



Stow Alliance
Fellowship

NEWS

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

July 2018



The Love Float Stow Independence Day Parade Wednesday, July 4, 2018



For the last 36 years, one tried and true Independence Day tradition has been the Love Float's appearance in the Stow parade. This year, Stow Alliance Fellowship is honored to present the Love Float in the parade for the 19th consecutive year.

Annually, the Love Float also collects dry and canned foods as well as monetary donations for our local food bank, Good Neighbors. The Love Float gives our community a chance to serve each other. Along with our decorated float, many SAF volunteers walk with the float, collecting donations from the crowd. Last year, the Love Float collected a pick-up truck full of food and over \$1,600. Over the years, Good Neighbors has expressed its appreciation for the Love Float's timely and consistent donations. Would you please consider serving the community with us this Independence Day and join us in supporting the Love Float?

Ways to Help:

- Bring canned goods and/or monetary donations to the parade route
 - Walk with the float in the parade to help collect donations
 - Help setup and/or tear down the float

Please contact Nancy Cervone at: 330-678-1158 if you wish to participate.

Remember Nhu Kenya Team

From August 1-14, 2018, a team of 6 from SAF (Bill Alvarez, Tina Lantz, Pastor Don Miller, Tera Trowbridge, Kim Williams, and Sue Williams) along with people from 3 other C&MA churches will travel to Kenya, Africa to visit our two girls homes and put on a New Life Camp for the Remember Nhu kids who are in western Kenya. Would you begin to pray now for them and those to whom they will minister? If you are interested in receiving e-mail updates, a sign up sheet is available in the lobby.

"Each one of us has a lot on our plates in addition to preparing for the trip. Its easy to think that we have plenty of time to prepare, and yet before we know it, we will be headed off to Kenya. Please pray that we will all be able to make time to prepare our materials for the New Life Camp, and that God will give us creative ideas to bring it to life for the kids. The name of the camp is "God Speaks to Me", and each day has a specific theme:

- God speaks to me through His Word, the Bible
- God always protects His Work, the Bible, so that we can know Him.
- God speaks to me through His Son, Jesus

It's a wonderful curriculum, adapted from CEF materials. Please pray for the kids who will be attending that their hearts will be ready to receive the things they will be taught."

In Christ's "abunda-wonderful" love,
Kim Williams

John Kitchen, Senior Pastor

Calibrating our Life to God

New Testament scholar J.B. Phillips once wrote a book entitled *Your God Is Too Small*. The indication is that there is a direct link between our view of God and the way we think about and conduct ourselves in life. A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." He went on to say that the most foreboding and prophetic "fact about any man is not what he at any given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God."

How big is your God? The writer of Psalm 113 revealed something of his perception of God when he queried, "[Who is like the Lord our God, Who is enthroned on high, Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in heaven and in the earth?](#)" (vv.5-6).

We are told that light travels at 186,000 miles per second. Were we to discover and board a vehicle that could travel at that rate of speed, after lifting off the face of the earth we would pass our moon in approximately one minute. Were we able to continue at such a rate of speed we would blow by our sun in approximately 8.3 minutes. If we wanted to continue on our joy ride it would take us approximately another 80,000 years to reach the far side of our galaxy!

With those phenomenal dimensions fixed in our minds, do with me as someone once invited me ... in your mind travel to a far off place. Imagine yourself walking barefoot along miles of sandy beach. After a long walk you take your seat in the warm sand and with your hand reach down and draw up a handful of the grainy substance. You allow the sand to trickle out from between your fingers. Then you blow, ever so gently, upon the surface of your palm until one tiny grain of sand is left in your palm. That solitary grain of sand would represent our earth and the grains of sand stretching out for miles on either side of you would represent the number of other planetary bodies in our Milky Way!

Now put your hands together and dust away that grain of sand. Start over. With a new handful of sand, again allow it to run through your fingers. Blow once again until you have one lone grain of sand left in your palm. Now consider that grain to be our Milky Way and all the grains of sand stretching out in the distance in either direction around you to be the approximately one trillion other such galaxies now estimated to exist by our scientists. It is believed that every one of those one trillion galaxies probably averages some one billion stars within it.

How far could you go into God's creation if you traveled the rest of your days at the speed of light upon your marvelous vehicle? God tells us, through His psalmist, that He is so vast, infinite and beyond our measure that He must stoop to even behold the galaxies He has made. "[Who is like the Lord our God, Who is enthroned on high, Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in heaven and in the earth?](#)"

The prophet Daniel lived in difficult days. He prophesied about even more difficult days yet to come. But in the midst of his troubles and with the revelation from God that even more difficult days were on the way he said that "[Those who know their God will display strength and take action](#)" (Daniel 11:32). Far from being overwhelmed by life's circumstances, those who know their God will display strength and take action! What we think of when we think of God is the most important thing about us.

Continued On Next Page

Calibrating our Life to God Continued...

I hope that this summer you get the chance to be outdoors in God's vast creation, to look up into a cloudless night sky, to gaze over some scene of natural beauty, to be still, observe, and be amazed. Not primarily at the creation—marvelous as it is—but at the One who created it all, providentially rules over and directs it, and who gave it as a hint at the vast greatness of His infinite being.

Take the moment to sing out from your heart: "O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee. How great Thou art, How great Thou art!"

For Adults

Prime Timers - All senior adults are invited to join us on Thursday, July 19th at 6:00pm for a catered dinner in the Seasons Room, and a time of fellowship and faith-building with Bonnie Baughman. Dinner cost is \$6 per person. Please contact Donna Malm at: 330-688-9427 by Sunday, July 15th if you will be attending.

 **Ambassadors Football Host Families** - Ambassadors Football is in need of people/families to host coaches in July & August for Christian outreach soccer camps! The coaches come from all over the world, and the camp's ministry wouldn't be possible without people to host them. Every year, there are countless stories of how both the coaches and the families have been blessed through this experience! Below are the camps for which host families are still needed:

June 30 - July 8 @ Christ Community Chapel - Hudson

July 29 - August 5 @ Ambassadors Facility - Macedonia & Jennings CLC - Akron

If you are interested in hosting or would like to learn more about serving Ambassadors in this way, contact Matt Warner at: (330) 931-6090 or mwarner@ambassadorsfootball.org.

Women's Ministry

NAOMI Women - All women are invited to join us from 6:00-9:00pm on Thursday, July 12th as we work with *Dress a Girl Around the World*. We will be cutting, piecing, and sewing dresses for young girls around the world. If you are able to bring a sewing machine and pinking shears that evening, please bring them with you. There are plenty of things for non-sewing women to do. Come and help with this awesome way we can show God's love!

Stow Alliance Preschool

 **SAP Registration** - Our preschool offers fun and learning in a Christian environment including Bible time, snack time, story hour, craft time, and field trips! Registration is going on now for the 2018-2019 school year! We have openings in our 3 year old classes and afternoon 4/5 year old class. To register, pick up a registration packet on the lobby table, visit our website, or contact Jeanne Crowe at 330-688-7433.

Stewardship Update Through June 24, 2018:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
TITHES & OFFERINGS		
Actual	\$ 51,604	\$325,290
Budget	<u>54,020</u>	<u>337,625</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Budget	(2,416)	(12,335)
GREAT COMMISSION FUND		
Actual	\$ 13,345	\$ 83,023
Promises	<u>5,248</u>	<u>32,800</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Promises	8,097	50,223

PRAISE Plan

Thank you for supporting the Praise Plan! Your continued gifts will help us with future projects.

Children's Ministry



Awana Volunteers Needed - If you are interested in helping out with Awana this year we are in need of new volunteers to assist in a variety of ways. This is a great opportunity for you to be involved with the children at Stow Alliance Fellowship. Please contact Darlene Risjan at 330-688-7433 or drisjan@stowalliance.org if you are able and willing to help invest in the lives of our children!

Youth Ministry



Cedar Point: All Sr. High and YAC students are invited to a fun day of rides and rollercoasters at Cedar Point on Wednesday, July 11th. Cost is \$55 per person. Deadline to sign up and pay is Sunday, July 8th. We will meet promptly at the church at 8:00am to travel together. If you're under 18 you MUST have a permission slip and medical release turned in. Cost includes admission and unlimited drink bracelet; students will be responsible for providing their own food. We recommend bringing a bagged lunch. For any and all students that will not be attending Cedar Point, we will have a game night at SAF from 7:00-8:30pm on Wednesday, July 11th.



Jr. High Canoe Trip - Our annual Jr. High overnighter and canoe trip is coming up! All Jr. High students, including new 6th graders and 8th graders who moved up, are invited to join the fun at our overnighter on Friday, August 10th at 7:00pm and the canoe trip to Mohican Adventures Park in Loudonville, OH on Saturday, August 11th. The cost is \$30 per person and includes the canoe trip, food, go-karts, and putt-putt and more! A flyer with more details will be forthcoming near the end of July. Please sign up in the Jr. High room if you are planning to attend.

Summer Youth Group - The plan is for us to continue to meet here at the church on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:30pm. We will not have Café during summer. It will be combined Jr. High, Sr. High, and YAC (Young Adults and College Students). Weather permitting we will be outside. We will be playing games and having fun! Bring your friends. See schedule below.

End of Summer Bash - Mark your calendar: August 18th. We will be combining youth groups with Crossroads Community church in Ravenna for an afternoon of inflatables, water fun, and more. More details to come.

July - August Summer Youth Group Schedule:

July 4th - No Youth Group	August 8th - Combined Summer Youth Group 7:00-8:30pm @ SAF
July 11th - Sr. High & YAC Cedar Point Trip Jr. High Game Night @ SAF	August 10th - 11th - Jr. High Canoe Trip 7:00pm Friday - 8:00pm Saturday
July 18th - Combined Summer Youth Group 7:00-8:30pm @ SAF	August 15th - No Youth Group
July 25th - Combined Summer Youth Group 7:00-8:30pm @ SAF	August 18th - End of Summer Bash @ Crossroads Community Church
August 1st - Combined Summer Youth Group 7:00-8:30pm @ SAF	August 22nd - Combined Fall Kick Off 7:00-8:30pm @ SAF
	August 29th - Combined Youth Group 7:00-8:30pm @ SAF

Sports Ministry

Men's Basketball - Plays on Saturdays from 9:00–11:00am. Come and join us!

Co-Ed Volleyball - Co-Ed Volleyball, will play on Saturday, July 7th and 21st from 7:00-9:00pm. Come and join us!



God called us to go into the world and make disciples of all nations, and He also is bringing these people to our own backyards and neighborhoods. IFC is a great way to reach into the lives of an international student with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. IFC is a group of local, evangelical churches who work together to serve international students at KSU. Our shared vision is to make Christ known among the nations by befriending international students at KSU.

We need your help! There are at least 7 different ways to volunteer and be involved in IFC:

1. Become a weekly prayer supporter
2. Join us for Prayer Walk on August 4th from 10:00am-12:00pm
3. Help with American Culture & Conversation
4. Volunteer for Welcome Week activities on campus - August 13th-17th
5. Attend Welcome Picnic - Saturday, September 15th from 4:00pm till dark
6. Help with Furniture Fair
7. Become a Friendship Partner

IFC Orientation Training - Interested in becoming a part of IFC? Come learn about ways in which you can volunteer with IFC. There are lots of ways in which we need help and not all of them involve being a Friend Partner! IFC will be hosting orientation and training *here at SAF* on Tuesday, August 7th from 7:00-9:00pm. This training is open to anyone, even those who are not IFC volunteers. At the training you will learn about ways in which you can volunteer and your role and responsibilities as an IFC volunteer. Please contact Rob and Marlene Osborn at robert5osborn@yahoo.com if you are interested in attending or stop by the table in the lobby for more information.

Haven of Rest

July Needs List:

Canned Fruits & Vegetables	New Socks & Undergarments (all ages)
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	Men's Pants & Shorts (28-34")
Cold Beverage Mixes	Boys Pants & Shirts
Presweetened Cereal	Children's Shorts
Queen & Twin-Sized Bedsheets	Baby Wipes & Diapers (Sizes 4-6)

Our SAF Family

July Birthdays...



Nicole Donze Myron Koyle, Jr. Janet Marshall	7/1	Sharon Eleo Patricia Hedrick Pam Whittington	7/13 7/14	Elaine Sears Kellie Smith	7/21
Emma Milette	7/2	Lorrie Scheftic	7/15	Hayley Trowbridge	7/22
Peter Maxfield	7/3	Gary Rice	7/16	Jeanine Steele Jon Upham	7/23
Mary Miller Bethany Oles Richard Sprague	7/5	Robert Dobson Diana Loudermilk	7/17	Mackenzie Crowe Betty Russell	7/25
Jason Grecco Marcia Junglen	7/9	Gracelyn Oles Ervin Reed Nancy Reed	7/18	Norm Armentrout	7/28
Hulan Hedrick Jeremy Parker Athena Sparrow Ron Underwood	7/12	Donna Malm	7/19	Brittany Adams Dan Heuberger	7/29
				Jessica Azzarello	7/30

July Anniversaries...



Dan & Joy Heuberger	7/7	Bruce & Lori Black Jerry & Sandie Hurd	7/13	Paul & Hayley Trowbridge	7/21
Ken & Jeanette Hall	7/8	Don & Irene Abbott	7/15	Chris & Amy Milette	7/22
Kerry & Michele Collins	7/10	Bill & Jenni Davis	7/20	Gail & Jeanne Linger	7/25
Dave & Susan Kupchella Matt & Missy Sparrow	7/12	Angelo & Patricia DeLucia		Scott & Ellen Milhoan	7/29
				Bill & Jen Alvarez	7/30

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!

Our Christian Sympathy To...

Rob Dobson and family on the death of Rob's father, Dobby, on June 16th.

Steve & Kim Williams and Norm & Sue Armentrout and family on the death of Steve and Sue's mother, Carol Williams, on June 21st.