



# Southern Heights

s-heights.org

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## Psalm 73:25-26 (NIV)

Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire  
besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.

## News Around Southern Heights

Jeff Baas

### *Our Church Calendar is online*

Ever wonder when a meeting will be held at church? Want to know what's going on and when? Do you want to see the latest updates and changes to the schedule of our ministry? Well now all you have to do is go to our website at [www.s-heights.org](http://www.s-heights.org) and click on the "Calendar" link on the left side. It will bring you to our online calendar which will have all the up-to-date information for you at your fingertips. Not only can you see a month view, but you can click to see a week view if that suits you better. You can also click on any event to see more details. For example, if the SMASH event is held off-site, click on the event and you will see the directions to the event, where it's held and even an online map to the event.

Also, to keep this calendar up to date, please give all your information to Tami Koning at the office. She will make sure your event gets included in the online

calendar so we can all be aware of what's going on at any time.

### *Easter "Pick-up" Choir*

We are having a "Pick-Up" Choir for Easter Sunday. This is a great opportunity for all the closet shower-singers to come out into the open and flex the golden pipes. If you have ever wanted to have a great time singing a wonderful song on Easter Morning with other singers, this is it. We promise to have fun, to sing a song you'll love and most importantly to give God an offering of praise on one of the most influential days of our faith.

Stay tuned for more details. Rehearsals will be held the mornings of March 14, 21 and maybe Palm Sunday, March 28. We hope to see you there.

### *New Stoves coming to the Kitchen*

You may or may not have noticed, but the stoves/ovens in the kitchen have seen better days and lately they have even been "hit-or-miss" as far as being able to heat things up. So Joan Odehnal, the head of the Kitchen Team, went and found two new stoves for our kitchen. One will be purchased by Southern Heights and the other will be a donation from a member of the church. Joan has also taken some time to do some painting along the back wall, which looks very good. Take a moment and look at the new additions. They will be in place just in time for the Outreach Emphasis Brunch. I'm sure we will enjoy many meals from those ovens in the future.

## Chronicles of Council

Tom Bos

I hope you read this. Definitely not because of its great literary prowess, or poetic manner (my degree is in Business, not English), but because you have a desire to belong to this body of believers called Southern Heights and what is happening to, and in it, matters to you. Maybe you are a long time member or someone who just recently starting attending; but in either case being part of a church does not mean showing up on Sundays. Your involvement, participation, volunteering and making connections with others who call this place their church home, make you part of Southern Heights. Jesus never referred to a building as "the church", but rather the people that make up what are called the "body of believers." My prayer, and all of Council's, is that people around you, other members of SH, or people with whom you work, attend school, play or meet outside of church will know that you belong to this body of believers.

I hope that you are working on your daily walk with God by getting connected to "Jesus the True Vine." At every Council meeting we hold each other accountable to be in prayer and the word daily. We don't always make it, but we are committed to keep trying to improve our connection to our Savior. How about you? Do you have someone that holds you accountable? Very few of us have the will power to read and pray daily on our own. Having an accountability partner doesn't mean you are a failure. It means you recognize how important staying connected to God is, that you want to do it and understand that Satan will try and keep you from becoming a better follower of Christ by keeping you from connecting with God. Openness and honesty are some of the foundations of building a body of believers and what better way to begin than by being honest with one other person at SH.

Council continues to wrestle with issues that involve Southern Heights. Money and other resources are always a part of that mix and I wanted to again thank you for your financial support of this ministry. We finished 2009 in the black and Council is looking at how best to allocate those surplus funds. We have Ministry Shares, Building Fund, Cash Flow and Building Maintenance issues that call for our financial support. Human resources such as volunteers, as well as continuing and new ministries need our attention as well. If you have thoughts about any of these issues, or others you feel are important, please contact your district Elder.

Speaking of District Elders, it is time to look at the process of nominating new Elders for terms beginning this summer. If you have someone in mind, or would like to have yourself considered for Elder, please contact the Council Clerk, Doug Cooper or your District Elder and provide us with that name. Three Elder positions will be open this June. These people will be contacted to see if they will attend a one hour Elder orientation meeting and then make a decision on whether to allow their name to stand in nomination. These names will be made public in late April with time for any questions to arise concerning their qualification to serve. A congregational vote to accept the slate of names will be taken in mid-May, with a casting of lots to determine those who will serve. If you have any questions about this process, contact Tom Bos (Council Pres.) or your District Elder.

In a related note, Dan Dunham has asked, and Council has regrettably accepted, his resignation as Elder for the remainder of his term, which was scheduled to end this summer. Until new Elders are commissioned as described above, Kris Garlick has graciously accepted the role of Elder for district two in conjunction with his other Elder responsibilities. I want to take this opportunity to thank Dan and all the Elders for their service to Southern Heights. Please keep your Elders, and especially your district Elder, in your

prayers; asking God to work through them and to give them the ability to perform their duties with grace, compassion and a love for Southern Heights.

As I began this article I said that you make the church what it is. Your time, your talent and your treasure, used in God's service, make Southern Heights who it is. I challenge you to examine what you are providing to this body. We will never become a church that impacts this world for Jesus Christ unless we each devote ourselves to "Passion for God, Caring Deeply for People and Growing as Disciples", not as a church motto, but as our personal desire. I am pleased to see where Southern Heights is going and I look forward to this "body of Believers" becoming agents of Jesus Christ in our community.



## **SMASH**

Karen VanderLugt

What's happening with SMASH? As usual the SMASH groups have been busy!

January began with devastating earthquakes changing lives forever in Haiti. This hit particularly close to home as Tom and Chris Jones grew their family by adopting Diego from Haiti just 14 short months ago. Their ties to that country have gone deep as Diego's roots now intertwine with the Jones family to make a forever family root system that has been fertilized by God's perfect plan. When Chris put out that first email many people were wondering "how can our church family help?" The SMASHers of Southern Heights took only a few days to figure out it was time to revive the once annual Rock-a-Thon. In just over 2 weeks, plans were in place and 18 students came together in the student room to rock in rocking chairs in support of the Haiti relief effort. They gathered pledges from friends and family and raised OVER \$4500 in 9

hours. AWESOME job SMASH! Thank you for all your hard work.

We want to thank the congregation for getting behind this effort and us. Your support speaks volumes about the love that is so very alive here at SH.

The month of February also boasted the Super Bowl Party. Bruce and Jillayne Krogel hosted this party at their beautiful new home and everyone present had a great time...even those not watching the game! The Sr. High SMASHers also attended the movie, *To Save a Life*, a movie focusing on teen suicide and the redeeming love of God. The discussion following the movie left us all feeling more aware of the teens around us who are struggling and started conversation about what our role is in this national epidemic.

Our Middle School SMASHers had a great time at Pokagen State Park on their toboggan runs. They achieved speeds of 38 mph over ¼ mile and lived to tell about it...in fact they repeated it over and over again!

A few weeks later the MS SMASHers spent a Saturday night at church playing wacky mini golf that Ken and Gregg concocted around the church. Josh Dunham showed everyone how it is done by leading the pack with his awesome score and taking home the Grand Prize....free games of laser tag/mini golf at Lazer Land.

Our discussions have focused on Self-Esteem and we are now joining the E-groups in the study on prayer.

The High School SMASH group will be attending "Dare to Share" in Chicago March 19-20. Please be in prayer for this group as they learn how to share their faith as they go through life at school, home, and in their neighborhoods.

Thanks again SH for your support of SH youth! The Holy Spirit is working...do you hear it?

## The Family of Southern Heights Tami Koning

January 31, 2010 was a day for rejoicing with the Jones family! **Diego Jones** was baptized into the family of God. Diego joined the Jones family in October, 2008. He turned 6 years old on February 9. He is an energetic boy and loves all things loud and active! He especially enjoys baseball and football. Diego loves being part of the SH family, especially the cookies after the service. He is a fan of Kids Alive time and enjoys the drums during the worship time.

**Bekah Jones** made public her Profession of Faith on January 31<sup>st</sup> also. Bekah is a lovely 10 year old. She enjoys ballet and being with friends. She likes the 'girl-things' - participating in GEMS and Heart-Life. Bekah likes being a part of the family of God at SH. She loves to serve! Bekah enjoys the learning in Education Hour and enjoys filling in the sermon outlines. Bekah has known for a while that she wanted to make profession of faith because she believes what Pastor Dan says when he presents it; she is looking forward to taking communion.

**Micah Ipema** publicly professed Jesus as his Lord and Savior in front of many family members & friends on February 21, 2010. Micah is 17, born on February 9, 1991. He is a freshman at Kalamazoo Christian High School, serving as a team manager for Varsity Football, Freshman Basketball, and hopes to work with the Baseball team in the spring. His goal is to work in Customs at the airport processing passports (you know, stamping them to allow entry into the country!). What an awesome addition into the professing body at Southern Heights!

On February 21, **Kevin Cooper** made a public Profession of Faith. Kevin is a senior at K Christian. He plays soccer, basketball and baseball. He will be attending Calvin College or U of M in the fall. He leads a Bible study for other

teenagers at K Christian through Youth for Christ. He loves to play golf and will go with anyone who will take him. He loves computer games and social networking on the web. Congratulations, Kevin, on taking this stand for Christ!

### Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

## Deacons' Corner

The following are messages received from our college students that were sent care packages last month.

Thank you Southern Heights for the care package! It really meant a lot to know that my Southern Heights family still cares and is thinking about us college students even when we're not there all the time!

God Bless!

--Thomas Bos

Dear Southern Heights,

Thank you so much for the awesome care package you sent me, it really makes me feel loved and connected. I miss being at SH, but I will be back soon for spring break! The goodies are a big hit here in the dorms, everyone keeps asking "what's in the box" and they just look astonished when I tell them it's a box of cookies and stuff from my church. The usual reply is "you have an awesome church", I agree that you guys are awesome.

God bless you, I certainly feel that God has blessed me through you.

--Scott VanderLugt

S-Heights Family,  
 Thank you soooo much for the huge box of goodies :D It was soooo nice of you. I have also been sick this week so it couldn't have come at a better time. I love you guys and miss you a lot.  
 Love,

--Kelsey (Klok)

Church Family - Thank you **so** much for the card and box of wonderful treats you guys sent!! That was so nice of you all. All is well up in the U.P., but I'm definitely ready for some warm weather now! My classes are going great and I'm now majoring in Secondary Spanish Education, which I'm very, very excited about. Hope all is well back in Kalamazoo, & thanks again to everyone! It put a smile on my face and hopefully I don't come home 50lbs heavier after all this! It will definitely all get eaten, that is for sure.  
 Love you guys!

--Maria (Hoffman)



**Usher Team**

Sue Kopta

Please welcome Mark McLain, Karen Merchant and Scott Huibregtse to the Usher team.

The March Usher Schedule:

March 7

Deb Nieboer  
 Howard Nieboer  
 Scott Huibregtse

March 14/21

Al Altenbernt  
 Dan Hulet  
 Dawn Kuiper  
 Bill O'Brien

March 28/April 4

Mike Fitzgerald  
 Al Hoffman  
 Doug Staunton  
 Mark McLain



**Children and Family Ministries**

Tami Koning

*Got Kids?! We do!!* The children's ministries on Sunday morning serve from 25 to 40 kids on any given Sunday morning! The Wednesday night ministries (GEMS, Cadets, childcare) serve over 50 kids! We are blessed with many families that we impact through our ministries. Are you involved? There's always room to plug in...just let us know!

Coming Up:

- Easter Egg Hunt will be April 3. Want to be on the planning team? Let Tami Koning know.
- Easter Sunday Singing will be April 4. The kids will be practicing to lead in worship on Easter morning. Watch for more details.

*Special Thank You...*

...goes to Mr. Baas for helping put together all the elements of the Christmas Program!

...to Mr. Goendyk for the candy! What a treat after working so hard during the program!

...Mr. Jones, Mrs. VanDyk, Mrs. Triemstra, Mr. Smith - our 'drumming instruction team'!

...to Mrs. Baas, Ellie and Sara for choreographing such a nice worship dance!

...goes to Ms. Heidi for tambourine help and being part of the planning team!

...to our Education Hour teachers - Mrs. Veltkamp, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Jager, Mrs. VanZoest - for filling in where needed!

## Invest In Your Marriage

Matt Karsten

Attend a Family Life Marriage Conference! Coming to Kalamazoo April 30-May 2. Come to the Radisson Plaza Hotel for a marriage makeover or a tune-up. Save money by registering for a conference in our "SouthernHeights" group. The link is [www.familylife.com/groups/southernheights](http://www.familylife.com/groups/southernheights). Any questions? Go to the link! If you still have questions, talk to Matt or Kelli Karsten. If you want to attend a conference, but can't on 4/30-5/2, you may register for a conference at any location and still receive the group rate if you register with the "SouthernHeights" group.



### Check it out!

Looking for something? How to raise teenagers? What does the Bible say about...? Where do I go from here in my life? Southern Heights now has a one-year membership in the Michigan Area Resource Center in Grand Rapids. The Center provides faith-related DVDs, videos, books, and more...that we can use at no additional charge beyond our membership and return postage. You may order these resources online or ask Ann McClain or Gretchen Erhardt to order them. Check it out at

<http://www.marc-web.org/>



## In the Library

Ann McLain

*Kids' DVDs*

Blasting the Big Gamemaster Bully – Bibleman

Bibleman and his Bible Adventure Team tackle the bullying problems at the local middle school. Super Pro Gamemaster II's latest video game, "Big Bad Bully",

appears to be the cause of the problem. With Bibleman's help, Max, Sam, and Adam learn a lesson about standing up together against your enemies.

Skeeter and the Mystery of the Lost

Mosquito Treasure – Hermie & Friends

Skeeter's "perfect" brother, Sir Sinclair M. Skeeto, visits the garden with a treasure map that was left to them by their father. Sinclair is a world famous adventurer and everyone in the garden thinks he's the greatest. Skeeter feels less important than his brother because his stinger is crooked and he frequently flies the wrong way. While searching for the lost treasure with his brother, Skeeter learns that everyone is created uniquely by God.

Minnesota Cuke and the Search for Noah's

Umbrella – Veggie Tales

Minnesota Cuke is tired of being laughed at by others. When he reluctantly takes the job of searching for Noah's Ark, Minnesota Cuke must follow some clues which seem to be very silly. Will Minnesota Cuke have the confidence to do the right thing even though he might be laughed at? Don't miss the latest silly song, "Sippy Cup"!

Saint Nicholas – Veggie Tales

When Laura Carrot's Christmas might be ruined because her dad has lost his job, Bob the Tomato tells the story of Saint Nicholas and the true joy of giving to others. Nicholas' parents dedicated their lives to helping others in need. After his parents died, Nicholas began a journey to discover why his parents helped others and found that he can carry on the tradition of giving to others. When the political situation makes it difficult to help others, Nicholas must come up with some sneaky ideas. Included is the new silly song, "Donuts for Benny".

*Adult Fiction*

White Christmas Pie by Wanda Brunstetter

This easy read is based in the Shipshewana area among the Amish. It is a stand-alone book about an English boy

adopted by the Amish, his struggles with his father's abandonment and how he needs to forgive before he can move on. The story line starts out slow, but picks up speed. Good read if you are looking for something light. (Reviewed by Chris Jones.)

No Dark Valley by Jamie Langston Turner  
Celia Coleman was orphaned at a young age and raised by her strict religious grandmother. By the time of high school graduation, Celia is sick of religion and ready for freedom. Once Celia left home for college, she never looked back. Now her grandmother has died and Celia is forced to fulfill her promise to return for the funeral. Instead of feeling anger at her grandmother, Celia is racked with guilt over the life she has lived and the mistakes she's made. Her current neighbor, Bruce Healy, is trying to live out his new-found faith as he seeks to overcome the guilt from his past. Jamie Langston Turner weaves characters from her previous books into this richly detailed novel as both Celia and Bruce find that beyond their guilt, forgiveness is waiting.

Sisters of the Quilt series

When the Heart Cries, When the Morning Comes and When the Soul Mends by Cindy Woodsmall

What a series! I really enjoyed reading this series, especially since the library owns the whole thing! There's no waiting for the next book to come out. If you enjoyed Beverly Lewis, you will really like these books. Woodsmall writes about life in the Amish community. Many stories all wrapped up in one fast-paced, keep-you-on-your-toes series. (Reviewed by Chris Jones.)

*Adult Nonfiction*

The Sacred Romance by Brent Curtis and John Eldredge

There is a wild (not under your control) lover that is interested in a relationship with you! Want to learn more? Read this book.

In a nutshell, this book shows how your life (and beyond) can be viewed as a "romantic journey" between God and you. It encourages you to pursue God's love with your heart, not just your intellect. Of course our lives often seem to be highly inconsistent with a romantic journey. This inconsistency is explored as the book deals with topics such as: physical and emotional suffering, addictions, negative mental messages, bad habits, etc.

I found this book very helpful as it gave me a different way to think about my life and God's role in it. The book seemed to accurately describe what I have experienced; I have pursued less-wild lovers than God. I especially enjoyed the vulnerability and openness of the authors as each shared practical examples of how the romance has impacted their life.

Three cautions:

- If you are male, the "romance" word in the title may scare you-don't let it. This book is not a mushy romance novel; it is an exploration of real life in relation to God.
- If you are male, a discomfort may emerge in thinking about romance with a God often perceived as male (i.e. Jesus Christ). We must remember the church is the "bride" of Christ and the church includes women and men. It is morally safe for us to enter this romance fully accepting of our gender.
- In preparing this review, I found a website claiming that John Eldredge does not write from a biblically-sound foundation. While I recall no biblical contradictions in this book, I encourage all readers of this and every book to assess the book's content in light of the Bible. (Reviewed by Mark McLain.)