



Stow Alliance
Fellowship

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

NEWS

February 2012

Special Speaker

We will welcome Dr. Paul Keidel to share God's Word with us in our worship services on Sunday, February 5th. Paul serves as the Metropolitan District Missions Mobilizer and is a former Alliance missionary.

Covered Dish Dinner and Annual Meeting

Everyone is encouraged to stay after the services on February 5th for a time of fellowship, and an opportunity to receive the 2011 ministry reports. Immediately following the 2nd service we will gather in the gym for a covered dish dinner. Ham and beverages will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share. Following the meal we will move to the sanctuary for the annual meeting. LIFE Groups will not meet this evening.

Preschool Open House

SAP is having an Open House on Tuesday, February 7th from 6 - 8 pm. Classes are available for 3, 4, and 5 year olds. If you or someone you know has a preschooler, this is the perfect opportunity to visit our preschool, meet the staff, and see the classrooms. Light refreshments will be served.

"Living the Call Together Day"

Saturday, February 11th ~ 9 am - 3 pm

The theme is "Connection Partnerships with a Cause". Cost is \$10 and includes lunch and materials. Dr. Paul Keidel, Metropolitan District Missions Mobilizer, and former Alliance missionary, will be speaking. Please call the church office if you are interested in attending this workshop.

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 begin on Sunday, February 12th at 9 am in the far side of the Seasons Room. Please call the church office to sign up.

Severe Weather

In the event a service is cancelled, Stow Alliance Fellowship will use the iAlert system to inform the congregation of the cancellation. This is the same service used to notify the public of school closings. The closing will be broadcast on a variety of television and radio stations including WKYC Channel 3, WOIO Channel 19, WVIZ/PBS, WUAB Channel 43, and WCRF 103.3 FM.

I Don't Feel Like Going

What is that obnoxious, merciless noise? Somebody stop it! ... Why won't it stop?!

Slowly, painfully, Bill realized the dream he was emerging from had at least one connection to reality ... the clamor in his head was actually his alarm clock. What had a moment before been unexplainable was now all too obvious, and he didn't like the implications.

I do this same thing every other day of the week, Bill thought to himself. Why can't I have one day when I don't have to awaken to the alarm?

Having slapped the snooze button, Bill harrumphed onto his other side, turning his back on the now-temporarily-silenced noise box on his night stand. The bed was warm. The pillow soft. His body tired. His resolve weak. He began to drift off once again. Bill slipped unnoticed into a dreamy slumber once again.

Nine minutes later the same dream plagues Bill; the same reality slowly dawns upon him; the same questions fill his mind; the same rationalizations parade their arguments before his will.

I don't feel like going to church.

Ok, so why should we?

Yes, yes, I know! The Bible says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

Got anything else?

Actually, yes. My friend John Stumbo writes out of his battle with an agonizing, debilitating, undiagnosable disease. Having barely escaped death, his body continues to war against him every moment of every day. He tells of his journey in his new book *An Honest Look at a Mysterious Journey*. When John began to rally a bit, he was able to begin attending church again. He came to the point where the effort to go seemed overwhelming. Now realize, John is a pastor, though he was not able to serve during the deepest depths of this struggle. John tells about how, with all the struggles of his disease and devastation it had inflicted upon his body, soul, mind and heart, ... he tells of how hard it became just to exert the will to attend church.

John confesses, "I can't say that I got much out of the church services during this season of our lives, good though they may well have been." But he goes on to say, "I believe that it was essential that we attended church when we wanted to the least. Our worlds, already small, would have shriveled even further without this act of discipline."

Then John adds, "Looking back over the last few months, I realize that by attending church ...

- ... I think thoughts I would not otherwise think
- ... I hear truths I would not otherwise hear
- ... I sing songs I would not otherwise sing
- ... I meet people I would not otherwise meet
- ... I give offerings I may not otherwise give
- ... I rejoice in missions' efforts and in new followers of Jesus that I would not otherwise know about
- ... I receive encouragement and challenge I would not otherwise receive
- ... I shed tears I would not have otherwise shed
- ... I receive a blessing I would not otherwise have received
- ... I pray prayers I would not otherwise have thought to pray
- ... I meet God in a way that I would not have met Him had I stayed home in my chair
- ... And, perhaps, my attendance is an encouragement or testimony to someone else." (pp.120-121)

See you next Sunday?

Revolution Student Ministries

Super Bowl Bash - All Jr. High, Sr. High, and 4:12 are invited to join us for our annual get together to watch the big game, play some games, enjoy food and friends, and watch our homemade halftime commercials! Cost is \$5 per person. Jr. High and Sr. High students are invited to stay after the annual meeting to help set up in the Seasons Room. Halftime commercials must be submitted no later than Wednesday, February 2nd. See Pastor Seth with any questions.

Junior High Believe Conference - It's time for our annual trip to Northern Kentucky for Believe 2012! Believe is a middle school event that features amazing worship music, relevant speakers, and tons of fun! The trip will be February 24th and 25th and the cost is \$60. Sign up in the Jr. High room. A parent meeting will be held on February 19th after the 2nd service in the Jr. High room. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Seth or Michael Ray.

Café Night - On Wednesday, February 29th, the Sr. High room will transform into a café for a night of good music, games, and of course...coffee!! Bring your friends and bring your talent as this will be an open mic night to share whatever artistic gifts God has given you!

For Adults

Prime Timers - All senior adults are invited to our next meeting on Thursday, February 16th at 11:30 am in the Seasons Room. Pastor Kitchen will be speaking. Please bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

English Café - We will not be having the English Café in February. The Café will resume as a monthly event in March.

We Welcome...We are glad to welcome Bill Azzarello as our new Facilities Manager! Bill began his duties on January 24th and has a few weeks of training with our current Facilities Manager, Bob Sawders, before his retirement. Pray for Bill as he begins this new venture of service and make sure you give him a warm welcome to our staff!

Nominating Committee - The report of the 2011 Nominating Report has been posted on the bulletin board in the lobby for your prayerful review.

Volunteers Needed! - The Children's Ministry needs help in the following areas: Waddlers & Toddlers during 2nd service; 1st/2nd grade assistant; and Wednesday night nursery. Please see Ryan Steedly if you can help.

Ministering to the Lichi's - Many of you have asked how you might tangibly help the Lichi family in their time of need as a result of Dr. Don Lichi's illness. The following opportunity has come to our attention to help support them:

- To offset lost income during Dr. Lichi's illness, a fund has been established so friends can assist in meeting their needs. Tax deductible gifts can be sent to: Come Alongside Ministries International, 3469 Chadwick Drive, Uniontown, Ohio 44685. Be sure to put "Dr. Donald Lichi" in the memo line of your check!

The Elders encourage you to consider this established avenue of support. Also, remember the Stow Alliance Fellowship Benevolent Fund is another way that we as a church assist people in our fellowship and greater community in their time of need.

Especially for Women

MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers - All mothers of pre-schoolers are invited to our next meeting on Tuesday, February 7th from 9:30 - 11:30 am. We meet for a time of spiritual encouragement and fellowship with other mothers. Childcare will be provided.

Especially for Men

Men's Gathering - Men of all ages are welcome to join us for a breakfast on Saturday, February 4th at 7:30 am in the Seasons Room.

Stewardship Update Through January 22, 2012:

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
TITHES & OFFERINGS		
Actual	\$ 51,477	\$ 51,477
Budget	<u>50,355</u>	<u>50,355</u>
Over/(Under) Budget	1,122	1,122
GREAT COMMISSION FUND		
Actual	13,490	13,490
Promises	<u>9,364</u>	<u>9,364</u>
Over/(Under) Promises	4,126	4,126

PRAISE Plan

Please prayerfully consider your participation in the PRAISE Plan and submit your pledge card as soon as possible. Information about the "PRAISE Plan" and how you can be involved is available in the lobby. All 2012 donations to "Building Fund" will be applied to the PRAISE Plan.

Pledged to Date	174,130
Goal	980,000
Received to Date	86,718

Our SA7 Family




February Birthdays...

May God Bless You on Your Birthday

Lottie Masl Kenny Steedly Carl Valenti	2/2	Madison Cowley Jerry Hurd	2/13	Connie Armentrout	2/20
Mike Hague Kim Moore Tom Reed	2/3	Jeanne Crowe Lisa Gopp Ross Gunther	2/14	Joe Stoner	2/21
Rhonda Graham	2/5	Luke Gesing	2/15	Gregg Henderson David Robinson Martha Schneider Corinne Teare	2/23
Ken Hall Dave Kupchella	2/6	Andy Angell Shannon Fleming Ashlee Miller Val Trowbridge	2/16	James Falbo Daniel Masl Bob Ringler	2/25
Terry Osman	2/7	Marlene Osborn RaeJean Wilson	2/17	Dwight Husk Philip Jones	2/26
Charles Bennett Pam Hague Drexal McAmis John Scheftic	2/10	Logan Henderson Peyton Soliwoda Megan Trowbridge	2/18	Dick Donze	2/27
Harold Rowland Tucker Trowbridge	2/11	Marie Rogers Jim Russell	2/19	Micah Loudermilk Caleb Sprague	2/28

February Anniversaries...

John & Sharon Feskanin Richard & Lisa Sprague	2/7		Dick & Bev Kipp George & Lisa MacAdam	2/16 2/28
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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...



...Eric & Rachel Snyder on the birth of their daughter, Sadie Kathleen, on January 11th. Grandparents are Dave & Eve Snyder.

...Eric & Bri Coop on the birth of their son, Gideon Samuel, on January 4th. Grandparents are Paul & Julie Hetherington.



Our Christian Sympathy to...

Dave & Marcia Junglen and family on the death of Dave's mother, Martha Junglen, on Dec. 29th.

Haven of Rest Ministries

February 2012

Current Needs List

Canned Fruit

#10 gallon sizes are especially appreciated

Fruit Juices

Coffee

Baby Wipes



Shampoo & Conditioner Full-sized

Spray Deodorant



Winter & Spring Coats & Jackets

Household Items

Toasters, dishes, pots & pans, etc.
New or gently used

New Undergarments

All sizes

International Friendship Connections

100 Host families are needed for international Kent State students. We are looking for people to include these students in routine activities as well as holiday or family gatherings. If you are willing to host a student once a month, please contact Rob & Marlene Osborn at 330-929-1381.