

SOUTH ELKHORN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
4343 Harrodsburg Road
Lexington, KY 40513
southelkhorncc.org
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WINTER 2015

Our Staff

Michael Swartzentruber
Senior Minister

Chris Weiss
Music Minister

Kim Skidmore
Preschool Director

Holly Fuqua
Associate Minister

Stasia Kruse
Administrator

Jason Newton
Custodian

Poinsettia Order Form

During the Christmas season, we extend an invitation to you to honor or remember your loved one(s) by placing a poinsettia in the Christian Ministry Center. The cost is \$10 each. Please complete and return the form with payment to the church office by Sunday, November 29. **(Please print)**



In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given By: _____

Number of Poinsettias Ordered: _____

Giving Thanks

Rebecca and I have developed a family tradition. Each year at the end of November we travel up to Ohio for a visit with Rebecca's family and enjoy a Hampu Holiday we call "Thanksgivingmas." That's not a typo. We celebrate Christmas and Thanksgiving in one super-holiday: turkey and a gift exchange, pumpkin pie and baking Christmas cookies. No wonder Rebecca and I feel called to set-up and decorate our Christmas tree on Halloween (or parade as a snowman and reindeer for Trunk or Treat this year—'tis the season!). Listening to Michael Bubl  and sipping hot chocolate as an unrelenting gaggle of goblins, witches, and mummies knock on our door just seems normal to us now... and oddly comforting.



I suspect we all have our own unique spin on the holiday traditions. I've seen some people take the whole month of November to offer thanks each day. I love reading about the ways people feel blessed, grateful, and filled with joy. God has been moving in big ways at South Elkhorn, too, and so I want to give thanks for (just some of) the incredible blessings we have experienced together this year:

- One of the largest turnouts for **Fall Festival**, ever. More vendors, more visitors, and a hugely successful day for all who participated.
- Our message of God's love, hope, and unbridled welcome is resonating with people as our **average worship attendance** has increased from 214 to 239. And we have welcomed 32 people into our community of faith.

(Continued on next page)

We are a seriously friendly church

This Winter

Light watch

An Advent Sermon Series

- November 29 Advent I: Joy
- December 6 Advent II: Hope
Lessons and
Carols
- December 13 Advent III: Love
Children's Choir &
Praise Dance
- December 20 Advent IV: Peace
Choir Cantata

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24, 7 PM

Experience a worship service filled with the warmth of scripture, song, and candlelight.

GIVING THANKS (from first page)

- 13 families **opened their homes** and invited our church to meet Rebecca and me when we arrived.
- Disciples Women's Ministry** celebrated 25 years.
- Commissioned four new **Stephen Ministers** to extend distinctively Christian pastoral care to our church.
- Launched a new website **www.southelkhorncc.org**

I hope that this holiday season, no matter how you celebrate it, allows your heart to swell with gratitude and thanks. God loves us, our church family is growing in that love, and for that I give thanks!

Michael



Drive Through Bethlehem

Saturday, December 12, 6 PM

No Cost

Start or continue a family tradition by joining us for our annual event on the grounds of South Elkhorn. The night features live characters and live animals! Drive your family through a reenactment of this splendid evening leading up to the birth of Christ! Sign up sheets will be in lobby starting Sunday, November 22.

Children & Youth

New Baptism Class!

Making Disciples is a baptism program that pairs children and youth with mentors in a multi-week journey toward baptism. We invite all families of children and youth to prayerfully consider this wonderful opportunity.

Deadline to Register	January 24
Orientation Meeting	February 7
Commissioning	February 14
Easter Baptisms	March 27

Contact Holly Fuqua for more information or to register
hollyfuqua@gmail.com

Sunday Nights Resume January 10

Weekly Children & Youth Programming at South Elkhorn

3:45 PM—Praise Dance (Grades K-5)

4:45 PM—Children's Choir (Grades K-5)

5:00 PM—Meal (Grades K-12)

5:30 PM—Activities

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Grades K-5, Sunday Evenings, 4:45pm

Contact Choir Intern, Diana Vetter: dvetter13@gmail.com



This Winter

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 5, 9 AM

Enjoy eating breakfast with Santa! The men's breakfast group serves breakfast to children and their families on this wonderful morning. Make sure to bring your camera so you can take photos of this special day! All kids and their families are invited. There is no cost, just bring the family.

Youth Lock In

January 15-16

All Church Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, January 24, 5 PM

This is a wonderful afternoon for people of all ages as we fellowship and feast together.

Drive In Movie Theater

Sunday, January 31, 4 PM

Baptism Celebration

Sunday, March, 27

Save the Date

March 26, 9 AM Easter Egg Hunt

May 31– June 3, 6-9 PM VBS

July 10-15, Youth Mission Trip

Disciples.org



Choir

South Elkhorn Men's Choir:

All men are invited to meet in Choir Room at 10 AM on December 6 to prepare and present a special musical offering for worship that day.

Join the South Elkhorn Choir

Adults and youth (ages 13 and up)
Practice Wednesdays at 6:30 PM.

We share our joys and concerns as well as lift our voices in song.



Contact Chris Weiss, chris.weiss@mac.com.



Now you can benefit South Elkhorn with your holiday Amazon purchases! Simply:

- Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-6027359> to shop and you will automatically support South Elkhorn
- Shop from tens of millions of eligible products
- A portion of your eligible purchases will be donated to South Elkhorn
- Return to Amazon Smile and continue supporting the church



PRAYER LIST

We are a seriously friendly church who lift up one another in prayer. We care for each other, send notes and cards, and support one another in times of need. Each week the prayer list is published in our bulletin. Now it is also available online.

Find prayer list online: southelkhorncc.org/prayer-list

Reminder: Names will be removed after three weeks unless otherwise notified. Please contact the church office. Thank you!

New Year's Sermon Series

Resolve

Failure
Fatigue
Frustration
& Freedom

January 3-24 (4 Sermons) New year, new life. Well, probably not. Most New Year's resolutions last a month, if that. Why do our best efforts to reinvent or improve ourselves seldom succeed? What is transformation really all about? Explore the failure, fatigue and frustration of "starting new" and experience the surprising freedom of God's grace.



Sign up for text messaging

Do you want to receive text alerts, information, birthday wishes and encouragements?

Using your phone text "SECC" to 40650 and follow the prompts.

From the Cabinet

Giving Thanks

As we get ready to close out 2015, I wanted to recap some of the significant accomplishments at South Elkhorn during the year. I want to personally thank the staff, members of the Cabinet, and all of the Ministry Teams for providing me with support and helping us make great strides as a church. In addition, I want to thank the Search Committee - Adam Zeroogian, Jim Price, Laura Walsh, Felito Aldarondo, Phyllis Alexander, and Emily Burden for all of their hard work in helping us call Michael to South Elkhorn.

- Purchased 0.85 acres of land from the state of KY to invest in our visibility and growth needs
- With the help of the Search Committee, we welcomed Michael and Rebecca and organized several events to help connect members with them
- Purchased chairs and new Audio/Visual equipment to enhance the Worship experience
- Added a custodian to our staff to improve the appearance of our facilities
- Paid off nearly 40% of our mortgage balance in the last 10 months; now just \$87,603 remains as of the end of Oct. 2015
- Made significant improvements to the exterior and interior of our property, which would not have been possible without the contributions of dozens of people who provided their time and talents
- Painted, decorated, and installed new flooring in the Sunday school/office wing
- Added an additional Sunday School room in the Little Elks wing to better support our growing Children & Youth programs
- Planted two special trees in front of the historic sanctuary that were dedicated to Mickey Anders and Jerry Shepard
- Held two church workdays to clean up and beautify our grounds
- Planted several new trees along the back fence line
- Replaced an aging roof above Little Elks

I think we will look back at 2015 as a significant year of transition in the history of South Elkhorn, and I have been humbled by all of the generosity and support you have given me as we made significant investments in our staff and facilities to prepare us for the growth we are experiencing now and in the years to come.

Many thanks and blessings,
Aden Randles

Financial Overview

The financial snap shot for 2015 through October is shown in the table to the right. As previously reported, there were cost overruns earlier in the year due to the severe winter weather and higher transition costs as we brought custodian services in house. The larger issue is that pledged giving has fallen behind tens of thousands of dollars. We have historically seen the church rally at year's end to meet our financial needs. The finance team's hope is that 2015 pledge commitments are completed in the last six weeks of the year minimizing our 2015 deficit and the need to spend church reserves. For more information please contact Dave Johnson, Treasurer, at kybammer@gmail.com.

	Actual	Expected
Pledged Ministry	\$240,841	\$274,905
All Other Revenues	\$ 66,008	\$ 53,635
Total Revenues	\$306,849	\$328,540
Operating Expenses	\$365,224	\$348,055
Total Over / Under	(\$ 58,375)	(\$ 19,514)

Good Things to Come



Janet Warren will serve in 2016 as our Cabinet Moderator. She was born in Nashville, TN and grew up in western Kentucky. Janet enjoys gardening, cooking, knitting, hiking, playing with her dog "mugs," and music. She is a retired psychiatric nurse who thinks the most wonderful thing is spending time with her seven grandchildren. Janet is driven personally by building a legacy for the next generation. We are grateful for Janet's leadership, dedication, and love of God's mission and ministry at South Elkhorn.

Give Online

Support mission and ministry
Visit www.southelkhorncc.org/give



Giving online is one more way you can share your generosity through the mission and ministry of South Elkhorn. Scheduling your gifts for each month ensures that you won't forget to stay current on your commitment and helps the church maintain a consistent cash flow to continue mission and ministry throughout the year.

You can make one-time gifts to South Elkhorn by credit or debit card without an account. If you create an account, you can also make recurring gifts and access your giving history. Giving online allows designated gifts for your annual pledge, the building fund or a special fund.

Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.