



Stow Alliance
Fellowship

Open Arms . . . Open Hearts . . . Open Hands

NEWS

July 2010



As you are getting this newsletter, 44 students and 10 leaders from our SAF youth ministry will be getting ready to journey to Louisville, KY for LIFE 2010! Over 3 years in the making, this week is sure to be extraordinary and special. As a youth group, we would like to thank you the body of Christ for your prayer and support throughout the preparation process and now, as we go, for the week of LIFE itself. Through the various fundraisers, we have been able to raise \$14,700 of our \$15,000 goal! And by the time you receive this, we may have already met the goal! Thank you for your acts of faith and love. Students who normally wouldn't be able to afford going to this are able go thanks in large part to your giving and support!

As LIFE 2010 kicks off on July 6th, I ask you to pray in a few specific ways:

- 1) A safe trip to and from Louisville, KY as we travel down on a bus.
- 2) For all of us to be able to focus on why we are there and what God is saying and doing.
- 3) Wisdom and strength for the adult leadership team.
- 4) That we would gain an awareness for what God is doing throughout the world, in the Alliance, and in the far reaches of the earth, and how we can partner with God in the mission.
- 5) That we would respond obediently and faithfully to how God is moving our hearts!

Lastly, let me encourage you that you are a huge part of this week. Even before our students leave for LIFE, and after they return, your prayer, encouragement, and loving example to them speak volumes in their lives. We look forward to how God will use this week to change us, mold us, and use us for His kingdom, His glory!

Slobodenko Ministry in Russia

Please join Yvonne Dunham-Slobodenko as she shares how God is working in Russia. Venya will join her in July. The dates of the talks are June 26th, 29th, July 18th and 20th. All talks begin at 7 pm in various locations. Additional information and sign ups are available in the lobby.

Stow Independence Day Parade

On Monday, July 5th, the Love Float will be collecting non-perishable food items in unbreakable containers and monetary donations to benefit Good Neighbors. We are looking for teens and adults to walk in the parade to help collect donations. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Cervone. Please bring your donations to the parade and join in on sharing God's love.

Save the Date!

LIFE Groups sign ups will begin on August 15th with our first meeting planned for September 12th. A new wrinkle has been added this year; we will be offering some alternate days and group meeting times. This will expand the accessibility of LIFE Groups to all individuals. The majority of our groups will still meet on Sunday evenings.

Christ is All!

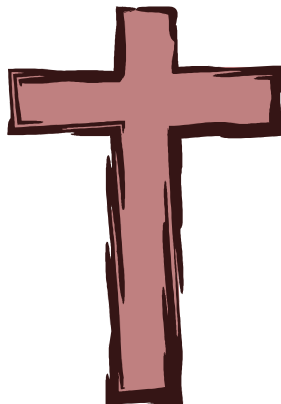
“Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.” (Colossians 3:11)

In the circle of the redeemed (“Here”) the distinctions that govern and prioritize a pecking order among humans are not recognized. Truly we all stand on level ground at the cross. In strong contrast (“but”) to the human distinctions enumerated in the first half of the verse Paul makes the amazing assertion that “Christ is all, and in all.”

Just what is meant by saying Christ is “all”? Greek scholar A.T. Robertson says that it stands “for the totality of things.” Christ created all things (1:16a). Christ sustains all things (1:17b). Christ is supreme over all things (1:17a). Christ is “all.” This is not a pantheistic statement, but a way of saying that the sum and substance of everything is Christ. He is the singular point of their origin. He is the one necessity for their continuance. All things exist for Him (1:16b). It is then both logical and appropriate to speak of Christ as “all.” In the application of God’s grace, then, Christ engulfs all racial, religious, cultural, and cultural differences with His indiscriminate grace. “Christ is all” anyone needs to become a fully welcomed and functioning participant in the “new self” of God’s people (v.10). Nothing added. Nothing needed. “Christ is all.”

In this verse Paul speaks of this as an established fact. Yet he speaks elsewhere of it as a fact (in the universal, all-inclusive sense) yet to be established. *“When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all”* (1 Corinthians 15:28). Indeed, even here in Colossians he does so: *“He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything [or “in all”]”* (1:18). What Christ is now He is by divine and redemptive right. Yet this is not currently seen and acknowledged by all. At His return, however, all will see what has always been true of Him – “Christ is all, and in all”!

As sweeping as is the first part of this statement, this is not all that Paul asserts. He adds (“and”) that Christ is “in all.” The Greek adjective (“all”) by form may be either neuter (“in all things”) or masculine (“in all [redeemed] people”) plural. The first would be a pantheistic statement, something Paul would not make. Surely then it is the latter and Paul is emphasizing that Christ now indwells His people through His Spirit (John 14:16-18). He has made His people His temple, both individually (1 Corinthians 6:19) and corporately (1 Corinthians 3:16). Elsewhere Paul speaks of God as *“Father of all who is over all and through all and in all”* (Ephesians 4:6). Now the fullness of God (in Christ) has come to fill us full of Himself (Colossians 2:9-10) and to be *in us and to us and for us* all that we should be. Indeed, our calling is to be *“His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all”* (Ephesians 1:23)! This will not be fulfilled by our straining effort to achieve such a standing. It is achieved by Christ on our behalf as He indwells us as His people who in restful faith simply find Him to be our all in all. This cannot be restricted by any distinction found among mankind—be it cultural, racial, religious or social. “Christ is all, and in all”!



Our SAF Family



July Birthdays...

Nicole Donze	7/1	Hulan Hedrick	7/12	Donna Malm	7/19
Myron Koyle, Jr.		Jeremy Parker		Taylor Dye	7/20
Janet Marshall		Ron Underwood		Ryan Kupchella	
Wendy Smithers		Sharon Eleo	7/13	Vickie Pittner	7/21
Jameson Parker	7/2	Hannah Hartenburg		Kellie Smith	
Doug Underwood		Farrah Michael		Hayley Trowbridge	7/22
Mary Miller	7/5	Patricia Hedrick	7/14	Jon Upham	7/23
Richard Sprague		Gail Roso		Johna Wallace	7/24
Dave Parry	7/6	Pam Whittington		Mackenzie Crowe	7/25
Brandon Warman		John Bircher	7/15	Betty Russell	
Christy Wurtz		Elnora Day		Norm Armentrout	7/28
Amanda Dorton	7/7	Jennifer Mitchell		Kendra Piggford	
Brianne Angell	7/8	Lorrie Scheftic		Brittany Adams	7/29
Jason Grecco	7/9	Gary Rice	7/16	Sarah Ganley	
Marcia Junglen		Chris Trowbridge		Jessica Azzarello	7/30
Dave Pence		Robert Dobson	7/17	Timothy Harkleroad	
Aaron Kupchella	7/10	Diana Loudermilk			
Kelley Parker	7/11	Megan Gesing	7/18		
		Paul Pasenow			
		Ervin Reed			
		Nancy Reed			

July Anniversaries...



Jim & Carol Starkey	7/2	Kerry & Michele Collins	7/10	Bill & Jenni Davis	7/20
Henry & Barb Scott	7/4	Dave & Susan Kupchella	7/12	Angelo & Patricia DeLucia	
Kurt & Stephanie Kern	7/5	Bruce & Lori Black	7/13	Gail & Jeanne Linger	7/25
Dave & Pat Close	7/6	Jerry & Linda Cowley		Scott & Ellen Milhoan	7/29
Dan & Joy	7/7	Jerry & Sandie Hurd		Sam & Shirley Cameron	7/30
		Don & Irene Abbott	7/15	Matthew & Jessica Gesing	7/31
		Cory & Michelle Canavan			

If you are not currently on our birthday and/or anniversary list and would like to be, please call the church office and let us know!

Baby Congratulations to...

Philip & Laura Keiter on the birth of their son, Orion Zayden, on June 7th. Great-Grandparents are Harold & Theda Rowland.
Cory & Michelle Canavan on the birth of their son, Matthew James, on May 22nd. Grandparents are Ernie & Gail Roso.



Our Christian Sympathy to...

Mark & Jen Henderson and family on the death of Mark's nephew, John D. Henderson, III on June 9th.
Betty Hassler and family on the death of Betty's grandson, Christopher Brown, on May 13th.

For Children



Soccer Plus

Soccer Plus is an 8 week long sports program for kids ages 3 years old (potty trained) through 5th grade (completed). From June 23rd until August 11th, come and experience a night full of soccer skills, games, snacks, half-time devotions and lots more fun! We will meet at the Stow Alliance athletic fields behind the church from 7- 8:20 pm on Wednesday evenings. To register, fill out a registration form and return it to Ryan Steedly or register when you arrive on Wednesday the 23rd. Cost is \$10 per child, \$20 max per family. We still need help in several areas. Please consider being a coach, assistant coach or sub. If you would like to donate a box of popsicles (Flavor-ice or something similar) for snacks, or can help out on Wednesday evenings, please contact Ryan Steedly.

Wet 'n' Wacky Wednesday

Wet 'n' Wacky Wednesday is coming July 7th! If playing on inflatable toys, canoeing, swimming, and sliding down a giant "yuck!" slide sound like fun to you, then sign up for Wet 'n' Wacky! It will be held at Beulah Beach and is for kids ages 8-12. We will meet at the church at 8:30 am and return around 6:30 pm. Contact Ryan Steedly if you would like to sign up.

Revolution Student Ministries

4:12 Summer Meetings

For all graduated seniors and young adults - You are invited to our summer gathering of prayer, worship, Bible study, and fellowship with the 4:12 group. We'll be meeting on Monday nights at 6:30 pm at Adam Horsfall's house at 619 Grant Ave in Cuyahoga Falls. Bring a snack, your Bible, and look forward to a great summer of 4:12!

Summer at Silver Springs

The youth group will be moving to the Silver Springs Park for the summer beginning on Wednesday, June 23rd at the Oaktree Shelter from 6:45 - 8:30 pm. This is a great time to relax, refresh, study God's Word together, and enjoy getting to know everyone! This is a great time to invite your friends to be a part of the group! Parents will be responsible for transporting teens to and from the park. Please be prompt at evening pickup as park closes at dusk.

For Adults

LIFE Update

Thank you to the whole body for supporting our teens as they prepare for LIFE 2010 in Louisville. We raised approximately \$14,000 towards the trip and we will leave on Tuesday, July 6th with 44 teens and 10 leaders. Praise the Lord for His provision! If you want to pray with us and see the bus off, we'll be leaving from the church at 8 am. We continue to need your prayers as we are gone for the week! Thank you SAF!

New Members Class

Join us for three information-packed classes about our local church, our denomination, and what it means to become a member of SAF. Classes start on July 11th at 9 am in room 115. Call the church office to sign up.

Combined Adult Sunday School Class

On Sunday, July 11th at 9 & 10:30 am there will be an combined Sunday School class in the Chapel with Yvonne Dunham-Slobodenko. She will be sharing about her ministry in Russia.

Stewardship Update Through June 13, 2010:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
TITHES & OFFERINGS		
Actual	\$ 28,156	\$ 295,651
Budget	<u>25,270</u>	<u>303,220</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Budget	2,886	(7,569)
GREAT COMMISSION FUND		
Actual	\$ 7,517	\$ 86,374
Promises	<u>2,758</u>	<u>33,078</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Promises	4,759	53,296

Attention Men

Men's Basketball will be meeting once a month during the summer on the last Saturday of the month. The next time they will play is June 26th at 1:15 pm.



Call Dave Parry (330-730-1158) if you are interested or sign up in the lobby across from the church office.

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July



Enclosed inside: Listed below are some of the opportunities available to you!

- ◇ **Love Float in Stow Parade** - July 5th
- ◇ **Wet-n-Wacky at Beulah Beach** - July 7th
- ◇ **New Members Class** - July 11th, 18th
- ◇ **Prime Timers** - July 15th
- ◇ **English Café** - July 17th
- ◇ **4:12 Retreat** - July 30th - August 1st

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

