

WELLSVILLE NEIGHBORS

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Breaking through

by LUKE REYNOLDS

Many of us struggle with a long history of using pornography. Often, this does not change from a few simple steps or ideas, or even from learning about the abuses the women involved undergo. Instead, the injection of something much more powerful is needed in our lives.

When I began college, I was still struggling with my long-term use of pornography. I *wanted* to stop using it, but for some reason my desire was not coming to fruition. I often found myself embattled in a cycle of insecurity, use, shame, then insecurity, use, shame, and over and over again. On the outside, many saw me as a bright example of a strong young man. They did not see the often-crippling state my own soul was in.

And this is the insidious nature of pornography. In my own life, it was not until I began to reach out to the men around me (all of whom also confessed to struggling with pornography), to counselors, and to older men that I saw as role models that things began to change. In the face of such a shame-oriented cycle intent on destruction, reaching out to begin talking is the first and most important step.

It was not until I began to reach out to the men around me... to counselors, and to older men that I saw as role models that things began to change.

Shame loves darkness. It thrives and multiplies there. Do you ever notice how strongly you might feel a new belief in your *own* self-disciplining ability to break the cycle *by yourself* after you use pornography and then make a new commitment? How often do you fail?

Indeed, the hard truth is this: we do not change until we share with others *who we are* and *how we want to change*. Darkness wants to preserve itself, and the longer you remain hidden to yourself and to those around you, the longer you preserve the darkness in your own

life. As men begin to speak out, revealing our own weaknesses and needs, change is given the light and freedom it needs to begin acting. Perhaps the biggest lie perpetrated upon men in modern times is the idea that *I can change on my own—I can do it myself*. When we think of the way strong men are displayed in the movies and in commercials, we see this attitude of *self* blatantly and sadly.

When I was a young man, I used to love the film *Rambo* and its subsequent sequels. In these films, Sylvester Stallone plays a war hero who actually exclaims, “This is my war” at one point in the film. He is the epitome of the media-portrayal of masculine strength because he does everything he wants and needs to do completely by himself.

This image is incredibly destructive when trying to combat a long-term use of pornography because *it does not work*. None of us live in a vacuum, so why do we believe that we can *change and grow* as if we do? We live in a world of relationships, in which everything we do and say has impacts—sometimes profound—on those around us, and vice versa.

Given this context of human civilization, the logical, and truthful, result is that we must *bond* in order to break a hold.

In my own life, this took place—and continues to take place—in powerful ways. One of those ways is with my oldest brother, Christopher. Chris lost his hearing due to the disease meningitis when he was only two years old. Growing up as a deaf boy in what can be a very mean culture, Chris endured the heartaches of mis-

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Luke Reynolds and his wife Jennifer at Glacier National Park.

AUTHOR SUPPLIED

**A gift from
Wellsville Baptist Church**

3rd & Main



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Breaking through

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understanding, cruelty in schools, and a severe loss for where he belonged in his life. I am six years younger than Chris, and I experienced many of the same things, though on a less intense level.

I will never forget the summer after my 8th grade year. Chris was living at home for the summer, on his break from college, and one day he asked me if I would like to go for a run with him. Thinking it would be a short distance, I said sure. Little did I know that Chris liked to go for 3.5 mile runs, and he liked to run hard. During that first run, I tried to stop Chris a number of times; I tried to tell him to slow down, that I couldn't go anymore, that I had to stop and catch my breath.

He refused. He kept running, and merely yelled out that I could do it, that he believed in me. Before this particular run, I had never gone more than one mile. That day, Chris helped me to complete 3.5 without stopping a single time.

For the rest of the summer, he woke me up at six a.m.

each day so that we could run together. Our commitment was that no matter how painful the run became—no matter if we had no breath, or if our stomachs locked in cramp-like demands—we would refuse to stop moving. We would always finish.

Until this time, I had never before known what it was like to push myself beyond what my body wanted for the sake of something higher, something good and wonderful and healthy. But now I had a tangible thing that I could view—something that would forever remain a memory in my mind of what I could do in the presence of a brother. We were both broken men, each weak and stumbling in our own ways, but when we came together, we could do something that alone was impossible.

That first day when Chris asked me to run with him, my soul began to wake up. If I had been alone, I would have easily stopped at a half-mile, or maybe a mile at most. But the view of my own brother—who had struggled through so much in his own life—running with me, telling me that he believed in me, this became the image for what an authentic strength looked like. Authentic strength is *not* independent and successful on its own.

Unlike Rambo, it does not claim, “This is my war.” Because in reality, it is always *our war*. And this war for the health and freedom of our own lives—the protection of women who are constantly being abused, and the addictions which so often cripple marriages and families—this war is most certainly *our war*. And we can win it—as we reach out and share our stories with others.

L U K E
REYNOLDS
is a freelance
writer from
Marlborough,
Massachusetts.
This article is
an excerpt from
his book A New
Man.



Stephen Ministry News

“Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all you who remain of the house of Israel; You whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.” Isaiah 46: 3-4

Ministering to Those Experiencing Loss Related to Aging

What's the big deal? Aging is, after all, a process for all of us. According to Stephen Ministry literature, there are even categories of *old*:

Young Old: Newly retired and still very busy.

Middle Old: Maybe have slowed down with major physical problems, but still able to care for themselves.

Frail Old: Have suffered a combination of physical, mental and emotional losses that have left them unable to care for themselves.

In our society we tend to dread growing older. Sadly, our own fear of the aging process can sometimes be an obstacle to caring effectively for an older person.

When the Stephen Ministers studied how to better care for older persons we started first with self-examination — what are our own hopes and fears about aging? Do we harbor ageist attitudes or prejudices that could hinder providing loving and empathetic care? What kind of old person do we want to be? And don't want to be?

A panel of elders from our church spent some time with us answering questions and talking about what was and was not important to them. Their humor, honesty and courage were riveting.

Ultimately, the big deal with aging is the litany of loss: loss of physical capabilities; loss of friends to death or relocation; loss of independence. We may lose the ability to enjoy activities we have always loved to do.

As societal norms (what is generally accepted) change, we sometimes lose “the way things are supposed to be” and are offended at modern behavior.

As the losses continue to accumulate, we may have to cope with losing a sense of safety, a beloved spouse, or home. Ultimately, we may grieve the loss of our own life.

What does the elder person you are caring for actually need?

As you listen with your open mind and heart here are a few things to consider. Sometimes prayer reminds us that God doesn't change and nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:39.

God's Word is a resource that doesn't change. Possibly you can read it aloud to those unable to read. Recordings of familiar hymns can help too.

Forgiveness - Some older persons may feel bitter about their losses and may need patient help to reach the point where they can forgive others.

Blessings - With cards, calls and visits, remind them of God's love and care for them.

“A Cup of Cold Water” - Find someone to fix the broken lock on the door or take them for a walk or drive so he or she can get outside for awhile.

Our Stephen Ministry is free and confidential and we'll be there for you after the party is over. If you need a Stephen Minister to listen to you to help bear the burden, call Carol Fleming, 888-0435 or the church office.

Leonard and Luke

My Dad, Leonard, told a story about Luke yesterday that he thought was pretty funny. On one hand it is certainly cute and funny, but has a bittersweet element to it as well.

Luke and Grandpa have been fishing together as often as possible lately. Fishing and going out to eat breakfast together have been their main activities of fellowship for quite a few years now.

My Dad has been such a God-send in Luke's life! Many times when we were ready to strangle Luke for some of his attitudes, Grandpa has been the one to lighten things up; to him Luke's antics were the funniest things in the world.

For instance, Luke has always behaved as if he were some kind of Prince or King and everyone around him his subjects. All through the years, during a fishing outing, he would ask Grandpa (or whoever was there) to carry his tackle, hold this, fix that... etc. etc. ... and Grandpa would just laugh and tell him he was sure he could take care of these things himself. Grandpa never catered to it, but Luke never changed. He would always try. My Dad thought this enormously funny and it was a very long-running joke.

Also, Luke persistently bosses whoever is running the boat. Again, Grandpa just chuckles and does whatever he is going to do not paying Luke's directives

any mind.

Luke's Grandpa is about the best natured person in the world and Luke loves him dearly. So on their last little fishing trip Grandpa told Luke he was sure going to miss his fishing buddy, now with Luke heading off for the Air Force. In complete sincerity Luke responded, "Yes, but I'll retire in just 20 years and then we'll have tons of time to fish together after that!"

My Dad was pretty taken aback. He told Luke "I'm 72 now, so that will make me 92 years old. I'll either be in the grave or you'll have to carry me to the boat!"

"Whatever it takes, Grandpa."

This little story reminded me of the whole brevity of time dynamic. When you are a youth, time seems to stand still. Although your parents and grandparents are certainly aging, you don't notice that they are any different than you've ever known them to be. It seems like life is unchanging, that home will always be there exactly as it has always

been there (in your experience and memory). But the reality is that nothing stays the same, and in many ways you can't ever go home again. Everything here on earth does change. And oh the longing in our hearts for that element of solid permanence! I agree with C.S. Lewis that it is truly a signature on our very souls that we were not made for time but for eternity....

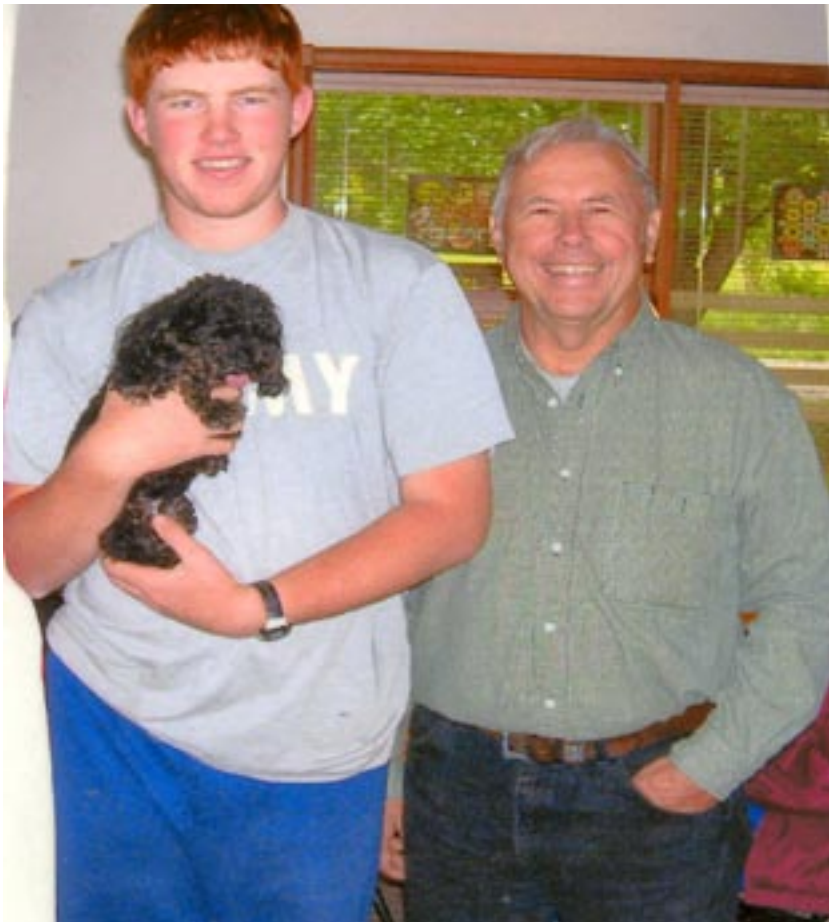
—Lana Braddock

Beautiful story, Lana. What struck me is the impact grandparents have on their grandkids. Often they are the real spiritual mentors because their relationship with their grandkids is based on love and acceptance, leaving the discipline part to the parents. And grandkids revel in that unconditional love. My grandparents had a big impact on me, perhaps as much as my parents, because they allowed

Luke and Leonard still enjoy spending time together.



Grandpa Leonard Burbank and grandson Luke Braddock in earlier years.



me to spend time with them and they encouraged me rather than commanded me to learn from them. Why doesn't it work that way between parents and kids? I guess God designed the whole extended family to be a supportive influence in a child's life, not just their parents. Yet in America we don't really reverence the elderly the way we should because our focus is on the worship of eternal youth. No wonder our kids are failing at life. We're about as dysfunctional a society as could be imagined. Even the most primitive tribes in the remotest parts of the earth understand the importance of the family clan working and playing together. We think we're so smart but we need psychologists to help us sort out problems that could be solved by common sense.

Thanks for the story. I wonder what stories Luke will have to tell after a year in the military. I hope he ascends the ranks quickly so he doesn't have to carry his own gear too long.

—Dan Jaquish

News from Police Chief Gillispie

Over the past several months, the Wellsville community has experienced a number of burglaries. By utilizing simple prevention measures and coming together as good neighbors and community partners, we can make it much more difficult for people to commit these crimes.

Residential burglars are often people who are familiar with the area around your home. They are opportunists who look for easy targets. If the risk of detection is too high, the average burglar will not attempt to enter your home or vehicle.

The first step in making your home secure is to look at your current security measures to identify any vulnerable areas around your home. If it is not difficult to make entry into your vehicle or home the burglar is more likely to try.

Your neighbors play an important part in your overall burglary prevention program. Burglars tend to avoid neighborhoods that are collectively security conscious.

Consider establishing a neighborhood watch program. An aware neighborhood is a safer neighborhood.

Remember, however, your community could also work against you. Those who live near you are also in the best position to know your schedule and whether or not you have valuables in your home. While you can't treat every neighbor with suspicion, don't provide temptation or opportunity by announcing trips or vacations to everyone you encounter.

Does your home tell people you are careful and alert? When a criminal looks at your home or car, what would attract or discourage them from burglarizing it? A well manicured lawn can be important in saying that you pay close attention to your home. In the eyes of a burglar, an overgrown lawn suggests an absence, and a possible burglary target. Overgrown or extremely large trees or shrubs can hide burglary activity, especially around your home's entry points. For security's sake have them trimmed or moved.

Fences can be an effective part of your security, but they may also hide a burglar's activity.

Street lights are an important crime deterrent for your neighborhood, but your personal residence should also be well lit. You do not want to help a burglar break into your home or car, so watch what you leave in your yard. Your own ladders, screwdrivers, hammers or pliers can be used against you.

Doors to both vehicles and your house — keep them locked! The average burglar has only two options for entering your vehicle and residence: doors and windows. Doors are an important part of a successful security program. Hollow-core doors are easily kicked in. External doors and door frames should be solid wood or steel. Avoid leaving gaps around the door frame, as this provides leverage for removing the door from its frame. Sliding glass doors are a common entry point. Many of these doors can be lifted off their tracks. For maximum security, use vertical bolts. Also place a metal or solid wood rod on the inside track to hold the door closed. Garage doors are another frequent entry point. The door that connects your garage to your home should have solid wood or solid-core construction. Secure it with a deadbolt lock. Don't rely on the electric garage door opener as your only security measure. Back doors are a popular target since they are often hidden from the street and many homeowners leave them unlocked. It's important to keep your back door well lit, and install a deadbolt. These doors should have a solid-core as well. When you move into a new house or apartment, change all of the locks immediately. Also, anyone with a moderate amount of skill and desire can pick a common spring-latch. As a result, deadbolt locks are a necessary investment.

Windows — keep them closed and locked! One of the most common entry points for burglars is a ground level window at the rear side of a home. That's why you should use the same security measures on your windows as you would on your doors.

Consider installing a burglar alarm. The best kind is the kind that rings in the house, not the kind that electronically (and silently) reports to a central office. Your neighbor is less likely to phone in a false alarm than someone miles (or States) away listening to a machine. They also cost less. If a burglar gets past your perimeter alarm system, there should be a secondary alarm system inside. One type is a sensor under a rug that goes off when more than 25 pounds pressure is applied (probably better if you have pets). The other is some type of sonic detector that senses motion in a room. Dogs are a good deterrent — burglars will generally avoid a house with a dog. But they aren't foolproof — most dogs tend to be too friendly. Also, you need to be sure to keep their shots and city licenses up to date.



Remember that none of these measures will help you if you leave your doors and windows unlocked. It only takes a few minutes for a thief to take your most valued possessions. Always lock your doors, no matter how soon you plan to return.

Make your possessions less attractive. Don't flaunt your belongings. Leave burglars guessing at what they will find and where to find them. Also, when you make large purchases, don't leave the empty boxes on the curb. Break them down and place them on the bottom of your trash pile on the day of pickup. Inventory your possessions. You never know what you've got until it's gone, so take an inventory of your possessions now. A written inventory will work, but other methods of documentation, such as video taping or still photographs, are also good.

Try to maintain a security-conscious state of mind. You might be doing things to invite burglars into your home. Don't tell people you are away. Don't put notes on your door detailing your schedule. Don't leave messages on your telephone answering machine telling when you will return home. Pay attention to people and vehicles. Take a good look at anybody in your neighborhood that could be attempting to determine who is home during certain times of the day. If you and your neighbors get a clear look at a would-be thief or he senses that people in the neighborhood are watching, he may decide that committing a burglary is too risky. Also, if someone looks suspicious write down their description, and the vehicle license tag number, and call the police.

Talk to your children about home security. Ask them to remember to always lock the door and keep track of their keys. If you are burglarized, what you do from the time you discover the crime until the police arrive is important. If you return home and find your door or window ajar, call the police from your cell phone or go to a neighbor's home and call the police. In the event of a surprise encounter with an intruder, try to flee, if you are blocked in, remain still and allow him to leave. Do not attempt to detain him, as he may be armed. Your television is replaceable, you are not! Call the police immediately. The sooner you call, the greater the chance that your possessions will be recovered. While you wait for the police to arrive, don't touch anything or attempt to clean up the mess. You may ruin important evidence. When the police arrive, provide them with a copy of your inventory. This will make it easier to identify a suspect who is caught with your valuables.

Don't get complacent. After you have instituted your security measures, evaluate them often. Your home doesn't have to look like Fort Knox to be secure, it is a good idea to evaluate its security periodically and determine if there's room for improvement. Burglary prevention extends to your automobile too. Lock your vehicle. Close all windows and lock your vehicle completely, even if you are only making a quick stop. An unlocked vehicle is an open invitation to a thief. Remove all valuables from the vehicle and place them in your trunk. Consider employing the use of a security system, The Club or LoJack. Park carefully. Park in your well-lit driveway or in your garage and never leave your keys in your car. Never leave your vehicle's motor running and the car unlocked, even for very short periods of time. Park where your car will be viewed easily and frequently. Be on the lookout. Particularly during the summer months, Wellsville noticed a number of vehicle burglaries.

The following are tips that could deter a shed break-in: Check the latching device on your shed. Most sheds have A?" screws holding the latching device onto the shed frame. These A?" screws should be replaced with longer approx. 1" screws or bolts. Latches secured with A?" screws are easily broken off enabling burglars to defeat any type lock. Always lock the shed with a heavy duty lock. Run a heavy duty chain through items in the shed, especially bikes, lawn equipment and other large tools. This allows you to lock the items together making it tougher for burglars to quickly remove items.

Engrave all valuable property that is stored in your shed with your driver's license number preceded with the letters KS, for Kansas. Record all model and serial numbers of property stored in the shed. As with household property, this allows the property to be entered into the National Crime Information Center Computer (NCIC), in case of theft, allowing the property to be easily identified as stolen. Install a motion detector flood light on your house or shed that would illuminate any intruders. Help protect your neighbors by reporting suspicious persons or vehicles in or around your neighborhood. Remember most shed burglaries and break-ins occur in Wellsville evening hours when most people are asleep.

Wellsville Chamber of Commerce

by JEANINE BERRIER

The fall leaves have begun to fall and our season is ready to change. This is the key word 'change'. Not only locally, but everywhere.

Our local chamber is seeing a vast change. Our numbers in attendance are growing every month. This shows us that people are ready to break away from the 'norm' and be a part of a 'change'.

The next event sponsored by the chamber is Holidays in Wellsville and the Jr. and Luetta Crist Christmas Drawing, December 6, 2008. Be sure to come out and visit the booths of our vendors. You never know, this may be where you'll find just the right gift for that hard to please person. Check out our local boy scouts for lunch. Bring the kinds to see Santa from 11:00 until 1:00. There will be performances during the day by the Wellsville Dance Team and the Gardner Dance School. The girl scouts will hold their fundraiser in the evening at the drawing. Now with all of that, how can you not go and enjoy the day and night?

Be a part of the 'change' and grow with your community. And again I extend the invitation to each of you to be a member of the chamber. Come join us and grow with your community.

Till the next newsletter, have a Happy Holiday and good health to all of you.

The Wellsville Historical Society

A beautiful quilt of historical pictures was made and donated by Becky (Selk) Potter. Chances were sold and Ruth Fleming of Wellsville won and donated it back to the Historical society to hang in the Wellsville Museum some day.



LOCAL AUTHOR

Meet Beverly Knapp

When Cheryl asked me to put an item in the paper, I was so surprised! I love to write so it sounded fun to me. Before I go any further, I will tell you about our families.

We have two boys and two girls, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. My son died of a brain tumor when he was 11 years old. This was a hard time in my life and although I was "sprinkled" when I was young and had always been in church, I kind of lost it.

After Cal and I were married, I was baptized again. This was the real start of my Christian life again. I love God and want to do whatever he wants me to do now but earlier in my life, it was not that way...I believe that has happened to a lot of us.

Now, on to my life: I am a Foster Grandparent at Wellsville Elementary School. I work with Elba Unruh and have for almost 10 years. I work half days most of the time. I can pick my times as I am just a volunteer.

Before I started this part of my life, I worked as secretary to the Chairman of Rehabilitation Medicine at K.U. Medical Center for 24+ years. Sometime after I left, I had a stroke, could not speak very well, my right side was very weak and it took about a year for me to get back to myself. My daughter, Debbie, could see that I needed to be doing something and suggested Foster Grandparents. The rest is history.

I absolutely love being at school with the kids. I get to be with such good kids, and, of course, Mr. Unruh is a jewel, also.

I have written four children's books. The titles are: *Flying*



Beverly Knapp

Away To The Eagle's Nest; The Birthday Party At The Eagle's Nest; SURPRISE; and Rubby Dub Dub, Bears In A Tub. As you can probably see, the first three are a series.

I wrote the first book about three years ago. I was watching the hawks as I was sitting on the deck and just started writing. A friend sent me photos of eagles and I thought of the Wellsville Eagles so I changed the story from hawks to eagles. This has been a really fun part of my life doing this as the library at school has made them Accelerated Reading books and I get to see the look on kids' faces when they read them and then take the test on the computer especially if they get a good grade!

I have attended the Institute of Children's Literature. I have just started learning a new trade which is Internet marketing. I have taken the course but, as yet, have not really done a whole lot with it. I believe it is going to be fun and, I hope, profitable.

I love this church and the people in it would like to be able to do more for the church, so pray for me.

Editor's note: What Beverly did not write in her story is that she has two more books in the making. They will be about raccoons. Guess what she is watching from her deck now. Also a third book is in the dreaming stages. Beverly's book would make a nice Christmas present—just ask some of the students at Wellsville Elementary.

Garden Thoughts by Carrol Fischer



Supposedly, we have all of the hard work done and now it's time to be selfish.

First method is to let everyone know the type of nifty garden implements you have wanted so it can be a Christmas where you get your heart's desire instead of something you will never use nor wear.

Most upscale gardening magazines have ads for catalogues. Get as many that interest you. A gift certificate from Jackson & Perkins for the purchase of a coveted rose seems to me to be a right dandy gift. Or, anything from Smith & Hawkins

who carry the best of the best gardening tools. There is also Lee Valley Garden Tools, their number is 800-683-8170 and White Flower Farm, their number is 800-503-9624. You will discover that you absolutely need things that you didn't even know existed.

Those same catalogues can be company throughout those winter days that keep one inside.

This is when you create your dream garden. This is as good as it gets, lists are made. Then you add it up and the total is three times your mortgage payment. Dream gardens exist to be changed. A little flexibility seems called for. As the years go by we have tried to add a lot of perennials. One year with health and time forbidding, we just let the garden go and the months were still filled with flowers. First the daffodils are wonderful, the Irises are exquisite, but wait; here come tulips. For someone with patience you can truly see it all in orderly fashion, year after year, one delight after another for a one-time expenditure. Then, for the greedy, you can throw in annuals that are a yearly expense but maintain throughout the summer. Some annuals keep on giving by coming up next year from seed. Right now we are overwhelmed with 'return' on several of these.

Another gift giving holiday is also with us. What a 'sweetheart' thing to do. This time you don't need to hint and whine around, you can be the generous giver, like the time I gave Gary a tuberous begonia for Valentine's Day.

Meet Damien E. Most

Damien helps out with editing on this newspaper.

Often think that death is the great equalizer. Presidents die. Poor people die. Rich people die. Young, old, skinny, fat, important and unimportant people die. They all die. We all die. After all the fights, and the children, and the happiness and the tears, everything you do comes down to that last breath. What is it going to feel like? Or look like? Are we right with God and the universe when it comes?

I always remember the part in the Bible where it says that God watches every sparrow that falls. I dispute the notion that we won't see our pets in heaven, because all life is important to God, since every sparrow is important enough for Him to notice. I believe the universe is like a pair of pantyhose. Each of us—and all the animals, all sentient life—is a stitch in those pantyhose, and we are all important to the integrity of those pantyhose. If one of us were to disappear, a run would occur in the universe, just like a hole in pantyhose causes a run. It would have a ripple effect on everything around the person or animal or sparrow that disappeared.

And I think this importance that each living creature has to the universe is just as vital after death. The universe is made up of energy, God is made up of energy and so are we. We assume our rightful place as part of God and the universe when we die and become part of Jesus Christ. That is why he said "no man cometh to the father but by me." The Bible teaches us that our

actions matter. Respect for all life is really respect for oneself and one position as part of all life and part of our brother Jesus Christ.

It is amazing to think that God thought so much of mankind that He created Himself in human form in the being of Jesus Christ. No man or woman has ever had that great a love for mankind as God did when His own son, part of Himself in human form, died a miserable death on a cross.

We owe the Lord God more respect than we give Him. We shoot each other and terrorize each other and we forget that all living creatures are precious to God. Are we ready to take that last breath and go on to inherit the splendor of the universe side by side with Jesus Christ? Are we ready to live with Him and by His rules? I don't know the answer either. I think we just do the best we can, one day at a time. Jesus taught us not to fear death. He was ready. Are we?



From the Editor

This is the Christmas and Valentine's issue of the *Wellsville Neighbors*. The election is over and people are hoping the changes that will be made will make life easier.

We hope to have the money to give lots of gifts and flowers for all of those that we love. I am part of the "sandwich" generation. To quote: "parents are losing the ability to drive, children are driving, and the grandkids go to work with me."

I work in the family business. That business is a service that puts my husband and me in the car a lot. That means gasoline prices have an effect on our budget, not to mention those five kids and a grandchild. I know the financial shape of many of you because I am there also.

The Wellsville Baptist Church has been mailing the good news of Wellsville Kansas for two years now. I have had the privilege to read and edit some wonderful and inspirational stories and news. I have learned more about the Wellsville community — of individuals and businesses. I have had easy issues with more news than I could use and some issue that were more difficult to publish. My husband and I have the same views on moral issues but some of his articles I was not sure of publishing because they are our viewpoint and maybe not everyone in this church would agree. I have edited stories and wished I hadn't. We have tried hard to make sure that the Wellsville Baptist church's activities were announced so that everyone could attend

to be introduced to "our family". We have also tried hard to make sure that the community news was also spread to help support those that wished for their activities to be attended. Our publisher has even said that they enjoy reading our paper because of the diversity of the news. We tried polling our readers in that first year and we have heard all the positives. Now we are asking for help.

The Wellsville Baptist Church is no different then you or I. We have been hit by the economy also. In order to publish this paper next year we need some financial assistance. If you would like to keep receiving this paper four times a year and can help with a contribution please send it to the church office with the designation of *Wellsville Neighbors*. Also, please let me know what you have enjoyed about the paper and if we have discontinued something you like and would like back. Not all stories have come out of our church.

If you have an inspirational story and funding is found, please let us know. But I cannot end this letter without asking for the rest of my family and the help that they need also. The Awana program can always use assistance, along with funding for the camp program. The children of this community are our future. I know this is a tough time because I am there also. But this Christmas season think about giving a gift that gives back both to you and your community.

YOUTH NEWS

Ice Skating & Plaza Trip

Dec. 13, 2-10pm

Dress warm bring a friend and be ready to have a good o time! We will leave the church at 2pm and head up to Crown Center where we will enjoy some ice skating and hot cocoa. When we have had all the fun we can have there, we will load up the van and head down to the Plaza. We will enjoy a nice fancy meal at McDonald's and then break up into groups to tour the plaza. We will return back to the church by 10pm.



Heather Horn

New Year's Eve Lock-In

Dec. 31, 9pm – Jan 1, 7am

That's right a 10 Hour Blitz! We will enjoy some laser tagging, food, games and some surprises. Giveaways will be handed out every hour. Cost is still TBD but spots will be limited. If you are interested in joining the fun, reservations must be made to Heather Horn no later than Dec. 21st.

Youth Group

Every Sunday 5:30-7

This is a great time to come and fellowship with your peers. We always have games, snacks and a time of discussion about God's word and how to apply it to our lives. Come check it out!

We have arrived

The Wellsville Baptist Church has its new website up for you to keep up with coming events. You can find our calendar as well as a link to the paper. That's right. Even if budget cuts take the printed copy we will do our best to produce one on line. You can learn about our church history and what we believe, and there is more information for you to view, as well as more to come, as it is a work in progress. You will find it at www.wellsvillebaptist.com as well as .org or .net.

Helping Hands Food Ministry

... of Wellsville Family Worship Center is still having their monthly distributions at 6th and Locust in Wellsville. This time of year is quite difficult to plan distribution dates, so please double check the local papers and their website, www.wellsvillefamily.com to be sure of the distribution dates. Tentatively, the dates will be December 20th, January 17th, and February 21st.

Helping Hands is in operation solely on the basis of donations. We are in dire need of money and/or food donations. If you are able to help us, please contact Tami at 913-980-9456.

Awana

Wellsville Baptist Church's Awana program is well under way! Around 70 kids have been having a great time every Wednesday night. There is always room for more, so if you know a child in first through eighth grade, please tell him or her about Awana.

Awana Clubs meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. each Wednesday when Wellsville schools are in session. At Awana, each child memorizes Bible verses, hears about God's great love for all of us, and has FUN!

There are some important dates to remember in December. We will (weather permitting) bundle up warmly and hit the road for caroling! Be ready for beautiful music December 17 as the Awana Clubbers travel around Wellsville, wishing friends and neighbors Merry Christmas! After all the "joyful noise" we'll meet back at the church for doughnuts and hot chocolate. This will also be our last night of Awana until after the New Year. There will be NO Awana December 24 or December 31. Awana will resume January 7, 2009.

February will also be a fun month for Awana Clubbers. February 25 is set as BACKWARDS NIGHT! Any Clubber who would like to join in is invited to wear everything BACKWARDS. Pants, shirts, coats, earrings, whatever you can think of! All SDRAWKCAB!

For any questions you may have about Awana, feel free to call Commander Donna Thomason at 785-883-2895. We hope to see YOU at Awana!



The Co-Editor's corner

What season is it? 'Tis the season for fighting, depression, screaming, drunkenness, or all the above.

Just walk into any store for the day-after-Thanksgiving sale. That thankful spirit went out the window about the time the 3:00 a.m. alarm went off and the war paint went on. Some little old lady may just throw you to the floor if you reach for that last toy on the shelf that she was planning to get.

I dare you to grab the last tool set from the display at the same time that other guy is about to pick it up. Brotherly love will not be discussed again until tonight after they have put away all the trophies they won from the store, and had time to blow off steam about how some so-and-so tried to take it away from them.

I have watched lots of different people at this time of year and I think many of the ones that are truly in the spirit you will find ringing the bell in front of the stores (*with exception to Target that is*). Regardless the weather, they greet you with a smile and a cheerful thank you.

You may find them in the soup kitchens, dropping off toys at the Toys for Tot's box. They give without getting and know they never will—as long as they are on this earth anyway. Their mood is always happy, their life seems to be in order and perfect. Do they have it all? No, in fact you will find many of them have less than most but they have all that matters. They have a love for their fellow man and a gift for giving just like Jesus. They may not give their life as Jesus did but they give of their life. From them come their time, money and kindness. Were they

born this way? I think not. They have chosen to be this way. They choose to get by with a little less so someone else can have something even if it is only their dignity and a hot meal.

We could all learn a great deal from this small group of people. Not just how to give but how to have peace. To truly love your fellow man as Jesus has loved you. To not have a feeling of guilt because you could not find the GI Joe that little Johnny wanted. Have you ever noticed that children know how to give to others and then one day they lose it and their whole world is about them? Just like so many of the rest of us. There are not enough willing people for the demand of helping their fellow man.

God has commanded us to do this and we have so many reasons why we haven't yet. It is not that we won't because if we live long enough we have plans to do it, right? You know, when I find myself telling me such things, I have to remind myself that God has not allowed any one to live for hundreds of years for a long time. I am a student of Dave Ramsey and Dave says "if you want to be a millionaire you have to do what millionaires do." I think the same can be said for happy people. If you want to be happy do what happy people do. I may be wrong but what would it hurt to try?

With Christian love,
Thomas Christian

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

Sunday, December 7

Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 8

Preschool Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14

Infant Dedication

Wednesday, December 17

Last day for AWANA until school resumes

Sunday, December 21

Christmas Worship in Music and Word

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service

Wednesday, January 7

AWANA resumes

Sunday, January 15

Annual Business Meeting

Saturday, February 28

Heather Horn & Erick Thornton wedding

Pastor's column

A missionary from northern Rhodesia tells of a prayer composed by an African schoolgirl:
O Thou Great Chief, light a candle within our hearts that we may see what is therein, and sweep the rubbish from Thy dwelling place.

This is one of the purposes of observing Advent and Christmas, and we accomplish it when we clearly see who it is that comes, and how decisive our response to Him will be.

Advent means "to come" and this is the season of people coming toward Christmas.

Like Mary and Joseph coming to Bethlehem!

Like shepherds and wise men coming!

And us coming too!

For we have a journey to make too — a journey to Christmas, a "coming to" the Christ event. We have some preparations to make within ourselves or Christmas simply does not happen for us!

Preparations like making room for Christ in our thinking and busy schedules! Things like singing carols and listening to what the words really say. Things like looking up at winter's stars and thinking about what that first Advent was like!

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Let every heart prepare Him room in these days of December ahead.

Dear God, who so loved the world that You gave us Jesus to light and guide our way, guide us through this season of preparation, as we welcome Jesus into our lives, AMEN.

P.S. Join us for worship at either 8:30 or 10:50 for Advent Sundays. Here is the preaching plan:

December 7	"Christmas: Birth and Re-birth" Romans 8:3-11
December 14	"Why God Became Man" Hebrews 2:5-18
December 21	"The Theology of Christmas" Philippians 2:5-11
December 24	Candlelight service of baptism and communion
December 28	"Will Jesus Come Again in 2009?" Mark 13:32-33



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

Heather is getting married!

February 28, 4pm

That's right, I am getting married! My fiancé, Erick Thornton, and I will tie the knot in February of 2009. We are very excited to start the new journey of our lives together and see how God will use us both to share the love of Jesus to those around us.

We welcome everyone to the ceremony being held at the Wellsville Baptist Church at 4pm February 28th. Due to space restraints, the reception will be by personal invitation only.



Our prayers and best wishes are with Eric & Heather as they start a new life together. May your blessings be many.

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Phone 540-433-5351 • Fax 540-434-0247

Email tgether@aol.com

Website www.churchoutreach.com

Cheryl and Thomas Christian, editors, WBC

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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

For up to date information go to
www.wellsvillebaptist.com