

SOUTH ELKHORN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
4343 Harrodsburg Road
Lexington, KY 40513
southelkhorncc.org
859.223.1433

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Our Staff

Michael Swartzentruber

Senior Minister

Holly Fuqua

Associate Minister

Amanda DeWitt

Ministry Intern

Chris Weiss

Music Minister

Stasia Kruse

Administrator

Kim Skidmore

Preschool Director

Jason Newton

Custodian

A family of faith united in service

Join us this spring

Find out
more inside:

Roundabout Sunday

Youth Sunday

Baby Dedications

Graduation Sunday

Pentecost

Vacation Bible School

Serve Days

Music on the Banks

Church Retreat



MAY SERMON SERIES

May 1 *The Next Awakening*

May 8 *Extravagant Welcome*

May 15 *Authentic Community*

May 22 *Intelligent Faith*

Focusing on the book of Acts and the surprising stories of the early church, Senior Minister, Michael Swartzentruber, will preach a series of messages reflecting on a year of ministry, mission, and spiritual adventure at South Elkhorn.



SOUTH ELKHORN Quarterly Current

SPRING 2016

Family Matters

Michael Swartzentruber

I vividly remember that first Christmas Eve Rebecca and I shared in Richmond, Kentucky. We returned to our apartment after Christmas Eve worship, both tired from long weeks at the end of the year. Our families lived too far away for a quick trip home and were otherwise engaged, so we would be sharing this holiday without them.

We made plans to go out in Lexington for a nice Christmas Eve dinner and then to the ice skating rink. If we couldn't be with family, at least we could enjoy a romantic night together. We soon realized that most restaurants were already closed, everything was basically shut down, and everyone was enjoying the evening at home with their families.

So we heated up some leftover pizza and rented *The Hangover* from a nearby Redbox. Seriously. That was our Christmas Eve. Sad, I know. To top it off, we both found the movie profoundly disappointing. I tried to laugh, I promise. It just wasn't working for me. Looking back, Rebecca and I often chuckle about that sad state of our first Kentucky Christmas Eve: eating leftovers and watching a stupid movie by ourselves in the glow of a fireplace screensaver...

That experience made us think a lot about family, and about what it means to experience family when you aren't close to your own--regardless of whether that distance is locational or emotional. I'm convinced family is a spiritual reality that's created out of love, sharing life together, and responding to one another's needs. One foster child puts it this way: blood may be thicker than water, but love is thicker than blood.

*Blood may be thicker than
water, but love is thicker
than blood.*

This is why Christians have long called one another brother and sister. People who are not blood relatives share a bond so deep, so true, so intimate that only the language of family will do. And some Christians, including many of the first Christians, had to disconnect themselves from their blood relatives to follow in the way of Jesus. Indeed, when Jesus' own family comes looking for him, he calls his disciples *his real mother and brother* (Matthew 12:48-49).

Our vision at South Elkhorn is to be a *family of faith united in*



service. That is no easy task. Being family, real family, is hard because it doesn't just happen. But when we intentionally invest in and cultivate our relationships in the power of God's love, a life-changing and wondrous thing called family emerges.

This spring we want to grow as church family by creating more opportunities for people to meet one another, connect, and enjoy the simple family practice of sharing a meal together. You are invited to participate in Dine with Nine this year, a series of meals over the summer months in host homes. It's easy: sign up for one or two or all four of the months--either as a host or someone who just wants to show up and bring a dish to share. Likely, you'll meet someone new. I expect you'll share in a conversation that connects you in unexpected ways. And, more importantly, you'll help be a part of a life-changing process of making family out of one another in the miracle of Christian love.

A family of faith united in service

At A Glance

**Roundabout
Sunday**
Sunday, April 17

Youth Sunday
Sunday, April 24

Baby Dedications
Sunday, May 8

Graduation Sunday
Sunday, May 15

Pentecost Sunday
Sunday, May 15
Wear red to celebrate the power
of the Holy Spirit.

Paver Celebration
Sunday, June 5
Celebrate the leadership of
Evelyn Cartmill following
worship.

Serve Days
Saturday, June 11
Thursday, June 16
Share your hands and heart with
God's Food Pantry.

Music on the Banks
June 12, July 10, August 14

Kickoff Sunday
August 14, 9:00 AM
Children and Youth Sunday
School resumes.

Church Retreat
August 19-21
A weekend of rest, renewal and
spiritual Sabbath.

This Spring

YOUTH SUNDAY
April 24, 10:30 AM
Alyssa Parrett Preaching

Philippians 4:8-9

Distractions. We all get distracted. No matter what our age, we get distracted from spending time with our families, friends, and most importantly, God. Maybe we get caught up in social media, work, extra-curricular activities, or things that just keep us... busy. Come on Sunday, April 24 as we explore how to focus and to be fully present to the world around us. Perhaps we can grow together in putting God first when the temptations around us are strong.



Alyssa Parrett
Junior, Woodford County
High School

BABY DEDICATIONS
Sunday, May 8, 10:30 AM

Welcome new additions to our church family as God's beautiful gift of life! If you have a baby or small child who you would like dedicated, please contact the church office at southelkhorncc@gmail.com or call 223-1433.

GRADUATION SUNDAY
May 15, 10:30 AM

Please let the church office or Holly know by May 8 if you have a child graduating from preschool, high school, college or graduate school. We will honor our graduates during worship with a gift and prayer.



Children & Youth

MESSY WATER GAMES
May 29
5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Tiny Tots, Children and Youth come and celebrate our last Sunday night activity before the summer with Messy Water Games out in the back field. Wear your bathing suit or old clothes and bring a towel and maybe a change of clothes. We will grill hamburgers and dogs with Chip Dennison. Rebecca Swartzentruber will lead us in exciting messy games. Parents are invited to help with this event!

**POTLUCK DINNER &
BINGO WITH KEENAGERS**
Sunday, May 15, 5:00 PM

A time to partner up, young and old, for a few rounds of bingo, as we get to know each other as we feast on fellowship. Drinks will be provided but bring meat dishes, casseroles, salads, fruits and desserts.

SUMMER CAMP
See dates to the right

Children and youth are invited to unplug, experience the beauty of God's creation, the wonder of forming new friendships, and grow closer to God. Camp Wakon'Da-Ho is in Casey County Kentucky.

Registration forms are available in hard copy on the nursery counter

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
May 31- June 3
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love. All children ages 3-Grade 5 are invited to connect with friends old and new, grow in faith, and experience God's love! We will transform the church into an ocean of excitement as we explore the Bible through singing, crafts, science projects, recreation and more!

Register

1. Online at <http://bit.ly/1REI3mg>
2. Email church office for form
3. Pick up form at Church Welcome Center

First come, first serve—only 100 spots available.

Adult volunteers are needed.

Contact Holly Fuqua at hollyfuqua@gmail.com
or Lisa Dennison at lisa.dennison1@gmail.com



Sunday Night Schedule
Weekly Children & Youth Programming

3:30 PM—Praise Dance (Ages 5-12), 4 week session starting April 10

4:45 PM—Children's Choir

5:00 PM—Meal (Ages K-12th grade)

5:30 PM—Activities

At A Glance

Youth Sunday
Sunday, April 24, 10:30 AM

**Potluck Dinner &
Bingo with
Keenagers**
Sunday, May 15, 5:00 PM
Everyone bring a dish to share.

Messy Water Games
Sunday, May 29, 5:00 PM

**Vacation Bible
School**
May 31-June 3
6:00 PM—8:00 PM

Program guides with detailed
information are available online at:

southelkhorncc.org/children
southelkhorncc.org/youth

Camp Wakon'Da-Ho Dates

June 3-5	Mini Camp
June 6-11	CYFI
June 12-17	Eighter's Camp
June 20-24	Junior Camp
June 24-26	Camp 101a
June 27-July 2	CYFI
July 4-9	Chi Rho I
July 11-16	Chi Rho II
July 22-24	Camp 101b

SAVE THE DATES

Kick Off Sunday
Sunday, August 14

**Family Softball
Game**
Sunday, September 11



Children & Youth

Celebrate Good Times, Come on!

Holly Fuqua, Associate Minister

I was driving in the car with my Baptism Mentee, Zach Pickard. I turned on the radio and the song, *Celebration*, by Kool and the Gang came on. I turned it up, rolled down the windows and started to sing. Zach had never heard this song before, but the chorus is catchy, so Zach started to sing with me. Within seconds, we were jamming to the song and dancing in our seats. In between laughter, our duet got even louder. Perhaps you heard us singing from Harrodsburg Road? It was holy, joyful and invigorating.

South Elkhorn is the same way. Our church is holy, joyful and invigorating. Are you feeling it? I know I am. It is fresh. It is exciting. It is catchy. How can we keep from celebrating? How can we keep from singing? I can't hold it back anymore. I want to roll down my windows. I want to sing. I want to dance. I want to shout to the world about the vibrant ministry and exciting growth that is happening at a church that is around 250 years old. Obviously, age is just a number, because this church is only getting better with each passing year.

We don't need a holiday, birthday or a wedding reception to celebrate. We celebrate every Sunday morning in song, prayer, Communion and the Word. We celebrate God. We celebrate each other. We celebrate in



the silence. We celebrate in the laughter. We celebrate!

The Holy Spirit is igniting something new at South Elkhorn. It is flowing from us to others in the community and beyond. Curiosity is drawing people to our church to experience this excitement. People are talking about us. People are craving a community of faith based on love, faith, tradition, and celebration. So keep sharing your stories about South Elkhorn, and roll down those windows. Shout! Sing! Laugh! Dance! In the immortal words of Kool and the Gang, "Celebrate good times, COME ON! It's a CELEBRATION."

Celebrate God... and remember God celebrates YOU. So do we!



Summer Sabbath

June 6 - August 7

During the summer months we welcome God's rest, renewal and rejuvenation. Children and youth Sunday school, as well as regular evening programming, concludes May 29 and resumes August 14.

August 14: Kick Off Sunday! Sunday School resumes (9:00 AM) and students enter their new classes. Evening youth and children's activities also resume (5:00 PM).

Roundabout Sunday

A 5 Church Pulpit Swap  April 17

A New Heaven & Earth

Revelation 21:1-6



David Shirey
@Crestwood
Christian
Church



Kory Wilcoxson
@East Second
Street
Christian
Church



Don Gillett
@South Elkhorn Christian Church



Bennie Braddick
@Central
Christian
Church



Michael Swartzentruber
@Twin Pines
Christian
Church



Life Together



Visit our website to sign up online:
southelkhorncc.org/event/Dine-with-Nine

Share a meal. Meet new people. Extend the table.

Dine with Nine is a fun, casual way to get to know others in the church. The only commitment is dinner! Sign up in the foyer in April to be paired with a potluck gathering of 9-10 people in a host home during the months of May – August.

Both hosts and participants are needed and you may choose to do one month or even all four! Everyone brings a dish to share in an evening of food and conversation. Hosts will contact their group to coordinate; however, the church will provide childcare for groups who need it on the following dates:

Friday, May 13th – 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Sunday, June 5th – 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Sunday, July 17th – 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Contact Diana McKenzie if you have any questions at 699-6039 or via email: dianabmckenzie@gmail.com

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Martha Circle, Meet first Monday of each month
Becky Burklow, 859-494-7577

Marys' Circle, Meet first Tuesday of each month
Phyllis Rohlf, 859-223-8989

Priscilla Circle, Meet first Wednesday of each month, Nancy Smith, 859-223-7246

HOPE Group, Meet every Thursday
Holly Fuqua, 859-223-1433

Asher Group, Meet various dates
Laura Walsh, 859-537-4211

Well Group, Meet first and third Sunday of each month, Angie Kerrick, 859-338-5234



Young Adult Life Group Tuesdays, 7:00 PM

Small group experience for college age and 20 somethings. Contact Rebecca Swartzentruber at raswartzentruber@gmail.com.

Embrace Life Group Every other Thursday, 6:30 PM

A small group experience for adults who share in life together. Contact Rebecca Swartzentruber at raswartzentruber@gmail.com.

Church Retreat

AUGUST 19-21

ALDERSGATE CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

125 Aldersgate Camp Rd.
Ravenna, KY 40472
aldersgatecamp.org

COST/NIGHT:

	Before July 1	After July 1
Cottages	\$65/adult	\$75/adult
Tent Camping	\$25/adult	\$35/adult
RV Space	\$50	\$60

Children 4-11 Half price
Children 0-3 Free

Scholarships and Financial Assistance available.
Contact Holly Fuqua at hollyfuqua@gmail.com.

Early Registration Discount July 1
Registration Deadline August 12

Recreation

Pool	Swing Ring
Frisbee Golf	Hiking
Labyrinth	Ga Ga Ball

DESCRIPTION: Everyone and all ages are invited to share in a weekend of rejuvenation, relationships, and renewed spirituality. Experience soul rest in God's beautiful creation, including a Saturday morning spiritual walk and labyrinth. Enjoy incredible hiking in the Eastern Kentucky mountains, free time to play and laugh, campfire, talent show, swimming in the pool, and worship. Lodging is available for people of all mobilities and accessibility needs.

REGISTRATION: Paper copies available at the Church Welcome Center, contact the church office, or visit our website

Stay Connected



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.



Learn more and register at
southelkhorncc.org/event/church-retreat

A Family of Faith United in Service

 **SouthElkhornCC.org**

Serve

Serve Days

Saturday, June 11 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Thursday, June 16 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Join the Outreach Team for a day(s) of service and fellowship at God's Pantry. The volunteer sessions will be in the warehouse and require standing and some light lifting and bending.

- Ages 6-13 can volunteer with an adult.
- Ages 14 and up can volunteer w/out supervision.

There are limited spots available so sign up early to secure your spot. Signup sheets are on the bulletin board in the foyer.

If you need childcare for younger children, please note it on the signup sheets. Childcare can be arranged at the church for those who request it.

Sharon Humphries, Sharon.humphries@yahoo.com



Through God's Pantry's partnerships with 300 agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters, 121,400 meals are provided every day for hungry people in the 50 counties that are serviced. God's Pantry depends on volunteers to make this happen.

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. Proverbs 11:25

Helping Hands

The "Helping Hands Ministry" is a ministry to help our church members who occasionally need help with some tasks because they have physical limitations, illness, time constraints as a caregiver, etc. Some of the tasks might be to run errands, provide transportation or sit with a loved one, while a caregiver runs errands. We are in need of more volunteers both men and women. If you are interested or have questions, contact **Becky Burklow at 494-7577 or email: rburklow@windstream.net**.



Sunshine Ministry

The Sunshine Ministry Team's mission is to spread a little sunshine to those members/friends of the congregation who are unable to worship with us for an extended period of time. This includes those who are unable to worship with us on a permanent basis due to aging and/or health issues. Also, those who are unable to worship with us on a long-term but temporary basis due to recovery from surgery, temporary health issues, etc. If you know of someone in the congregation who could benefit from this ministry, please contact **Sharon White at 608-1610 or bswhite3985@gmail.com**.

Music on the Banks

June 12, July 10, August 14
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

The second Sunday of each summer month South Elkhorn is hosting an outdoor music and fellowship in the lawn behind the church. Listen to great local music and hang out with your friends from church or whoever else you bring with you! This is a free all-church event open to the community. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnic food, frisbees and enjoy the afternoon! Check our Facebook page for more details. For more information contact **Chris Weiss at weiss7@mac.com**.



Meet Jane Estep

By Amanda DeWitt, Ministry Intern



If you do not know Jane Estep yet, I would recommend getting to know her as she is an amazing asset to the South Elkhorn Christian Church family! Jane and her husband Steve came to South Elkhorn in the process of searching for a new church home shortly after they were married. While Jane was raised Catholic, and Steve Baptist, they were looking for something new that could meet both of their spiritual needs.

When attending South Elkhorn they were drawn to the engaging children's programs here. They were glad that their kids could have a role in church (children's moments, Worship and Wonder, etc.) South Elkhorn is intentional about creating a stimulating church environment for the kids of the congregation. They also found the intellectual sermons appealing which allowed for spiritual enrichment for both themselves and their children at South Elkhorn.

A few years ago, Jane started the Asher Group at South Elkhorn. She recognized that traditional women's circles may not be a model that suits everyone in the church, and she wanted to create a group that could reach other women in

the church. The Asher Group has included Bible Studies as well as an incredible support system for many of the women in our church, especially young mothers juggling kids and life. She has also been active in the Disciples Women's Ministry and created the Adult Education Committee.

Jane expressed a passion for bridging the gap between the different generations of women in our church. She has a desire for all women in the church to come together to get to know one another and experience intergenerational dialogue and interaction. She claims that "you will never meet smarter women than the ones we have at South Elkhorn." And boy, do I believe it! Jane hopes to unite all the women in the church to serve God together. Some of her ideas include a day in which all the women come together for a few hours to pack boxes of supplies for the summer (sunscreen, sandals, etc.) for the kids who are less fortunate in our community. As well as participating in Operation Christmas Child to pack shoeboxes with Christmas gifts to send to children in Africa.

Jane has a passion for people. She has a passion for unity. She has a passion for service. I see the light of Christ shining through her. It is a privilege to know Jane Estep.

Looking Forward

Cabinet Highlights from Janet Warren, Moderator

Your Cabinet Members are busily engaged in managing the activities under their leadership. I would like to mention a few of these activities and projects currently underway:

The Pastoral Relations Committee under Scott Brown’s leadership proposed (and the Cabinet approved) several changes to their guidelines, including: each minister will have a team of 4-6 members, members serve for 3 -5 years and meet approximately 6-8 times per year.

An anonymous gift of \$5,000 was donated for use by the Worship Team to improve Audio/Visual equipment. (Thank you to the generous donor!) The Team intends to install a monitor TV on the rear wall of the Christian Ministry Center, purchase additional wireless microphones and remodel the sound room to the right of the stage (now complete).

Greeter and Deacon Training was completed. Peter Woollam has agreed to lead Fall Festival and Stephanie Reedy managing vendors and Susan Zeroogian managing food service. Beth Daugherty is leading Hospitality AND Facility Enhancement Team. Chip Dennison is leading New Member Ministry. Diana McKenzie is leading Dine with Nine. Sharon White organized the Disciple Webinar, “The Church’s Mission with our Aging Population.” Jane Estepp organized a Marriage Enrichment event.

The Cabinet continued “Visioning” discussion by crystalizing the values which we believe reflect the essence of South Elkhorn and which in turn support our decision making.



Janet Warren
Moderator

Honest, probing sharing resulted in the following five highest ranking values:

- Extravagant Welcome
- Intelligent Faith
- Authentic Community
- Passionate Service
- Joyous Generosity

In other words, we genuinely welcome all, we are a faithful people who think, we are a real family who love to serve and who give with full hearts.

Think about what value you believe best describes the South Elkhorn family. The Cabinet would love to hear whether you think we are on target.

As always, it is such a pleasure to work with the fine servants on the Cabinet. We seek to do God’s will, following Jesus’ examples as we represent you in the business of HIS church.

Financial Overview

Treasurer, Aden Randles

The financials for the first two months of 2016 are shown in the chart. As you can see, our giving is behind where we expected it to be. Although the financial reports for the first quarter are not yet completed, I can report that the trend has continued. Pledged Giving is 20% less than we expected for the first three months of the year.

Fortunately, our expenses for the year have come in lower than planned (and lower than last year) primarily due to less snow removal and significant savings on our insurance. However, those savings have not been able to overcome the reduction in expected giving.

South Elkhorn's tradition of collecting pledges during the annual stewardship campaign allows us to budget for the following year based on expectations of giving. The congregation approved a balanced budget based on pledges for 2016. As responsible stewards of your gifts, the Finance Team will begin developing contingency plans for the Cabinet to consider should our giving not improve. If you pledged to give and have not yet contributed in 2016, please alert us to any changes in your circumstances so we can plan accordingly.

Giving statements for the first quarter will be mailed out in the next week. Please review your statement to check your progress against the amount pledged. South Elkhorn is, and always has been, a very generous church. Thank you for your gifts, and I will continue to inform you of our finances on a regular basis. For more information or questions please feel free to contact me at **859-536-4241 or arandles@commerceprop.com.**

January + February Results		
	Actual	Expected
Pledged Ministry	\$46,545	\$54,824
All Other Revenues	\$ 8,862	\$12,410
Total Revenues	\$55,407	\$67,234
Operating Expenses	\$65,398	\$67,234
Total Over / Under	(\$ 9,990)	\$0

Changes in the Neighborhood

The South Elkhorn Cabinet has been informed by Jake Riordan, Developer, of the potential purchase and development of neighboring property currently owned by Mr. and Mrs. C.V. Ethington. A drawing of the proposed development plan is posted on the bulletin board in the Christian Ministry Center located near Administrative Office.

The Developer has also met with Palomar Neighborhood Organization to inform them of the potential development. He must gain zoning approval and then finalize negotiations with Palomar and South Elkhorn before moving forward. As you can imagine, there will be an impact on the neighborhood regarding traffic flow and church access.

Richard (Dick) Murphy, attorney, is currently representing South Elkhorn and the developer. Dick intends to solely represent South Elkhorn should any conflict arise between South Elkhorn and the developer.

The Cabinet will keep you informed as the process moves along. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, **please give Janet Warren a call/text: 859-887-5479.**

