



The Messenger

A publication of
Southern Hills
United Methodist Church
2356 Harrodsburg Rd.
Lexington, Ky 40503

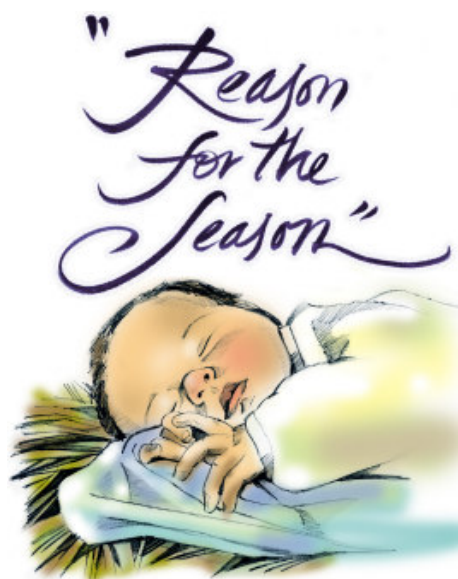
December 2011

From the Senior Pastor:

DON'T MISS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

Frank S. Mead once wrote a story titled, "The V.I.P." In his story the small town of Mayfair is excited over the anticipated arrival of a rich and important stranger, Henry Bascom, who is coming to spend Christmas in their town. The whole town turns out to meet him at the airport, but he's nowhere to be found. Meanwhile, a quiet man slips by the people at the airport and heads into town.

This quiet man does not appear to be a man of means. He is ignored and mistreated by the insensitive people of Mayfair. They are all caught up in a Christmas frenzy of materialism and the gaudy trappings of the season. They don't have time to help this stranger in their midst. Finally, a poor, old gentleman invites the stranger home for a meager dinner with his family.



After the dinner, the stranger returns to the airport, where two men are taking down the sign welcoming Henry Bascom. One man remarks to the other, "I can't believe we missed him. He must be in town somewhere, but we missed him." And the stranger, unnoticed by the two men, climbs onto a plane and leaves the town of Mayfair behind.

That could happen in Lexington, couldn't it? That could happen in our church. That could happen to our celebration of Christmas. We could get so wrapped up in a frenzy of shopping and gifting and partying, that we could miss the Christ child altogether. After all the I-Pads and X-Boxes and Jimmy Choo shoes and fur-lined sinks and electric dog polishers have been opened, will we still be able to find the place of stillness where we can contemplate the true meaning of Christmas?

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:9-14

Bill

Series: "Journey to Bethlehem" December

- 4th Advent 2, "You Are to Name Him Jesus", Matthew 1:18-24
- 11th Advent 3- "Mary's Song", Luke 1:39-45
- 18th Advent 4- "Journey to Bethlehem", Luke 2:1-7
- 25th Christmas Day, "The World was Never the Same", Luke 2:8-20

Ministry ~ Rev. Dennis Burrows

“Life is like tennis: the one who serves the most seldom loses!”

CHECK OUT OUR SERVING GROUP ON FACEBOOK

“SOUTHERN HILLS SERVING” is the newest group on Facebook. If you would like to be among the first to know ways and places you can serve, please allow us to make you a member of our group. Send your e-mail address to dburrows@southernhillsumc.org.



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Southern Hills UMC,

Greetings from Thailand in the name of Jesus Christ.

We are very grateful for your generous gift and your prayers in support of our mission. This has been a fruitful year of ministry, pioneering two new churches in unreached areas of Thailand and expanding the life saving ministry of Blessing Home so that more children can be protected from those who would enslave them in the child sex and drug trades. And it is all possible because of compassionate believers like you. Thank you.

We apologize for our delay in writing this letter. The Fall itineration was at a maddening pace, visiting 78 churches during the past 3 months. Now that we are both back serving in the field in Thailand, we are catching up on life once again.

We are excited about the progress towards the goal of \$144,000, and now have received \$88,000. Please keep the children of Blessing Home in your prayers, that we will be able to buy a building soon. May the Lord Bless You,

Michael and Sherri Morrissey



**Sing For Your
Supper
December 18
3:30 p.m.**



December 24
**Worship Service 5:00
p.m. and 7:00p.m.**
**(communion will be served
at 7 p.m. service)**



December 25
10:30 a.m.
(One Service Only)



**New Year's Eve
Come and Go Communion
Dec. 31
6 - 7 p.m.**

Children's Ministry ~ Priscilla Bagley



December 4th

Children in Elementary Sunday School are having an advent workshop. We are going to talk about the meaning of Advent and do some crafts that help us remember what Advent is all about - Jesus!

Children's Christmas Program December 11th

Everyone is welcome. Children will dress up as their favorite part of the Christmas story and all children will act out the story with help from our youth. It will be a fun night of telling the wonderful story of Jesus and how He came to be our Hero and Savior. There will be singing, laughing, acting, and food. I hope you can join us!



Christmas Program

December 18th

"Happy Birthday, Jesus!" party for all children in Sunday School. We will have cake, crafts, games all to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

December 20th

Family Holiday Movie Night at 6:30 in the Activities Building



*Going through a tough time right now?
Do you desire Christian guidance and fellowship,
but aren't sure anyone will understand what you're going through?*

Southern Hills is a Stephen Ministry congregation. In Stephen Ministry congregations, trained lay caregivers (called Stephen Ministers) provide one-to-one Christian care to those experiencing difficult situations – to the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated, and others facing a crisis or life challenge.

Stephen Ministers provide quality caring ministry for as long as people need it.

Some blessings you may experience by talking with a Stephen Minister:

- Receive quality, Christ-centered, confidential care for your hurts and needs
- Find hope, healing, and a new sense of worth through the support of a Stephen Minister
- Know you are remembered and supported in times of personal difficulty
- Receive ongoing care for continuing needs long after the onset of a crisis, when others may have forgotten
- Grow in a deeper relationship with the Lord as you experience God's unconditional love for you through your Stephen Minister

Contact Jo Palmer, Barbie Lally or David Bowles through the church office at 277-6176 to connect with a Stephen Minister.



Festival of Christmas - Yearning for the Christ Child
by Rev. Joan Wooden

There is a yearning for the promised One, the first born of creation... -Susan Bentall Boersma

I don't know about you, but these words hold true, especially during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. I long to be in the presence of God, to know God, and to comprehend the incomprehensible gift of the Christ Child. Although it is impossible for me to wrap my mind about this unconditional love, it is quite easy to wrap my heart and soul around it, and I find that church music takes me to the very throne of God. The musicians of Southern Hills, in particular, offer a wonderful glimpse of the Glory of God, because they give from their hearts, and I hope that they are aware that their gift of music is, in fact, a gift *from* God. Each group offers a different style of music, and by listening to them, even in rehearsals, I find myself enveloped in many different dimensions of the holiness of God. This variety is what makes our upcoming ***Festival of Christmas*** so exciting.

On Wednesday, December 14th, ***Festival of Christmas***, our annual music ministries concert, will be offered as our gift to our church family and community. This year, our choirs will offer a variety of styles of music, as well as ample congregational carol singing. Included in the program will be our Elementary Children's Choir, Youth Ensemble, MOVE (Men Only Vocal Ensemble), LOVE (Ladies Only Vocal Ensemble), Chime Choir, and Chancel Choir. The concert will culminate with a presentation of John Rutter's ***Gloria***, for choir, brass, percussion and organ.

I hope you will be able to attend this wonderful presentation, and if you, like me, are yearning for God, you will surely find the Holy One in the midst of the music that is offered. ***Festival of Christmas*** will be held on Wednesday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m. in our sanctuary.





December Calendar

- 4 - Sunday - Pancake Breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m.
- 7 - Wednesday - UMW Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
- 8 - Thursday - SHECP Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m.
- 11 - Sunday - Children's Program, 4:00 p.m.
- 11 - Sunday - SHUMY Christmas Party, 5 - 7 p.m.
- 12 - Monday - Methodist Men's Christmas Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
- 14 - Wednesday - Dinner, 5:30 and Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- 18 - Sunday - Sing For Your Supper, 3:30 p.m.
- 20 - Tuesday - Movie Under the Moon "Elf," 6:30 p.m.
- 24 - Saturday - Christmas Eve Worship Services, 5:30 and 7:00
(Communion served at 7 p.m. service)
- 25 - Sunday - Christmas Day - Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
(one service only)
- 31 -Saturday - Come and Go Communion, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 1, 2012 - Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
(one service only)

(please note, this list is not all inclusive, please watch bulletin for further information)

The Staff at Southern Hills UMC
wishes you a very Merry Christmas!



Merry Christmas

Worship ~ Joan Wooden

Hosting the Indianapolis Children's Choir Blessed to be a Blessing!



Recently, our church had the privilege of hosting the Indianapolis Children's Choir in a concert and worship service. Quite honestly, I was a bit nervous about such an endeavor. I knew I couldn't pull it off by myself, and I had never worked on a project of this type with members of our congregation. I spent many sleepless nights fretting senselessly over details beyond my control, and, once everything was over, I could only thank God for this amazing community called Southern Hills United Methodist Church.

Members of the **United Methodist Women**, under the direction of **Kay Griffin** prepared a delicious meal for our guests before the concert. When I arrived at church on the day of the concert, I was greeted by many cheerful women who were working in the kitchen. I was surprised by their joy as they worked, and I was delighted by the carefully created and beautiful table decorations. As the afternoon wore on, I received the message that our guests would be late. I knew that these women were very conscientious about time, and I skeptically anticipated frustration. Instead, their response was gracious and still joyful. They

asked if I would like to sit down with them while we waited. I was amazed! The news was met with patience and grace. When the choir finally arrived and was practicing, the ladies sent word to please let them know ten minutes before the children would come in to eat, so that the food would be warm when it was served. The UMW thought of everything, and their gift of hospitality was a reflection of Christ!

The week of the concert, I spoke with **Dave Deaton**, who agreed to organize **ushers** for the event. When they arrived on Saturday evening, they were also full of joy, and were charming and friendly to our guests. As I watched them, it occurred to me that we should never take for granted the ministry of our ushers. Their role is vital in helping our church to be a warm and welcoming community.

Three of our choirs were asked to participate in the concert, including the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, and Chime Choir. All three choirs worked diligently to ensure a quality and enjoyable performance, and members of all three groups joyfully offered their talent and time to make the program successful.

The Indianapolis Children's Choir, under the direction of Ruth Dwyer, is an outstanding choir, and their music was a very special blessing. When it was over, however, I realized that the greatest blessing is the people who make up Southern Hills UMC. Thanks be to God!



Choir Robe

Robes for the Elementary Children's Choir

Recently, through an anonymous donation, the music department was able to purchase beautiful choir robes for our Children's Choir. Special appreciation is extended to **Becky Goodrich** for working with the vendors, measuring our children, placing the order, organizing the robes when they arrived, and even steaming each one for our first performance. Thank you, Becky!

United Methodist Women ~ Linda Rowland



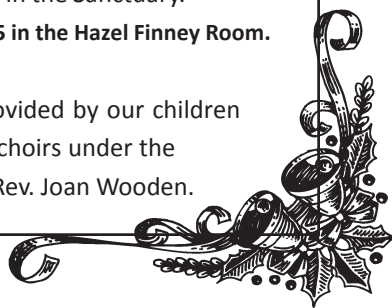
Celebrate the Season
With the Women
Of
Southern Hills United Methodist Church

All women are invited to
Enjoy Christmas Music and Fellowship at our
Annual
Christmas Dinner.

Wednesday, December 7
At 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Board meeting at 5:15 in the Hazel Finney Room.

Music will be provided by our children
and youth choirs under the
direction of Rev. Joan Wooden.



The Meade Shotwell has a new Circle Chairperson: Carlene Ott. We will all be attending the December dinner on Wednesday, December 7th. Our January meeting is to be on Monday, January 9th in the Fireside Room at 7:30. Rev. Dennis Burrows will be our speaker. Have a blessed Christmas. Joyce Hahn

The Pat Herren Circle will be meeting for lunch at the Friendship Tea Room at The Gift Box on Tuesday, December 13th at 11:00 a.m. The Gift Box is located at 3330 Partner Place off Clays Mill Road.

The Faith Susannah Wesley Circle will meet Wednesday, December 14th at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Pat Kimbrell for our annual Christmas pot luck luncheon.

The Sarah Bagby Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 14th at noon in the Fireside Room for our annual Christmas Party. Please bring a finger food to share.

The New Life Circle will have their next regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, January 12, 2012 in the Reception Room. Please contact Kay Griffin or Pattie Lester for further information.



PEO Luncheon

The UMW PEO luncheon will be on January 28, 2012. Please sign up at your circle meetings to provide assistance, ingredients and/or money to provide this luncheon which produces income for our UMW. Our organization donates to many charities and programs in and around our community and the PEO lunch proceeds are needed to continue our efforts. Please sign up for your contribution and/or service by the end of December so we will be able to complete our plans in preparation for this coming year's luncheon.

Thank you,
Lee Anna Halley, PEO luncheon Chairman.

From the Business Office ~ Bill McKinney

Last month I highlighted our proposed budget for 2012 and the upcoming Stewardship Campaign to fund it. All members should have received a stewardship letter and pledge card by now—if you need one please let me know. Those of you in church these past several weeks heard our clergy and lay members speak on the importance of stewardship. Since I surely can't say it any better, I'll limit my report this month to a status update.



Our November 13th Sunday services provided a time to reflect and commit our pledges for the new year. As of Nov 20th, **266** pledges for about **\$850,000** have been received. Last year, at the same point in our campaign, we had received 267 pledges for around \$830,000. One can see we are a little ahead of last year's campaign—thanks! In the past several years we averaged 352 pledges once everyone returned their cards. If we have a similar number of pledges this year, and those who pledged before will return a similar (or better yet, higher!) pledge for 2012, we will be able to fund most of our church budget, but not without changes from that approved at our most recent Administrative Board meeting. I believe all Southern Hills members and attendees desire a continuation of our missions and programs, so I implore those who have yet to pledge to do so as soon as possible.

By the way, I appreciate members who have taken advantage of our auto payment system during 2011. This painless way to contribute via a weekly or monthly auto-draft of your checking account has been available for several months and is working well. Join those of us who use this free service—contact me for more information.

Finally, last month I highlighted our financial deficit. Despite several recently completed projects, we are still having issues with the regular budget. One can review the attached chart to see how we stand at report deadline. I ask everyone to complete their pledge this year and consider additional end of year contributions to assist with this problem.

Best regards,
Bill McKinney

| Current Income / Expense | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Thru 18 Nov 2011 | | |
| | (in thousands) | % Budgeted |
| INCOME | | |
| SHECP | 776 | 79.8 |
| Contributions | 1127 | 85.9 |
| Other Income | 46 | 81.4 |
| Total Income | 1949 | 84.9 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| SHECP | 880 | 90.5 |
| Capital | 118 | 98.1 |
| Property | 139 | 93.3 |
| Personnel | 614 | 81.0 |
| Administrative | 165 | 76.4 |
| Education & Worship | 36 | 69.7 |
| Leisure & Outreach | 24 | 83.1 |
| Total Expenses | 1976 | 86.1 |
| Balance | (27) | |



**Southern Hills
United Methodist Church**

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December 2011

Return Services Requested



Ministers: Dr. Bill Moore
Rev. Dennis J Burrows

Adopt-A-Family Project



The Young United Methodist Womens Circle (YUM'S) have distributed the names of 31 families (a total of 156 individuals) that the church is adopting for Christmas. **All names were provided by Nathaniel Mission.** If you have not received a name and would like to adopt an individual or two or a family, see Becky Goodrich.

**Pancake Breakfast to help fund Adopt-A-Family!
December 4, 2011**

The Eagles will be hosting their annual "PANCAKE" breakfast, Sunday, Dec. 4. Serving times will be **8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** All proceeds will go toward the funding of food baskets (ham or turkey, milk, bread, vegetables, etc.) for the "Adopt-A-Family" program. Donations will be accepted at the breakfast but you do not have to participate in the eating of pancakes to make a donation. Make checks payable to SHUMC, marked Adopt -A- Family.



Our worship services may be heard on 630 WLAP-AM radio every Sunday at 8:30 A.M., brought to you by Quantrell Cadillac, Volvo and Subaru and Al Torstrick Insurance.