

Pine Glen Alliance Church family,

Well, it was definitely not on my bingo card that I would be writing a letter for a third Annual Report, but here we are. And as much as I long for Pine Glen to welcome its new permanent pastor, I continue to be blessed by the privilege and opportunity it has been to serve among the folks here in the greater McVeytown/Mattawana/Longfellow metroplex. Because even as we wait for God's provision of the next pastor here, He continues to do meaningful and significant things in our midst. I'll highlight a few of those things below.

Our Sunday morning services have been rich and substantive and sweet, filled with prayer and Scripture and singing and reflecting and learning and laughing together. I preached through several sermon series, including Letters for Life (from the NT Epistles), the Beatitudes, In Christ (through all of Ephesians), several topical series (about leadership, community, and service), and an Advent series culminating in a simple Christmas Eve candlelight service. We welcomed wonderful and diverse guest preachers throughout the year. We focused on global missions with visits from Ross and Elaine Moore and Bruce and Stephanie Beers. We had a special hymn sing and baptismal service in July. We enjoyed a special worship concert with Chiz Rider. We worshiped with our regional Alliance friends on Good Friday at Mount Union Alliance Church and with our sisters and brothers in Christ through the Hope Collective unity network at a joint worship service at Mifflin County High School. And we had Testimony Sunday to end the year with stories of God at work in and through our lives. Our services were livestreamed and recorded and posted online, which are usually viewed dozens of times in the following days, weeks, and months. And all of these worship services were supported by faithful volunteers and surrounded by good work happening through the ministries of Sunday school and AWAKE, including a new SS class for teens and young adults.

Beyond Sunday mornings, a faithful band of prayer warriors continued to pray together on Wednesday evenings. Women's ministry is still doing good work through BLISS and Faith Bloomers. Men's ministry held another solid Wild Game Feed this spring. Several small groups continue to meet regularly. The Missions/Outreach team organized various events throughout the year, including an Easter Egg Hunt, a National Day of Prayer service, and a Black Friday Open Gym. We collected and contributed items for a diaper drive and Bongolo care packages and Operation Christmas Child. We sent folks to Council to elect a new Alliance president, sent two teens to LIFE, and sent a Pine Glen posse to make trouble at Summit Grove, as always.

Our fellowship committee filled our bellies with delicious food and our souls with delightful friendship over various post-service meals. Our trustees kept the lights on and the lawn mowed and oversaw the renovation of the men's bathroom. Our deacons distributed help to those in our church family and surrounding community in need. Our deaconesses prepared Communion and prepped funeral meals and sent cards. Our financial folks made sure offerings were counted, so we could pay the bills. A new medical team installed an AED to keep us safe. And the elders and Governing Board spent countless hours in prayer and conversation, making sure the organization was running well, but more importantly, that the people were being loved and Christ was being honored.

It was a good and full year. A few pastoral candidates came and went, but Christ remained alive and active among us. I look back at this year with gratitude for all that God has done and into this coming year with expectation for all that God will do. May He guide and lead us where He wants us to go, for His glory and for our joy!!

Blessings,
Chad O., PGAC transitional pastor