

WINGS Update

WINGS began a focus on faith back in August. We looked at what faith is and Who we have faith in. We met some of the "great cloud of witnesses" that surround us as we reviewed some of the Old Testament followers of God and then heard stories from current people of faith. Talking with these current people of faith and then examining what faith looks like in our lives was a great reminder that God isn't just a story; He's part of our lives today.

In between study nights, there was much celebration happening at WINGS over the past month. We celebrated fall with pumpkins and pinatas. We celebrated Thanksgiving with turkeys and thankfulness. And, most important, we celebrated the joy of the fulfillment of our faith with an amazing Christmas banquet to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Imagine walking into a place of worship where the kids are so excited to be there they give up sports, beg their parents or care-givers to come, and show up half an hour early. Imagine at the end of the time the kids don't want to leave and in fact, you find out they even talk about it at school! In between the coming and the going, imagine kids dancing and singing to God, never sitting still, but still catching the lesson of the night and even bringing up their own questions about God and faith. Imagine laughter, noise, and building relationships. Imagine leaders stuffed like turkeys, pumpkin goop squishing, donuts eaten with no hands, pinatas smashing, candy flying to crazed children, feathers filled with thanks, and the name of Jesus proclaimed in the matter-of-fact faith of children.

This is what we get to experience every Tuesday night at WINGS. Leaders stand amazed at the God who plants Himself and His word in the hearts and minds of kids we didn't even know were listening. We are filled with joy listening to kids pray one after another because we couldn't choose just one pray-er when so many hands were raised. And, we are filled with deep deep gratitude that God would choose us to be a part of what He is doing in the lives of each child and leader. We even got to celebrate the birth of Jesus and begin telling His story to the kids and their families at our Christmas banquet.

As soon as we walked in, we could smell that it was going to be a great meal! Enchiladas, rice, black beans, and green beans started the evening with goodness and then, the ice cream and Snickerdoodles came! The cooks said they had never tried this particular meal before, and weren't sure how it would turn out.
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(continued from page 1) After the banquet, WINGS has decided we will be glad to be Guinea Pigs for the cooks from now on. The Christmas play had 'moo'ing cows and 'baa'ing sheep roaming the room while Herod got angry and Joseph saved baby Jesus, but left his wife behind (he also should not be holding real babies anytime soon because heads might pop off). Angels glorified God, shepherds spread the news of Jesus' birth, and wise men dodged the cow and sheep to bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We ended the night singing Christmas carols, opening gifts, and enjoying the time of fellowship and celebration.



We want to thank Bill and Allison Seymour, Nancy Hostetler, Joy and Steve Yoder, Emily, Caitlyn and Samantha, Ryan Troyer, Marion and Jane Beyeler, Judy King, and Sandy Sohar for showing us the love of God in setting up, decorating, cooking, serving, and cleaning up for our Christmas Banquet. It was beautiful, it was delicious, and it won't be forgotten. We leaders had a chance to connect with the kids and families of WINGS because you all made it possible. We got to share the story of Jesus' birth because we didn't have to think about washing dishes. Thank you.

WINGS is taking a Christmas break until January 9. Then, we will be back to learn the stories of Jesus.

~ Sara Anderson, WINGS Leader

Note of thanks from Febri Kristiani (AMBS student and recipient of I.W. Royer Scholarship) - Dear Orrville Mennonite Church, Happy Thanksgiving! My name is Febri Kristiani from Indonesia. I am a first year student in AMBS, Elkhart, IN. I want to say thank you so very much for your support through scholarship that you have given to me. I am so blessed and grateful. Your scholarship helps me to cover my needs here in the seminary. Once again, THANK YOU! God bless you all! "My prayers for you are full of praise to God as I give Him thanks for you with great joy." Peace, Febri Kristiani

An Orrville community member named Kirk who occasionally comes to our food pantry asked me to share this encouragement with the church family. Kirk is wheelchair-bound (not motorized) and he wheels himself to the church from the south end of Orrville. He is very thankful for the food assistance he receives through the pantry. He is an encourager and here are his words for us: *Pain, fear and weariness are temporary and irrelevant; glory and strength in God is forever!* ~ Kirk Feeman

Central Christian School Announcements

Central Christian High School choirs and instrumental groups will present an evening of worship at the Christmas program on Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. CCS alumni are invited to join the orchestra for the annual playing of the *Sleigh Ride*.

Alumni Night, December 22nd – Varsity Girls' basketball will play at 6 p.m. and Varsity Boys' basketball will play at 7:30 p.m. vs. Lucas High School. All alumni get in free and will be eligible for prize drawings.

General Announcements

We have been invited by the Upanga Mennonite Church of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to begin a prayer and sharing relationship with them and to come and visit. The pastor there is Abner Mathube. We are looking to go near the dates of June 5-18, 2017. For those interested in the Tanzania trip, we have an information sheet. See Mark, Lidia, or Bill to declare your interest.

From Mennonite Central Committee – This holiday season as you pick out gifts for loved ones, add a few supplies for MCC kits to your list. MCC Great Lakes has put together a list of most needed items on Amazon.com. Simply purchase the pre-selected items on the wish list and the items will ship directly to the material resource center in Goshen. (Due to space limitations at MCC Connections in Kidron, all items are being shipped to Goshen.) Thank you for joining MCC in sharing God's love and compassion in this tangible way this Christmas. Search "MCC Great Lakes" in Amazon Wish Lists.