

EFree News

“Doin’ Life Together!”

November 2011

Russ Wood,
Executive Pastor

Pastor’s Pen

On Sunday, October 23, Matt Harman reminded us of something very important. We are not abandoned! In fact, we are unabandoned. He was right to remind us that though the EFree church is currently without a senior pastor and though a constant interchange of different speakers can make us feel disconnected, we are not alone and we are not powerless!

We need to remember that we are not without a leader. Our God has not left us as

orphans, as Matt shared from John 14:18. We are not lost and helpless children if we are children of God. We have been given the advocate of the Holy Spirit

When Jesus left earth, He, in a way, passed the baton to us when He provided us with His Holy Spirit. We are completely equipped and not lacking anything! It is up to us now, as His modern day disciples, to do His work.

It would be easy for us to sit

on our hands under the pretense of being “without a leader.” But that would be a great tragedy. Our leader is Jesus Christ, son of God, along with His Spirit that He has imparted to us to do the work He has for us and love the world courageously. As Matt would say, we have no reason not to “git ‘er done!”

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33



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Ladies’ Christmas Tea

Ladies’ Christmas Tea

It’s our favorite time of year again - *tea time!* We always enjoy this evening of good food, friendship, and music, all in a lovely Christmas ambience.

So mark your calendars and invite a friend to the annual Ladies’ Christmas Tea.

This year’s tea will be on Friday night, December 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall.

By November 6, there will be information in your mailboxes with the details and invitations available to give to friends.

There will also be a sign-up table so you can get signed up early.

Here are the basic details:

- Bring a friend or come by yourself. Sign up by December 4th on the sign up sheet or call the Church Office

- We will need Hostesses to set a table for 4 with your pretty tea pot, cups, and plates.
- Sign up to bring food for the delicious buffet table.
- There will be a Cookie Exchange for those who want to participate.

Don’t miss this special evening!



Thanksgiving Pie Sale!



Wednesday, November 23rd
10:00 am - 5:00 pm in front of
Ruth Ann's Bridal, Montrose.

Once again, the Ely family will be hosting their pie sale in the loving memory of their daughter Alayna Ely to raise money for several missions organizations such as "Smile Train" and

"Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep."

Do you love making fresh homemade pies? Jen is in need of those willing to donate homemade pies for the sale!

Not a pie-baker? Don't be discouraged! You can still buy delicious pies to help out!

A variety of pies are available such as apple, pumpkin, berry, peanut butter, pecan, grape, cream varieties, etc.

If you would like to bake pies, or reserve a favorite pie to buy, contact the Church Office

Thanksgiving at EFree, Nov. 24 at 1:00 pm

*Nowhere to go for
Thanksgiving? Know
someone who doesn't
have family in the
area or a place to
spend the holiday?*

Dear Church Family,

For the past two years we have had the privilege of joining with you for Thanksgiving. For us, our immediate family has grown and branched off and it is impossible to spend Thanksgiving with them. But you are also our family and that has been the inspiration for us to spend Thanksgiving with you. For those of you who also have distant families or nowhere else to spend Thanksgiving, we hope you'll spend the day with us. We'll enjoy great food (of course) and great company being together. Stay for pie, stay

for games, just stay to be together longer.

This corporate Thanksgiving has always desired to be a service and a great encouragement to those who may not have a place to spend the holiday and we also hope that as you think of people that may need a place to spend the day, you will refer them to the EFree Church Thanksgiving Dinner.

This year we would love to reach out to those who have been affected by the Flood Disaster of this past September. Because of the

devastation, people may not have an acceptable place to have dinner, or may not be able to host family, etc. Again, if you know of families who may be experiencing difficulties like these and could benefit from the encouragement of having a loving place to spend Thanksgiving, please put them in contact with the Church Office.

If you are interested in attending Thanksgiving this year (and we hope you are!) Please contact the Church Office

Love, The Holberts

There are yellow invites on the back counter for you to hand out to those who may be interested!! Spread the word!

Lend a Helping Hand - Interfaith Christmas Bureau



There are two ways you can help Interfaith this year with their Christmas Bureau program to needy families in our community. The economy and flooding have increased the number of people who need help and Interfaith, with the help of many volunteers, will be giving out food

and presents to hundreds of families the week of December 11.

How can you help?

- 1) Donate boxed brownie mixes to go in the meals for the families. There will be a box downstairs to collect them.

They have asked our church to provide 200.

- 2) Donate food for lunches for the many volunteers who will be giving of their time to pack and distribute the food that week. Sign up on the back counter and bring the food in **December 11**.

Youth Events!

Superbowl, 11/4-11/5, by Word of Life is an all-night event that includes Binghamton Senators Hockey, AMP game time on the ice, bowling, inflatables, and a trip to the indoor sports dome. The event is great for all junior and senior high students and is especially designed as an outreach - so be sure to invite all of your friends. The cost of \$43/student covers the entire night's events and includes a midnight pizza party!

XL Events in November:

November 4-5 – WORD OF LIFE SUPERBOWL IN BINGHAMTON

November 6 – Regular Meeting

November 13 – Regular Meeting

November 20 – Regular Meeting

November 27 – Ice Skating

Operation Christmas Child:

The Pioneer Club will be putting together boxes for Operation Christmas Child on Wednesday, November 9th during club time. They would love to have the whole church involved! If you are interested in putting together a shoe box, please bring your completed box and \$7.00 for shipping on Sunday, November 6th or Wednesday, November 9th. Contact the Church office.

November 2011



**No Wednesday
night clubs on
November 23rd.**

Be Joyful Always - Pray Continually!

The Place of Prayer

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.” Acts 1:14

United and unceasing prayer, the power of the Holy Spirit, living witnesses to the living Christ, to the end of the earth - such are the makers of the true gospel. Such is the ministry of the true Church of the New Testament - the Church that Christ founded, the Church that went out to conquer the world.

When Christ ascended to heaven, the disciples knew their job: to continue with one accord in prayer and supplication, being bound together by the love and

Spirit of Christ into one Body. That is what gave them their wonderful power in heaven with God and on earth with men.

Their one duty was to wait in united and unceasing prayer for the power of the Holy Spirit, the endowment from on high for their witness for Christ to the ends of the earth. A praying Church, a Spirit-filled Church, a witnessing Church, with all the world as its sphere and aim - such is the Church of Jesus Christ.

As long as the Church maintained this character it had power to conquer. But when it came under the influence of the world, how much it lost of its heavenly, super-

natural beauty and strength! How unfaithful in prayer, how feeble the working of the Spirit, how formal its witness to Christ, and how unfaithful to its worldwide mission.

Prayer: Jesus, have mercy on your Church, and give the Spirit of prayer and supplication as of old, that the Church may prove what power for You rests upon her and her testimony for You, to win the world to Your feet. Amen.

Taken from “Secrets of Intercession and Prayer” by Andrew Murray

By Marge Winkleblech,
Prayer Coordinator

*A praying Church, a
witnessing Church,
with all the world as
its sphere and aim -
such is the Church
of Jesus Christ.*



Spotlight on: The Loft Ministries



The Landis family built the original Loft cabin “with a lot of sweat and even more love.”



The EFree Church had the opportunity to enjoy the Loft Ministries recently at the Fall Retreat! It was a great weekend away for everyone and with the beautiful scenery and warm hospitality, The Loft made the perfect getaway spot while we were encouraged by speaker Julius Esunge.

But how did it all start? What’s the story on the Loft?

In 1963, Walter and Gladys Landis started the Loft, wanting to provide a retreat location and camp facility that people could use as a getaway from ordinary life. The Landis family built the original Loft cabin “with a lot of sweat and even more love.”

For 40 plus years, the Loft housed guests for youth retreats and seasonal Church retreats, especially in the winter where guests would come and enjoy sledding and winter games on the grounds. Mr. and

Mrs. Landis themselves would then make delicious home cooked meals for the guests that came to visit.

One of the Loft’s staples, then and even now are “Bippes,” a warm maple cinnamon bun concoction that one just has to taste to believe!

Today, the Loft Ministries is run by Jason and Amy Auckland, Walter and Gladys’ granddaughter and grandson-in-law. The original Loft property was located in the Poconos but because the area was becoming developed and much of the land surrounding the property was being bought by private residents, the original property could not support the type of retreats that it once could.

In 2006, the Auckland family purchased 45 acres in Great Bend, PA. The new Loft property is equipped with areas for hiking, a pond for fishing, tubing slopes and sports fields. The Loft is

close to a ski resort and the Susquehanna river and therefore is centrally located for lots of exciting activities.

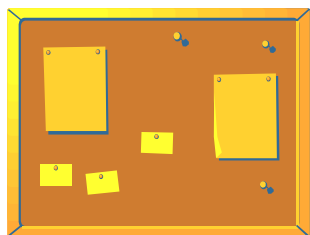


The Loft’s main recreation center sits on a hill overlooking the beautiful scenery and pastoral landscape below. Inside it’s cozy, with beautiful dorm areas for overnight stays and equipped with games like ping-pong tables, carpet ball, and foosball.

The Loft recently hosted a seminar on “Two Kingdoms, God’s plan for the ages from creation to the end times” presented by Pastor Don Landis.

The Loft accommodates groups for weekend stays and week retreats. Visit their webpage at www.theloftministries.org

Sharing Board



Debra Mead is looking for a couple of teen guys to help her winterize her home. If available to help, please call the Church office.

Barb Holbert would like to give away: Gulbransen console piano, great sound, real

ivories, a few chipped in the lower register, blond color cabinet. You move it, you can have it. Roger Hayden was my piano tuner. He always liked the sound! Call the Church Office.

Have something to share? Need something? Contact the Church Office at 278-4500



November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8 am Ladies' Prayer 6:30 pm mtg Building Team 6:30 pm Missions Meeting Living Proof	2 6 am Men's Prayer	3 Broken Pieces 6:30 pm at Renee Tyler's home	4 Word of Life Superbowl meet at Church at 4:30 pm	5 Daylight Savings Time ends. Turn your clocks back! 
6 9:30 am Worship	7 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	8 8 am Ladies' Prayer 6:30 pm Living Proof	9 6 am Men's Prayer <i>Operation Christmas Child Boxes!!</i> Youth Clubs 6:15 - 8 pm	10	11	12
13 9:30 am Worship International Day of Prayer	14 6:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study	15 8 am Ladies' Prayer 6:30 pm Living Proof	16 6 am Men's Prayer Youth Clubs 6:15 - 8 pm	17	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship	21 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	22 8 am Ladies' Prayer 6:30 pm Living Proof	23 6 am Men's Prayer 6:30 pm Communion Service No Clubs!	24 office closed <i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i>  1 pm Meal at EFree!	25 office closed	26
27 9:30 am Worship	28 6:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study	29 8 am Ladies' Prayer 6:30 pm Living Proof	30 6 am Men's Prayer Youth Clubs 6:15 - 8 pm			



“Doin’ Life Together!”

**Evangelical Free
Church of Montrose**

675 Lake Avenue
PO Box 326
Montrose, PA 18801

Phone: 570-278-4500
web: montroseefree.org
E-mail:
EFCMoffice@MontroseEFree.org

**Thanksgiving
Communion Service**

*Wednesday,
November 23rd
at 6:30 pm*

Join the Church family for a
time of thanksgiving and
communion.



Happy Thanksgiving!

