



## Thursday Night Insight

From KAYN Board Member Brian Fisher

There are very few things that get me as excited as hanging out with students, playing games and talking about Jesus. Because of this, one of my favorite things to do these days is to volunteer with KAYN's Thursday night program at the YMCA. Every week, local students (most of them unchurched) meet at Fox's Pizza in Vandergrift, and from there we shuttle them to the YMCA. When we get there, we usually will play some kind of an ice breaker game like Telestrations or competitive charades. Afterward, we eat some pizza and Joshua shares a short message from the Scripture. Then the students spend the rest of the night hanging out and playing games with each other and the volunteers. And it is then when the real opportunities to connect with the students come up. Whether it is because somebody got fouled in basketball or because God got their attention with the message, the most important part is just being there to seize those divine opportunities to share God's love and talk about grace. It doesn't get much better than that!

## Prayer Requests

Pray for guidance for the KAYN board members as they continue to make decisions regarding the **renovation of the new Youth Center.**

Continue to pray for the **search for KAYN's new Director.** We have had two rounds of interviews with several strong candidates and we are seeking discernment and God's will in the next steps of the process.

Please pray for **KAYN's Thursday night program.** We pray that the students come with open hearts and minds and that the volunteers continue to form strong and meaningful relationships with students.

*Send your prayer requests to us at [kiskiareayouth@gmail.com](mailto:kiskiareayouth@gmail.com) or find us on at [www.facebook.com/KiskiAreaYouth](http://www.facebook.com/KiskiAreaYouth) or on Twitter @KiskiNet*



## Raising KAYN: Online Giving Option Now Available

It is our goal to make it as convenient as possible for our supporters to financially contribute to the ministry of KAYN. And therefore, we are excited to announce that there is now an online giving option through PayPal. While we will continue to accept donations via check, you can now also make one time donations online via credit, debit or a PayPal account. Simply visit [kayn.org](http://kayn.org), click on the "Support KAYN" tab and then select the "Donate" button. We hope that this makes it easier for you to be as faithful in your giving as you desire to be. In the future, we hope to provide you with an option that will also allow you to make automatic monthly donations if you desire.

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## (Interim) Director's Corner: Notes from the Front Lines of Ministry

As I have said before, we are a ministry that works because of our commitment to working with our communities, local churches, and like-minded individuals. In January, I had an opportunity to see just how deep the roots of this attitude of partnership go. On January 27<sup>th</sup> I was asked to join Dr. Scott, Mr. Roland, Mrs. Laero and three student leaders from Kiski High School at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Westmoreland County Prayer Breakfast.

The breakfast, sponsored by the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce, was attended by school officials and student leaders from districts all over the county as well as representatives from the local business, education, government, and labor sectors of the community. That morning, the keynote speaker was Father Frank Edward Ziemkiewicz, a retired US Army Colonel Chaplain. In line with this year's focus of honoring first responders, his message addressed the heart of being a first responder and called all in attendance to embrace the same mindset. That mindset, as Father Ziemkiewicz put it, is a love for God which in turn transforms our love for the community, as we remember that whatever we do for the least we do for Him [cf. Matt 25].

As I sat there that morning, surrounded by community and student leaders, listening to the prayers and to Father Ziemkiewicz's message, I found my heart warmed. It reminded me that we who desire to see our schools and our communities transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ are not alone. God is at work all around us, in the lives of countless individuals. We don't have to start the work; we just have to join the work He is already doing.

~ Dr. Joshua C. Strunk

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## Student Spotlight: Kellan Smith



We would like to introduce you to Kellan Smith, a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Kiski Area High School. Kellan plays piano in the Jazz Band and also enjoys longsword fencing and playing card games. He first became interested in KAYN when one of his friends asked him to come to the Love God, Eat Pie Bible study at Kings. Kellan came and had a great time, and has since invited other friends to come as well. Kellan says that being involved in KAYN has helped him grow closer to God since “surrounding yourself with people who have a healthy relationship with the Lord is a great way to improve your relationship with Him.” Kellan also shared that “KAYN is a good reminder in the middle of the week to live for God” and that it is easy to bring friends from school along to KAYN events so that they can also get to know the Lord better. Kellan is thankful for the ministry of KAYN because “the environment of KAYN is friendly and loving, it teaches well, and very importantly the program focuses on the Bible for the basis of the teachings.”

The KAYN Board Members would like to thank you for your continued prayers and financial support, which allow us to speak life and truth to Kellan and many other students at Kiski!

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