

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Lexington, KY
Permit No. 931

Our Staff

Michael Swartzentruber
Senior Minister

Holly Fuqua
Associate Minister

Amanda DeWitt
Student Minister

Sara Don Bailey
Ministry Intern

Chris Weiss
Music Minister

Diana Vetter
Music Intern

Stephen Daming
Pianist

Kim Skidmore
Little Elks Director

Stasia Kruse
Administrator

Jason Newton
Custodian

A family of faith united in service

Join us

Find out more inside:

Drive Through Bethlehem

Breakfast with Santa

Volunteers to Ring

Meet Sara Don Bailey

The Angel Tree

God's Pantry

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Lectio Class

New Year's Sermon Series



Join us this Advent at South Elkhorn as we explore the ghosts that haunt us during this festive time of year. We'll plow beneath the cheery surface to the deeper realities that tug and pull at us. We'll crack open that familiar story of Scrooge and see how it intersects with gospel stories of angelic encounters and the mysterious ways God's love is born into the world.

Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM

November 27	Ghosts of Christmas: Marley & Friends	Holly Fuqua Preaching
December 4	Ghost of Christmas Past	Brass Ensemble
December 11	Ghost of Christmas Present	Praise Dance
December 18	Ghost of Christmas Future	Choir Cantata



SOUTH ELKHORN Quarterly Current

ADVENT 2016

The Slow Work

Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister

Things are slowing down all around us--even if it doesn't seem like it. It's what happens when fall fades into winter. I still recall (though ever more dimly) my high school physics class when I discovered that heat is the energy released by molecules in motion. The cooler the temperature, the slower the motion.

We may feel the hot-chocolate-snuggle-into-the-couch pull as the cold approaches. Which, admittedly, I love. But in the Church we don't just slow down because it's getting colder. No, we do the "slow work" Advent demands.

The commercial pressures to speed up for the flurry of Christmas shopping won't be the only thing challenging the pace of our soul. There is a spiritual dynamic at work in us and around us that drives us toward

hurrying, skimming through, moving on, and reaching the end. Our desire for finality is rooted in our unrelenting need for control, for certainty, for stability--each in our own unique way, of course.

Advent reaches deep into us with a subtle, life-altering invitation: slow down your spirit and linger in the anticipation of what is to come. Don't race to the end. Don't assume you know the fullness or the complete nuance of what is about to arrive. This is not easy, it is work. Slow work.

In Advent, we take on the discipline of patience, slowing our spirits to fully welcome the surprise of Christ's birth. Advent invites us into the prayer of Teilhard de Chardin:

"Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We are impatient of being on the way to



something unknown, something new."

In Advent, familiar as it is, we are on the way to something new--again. The birth of Christ reminds us that God likes surprises in strange places, especially the ordinary and all-too-familiar. The very places we can be too hurried to notice.

Hurried people often fail to notice themselves, most of all. Perhaps, this Advent, slow work might send you on the way to being new.

I wouldn't want to miss that.



A family of faith united in service

At A Glance

Drive Through Bethlehem

December 10, 6:00 PM

Drive your family through a reenactment of this splendid evening leading up to the birth of Christ!

Advent

November 27
Sermon Series Begins

December 4
Brass Ensemble

December 11
Praise Dancers & Celebration Choir

December 18
Choir Cantata & Children's Choir

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24
4:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25
10:30 AM

New Year's Sermon Series

January 8-29

This Advent

DRIVE THROUGH BETHLEHEM
Saturday, December 10
6:00 PM, No Cost

Start or continue a family tradition by joining us for our annual gift to the community. The night features live characters and live animals reenacting the birth of Christ!

- Sign up in the church foyer.
- Anyone in the 6th grade or older can participate in one of the scenes.
- If you are new to the church it is a fun opportunity to fellowship with others while participating in an outreach event.



SPECIAL WORSHIP EVENTS THIS ADVENT

December 4—Brass Ensemble

Come join us for the UK Faculty Brass Ensemble as we celebrate advent with carols and horns!

December 11— Children's Praise Dance & Celebration Choir

The children will share their gift of dancing and all are invited to sing with the Celebration Choir as we celebrate the joy of Advent.

December 18—Choir Cantata & Children's Choir

The Choir will present a series of anthems and special music offerings in conjunction with Michael's reflections making a sermon in 3 parts. The Children's Choir will also present it's Christmas Anthem. Be sure to join us for this celebration of the coming of God's peace.

This Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
December 24
Two Services
4:00 & 7:00 PM

Enjoy the warmth of scripture, song, and candlelight. Together we'll welcome Christ by passing the flame as we sing Silent Night.

An earlier service is available this year. This is a great option for little ones with early bed times and those who prefer not to travel later at night.



CHRISTMAS SUNDAY
December 25, 10:30 AM

Join us as we welcome the birth of Christ by unwrapping the holy surprises Advent gifted us. Kids (and adults, too!) are welcome to dress casually--even pajamas! No Sunday School. 10:00 AM fellowship: enjoy hot chocolate and Christmas goodies together.



Children & Youth

This Advent

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Saturday, December 3,
Christian Ministry Center
9:00 AM

Enjoy eating breakfast with Santa! The men's breakfast group serves breakfast to children and their families on this wonderful morning. Come enjoy some bacon and hot cakes right off the griddle. Make sure to bring your camera so you can take photos of this special day! Everyone is invited to this all church event. There is no cost, just bring the family.

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES
Sunday, December 4,
Christian Ministry Center
5:00 PM

Enjoy our last Sunday night gathering until January 8. Come for Christmas dinner, crafts, games and a few holiday surprises.

Bring your friends!

CHILDREN'S PRAISE DANCE
Sunday, December 11,
Christian Ministry Center Loft

Children ages 4 years old to 10 years old welcome!

Practice at 4:00 PM
November 6, 13, 20, and
December 4

Practice at 12:00 PM
November 27

Dress rehearsal:
December 10 at 10:00 AM

For more information contact Jane Estep at janeestep@gmail.com or 221-0127.

Coming in the New Year

ALL CHURCH CHILI COOK OFF & TALENT SHOW
Christian Ministry Center
Sunday, January 22
5:00 PM

Families and people of all ages are invited to bring chili for a fun afternoon of feasting and fellowship.

Please sign up to bring hot dogs, buns, condiments, chili fixings and desserts. Sign up sheet on white board in foyer.

SUPER BOWL PARTY
Sunday, February 5
6:00 PM

Youth (6th grade through 12th grade) will meet at Holly's house for a Super Bowl Party. Bring a potluck dish to share! Drinks and desserts provided. Parents will pick up at halftime.

If you need directions, please email Holly at holly@southelkhorncc.org.

DRIVE IN MOVIE THEATER
Sunday, February 12
4:30 PM

Craft your own car from boxes or wood or whatever your imagination creates. Each child is encouraged to enjoy the movie in their car while snacking on treats.

We will also have some fun contests with our cars. Parents and kids are encouraged to make this a fun family project.

Sunday Night Schedule

Weekly Children & Youth Programming

- 4:00 PM—Praise Dance
- 4:40 PM—Children's Choir
- 5:00 PM—Meal (Ages K-12th grade)
- 5:30 PM—Activities

At A Glance

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 3
9:00 AM

Children & Youth Christmas Parties

Sunday, December 4
5:00 PM

Chili Cook Off

Sunday, January 22
5:00 PM

Youth Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 5
6:00 PM

Drive In Movie Theater

Sunday, February 12
4:30 PM

Making Disciples Orientation

Sunday, February 19

Program guides with detailed information are available online at:

southelkhorncc.org/children
southelkhorncc.org/youth

SAVE THE DATES

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15

Baptism Sunday

Sunday, April 23

Baby Dedication Day

Sunday, May 14

Graduate Sunday

Sunday, May 7

Vacation Bible School

May 30-June 2



Children & Youth

Holly Fuqua, Associate Minister

Pull Up Another Chair

Have you heard there is a big problem occurring at South Elkhorn Christian Church? It is a big issue and one that needs to be discussed. The problem is occurring at 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, during Sunday School and Children and Youth Programs. The problem is...we are running out of chairs!

Each Sunday morning, we are pulling in more chairs to our Sunday School classes. Each Sunday evening, children and youth are sitting on the floor, so we are pulling in more chairs. What do we make of this problem?

It speaks to the fact that we are a church where people want to come to learn the message of scripture and fellowship with our friends in Christ. We are a church that is overflowing with young people who are filled with excitement, wonder, curiosity, love and faith. Have you paid



attention to the beautiful sight we witness each week as the children overflow the chancel stairs during the Children's Sermon? Chair (and stair) shortages means we are doing something right.

Chair shortages, what a blessing. What a great problem. Considering coming to South Elkhorn? No problem, we will pull up another chair.

Slow Faith
Living Deeply in a Hurried World

Sermon Series
Jan 8 *Saturated Words*
Jan 15 *Winding Down*
Jan 22 *Lingering Love*
Jan 29 *Patient Hope*

SOUTH ELKHORN
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Start fresh in the New Year

Embrace God's restful, renewing call on your life to listen deeply, to be alert to yourself and the world around you, and to recalibrate your soul for the greater journey. A special Sunday morning class is available to introduce and guide you in the ancient art of "holy listening" through the words of Scripture.



Choir

Join us Sunday Nights
5:15-6:30 PM
Choir Room (204)

The adult choir is an open group of singers that loves music and loves being together! This year our group is growing by leaps and bounds. We meet each Sunday evening to share Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs as well as our joys and concerns with each other. Sunday mornings we help to lead the congregation in worship and offer our gifts of praise. Come this Sunday and find out what it's all about! Childcare available.



Chris Weiss
Minister of Music

Lectio Divina

4 Week Adult Sunday School Class
Led by Lisa Gammel Maas
January 8-29, 2016, 9:00 AM, Room 111

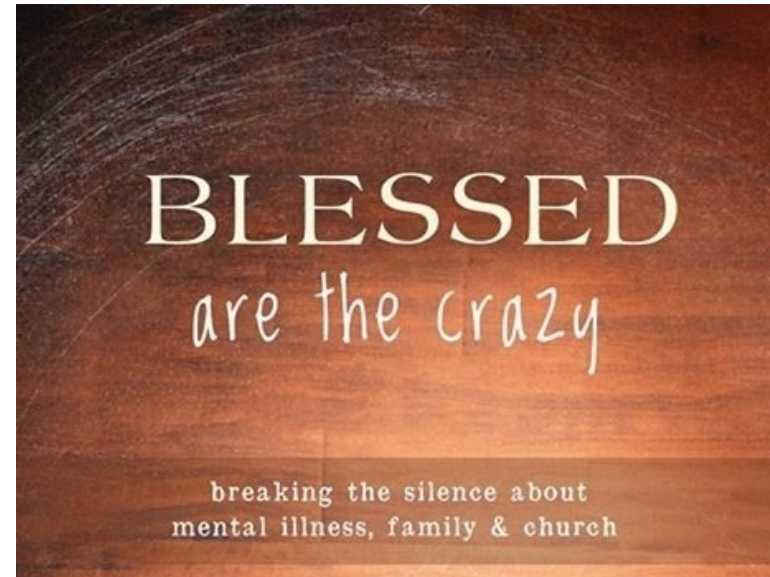
Lectio Divina is a slow, contemplative praying of the scriptures. It is an ancient art of engaging scripture with an open heart. Through the repeated reading of a short passage of scripture, each of us invites a personal and intimate message from God, relevant to this moment in our lives. No advance preparation is needed and all are welcome. Please reserve your spot by signing up on the white board in the foyer or contact Associate Minister, Holly Fuqua. Limited space is available.

Life Together

Café Faith

Sunday, November 20
Christian Ministry Center
5:15 PM

Rev. Sarah Lund, author of *Blessed are the Crazy* is coming to speak about mental health and how to break the personal, social and spiritual silence. Everyone is invited to join us for coffee and desserts. Childcare available. For more information, please contact Amanda DeWitt at amanda@southelkhorncc.org.



DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Join a circle or group beginning the first week of the month. Find authentic community, grow in faith, and serve the world.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Life Groups

Young Adult Life Group

Wednesdays, 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.

Making Disciples

An 8 week journey toward baptism involving reading the Bible, exploring the basics of Christian faith, discovering the meaning of baptism, a service project, and developing a mentor relationship with a caring Christian adult leader.

February - April, 2016
Contact Holly Fuqua to enroll
holly@southelkhorncc.org

Mentor Selection

Children and youth can recommend and select their mentor. Parents, grandparents, ministers, church elders, or any trusted spiritual leader at South Elkhorn all make for great mentors. You can also arrange with Holly to find a mentor.



My favorite experience was sharing communion in the beauty of the Arboretum woods. Susanne brought to every experience her strong faith and creativity.

Becky Burklow
April 2016



Becky and Susanne shared in Walk for Warmth benefitting the Lexington Rescue Mission.

I liked being baptized in the holy water. I felt like God's daughter. God's love is the strongest and the distance it travels is the longest.

Susanne Estep
April 2016

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.

Serve

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS November 26-December 17

Bell ringing for the Salvation Army will be at the Beaumont Kroger on the following Saturdays—November 26, December 3 and December 17. If you would like to sign up to ring the bell, contact Doug Alexander at 859-221-1032 or dgapr@twc.com.



THE ANGEL TREE November 27-December 11

Beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving you will be able to "adopt" either a young child or a veteran from the Angel Tree in the church foyer.

Each Angel on the tree will have a name and number of a young child and each Star will have a name and number of a Veteran. See Amber Greathouse for the specific sizes and wish list of the name selected. You will have until Sunday, December 11 to return all your wrapped gifts to the church.

For questions or more information contact Amber Greathouse: amber.greathouse@twc.com.



GOD'S PANTRY Through December 6

Boy Scouts Pack 110, who meet here every week, is partnering with South Elkhorn for a food drive. Place food items in blue barrels by the Christian Ministry kitchen. Help stock the shelves with:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Canned vegetables | Cereals |
| Canned fruit | Pastas & rice |
| Soups | Peanut butter |
| Shelf stable milk | |



Meet Sara Don Bailey



What impact did going to church as a child have on you?

I grew up in Lancaster Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) until I was about 7. After that, our family moved our membership to Victory Christian Church where I attended from about age 7 through my senior year of high school. A

solid foundation was created in the center of me in those early years. I learned that God's grace is so great- that He loves me more than I could ever know and *desires* to share a relationship with me. When I experienced this, I knew right away that I had to share this with other people. In 7th grade I volunteered to speak at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and shared a short sermon on Romans 1:16. I believe that's when I first felt the call to ministry.

What is your favorite movie? Why?

Bridesmaids!! Absolutely hilarious! I love anything that Kristen Wiig or Melissa McCarthy is in. My best friend and I watched it about 100 times before she moved to Texas. We always said if our friendship was a movie, it would be the friendship of Annie and Lillian- all shenanigans included!! It's our movie.

What is your favorite scripture passage, story, or verse? Why?

This one is tough. Probably Romans 8:28: "And we know (with great confidence) that God (who is deeply concerned about us) causes all things to work together (as a plan) for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan *and* purpose." -AMP

I will be the first to say I am one who frets the "what if's" in life and have since I was a little girl. This verse has always been comforting to me. Through my anxiety, my stress, my heartbreak, my exhaustion, my frustration, you name it, this verse reminds me that God has not overlooked me. In fact, he is even concerned about what I'm battling! He continues to have our best interest at heart. This verse has been one to remind me to keep me hanging in there, God is working on it.

Where did you go to school and what did you study?

My freshman and sophomore years of college, I attended BCTC in Danville for most of my general education classes. Then I transferred to ECU for three years. I majored in Psychology and minored in Women and Gender Studies.

What was it about South Elkhorn that led you to visit and join?

I love this question! It's funny, I've always noticed South Elkhorn because of the beautiful red doors! I've heard so

many of my girlfriends' say, myself agreeing, "It's the perfect spot for a wedding!! Can you imagine the gorgeous pictures taken in front of those doors?!"

One day, my mom was on her way to a doctor's appointment and took a wrong turn. She drove past South Elkhorn and got on our website when she got home. She told me that South Elkhorn Christian Church sounded like the perfect fit for me and that I need to go! She offered to go with me on Sunday if I would go. So we went. As soon as we walked in the doors our first Sunday, I felt so much love and a welcome that I had needed for a very long time. I knew that I was home and this was marking a new chapter for me!

Do you have a favorite sport or team that you follow?

Do I follow sports religiously? Um, no. However, I do love UK basketball! #BBN!! I also like to say I'm a Colts fan... even though I'm pretty football challenged.

You mentioned you enjoy baking: what do you like to bake?

Everything! But my favorite is to bake and decorate cookies! It's great stress relief for me.

What is one of your favorite vacation destinations?

I do love the beach, but I never, ever get tired of Gatlinburg. Really, I never get tired of either!

Who do you admire and look up to?

My grandma Betsy Bailey. Unfortunately, my family and I had to say goodbye about a month ago. She radiated joy and positivity always! She always had the "glass half full" mentality. She was my prime example of what loving others and being kind to others looks like. Extraordinary lady.

What book are you currently reading or did you most recently finish?

I finished *Divine Obsession* by Rob Henson. It's about God's unbelievable love for us. He is "obsessed" with His creation and His people! He longs for us and wants nothing more than to pour love and grace on us. It's one of my favorites and has gotten me through some really tough heart aches.

What ministry or ministries are you passionate about?

I have always been passionate about the challenges that women and girls battle. I am especially passionate about self-love and body image challenges that young girls face constantly. But let's be honest, all women battle this, no matter how old we are. The older I've gotten, the more I've seen it's not just the ladies, either. Guys are battling it, too. I hope to be a part of a movement that is empowering women and men. I want to be a part of a ministry that teaches us that God indeed gave us a mind, a heart, and a voice; through God awesome things are in store so that our talents can be used! To those of us that think we don't measure up- who feel they are not pretty enough, skinny enough, smart enough, strong enough, wealthy enough, "man" enough, "woman" enough- you name it- I pray that my life preaches the message to others that you indeed measure up and you are enough.

Cabinet Highlights



By Janet Warren,
Cabinet Moderator

Ethington Property Development Update

South Elkhorn Christian Church has reached an agreement with Taylormade Real Estate (Jake Riordan, developer) to deed approximately .7 acres required to construct Madrone Way. The church will receive cash and various services (new entrance, removal of spur paving, landscaping and paving of a portion of the existing parking lot). They also agreed to execute various use-based deed restrictions and to cover surveying, legal and closing expenses.

All of this is contingent upon zoning approval, final development plan approval and Ethington property closing. We do not expect to close until the spring. I would also note our appreciation for the work of Attorney Jacob Walbourn of McBrayer and Associates.

Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF)

The Cabinet met with Maribeth Westerfield of the DCEF on Oct. 17. She described a process to identify future facility needs and addressed steps required to complete a renovation or addition to the current facility. The 2017 Cabinet will continue these discussions.

Endowment Fund

The Elders met with Randy Johnson from Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) and Janet Connell, SECC Endowment Fund lead, to gain further information regarding Endowment Fund specifics. The Elders will initiate a team whose charge will be local church Endowment Fund oversight. Contact Felito Aldarondo at fjei@windstream.net or 859-559-5631 if interested.

Preparation for the December 2016 Congregational Annual Meeting

The Nominating Team, led by Vice Moderator John Johnson, is nearing the completion of the 2017 Cabinet, Elders and Deacons Slate. If Asked – Please Serve!! The Finance Team, led by Aden Randles and assisted by Diana McKenzie, Stewardship Lead is developing the 2017 Budget. Get those pledges in!!

Other Notes

Barb Ellerbrook agreed to serve as Service/Outreach Chair for the remainder of the year. She is filling the vacancy recreated when Sharon Humphries had to resign due to a work move to North Carolina.

Stephen Daming was hired as our pianist. A hearty welcome to Stephen.

Jack McAllister represented South Elkhorn as the Voting Delegate to Regional Assembly of the Christian Church.

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 20.

(Please print)

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given By: _____

Number of Poinsettias Ordered: _____



Financial Overview

By Aden Randles, Treasurer



As of this writing, we are in the busiest time of the year for the church regarding finances. We are wrapping up our stewardship campaign and developing budgets for 2017. There is a lot of excitement at South Elkhorn to do so many great things, and the Finance Team and Cabinet

will be working hard over the next month to make decisions about what we can afford to do in the coming year.

The financials for the first nine months of 2016 are shown in the chart. As you can see, our giving is behind where we expected it to be and is causing us to fall short of our plans for a balanced budget. Giving statements were mailed a couple of weeks ago, and they are designed to help members easily track their progress against their 2016 pledged giving.

While I don't have final numbers to share, I can report that the Fall Festival brought in approximately \$20,000 this year. This is an increase from previous years, as we were able to use our newly acquired land to add more vendors. It was a beautiful day, and these results would not have been possible without the help of so many generous people at South Elkhorn - thank you! These funds are not applied to the Operating Budget, but are instead at the discretion of the Cabinet. In the past Cabinet has elected to use these funds to support Outreach, pay for capital improvements (the recent repaving of the parking lot), and to accelerate our mortgage payoff.

Speaking of the mortgage, our balance at the end of September was \$22,641 and we continue to be on track to pay it off by the end of 2016.

South Elkhorn is, and always has been, a very generous church. Thank you for your gifts, and I will continue to inform you on our finances on a regular basis.

For more information or questions please feel free to contact me: arandles@commerceprop.com or call at 859-536-4241.

Financial Results thru September 2016

	Actual	Expected
Pledged Ministry	\$210,427	\$246,708
All Other Revenues	\$ 54,427	\$ 55,845
Total Revenues	\$264,854	\$302,553
Operating Expenses	\$282,896	\$302,553
Total Over/(Under)	(\$ 18,042)	\$0
Mortgage Balance	\$22,641	

Little Elks Preschool

This vibrant ministry of our church continues to grow. With the addition of two year olds to our program (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) we reached total capacity and are bursting at the seams: 127 students in the fall of 2016.



Kim Skidmore, Little Elks Director