Going through a tough time? God knows, and He cares. And He is at work.

One day we will probably be surprised to learn about the many and varied ways in which God is working in us and through us. Transformation does not usually occur instantaneously. There are processes God uses. Sometimes the process of change involves pain OR people, or pain AND people.

We often cry out to be delivered from the pain. But, such deliverance might circumvent the process. So, rather than deliver us FROM the pain, God delivers us THROUGH the pain.

God is not insensitive to our pain, even when the process that brings the pain is therapeutic. Since He cares, He comforts us.

Our Scripture memory verse for the month of July speaks to God’s comfort: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV)

Need help? Need comfort? Not only will God comfort you, He will use you to do the same for others!

Ordination Service for Pastor Rigel Holmes

An Ordination Service for Pastor Rigel will be held on Sunday, July 15, at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary. Appetizers and dessert will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Everyone is invited to celebrate this special occasion!

Upcoming Summer Events

- Family Fun in the Son Backpack Stuffing Service Project: Wednesday, July 18, 7:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall
- Church-wide Family Picnic: Friday, August 24, 6:00pm, at Mt. Odin Park

See page 8 for additional information. In order to make preparations, please indicate on the back of your Sunday bulletin information card if you plan to participate. Contact Jen Conley at the Church Office (724-837-1122) with any questions you may have.

Vacation Bible School Registration

Registration for Vacation Bible School begins on Sunday, July 1. VBS will be held Monday, August 6 through Friday, August 10, 9:00am to noon, for children age 5 through grade 6. See page 9 for details.
Sunday School - “A Place for Growing... A Place for YOU!”

Our youth Sunday School class meets at 9:15am in rooms 225-235. Our children’s Sunday School classes also begin at 9:15am. Check the bulletin board in the Children’s Ministry wing for room assignments. Adult classes are offered at 9:15 and 10:45am. Be sure to note the time that the class you choose is offered. It’s never too late to join a class. If you can’t be here every Sunday, that's OK - come whenever you can. Don't miss this opportunity to learn something new and connect with people. Brochures are available at the rack in the Narthex.

Summer Adult Classes Schedule

9:15am Proverbs (July 1 - August 26) - Teacher: John Cogan

The book of Proverbs is a book of wisdom. This book was begun by King Solomon and completed by King Hezekiah. It was written as a text book to teach young people to live according to godly wisdom. It begins with the premise that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. It then develops themes having to do with everyday life decisions based on godly wisdom. We will study some of the main themes in the book. It will not be an exhaustive study, but we will see how to read the book to mine its riches and apply them to our daily lives. Location: Rooms 230/240

Session 1 (July 1-8)
9:15am "A Tour of Tozer" - Teacher: Mike Burlok

A highlight tour of A. W. Tozer's most popular writings. We will be challenged and encouraged as we discuss excerpts from his many works, including: "The Pursuit of God", "Of God and Men", "The Incredible Christian" and "Knowledge of the Holy". Location: Conference Room 550

10:45am “Building on the American Heritage” - Teacher: Eric Bartels

With a presidential election year looming, many Christians wonder, what are Biblical worldviews of modern political issues? This series will incorporate videos from Historian David Barton's follow up to his popular American Heritage Series. Join us as we discuss America's "unique religious, moral and constitutional heritage", as well as answer the kinds of questions many Christians are asking today! Location: Conference Room 550

July 15: Only class offered is 9:15am Proverbs

Session 2 (July 22 - August 26)
9:15am “Guardrails” by Andy Stanley - Teacher: Joe Szurek

Guardrails: a system designed to keep vehicles from straying into dangerous or off-limit areas. They are everywhere, but they don't really get much attention... until somebody hits one. And then, more often than not, it is a lifesaver. Ever wonder what it would be like to have guardrails in other areas of your life - areas where culture baits you to the edge of disaster and then chastises you when you step across the line? Your friendships. Your finances. Your marriage. Maybe your greatest regret could have been avoided if you had established guardrails. Location: Conference Room 550

10:45 “Twisting the Truth” by Andy Stanley - Teachers: Dr. Bob Statler and Kevin Dail

Our postmodern society is expert at distorting the truth. How can we learn to discern in a culture of deception? In this five-session curriculum, Andy Stanley exposes four destructive lies about authority, pain, sex and sin. His straightforward insights will help you exchange the falsehoods of our day for the life-changing truths of Scripture. Location: Conference Room 550

“We exist to teach God’s Word to all ages to provide the cornerstone that will lead to salvation and a deeper, personal relationship with the Lord.”
Mahaffey Family Camp Meeting & Bible Conference

Mahaffey Family Camp, a ministry of the Western Pennsylvania District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, will be held July 20 through 29. There are many events and activities for all ages:

- Opening Service: Friday, July 20, 7:00pm
- Ride For Freedom Service: Sunday, July 22, 2:30pm
- Prayer Seminar Sessions: Monday-Friday mornings, 8:45-10:00am
- Seniors Day: Tuesday, July 24
- Simpson Memorial Golf Tournament: Wednesday, July 25
- Children’s Penny Parade: Wednesday, July 25, 6:30pm
- Missionary Day: Thursday, July 26, with Alliance Women’s Rally at 1:15pm
- Annual Informational Meeting: Friday, July 27, 3:45pm
- Baptismal Service (weather permitting): Saturday, July 28, 4:00pm
- Closing Service: Sunday, July 29, 10:00pm

Pick up a brochure at the Narthex brochure rack for a complete schedule of events and additional information. You may also check the Mahaffey website at www.mahaffeycamp.com.

Church Office Notes

Effectively immediately, our general church office email has changed to: churchoffice.gac@gmail.com. Please update your records accordingly. Thank you!

The Church Office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.

“Our Daily Bread” Booklets

“Our Daily Bread” devotional booklets are always available at the Information Center free of charge. The daily thoughts will encourage you and help you spend time each day in God’s Word. They also make a great outreach tool for family and friends. Pick up one for yourself and one for a friend next Sunday!

Lost and Found

Many items have been found throughout the building. Please take a moment to check the coat racks in the Fellowship Hall for any misplaced coats, jackets, hats, etc. Also, the Lost and Found basket in the Information Center is filled with items such as Bibles, workbooks, baby things and other miscellaneous items. If not claimed, they will be lovingly donated to charity.

Need Info Fast? Check Out Our Website - greensburgalliance.org

Our church website features all the information you need to know about our church with easy to use menus. One of the great features is the ability to listen to sermons from previous Sundays. There are also printable PDF versions of our newsletter, monthly calendars and registration forms. Take a moment to browse!
**FOCUS**

**Young At Heart**

Young At Heart will meet on Thursday, July 5, at 11:30am, in the Fellowship Hall. Delmont dentist, Annette Merlino will be our guest speaker. She is the program director of House of Hope in Managua and team leader of those bringing dental care to underdeveloped, uneducated and undernourished areas of Africa, Chile and Honduras.

Lois Moore, Etta Mae Trout, Jea Scott and Ann Bell will favor us with a patriotic theme and provide drinks and dessert. Coffee will be brewed by 11:00am for our early arrivals! Bring a sandwich and a friend. Wrapped items for prizes are always welcome.

**Moms 24/7**

Moms 24/7 does not have regular meetings during the summer months. There are, however, informal get-togethers that keep us connected! All moms are welcome to join us on Tuesday, July 17, and Tuesday, August 21. We will meet at Panera Bread in the Westmoreland Mall at 6:30pm.

Check out the Moms 24/7 bulletin board in the hallway across from the nursery rooms for details on our summer outings. We hope to see you there!

**Twenty-Somethings**

Anyone in or around their 20’s is invited to join us for our various activities. Contact Tom or Karen McGarry at 724-925-8377 or 804-874-5878 for information on our upcoming summer activities.

**Men’s Ministry**

**Partners in Prayer**

Every Sunday morning prior to the worship services, men at Greensburg Alliance come together to pray for the services and our congregation.

**Men’s Bible Study Fellowship**

All men are welcome to join us every Tuesday at 6:30am in the Conference Room for the Men’s Bible Study. We talk, pray and study God’s Word together to encourage and equip one another for our service to our families, church, work and community.

**Alliance Men’s Breakfast**

Alliance Men’s Breakfast will not be held during the months of July and August. Meetings will resume in September.

**Golf League**

Our Golf League is now in “full swing”! Join us on Monday evenings, 5:00pm, at the Madison Golf Club.

**Softball Team**

Come out for a fun evening and show your support for our team! Check the Focus calendar, Sunday bulletin or the Norwin Fellowship League website for dates and times.

(www.leaguelineup.com/norwinfellowship)

Questions about our Men’s Ministry? Contact our Director of Adult Ministries, Christy Wallace, at the Church Office (724-837-1122 or gacadultministries@gmail.com).
**Christian Action Committee**

The committee’s monthly visit to Weatherwood Manor Assisted Living will take place on Saturday, July 21, from 2:00-3:00pm. A message will be presented, along with a craft project and snacks. If you are involved with this ministry, please plan to attend.

A food drive for the Salvation Army will be conducted on Sundays, July 22 and 29. Non-perishable food items as well as paper products are needed and may be placed under the coat racks in the Fellowship Hall.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Christian Action Committee will be held on Sunday, July 29, following the second worship service at 12:15pm, in Room 220.

Our annual blood drive for the American Red Cross will be held on Saturday, August 11, 9:00am to 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Be sure to sign up at the Information Center if you plan to participate.

Anyone wishing to fill a baby bottle for the Lifeway Pregnancy Center in Latrobe may pick up a bottle at the Information Center. Bottles are to be returned by Sunday, September 23, when a benefit/luncheon will be held for the center following the 10:45 Service.

**Alliance Women**

All ladies are invited to Alliance Women’s Day at Mahaffey Family Camp on Thursday, July 26. The day includes a service at 10:15am and a missionary rally at 1:30pm. You can attend either or both services and also enjoy walking through the camp and talking with new and old friends. Transportation is on your own this year.

Arlene Cogan has invited our ladies (whether you are going for the day or are already at camp) to meet at her camper for lunch after the morning service. We are excited that our adopted Third Culture Kid, Mathias Maurin and his family, will join us for lunch. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.

To help with planning, let us know if you will be joining us for lunch by checking the box on the back of your Sunday bulletin information card.

Please note: we will not have an Alliance Women meeting in July.

**Campbell’s Labels for Education Update**

Thank you to everyone who brought in Campbell’s Labels for Education UPCs this year. We were able to contribute over 800 UPCs to Alliance Women Ministries to help “purchase” musical instruments for Alliance International Workers’ children.

This is an ongoing project so keep saving your Campbell’s UPCs and also used postage stamps. The stamps provide Spanish language Sunday School materials for Latin American countries. Bring UPCs and stamps to the Information Center any time during the year.

**World Outreach Conference 2012**

Our annual World Outreach Conference will be held November 4 through 11. This is a great opportunity to meet our international workers up close and personal and hear what God is doing in the mission field! Details and activities will be announced at a later time so keep watching upcoming Focus newsletters for details!
# July 2012

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### Mahaffey Camp - July 20 to 29

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### Mahaffey Camp

- Mahaffey Camp - July 20 to 29

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### August Newsletter Article Deadline:

**Sunday, July 15**
# August 2012

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<td>7pm Worship Service</td>
<td>6:15pm Missions Committee Mtg</td>
<td>10am Ladies Prayer Group</td>
<td>6:30pm Alliance Youth Christian Foundations (AYCF) Class #6</td>
<td>7pm Thursday Night @ The Well (Alliance Youth)</td>
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<td>Alliance Youth’s Breakfast will not meet this month</td>
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<td><strong>Vacation Bible School - August 6 through 10 - 9:00am to noon</strong></td>
<td><strong>AY Mystery Retreat</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alliance Youth Mystery Retreat</strong></td>
<td><strong>AY Mystery Retreat</strong></td>
<td><strong>Christian Action Visit to Weatherwood</strong></td>
<td><strong>American Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the Christian Action Committee</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alliance Youth Pool Party (details TBA)</strong></td>
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<td>Alliance Youth Project Rally (details TBA)</td>
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**Sunday Preschool 2 & 3 Classes**

**Please Note...**

The Children's Preschool 2 and 3 classes at 10:45am will be combined for the months of July and August. They will meet in Room 430 in the Children’s Ministry wing.

**“Family Fun in the Son”**

We are having lots of “Fun in the Son” this summer so be sure to mark your calendar! Please note: These are family events so child care will not be provided. Families are asked to participate together. Brochures are available in the Narthex and the Children’s Ministry Registration Desk. If you have any questions, contact Jen Conley, Director of Children’s Ministries, at the Church Office (724-837-1122).

**Fourth Annual Backpack Stuffing Service Project - July 18**

On Wednesday, July 18, at 7:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall, we will load 20 backpacks full of school supplies for underprivileged kids in our community. A children’s Bible will also be included in the backpack. Bring your family and friends to share a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship as we help out those that are less fortunate.

School supplies are needed. Please place your donations in the box marked “school supplies” located by the Children's Ministry wing registration desk. Thank you!

**Annual Church-Wide Family Picnic - August 24**

Join us on Friday, August 24, at Mt. Odin Park, Lund Pavilion, for an evening of fun, food and fellowship as we close out the summer with a church-wide picnic. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm and the church will provide the meat and dessert. Bring a side dish to share and your own beverage and paper products. Following the meal there will be a special activity for the children. Sign up is requested. Please indicate on your Sunday bulletin information card if your family plans to attend.

There is a large outdoor play space and plenty of room under the pavilion. Whether you come with a large family or by yourself, this will be a great time of reconnecting that you will not want to miss. Let's get together and share what’s been happening this summer!

**Registration for Children’s Ministries**

In a continuing effort to keep our records correct and up to date, all parents must complete a new registration form for each of their children even if you completed one in the past. Updated registration helps to insure your child’s safety while attending our church. This information is kept confidential and is used for church business, safety and emergency purposes only. These forms will be used for all Children’s Ministry functions, including Sunday and Wednesday activities.

Registration forms will be available at a table in the Narthex and at the Children's Ministry registration desk beginning Sunday, August 12. Completed forms need to be returned as soon as possible in order to make security preparation for the fall Awana session. Thank you for your cooperation!
This year’s VBS will be held Monday, August 6 through Friday August 10, 9:00am to noon, for children age 5 through grade 6. The theme is Standard Publishing’s “Adventures on Promise Island”. Whether your child is going into kindergarten, sixth grade or any grade in between, they will not want to miss this great week of activities! Pre-registration will begin on July 1.

Volunteers needed! Please consider giving a week of your summer to volunteer with our children during VBS. This is a wonderful outreach mission as we try to reach the children of our community with a camp-type program. If you are already cleared to work with children, all you have to do is sign up! If you do not currently serve in Children’s Ministries, all that is required of you is Governing Board approval and completion of clearance forms. The process is simple, but required, so the earlier you submit your forms, the sooner you can be approved and positioned for VBS.

If you are interested in helping or would like additional information, check the box on the back of your Sunday bulletin information card or contact Stacy Ukasik (724-454-7423) or Jen Conley (724-837-1122).
Wacky Water Youth Group Night - Thursday, July 5, 6:30-8:30pm
Weather permitting, we will have a Wacky Water Night at Youth Group on Thursday, July 5. Bring a squirt gun and dress appropriately* for slip & slide, a water balloon fight and an epic water gun battle. Please bring a towel and a change of clothes for the evening when it cools down. We will also have a bonfire to warm us up. This would be a great night to bring friends. Rain date will be Thursday, July 12.

*For questions about our dress code for swimwear see the handout for summer trips or contact Rigel.

Pastor Rigel’s Ordination Service - Sunday, July 15, 4:00pm
Everyone is invited to Pastor Rigel’s Ordination Service on Sunday, July 15, at 4:00pm, in the Sanctuary. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

Kennywood Trip - Thursday, July 19, 9:00am-11:00pm
It’s that time of year again - our annual trip to Kennywood is almost here! Because we are getting a group discount we will be collecting a nonrefundable fee ($26.00) at the time of sign up. Please sign up as soon as possible so that we can plan accordingly. The sign-up sheet will be available at youth group and on Sundays. Students should also bring either a bagged lunch or money for food. Please note: there will be no regular youth meeting on this night.

Mystery Retreat - August 3, 7:00pm to August 5, 4:00pm
There is still time to join us for our first ever Mystery Summer Retreat! The trip is open to anyone who is eligible for youth group, from those who have just moved up to recently graduated seniors. In order for this trip to remain a mystery, the details will be a bit vague.

We can tell you that it will take place within the state of Pennsylvania and will last Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. The cost of the trip will cover all meals, transportation and lodging except for dinner on the ride to the retreat (please plan to have some cash on hand for fast food). We will be sleeping indoors, but students will need to bring a sleeping bag or bedding. The total cost of the trip is $60.00 which will be reduced to $55.00 if there is more than one student going from your family. A deposit of $25.00 is due at sign-up.

Students will have many opportunities to grow in their faith and will have a ton of fun while doing so. Our goal is to provide a safe experience in which students will have a chance to grow closer to God and develop healthy friendships with one another that will last for years.

Please take time to review our summer schedule which can be found under the youth section on the church website along with a ton of other information about the youth ministry (www.greensburgalliance.org)

Rigel’s Contact Information: gacyouth@gmail.com ~ 914-830-6970
July Anniversaries

2  Bill & Joni Hugland
5  Tom & Dianne Haupt
    Eric & Rose Jones
6  Dean & Dianne Ambrose
    Tim & Carlyn Steiner
7  Jim & Drew Everett
8  Joel & Erica Momper
10 Dan & Leanne Griffith
    Brian & Julie Wallace
11 Lee & Amy Calisti
13 Vince & Jeanne Siecinski
14 David & Kelly Burda
    Dennis & Tina Young
18 Jon & Alyssa Kelley
20 Bill & Paula Simanovich
22 Tom & Karen McGarry
25 Andy & Linda Bolyen
26 Matt & Lindsey Abel
    Don & Stacy Ukasik
27 Mike & Laura Pokrzywa

July Birthdays

1  Mike Buriok
    Margie Cravotta
    Wendy Knep
    Mary Obringer
2  Drew Tonks
    Julia Walton
3  Shawn Iarussi
4  Linda Schoenfeld
5  Carson Fennell
    Dora Miles
    Cherilyn Myers
    Timmy Myers
    Bill Poole
    Luke Tomko
    Gabrielle Walton
7  Summer Jordan
8  Glenn Davidson
    Adam Kauffman
    Brad Kauffman
    Kurt Schneider
9  Nancy Boyer
    Jessica Schoenfeld
11 Toni Cross
12 Bob Callen
    Karen Harding
    Kieana Perry
    Beverly Taylor
13 Jodie Krall
    Lisa Markowski
    Bob Statler
14 Donna Bickerstaff
    Jamie Burda
15 Alex Brown
    Alyssa Tressler
    Sharon Williams
17 Wesley Carnes
18 Judy Goodge
    Dolores Roberts
19 Becca Kelley
    John Marasco
    Lindsay Walton
20 Gail Bupp
    Nathan Callen
    Jean Jenkins
    Sean VanScoyoc
21 Kyle Tomko
22 Sandy Broush
    Scott Garland
23 Michael Bianco
    Haleigh Fellers
26 Sara Beanner
    Angela Long
27 Ken Barackman
    Christopher Stoltenberg
28 Lee Calisti
    Zach Goode
    Marie Tomko
30 Laura Pokrzywa

Deepest Sympathy

To Marilyn Tressler and family on the death of her husband, Donald Cranfill.
Return Service Requested

Vacation Bible School
August 6-10
See Page 9 for Details!