

# GIRARD ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF GIRARD ALLIANCE CHURCH, JUNE 2008

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Pastor

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Dear Friends of Girard Alliance,

Ahhh! Summer is here! By now, like us, you are in the "full swing" of cutting grass, caring for your yard AND, for the most part, have plans in place for vacation(s). For adults (unless you are a teacher), the summer isn't a whole lot different than the rest of the year aside from the vacation break...and you have the added responsibilities outside around the home. But still...the days are longer AND warmer! Even though weather people state that the Erie area is in the top 10 (if not 1st place) in overcast days, there IS more sun...WITH A BREEZE... in the summer. And don't forget: National Geographic magazine states that we have the MOST beautiful sunsets in the country! We'll take these pluses as a respite from the harsh weather of the 'other' season.

But as we enjoy them, it's so important that we continue to pursue our relationship with THE most important person in our lives--JESUS! I actually told the district superintendents the other day (gulp!) that district conference is actually a bit of a downer for me spiritually (I don't *think* they'll ask me to resign!). Oh, I grow from the speakers and friendship with other pastors, but I find it hard to have my regular time of fellowship with Jesus (Bible reading and prayer) while I'm at conference. As I think toward summer--playing in the church golf league, riding bicycle with Jenny, riding my motorcycle, camp, etc--I want to preemptively plan to 'fan the flames' of my spiritual life! Of course, I'm PAID to be in church...so I won't be slacking off on that one...*but how about you?*

The fellowship and teaching in the church are important parts of our life in Christ. I'm sure you know from my preaching that I believe it's critically important to strive to spend time in prayer and Bible reading with Jesus every day. The expanded opportunities of longer, warmer days can sometimes crowd out that time. Gary L. Thomas has written an interesting book, "Sacred Pathways", in which he writes about the different ways believers come into intimate fellowship with the Lord. A "sacred pathway" is that which "describes the way we relate to God...how we draw near to Him". It won't shock you at all that it's a little different for each of us. For one person, being out in nature just heightens your walk with Jesus...for another, that does nothing at all. Another person may listen to a certain type of worship music to connect with, and grow in, Jesus. The point is that you and I must discover that most meaningful pathway for ourselves. WHY NOT THIS SUMMER?!? Last Sunday the Lord led me to preach from Philippians 3. In verse 12b, Paul writes:

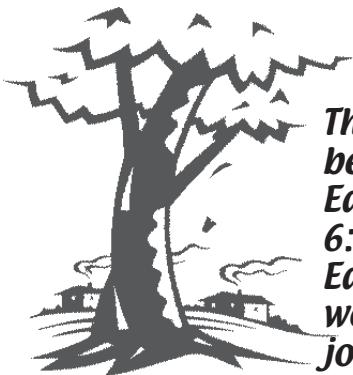
**"I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."**

"Press on" is from a Greek hunting word that means "to chase or hunt down." That expressed Paul's pursuit of Christ and what he encouraged the Philippians, AND you and me to do. I encourage you to find your 'pathway' and 'press on'.

It is my hope and prayer that you'll have a wonderful June, filled with the joys of this great season AND the sense of God's presence and blessing!

Love in Christ,

*Pastor Clyde*



**The Erie area Alliance Women will be having a prayer walk at Edinboro Camp on June 10th at 6:30 P.M. for the ministry of the Edinboro Camps this summer. All women are welcome; please come join us at the camp!**

**The deadline for the July newsletter is Wednesday, June 18.**



**Our mission as a Christian & Missionary Alliance Church is to obey Christ's Great Commission by helping children, teens and adults come to know, follow and worship Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer and Coming King.**

# Ministry Teams

## Usher Schedules

### 8:30

6/1 Al Fisher, Ken Ester, Gary Lyons, Gary Myers, Dennis Dougherty  
 6/8 Al Fisher, Ken Ester, Tom Durfee, Tom Ryan  
 6/15 Gary Lyons, Gary Myers, Dennis Dougherty, Tom Durfee  
 6/22 Al Fisher, Ken Ester, Gary Lyons, Gary Myers, Tom Ryan  
 6/29 Al Fisher, Dennis Dougherty, Tom Durfee, Tom Ryan

### 11:00

6/1 Jerry Bock, Nate Jeffery, Jack Kamppi, Craig Murphy, \*Leo Pfeiffer  
 6/8 Jon Bock, Denny Buckwalter, Doug Burlingame, \*Ed Shatto, Dave Stevens, Kyle Thomas  
 6/15 Jerry Bock, \*Jon Bock, Tim Greenfield, Adam Jeffery, Nate Jeffery, Jack Kamppi  
 6/22 Jerry Bock, Craig Murphy, Leo Pfeiffer, Ed Shatto, Dave Stevens, \*Kyle Thomas  
 6/29 Jon Bock, \*Denny Buckwalter, Doug Burlingame, Tim Greenfield, Adam Jeffery, Dave Stevens

## Nursery Schedule

### 8:30

6/1 Carol Durfee  
 6/8 Sandy Ryan  
 6/15 Jandy Ester  
 6/22 Natalie Luxon  
 6/29 Danielle Getz

### 11:00 Infant

Bonnie Edder & Priscilla Rhodes  
 Kim Kookan & Bekah Edder  
 Bonnie Klein & Kathy Myers  
 Barb Guelcher & Bekah Edder  
 Diane Lyons & Leanna Edder

### 11:00 Toddler

Jen Bock  
 Bobbi Carter  
 Brenda Bock  
 Delight Stevens  
 Katie Shoaf



**THANKS to all the new nursery workers! Nursery care will now be available during both morning services!** During the 8:30 service, one worker will be assigned each week. She might remain in the service until she sees someone needing childcare, at which point she will happily come to your rescue!

## Sound / Video

### 8:30

6/1 volunteers  
 6/8 Dave & Kim Jeffery  
 6/15 Scott & Wendy Berchtold  
 6/22 Dave & Kim Jeffery  
 6/29 volunteers

### 11:00

Kit Torrelli / volunteer  
 Scott & Wendy Berchtold  
 Clyde & Debbie Galt  
 Kit Torrelli / volunteer  
 Clyde & Debbie Galt

# June Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Colleen Davis  
 2 Jennifer Bock  
 3 Maxine Brocius  
 5 Gary Myers  
 6 Arlene Lauber  
 7 Diane Buckwalter  
 13 Pastor Clyde Davis  
 14 Janet Shattuck  
 16 Allie Stemple  
 17 Joe Kuvshnikov, Jr.  
 17 Brandon Carl  
 23 Bonnie Klein  
 24 Kim Jeffery  
 25 Jason Felege  
 25 Tom Durfee  
 29 Franklin Klein  
 29 Shelley Brown

4 Mike & Dannetta Getz  
 4 Owen & Millie Higgins  
 4 Joel & Nancy Martinez  
 5 Allen & Lois Fisher  
 10 Jonathan & Rose Jones  
 12 Butch & Cindy McKinley  
 14 Dennis & Diane Buckwalter  
 16 David & Kim Jeffery  
 16 Chris & Sara Company  
 17 Perry & Jean Duncan  
 18 Clyde & Jenny Davis  
 19 Troy & Heather Schlosser  
 21 Richard & Dolores Blood



## News From The Prime Timers

**So far, 2008 has been a busy year for the group. The highlights of our outings are:**

Jan: We went bowling at the lake City Lanes.  
 Feb: Was a fun filled time of games and snacks.  
 Mar: An Easter Scripture Hunt and lunch at Mike D' Angelo's  
 April: Dinner at Hoss's and guest speaker, Steve Gormer of Waldameer Park.  
 May: Putt Putt golf at Castle Miniature Golf

We're finalizing plans for a Victorian Princess Cruise on June 26. Then from July through December, Jan Borland takes charge for six more months of exciting events.

Prime Timers strive to set an example to the community and surrounding areas of Christ love and compassion for all ages. Join us!

*To him be glory both now and forever- II Peter 3:18*

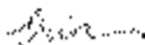
## The View From Up Here

Have you ever been on one of those flights when you look out the window and the clouds look like gigantic, soft cotton balls and you just want to go jump on them? On one of my flights recently I was left with my eyes absolutely wide open. I was trying to imagine what God sees everyday. He sees those clouds plus the weather in India, Uganda, Argentina, Girard. . . How great is our God!

I thank the Lord for His love gifts that He brings on a daily basis. This trip to Colorado, He provided 2 rugged country boys to talk to, a girl returning from a mission trip, AND a guy my age who wants to start an interactive coffee house! I was blown away. How often do we let God surprise us? Children are fascinated by the smallest things. I want to be a little kid looking to my Abba. The view from earth can become stale and lifeless if I am not looking at my days with His view in mind.

At the time of this writing, there are 168 hours (7 days) left until I return to Argentina! Please ask the Lord to comfort my family during this time of transition. I have this new sense of confidence from the Lord that makes me want to die with a smile on my face and His name on my lips. . . If you happen to beat me Home to Heaven, I'll see you up there. I'm sure the view from there is great!

With much love,



PS- There are prayer cards on the table in the back of the sanctuary. My e-mail address will stay the same.

# Alliance Women

Praise the Lord for good turn out for the Ladies' Retreat and the Mother & Daughter Banquet. Isn't Tia a precious Christian? The memories we made will help us reflect on the melody God is making of our lives, and also Friday evening's time of sharing what we have to praise the Lord most for. We Have a GREAT group of ladies in our church! Praise The Lord!

I saw two eagles this week, near the nest behind the Clydesdale horse farm on the curve on Route 215. What beautiful birds they are. I was reminded of how the eagle is used as a symbol and is mentioned 38 times in the Bible. We can learn important lessons from this majestic creation of God...

The eagle mates for life and uses the same nest for life. This nest is built in a safe place and built to last. The largest nest reported is 9 -1/2 feet wide and 20 feet deep. Eagles are gentle parents, sitting on the eggs for one month before they hatch. When eaglets are born, both parents assume responsibility for their care. The parents bring food up to the nest to feed them small pieces of meat. Within 45 days the eaglets can weigh nearly 40 times their birth weight!

At three months they get special feathers for flying, and a new learning experience begins. The mother eagle flies into the nest and begins to thrash around causing a great commotion. Eventually one of the babies will fall out of the nest and begin heading for the earth below. Never having used its wings before, it is not really sure what to do, but does a lot of flapping while heading straight down. But before the baby can hit the ground, the mother eagle flies underneath in order to "catch" the baby on her powerful wings and she flies it safely back to the nest.

There are two verses in scripture that actually mention this routine of the eagle. In Deuteronomy 32:10,11 Moses reminds the children of Israel how God cared for them, and guarded them just "like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them on its pinions." Again in Exodus 19:4 God says, "He will carry the children of Israel on eagles' wings.

We can get very comfortable in our "nest." Perhaps that could be our way of doing things, our way of thinking, our way of living life. Then when God comes and "stirs up our nest," we get upset. We don't always identify this as a growing experience. We get very complacent and satisfied with where we are; any interruptions are viewed as negative. But God want us to fly, to become all that He intends us to become. He never stirs up our nest without good reason!

An eagle can see a rabbit two miles away. It can soar up to two miles above the ground. Its bones are hollow and therefore light of frame. Its frame has cross ribs like steel bars in sky scrapers. The eagle has 7,000 feathers, with back feathers that are as long as the head feathers. Their beak is black until age 3 and then turns golden.

When an eagle is about 30 years old, it goes through a renewal process. Its beak, that has become so over grown that it is hard to eat, begins to come off. Now unable to eat, the feathers also begin to fall out or the bird helps to pluck them out. With a "renewed beak" growing in, and new feathers appearing, it begins to eat with a renewed appetite. Its "youthful" look is seen. Psalm 103:5 says, "who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." A time of renewal is necessary for every child of God, a time when we get rid of what is weighing us down, holding us back, aging us spiritually,

Eagles do not fly like other birds. They don't flap their wings, but instead, they soar. Flapping their wings would use incredible amounts of their own strength and endurance and they would require so much more food as fuel if they did not soar. When the time is right, the winds currents right, they take off and soar upward, effortlessly, because they have waited for the right time. There is a special "up-going" wind that they rise on as it circles higher and higher toward the sky.

What a lesson for God's children to learn! How often do we waste our strength by jumping out too soon and "flapping our wings", instead of waiting for God's timing. Waiting is not a popular concept in these days of instant everything! But when we wait on the Lord--wait for His timing--wait for His answers-- wait for His direction, THEN we can soar to new heights and fly to new places. For Isaiah 40:31 says "Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like

eagles: they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint,"

Have a great month!

Because of Calvary,

Winnie

*Information on eagles taken from writings by L. Ozirney.*



## Men's Ministries, Continued

Another driving force behind the establishment of the integration of Father's Day was Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd, born in Creston, WA.

Her father, the Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart, reared his

six children as a single parent in Spokane, Washington. She was inspired by Anna Jarvis' efforts to establish Mother's Day. Although she initially suggested June 5, the anniversary of her father's death, she did not provide the organizers with enough time to make arrangements. The celebration was deferred to the third Sunday of June. Thus, the first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910 in Spokane, WA.

President Calvin Coolidge recommended it as a national holiday in 1924. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson made it a holiday to be celebrated on the third Sunday of each June. The holiday was not officially recognized until 1972, during the presidency of Richard Nixon.

**Summer begins on June 20!** Psalm 100--Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

**The men still meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30. Won't you join us in Room 205 for a time of fellowship?**

In His Name,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack".



# Academy Connection

Dear Friends,

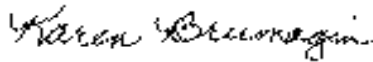
We are so grateful for what the Lord has done! We come to the close of our 29<sup>th</sup> school year and look with great anticipation with what the Lord will do in our next decade! Thank you for your generous support throughout the year, most recently with the Country Store and Crafts and the Annual Benefit Auction. God has used your donations of time, 'stuff', expertise, and prayer to meet the needs of the Academy.

The students will enjoy some interesting field trips as well as complete their year with the 'dreaded' finals as we come to the last day. The teachers and I are planning for the coming year also. We ask for your consideration of Christian education for your children or that you might invite your grandchildren or neighbors to call GACA for a tour. We have a strong educational program taught within a nurturing atmosphere from a Biblical world-view.

Graduation will be June 6, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the GAC Sanctuary. You are invited to participate in this very special evening for our seniors and their families. The following week the teachers will inventory and close up their classrooms and enjoy some much needed rest and relaxation for a few weeks before returning in the fall.

Please continue to pray for the families, students, faculty, and Council members as we plan for the coming year and beyond. May God bless you with a very enjoyable month of June!

In His Service,



You're invited to a graduation open house for Ryan Eldridge on June 8, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm.



## Men's Ministries

**Wow! It's the month of June already! Time sure flies.**



**Flag Day is June 14.** Flag Day recognizes the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777. It was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Woodrow's proclamation, it was not until August 3, 1949 that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day.

*Display the American Flag in honor of this great nation, and thank God for our freedom.*

**Father's Day is June 15.**

Ephesians 5:33—Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

Colossians 3:18—Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Colossians 3:21—Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Ephesians 6:1-4—Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.



**What Makes a Dad**

God took the strength of a mountain, the majesty of a tree, the warmth of the summer sun, the calm of a quiet sea, the generous soul of nature, the comforting arm of night, the wisdom of the ages, the power of the eagles' flight, the joy of a morning in spring, the faith of a mustard seed, the patience of eternity, the depth of a family need. Then God combined these qualities. When there was nothing more to add, He knew His masterpiece was complete, and so He called it, "Dad."

Author Unknown

In the United States, the first modern celebration of Father's Day was held on July 5, 1908 in Fairmont, West Virginia. It was first celebrated as a church service at Williams Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South, now known as Central United Methodist Church. Grace Golden Clayton, who is believed to have suggested the service to the pastor, is believed to have been inspired to celebrate fathers after the deadly mine explosion in nearby Monongah the prior December. This explosion killed 361 men, many of them fathers and recent US immigrants from Italy. Another possible inspiration for the service was Mother's Day, which had been celebrated for the first time two months prior in Grafton, WV, a town about 15 miles away.

(continued on the next page)