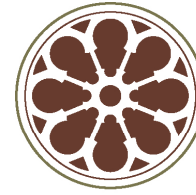


South Elkhorn Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ)
 4343 Harrodsburg Road
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 Email: southelkhorn@juno.com
 www.southelkhorncc.org
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SOUTH ELKHORN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

December 9, 2009, No. 41

What's Happening . . . Week of December 13		
Sunday December 13	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 5:15 PM	Sunday School Worship Service Southern Lights All Church Event
Monday December 14	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministry
Tuesday December 15	6:30 PM	Cabinet Meeting/Potluck Dinner
Wednesday December 16	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Connections Choir
Thursday December 17	7:45 AM	Communications Team
Friday December 18		
Saturday December 19	9:00 AM-12NOON	Choir Cantata Practice
Sunday December 20	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:00PM-1:30 PM 3:00 PM-4:30 PM	Church School Birthday Party for Jesus Worship Service Children (K-5th) Christmas Party (at church) Youth (6th-12th grade) Christmas Party (at Holly's house)

S.E.C.C. Staff:
 Senior Minister..... Mickey Anders
 Associate Minister..... Holly Fuqua
 Music Minister.....Chris Weiss
 Children's Director.....Emily Downing
 Intern.....Christopher Geiger



Pianist.....Kay McAllister
 Secretary.....Tammy Starbuck
 Little Elks Pre-School Dir...Carol Neal
 Nursery Attendants.....Kenna Blanton,
 Erin Fields, Jennifer Davis

The Current

Lessons in Carols Sunday This Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 AM
 Sunday School at 9:00 AM



Connections, Wednesday, December 16 in McMahan Hall at 5:45 PM
 (meal provided).

Next Sunday, December 20, Christmas Choir Cantata
 All children are invited to stay in the service for the Cantata. There will be no
 Children Worship & Wonder. The nursery will be available.

No Sunday School on December 27. However, the Bible Class will continue to have
 Sunday School on that day.



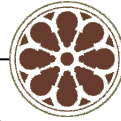
Drive Through Bethlehem
 Live scenes viewed from your car
 depicting the Christmas Story!
 This Saturday, December 12, 2009
 6PM-9PM

Set up will be at 9:30 AM. Actors will need to show up at 4:00 PM for make-up.

It's time to get excited for our annual opportunity to reach out to our community
 and tell the greatest story ever told. If you have been through this since the first
 year or this could potentially be your first time, you are invited to participate in
 this great event. No acting experience required! If you would like to participate,
 but did not have a chance to sign up, please contact Chad Conley at 278-3582.

Our Mission Statement: To Love God and Neighbor through
 Worship, Witness, Fellowship, Service and Discipleship.

Life Together by Mickey Anders



Last Saturday night, I felt like I was battling clean-up. I was the last bell ringer for our efforts for the Salvation Army. It was a cold, cold night, but I had several layers of clothing and was warmed by the positive response of so many people. I was also surprised at how many people shop for groceries between 7 and 8 on a Saturday night.

As I stood ringing the bell and wondering if the red bucket would hold any more dollar bills, I thought about how proud I was of our congregation for their volunteer efforts. Every year, our members seem to jump at the chance to spend an hour ringing the bell for Salvation Army. Doug Alexander is our volunteer champion in this work, and he tells me that it is never a problem getting our people to sign up. In fact, we added another whole day because we had so many people wanting to volunteer.

I am glad that our folks were so willing to do these kinds of mission work. It is so easy to just give some money here and there for missions and outreach, but it is far better to actually do the work of missions. I believe that our congregation is being called by God to increasingly do hands-on missions.

I have also witnessed the joy of all the people who have worked with Mike, Ruaa and Krest, our Iraqi refugee family, over the past three months. We have had so many people offering to take them to appointments, help them learn to drive, teach them English lessons, and bring them to church. This has been a very rewarding ministry for our church. When we see the joy on their faces, we know it is worth the effort. This family has opened our hearts in a very healthy way.

We are also committing our money to missions and outreach. At the congregational meeting

Sunday, we voted to increase our Outreach budget by \$7,443, and to give one-half of that budget amount to Disciples Mission Fund. As Evelyn Cartmill pointed out, the Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) supports more than 70 missionaries around our world, 14 colleges and universities, 7 theological institutions, starting new churches, working with ethnic groups, and help for those areas struck by natural disaster. Also, about 41% of our DMF funds come back to support the ministries of our region in Kentucky. The other half of the Outreach budget will be allotted on the recommendation of the Outreach Team to local causes.

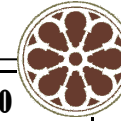
I am proud that our church is increasing our funding for outreach and for ministry. That only comes about because our people are faithful stewards and give out of their great gratitude for what God has done for us. Dave Johnson reported Sunday that in a very, very difficult economy, our giving increased by 6% last year! Many churches and religious institutions are cutting back, but we are able to continue to grow and to reach out because of the faithful stewardship of our people.

We want to continue this "both/and" approach to outreach. We give generously, and we roll up our sleeves and work generously. Over the next several months, I am sure that we will begin looking for more opportunities to be involved in outreach to our community.

God is still speaking. God is still calling our church and our members to ministry. I hope you will join me in prayer, asking that God will speak clearly to us calling us to specific ministries in our community.

Mickey

By Our Service, Sunday, December 13 & 20



Worship Leader	Don Allen (12/13) Cliff Ellerbrook (12/20)
Elders	Dave & Janinne Johnson (12/13) John Johnson, Kelly Nossokoff (12/20)
Deacons Serving Communion	(12/13) Eyvonne Overton, Frank & Deborah Goad-PS Ellie Johnson-DS Morgan Alexander-D Sarah Goad-C (Alternate) Megan Morris-CS Karen Keeling-C, serve stage Kenny Keeling-S, USHER (12/20) Eyvonne Overton, Sue Southworth, Timothea Branham-PS Kyla Parrett, Kelcie Hollis-D (alternate) Chad Conley-CS John McCrary-C, serve stage Karen Smith-C (alternate) Greg Smith-S, Usher
Greeters	Doug & Kelly Nossokoff, Felito & Jennifer Aldarondo (12/13) Norm & Virginia Atkins, Mike & Val Huggins (12/20)
Sound System	Media Team
Acolyte	Heather Feese (12/13) Alyssa Parrett (12/20)
Fellowship Hour	Sharon White, Dee Campbell (12/13) Doug & Kelly Nossokoff (12/20)
Visitor Care	Eddie & Eyvonne Overton (12/13) Peter & Mary Griffen (12/20)
Homebound Communion December 27	Maurice Walker, Elise Wallace, Sharon White

By Our Prayers

- We extend our sympathy to Bruce and Sharon White upon the death of Bruce's father.
 - Congratulations to Jeremy and Sarah Russell on the birth of their new daughter, Joslyn Miranda (Josie) born on November 30.
 - John Hawkins.
 - Bob Mossman.
 - Carolyn Schneider (Terry & Donna Bay's neighbor).
 - Karen Bowman (Peggy Thomas' daughter).
 - Jessica Nealey (Becky Burklow's daughter).
 - Phyllis Rohlf.
 - Ruth Haggard (Ray Haggard's mother).
 - Chuck Heidel (friend of Lloyd and Kim Wemyss).
 - Cecelia Kemmerer (Pam Zwart's Aunt).
 - Johnny McGuire (Timothea Branham's brother).
 - Marion Diamond (friend of Mary Louis Phelps).
 - Charley Phelps (relative of Mary Louis Phelps).
 - Lukas Nedelco (Debbie Parrett's nephew).
 - Rita Haggard (J.D. Haggard's mother).
 - Zach Pickard.
 - Mason Pontrich (Little Elks Student).
 - Gavin Carr (former Little Elks Student).
 - Terry Bay's father, Milton Bay.
 - Cathy Morris.
 - **Please remember our homebound members in prayer:** George Compton, Ella Fuqua, Margaret Peacher.
 - **Please remember our family and friends in the military:** Crystal Anders in Afghanistan.
- Please call the church office if you would like to add or remove a name from this list.**

Our Ministry

Received 12/06/2009 \$7326

"Make God Real" Campaign

New Building Received 12/06/2009 \$1228

Christian Care Communities \$610
Salvation Army \$176

Our Attendance

	12/06/09	Last Year
Worship	247	175
Church School	28	
Children's Church	62	

**All Church Trip to Southern Lights
At the Kentucky Horse Park
Next Sunday, December 13, 5:15 PM**

Everyone is invited to meet in the church parking lot at 5:15 pm. We can carpool together! The cost is \$15 per vehicle. Come to see the lights, eat refreshments, visit the petting zoo and see Santa!

Hat and Mittens Tree

This Sunday, December 13 is the last Sunday to bring your new hats, mittens or gloves to donate to The Nest. Please bring to church and hang on the tree in McMahan Hall. Thank you to those who have already donated.



Angel Tree

Our thanks to everyone who took a name from the Angel Tree last Sunday. All names have been taken! Gifts will need to be returned by this Sunday, December 13. Please attach the tag that you get from the tree to the gift when returning it to the church.

Coat Collection

You may drop off your coat at the coat rack across from Tammy's office. There are tags to hang over the hanger. We will collect until January 1. We have 17 coats that have been donated already. Thank you in advance for the donation.

The JOY Circle

**Children & Youth Group
Christmas Parties!
December 20**

Children (K-5th grade): Noon-1:30 pm: We will meet after church in room 211/212 for lunch and a gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift of \$5.00 or less.

Youth (6th-12th grade): 3:00- 4:30 pm: Meet at Holly's house for Christmas appetizers and a gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift of \$5.00 or less. Please see Holly if you need directions.

THANK YOU!

We want to thank the Bible Class for all their love and support for the children and youth of our church. Several Christmas items were sold this past Sunday and they raised \$250. Thanks to Ann Lane for your in time making the items. Way to go!!!

There will not be a newsletter on December 23 or December 30. The newsletter will resume on January 6.

**The church office will be closed
December 24 through January 1.**



*Christmas Eve
Worship*

Candlelight & Communion Service

December 24

7:00 PM

*The Compassionate Friends
Worldwide Candle Lighting*

Sunday, December 13, 2009

6:00pm

South Elkhorn Christian Church



Compassionate Friends website:

www.tcfbluegrass.org

Janie Fields 859.881.1991

Light a candle for all children who have died

...that their light may always shine

Bereaved parents, siblings and friends around the world will celebrate the life of the children that have left us too soon by lighting a candle symbolizing the light and memories they will always hold in our hearts, never to grow dim. The entire world will be filled with light in honor and memory of our children as the candles will burn bright on December 13, 2009! Join us at South Elkhorn or light a candle at home for as we honor and celebrate the lives of our children.

Children Worship & Wonder Schedule

12/13 The Shepherds Show the Way

Storyteller: Chris Geiger

Greeters: Elise Wallace, Jeannie Tungate

12/20 No Children Worship & Wonder due to Christmas Cantata

12/27 Christmas— Meeting the Christ Child

Storyteller: Janie Fields

Greeters: Gretel Morgan, Kelcie Hollis

Birthday Party for Jesus!



All Sunday School classes are invited to join the Happy Birthday to Jesus Party on Sunday, December 20th at 9:30 am in McMahan Hall. Our gifts to Jesus this year will be new or gently used Children's Books to be donated to the Reading Book Project at the Thomas H. Pinkstaff Medical Home Clinic. You do not need to wrap the books.

Please come and bring your book and then eat birthday cake! All children are invited to make a Christmas ornament as well that will be provided. If you do not come to Sunday School, this is a GREAT time to get involved. We hope to see everyone at the party!



**All Church Trip to
Perfect North
Saturday, January 9
cost: \$45**

Price includes admission, lessons and snowboarding, skiing and tubing rentals. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you want to attend.



**Earth Stewardship
Holiday Tip of the Week**

Reuse packaging: save the foam and packaging from Christmas gifts to use later for shipping or mailing. You can also take these items to a shipping or mailing store and they will reuse them.

Youth Summer Mission Trip Reflections 2009 (by Sarah Goad)

Weeds are clearly not flowers. Despite an occasional colorful adornment, are often ugly and superfluous intruders with thorns and foul odors, and cause gardeners endless hassle. No matter a person's age, the intrusiveness of weeds is indisputable to many. It seems they are a perennial nuisance, but upon looking deeper, I realized that may not always be true. In Winnie the Pooh, Eeyore declares, "Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them." Even though I have heard this message since my childhood, it took many years for its significance to finally become clear.

As a child, I could not comprehend how something so atrocious could relate to something of beauty. Eeyore was never said to be a philosophical genius, but I was nevertheless disappointed by his comparison. It was not until I rediscovered the quote after my mission trip with the Housing Development Alliance, that the meaning unveiled itself to me.

The "weed" of the mission trip was a mobile home stuck in the hills of Hazard, Kentucky. It was my youth group's assignment to help the Alliance improve the condition of the home for the owner, an elderly woman recovering in the hospital. My friends and I did not expect what we saw. As the church van pulled onto the bumpy gravel road, a structure came into view. We were not sure if it could be considered a home by our haughty, "big city" standards. It was a single-wide, coated in a substantial layer of green mildew and with a dilapidated deck loosely hanging from the front. How could the six of us, with the help of only one carpenter, resurrect this trailer into a presentable house we would deem as livable? In no stretch of my imagination did I believe this weed would ever resemble a flower. I did not realize though, that even the most gorgeous of flowers spring from humble beginnings.

We were daunted by the task of reviving the home that stood before us, and did not eagerly commence our work. "There is no hope," we each thought, "and nothing can come from this." We saw no flower from a weed, no hidden beauty lurking beneath the grime. Despite our doubts, armed with gloves, goggles, and cleaning supplies, we began. Each crevice had to be cleaned, to the disapproval of many wasps. Three days of strenuous labor passed by surprisingly fast and when finished, we were astounded. There before us stood something worth living in, no longer a trailer, but a home. No trace of slime lingered on the shining, fresh coat of paint or the sturdy deck. The trailer had bloomed from a thorny weed into a stunning flower. Formerly, Eeyore's comparison seemed but a trivial response by a fictional character. After the transformation I saw in Hazard, I realized judging anything too quickly, whether a home, a person, or a weed, results in unjustified doubts and unfair judgments. Eeyore was right; "Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them."

**Get ready for our Youth Mission Trip in 2010!
The dates are July 6-9 to Hazard, Ky.**

**The Thomas H. Pinkstaff MEDICAL HOME CLINIC
1st Annual South Elkhorn Christian Church Fundraiser
and Book Drive**

"Dr. Tom" Pinkstaff, beloved pediatrician in the Lexington and Louisville area for over 30 years and a beloved member of South Elkhorn Christian Church, was passionate about helping underprivileged, underserved, and disadvantaged children. He had a dream to start a clinic for these children to have their medical needs met. Dr. Tom became the Medical Director for the Medical Home for Coordinated Pediatrics Clinic in October 2007. The Clinic, which provides pediatric health care for children in foster care and children with special health needs, was recently renamed the Thomas H. Pinkstaff MEDICAL HOME CLINIC.

The Clinic has a multifaceted reading project - they participate in the national program, Reach Out and Read (ROR) and provide an age and developmentally appropriate book for every child during their well child examination from 6 months through 5 years of age. Additionally, the Clinic has established a reading corner in the waiting room for children of all ages to read books while they wait. The Clinic also wants to give a book to every child placed in foster care at their first visit so that they have something of their own to keep and enjoy.

Our goal for this inaugural drive is to raise resources for these programs. Financial donations will be used to purchase books and other items for the children. The book drive portion will be to collect new and gently used books for the clinic's reading room.

Books and financial donations will be collected from now through December 20 and can be brought to the church office. Checks can be made payable to: the University of Kentucky, designated to: Medical Home Clinic – book project. Commemorative bookplates will be available for the donated books.

We will highlight the book drive at the "Birthday Party for Jesus" on Sunday, December 20 at 9:30 am in the McMahan Hall. All children are invited to bring an unwrapped book to the party. We hope everyone can come and celebrate!

The About Christianity Class

Memorial
In Memory of Tom Pinkstaff
Given by Phil and Mary Jo Blevins