

Riverside Current

July/Aug
2016

News From Riverside Alliance Church, Akron, OH

... I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river...Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing. – Ezekiel 47:7, 12

Last time, we talked about what it looks like to dive deeper in our journey with the Lord. In many ways, it would be wonderful if it were all about me – “The only thing I need to concern myself with is whether or not I am right with the Lord!” Ezekiel’s experience with the Lord, and ours today, tells us that it is not that simple, and that we should not really desire for it to be!

God designed us to participate in this journey together, as the church, the Body of Christ, so we can help one another become more in the Lord. I love the imagery that Ezekiel gives us for what it looks like when we are growing stronger together.

We Are Rooted - An effective member of the Body of Christ is one that has roots that run deep. Ezekiel sees trees lining the river. In order for a tree to withstand the flood, drought, storms, wind, and exposure to the sun and other elements that come with being along the riverside, it must have roots that run deep. How has your quiet time with the Lord been going? What does personal worship look like for you? Who are you keeping yourself accountable to? Are you participating in a small group setting? The answers to these and other questions like them can help to tell us how deep our roots go. We help each other stand up tall when we allow our roots to support each other, like those trees lining the river have to do!

We Are Powerful - Earlier this summer, we were out hiking with our kids and we came around a bend in the trail and the kids stopped in their tracks and looked up. We had come to a grove of trees that stood straight and tall – the kids, and then mom and dad, all just stood there beholding the power of the majestic trees.

Because of that root system, those trees along the river are able to stand tall together – and together, they are powerful! When you and I engage in the Body and allow our roots to grow deep, it makes it possible for us to stand tall and accomplish things we could never do on our own. And, it causes those around us to stop and take note that they are in the presence of something amazing! Let’s point people to the amazing One that we stand in the presence of!

We Are Fruitful - Possibly the most meaningful result of these trees that have deep roots and stand tall is the fruit that they produce. Wouldn’t it be great if one day, it was said of us each and of our church that we were people who helped lost ones find the kind of food that only Jesus offers, and that we helped people find freedom in the healing power of the Messiah!!

We Are Faithful - Not only do those trees bring food and healing, but they do it regularly. They are faithful. They are dependable. Can others in the Body of Christ count on you to be there for them when they need you? Have you made yourself available to do whatever the Lord might call on you to do? How well we are doing as a body may be reflected in how faithful we are to one another!

Honored To Be Growing With You,
Pastor Jim Souza

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Worship Ministry

Psalm 33

Let the godly sing for joy to the Lord; it is fitting for the pure to praise him. Praise the Lord with melodies on the lyre; make music for him on the ten-stringed harp. Sing a new song of praise to him; play skillfully on the harp, and sing with joy. For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does. He loves whatever is just and good; the unfailing love of the Lord fills the earth.

The Lord spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born. He assigned the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs. Let the whole world fear the Lord, and let everyone stand in awe of him. For when he spoke, the world began! It appeared at his command.

The Lord frustrates the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes. But the Lord's plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken. What joy for the nation whose God is the Lord, whose people he has chosen as his inheritance.

The Lord looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. From his throne he observes all who live on the earth. He made their hearts, so he understands everything they do. The best-equipped army cannot save a king, nor is great strength enough to save a warrior. Don't count on your warhorse to give you victory – for all its strength, it cannot save you.

But the Lord watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love. He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine. We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.



Was all
About me

Our Monday and Thursday night Bible studies are taking a break for the summer. Be listening in August for fall women's ministry news!

Save the date...Wednesday, July 27th is Ladies Day at Beulah Beach!

Neb's Tree

Daniel 4

This tree
You see
So tall
Is me

The roots
The trunk
The branches
And leaves

My fruit
When ripe
Brings forth
More seed

I'm grand
I'm great
I'm mine
You see

One cut
One crash
Once was
Now gone

Lying severed
I am
Two pieces
Not one

My life
My future
My all
Undone

What's left
So short
The roots
The stump

My life
My future

The reality
His hands
He planted
My seed

I took
His actions
His works
Masterpiece

My name
My want
Not His`
Placed me

But rise
I shall
From the
Stump behind

His glory
His power
His majesty
Shines

What seemed
What was
What's now
I find

His passion
His purpose
His plan
Not mine

Ephesians 5:14,15 ...for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light." So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise.

(Written by Michelle Martin)

The logo for 'Summer Children's Events' features the word 'summer' in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, 'CHILDREN'S' is written in a bold, white, uppercase, sans-serif font with a blue outline. At the bottom, 'events' is written in a white, lowercase, cursive font with a blue outline. The text is set against a background of colorful, abstract brushstrokes in shades of blue, green, yellow, and red.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

We have kicked off our summer programs for the kids. We started on June 11th with our Summer Celebration. We had a bouncy house, 18' slide and games for the kids to enjoy! I think all that attended had a great time.

We have started our Storytime/Craft time during the church service on Sunday mornings for kids entering kindergarten through entering 5th grade. If you know some kids in that age range please invite them to join us.

Please be praying for our Vacation Bible School July

18th - July 22nd. We still have some opportunities for some volunteer and we also have a list of items that we could use if you have them laying around the house and do not know what to do with them. If you would like to help or if you need a list of items please Sherry Basinger or Molly Gladwell. Our theme this year is *God's Great Rescue*. We can use everyone's help big or small. Please pray as we plan and prepare to tell children about Jesus! Please grab some flyers and registration forms and pass out to friend and neighbors that have children in that age group.

Youth!

First of all, a thank you to all of the youth that gave of their time and energy to help serve hotdogs and popcorn, and pass out invitation to the families of the baseball teams. What a big help.

This year we were able to attend Tidal Wave for the first time in a long time. Denny, Samantha, Lincoln, and Marshall were able to enjoy that day at Beulah Beach.

As we look forward, the youth have a busy July. First of all, 9 youth will be attending Life 2016 in Kansas City, MO, on July 5th-9th. Please be praying for hearts to be open to God's leading in our lives.

July also means trash detail at the Summit County Fair from July 26th through August 1st. Signup sheets are already in the hall by the old youth room. Please sign up and help. We need everyone.

The Elders Corner

Introducing our **Summer and Fall Series for Adult and Young Adult Sunday School Classes**

Since March, Pastor Souza has been preaching a series of messages entitled “Here’s the Church” using the book of Acts. He has identified many of the attributes of a healthy, growing Church Body. To further examine these attributes, Riverside’s Disciple Making Ministries is offering the following Summer and Fall series.



Summer Series: Starting Sunday July 17 thru Sunday August 21, 2016

A six part series entitled, “Personal Spiritual Formation” by Dr. Ron Walborn, Dean Alliance Theological Seminary Nyack College.

In this video series, Dr. Walborn examines the process of how we are “being transformed into Christ’s likeness”. 2 Cor. 3:18

Starting at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary we will watch a 20-30 minute video introducing each lesson and then return to our regular Sunday School class rooms to discuss the content of each video.

Spirituality defined by *Dallas Willard Spirit of the Disciplines*. “The intentional and continuous ordering of one’s orientation toward living all of life in the Spirit. Christian spirituality necessitates a willing surrender to the reigning presence of Christ. It is more a relational process than a list of Dos and Don’ts. You surrender to Jesus as King over everything—thoughts, words, deeds.”

Fall Series: Starting Sunday September 4 thru December 11, 2016

Regular Sunday School classes will be put on hold. Instead as an alternative you will have an opportunity to sign up for one of the following four classes

1 Thessalonians- Presents the heart of ministry in the New Testament Church.

Psalms-Examines selected Psalms that focus on prayer and worship.

Missional Living in a Post Christian Society- Examines issues related to being an effective witness for Christ in today’s society.

Introducing the Alliance Church-Examines the distinctive message of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, internationally and locally. The class will also include a history of the Alliance and a review of the churches doctrines.

CCO/ College Ministry

God has been doing some really cool things in the CCO ministry at the University of Akron. After prayer and God opening up some major doors, we are excited to announce that we will be having Jen Golden join us this upcoming fall to do campus ministry for a year. Jen will be apart of something called the CCO Fellowship program. This is a yearlong internship for people who are trying to discern if they will go into campus ministry or not. It is a time for someone to learn and grow in different areas of ministry.

Jen grew up in Maryland and has recently graduated from Messiah College with a degree in outdoor leadership. She is very excited to come and join us on staff here at Riverside and to begin to transform college students to transform the world. You can send her words of encouragement and let her know that you are praying for her by emailing her. jgolden@ccojubilee.org



Beulah Beach Bible & Missions Conference: July 23-30

Some of the highlights of the conference:

Saturday 23rd - 8:00am 5K run

7:00pm, Phil Keagy

Sunday, 24th 3:00pm - Missions Rally

Wednesday, 12:00pm - GCW with Pam Tebow

7:00pm Comedian & Singer Mark Schultz and the Martins in concert . Tickets are \$10



GOD'S GREAT RESCUE



"The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom."
2 Timothy 4:18



VBS: Vacation Bible School is coming!!! July 18-22! If you are interested in being a part of the team mark the tear off tab on the right or see Sherry Basinger or Molly Gladwell. Items needed for VBS are:

Aluminum foil

colored card stock

string

ribbon gold ribbon

1" thick sheets of styrofoam

fruit by the foot

white card stock

thin 9" long dowel rods

white cloth

gold fish crackers

gold foil

felt

sponges

Capri sun juice pouches



*Saturday, August 13
Wingfoot Lake park!
More details to come!*

Men's Ministry Outing



Saturday, July 16th we will meet at the church at 10 am . We will ride about 12 miles out and back using the Towpath trail off of Manchester Rd. See Bruce Martin if you need a bike for the day!