



South Winds



News from South Ashland UMC

Anchored to the Rock

Relevant to the Times

Reaching to the Future!

March 2008

Lance Campbell
Sr. Pastor

Michael McAllister
Associate & Youth Minister

Joe Elam
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 & Lou Moore
Evangelism Team

Steve & Darlene Meyers
Ministry Team

Mark & Paulette Meenach
Discipleship Team

Joy Daniel & Shelly Mounce
Hospitality Team

Candy Lett &
Jennifer Galloway
Children's Team

Cheryl Spears
Prayer Coordinator

Praise Team:

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

Church e-mail:
office@southashland.com

Leadership Notes

by Lance Campbell

"As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus."

-Luke 23:26

If I were to ask you to name a famous street, what names might come to mind? Madison Avenue, perhaps, or maybe Wall Street, or Sunset Boulevard. These are names we hear all the time, and because of our familiarity with the names we have mental images of what we think these streets should look like. At least once a year someone will tell me they are going to visit Los Angeles, my hometown, and they want to know how to get to Hollywood Boulevard. I've stopped asking why because the answer is usually the same: They think that is where they will see movie stars and be able to experience Hollywood at its glamorous best. What they find is usually something quite different. Instead of movie stars they find street people; instead of glamour they find seediness.

What is the most famous street in the Bible? My candidate would be the Via Dolorosa, or the "Way of Suffering," a street in the old city of Jerusalem. Although not actually named in the Bible, the Via Dolorosa marks the path that Jesus followed on the way to his crucifixion on Good Friday. I was blessed with the opportunity to have walked the Via Dolorosa. Before setting out on the journey I had visions of what it would look like—quaint streets, sympathetic onlookers, maybe a donkey or two—just as I pictured it was like when Jesus walked it. But to my astonishment, not unlike Hollywood Boulevard, the reality was far different. The reality was a litter filled, crowded street populated by a river of tourists, peddlers, beggars, soldiers and pick pockets. I thought how things had changed in two thousand year. But, had they? Not really.

What is the point? Jesus didn't live in a quaint, almost mythical world we all too often picture him in. He lived in the real world, the same real world we live in. During this season of Lent he bids us to follow in his footsteps. Yes, there will be challenges, like Jesus experienced during Holy Week. But there will also be the ultimate joy of victory on Easter morning.

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

Blessings,
Lance

Honors and Memorials



Building Campaign:

- In Loving Memory of Ruth Rayburn.
Given by Rannie & Charlene Cooper.

Costa Rica Farm:

- In Love & Appreciation of the Circle of Love.
Given by George & Faye Lenning.
- In Loving Memory of George & Thelma Steele.
Given by Harry & Phyllis Wurts.

Worship:

- In Love & Honor of Martha Rice for the love and dedication she gives to God's Kingdom. Given by Don & Gloria Neikirk.



Thank You

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Thank you for everything you did for me and my family during Ruth's illness and passing. The prayers, cards, calls, the visits by Lance, and the wonderful meal after the funeral were very much appreciated. I am blessed to be a part of this caring and loving church family.

Walter Rayburn

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Many thanks for your prayers, phone calls, cards and visits during my stay in the hospital. I give God the glory, honor and praise for His healing power!

Sonnie Blanton

Prayer

Mark 11:17... "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations".....

Please stop by the newly redecorated Prayer Room located beside the Choir Room on the 2nd floor. To Marge and Cynde who prayed for years to secure this room, then for their original decorating it, we owe a debt of gratitude. We know you give God the praise and glory.

The Harvest Class must share this space for now so you will see two sections within one room. All of the redecorating was designed and accomplished by Rannie, Charlene, Rudy and Charlotte. Thank you for your time, expertise, and genuine love of prayer taught to us by our Father through Jesus the Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. A special thanks to Bill Shanks for making a beautiful cross for the room.

The lights are to be left burning at all times to invite all to come and pray with reverence because He is our Holy King. But also pray with bold assurance because He is our friend and counselor.

Love in Christ,
Cheryl Spears

You are cordially invited
to a
Bridal Shower

In Honor of

Ashley Fields & Andy Fairchild

Friday, March 21, 2008
7:00 P.M.
Family Life Center

(Registered at Wal-Mart)

Missions

Did you notice the special offering envelope in this month's Southwinds?

During the months of Easter and Christmas you will see an envelope marked special offering in the Southwinds. All monies collected from these two special offerings go to Missions. The Missions committee will meet to distribute the money to the different agencies that are in need. Please give generously.

If you misplace your special envelope, please feel free to use your offering envelope and mark other as Missions.

In His service,

Steve and Darlene Meyers

Deaths



- Walter Rayburn and family in the death of his wife, Ruth Rayburn.
- Bert & Lois Baker and family in the death of his brother, Bill Baker.

Music Notes



The choir is hard at work on the Easter Cantata, "Love's Journey to Calvary," by Jay Rouse and Randy Vader. We will be presenting it with a live orchestra on Palm Sunday. Please join us for this special worship service.

During Holy Week, there will be a Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m. The Joyous Sounds handbell choir will play. Make this a step in your Lenten journey.

Happy Trails,
Bev

Under the Fig Tree *Lou Moore*

"May God bless you with his special favor and wonderful peace as you come to know Jesus, our God and Lord, better and better. As we know Jesus better, his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness! And by that same mighty power, he has given us all of his rich and wonderful promises. He has promised that you will escape the decadence all around you caused by evil desires and that you will share in his divine nature.

So make every effort to apply the benefits of these promises to your life. Then your faith will produce a life of moral excellence. A life of moral excellence leads to knowing God better. Knowing God leads to self-control. Self-control leads to brotherly love for other Christians, and finally you will grow to have genuine love for everyone. The more you grow like this, the more you will become productive and useful in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus."

2 Peter 1:2-8

Some key words in this passage are glory, goodness and divine nature. The Greek word for "glory" can be translated into "essential nature." So Peter is writing to assure us of the promise that we are called to receive God's "essential nature" and goodness. Peter goes on to describe the steps that take us from seeking God's goodness to profoundly understanding it and growing to have genuine love for everyone. This passage is a road map for Christians who are maturing in the Holy Spirit.

South Ashland UMC Treasurer's Report January 2008

Current Month	Budget Items	Specials	Mortgage	Totals
Beginning Balance	\$ 53,867.95	\$87,838.99	\$ 0.00	\$141,706.94
Receipts	35,190.46	4,636.32	1,744.00	41,570.78
Disbursements	(46,334.89)	(23,431.85)	(1,744.00)	(71,510.74)
Transfer	0.00	(1,965.41)	0.00	(1,965.41)
Closing Balance	\$ 42,723.52	\$67,078.05	\$ 0.00	\$109,801.57
Year-to-Date				
Balance 12/31/06	\$ 53,867.95	\$87,838.99	\$ 0.00	\$141,706.94
Receipts	35,190.46	4,636.32	1,744.00	41,570.78
Disbursements	(46,334.89)	(23,431.85)	(1,744.00)	(71,510.74)
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Library News

Here it is the end of February already! How did everyone's Valentine's Day go??? My birthday happens to fall just before Valentine's Day so I am caught in flux. Generally speaking, my birthday gifts are also my Valentine's Day gifts as well. We are looking forward to the beginning of Spring now and that means Easter will soon be upon us. Easter is early this year, coming in March instead of April. I know how much we are all looking forward to the cessation of winter and the bitter cold. I know I am.

For your reading pleasure we have books in the Library that speak to the heart of Spring, both for children and for the adults in our congregation. I will have them displayed so that you can easily find them. Spring is a beautiful time of the year. All of nature seems to revel to the return of the light after the long darkness of winter. A truly glorious season. Let us delight in it as well.

Wishing you a blessed Spring and a truly wondrous Easter.

Georgia

Pathfinders Spiritual Retreat

"Abide in Me" is the theme of The Pathfinders Class retreat at Carter Caves, March 7- 9. Michael, our Associate Pastor, will be leading the sessions as we study in the book of John. Our mission during this season of Lent is not only to enjoy fellowship with each other, but also to help us look inward as we continue our spiritual growth and walk with God. We would appreciate your prayers during this time.



Costa Rica Mission Update

This month it is hard to start this article for some reason. I am still on a high from the trip and emotionally drained. The trips are such a blessing to all involved. This year's team had twenty-four members. We had six brothers and sisters from Maryland, a wonderful gentleman from California, two ladies from Louisville, one lady from South Carolina and fourteen from our church. We came from coast to coast to do God's work in Costa Rica.



We had perfect weather this year, which has not been the case in some prior years. Your team worshipped and worked at our sister church in Pital. Pital is an agricultural area about 30 miles from the farm. Wilbur, the minister there, told me how our sister church relationship had revitalized their congregation and was allowing them to reach out to poorer regions personally and through the church's radio ministry.

We went to church one evening at one of these poor regions, Gara Bito, and discovered there was no church, only a roofed open-air pavilion. Although poor indeed, God's love and Holy Spirit were very strong. We received an additional blessing by seeing four children give their lives to our Lord.

Your team held VBS in Pital and Gara Bito along with a ladies sewing ministry at these two locations. There were approximately 110 children attending the four days of VBS. Our major construction project was the removing and replacing of the roof and walls from the educational building in Pital. It was a major undertaking but we accomplished it. We also did some roof painting, ditch digging and plumbing work.

It was such a pleasure to have three of our youth on this trip; they worked very hard and were a blessing to all. Michael led us in an Ash Wednesday service which was very special and touching.

This was my 14th trip and I see how God has blessed and continues to bless our church by this wonderful ministry. Marion and Mary Woods ask me to thank each of you for your prayers and support for their ministry. This work changes lives and brings people into a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior.

Please keep mission in your prayers and remember you can make a financial gift to either the Farm or Pital account all year long.



We will start planning the 2009 trip soon. Please pray and see if God is leading you to be a part of this team. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of leading these trips, it is such a blessing. Costa Rica recharges me, why don't you come along and see what it will do for you.

In His Love and Service,

Eduardo Spears

Children's

C O R N E R

Thank you for the privilege of serving the children of our church. I know many important answers to the vital questions regarding Children's Ministries. I'll share my discoveries with you. I know where the van keys are. I know how to use our phone to make and receive calls. I know how to access the computer to write my newsletter article. Impressed??? I'll keep you updated as to my discoveries. I've also discovered children who are seriously interested in learning the Bible. I've had the joy of sharing in the happiness children have expressed over receiving their very own, personal Bible from the church. But...not all the children are excited about Jesus and His Church. Where do you stand in your walk with Christ? I find that I am closer to the Lord in my attitudes and conduct when I am serving others. The truth of the matter is, I'm closer to the Lord now than when I started working with the children. I'm talking about before you selected me to be on staff. Last Fall (2007), I responded to a plea for helping with the children's program on Sunday evening. I can remember on several occasions being reluctant to continue my Sunday evening commitment. I can remember my surprise when after focusing on the children and the program that I found myself benefiting with an improved outlook and purpose.

I invite you to experience the same, wonderful process. Volunteer for coming along side the rest of us in Children's Ministries. **I am not alone in the ministry our church has with our children. We have dedicated volunteers.** Ask your Commander-in-Chief, Jesus Christ, if He wants you in Children's Ministries. We will have a place for you if He puts it in your heart to serve. You and the Lord may have a specific service in mind. Let us know. If not, then I have **some areas for you to consider.** I'll list the jobs in which we need volunteers:

**Prayer Personnel,
Van Drivers,
Phone Callers,
Chaperones (for the van and events),
Team Teachers.**

I have a challenge for our current volunteers. I challenge each of you to bring one volunteer into the Children's Ministries in the month of March. If we accept my challenge, we will have a wonderful experience to share with the children and those who serve will be transformed in their outlook and energy for life. Following my challenge for March are **three dates to remember : April 12, Sat.,10 AM-Noon; April 23-25, & May 3, Sat.,10 AM-Noon.** On **April 12** at the church we will be together for **education & planning.** **April 23-25, Kerri & I** will be at a **children's conference** near **Chicago.** **May 3** we will provide a **recap** at the church **of the children's conference** and share the **highpoints of the seminars** we attended **so all children's workers can benefit from the conference.**

COME...GROW with CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Sincerely,
Joe Elam