



# Southern Heights

s-heights.org

Southern Heights Christian Reformed Church - February 2010; Vol. LXX, No. 2

## John 14:16-17 (NIV)

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

## From Pastor Dan

As I've been preparing messages on the Holy Spirit, reading scripture, thinking, praying, studying, I've also been asking, What is the Holy Spirit saying to me? To our church? This has been a good exercise.

Without claiming divine inspiration but with a sincere desire to be receptive and responsive to the Holy Spirit, I offer some observations and nudges that I believe God has given me:

Southern Heights is on the right track emphasizing the need for every person to cultivate a daily walk with God. Stick with this. Dan, lead by example.

The financial good news at the end of 2009 is a confirming sign from God that our "Getting Connected" theme is the right one, and that our generosity to help meet the needs of the poor (things like the Haiti Rock-a-thon) is pleasing to our Father in Heaven.

It is good and important to focus on the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit, and it would be wise and helpful to make this a year long theme for 2010-11.

Keep on developing the ministry of the eGroups (small groups that develop the 5 E's of discipleship).

Build leadership into the church wherever you can.

Meeting the needs of the spiritually poor (those who do not know Jesus) is very important. People need the Lord. When you seek Me first, many good things happen. When you seek something else first, those good things may not happen. Stick with the focus I have given you, and don't waver from it.

Teach and call my people to resolve relational "crud" in a God-honoring, biblical way, and to do this faithfully and relentlessly. Anything less harms the work of my kingdom.

These may not sound like amazing insights or messages, but to me they are important.

Jesus founded the church to be his way to reach the world and to bring hope to this dark world. Romans 5:2 says that we "rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." We are part of that church; Southern Heights is part of that church. We are those who bring God's hope to this world.

I believe that.

**Do You Have the "Right Stuff"?**

Sue Kopta

Are you friendly?

Can you welcome everyone to church Sunday morning with a smile?

Can you pass out bulletins?

Can you help newcomers and latecomers find seating?

Can you help escort the elderly to seats if needed?

Can you be at church 30 minutes before the Sunday service begins?

If so, do we have a ministry for YOU! The Usher Team is looking for "A Few Good Men" AND Women. High school, junior high and middle school students are also welcome to sign up (with parents approval). If you are interested or want more information, please contact Sue Kopta at (269) 501-0140, or (269) 501-1237 after 4:00pm; e-mail koptausa@yahoo.com; or place a note in our mail box at church.



**From the Elders' Desk**

Kris Garlick

Are we Getting Connected with Jesus, the True Vine? Let's look at what has been happening recently at Southern Heights. We ended the year with an awesome children's Christmas program; I am still amazed at the number of children in our programs and the excitement that is generated each week when the kids get released from the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Tami, Margo and all of the volunteers are doing an excellent job of getting the kids connected with Jesus.

At our last Elder meeting Jeff Baas shared that the tithing for 2009 has exceeded our

General Fund budget! And our staff, by watching their expenses, came under their budgets. This allowed us to finish on a very good note – we finished \$36,300 ahead of plan. Are we getting connected?

When planning the 2010 budget we were able to increase our Ministry Share by 20%, without cutting back in other areas. Are we getting connected?

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, our SMASH group held a Rock-a-thon for people in Haiti. Due to the disaster there, our SMASH group quickly showed God's love by their actions. They raised over \$4500 rocking from 1:00 – 10:00. For their hard work, they were on Channel 3 News and in the Kalamazoo Gazette where they had a chance to tell their story to others. Are we getting connected with Jesus?

Last month some of the Elders had the opportunity to talk to Kayleen Grand, Kevin Cooper, Bekah Jones and Nancy Frost. Each shared how the Holy Spirit is working in their lives. Now each will share this with the congregation with a profession of faith and/or being introduced as a new member to Southern Heights. Are we getting connected?

Our eGroups are growing and active both in and outside of the church; serving others by reaching out to assist at the Rickman House and where there are other local needs. Supporting and lifting up others in the name of Jesus. Are we getting connected?

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, many of the Elders, Deacons, Staff Members and Leaders at Southern Heights spent the morning reviewing our Five-Year Goal. Some of the topics and conversations that were discussed were "Our Daily Walk with God" and the personalized devotional booklets. Overwhelmingly we all agreed the consistency and the planning has been excellent. We feel the Holy Spirit working among us. There are signs everywhere we turn. God sightings. Have you seen any? Do you feel connected with Jesus?

If you're not getting connected, I would challenge you to talk to Pastor Dan, your Elder, or Deacon. Attend one of the Adult classes. If you're not already in one, join a small group. Read the daily devotional booklet we print and pray. Talk to God.

If you are Getting Connected with Jesus and you feel the excitement of the Holy Spirit, share it with others. Do a testimony. Invite a friend, relative or co-worker to join you at Southern Heights and share in the Connection with them.

The Lord has been good to Southern Heights and will continue to bless us in many ways. Rejoice in His Name and praise Him for all of His blessings.



**Deacons' Corner**

We would like to invite you to a special event at Southern Heights to raise funds for Tyler Start's medical expenses. If you are a member or regular attendee at Southern Heights, you are well aware of all the medical issues Tyler has experienced over the last year. He has spent almost 2 of the past 8 months in a Chicago hospital and has undergone five surgeries in that time. Jason and Sheryl are cautiously optimistic that Tyler is on the road to health, but they are left with some fairly large medical bills.

Nick, the owner of Roma's Pizza on Drake Road, has offered to help us with a pasta dinner to be held at our church on **Tuesday, February 23 from 5 to 8 p.m.** We will also have a silent auction for items from local businesses including a DVD player; as well as a coloring contest for the kids. If you have an item you would like to donate for the silent auction, please contact your deacon. More details to follow in the next couple of weeks.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a wonderful evening of good food and fellowship. A free-will donation

will be taken to be used toward Tyler's medical expenses.

Also, the Deacons are planning to put together small "care packages" to send to our college students who are away from home. Watch for more details in the next couple of weeks for how you can help with this special project.



**Ministry Shares**  
Krum Kromminga

One of the line items in Southern Heights' church budget every year is "Ministry Shares." It is critical that we all understand what these are. As we, members of the Southern Heights congregation, contribute our "First Fruits" to the church, we are contributing toward our Ministry Shares.

Ministry Shares go toward the collective ministries of the Christian Reformed denomination and the majority of these ministries are outreach-oriented. This method of supporting such ministries is the envy of many other denominations and results in a relatively small denomination doing big things. It is simply an outstanding way for all of us to be involved in reaching others for Christ.

Our "fair share" is based upon a certain amount on behalf of each active adult member. Unfortunately, in recent years Southern Heights has not been able to budget for our "fair share" and the \$16,861.50 in our 2010 budget also is not our "fair share." Perhaps if each of us could contribute a little bit more than the First Fruits promises we made, we could do better than budget.

It is my humble opinion that a congregation as old as we are should be able to contribute our fair share and I am praying that we can get back to doing so in the near future.

## Honduras – 2010

### Denny Boersema

Denny and Howard found things a bit different than on previous trips to Honduras.

First of all, the weather and temperature were very comfortable. Instead of the usual temps of 85 to 95 and high humidity we experienced temps in the upper 60's and low 70's. The humidity was still fairly high and there were frequent rain showers, but we managed to handle these with no problems.

Secondly, there were many other volunteers there. A group of 8 doctors, nurses, and other assistants came midway through our stay. They did a week of medical clinics both in Seis de Mayo and in the bush area at El Sauce. Together they saw about 200 patients per day. In addition, there was another group of 8 people who worked along with the medical team while they were there and did another week of general volunteer tasks. All these people were from one of the Kuney's supporting churches in Tulsa.

Thirdly, the annual shipping container from the States had just arrived, so there were large items, small items, and in-between items piled everywhere there was a bit of space. Included on the container were 800 Christmas gifts for the children of Seis de Mayo and El Sauce! These also came from the churches of Tulsa. It was amazing to see a huge crowd of people lined up at the mission center for the gifts just 20 minutes after Gary told one of the local boys to spread the word that "the gifts are being distributed today." A similar event took place at El Sauce in connection with one of the medical clinics held there. During our time there the piles of container items gradually disappeared or got moved elsewhere.

No, we didn't all stay at the mission center. Most of us were put up at a hotel

in Puerto Cortez, about 20 minutes away. The rooms were small, but the food and fellowship at breakfast were good and fantastic respectively.

Our time in Seis de Mayo was focused on water, electricity, and walls. We cleaned up the existing water system, re-plumbed as necessary, and installed a chlorine injection system to provide safe water to the building. When our water work was completed, the Kuney's were able to drink water directly from the faucet for the first time in their 10+ years in Honduras. Also the water dispenser and ice-maker on their refrigerator became usable for the first time.

Electrical outages in Honduras are common – at least once a week – so another project was to take the portable generator which was already there and tie it directly into their main electrical panel. Now they can continue to have lights, water, refrigeration, and hot meals even when the power is out. As much as they might like AC at those times, we advised them to use some restraint and just sweat a little.

We also built a dividing wall in the large first-floor room to separate the computer lab from the medical waiting room. We put up studs, hung and taped the drywall, and finally painted the new wall. You interior decorators would be proud of the way we used paint left over from other rooms to create an accent wall.

Gary and Denny also met one day with Luis Paz, the owner/developer of the area where the ministry center sets. Luis belongs to the Evangelical Reformed Church in San Pedro. He is extremely desirous of establishing a church of the Reformed faith in the new village. His own church has no desire to assist him in this endeavor, but there are several area Christian Reformed churches that (in the words of the CR director in Honduras) "are excited about evangelism and church planting." Possibly we can be the catalyst in matching an indigenous CR

pastor with a new church next door to the ministry center. The Kuneys have been desperately and hopefully praying for years for a local pastor to come along side their ministry and follow up on the Christian teachings that come with each of their skills classes.

An exciting and unexpected event while we were there was experiencing an earthquake on Monday afternoon, a day before the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Ours was only a 4.3 shaking compared to the 7.0 in Haiti, but it was still quite a site to see all the power lines swaying back and forth due to the movement of the power poles.

Once again we had a great time in Honduras. It was nice to greet local friends we knew from previous trips. It was gratifying to be able to accomplish the goals we had set for ourselves and to know the Kuneys and the ministry would benefit from what we did. It was fantastic to watch the ministry in action and see how the Lord is using and blessing the ministry.



### Women's Ministry

Kathy Meert

We are still working our way through the book of Esther, meeting weekly for DVD lessons from Beth Moore and small group sessions which enable us to dig into the Word of God and pray for each other. We have learned in the study of Esther about God's providence for His beloved Jewish nation. Esther is a book dear to the Jew and commonly called the *Megillah*. Every word is read aloud in synagogues during Purim. Our journey is taking us through the whole Megillah, one chapter at a time until we finish all 10 by the last week in February.

Upcoming Events include:

2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off - Sunday, March 7th

New Bible study on the Fruit of the Spirit running from March through April 21st.

Womens Weekend Retreat - April 23-24th for ALL Southern Heights women!

Beth Moore live at VanAndel Arena - May 21-22nd.

Ladies of Southern Heights...please consider joining us for any or all of the events scheduled through May 2010. If you have any questions contact Carynn Lara, Merrilee Sarkipato or Kathy Meert.



### The Family of Southern Heights Tami Koning

On January 9, 2010, Pastor Dan officiated at the ceremony uniting **Nate Jager** and Rachel DenBoer in marriage. Nate and Rachel just bought their first home in Grand Rapids and are settling in. Nate is a social worker serving adults with disabilities. Rachel is a nurse in the Neonatal unit at Spectrum Health. Congratulations Nate and Rachel!

January 11, 2010, was a big day for the **Smith family!** Matt, Jessica and Malachi welcomed Ezekiel Alexander and Zechariah Samuel into their family. Ezekiel arrived at 9:28 pm weighing 6 pounds 1 ounce and was 19 ½ inches and Zechariah followed shortly after at 10:03 pm at 5 pounds 11 ounces and 19 inches. Malachi is adjusting to his role as 'big brother' and Matt and Jessica are getting used to little sleep! Welcome Ezekiel and Zechariah!

**Nancy Frost** was officially welcomed to the SH family on January 31, 2010. Nancy is a para-professional in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Paramount Charter Academy. She enjoys sewing, quilting, cross-stitching,

scrap-booking, traveling, gardening and just about anything outdoors. Her husband Ian is the head chef at the Beacon Club and her son Eric will be attending culinary school next year. Nancy is fondly known at "the candy lady" as she has a basket of candy on the weeks she is greeter. Nancy is "thrilled that I can finally say Southern Heights is my church -- now it's official"! Welcome Nancy!

January 31, 2010, had us officially welcoming **Kayleen Grand** to Southern Heights! Kayleen married long-time member Kevin Grand last summer and has quickly become a part of the SH family. Kayleen is a high school teacher at the Portage Public Schools. She grew up in Mendon and is part of a large family which she and Kevin cherish spending time with! They enjoy road trips with favorite locations being Minnesota and the Leland area. Welcome Kayleen!

#### OFFICE NEWS:

Thank you for the warm welcome as the new Administrative Assistant! I am enjoying learning my new role and appreciate all the kind words and encouragement. I am in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. I will do the bulletin on Friday mornings, so please get announcements into my 'in-box' by Friday morning. Thanks and let me know how I can serve you!



### New in the Library

Ann McLain

#### Kids' DVDs

#### The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything – Veggie Tales

Elliot, Sedgewick, and George, cabin boys at the pirate dinner theatre, are sent back in time for a real pirate adventure. Prince Alexander has been kidnapped by his evil

uncle, Robert, and Alexander's sister, Princess Eloise, uses her father's invention, a Help Seeker, to summon help in the form of Elliot, Sedgewick, and George. Can the three reluctant heroes save Prince Alexander?

#### Adult DVDs

#### Love Takes Wing – based on the book by Janette Oke

Following the death of her husband, Dr. Belinda Simpson moves her medical practice to a small Missouri town. She arrives in town to find a menacing plague that is spreading fear among the town's citizens as they believe that the local orphanage is the source of the illness. With the help of her doctor friend, Annie, and the local blacksmith, Lee Owens, Belinda must find the source of the illness before the town's citizens shut down the orphanage and run the children out of town.

#### Love Finds a Home – based on the book by Janette Oke

Dr. Belinda Owens' best friend, Dr. Annie Nelson, arrives in town to spend the last days of her pregnancy under the care of Dr. Owens. Unable to wait for the baby's arrival, Annie's mother-in-law, Mary, shows up unexpectedly at Dr. Owens' home. Trained as a midwife, Mary is quick to offer Annie advice and criticize Dr. Owens' ideas. As the time of the baby's birth nears, Dr. Owens must also deal with her inability to conceive.

#### Adult Fiction

#### Though Waters Roar by Lynn Austin

"As I said before, Grandma Bebe never did tell a story in a straight line like the chapters in a book. Following the thread of her sagas was like chasing a startled rabbit through the woods -- you never knew when it was going to turn and head in a new direction." This is how Harriet begins her story as she sits in a jail cell, incarcerated for transporting liquor during Prohibition. Prior conversations with her mother and grandmother weave through

the story line as she recounts the struggles and faith issues of the women in her family as they fight for the social issues of the day – anti-slavery, prohibition and the suffragette movement. Harriet longs to be a heroine like the other women in her family, but feels that she has failed. Dwelling on the details of how her relatives relied on God during their struggles, Harriet realizes the meaning of her grandmother's words when she said, "Our short time here on earth isn't about what we accomplish, but about what sort of people we become". If you're a Lynn Austin or historical fiction fan, you won't be able to put this book down!

Mark's Story by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins

A book about Jesus and Mark's gospel. Mark's point of view of Jesus' death and resurrection are depicted in this book. Interesting read, but liked John's story much more. (Reviewed by Tom Jones)

Shades of Blue by Karen Kingsbury

This stand alone book was amazing! Putting it down was out of the question! While Brad is planning for his future, he realizes that he left things unfinished in his past. He returns to search for healing and God's power. The topics covered in this book may not be suitable for teens - parental discretion advised. (Reviewed by Chris Jones.)

Take Two by Karen Kingsbury

If you enjoy Karen and her writing, you will not put this book down till it's done. This is the second in her "Above the Line" series and is excellent as always. Making movies in Hollywood is taking its toll on Keith and Chase. Struggling to keep a busy schedule, handling huge disappointments, and keeping their families from falling apart is all part of their lives, but watching God unveil his miracles takes front row seat. Characters you have loved for many series are now "extras" in the book, so you can keep up with their lives also. (Reviewed by Chris Jones.)

The Missing by Beverly Lewis

Lewis writes books based in Amish country about the lives of Amish. Come explore their culture and ways through great writing. Lewis' second book in her "Seasons of Grace" series continues the story of Grace and her family in the middle of her family in turmoil. Why has her mother left? Why are her mother's parents silent? As she puts the clues together, she comes closer and closer to finding the secrets hidden in her mother's background. (Reviewed by Chris Jones.)

Women's Intuition by Lisa Samson

Lark Summerville's life is bland and that's how she likes it. Her Baltimore life consists of trips to her local parish where she is organist, and reaching out to the lonely souls who call her prayer hotline. Life takes a dramatic turn when her house burns down and she is forced to return to her childhood home, Stoneleigh House. There she joins her mother, Leslie, her mother's housekeeper, Prisma, and Lark's grown-up daughter, Flannery. Lark's carefully constructed life begins to unravel at Stoneleigh as a 20-year-old secret threatens her relationship with her daughter even as the prospect of a new relationship for Lark emerges.

The Memory Book by Penelope Stokes

Phoebe Lange, fresh out of graduate school and full of questions, has come for a long overdue visit with her grandmother who raised her. During her visit, Phoebe discovers some secrets about her family and that she had a great-aunt Phoebe who died decades earlier in a car crash the night of her high school graduation. Phoebe stumbles upon her great-aunt's diary and finds that her relative had similar questions about her own life. In a strange twist of events, Phoebe is transported back to her great-aunt's life to live out her final days.

*Adult Nonfiction*

Lies Young Women Believe by Nancy Leigh DeMoss and Dannah Gresh

Awesome book! Great for a mom and

teenager to read together. This book is not appropriate for younger girls to read, but if you see your younger girl struggling with believing some of the devil's lies, then reading this book with her will be helpful! It is also a great book to check ourselves as Christian women; do we believe any of these lies? (Reviewed by Chris Jones.)

Parenting Adolescents by Kevin Huggins  
My teenage son plays poorly in a high school basketball game. I immediately seek all kinds of help for him to learn to play basketball better. Is there something wrong with me doing this as his parent? Kevin Huggins suggests there may be. Perhaps I am embarrassed about my son's performance and seeking to change his abilities in order to eliminate my own embarrassment. In this simple example we see that a parent's behavior may not always be motivated by what is best for the adolescent.

This older (late 80s) but excellent book dives well below observed behaviors to the desires/longings and plans/purposes driving behaviors. It offers tremendous biblical wisdom, insight, and depth regarding both adolescent and parent behavior. It may be the best book I have ever read (other than the Bible)!

As you might expect in a fallen world, all this benefit comes with a price tag. Here are some obstacles you'll need to face in order to reap the benefit:

- High level of detail – Kevin has years of experience working with adolescents and it shows; his depth of insight can feel overwhelming for a non-expert.
- Some chapters are long – It may take more than one reading session to get through a chapter.
- Occasionally difficult to digest – I read it once, found it to be fascinating, but couldn't absorb all of the valuable information I wanted to retain. I made a second pass, marking the book and

making margin notes. I now plan to make a third pass to summarize the valuable pieces I desire to act on.

- Formatting is quite simplistic – The book italicizes important concepts, but it would be helpful if the book had bolding, underlining, numbered lists, etc. to keep the reader from getting lost. Kevin often has multiple layers of thinking and multiple points to share.
- Outdated cover picture – The content is still very relevant.

In summary, don't expect you can quickly read this book and get value from it. It is likely the book will provide the most value to you if you slow down and reflect as you read.

Also, note that the book can provide substantial benefit outside the realm of parenting an adolescent. It may help you to consider how you were parented, evaluate your current non-parental relationships, and give you insight into your own behaviors and spiritual condition.

Wow, all that in one book! Consider it an investment worth making! (Reviewed by Mark McLain.)

Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry and Mary by Lee Strobel

Lee Strobel was a self-avowed atheist until he became a Christian in 1981 while seeking to disprove Christianity and Christ. From his own experience of attending church while an atheist, Lee offers suggestions to help believers understand non-believers. He includes his insights into why people avoid God and the church and ideas of how to reach out to unbelievers without compromising the Gospel.



Dear Southern Heights Congregation:

Please accept my thanks for the gifts given to me on the occasion of my retirement on your behalf. I enjoyed the flower arrangement for 2 weeks; the living room table top clock is complimenting our home décor and a gift card to use on a still unknown memento. I have enjoyed my years of serving God through you. It has been the best job of my career and I will miss it.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Boersema

**RedArrow Ministries**

Luke Deubner

Our brothers and sisters in Christ at RedArrow Ministries in Paw Paw are marking new milestones in their journey this season. After celebrating their one year anniversary recently, RedArrow held a community blood drive, participated in the Paw Paw Christmas Parade, performed a puppet show for kids in the community, and celebrated Christmas with their second annual candlelight Christmas Eve service. In January RedArrow celebrated ten new baptisms on one Sunday! Also, another answer to prayer, they now have over 100 regular attendees every Sunday. This school year RedArrow has also opened their doors to students in the community through the Teen Lounge. Thanks to volunteers at the Teen Lounge, they have had the opportunity to host after school activities in the ministry center for many students.

Praise God for the outpouring of his Spirit through RedArrow Ministries! Please pray that God would continue to provide direction and community ministry opportunities for Pastor Ben Bowater and RedArrow Ministries.

**WGVU Cool Teacher Award**

Michelle Commeret, third-grade teacher at Kalamazoo Christian Elementary School, received the Cool Teacher Award from WGVU for January. She was nominated by Julia Gibson, 8, daughter of Cheri Gibson.

**Love those Church Ladies... They're Back!**

Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.