



Southern Heights

s-heights.org

Southern Heights Christian Reformed Church - June 2010; Vol. LXX, No. 6

Congratulations!

Graduations

Lindsey Anne Cooper will graduate from Calvin College with a BA in Elementary Education. She was actively involved in campus life and ministry. She was a resident assistant in the dorms and also in the Knollcrest Apartments during her senior year. She has taken a job as a third grade teacher in Jakarta, Indonesia and will be leaving on July 11, 2010. She will be there for two years.

Kevin James Cooper graduates from Kalamazoo Christian High School. He will be attending Calvin College in the fall and is entering the pre-medicine program. He is a national honor society student and has played three varsity sports; soccer, basketball and baseball.

Allie Vroegop graduates this year from Kalamazoo Christian High School. She is heading to Calvin in the fall to study English/Journalism. She enjoyed working on Student Council and the Spiritual Life Committees at school. She was in National Honor Society and was named Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen at KCHS and is honored to be receiving Calvin and Calvin Alumni Association scholarships.

New Addition

Welcome *Benjamin Steven VanDyk*, born early in the morning on May 17. He joins big sister Kayleigh and Mom & Dad, Steve & Kristi. Benjamin made his entrance into this world weighing in at 9 lb. 10 oz. How many of you saw Kristi & Steve serving in the nursery on the morning of May 16...before they headed to the hospital that day?! Congratulations to this wonderful family!

Announcements

Watch for Summer FUNdraisers! All groups in SH are challenged to do a fundraiser this summer where proceeds will go directly to the Building Fund. Watch for more details as these creative groups bring some great ideas!

GOT BOTTLES? GOT CANS? GOT RETURNABLES? Children & Family Ministry wants 'em! We will return your returnables this summer! Collection boxes will be at church and we will take them in. All proceeds will benefit the Building Fund. [We will accept anything that is returnable...even beer cans!]

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NIV)

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

50 Year Party Planning Update

Jeff Baas

The party is being set for March of 2011. The Planning team is being assembled. Ideas are needed.

Thanks to those of you who have submitted ideas for the 50 year party. Some of the ideas are:

- ❖ Play past "Year End Videos" while the party is going on.
- ❖ Show pictures of momentous events in the life of Southern Heights. (Thanks for the newspaper clippings already submitted.)
- ❖ Invite all the previous pastors.
- ❖ Have the party at the location of the first worship service of Southern Heights (what is now Kalamazoo Christian Middle School).
- ❖ Highlight the members who were at the first meeting.
- ❖ Have a "Mortgage Burning" ceremony.

Those are all great ideas. If you have any more ideas of things to do, ways to do it, people to invite or anything else, please give those ideas to Jeff for now. By the next time there will be a Party Planning Committee Chairperson. Stay tuned.

Summer Fundraisers to pay off our Debt by the 50 year party.

There are about 25 "groups" at Southern Heights that consist of eGroups, Committees, Teams, Ministries, etc. Recently each group was challenged to have a summer fundraiser to help Southern Heights pay off its debt so we can be "Debt-Free by 50" (the 50 year party).

So each group will be finding creative and fun ways over the summer to raise some funds. As each group does this, we will have a place in the lobby where we can keep up to date as to what is going on. What groups are going to be doing, when they will be doing it, and progress as to the fundraiser will be included in each group's section. So when you see these updates in the lobby, please say a prayer for their efforts and encourage them as their dates and times draw near.

Some of the things to look for will be Bottle/Can collections, sponsorships for running, selling things on eBay or Craigslist. Thanks to all the groups that will be bringing our church closer to being Debt-Free.

"End of the Summer" Garage Sale

On Saturday, September 11, in addition to our annual Carnival (stay tuned for details on that), we will have an all-church Garage Sale. It will actually be more of a Parking Lot Sale but it doesn't have the same ring to it. All Southern Heights people will be encouraged to bring in their unwanted, unused sellable items that they want to donate to this cause and we will have a place dedicated to the sale. We will advertise to our community that we are having this sale and hopefully it will draw a lot of people to the church, draw people to the carnival, and raise some funds to be debt-free as well.

Keep the Garage Sale in mind as you do your spring/summer cleaning. We will let

you know when it's time to bring in your items.

Also we are trying to gauge the interest in doing an "antique" section of the sale. There are some people that have items they may want to sell, but they are a bit out of the "garage sale" genre. If you have items that you may want to donate for an antique section of the sale, please let Jeff Baas know so that we can gauge the interest and see if that part of the sale will work. If it does, that will be a great addition to the Garage Sale and Carnival day on September 11.

Other information from Jeff..

Kickoff for the 2010-2011 Worship/Education season will be on Sunday, September 12. We will have special celebration updates about our groups' summer fundraisers and we will have our annual church-wide group picture.

You won't want to miss the kickoff. It will be a great time for everyone.

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Children's Messages

Starting May 30 we will begin our summer children's messages. Each Sunday, Pastor Dan will call all the children forward for a special children's message.

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Invite Your Friends - Don't forget to invite your friends to a Worship Gathering, an eGroup, a Softball game, or anything that they might enjoy.

There are many opportunities. If you're not sure, call the office and we can give you suggestions as to what is going on and what might be a good event to invite your friend to.

Love, INC Update
Bruce Merchant

Love in the Name of Christ of Kalamazoo (Love, INC) has been through some significant transition over the last year. After being without an Executive Director for almost a year, I am pleased to announce that Kim Sandelin has been selected as the new Executive Director. He will officially start on August 2, 2010 but he will be volunteering at the Love, INC offices starting in early June.

Sally Butcher is our faithful Clearinghouse Coordinator and she has been a blessing and source of strength for Love, INC during this transition time. She has kept the Clearinghouse thriving and has also done double duty in preparing and submitting reports, training and keeping track of volunteers, and providing much needed insight to all the Board members.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Love, INC Board since last October and have found the opportunity to be very humbling and also very rewarding.

Some people have asked: "What is Love, INC and what does it do?" That's a great question and here are a few answers:

Love, INC is a strategy to help Christian churches help their neighbors in need. Love, INC is a network of churches that links church ministries and volunteers to people in need. It is a cooperative effort between churches and the community to provide effective help for the disadvantaged. Love, INC is a vehicle that helps churches fulfill, collectively and individually, their Biblical mandate to reach out to the poor and needy.

The mission statement of Love, INC is: "Our mission is to mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ."

What can you do to help out at Love, INC? First, we covet your prayers and ask that

you keep us in prayer often. Second, we need volunteers. We need volunteers who are willing to be trained on how to answer the phone. We also need volunteers to help with mailings, general office help, and most of all, volunteers with a willing spirit who feel led to work for Christ in our community. Third, we need funds. Any and all donations are appreciated and are used to further our work for Christ in Kalamazoo County.

God is doing great work in the community through Love, INC and we see great things happening already through Kim's work as Executive Director. Many churches have expressed interest in how we can better communicate with them and coordinate ministry opportunities. Our goal is to complement the many great things that so many of our churches and other faith-based organizations are already doing in Kalamazoo County.

Please see me at church or email me at Bemerchant@gmail.com if you have questions or desire more information. I'm sure Sally Butcher would also be very willing to talk to you as well. You can also call the Love in the Name of Christ of Kalamazoo County office at 353-6798 or visit the website at www.KalLoveInc.org.



Deacon's Corner Sally Butcher

Part of our Deacon meetings each month is spent on training. We have been discussing "hard places". Hard places are situations, people, or encounters we would prefer to avoid for some reason. It occurs to us that all of us encounter hard places often and know that without Christ or His people, most do not go through without some sort of heartbreak. Hard places might include illness, job loss or underemployment, financial crisis, death of a loved one, single parenthood, and divorce. Does this sound familiar to anyone?

As deacons, we are called to go into these hard places to minister to His people. We do not take this calling lightly. God, of course, is already there, but we need to show up too. We are His hands and feet to show His love and compassion.

We pray for you regularly. But we ask that you allow us to join you in your hard places and accept our ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to break along with yours. Christ is the healer of broken hearts.

Southern Heights is a family and we know that God will provide for our family. We go through hard places together so that no one feels alone or forgotten. From personal experience I know that joy is possible even when you have to face the hard places. You just need to ask for God's provisions, starting with relationships with your Southern Heights family.



Chronicles of Council Larry Kopta

Well our church schedule came to a close with Memorial Day weekend. There is a lot to be thankful for, giving praise to God, especially for all of you and what you do. There is a lot of hope for the future, seeking and listening to the Holy Spirit, linking to our theme for the coming year. In reality however, there is never an end. If you pay attention you can see the seeds being sown for our next year. Groups are planning, programs evolving, meetings and seminars attended.

There is really just time to take a deep breath, a Sabbath of sorts. Now is a time to allow God through the Spirit to enlighten, encourage, and guide us into the future. This has started already.

Next year is Southern Heights' 50th anniversary and a great celebration is in the works. Please be ready and willing to

advise and assist in this great honor of where we came from and where we are headed. Linked to this is the hope of having our mortgage paid off by that date. We can do it with everyone's help. All groups are asked to participate in some way and a lot of ideas are floating around. If you're not in a group, especially an eGroup, now would be a great time to join one or start one. Contact Andy Schreuder if you don't know where to start, otherwise ask someone you know. Chances are they are in a group already.

This time is also a good time for planned changes such as our cycle of replacement of our elders and deacons. We have completed our nominations and held our congregational meeting. Southern Heights is glad to welcome Luke Deubner and Laura Jager to council as new elders, and Merrilee Sarkipato as Deacon. At the same time we give thanks to God for the service of those leaving council, Dan Dunham, Bill O'Brien, and Bruce Kroegel, and those leaving deacon positions, Al Hoffman, Pam Carpenter, and Kevin Grand. In case you didn't notice, this means a decrease in the total number of districts from 8 to 6, which was approved by council at our April meeting. This may mean a change in district for some of you as we now make adjustments. Please keep your elders and deacons in your prayers as we keep you in ours. Summer is near. The time when most of us take time off from work, church activities, etc. and get away. We call this "vacation". Please also use this time as a Sabbath. Remember to take God with you. Stay in His Word daily, especially together as a family or any group you have. Remember we are all part of God's family.

Yours in Christ!



In the Library Ann McLain

Kids' DVDs

Mandie and the Secret Tunnel

This is the first DVD in a series based on the popular "Mandie" books by Lois Gladys Leppard. Following the death of her father, Mandie relies on the help of her Cherokee friends to run away from her home to her Uncle John's mansion in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Upon arrival, Mandie discovers that her uncle's ship has been lost at sea. When strangers arrive claiming to be John's heirs, Mandie finds herself in a race against time to find Uncle John's will and discover the secrets of his mansion.

Secret Hideout – The Sugar Creek Gang

This is the fourth DVD in a series based on the "Sugar Creek Gang" books. While out exploring near the swamp, the gang discovers a hidden cave that appears to be lived in. When the gang plans an overnight stay in the cave, the cave's occupant attempts to scare the kids away. The truth about the hideout is revealed when Old Man Paddler shows up.

Adult Fiction

When Love Blooms by Robin Lee Hatcher

If you enjoy historical fiction as I do, you will really enjoy this book. Idaho, 1883 is the setting for this story, and while the plot may be somewhat obvious, the writing is awesome and I was totally unable to put it down till it was done. (Reviewed by Chris Jones.)

The Justice by Angela Hunt

Daryn Austin, the first female vice-president of the United States, is suddenly thrust into the Oval Office when President Parker dies unexpectedly. Determined to win the White House in the next election, Daryn hires Paul Santana, the man she loved in law school, as part of her legal counsel to help her navigate through the political scene in Washington. Once the election is won, Daryn has plans to

nominate Paul to the Supreme Court, knowing that she can use her close relationship with him to sway decisions and make history. When some secrets from the past are revealed, Paul realizes the motivation behind Daryn's ruthless desire for power and begins to rethink the faith he abandoned.

Take Three by Karen Kingsbury

In the third book in the Above the Line Series, Kingsbury continues to feed new characters in with her old ones. Keep up with the lives of Bailey, Cody, and the Baxters while the main story is on her new characters from this series, their movie-making ventures, and all the ups and downs that come with it. (Reviewed by Chris Jones.)

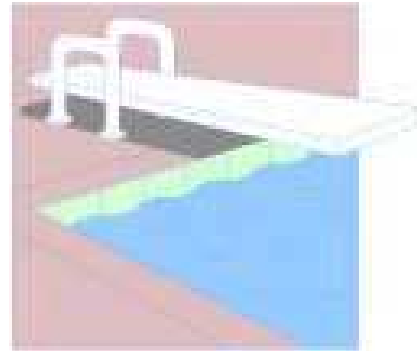
The Telling by Beverly Lewis

This is the final of three books in the Seasons of Grace series, and I couldn't put it down. I so enjoy Lewis' writing on the Amish and get caught up in her stories easily. If you are looking for an easy yet interesting read, this series is for you. (Reviewed by Chris Jones.)

Adult Nonfiction

So Long, Insecurity by Beth Moore

In the opening paragraphs of her latest book, Beth reveals that this book is the closest one that will come to her autobiography. In her refreshingly honest style, Beth steps through the laundry list of insecurities that she and other women deal with during their lives. She then digs deep to find the root causes of many of these insecurities and the effects that they will have in our lives. Beth enlisted the help of numerous women and men who responded to a questionnaire on her blog in discovering the most common insecurities of women and men and how men feel about a woman's insecurities. The rest of the book deals with countering the lies of the insecurities with the reality of God's truth.



June's Usher Schedule

June 6/13:

- ❖ Mike Fitzgerald
- ❖ Al Hoffman
- ❖ Doug Staunton
- ❖ Mark McLain

June 20/27:

- ❖ Scott Altermatt
- ❖ Karen Merchant
- ❖ Karen Hulet
- ❖ Scott Huibregtse

THANK YOU for 'lei-ing' aside time to serve at Southern Heights! You are appreciated!

-The Staff of SH

