

Puckety Presbyterian Church

Following Jesus... Making Disciples... Loving One Another as He Loves Us

January 2016

Post-Scripts
a monthly publication



Strongholds

by Max Lucado • September 21

Does one prevailing problem stalk your life? Where does Satan have a hook in you?

Some are prone to cheat. Others quick to doubt. Maybe you worry. Yes, everyone worries some – but

you own the national distributorship of anxiety. Perhaps you are judgmental. Sure, everybody can be critical, but you pass more judgments than the Supreme Court.

What is that one weakness, bad habit, rotten attitude? Where does the devil have a stronghold on you? Ahh, there is the word that fits—stronghold—fortress, citadel, thick walls, tall gates. It's as if the devil has fenced in one negative attribute, one bad habit, one weakness and constructed a rampart around it. "You ain't touching this flaw," he defies to heaven and he places himself squarely between God's help and

your: –explosive temper –fragile self-image –voracious appetite –distrust for authority

Seasons come and go and this Loch Ness monster still lurks in the watery lake bottom of your soul. He won't go away. He lives up to both sides of his compound name: strong enough to grip like a vice and stubborn enough to hold on. He clings like a bear trap; the harder you shake, the more it hurts.

Strongholds: old, difficult, discouraging challenges.

The term stronghold appears at least fifty times in the Bible. It commonly referred to a fortress with a difficult access (see Judges 6:2; I Sam. 23:14). When King David first saw the city of Jerusalem, it was an old, ancient, cheerless fortress inhabited by enemies. No wonder it was twice called a stronghold (see II Sam. 5:7,9).

The Apostle Paul uses the term to describe a mindset or attitude. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds), casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ; and being in readiness to avenge all disobedience, when your obedience shall be made full." (2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ASV)

We do not grit our teeth and redouble our efforts. No, this is the way of the flesh. Our weapons are from God. They have divine power to demolish strongholds. Isn't that what we want? We long to see our strongholds turned into rubble, once and for all, forever and ever, kaboom!

Maybe it's time for a different strategy.

Have you asked others to help you? Everything inside you says: keep the struggle a secret. Wear a mask, hide the pain. God says just the opposite: "Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed" (James 5:16 MSG). Satan indwells the domain of shadows and secrets. God lives in the land of light and honesty. Bring your problem into the open.

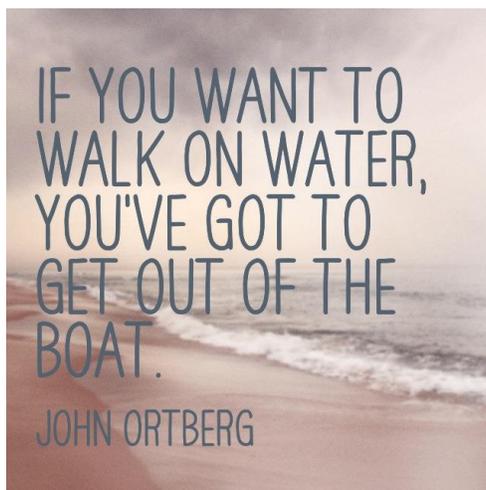
I know a young couple who battled the stronghold of sexual temptation. They wanted to save sex for the honeymoon, but didn't know if they could. So, they called for help. They enlisted the support of a mentoring, understanding married couple. They put the older couple's phone number on speed dial and asked their permission to call them, regardless of the hour, when the temptation was severe. When the wall was too tall, they took the tunnel.

Maybe it is time to get drastic. I had a friend who battled the stronghold of alcohol. He tried a fresh approach. If I ever saw him drinking, he gave me, and a few choice people, permission to slug him in the nose. The wall was too tall, so he tried the tunnel.

One woman counters her anxiety by memorizing long sections of Scripture. A traveling salesman asks the hotels to remove the TV from his room so he won't be tempted. Another man grew so weary of his prejudice toward non-whites, that he moved into an ethnically diverse neighborhood, made new friends and changed his attitude.

"God's power is very great for us who believe. That power is the same as the great strength God used to raise Christ from the dead and put him at his right side in the heavenly world." (Eph. 1:19, 20 NCV).

Ask for help. Get drastic. Try a fresh approach. Who knows, you may be a prayer away from a breakthrough.





The Board of Deacons met on December 2, 2015 and our meeting was opened with prayer. We appreciate the trust the congregation has in us for our ability to serve. We ask that our ears would be open so that we may hear God's voice directing our decisions.

Three late arriving boxes arrived for Operation Christmas Child making a total of 28 shoeboxes being returned. The tardy boxes

were delivered to the proper destination point. The shoebox is the first gift many children have ever received! The treasures and personal letters inside communicate that someone cares for them and give them an opportunity to experience the love of God.

No new requests for help have been received for the board to discuss.

To date, Deacons have received three names for Christmas food baskets. The baskets will contain donated food items supplemented with fresh fruit or vegetables. Deadline to receive names will be December 13th. The boxes will be packed on December 14th at 5:30 pm.

Every child on the Angel Tree will receive a gift from a member of our congregation. How wonderful to be part of a child's Christmas. Gifts will be delivered to Try Life and Mars Home for Youth. (We were informed that what we had been calling Tri-City Life is now known as Try Life.)

A flower chart for 2016 will soon be hanging in the hallway and members of the congregation can designate one of the beautiful flower arrangements for a memorial or in honor of someone or some occasion.

Christmas Eve service was discussed and ushers obtained for the 7 PM service. Kirk emphasized that lighting from the Christ candle should be done quickly and safely.

It was decided to support the "No Hungry Kids" program. The group seeks out grants and donations. As Deacons we decided to donate to their efforts. We feel this is a project worth supporting.

Receiving a mail solicitation from the American Bible Society seeking donations for Bibles for military members got the Deacons brainstorming of how to help local military. Two of our Deacons will contact the chaplain at the Armory located at the corner of Leechburg and Craigdell Roads to see how we might support personnel, perhaps an entire family. Until we get more information we don't really know how we will proceed with this venture, but we are hopeful that God is leading us into a new area of service.

OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE:

GENERAL FUND INCOME FOR NOVEMBER 2015	\$	17,223.00
EXPENSES FOR NOVEMBER 2015	\$	14,226.38
TOTAL INCOME FOR THIS YEAR 2015	\$	184,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES THRU NOVEMBER 2015	\$	179,612.36

All of our financial responsibilities continue to be met.
We are grateful to God for His faithfulness to our church family!



WEEK OF January 3

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalms 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:10-18

WEEK OF January 10

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalms 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

WEEK OF January 17

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalms 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

WEEK OF January 24

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalms 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

WEEK OF January 31

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalms 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

ANNUAL REPORT

If you are a team leader, it is time to get your 2015 annual report into Kelly. Please email it to her or leave it on her desk. If you have any questions about this at all, don't hesitate to call or email the church office!

The new Daily Bread issues covering December, January and February are now available at each entry door. The large print editions are also available. Please pick up your copy and a copy for any family member or friend you know who might enjoy following this publication along with us!

Interesting...

If you left the Church to get away from hypocritical people, you should also quit your job, drop out of school, disconnect yourself from all of your friends and family, lock yourself in your room while you're at it. There will be flaws wherever there are humans. We need to start seeing church for what it is: it is a hospital with wounded and hurt people. You will find messed up, conniving, calculating, imperfect individuals, including yourself. As much as you want to deny it, we all go for healing. So if you felt betrayed by a fellow Church member, put your Nursing cap on, and think of them as your patients. Treat them with care, love and kindness despite their rudeness.

Thank you Salvation Army bell ringers!



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS In January

3 Sophia Earhart
10 Michelle Hough
17 Chari Burtner
24 Brandon Brim
31 Mick Dober

Your Session:
Michelle Hough
Rebecca Fisher
Cliff McKay, Sr.
Debbie Fotheringham
Deb Artman
Kirk Orr
Jolene Kostelansky
Mick Dober
Mike Tatem
Vicki Orr

Corporate Officers:
President: Sophia Earhart
Vice-Pres.: Cliff McKay
Secretary: Michelle Hough
Treasurer: Donna Bracken

THE POWER OF PRAYER!
IF YOU ARE NOT ON OUR PRAYER CHAIN, PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP FOR IT. IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE TO LIFT SOMEONE WHO MAY NEED YOUR PRAYERS! CALL OR EMAIL THE OFFICE. WE HAVE AN EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN AS WELL AS A PHONE CALL PRAYER CHAIN.

Your Deacons:
Sandy Ankney
Vi Adamski
Cliff McKay, Jr.
Rodney Schafer
Charlene McKay
Jennifer Motosicky
Irene Nelson
Bob Bates
Kim Soulcheck
Nita Serene
Hilda Maxwell
Denise Wehrle

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:
Kirk Orr

Director of Youth Ministries:
Brandon Brim

Administrative Secretary:
Kelly Kapelewski

Treasurer:
Donna Bracken

Choir Director:
Lorraine Menk

Organist/Pianist:
Sue Close

Custodian:
Dean Kunkle

Housekeeper:
Irene Nelson

Assistant Treasurer:
Sophia Earhart

Financial Secretary:
Judy West

GREETERS SCHEDULE

3 Michelle Hough and Rebecca Fisher
10 Cliff McKay and Jolene Kostelansky
17 Deb Artman and Jolene Kostelansky
24 Mick Dober and Mike Tatem
31 Vicki Orr and Michelle Hough



The A/V Team is in need of anyone that can push buttons to join their team! Please see anyone on the team or let the office know if you are interested!



Please pick up your 2016 offering envelopes on the front pew. They are in alphabetical order. If you would like them mailed to you, please call or email the church office.



EXCITING OUTREACH NEWS!!



At the beginning of 2015, the Outreach Team held several meetings to generate ideas for reaching out into our community. Holy Spirit directed us to find a way to begin to connect with the local schools. About that same time, a gentleman named Mark Resetar happened to begin to make a connection with Puckety. Mark has a heart for outreach and has a way of connecting people. With his help and guidance, Puckety is beginning to work with other churches in our area on an exciting new outreach into our community. The **“No Kids Hungry”** weekend meals program for kids in Lower Burrell schools will be starting to feed elementary kids this next semester. This gives us an awesome way to serve others and helps us ‘get our feet in the door’ at our schools. We will earn the right to help in ways that will introduce families to Jesus.

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/No-Kids-Hungry-928894367191240/

The Choir Room in the downstairs of Puckety Church is the location for storing and packing the food items. Participants are needed to help with food storage, donations, packing, shopping, and prayer. Imagine shopping with others at Sam’s Club for over 150 kids with money that has already been collected! Or, put yourself in the position to spend an hour on a Wednesday morning talking with kids from the high school who are packing food into bags for the young kids! This is only the beginning of ways to serve and begin to build our connection with the schools. This program has received support from the teachers all the way up through Burrell’s superintendent.

At the Thanksgiving Worship Service and Food Drive at Burrell Community Church, the offering totaled \$1600 and over \$700 in food items was collected! This means that the 1st four weeks of the weekend meals have been provided for already. Eight area churches were present. Quite a few folks committed that night to volunteer their help while others committed to making monthly donations of food and monetary support.

Tax deductible monetary donations can be turned in using the Sunday offering plate or to the church office. Make your checks out to Puckety Church and put ‘No Kids Hungry’ in the memo and/or write ‘No Kids Hungry’ on the outside of an envelope. Our treasurer will insure that the money is sent to the fund for the program. Or, checks may be made payable to “PAPP” (Parnassus Area Preservation Partnership), a non-profit that will hold and disburse the funds. You can also make a donation via paypal to NoKidsHungry@aol.com.

If you wish to donate food items, here is the list of those most desired for use in this program:

small milk boxes/ plastic bottles	juice boxes/ pouches
small cereal boxes or individual servings	apple sauce cups
pudding or jello w/fruit cups	fruit cups
individual servings of peanut butter	packs of crackers
small individual mac and cheese servings	fruit roll ups
small packages/boxes of raisins/trail mix	granola bars
small canned pasta meals (must have pop off lids)	soup cups
packaged lunches (lunchables)	pop tarts/toaster pastries
instant oatmeal packets	breakfast and snack bars

Please drop off any food donations between 9:00 AM and noon from Monday – Wednesday, or before or after the Sunday morning worship service. If you’d like to participate in a physical form, there is a sign-up sheet for all of the different tasks on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Most importantly, what is needed is your prayers. Please pray for those who are working to make this happen; for the kids who need this nourishment; for their parents to recognize God at work; for the teachers and administration; for all those involved to experience Holy Spirit moving among us. Please see Rebecca Fisher or Matt Wehrle if you have any questions. We will make more details known as the program begins. God Bless, The Outreach Team

JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Youth Church 6:30 PM Youth Group	28 Meals on Wheels 6:30 PM Discipleship Team Meeting 6:30 PM OFFICE CLOSED	29 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	30 Meals on Wheels 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	31 OFFICE CLOSED	1  Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Youth Church 6:30 PM Youth Group	4 Meals on Wheels 10:30 AM Card Ministry	5 6:30 PM WPT Meeting 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	6  EPIPHANY Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	7 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Line Dancing	9
10 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Youth Church 6:30 PM Youth Group	11 Meals on Wheels	12 6:30 PM Session Meeting 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	13 Meals on Wheels 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	14 5:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 20130 Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Line Dancing	16
17  COFFEE HOUR 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Youth Church 6:30 PM Youth Group	18  MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Day Meals on Wheels	19 7:00 PM Sewing Guild 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	20 Meals on Wheels 9:00 AM No Kids Hungry Food Packing 6:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	21 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Line Dancing	23
24 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Youth Church 11:30 AM Ladies Lunch @ Villa Ballanca 6:30 PM Youth Group	25 Meals on Wheels	26 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	27 Meals on Wheels 9:00 AM No Kids Hungry Food Packing 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	28 5:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 20130 Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Line Dancing	30
31  CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Youth Church 6:30 PM Youth Group	1 Meals on Wheels 10:30 AM Card Ministry	2 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	3 Meals on Wheels 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	4	5 Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Line Dancing	6 Scrapbooking Event ???



Mark your calendars: Friday February 19, 2016 (with a "snow date" of Friday February 26, 2016) at 6:00 is a fun night for kids! If you know someone who came to our Vacation Bible School, or someone who wanted to come but wasn't able to, bring them to our movie and activity night. Fun evening for any child 3 yrs-5th grade. It's free...watch the bulletin and next month's Post Scripts for more details!

Blessings On Your Birthday!!!

January 1
Nancy Kelly
Judy West

January 2
Tyler Schafer

January 3
Jennifer Motosicky

January 9
Don Zellefrow

January 10
Marcie Leo

January 14
Wayne McAllister

January 15
Matt Wehrle
Andrew Fisher
Marie Hough
Mallory Soulcheck

January 16
John Trey Sennett

January 17
John McAllister

January 18
Dorothy Burd
Kenzie Girard

January 19
Michael McKown

January 21
Carol Johnson

January 23
Hilda Maxwell
Vi Adamsky
Ben Johnson

January 24
Vicky Baker
Tori Soulcheck

January 26
Sue Close
Lois Barnett
Kim Tatem



If you are interested in joining any of any of our teams, please let one of the team members or the office know. Thank you!

Discipleship Team

- Brandon Brim
- Beth Dober
- Chari Burtner
- Joyce Ewing
- Kirk Orr
- Vicki Orr
- Brenda McAllister
- Jolene Kostelansky
- Rebecca Fisher (Team Lead)

- Praise Team:** Mick Dober
 Rebecca Fisher
 Marcie Leo
 Paul Leo
 Jennifer Motosicky
 Kirk Orr
 Vicki Orr

The Worship Team consists of:

- Debbie Fotheringham- Leader
- Kirk and Vicki Orr
- Nita Serene
- Cliff and Charlene McKay
- Janet Karan
- Lorraine Menk
- Irene Nelson

Card Ministry team:

- Nancy Scibilia, Helen Crissman, Mary Wilds, Carol Johnston, Ann Johnson, Janet Karan, Marti Rugh, Dorothy Beveridge, Donna Bracken

- Fellowship and Care Team:** Mary Goldinger, Hilda Maxwell, Jean Morrow, Doris Prinkey, Kellie Jaworski, Charlene McKay, Dorothy Beveridge, Clare Kapustick, Irene Nelson, Cliff McKay, Vicki Orr (team lead)

Outreach team members:

- Leader – Deb Artman
- Members - Matt Wehrle
- Denise Wehrle
- Marcie Leo
- Paul Leo
- Rebecca Fisher

- Praise in Motion* members: Sandy Ankney, Sophia Earhart, Charlene McKay, Lorraine Menk, Jennifer Motosicky, Vicki Orr, Irene Nelson

- Upkeep Team:** Vince Appleman (team lead), Dean Kunkle, Jack Guyer, Jack Barnett, Cliff McKay, Sr., George Davis, Sandy Ankney and Kirk Orr

Choir members: Vi Adamsky, Sandy Ankney, Gary Close, Sue Close, Beth Dober, Mick Dober, Sophia Earhart, Jessica Guyer, Jim Johnston, Clare Kapustik, Janet Karan, Cliff McKay, Lorraine Menk, Jennifer Motosicky, Irene Nelson, Howard Newell, Kirk Orr, Vicki Orr, Marti Orren, Dorrie Prinkey, Marti Rugh, Nita Serene, Chuck West.

Puckety Presbyterian Church

1009 Puckety Church Road
Lower Burrell, PA 15068

(Return Service Requested)

Last Day For:



Post Scripts Information:
Third Wednesday of the month.

Bulletin Information:

The Tuesday before the Sunday the article is to be announced

REMINDER:

Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Children's Church 10:00 a.m.
Youth Group: 6:00 p.m.
Every Sunday ☺

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