



South Winds



News from South Ashland UMC

Anchored to the Rock

Relevant to the Times

Reaching to the Future!

December 2007

Lance Campbell
Sr. Pastor

Michael McAllister
Associate & Youth Minister

Maebelle Shepherd
Director of Children's Ministries

Bev Moore
Director of Worship & Nurture

Joyce Neill
Secretary

Becky Gehringer
Pianist

Eric Akers
Organist

Pat Crawford
Nursery Coordinator

Ministry Team Leaders:

Martha Rice
Worship Team

Jerry Mounce
Evangelism Team

Steve & Darlene Meyers
Outreach Team

Mark & Paulette Meenach
Discipleship Team

Don & Gloria Neikirk
Cheryl Spears
Fellowship Team

Ed Spears
Support Team

Cynde Elkins
Prayer Coordinator

Praise Team:

Clancy Hatfield
Rick Leake
Becky Gehringer
Bev Moore
Martha Rice
Kathy Hatfield
Jenny Johnson
Mary Lou Forman

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Leadership Notes

by Lance Campbell

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

-Matthew 2:1-2

The story of the Magi, or wise men as they are often called, who visited Jesus shortly after his birth is a mystery. A star led to their arrival, and a dream warned them to depart. No one knows their names, exactly where they came from, or how many there were. Neither astronomers nor historians can positively identify the star they followed. It is unclear exactly when they arrived in Bethlehem. These things, however, are not really important. The real story is not about the wise men—The meaning of the story is found in their men's three gifts.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that when they found the Christ child, *They opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh (Matthew 2:11)*. Each gift was costly. Though they were of great material worth, their real value was in their prophetic symbolism—they proclaim who and what the newly-born Jesus would be. The meaning of the gifts is perhaps best proclaimed in one of the great carols sung by the Church during the Christmas season, *We Three Kings*.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to rein. Gold was the treasure of kings. Jesus was born to be our king. *Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a Deity nigh, Pray'r and praising, all men raising Worship Him, God most high.* Frankincense was burned as part of the worship of God. Jesus is God, the second person of the Holy Trinity. *Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume, Breathes of life of gathering gloom, Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.* Myrrh, a spice used by the ancients in embalming, announced the coming sacrifice of the Child King.

The chorus proclaims, *O Star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to Thy perfect light.* My wish for you this Christmas season is that Jesus guides you to his perfect light.

"Come, follow me." Let's see where Jesus leads our church.
Christmas Blessings,

Lance

Honors and Memorials



Budget:

**In Love & Honor of Dot Ellington. Given by Lynda Cannon.

**In Love & Honor of Carl & Stella Pennington on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Given by Don & Gloria Neikirk.

**In Loving Memory of Margaret Cheap. Given by Don & Gloria Neikirk.

**In Loving Memory of Kathy Craig. Given by Dick & Trish Wheeler.

Costa Rica Farm:

**In Love & Honor of Ed & Cheryl Spears. Given by Steve & Darlene Meyers.

**In Love & Honor of Ed & Cheryl Spears. Given by Dot Ellington.

**In Loving Memory of Nita Nunley. Given by Ed & Cheryl Spears.

Children's Ministry:

**In Honor of our "Angels" who sign the Doxology every Sunday morning. Given by John & Jil McClanahan.

Choir Fund:

**In Honor of our church family members who have celebrated 50 years of marriage this year. Given by John & Jil McClanahan.

Deaths



Our most heartfelt sympathy is extended to:

- Ida Fugitt and family in the death of her sister, Alice Thompson.
- Kitty Kouns & family and Roberta Tipton & family in the death of their mother, Sarah Fraley.



Thank You

Dear Family at South Ashland United Methodist Church:

During this holiday week I wanted to let you know how very thankful the staff, clients and board of directors of Hillcrest-Bruce Mission are for your church and your faithful support. For your regular financial support, the children's Vacation Bible School offering, your wonderful gifts of food for the pantry and Thanksgiving baskets and for your prayers and support we could not be more grateful. You are true partners in ministry in every sense of the word and we appreciate all of you more than you know. May God richly bless your church during this holiday season.

In His Grip,
Cyndi Downing
Executive Director

Noel

A Musical Collection
of Christmas Moments

Created by *David T. Clydesdale* and *Deborah Craig-Claar*

Arranged and Orchestrated by

David T. Clydesdale

"Noel", created by David Clydesdale and Deborah Craig-Claar, will be presented by the Chancel Choir and orchestra at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. on December 9th in the Family Life Center. Please join us for this Christmas worship celebration!

Rejoice,
Bev

Costa Rica Mission Update

Preparations are in full swing for the 2008 Costa Rica mission trip. It appears that your team will have 18 members this year.

I spoke to Marion Woods on Thursday, November 15, which was his 89th birthday. It is hard to believe that he is still working tirelessly for our Lord at this age. When I called and teasingly wished him a happy 59th birthday he asked why I was ageing him and that he still felt like a teenager. What a marvelous thing to hear, because at his age he still has the stamina of a teenager in his love and work for our Lord.

He went on to tell me of being in Los Chiles this week and that he had the privilege of baptizing 27 people from a small Methodist church there. He also talked of the work going on at Pital, the church that will be our sister church starting next year. Many people are finding the Lord due to this church. I feel god has richly blessed our church and we are doing what he has directed us to do in Costa Rica.

Marion also thanked each and every one of you who has helped to support his ministry and to give you all a big hug and kiss.

Pease pray for the church there and the team as we travel and work in February. Each one of you is part of the team thru your prayers and financial support. I am not sure what our exact work we be next year, but I do know we will be the hands and feet of God doing his work.

In His Love and Service,
Eduardo Spears

South Ashland UMC Treasurer's Report October 2007

Current Month	Budget Items	Specials	Mortgage	Totals
Beginning Balance	\$ 60,409.50	\$44,600.48	\$ 0.00	\$105,009.98
Receipts	34,113.41	3,845.16	2,222.00	40,180.57
Disbursements	(41,924.70)	(4,897.64)	(2,222.00)	(49,044.34)
Transfer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Closing Balance	\$ 52,598.21	\$43,548.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 96,146.21
Year-to-Date				
Balance 12/31/06	\$ 89,070.02	\$56,047.80	\$ 0.00	\$145,117.82
Receipts	401,318.91	43,239.63	25,137.00	469,695.54
Disbursements	(436,429.82)	(56,039.43)	(25,137.00)	(519,606.25)
Transfer	639.10	300.00	0.00	939.10
Closing Balance	\$ 52,598.21	\$43,548.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 96,146

Children's

C O R N E R

Dear Church Family,

The month of December will be a busy one for the children as we learn what this season of Advent is all about. The children will learn that God kept his promise to send a Messiah who would save the people and bring new light into the world. We will celebrate and praise God for the birth of Jesus. Our Sunday morning classes will continue at 10am and we will have our Sunday evening classes except for Dec. 23rd because we will have the Christmas Eve service on Monday. On December 9th the children will be working with the youth to make polar fleece lap blankets and cookies that we will take to Woodland Oaks on December 16th also with the youth. We will also sing Christmas Carols to the residents that night. The Christmas party for the children will be on December 18th at 6pm during which we will celebrate Jesus birthday.

Starting December 2nd, we will start up our Children's Church program during the second service. If you would be available to lead and/or assist please give me a call at church or at home.

Here is our schedule for the month:

December 2 nd	Team KID 5pm-7pm
December 5 th	Children's Council Meeting 7pm
December 9 th	Team KID 5pm-7pm make and bake with the youth
December 16 th	Team KID 5pm-7pm take goodies to Woodland Oaks
December 23 rd	No evening program for children
December 24 th	Christmas Eve Service Puppet Show



Christmas Love,
Maebelle

Library News

Happy Thanksgiving one and all. By now, everyone has enjoyed the fellowship of being with family and friends across the Thanksgiving table and given thanks for all we have bounteously received from the Spirit. The holiday spirit has settled in and people are busy shopping for the Yule season that is soon upon us.

We have books and books in the Library on the Christmas season. Come and check them out. You will be amazed at how many books we do have on Christmas.... I always am. Books for children and books for teenagers as well as books for adults. This is a wonderful time of the year. When people actually try to practice peace on earth, good will to all men.

So in your shopping and hustling and bustling around take a moment to remember the reason for the season. I assure you there will be more depth in your celebration, more joy in your shopping, and more understanding in your giving, when you realize what the Father gave to us.

Have a wonderful, blessed time this Yule. Be Blessed. Be Happy. Be Grateful. And don't forget to visit us at the Library!!!

In The Christ Spirit,
Georgia