friend and her journey with cancer and how she is seeing Christ through it all. She left us all with a challenge to do good works.

We have been collecting items for the New Castle Mission for several years now. It has come to our attention that the Lighthouse right up the road from us is in need of supplies which go to those right around our church. We have made a decision to continue to collect for the Mission through February and starting in March we will be collecting for the Lighthouse. You will be seeing notices for this very soon. Thank you for being very generous in your gifts for this cause.

In keeping with our theme of "Serving with Sweetness", we still need ladies to serve on some committees so keep your eyes on the WIC bulletin board.

Our February meeting will be a Saturday Special on February 4th from 9am – 11am. Come for breakfast and fellowship. We will be packing boxes to send to 15 college students. We are asking each woman to bring some goodies or supplies that would be appropriate to send in the boxes. If you are willing to bring food for the breakfast, please sign up at the WIC table. We will be supplying babysitters for those who are in need for this service. Please sign up at the WIC table if you are going to use this service. We are encouraging our teen-aged girls to come and join us and see what WIC is all about. We will be having some special entertainment, come and see what it is. Hope to see you there.

In His service,
Janice Cunningham, WIC President

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES OF GFPC MEMBERS



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Zachary Gray	17	John Temoshenko
2	Russ Gourley	17	Kathy Loeffler
4	Paul Grant	20	Jan Hohmann
6	Shelly Galluzzo	23	Samantha Schrage
7	Megan Gibson	24	Michelle Barton
11	Shylah Thieleman	24	Mark Hagen
12	Virginia Miller	27	Kellie Whetzel
14	Wesley Morley	27	Bruce Thieleman
15	Jacob Snyder		

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Tom Beam	17	Tim Protos
1	Mackenzie Protos	18	Pauline Girdwood
2	Bill Montgomery	19	Daniel Ogershok
2	Lucas Gray	19	Joshua Titus
6	Elizabeth Parsons	19	Nathan Titus
6	Christine Parkhurst	19	Valerie Zivkovich
7	Gemma Allen	20	Rick Abel
7	Amy Gray	21	Lydia O'Leary
10	Dan Jenny (Sr.)	26	Greg Sickenberger
10	Gloria Olszewski	26	Brea Grant
13	Stephen Baird	29	Trisha Doverspike
14	Fred Skurka	30	Glenda Fair
16	Esther Marshall	31	Mary Slee
16	Mary Ellen Pratt	31	Riley Roxbury
16	Samuel Hahn	31	Kloe Roxbury

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



5 Rick and Tammy Abel
13 John and Kathy Loeffler

MARCH ANNIVERSARY

6 Dick and Elsie Case



MISSIONARY MEMO

Verne and Alina Marshall, serving in Santiago, Chile.

What began as two families in the Santiago suburb of La Florida and then became a Mission Church El Encuentro is now a Particular Church, La Iglesia Presbiteriana, El Encuentro. This happened on December 10, 2011. Ignacio Moya is ordained to be the pastor, with Manuel Moya and Patricio Soto are ordained to be Ruling Elders. There was a reception of members. Please join us in praising the Lord for this new church in Santiago de Chile, one more church 'through whom the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known'. May the Lord bless you at this special time as you consider the power behind the Church – God who became man to live a perfect life and to give His life for His body the Church, of which you in the USA and we in Chile are a part.

WINTER QUARTER ADULT SS CLASSES:

- ❖ A book study on Dennis Rainey's *One Home at a Time* – RE Kevin Hagen
- ❖ 1 Samuel – Rev. Barry Woolner

THOUGHTS ON THE CHILE MISSION TRIP

Pastor Protos, Clark Marshall, Tom Robbins, Dan and Jan Jenny, Rachel Bolze, Julia Flanagan and Ashley Mello were members of the Gospel Fellowship Mission Team to Chile Nov 11-25, 2011.

Here is another letter from a team member of our trip:

Hi Friends & Family,

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Many of you have asked for a summary and photo essay of my recent mission trip to Chile and vacation in Patagonia, so I have prepared a website loaded with pictures that highlight our mission trip and the sights of Chile and Patagonia. I have never felt a closer connection with people on any previous mission trip. I can't wait to return and am planning to start learning Spanish this year (if anyone has a recommendation of how best to do that, I'm all ears!). Here is the link to the photos: <http://chile2011missiontrip.shutterfly.com/>

And here is a summary of what God did in and through us:

Osorno:

I developed a precious relationship with my host family Marcela and her two daughters Pia and Isadora. She has an amazing testimony of what God has brought her through. One night she let me cut her daughter's hair. She also made delicious meals for us and was my interpreter during the talk "Ladies In Waiting" which I gave to the ladies in the church. Thanks to donations from two generous people, I was able to purchase spices and soaps made locally and gave them as "door prizes" to each of the ladies. They were thrilled! And God blessed the talk which was attended by about 25 ladies. They even hosted it at their country club! We had the privilege to attend the morning service at Iglesia Presbiteriana where our own Nick Protos (pastor of Gospel Fellowship PCA in Valencia, PA) preached. We also got to know the missionary family Greg & Marilyn Senter and their daughter Kari. The Senters were very gracious to us with meals, showers, and sweet fellowship. We had also brought down second suitcases filled with toiletries, twin sheets, and more to give to a hogar where young girls live while their parents work on their issues with the ultimate goal of reunification. It was a sweet time where we performed the Jonah play and made crafts with them. They really appreciated all the donations. One of the highlights of our trip

was taking the youth to Petrohue to see the falls and All Saints Lake. We were also able to make financial donations to the Hogar, the Frites family (Alex is the pastor), and the Senters for firewood which is the way they heat their homes.

Puerto Montt:

My host family in Puerto Montt was Cristián and Isabela and their two children Magdalena and Matías. We were able to attend the Presbyterian church plant of the Osorno church where a small group of believers are now meeting at the Hotel O'Grimm. While in Puerto Montt, we had the privilege of going to Cristián's school called The North American School and present the Jonah play, share about Thanksgiving and do Thanksgiving crafts with some of the classes. Dan Jenny taught about the geography of Alaska to 9th graders and I taught about the geography of Miss., Ala., and Tenn., to another class of 9th graders. We were also able to do the English class for a group of 4th graders.

Vina del Mar:

We were very grateful to have almost a full week with John & Cathy Rug at their mission Cemipre which is a church and ministry to the blind. During the week we made 63 pairs of glasses, replaced doorknobs and put in deadbolts, hung new curtain rods throughout the building, sewed 7 pairs of curtains, repaired drapery curtain rods and curtains, patched holes in walls, dug up two tree stumps, put in new toilet seats, attended a worship service where Nick preached, Rachel and Clark shared their testimonies, I did my talk again to the ladies (God saved Sarah), the men made a trip to Carmen (church secretary) and her husband Jaime's home and we gave them \$500 for him to get medical treatment for a biopsy/endoscopy for possible cancer (thankfully it was benign!), I counseled with three women (Flor, Gaby, and Iris), and gave a "spa" day to the ladies with pedicures, manicures, and haircuts.

I am humbled by your prayers and support. God used us all in eternal ways and I am asking God now to loosen my tongue and strengthen the language acquisition area of my brain to learn to speak some Spanish this year and get certified to teach English as a second language. I am praying about my next trip down there.

With much appreciation, Julia

"You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever." (Psalm 16:11)

NURSING HOME/SHUT-INS/ASSISTED LIVING MEMBERS

- Ben Alderink** Concordia Ministries; Lund Building #1939
134 Marwood Road; Cabot, PA 16023
- Barb Harbison** Concordia Ministries; Lund Building # 2015
134 Marwood Road; Cabot, PA 16023
- Jackie Holland** Vlg. at Hampton Fields, Apt. 306
4480 Mt. Royal Blvd.; Allison Park, PA 15101
- Charlotte McCurry** Concordia at Rebecca Residence
3746 Cedar Ridge Rd., Allison Park, PA 15101
- Virginia Miller** Concordia Ministries; Lund Building # 2255
134 Marwood Road; Cabot, PA 16023
- Martha Paraska** Concordia Ministries; Lund Building # 2135
134 Marwood Road; Cabot, PA 16023
- Elsie Walter** Windsor Place of Gibsonia
3954 Gibsonia Road; Gibsonia, PA 15044

GFPC BIBLE STUDIES

All are welcome! Call the leader for more information or directions.

- ❖ **Every Wednesday**, at 6:00 am at Reichhold's Cafe on Route 8 in Butler; Men's Bible Study; Leader: *Ken Gray* 724-265-1980
- ❖ **Every Thursday**, at 10:15 am at the church
Leader: *Pastor Nick Protos* 724-816-8609
- ❖ **2nd and 4th Thursday of every month**, at 7 pm at church
Leader: *RE Harry Paraska* 724-625-1621
- ❖ **Various times throughout the month**, Women's Small Group Studies, contact *Janice Cunningham* at 724-265-3077 for more information.