

Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



Songs That Grab Your Heart
It happens to all of us. Music speaks universally and directly, and sometimes it grabs our hearts. This is the time of year for it, too, with graduations and weddings and other formal affairs happening all around us. We are bound to get our hearts squeezed with emotion. Don't forget to pack a hanky or extra tissue in your purse or pocket, in case the "wind makes your eyes water."

For years when I was in the school band, I played the crash cymbals. The song *Pomp And Circumstance* is a really long song when you are standing up and holding a 20 lb. brass cymbal in each hand, barely chinking them together in front of your body. I should have worked out for that job. No one told me it was going to be a true test of my brute strength. Try doing it sometime! *Pomp And Circumstance* is the song that never ends! By the 18th minute into the song, I was covered in sweat, my arms were shaking, and I was praying to

God that the last graduate had entered the gym. Honestly, the school band members DO NOT get enough credit for all they go through. Power to the band geeks!!

Pomp And Circumstance is one of those songs that make me teary-eyed now that I'm an adult. From remembering my own graduation and what that meant, to seeing my children walk down to accept their diplomas, it grabs my heart every time. The song has such a proud, accomplished, formal attitude to it, something bigger than myself, that it just breathes importance. Knowing that others from all walks of life have also marched down shiny floors to that themed accoladed tune breeds a statute of importance, and legacy. I almost catch my breath when I hear it. If *Pomp And Circumstance* doesn't affect you, then you aren't paying attention or not into the moment.

Fun fact; the song *Pomp And Circumstance*, written by British Sir Edward Elger in 1901, actually has lyrics too. It

was first used at the coronation of Edward VII (Queen Victoria's son) in 1902. Four years later, Elger was given an honorary Doctorate degree at Yale University, and the song was played as he preceded off the stage, and thus started a trend. Then the processional song was played at Princeton, University of Chicago, Columbia University, and then everybody started using it. I guess we know a good thing when we hear it.

June, July, and August seem to be the wedding months, and who doesn't love a nice wedding? It's like a Prom, for everyone! Love, and beauty, flowers, and romance, and there's CAKE! I wish I was invited to more weddings. Feel free to invite me to any wedding you would like, I give nice gifts. Weddings can be so creative and individual, but the one thing I always love is the traditional Wedding March. There is just something about those first 10 pounding notes that bring the

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The Giving Place Weekly Newsletter

Volunteering!
"The day you find out who you are is when you look back and realize that it was never the words, rather your actions that defined you."

— Shannon L. Alder
"Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more."

— H. Jackson Brown Jr.
The Giving Place in Tolono has started having the Free Clothing Giveaways for anyone living in the Unit Seven School District once again. The next Giveaway will be Saturday June 4th from 9AM - 12NOON. Guidelines will be posted as you enter the WEST ENTRANCE.

The Giving Place is a Christian ministry serving families in need in the Unit 7 School District. If you know of any

families in Unit Seven that are in need, please encourage them to visit TGP on Wednesday from 4:00 - 6:00. Thanks to all that donate to this ministry. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without your continued support.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated during the STAMP OUT HUNGER food drive. We received an enormous amount of food. THANKS also to those who donate through Pam Steele's efforts via social media. Pam delivered an SUV full of food. Thanks to all!

Today, volunteers served 9 families (0 new) / 29 people / 15 children. Thanks to Karen, Sharon, Jo Ellen, Andrew, Israel, Dale and Mike for serving our clients Wednesday night.

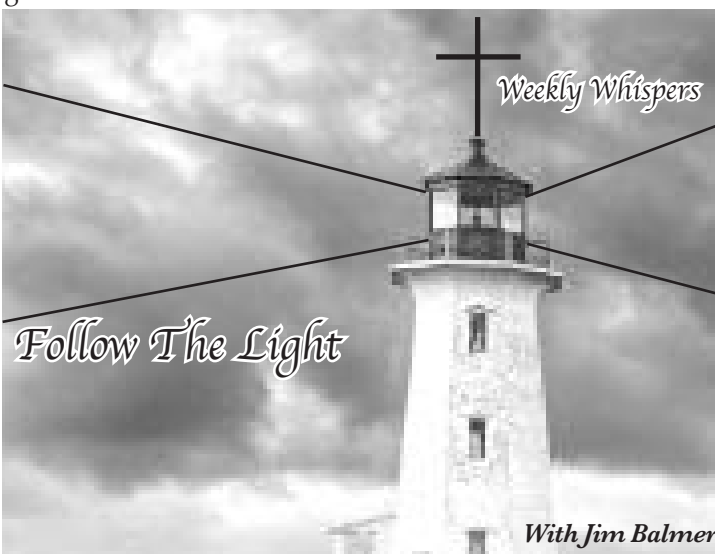
The Unit 7 School District has many who face economic

hardship and need a helping hand in feeding themselves and their families. If God has put it in your heart and you are looking for an opportunity to volunteer, we are open every Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Please keep our clients in your prayers.

Mike Williams
1 Peter 4:10 ESV

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:



Mark 4:35-41
New International Version
Jesus Calms the Storm
35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."

36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.

37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.

38 Jesus was in the stern,

Hook, Line and Sinker



With Tony Hooker

potpourri
/pɒpəˈriː/
noun

a mixture of dried petals and spices placed in a bowl or small sack to perfume clothing or a room.

a mixture of things, especially a musical or literary medley.

Track and Field

I couldn't think of a single theme to write about this week, so potpourri it is!

It's amazing to me how an athlete or two can cast the fate of a high school track team. Two young ladies were in on all of the scoring for Tuscola's state championship team over the weekend, joined only by two others on the state title winning 4x200m relay quartet. Congratulations to the Warriors, who have fielded a solid program for years.

Are the Cardinals just the kings of the mediocre?

It's way too early to draw conclusions, but my birdies haven't fared fantastically well against teams with winning records, so far. We're 2-5 against the Mets, 2-2 against the Brewers, and 4-3 against the Giants. Where we've made up ground is against the bad teams. We're 5-1 against the Pirates, 3-1 against the Royals and 2-1 against Cincin-

nati. Oddly enough, we've not done well against teams that are hovering just at or below .500, going 2-2 against Arizona and 1-2 against Baltimore. It will be interesting to see if the new callups, Liberatore, the pitcher, and Gorman, the second baseman, have much of an impact. Our offense has been decent, with our team batting average being ranked third in the league. We also rank first in stolen bases, which must warm the hearts of Cardinals fans who are old enough to remember the "Whitey ball" teams, managed by Whitey Herzog, who won a few pennants in the 80's. Our pitching has been decent, as well, ranking 6th in team ERA. We don't strike out a whole lot of hitters, ranking next to last in the league in that category, which is ok because our pitchers are making hitters put the ball in play and our defense ranks #1 in assists and #3 in fielding percentage.

Empty nest? Just kidding!

Here in Hookerville, we just got one kid moved out for a day before another one moved back in from college for the summer. We literally had 1 night as empty nesters before the princess arrived from Carbondale. At this

point, she's so self-sufficient that she doesn't really impact anything other than the food bill. And shower storage space. Somehow, this child thinks she needs 12 different types of hair care products, and they all have to be stored in the shower, apparently. I'm not too salty about it, however, because you never know what the future holds, but I feel like when we move her back to school in August she probably won't be returning in any permanent capacity again. It's the nature of things of course. Kids are born, they grow up and they lead their own lives. Today in church, I was struck by the fact that I distinctly remember the alter-girl being brought into church by her adoring parents, grandparents and great grandparents, soon after her birth. Now, she's moving on to high school. Like I said before, it's the nature of things. My dad once told me that days and weeks will go by slowly, but the years will fly by. I now know exactly what he meant. But enough of this philosophical stuff, I have to find out exactly what a 3 in 1 papaya hair mask is, and whether I need one.

Pastor Stahl's Weekly Message of Faith

Hello, Everyone!

The corn in back of our parsonage is beginning to grow! All of the rain in the past week has helped. A huge prayer of Blessing for all of our farmers! Farmers help each other. There always stories of a group of farmers helping out someone who has been sick

and couldn't get their combining done in the Fall. The other farmers in the community step up and help that farmer out with his harvest. Those stories are heartwarming and numerous! When we help bear one another's burdens, we are fulfilling the Law of Christ, to love one another. We never know when one of us might fall on hard times, and our neighbors and friends can help us out. Let us continue to pray for and love one another!

A man falls down a hole. He can't make it out on his own. His doctor comes walking by. "Hey, Doc, can you help me out of this hole?" The doctor replies, "No, I can't son, but here's a prescription for some pills. You will feel better." And the doctor walks on by. Then his minister walks by the hole. "Hey Reverend, can you help me out of this hole?" "No, son, I can't, but here is a prayer that will help." And the minister walks on by. Then the man's friend comes by. "Hey, Joe, can you help me out of this hole?" "Sure", his friend says, and jumps down the hole too. "Are you crazy? Now we're both stuck!" His

friend replies, "Yes, but I've been down this hole before. I know the way out. Let's climb out together." That is friendship! That is loving one another. That is bearing each other's burdens.

We worship a God Who Got His Hands dirty, Who climbed down in the hole with us and died for us. And His Resurrection is ours too. When Jesus Began His ministry, He quoted a passage from Isaiah:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, for the Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent Me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come." (Luke 4 and Isaiah 61:1,2)

Our Lord Loves us so much He Died for us, and was raised for us. He came to our rescue when we most needed it.

Thanks be to God!
God Bless all of you!
Pastor Jeff Stahl
Countryside and Ogden United Methodist Churches

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