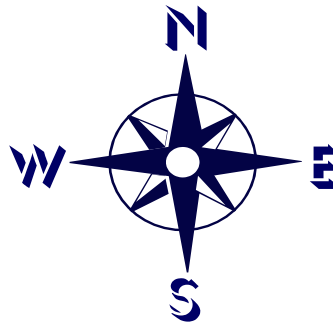




Churches of God
143 Hartman Road
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April 2009

Finding God's Direction



The Compass is a monthly publication of the Allegheny Region Churches of God
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Deadline for articles for the next issue is Monday, April 20th

Conference is almost here - when we look at those two days we see many different things taking place, but one of the things that happens is the time we spend in worship and praise. We all love praising God. Read the following words by Steven D. Mathewson. Then read Psalm 150.



Then think about our worship as individuals and as churches, from the songs we sing to the prayers we lift up. Then ask yourself the following questions.

1. What situation in life makes praise difficult?
2. What situation in church life makes praise difficult?
3. How could we help our congregation move towards the kind of lively praise described in Psalm 150?
4. What am I willing to do?

"Last words get remembered first. Like the ending lines of a Presidential address or the closing arguments in a trial, the final words of the final Psalm in the Bible are carefully crafted." In the Psalm 150, the last words concern praise.

Psalm 150 stamps priority on this element of worship, which forms the backbone on the Psalms. The term praise dominates Psalm 150, appearing 13 times. At the beginning and end, the expression Praise the Lord frames the Psalm. To praise means to boast excitedly. The word praise describes your response when your child is accepted into her first choice college or when your corporation is awarded a contract that you pursued. The worship band described in Psalm 150 enables the lively response that expressed praise.

But what about when you don't feel like praising God? Psalm 150:6 says what so many Psalms states - praise is a matter of life and breath, not a matter of health and circumstances. Psalms like 26, 43, and 59 say life is tough, but the truth is God still deserves our praise. So, as we gather in May as a body, let us praise in one unity body.

Pastor Lee



April Birthdays

- 2 Pastor Richard Emery, Sr.
- 8 Pastor Wendell Grimm
- 10 Mrs. Barb Bobula
- 21 Mrs. Gladys Grimm
- 23 Pastor Jeff Keys

You Can Help!

Saturday, April 11 there will be a work day held at Camp Sunrise Mountain. The day will start at 8:00 A.M. and lunch will be provided by the Camp. We are looking for men, women, and youth who would like to help get the camp in shape for the summer. Bring your garden tools and come and be a part of the work day!

Seasonal Work Available

Camp Sunrise is looking for part-time seasonal help. If you're looking for something to do this summer why don't you consider working part-time at camp. Needed are cooks, lifeguards, grounds keepers, and maintenance workers. Contact Steve White at 301-746-5760 if you are interested in any of the above positions.

Meetings & Events

- April 5 - 2:20 P.M.
Bible Quizzing meet at Mt. Pleasant Church of God
- April 11 - 8:00 A.M.
Work Day at Camp Sunrise Mountain
- April 20-21
Ad. Council Retreat at Camp Sunrise Mountain
- April 25
CGYA Spring Rally at Camp Sunrise Mountain
- April 23-May 3 - 2009 Missions Impact
 - April 25 - Mt. Tabor Church of God, WV
 - April 26 - Kimberly Church of God, WV
 - April 26 - Kingwood Church of God
 - April 29 - West Newton First Church of God
 - May 3 - Kecksburg Church of God
 - May 2 - Lillyville Church of God
 - May 3 - Grange Church of God
- May 8-9
Allegheny Region Conference Sessions at Camp Sunrise Mountain
- May 21
Women's Rally at United Community Church of God

Camp Financial February 2009

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|--|------------|
| Operating Fund Donations (Ind. & Groups) | \$ 2743.00 |
| Donations Received (Ind. & Groups) | 2419.00 |
| Income Received (Region & Rentals) | 5999.30 |
| Monthly Expenses | \$ 7790.73 |

ARC Approved Speakers

The following speakers are approved by the Allegheny Region Conference for pulpit supply. You may call them to schedule speaking dates when the need arises.

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| Pastor Fred Bauer (Ord) Home Area/Church | 724-446-9019 Madison, PA |
| Pastor Glenn Beatty (Ord) Home Area/Church | 724-539-0593 Latrobe/Mt. Pleasant |
| Pastor Ron Follett (Ord) Home Area/Church | 724-758-3830 or 724-944-9660 Ellwood City, PA |
| Pastor Thomas McGraw (Ord) Home Area/Church | 304-442-8828 Smithers, WV/Kimberly, WV |
| Mr. Jack Feick (AL) Home Area/Church | 724-628-5533 Connellsville/Mount Pleasant |
| Mrs. Linda Brown (LL) Home Area/Church | 724-455-2133 Acme/Indian Head |
| Mr. Joseph Cranmer (LL) Home Area/Church | 814-437-5968 Franklin/Franklin First |
| Dr. Christine Cheng-Florendo Home Area/Church | 724-424-8902 Latrobe/Latrobe First |
| Mr. John DeVincent (LL) Home Area/Church | 304-343-1239 Charleston, WV/Kimberly, WV |
| Mr. Don Dittman (LL) Home Area/Church | 814-432-3344 Franklin/Hickory Grove |
| Mr. Samuel Grimm, Jr. (LL) Home Area/Church | 724-984-8108 Champion/Indian Head |
| Mr. Roy Johnson (LL) Home Area/Church | 724-547-4075 Mt. Pleasant/Fairview |
| Mr. Robert Newmeyer (LL) Home Area/Church | 724-537-6226 Latrobe/Latrobe First |
| Mr. Lawrence Richter (LL) Home Area/Church | 724-455-3718 Normalville/Clinton |
| Miss Sarah Sullenberger (LL) Home Area/Church | 724-309-8458 Latrobe/Fairview |

2008 Annual Church Reports

If your church filed this report online or submitted a paper copy to the General Conference Office in Findlay, Ohio we still need a copy of your report for the Allegheny Region Office. We are missing reports from the following churches: Barkeyville, Brackenridge First, Breakneck, Buchanan, Center Bethel, Colliers First, Congress Hill, Fairview, Garman, Goodridge, Highlawn First, Kecksburg, Kittanning, Lillyville, Limestone/Reesedale, Littleton, Maranatha, Markleysburg Union, Mt. Carmel, Mt. Hope, Mt. Nebo, Mt. Pleasant, New Brighton First, Pine Grove, Sand Spring, South Charleston First, and West Newton First. Please send a copy of your report to the office a.s.a.p.

Meet the New Director of Camp Sonrise Mountain

My name is Steve White and I am 46 years old and was born and raised in White, PA. As a child I attended the Buchanan Church of God. I accepted Christ at the age of 10 at Vacation Bible School and was baptized shortly after. At age 13 my family and I started attending Mt. Pleasant Church of God. My wife Robin and I were married in that church in 1982 and we still attend there with our family. We have two daughters, Linnsey and Malory. Linnsey is married and has blessed our family with two beautiful grandsons, Nicholas and Ethan. Malory is still at home and is a photographer and attends college for fitness and nutrition.

I have been self employed most of my life doing construction. This was a trait passed down from my father and is a job that I have enjoyed for many years. Some of my hobbies include golf, weight lifting and motocross racing. My wife is an Assistant Manager for RiteAid. We have both served on camp staff and for winter retreat as well. As a child I was a camper at the camp, and my daughters have shared this same special experience. They both serve as counselors at Camp Sonrise Mountain as well. We all love the camp.

I have lived my life with struggles throughout the years. Four years ago at camp, while I was serving on staff, my life was changed. God spoke to my heart. I knew at that time how I was to live the rest of my life. I started helping with the youth group at Mt. Pleasant. This is such a blessing to me. A couple of year ago I told my family that I felt God was moving me to do some kind of ministry. I feel I need to be reaching out to the youth and showing them God's love. God has a plan, who would have guessed it would be giving up construction and becoming the Director of Camp Sonrise Mountain.

It is an awesome undertaking and I'm looking forward to serving as Camp Director and serving God in a place as special as the camp.

Never sell yourself short. God has a plan for each one of us. I would like to thank the board for giving me this chance to serve as Camp Sonrise Mountain Director. Hope to see everyone soon at camp or in my visits to your churches. Thanks again for all your prayers and support.

Mr. Steve White, Director
Camp Sonrise Mountain
Philippians 4:13

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: If your church disappeared would anybody notice? If they did notice would they invite you back?

ARC Website Catches Up!

By now you've heard about the ARC website having a new facelift. And now, we are pleased to say all of the information has been updated. If you need info about a church or a pastor, go to the website and get the info you need, it really is that easy. You will also find links to Camp Sunrise Mountain, the General Conference, and Winebrenner Theological Seminary. You can view and/or print any of the information that you need. Check it out - go to the Allegheny Region Conference website at www.allegheny-cggc.org. From the website you can also view, print, and subscribe to the monthly newsletter. We wish to have everyone subscribe to the newsletter online by the end of the year. At the end of the year we will only mail a monthly newsletter to anyone who does not have computer access. Beginning with the May newsletter, if you subscribe online you will not receive a copy in the mail. Take a few minutes now and log onto the website - we welcome any feedback you may have for improvements.

ARC Conference Sessions Delegate Registration

The Allegheny Region Annual Conference Sessions will be held May 8-9, 2009 at Camp Sunrise Mountain. Delegate registration information was due in the Allegheny Region Office by March 1st. As of today, March 30th we have not received delegate registrations from the following churches and/or pastors: Brackenridge First, Centennial, Center Bethel, Colliers First, Fairview/Grandview, Hickory Grove, Highlawn First; Limestone/Reesdale, Littleton, Maranatha, Markleysburg Union, Mt. Hope, New Brighton First, Pine Grove, Sand Spring, South Charleston First, and Templeton.

Pastors, you must also register for the sessions. It is required that all pastors attend Conference Sessions. It is stated in the Allegheny Region Constitution Article XIV - Accountability of Pastors, Section 14.04: Any pastor not responding to his name at roll call for two (2) consecutive Annual Sessions shall forfeit his relationship with this body unless compelled to be absent by sickness, death, or circumstances beyond one's control. If you need to be excused you must send a written letter to the Conference Clerk, Pastor Jim Monticue, asking to be excused.

Although the registration deadline has passed it is not too late to register delegates and/or pastors. Any delegate registered late runs the risk of not having their delegate packet mailed out to them in advance of the conference sessions. A packet will be available at the sessions for anyone delegate not receiving their packet in the mail.

Bible Quizzing

On February 22, 2009, Indian Head hosted the Regional Meet. Eight teams were present and Spirit was high as always. Mt. Pleasant 2 took the trophy and I understand there was even some dancing with the trophy. Individual scores were close with Josh Johnson, Charis Tobias, and Jon Tobias all tied for First Place. Charis Tobias was also first for memory verses. On March 14 and 15, 2009, there was a Bible Quiz retreat held at Mt. Pleasant Church of God with 75 Bible Quizzers plus coaches and chaperones. This included teams from the Midwest and Eastern Conferences as well as Allegheny Region. Rachel Neeley-Sleasman, our National Quiz Director, was in charge of the review and quizzing of Luke, Chapters 1-14. There was a sleep over in the CMC building and youth center. Everyone there felt it was a lot of fun and very worthwhile. Some were tired, but blow-up mattresses sure made the hard floor softer. Thanks to all who made this a success!! The next meet will be on April 5th at Mt. Pleasant at 2:30 P.M. and will be on Luke 17,18,19 & 20 with a 25% review of Chapters 15, and 16. Don't forget to be in prayer for a new Allegheny Region Bible Quiz Director. We would like to fill that spot by conference time.

Youth News

WOW, we had an awesome ARCTIC BLAST II. Two weeks before we were to have Arctic Blast we only had a handful of students signed up for camp. We put out the need for prayer and that we needed students. God answered in a big way, we had 88 students for camp, as well as 20 counselors. Now, we truly had the cold weather, but we did not have any snow for sledding. The counselors called in help from the prayer chain for snow and low and behold God answered prayers so that we received enough snow on Saturday for sledding and snowball fights. God used that weekend for wonderful fellowship and to draw closer to Him. We are thinking about Arctic Blast III and looking forward to it all over again!!!

Youth Worldwide Give Helping Hand
Challenge Your Youth Group to Make a Difference. Children and young adults around the world will team up in late April for the 21st Annual Global Youth Service Day, which organizers bill as the "largest youth service event in the world." The day--actually three days, April 24-26--will harness the efforts of millions of young people to help improve communities in all 50 states and 100 countries, according to Youth Service America. Projects zero in on such topics as education, climate change, childhood obesity and numerous other issues. For more information about this you can go to the website www.YSA.orghttp://www.youthworkerjournal-info.com/lodfzswk_iaggkbt.html.

Check out the following web site for "Equipping Youth to Lead Ministry. " Tim@endeavormovement.com.

Log onto www.liveabove.com to connect to college ministries and roommate before graduation.....today.