

WELLSVILLE NEIGHBORS

Fall 2008
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Mount Joy, PA 17552
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Published by the Wellsville Baptist Church

GOD AND THE UNIVERSE:

Indescribable

by TARA ECKEL

I rolled over and reached out to smother the alarm clock at nine on Sunday morning.

I slowly lifted myself from my comfortable, pillow-top water-bed and blindly found the bathroom as I prepared for our 9:45 service.

My relationship with God and my faith used to mirror such a morning. I was searching for reassurance or a sign. How am I supposed to know God exists? Why don't I have a strong connection with God while those around me do?

I have always believed in God and had a Christian faith as I was raised in a Christian environment. However, while describing myself as a strong Christian, I was a believer who only lived my faith by attending church on Sundays. I was neither reading my Bible nor finding ways to reach out to God. A relationship cannot be successful without effort from both parties.

As the images changed on the screen behind the speaker, I realized how small and dependent we are.

Last October, my family and I attended the "Indescribable" concert. Chris Tomlin and Matt Redman, two contemporary Christian artists, presented amazing music, which unified their crowd. Between sets, author and public speaker, Louis Giglio, addressed the crowd with a perspective changing sermon. Numerous images of space, galaxies, planets—the universe as we know it, all of God's creation—were projected on a large screen. One star exposed a deep blue eye—a metaphor for God watching over us. Mr. Giglio explained that humans are just specks



compared to the universe, that we are microscopic components of the whole. The images went from the United States to the world, to space, to the Milky Way. Viewing the last image outside of the Milky Way, I could not see Texas, Dallas, my neighborhood, my house, my room, my teddy bear. We are not small and worthless but rather one tiny piece of a much bigger creation. Yet despite our size, God cares about our needs, desires, and most importantly, he wants a relationship with us.

As the images changed on the screen behind the speaker, I realized how small and dependent we are. God and creation are so huge and mesmerizing, yet God cares about even the smallest details of our life. These images and truths helped alter my attitude and to recognize the importance of not allowing insignificant matters to consume me. We are on this earth, I believe, for God's purpose. For example, why should I subject myself to undue stress with regards to the college selection process when

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**A gift from
Wellsville Baptist Church**

3rd & Main



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Indescribable (continued from page 1)

God already has a plan for me?

God, family, and friends are all important to me. Being born and raised in a Christian home, my family and I are united now by a strong faith. We all attend church on Sundays and pray together during difficult times.

As religious as we sound, we are imperfect. We do not judge those whose beliefs are different than ours; we simply stand up for and try to live by our own beliefs as best we can, and accept the beliefs of those around us.

My brothers and parents seem to have a deeper faith and trust in God; however, I am the youngest by eight years and thus the least experienced. Daily, I try to learn

more about God and gain a closer relationship with him.

The images and the concert gave me the encouragement to build a stronger bond with God. As we sang along to Tomlin's "Indescribable," my tears welled for a reason I still do not understand. I do know that calming peace overcame me as I acknowledged God's presence and His ability to take care of my needs. There are some times I deviate from God's path, but those are just a test of my faith and trust. I get irritated at situations that arise over which I have little or no control, but I always try to remember the peace and comfort I felt in knowing God is grand enough to handle it.

The words of the song "Indescribable," sum my feelings up best: "*Indescribable, uncontainable. You place the stars in the sky and you know them by name. You are amazing, God. All powerful.... Incomparable and you see the depths of my heart but you love me the same. You are amazing God.*"

TARA ECKEL is a freelance writer from Dallas, Texas.



Adequate Living (Philippians 3:8-12)

Invite you to turn with me this day to the letter of Paul to the Philippians. In this third chapter of this delightful letter written by Paul as a Prisoner to his friends in Rome across the sea in Philippi, we will see a tremendous reversal of values that is beginning to take place.

When we think of the Apostle Paul we immediately think of this great man of faith who had an encounter

with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus. His life was changed powerfully and forever, although that was true it didn't happen as quickly as we might think. Paul tells us in this passage of the reversal of values he began to experience. He said he came to a place where he counted loss what he once counted gain, and what he counted gain he now counts loss. The question we want to consider today is how he got to that point in his life and did the change happen quickly?

Now this passage is a setting forth of Paul's experience in this matter of *changed values*. This passage relates to Paul and all of us who seek to follow in his steps. The structure of our study is very simple. If you look at verse 8 you notice Paul declares here what Christ is to him as *the wholly adequate one*, the one for whom he counts everything as loss in order that he might gain the surpassing worth of Jesus Christ.

Then in verses 9-11 which we will look at another time, we have a practical result that follows in his life because of Christ. *All this we call the secret of adequate living.*

Read verse 8. It took Paul several years I believe before he began to practice and understand the true value of knowing Christ. I believe we often make too much of Paul's conversion. A conversion is not the end of the road; it is only a beginning. It isn't even the major part of the process. It's the entry, the gate into it. Sometimes we talk about our conversion or Paul's like everything happens at that moment in time. Even Paul tells us about the time he began to learn this secret of adequate living when he was let down over the wall in a basket and all his hopes of being God's instrument was brought to a halt.

Paul was counting on all his training, his background, his intellect, his achievement, his morality, and all came crashing down around him and he was let down over a wall fearing for his life. He at that point in his life be-

came the first, "basket case".

He then went to Jerusalem and was rejected of the apostles who wouldn't have anything to do with him. Neither his Jewish friends nor his Christian friends would take him in, and discouraged, defeated, he went to the temple for consolation and there the Lord met him and sent him home, the hardest place on earth to go to-his hometown, Tarsus. We are told that there were some five to seven years in Tarsus when he evidently did not minister or preach.

Paul never refers to this period of his life where he was discouraged and was placed on the shelf and was stamped "UNUSEABLE" for God.

When he surfaces again he writes this, "I counted all things but loss that I may gain Christ Jesus my Lord," then he began to understand God's basis for living and laying ourselves before him. Paul then continues to say, because of this I continue to count all things as loss so he could lay hold of the surpassing greatness of Christ at work in and through him.

Paul's greatest learning came when he realized there was nothing he could do or add to the work that Christ had already done.

Oh dear friend, are you at that place in life where you know not what you're next move is? Maybe you're suffering the loss of a mate or some material loss. Your Heavenly Father knows all of that. Sometimes those things are allowed to be removed so we can move closer to the one who truly cares for us. You may feel alone or discouraged today but I assure you based on God's loving Words you are not alone and He promises to never leave you or forsake you. I love the encouraging words of the song that says, "When I come to the place where God is all that I have, I find He is all that I need." Dear friend, rest in Him today.

Living for Him,
Ted Buckley

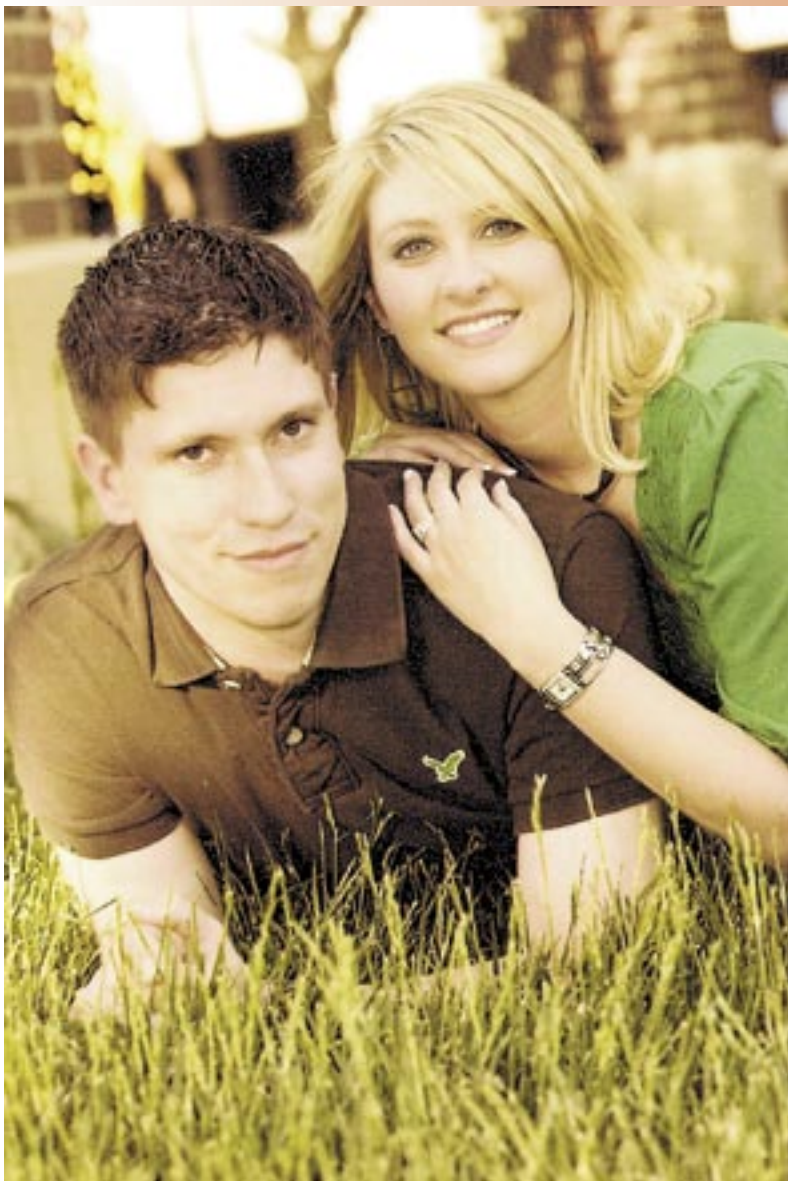


Ted Buckley and wife Nancy.

Love is in the air

Andrew Johnson and Victoria Gimpel

Richard and Belinda Gimpel, Pratt, announce the engagement of their daughter Victoria Gimpel to Andrew Johnson, the son of David and Patricia Johnson, Wellsville. The couple will be married Sept. 6 at Central Community Church in Wichita. The bride-elect is a 2001 graduate of Pratt High School. She also attended Pratt Community College and Emporia State University. She is employed at First National Bank in Pratt as a customer service representative. The prospective bridegroom graduated from Wellsville High School in 2002 and Pittsburg State University in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering Technology. He is employed at Cessna Aircraft Company I Wichita as an avionics engineer. He is the grandson of Leon and Bobbie Johnson and the late Kenneth Patrick and Maybelle O'Dea.



Jesse Courter and Cassidy Coffin

Larry and Kim Coffin, McLouth, announce the engagement of their daughter, Cassidy ReAnne Coffin to Jesse Cleo Courter, son of Jeff and Cindy Courter, Wellsville.

The future bride is a 2002 graduate of Tonganoxie High School and attended Emporia State University from 2002 to 2004. She is employed as a case manager assistant at Johnson County Mental Health Center.

The future groom is a 1999 graduate of Wellsville High School. He graduated from Emporia State University in 2003. He is employed as an engagement controller at Cerner.

The couple plan an October 11, 2008, wedding in Leavenworth at the University of St. Mary.



Dan Bailey and Wendy Moore

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Moore announce the engagement of their daughter Wendy Moore to Dan Bailey of Hannibal, MO.

Dan is the son of Marc and Annette Krisko of New London, MO and the son of Roger and Barbara Bailey of Hannibal, MO.

A wedding date of November 15, 2008 has been set.

Wellsville Days

Wellsville Days will begin with a full day of events on Saturday, September 27, 2008. The morning will kick off with the annual 5K run and booths will open at 9:00 A.M.

The parade will begin at 11:00 A.M. and CASH prizes and trophies will be awarded to the top three parade entries decorating in the theme "Famous Friends & Families." (Top three win a trophy and 1st - \$100, 2nd - \$75, & 3rd - \$50) Please pre-register your entry online by **9/24/08**. Please note time changes for the following: parade line up will begin at **9:00 A.M.** and judging will be at **9:45 A.M.**

Beginning at about 1:00 P.M. families can enjoy the "Fun Zone" for the younger kids with many Rides & Activities, and the older kids and adults can enjoy the South Main Challenge! Also for your family to enjoy will be The Exotic Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Trackless Trains, The Rock Climbing Wall, The Wellsville Vet, Clinic Dog Show, The Art Show sponsored by the Crescents club, The Quilt show sponsored by the Friends Of The Library, Chainsaw Sculpting, The Wellsville Historical Exhibit to enjoy the History of Wellsville, and a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament.

To keep your energy for the day we have a wide variety of food coming from Buffalo Burgers, and Mini-Donuts, to Smoked and Cajun Sausage, Sugar Kettle Corn, Funnel Cakes, Nachos, Smokey's BBQ, Simple Simons and much, much more!

The night will be topped off with "Charlie and the StingRays" coming to town for a concert on the bricks! (Sponsored by the Wellsville Bank) They play only the hottest Rock and Roll hits from the 60's, 70's, and 80's along with carefully chosen dance favorites of today! Be ready for an evening of non-stop excitement!

Come enjoy our Wellsville Idol contest on September 17, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. in the High School Commons. Come support your favorite Idol! Winners of this contest will debut on stage Saturday at Wellsville Days. For more information about Wellsville Idol you can contact Marie Hrabe, Sue Wright, or Wanda Schnoke at 883-4350.

Don't stop there! We're moving the excitement into Sunday, September 28, 2008!!

Sunday you can come at 11:00 A.M. and enjoy the Car Show that will be open to cars from 1970 and older - Come and vote for your favorite! The Fun Zone will once again be open for the kids to enjoy and enjoy our live entertainment on stage from 1:00 - 2:30 P.M. with the "Coleman Boys"— four young brothers from Missouri ranging in age from 16 to 22 years old. Southern Gospel, Statler Brothers, Alabama, Little Texas and more! An exciting group you have to hear! You will enjoy their music and their enthusiasm! While enjoying these great events bring your family for a Sunday cookout sponsored by the Wellsville Fire Department, along with Homemade Ice Cream and Cake provided by the Rock Creek Community. (You will need to purchase tickets for the cookout ahead of time. Tickets can be purchased beginning 9/1/08 at The Wellsville Bank, Patriots Bank, City Hall or J&D Pharmacy.)

**For more information
regarding Wellsville Days
you can check us out at
www.wellsvilledays.com
or contact
883-4023 or 883-4113**

The Wellsville City Library

The Wellsville City Library will begin the Wednesday storytime at 10:00 am on August 20th. Catch the Reading Bug was the summer reading theme that caught readers attention to the library this year. We hosted over 150 readers and their parents. Many thanks go out to the area business and community donations that made the program so enjoyable.

The library has been cleaning the shelves and discarding books that haven't been read for five years, were extra copies, or starting to fall apart. You can stop by and pick up any of these books for free or for a donation. This is due to a new circulation system that will be put into place late this fall. We will be able to offer a web-based system that will allow you to look up your account at home, work, or on vacation reserve items, and many other new features will be available at your fingertips, all online. We are sorry to say that we will have to reregister all library cardholders and rebarcode the library items.

We have been told we will have to close the library for a couple of weeks in order to complete the conversion. Hopefully it won't take that long but we ask for your patience while we go through this process. If you could please help us, we need everyone to look through the kid's rooms, cars, book bags, and shelves to make sure any overdue items are returned so that we can get them reprocessed as well. We will not charge overdues for the items during the time we will be closed but will offer the 24-hour book drop. We also offer "Free Fines on Friday" every Friday.

The Friends of the Library will also offer a Sweet 16 contest during Wellsville Days. Any young lady who is interested and will be 16 by September 27 can contact the library at 883-2870. We do send out invitations, but sometimes new people may not know about the contest and would like to participate.

The Friends are also planning a quilt show for Wellsville Days.

Wellsville Chamber of Commerce

My goodness time is flying right on by. We endured a usually long winter and dangerous storms, but the blooms of spring and summer have made it all better.

Since we last visited, the chamber has elected its new officers for the year. Kristen and Ryan Adams are sharing the President and Vice-President chairs. Isn't it great we have young families that see the value of our community? Our new treasure is Susan Driskell. And I'll be the secretary for the coming year.

Just like always, your chamber is going full speed ahead, however it sure would be great for some of our citizens to join in. Did you know that the chamber sponsors and supports many events here in our town? It may not even be an event. When crisis arise you can count on help if needed. With prices on the rise on material items, there are some things that are always the same. Example: **Love**—you give it in abundance to all around with bountiful returns. **Care**—you care about people, their needs become yours. You attempt to fulfill their needs. And again you receive the feeling of satisfaction by being a provider of an act of endearment. **Volunteerism**—now this is one of the most fulfilling of the acts of kindness. This is a perpetual opportunity to show the act of loving through caring. Again, this is where your chamber appears on the spectrum of life.

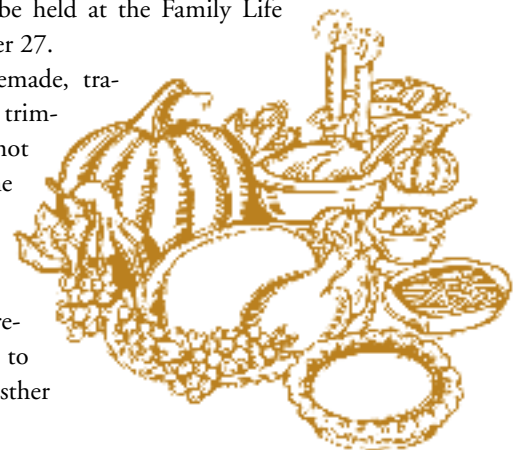
Be a part of the vast venue of life. Join your local chamber and share your talents with many. —*Jeannie Burier, Chamber Secretary*

Thanksgiving Dinner

Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at the Family Life Center at 12:00 on Thursday, November 27.

Everybody is invited to attend a homemade, traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings!! Reservations are encouraged but not mandatory, large family groups are welcome and we always have plenty of good food!!

Come and enjoy the fellowship with others in our community while we share with each other the blessings that we have received. If you have questions please feel free to contact Diane Wingert at 883-4378 or Esther Raugewitz at 883-2514.



News from Police Chief Gillispie

As of July 1, 2008 the number of calls for service handled by the Wellsville Police Department was at 1,322. For the year 2003 the total number of calls for service was 617. As you all can see by the increased number of calls for service, one of the side-effects of a growing community is an increase in call volume as our statistics indicate.

Over the last two-and-a-half years the citizens of Wellsville have become more pro-active about improving the safety of the community by doing small things, like reporting non-working street lights and missing street signs, to being more vigilant about their surroundings and neighborhoods and reporting suspicious persons or activities. These kinds of every day actions help deter crime and allow Wellsville Officers to focus their activities.

In the event of a reported crime, I have noticed an increased willingness on the part of people in the community to work with law enforcement by coming forward to share information that has lead to the successful resolution of a number of situations. Recently, citizens of Wellsville have had occasion to file complaints regarding the activities of door to door solicitors. Have you had occasion recently to have someone come to your door and have you found yourself asking these questions: *Who really* are these people? Can I trust this to be legitimate or is this a scam? If you are like most people, you are often annoyed at the intrusion.

The Wellsville Police Department recommends that citizens do not purchase things sold door-to-door unless it is from someone you know and trust. It is of course everyone's personal choice. Here are just a few factors to consider before handing over your hard earned money or opening your door to a stranger.

1. Post a "No Soliciting" sign on your door or by your doorbell.
2. Post a "No Soliciting Allowed" sign at the entrance to your neighborhood. Your entire neighborhood would have to be in agreement on this.
3. Do not open the door. Talk through a locked screen door or through the door itself if you have to talk to them. Within your neighborhood, make a commitment to each other that you will not buy anything from anyone going door to door. Let the solicitor know you are home by letting them see you through the window. Wave them away or say you are not interested. If a solicitor becomes obnoxious or will not leave, tell them they are trespassing and you are going to call the police. Please call one of the listed numbers below if your solicitor does not leave and/or becomes unreasonable and irate.



were local juveniles who are students or recently graduated students of the Wellsville school district. Many people in Wellsville would prefer to ignore the problem and/or pretend that it doesn't exist in hopes that it will just go away. However, this approach isn't realistic nor is it practical since it doesn't solve the problem or help improve the safety of the community.

Are you a parent who has been prescribed OxyContin or a Valium type of drug by your doctor? Do you know how many pills are in the bottle? Have you checked lately? Now come the big questions: do you have teenagers living in your home? Even if your teen is not abusing your prescription drugs, does he or she have friends that come to visit? Again the question is, do you know, on a daily basis, how many pills remain in the bottle? These are questions that every parent with teenagers in the home must address with their children.

Check out these facts: 1 in 20 high school seniors now acknowledges taking OxyContin, a prescription drug for managing severe pain that, when abused, can be powerfully addictive. (*The National Institute on Drug Abuse — In its annual survey of teen drug use. *NPR Radio National Crime Prevention Coalition.) OxyContin use by 12th graders is up 40 percent nationwide in just three years. Five times as many 12th graders report using OxyContin than report using methamphetamine. The results have been tragic.

Prescription drugs are the second-most used drugs among teens, behind marijuana. Teens are doing stimulants, barbiturates and painkillers. Many don't realize how highly addictive and dangerous some of these pills can be — OxyContin in particular. Many teens crush up OxyContin pills and snort them to get high, getting a hefty dose of opiate all at once when they are not in any pain to begin with. This form of taking in the drug is much more likely to lead to addiction. Half of all students today try an illicit drug by the time they finish high school. Use of alcohol during the year before the survey was down 2.7 percent among 8th graders; down 1.5 percent among 10th graders; and down 2.1 percent among 12th graders. Lifetime use of cigarettes declined 2 percent among 8th graders, 1.7 percent among 10th graders and 2.8 percent among 12th graders. Issues such as truancy, idleness and the consumption of controlled substances like tobacco, alcohol and drugs by minors should be a concern of each and every citizen in this community. Family members, teachers, administrators, community and business leaders, and citizens of Wellsville all have a vested interest and a responsibility when it comes to looking after the welfare of the youth in the community. It takes the combined efforts of officials, business and community leaders, and citizens along with the police officers to significantly impact the safety and security of the children and youth in our community, and the community as a whole. We must all continue to do our part to work toward the safety and security of our community as Wellsville continues to grow.

Emergency: 9-1-1 Non-Emergency Dispatch: 785-883-2691

In other recent situations, Wellsville Officers have been involved in investigating assaults, burglaries, drug-related crimes, and other serious offenses in which the perpetrators and victims

Garden thoughts of Carol Fischer

Forget spring and it's illusions of busyness; fall is where the real work is happening.

Houseplants should have begun their migration into the house in late August or September to take advantage of the still prolific outdoors light to make the transition easier. I know this but it doesn't keep me from having to hustle the tender babies inside the night before a killing frost is announced.

Late September is the time to dig the tender bulbs that gave us so much satisfaction during their blooming period. Gladiolus foliage should ripen after blooming then the corms can be dug. If foliage isn't ripened it should be left on until it does and then cut off 2" above the corm. Storage on screened flats in a cellar is suggested. I prefer popping them into a panty hose. Same concept, just vertical. Dahlias should be left to be killed with the first frost then cut off and the tubers should be left in the ground for a week to ten days to ripen. Then dig them and turn the clumps over for sap to drain from the stems in direct sunlight. Store them in dried peat moss. I think that layering them in the moss in paper bags would be ideal.



Cannas should be treated like dahlias and left to freeze before cutting off the foliage. The frozen tops should be cut off the next day. Store as one would dahlias. Caladiums should be deprived of water in the fall and allowed to wither. If that doesn't work they must be dug before frost and the leaves allowed to ripen so they can be removed. Elephant Ears are just a large caladium and should be treated the same. Tubers are to be stored at 70 degrees. A cozy dark closet or a dry basement corner will suffice.

With harvest complete it is time to think about all the bulbs that you want to add to your garden for spring flowers, and to feed the squirrels. (Just a little bitterness slipped in there.) Fall is the optimal time to plant trees, shrubs, and all things permanent. The rains and the warmer days help to establish a root system to support them through the frozen months. Which brings us to my personal favorite—drum roll please—fall planted pansies. With the root system they develop you will have lovely bushy plants in the spring and lots of flowers for bouquets.

The Co-Editor's Corner

You know the old saying be careful what you ask for, you just might get it. You guessed it, I was whining the other day that I had not gotten any good ideas for an article this time and was forcing myself to put out something when three strong thoughts came along. One of them stirred me up, so here we go.

I saw my son the other day and up until this last month he has had nothing to do with me for most of two years. He told me God had gotten ahold of him again and told me his plans for his life at this time. The religious group he is telling me about in many ways sounds radical and somewhat like a cult. Other statements he made had some truth that caused me to think about what I know and how comfortable I have become with what I know or think I know and the things that I see as right and proper.

As I was telling myself how radical it all sounded I began to ask myself how radical Christianity must sound to a non-Christian. Just think about it for a moment. If you were talking to me about your faith, the first thing I would ask is, "How is a book that is over two thousand years old going to relate to my life today?" And when you tell me how the Holy Spirit speaks to you and leads you in your decisions, I will be calling for your straight jacket. After all, you just admitted to hearing voices and following them. Next, we talk about prayer. You just told me to get on my knees and tell all my troubles to a dead man. About now I am thinking you are a nut. Then we get to the part where I should give 10% of my money to the church. If I am lucky I may have 8% left after I pay my bills so what do you expect me to have fun on? After all, I work hard for my money and deserve to enjoy some of it.

I know Jesus and I know what he has done, is doing, and will do for me and my life. I can also see how radical this must sound to a person who has not met Jesus. The whole thing is quite simple, God loves us and wants the best for us. He gave us a book filled with instructions and directions for a better life. But we as a people do not follow very well so he sent his son to show us the way and after all that we still do not get it right. Lucky for us, he loves us so much he allows us to start over time and time again just by asking for forgiveness and trying to change the wrong in our lives. My question for us is this, have we gotten so comfortable with our walk in life that we forget to ask what would Jesus do or look back and see what Jesus did?

A person looking at Christianity will see all the many denominations that belong to this group. There are multiple variations of some of them. The Christian Church, Baptist Church, Catholic Church, Church of Christ, Methodist, and the list goes on. We all claim to know the way so why are we so divided over what we do and how we do it? Now we all know that the Bible says there will be many false teachings. For the person on the outside looking in they will all look a lot alike. Could it be we get a bit proud and thereby sin when we tell someone our church is right because we have communion every week? Or my church immerses rather than sprinkles. Our church uses this version of the Bible because the others are not accurate. We even get down to the hymns that we sing. Some people will say the old hymns are the proper ones to sing at church. Many of these were written in the 1700's, 1800's and early 1900's. So what happened to the worship songs prior to that? Were they once the good old hymns too? And the real question I see here is, do the songs praise God? If so then the intended audience has been pleased, and some people are worried about their own preference.

The real question here is, are we getting so hung up on the details of worship that we miss the glorious event all together? Do we meet God or do we see a show that pleases us and God did not get the invitation to come? How many people turned down a chance to come because they heard someone whining about the details they did not like rather than praising the time they spent with God today?

We have become a generation of cry babies. We complain to every one that will give us the time of day and do nothing to fix a problem, change a circumstance, or meet a need. Do the people on the outside looking in see the loving family of God, inviting them in or do they hear complaining and back biting one another and run straight for Hell because on the surface Hell looks more appealing to them? One bad statement will cross out 25 good ones, so before we speak we should first think, second think again, then speak as if you were speaking to Jesus.

God put you here for a reason, He gave you a purpose. So why are you here? What is your purpose? And what are you doing about it? It is time to stand up and be counted. Your kids should know where you stand. Your government needs to know what you will and will not stand for. The people around you will know you are a Christian by how you live. But how many more of them would be sitting with you in church if they heard as much excitement about your church service as they do about the game or movie you watched?

In Christian love,
Thomas Christian

Stephen Ministry News

**"Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day,
or like vinegar poured on soda,
is one who sings songs to a heavy heart."**
Proverbs 25:20

What do you say when ...?

Proverbs 25 refers to the "false cheerfulness of caregivers" who mistakenly think you can make someone feel better by offering cheery phrases.

In Stephen Ministry continuing education we recently reviewed the book, *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart* written by the founder of Stephen Ministries, Kenneth Haugk, Ph D. The book was written in 2004 after Dr Haugk's wife, Joan, died after a battle with cancer. The author augments his personal experiences with research gathered from responses and interviews from 4,252 individuals. It is powerful reading and is available in the WB library.

What not to say ...

So what are the top things people wrote that they hated having said to them? (I personally squirmed when I read these.)

"I know how you feel." — Not one research participant liked hearing that. We may guess how a person feels, but when we make assumptions we rob them of their unique identity.

"It's for the best." — It well may be, but the person you are caring for needs to be allowed to say that. (My dad may have been 96 years old and blind, but he was still my dad!)

Then there are the deadly categories of ...

"Keep a stiff upper lip."

"You should do ... / you shouldn't do ... / you ought to ... / you ought not to ..."

"God will not give you more than you can bear." (This is bad theology and is actually a mis-interpretation. Please re-read 1 Corinthians 10:13 in context).

No one wants to make a fool of themselves or add to the hurt a struggling person feels. Possibly the main reason we sometimes appear insensitive is that we are trying to make ourselves feel better, too.

So what is the right thing to say?

In trying situations, our role is to share the tears and to embody God's caring and love for the hurting person.

Possibly the best answer came from a respondent who said that after her father died, she didn't remember a single thing anyone said. What comforted her were the hugs, the cards, the food, and the people who expressed their own concern for her and listened to her pain.

When you ask how people are, be prepared to REALLY LISTEN to the answer.

Oh, and when you say you will pray for someone, actually DO IT! Even better, drop them a note to let them know when you prayed for them.

Keep it straight from your heart!

If you are struggling with a painful situation and think talking to a Stephen Minister might help, please call 785-883-4121 or 785-883-2640.

New Training Class Commissioned in July

Congratulations to Heather Horn, Pat Johnson and Penny Anderson for completing the 28 weeks of Stephen Ministry training. They were commissioned to serve in their caring ministry for Wellsville Baptist on July 13.

YOUTH NEWS



Heather Horn

Progressive Dinner

Date: **October 26th**
Time: **5-9:30pm**
Cost: **\$0.00**

That's right! Progressive dinner time once AGAIN!!! If you have never been to a progressive dinner WBC Style... Well...you have no idea what you are missing out on. We will meet at the church at 5pm. Don't be late, we will not be waiting around very long before we start our adventurous night. You will return back to the church by 9:30pm so have your rides ready for ya. I know that it is Halloween TIME so, come dressed in the best APPROPRIATE costume, and you just may get a prize!

Youth Serve Day

Sunday, November 16, 12:30-4:00pm

We will venture out with our rakes and trash bags and show God's love in a practical way by raking up leaves for our neighbors and elderly in the community and our church. Lunch will be served before departing to work! If you would like to know more about how you can help with this project or know someone who could benefit from this service, please contact Heather at 785-304-1408.

5th Quarters

9pm-12am the Family Center doors will be open for 5th quarter madness following every Friday Home football game. The night will be filled with food, fun and fellowship. Games, skits, and a short topical talk will also help fill the time we have together. Doors will open following the game.

Small Groups

The Small Groups Dinner Ministry at Wellsville Baptist Church was formed about 10 years ago to help people become better acquainted with other members of our church family. We meet monthly from September through May in groups of ten to twelve, with a leader for each group. Last season, we had seven groups meeting in a member's home, the Fellowship Hall or in our Family Center. After sharing a meal, we have a time of fellowship and sharing and then share prayer requests.

Each year we form different groups so we can come to know others in our church family better. It has been a great blessing to all who participate. We will start a new season in September. Anyone interested is invited to join a group. You do not have to be a member of WBC to participate — just contact Earline McGinnis (883-2806), Virginia Kramer (883-2967) or the church office (883-2640).

AWANA

Know, Love, Serve. This is what Awana is all about! Knowing Jesus, Loving Jesus, Serving Jesus.

Wellsville Baptist Church's Awana program is set to begin its 5th year and it won't be the same without your 1st-8th grade boys and girls. Awana starts Wednesday, September 3. Club times are from 6:30 til 8 p.m. We hope everyone will come and enjoy all the fun and excitement Awana has to offer: awesome scripture memorization, updated curriculum, games, singing, and uplifting lessons.

For more information, please call the church office at 785-883-2895 or Donna Thomasson at 785-883-2895.

Don't forget: Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30 p.m., the AWANA FUN BEGINS!!

CASE for Kids News...

CASE for Kids has part-time openings. We operate on school days from 3PM-6PM. We are also open on early release days from 11:30AM-6PM. We play games, have snacks and prayer time, and do enriching activities.

CASE for Kids operates at the Wellsville Baptist Church Family Life Center. For more information contact Tara Forrester at 913-486-6224 or caseforkids@yahoo.com.

Special Blessings Preschool News

This year our preschool will celebrate its 30th year of serving the Wellsville community. We will have a birthday party in early September.

The staff has been busy preparing the room, and lessons to prepare each student for kindergarten. We focus on our faith and showing God's love to each child.

The students and staff will participate in the Wellsville Days parade with a float. We will also have fun experiencing the Louisburg Cider Mill, a pumpkin patch, and the local banks in the fall.

Our program focuses on a theme and letter each week. We also celebrate God's love with a Bible story and memory verse for an entire month.

We have a few openings in the afternoon class (11:30 – 2:30, M-W-TH). If you are interested please contact the church office at 785-883-2640.

All God's blessings,
Kari Owings, *Director*

Helping Hands

Helping Hands Food Ministry of Wellsville Family Worship Center will be hosting their monthly food distributions on September 20th, October 18th, and November 22nd from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. These dates are tentative, so if you wish to receive food or to volunteer for these dates, please check our website, www.wellsvillefamily.com, closer to the date to be sure that it has not changed.

We are always grateful to our volunteers and to the people who donate food or money to help us feed people. If you have any questions you may also call Tami at 913-980-9456.

Faithbuilders Sunday School Class

The Faithbuilders Sunday School Class spent the summer quarter studying "The Images of Christ". For the fall quarter, we are offering a topical study; we will begin the quarter with a book entitled "Lessons on Love", followed by "Love in Action".

The Faithbuilders Class meets in the Library of the Family Life Center; anyone interested is welcome to join us!

Worship schedule

Weekly calendar

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
 9:30-9:45 a.m. Fellowship Time
(coffee and juice)
 9:50 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:50 a.m. Worship Service
(Nursery care available for all morning activities)
 5:00 pm. Jr. Sr. High youth group

Tuesday

9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. AWANA—adult coffee/fellowship
 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Saturday

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast

Other Opportunities

September 28

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
 10:50 a.m. Contemporary Service

October 26

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
 10:50 a.m. Contemporary Service

November 16

Youth Serve Day
 Community Thanksgiving Dinner

November 30

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
 10:50 a.m. Contemporary Service

Pastor's column

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear... Be still and know that I am God... The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress!”
 Psalm 46:1-2a, 10-11

This Psalm for the stressed teaches us that God is our refuge and strength!

Not our intellect!
 Not our work ethic!
 Not our independent history!
 Not our arsenal of weapons!
 Not our economic prowess!

What a mighty God we serve! We will not fear, and we realize this is not a time:

For nonsense of Nostradamus!
 For the farce of fortune-tellers!
 For penny-ante political pundits!
 For fleecing of the faithful!
 For might of the media!
 For hiding at home in our foxholes and bunkers in front of the TV!

We can not and will not give in to Fear! When the sirens blow, we report for duty!

We come and see His works in our midst!
 We endeavor to be still and know God!
 We comfort and care for each other!
 We go and tell others about the Savior!

Marj Bankson wrote in a *FAITH AT WORK* article titled “Space for God” that “When we let our spiritual values shape the tasks we do, we will find the center holds, and God’s guidance comes. It is the heart of hope for the long ‘pace race’ of living!” Do you remember singing the scripture song “Thy Word, O Lord, is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path!” Let’s sing it again together soon! See you in church each Sunday this fall!



Interim pastor Rodger Robertson, wife Cheryl, and son Greg.

Neighbors is a *Together* publication produced cooperatively with Media for Living, Inc., 1251 Virginia Avenue, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802

Phone 888-833-3333 • Fax 540-434-0247

Email tgether@aol.com

Website <http://www.churchoutreach.com>

Cheryl and Thomas Christian, editors, WBC

Printed in the USA by Engle Printing, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania
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Wellsville Baptist Church

P. O. Box 555

3rd and Main Streets

Wellsville, Kansas 66092

785-883-2640

E-mail: wellsvillebaptist@kans.com