



South Winds



News from South Ashland UMC

Anchored to the Rock

Relevant to the Times

Reaching to the Future!

December 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
Evangelism Team

Steve & Darlene Meyers
Outreach Team

Mark & Paulette Meenach
Discipleship Team

Joy Daniel
Shelly Mounce
Fellowship Team

Ed Spears
Support Team

Cynde Elkins
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

*"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son."
-Luke 2:4-6*

It was early December 1986 and I wasn't a happy camper. I was stationed in Holland in those days and hadn't been back home to the United States in over two years. I was looking forward to going back to see family and friends during the Christmas season. The Army, however, had other ideas—there would be no going home that year. Was I disappointed? Sure I was, but I wasn't the first to be disappointed at not being home for Christmas. I believe that distinction belongs to Mary and Joseph.

Nazareth was home for Mary and Joseph. If ever there was a time when you wanted to be home it was when you were pregnant and only days away from giving birth. But, once again, the government had other ideas. Caesar Augustus decreed that everyone in the empire had to travel to their tribal home for a census. In Mary and Joseph's case, that meant a 75-mile trek to Bethlehem where the Christ child was born. Were they still disappointed they weren't home in Nazareth? I don't think so. They would have missed the angels singing, the shepherds worshipping and the wise men's gifts. After all, it didn't really matter where they were; it was Christmas because Jesus was there.

As for me, I wasn't disappointed anymore either by the time Christmas morning dawned over the Dutch landscape in 1986. Like Mary and Joseph, I got to experience the sights and sounds of Christmas in a different kind of place, things I still think about whenever Christmas rolls around. But it was still Christmas because Jesus was there.

My prayer for you is that, whether you are home or far away, you, too, may experience the presence of Jesus Christ this Christmas season.

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

Christmas Blessings,

Lance



Honors and Memorials

Budget:

**In Loving Memory of Velma Bryan. Given by Carl & Stella Pennington.

Building Campaign:

- **Merry Christmas" to Ed & Cheryl Spears from Aunt Dottie.
- **In Love & Honor of Betty Lou Brown. Given by Helen Simmons.
- **In Love & Honor of John & Lynda Cannon. Given by Helen Simmons.
- **In Love & Honor of Skippy Simmerman. Given by Helen Simmons.
- **In Love & Honor of Dot Ellington. Given by Helen Simmons.
- **In Loving Memory of Nita Nunley. Given by Ed & Cheryl Spears.
- **In Loving Memory of Ann Spears. Given by Ed & Cheryl Spears.
- **In Loving Memory of Meanie Tackett. Given by Skippy Simmerman.
- **In Loving Memory of Marjorie Francis. Given by Skippy Simmerman.
- **In Loving Memory of Velma Bryan. Given by Skippy Simmerman.

Costa Rica Farm:

- **In Love & Honor of Ed & Cheryl Spears. Given by Steve & Darlene Meyers.
- **In Love & Honor Rannie & Charlene Cooper. Given by Ed & Cheryl Spears.

Joyous Sounds:

**In Loving Memory of Ella Mae Skaggs. Given by John & Jil McClanahan.

Missions:

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

Pital Church in Costa Rica:

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



Thank You

Friends of Hospice and Community Hospice want to thank the church for allowing us to use your facilities for our recent rummage sale. It was very convenient and with ample parking and easy access in and out of the building.

Thanks again,
Evelyn Crawford, President
Friends of Hospice

Deaths

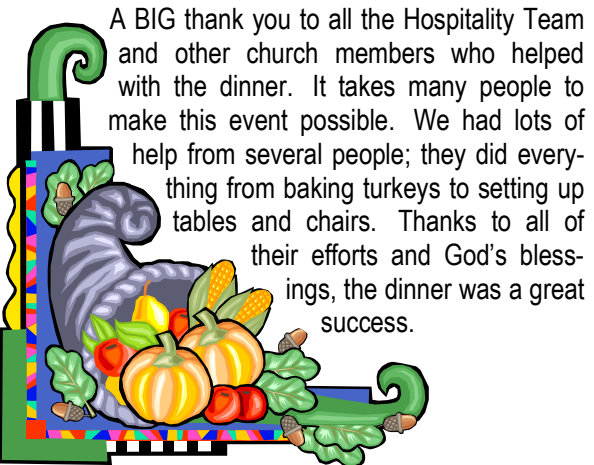


Our most heartfelt sympathy is extended to:

- Joe & Carla Skaggs and family in the death of his mother, Ella Mae Skaggs.
- The family and friends of Velma Bryan.
- The family and friends of Frances Berry.

Thanksgiving Dinner

God truly blessed our Thanksgiving Dinner this year. We all enjoyed wonderful food, fellowship and music. Even with the chilly weather attendance was up to approximately 210.



A BIG thank you to all the Hospitality Team and other church members who helped with the dinner. It takes many people to make this event possible. We had lots of help from several people; they did everything from baking turkeys to setting up tables and chairs. Thanks to all of their efforts and God's blessings, the dinner was a great success.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

THE CHANCEL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

“THE WORD BECAME FLESH”
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008
9:00 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

CREATED BY DAN & HEIDI GOELLER
ARRANGED & ORCHESTRATED BY DAN GOELLER

Costa Rica Mission Update

Merry Christmas! It seems odd to be saying this when I have not even had my Thanksgiving turkey yet. Only 74 more days left until the 2009 mission team departs. Your team will leave Columbus, Ohio at 7:00 a.m. on January 31, 2009 for our flight down to Costa Rica. The excitement of the team and myself grows greater each and every day.

I spoke with Marion a few days ago to wish him a happy 90th birthday. He said it was a great birthday since seven people found our Lord the night before through the church in Pital. God is doing great and wonderful things in Costa Rica, drawing people to him in amazing ways. I know how blessed our church is for helping to support our Lord's work there. He asked that I relay a message to each of you. He wants you all to know how thankful he is for your prayers and support and he asked God's blessing and peace on each and every one of you.

It still appears that we will be working at the center, in Pital, and Los Chiles. The team will also be conducting VBS in at least three locations. All of this would not be possible without your support and prayers. As I mentioned last month, we have two youth who are part of the team and need financial assistance. At this point we have \$950.00 of the \$1800.00 we need. Will you please consider giving to help these two young people? I know you will be blessed richly for this.

If you want to give a special Christmas gift I know of no better gift than to give money in honor / memory of someone to the Costa Rica Farm or to our sister church in Pital through the Pital church account. Who needs another shirt or blouse when you can give something that our Lord will bless and use for His Kingdom—just something to pray and think about.

Now a little Spanish to close with.

Oro para Dios Bendiciones en usted y en su familia durante las navidades.

En Su Amor y Atiende a
Eduardo

PS: Translation from Spanish. I pray for God's Blessing on you and your family during the Christmas season.

Children's

Chronicle

DECEMBER IS THE MONTH FOR.....

Yes, that's right, it's Jesus' birthday!!! And then, one week after that is New Year's Day. My first year as Director of Children's Ministries is drawing to a close. It's been fantastic learning experience with Children's Ministries moving forward. The best part is ... there are great opportunities for the future for introducing children and their families to Christ and His Church. That's you and me in all our glorious imperfections. Just remember Christ chose us to represent Him and He already knew about all our imperfections. If you want to see how God can use people with imperfections, then read the Bible. Some of the great people of faith ...well...you do the reading and come up with your own conclusions.

I thank my mother for this wonderful year in serving our children. She is the one who taught me to read the Bible and to come to my own conclusions. This year was dedicated to her. She loved children and patiently taught them Bible stories and songs as her ministry to Jesus and His Church. They loved and adored her, as do I. I miss you, Mom, and I'll do my best to uphold your example of Jesus' love for children. I lovingly acknowledge your memory: Caralyn "Pat" Shoemaker Elam, September 12, 1931 to December 22, 2007.

Remember, *each week* we have *at least three events* for the children to enjoy and learn more about Christ and His Church. The events are: *Sunday School (10:00 AM.) & Children's Church (11:15 AM.) on Sunday morning, and Sunday evening (5:00PM.)*. Wednesday evening programs will begin after the holidays. The children will have **two special events** for Christmas. On **Dec. 23rd, Tues.** from **2:00 to 5:00 PM.** at the FLC will be their Christmas party. On **Dec. 24th, Wed., Christmas Eve**, at the **6:00 PM. service**, the Children's Choir whose name is "**Voices of Praise**" and the **puppets** will perform. The name, "Voices of Praise", was selected by the children in the choir. They were given the opportunity by Sharon Shortridge, accompanist, and Carol Barnhorst, director. Come and fellowship together so that we will grow and strengthen in our faith.

Sincerely,
Joe Elam, Director
606-324-6961 CHURCH
606-571-5172 CELL
606-324-6379 HOME



South Ashland UMC Treasurer's Report September 2008

Current Month	Budget Items	Specials	Mortgage	Totals
Beginning Balance	\$ 9,435.75	\$ 46,684.30	\$ 114.69	\$ 56,234.74
Receipts	35,103.10	19,498.79	1,047.00	55,648.89
Disbursements	(40,622.50)	(32,711.03)	(1,161.69)	(74,495.22)
Transfer	2,125.00	0.00	0.00	2,125.00
Closing Balance	\$ 6,041.35	\$ 33,472.06	\$ 0.00	\$ 39,513.41
Year-to-Date				
Balance 12/31/07	\$ 53,867.95	\$87,838.99	\$ 0.00	\$141,706.94
Receipts	385,672.48	188,126.20	17,854.00	591,652.68
Disbursements	(436,087.45)	(153,427.47)	(17,854.00)	(607,652.68)
Transfer	2,588.37	(89,065.66)	0.00	(86,477.29)
Closing Balance	\$ 6,041.35	\$ 33,472.06	\$ 0.00	\$ 39,513.41