



Southern Heights

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Heights Happenings - Southern Heights CRC - January 2012; Vol. LXXII, No. 1



HAVE YOU NOTICED?

- **There is a new bus on the lobby table for your change.**
- **Please "change a life" with your change!**

From Pastor Dan

2012 Bible Reading Challenge: The Gospels Every Day

During the year 2012 you are encouraged to read from the gospels every day. There are four of them: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We will be putting out a schedule to read half of a chapter every day. Doing this, you will read through all four gospels four times during the year! What a good way to get to know Jesus better. If we are going to be the church wherever we are, we need to know Jesus well. **Will You Start Today?**

Jan 1 Matthew 1a (first half)
Jan 2 Matthew 1b (second half)
Jan 3 Matthew 2a
Jan 4 Matthew 2b
Jan 5 Matthew 3a
Jan 6 Matthew 3b
Jan 7 Matthew 4a
Jan 8 Matthew 4b
etc...
Jan 30 Matthew 15b
Jan 31 Matthew 16a
Feb 1 Matthew 16b

I am blessed. The Council of Southern Heights Church is giving me my third sabbatical. The dates will be from January 23 until March 27. I will spend that time doing the following: resting; drawing near to God; taking a preaching class; visiting other churches and ministries that have a missional and church-planting focus, in order to learn from them and get ideas from God about how to fulfill our calling. I am very grateful to God for this opportunity and I plan to come back refreshed, renewed and more ready than ever to lead Southern Heights where God is calling us to go.

This is a HUGE gift to me, one that I value very highly. Southern Heights will be well led by our staff, Council, Deacons and Ministry leaders. You will hear some excellent preachers including Curtis DeVries, Joey DeKoekoek, Henry DeVries and Doug McClintic. Most of all you will be in the loving care of God.

Thanks for being such a great church family!

God's peace to all!

This is a paraphrase of John 1, written by Javonte Lofton. Thanks to Javonte!

From jump street was the truth, and the truth was with god, and the truth was god his seed was with him from the jump. without him creation not possible. He had life and his light was life for everybody the light went ham on the dark and the dark fell off god sent dude john he said the light was that deal and swore on everything. He wasn't the light but real recognize real the truth that lights the world was coming to earth. He created everything in his own image but they didn't want to pay homage. He came to us but we didn't click with him. Everyone who rolled with him who believed became his children. Children not born by yo mamma, daddy, sister, brother, or any one's choice just god.

The truth became flesh and made his home with us. Full of grace and truth the one and only son, glory be from the father and we have seen his glory.

If you don't understand a word or phrase, go to this website:
<http://www.urbandictionary.com/>



Christmas Banquet

Joan Odehnal

Our 2011 Christmas Banquet was held on Wednesday December 14. From all the positive comments made and many words of thanks given it was obviously a great success. I would like to say thank you to some very special people who helped to make it truly wonderful and enjoyable.

My greatest thanks goes to Laura Collins. Laura supervises the Middle School helpers, helps to serve the guests, helps with set up and take down, cleans up, washes dishes and keeps everything from

becoming chaotic. She has a generous spirit and the very best attitude. Without her I could not do a Christmas Banquet.

Thank you also to those Middle School students that she supervises. We keep them very busy filling your water glasses, serving the punch, lighting the candles, serving the coffee, setting out the desserts, and anything else we need help with. Thank you all for being so helpful and cooperative and happily serving.

The High School students were also working hard downstairs taking care of your young children so that many of you could enjoy the banquet. You are all very much appreciated.

I would also thank Larry and Sue Kopta for stepping in to help plan the entertainment for the evening. The game with the 12 days of Christmas was very fun. Thank you to each table that provided their own version of making it unique. Also Sue and her mother made some awesome appetizers.

And speaking of food, Maggie's Catering provided a very tasty meal again this year. If you didn't try the chicken and stuffing dish, you really missed out on something superb.

And our wonderful Chris Jones with her helper, Dawn Kuipers, provided us with her magnificent desserts. They were really special.

Thank you to Tom Bos for using his talent to lead us in singing and Jeff Baas for making another great year end video and to Matt Smith for being our sound man for the evening.

This year we had a guest singer, Bob Jones who was definitely enjoyed by all. If you weren't at the Banquet you missed some great singing.

Special thanks go to all the table hosts. Without you setting such beautiful tables we could have no Banquet. We had a new

person host a table this year and I would like to encourage everyone to consider hosting a table next year. If you don't have the table service needed we have people with extra sets of dishes that you could use. Give it some thought.

And thank you to everyone who helped move the chairs out of the sanctuary and a special thank you to the Collins boys who moved most of the tables up and then back downstairs. We exhausted them.

To everyone who came to the Banquet, I hope that you had a good time and will return again next year for some more good food and fun. I definitely enjoyed the planning.



Adult Education

Gretchen Erhardt

Our Advent class, "**Christmas is Not Your Birthday,**" generated lively discussions during December. If you didn't have a chance to come, check out the book we used—*Christmas is Not Your Birthday*—in the church library. It was written by Mike Slaughter, a high-school trouble-maker whose life took a dramatic turn. He's now a pastor, and his church, in partnership with a relief organization, has rebuilt an entire town in southern Sudan, not to mention the care they provide in their own Ohio community.

Five short chapters—a quick read (small book, big print)—but thought-provoking in terms of helping us think about how to be creative in our sharing. Doug Koning gave the book to his mother for Christmas! Many thanks to Walt Erhardt, Marv Veltkamp, and Doug for leading the class.

Read more at
<http://mikeslaughter.com/blog>

Join us in January and February for "Gospel in Life," by Tim Keller, or "Love and War," by John and Stasi Eldredge.



From the Deacons' Corner

Chris Jones

THANK YOU SOUTHERN HEIGHTS!

You are the Church wherever you are, and you have graciously shown that through the Angel Tree. With your help, we were able to serve a total of 20 families, both within Southern Heights and friends, family or co-workers connected to Southern Heights. A total of 124 gifts were bought and wrapped. Some of those gifts are going to one special family who are friends of Southern Heights. This family suddenly and unexpectedly lost their mother a few weeks ago. She left behind her husband and young children. Because of your help, we are able to bless this family with gifts, including some that will help them make lasting and joy filled memories in this season.

Keep a look out in the next months for more ways to be the Church wherever we are! We are eagerly anticipating sending care packages to our college students again in a couple of months! We are also looking at a KDC collection. More details coming on both of these in the near future.

Thank you again for your wonderful, giving hearts. You have made a difference in many lives this season!



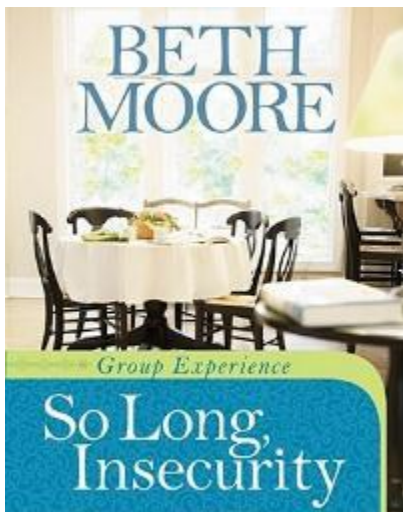
Women’s Ministry

Kathy Meert

Beginning January 11, 2012 we will be starting a new study, unlike anything we've done before. This study will be a book study of sorts with no video but a workbook and plenty of group discussion.

We will study chapters like "MAD ENOUGH TO CHANGE", "ROOTING IT OUT", "A PASSION TO LOOK PAST OURSELVES" and "WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?".....Sound interesting?

We welcome you to come Wednesday, January 11th at 6pm and check us out. We will be meeting bi-weekly from 6:00-8:00 and childcare is provided.



Philippians 3:13-14

No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven

SMASH

(Student Ministries At Southern Heights)

Ken VanderLugt

SMASH has had a busy December, busy with parties and busy serving! Both the middle and high school groups had their annual Christmas parties. Both groups had great food, a fun time with the “white elephant” gifts, and a good time singing Christmas carols. The high school group broke tradition this year in that they didn’t act out the days in the 12 Days of Christmas; instead, they came up with the 12 Harry Potter Days of Christmas. A video of their great endeavors is on the SMASH Facebook page.

The middle school students did a great job serving at the adult Christmas Party! I want to thank Laura Collins for all her work beforehand to make sure everything was covered and went smoothly for the SMASH students.

The high school students raised \$50 for Bethany Christian Services foster children Christmas Party with their babysitting during the adult Christmas Party. They had the pleasure of watching around 20 children. Thanks to Emily, Lauren and Brittanie for heading up this annual service project. And thanks to Vincent for teaching some of the kids a new trick. Ask Vincent what this trick was.

On the 17th of December, 5 students and 2 leaders were part of the Greater Kalamazoo Area Food Drive. We pulled our carts around while other volunteers loaded up the boxes. We had our donuts and coffee while in line, and even got a visit from Santa! The best part was we then got to deliver food to four area families. Seeing the gratitude in their eyes made getting up early on a Saturday morning *all worthwhile*.

The high school students are going to end the year by making blankets for the Gospel Mission. Students and a couple of leaders will be watching movies and

making blankets. What a great way to end the year!

WATCH OUT FOR 2012! SMASH will be busy as usual.

MISSION TRIP - SMASH will be leading a team going to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota from July 14 to July 22. We will be doing this trip in conjunction with Next Step Ministries. We are all excited to once again be God's hands and feet as part of a group helping to make a difference in lives outside of the Kalamazoo area. We are still working on some of the details of the trip, so the final cost has yet to be determined. If you are interested in finding out more about this trip, please contact Ken and he will be more than happy to share information with you.

FUNDRAISERS! To help offset costs, we are hoping to have several fund raisers over the next six months. The first fund raiser will start January 8, and details will be in your mailboxes. Just think pop cans and a toilet bowl.

God has blessed us with a fantastic first four months, and we look forward to another, exciting five months! Thanks for all your prayers and support.



The Family of Southern Heights

Please welcome Nate and Krystal Thornton, and their children Ellie Mae, 6, and Tristan, 2. Krystal has a bachelor's degree in accounting, and is a stay at home mom. Nate has a bachelor's degree in business and works for the Boy Scouts of America.

"What we love about Southern Heights is: the music, the people, the location, the times of service, the daycare, the Pastor, the activities that Southern Heights is a

part of. Basically, we love everything about Southern Heights! We moved from Lansing, and we are extremely thankful that we made the move!!! I like to learn new things, but I like to teach myself, and I love to share the information that I learn just in case it may help someone. Nate is a big reader and involved in a lot of Boy Scout activities and events."



New in the Library

Ann McLain

Adult Fiction

Vicious Cycle by Terri Blackstock

In the second novel in the *Intervention* series, fifteen-year-old Lance Covington is trying to help Jordan, a pregnant meth addict, who he became friends with during his sister's time at a drug treatment center. As her due date approaches, Jordan leaves the center and ends up delivering her baby at home. Her mother and half-brother are determined to sell Jordan's baby for cash to support their drug addiction. When Jordan discovers their plan, she sneaks the baby into Lance's car and accuses him of kidnapping. Lance is arrested and dragged into the criminal world of drugs and baby trafficking that may cost him his life.

The Yada Yada Prayer Group Gets Rolling by Neta Jackson

It's been two years since the Yada Yada prayer group formed, and crises still abound in the lives of the Yada Yada sisters. A fire at the Manna House forces the Yada Yada sisters out of their comfort zone in order to help others. The Garfield twins have arrived and are keeping their parents busy. Nony is agonizing over her husband Mark's slow recovery and wondering if they will be able to travel back to her homeland. Meanwhile, Hoshi is befriending the frightened young

woman involved in Mark’s racial attack which is causing Hoshi to miss meeting with her Yada Yada sisters. Add to that the loss of two friends, the struggles with interracial dating, the HIV-diagnosis of a daughter living in an abused women’s shelter, the threat of a prison term for a son and the blending of two churches. Despite life’s challenges, the Yada Yada sisters continue to rely on the Lord.

Adult Non-Fiction

Boy Meets Girl by Joshua Harris
 From the author of I Kissed Dating Goodbye is a book that seeks to define what comes between “How do you do?” and “I do!” Josh’s first book gave his perspective and reasons for abstaining from dating, and now that he’s married to Shannon, he wrote this book to define how to have a God-honoring courtship rather than a self-centered one. The book is filled with stories from Josh and Shannon’s courtship, engagement and marriage along with lots of stories from relationships among the youth that they have worked with at their church.

Mom, I Feel Fat! By Sharon A. Hersh
 The subtitle of this book is ‘Becoming your daughter’s ally in developing a healthy body image’. Sharon, a licensed professional counselor, shares how our culture inundates our girls even at a young age to be obsessed with their appearance. By examining your mothering style and today’s culture, Sharon offers practical advice to help you navigate through the struggles, questions and challenges that today’s girls are faced with. Included are questions and exercises for ‘Just You’ (mother) and ‘Just the Two of You (mother and daughter) to help open the lines of communication, strengthen your relationship with your daughter and strengthen both your relationships with God.



Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 191



Famous Men of the Old Testament

| | |
|---------|----------|
| AARON | JACOB |
| ABEL | JEREMIAH |
| ABNER | JOB |
| ABRAHAM | JONAH |
| ADAM | JOSEPH |
| BAALAM | JOSHUA |
| CAIN | JUDAH |
| CALEB | LEVI |
| CYRUS | LOT |
| DANIEL | MORDECAI |
| DARIUS | MOSES |
| DAVID | NATHAN |
| ELIJAH | NEHEMIAH |
| ELISHA | NOAH |
| ENOCH | SAMSON |
| EZEKIEL | SAMUEL |
| GIDEON | SAUL |
| GOLIATH | SHADRACH |
| ISAAC | SHEM |
| ISAIAH | SOLOMON |
| ISHMAEL | SIMEON |