



# The Messenger

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

January 2012

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## From the Senior Pastor:

### TO MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT, CHOOSE A PRIORITY



Ed McManus, a comic writer, has some words of comfort for those of us who are setting resolutions for the coming year: “Don’t worry about keeping those 2012 News Year’s resolutions,” he says. “You only have to deal with them until February and then you can give them up for Lent.” It sounds like a plan!

Edna St. Vincent Millay once wrote, “I know that life must go on, but I forget just why.” We sometimes miss the great opportunities of life because we get sidetracked. I heard a story about a talented bloodhound in England that started a hunt by chasing a full grown male deer. During the chase a fox crossed his path, so he began now to chase the fox. A rabbit crossed his hunting path, so he began to chase the rabbit. After chasing the rabbit for a while, a tiny field mouse crossed his path, and he chased the mouse to the corner of a farmer’s barn. The bloodhound had begun the hunt chasing a prized male deer for his master and wound up barking at a tiny mouse. It is a rare human being who can do three or four different things at a time, moving in different directions.

The Apostle Paul knew his number one priority was to live his life to the honor and glory of God by preaching the Gospel. Paul was not in a plush hotel room when he wrote the book of Philippians. He was in prison. He received a report that all was not well at the Church in Philippi, and he wrote to remind them to not lose sight of the essentials of Christian faith. His very life could be ended at any moment, but Paul would not allow anything to cross his path that would cause him to be sidetracked in his mission for God. He was a great time manager because he knew we can’t do three or four things at once or move in two or three different directions. This is why Paul writes, “This one thing I do.” This is why Jesus taught us in the Sermon on the Mount that we are to seek his kingdom first, and then the rest of our lives and priorities will fall into order.

Paul knew that his new life in Christ was a gift from God. His life was to be lived for his master. Nothing would deter him from that priority! He offers us his own testimony about letting go of past hurts and regrets, and moving into the future under the guidance and leadership of our Savior:

*This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14*

Happy New Year  
Bill

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### **Sermons for January**

January 1: “The Child Born to be King”, Matthew 2:1-12

January 8: “This is My Beloved Son”, Matthew 3:13-17

January 15: “I can Resist Anything Except Temptation”, Matthew 4:1-11

January 22: “Instructions for Meaningful Living”- Matthew 5:1-11

January 29: Rev. Bill Hughes, preaching, and students from the UK Wesley Foundation

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## Ministry ~ Rev. Dennis Burrows

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

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### Caring in 2012



I was reading an article on “How to be A Caring Person” and the description of the six statements were called The Six Pillars of Character as listed below.

- Treat people with kindness and generosity
- Help people in need
- Be sensitive to people’s feelings
- Never be mean or hurtful
- Think about how your actions will affect others
- Always remember – we become caring people by doing caring things!

This article offered so much wisdom on many issues such as happiness, compassion, peace (which is a true happiness), joy, and being responsible. All these issues combined offer secrets to happiness and good health. As Eleanor Roosevelt said “Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give.” The Health and Wellness Ministry team suggest each of us enter into 2012 by trying to make at least one person happy every day. ~Carlene Ott

### Stephen Ministry: Caring for Hurting People”



#### HOW DID SHAKESPEARE GET SO SMART?

Human pain is not only very real, it is serious business. So is confusion, being distraught, experiencing grief, and feeling separated or estranged or abandoned. Just being alive means being subject to a host of “slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” as well as “the heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to” as Shakespeare put it.

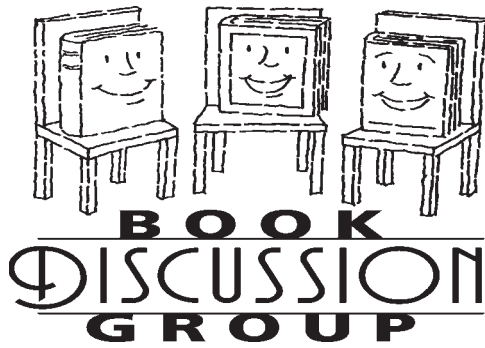
The Preacher in Ecclesiastes told us there “is nothing new under the sun.” Apparently he is trying to help us understand that many things we may encounter for the first time are not new - just new to us. But that doesn’t lessen the depth of the pain or the magnitude of the disappointment.

Shakespeare seemed to be intimately aware of how a multitude of life experiences can wear us down, disorient us, or leave us disillusioned and discouraged. So was Jesus’ disciple Peter, who encourages us to “cast all your cares upon God, because He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

It is in that spirit, and with that knowledge that a diverse group of caring individuals in our congregation at Southern Hills serve as Stephen Ministers – ready to be care givers to anyone experiencing life’s hurts and pains, when “the whips and scorns of time” that “make calamity of so long life” overtake a person.

We aren’t able to bring William Shakespeare with us when we visit, but we are sincerely committed to bring Jesus and His compassion.

*If you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister,  
call Jo Palmer, Barbie Lally or David Bowles at 277-6176.*



## **Announcing the Newest Book Group at Southern Hills**

A book list was developed by the United Methodist Church. A new book group will be offered to the readers of Southern Hills using this list of books. Many of the books are available in the Fireside Room, at the Lexington Public Library and by download. Time and date to be announced. Please plan on joining us.

Below is a sample of the books that will be offered for reading and discussion. Harriet Schulz and Marynell Freeman will have a table in Herren Hall January 15 so you can preview the books and ask questions.

### **Beaded Hope**

When four women embark on a mission trip to South Africa, they all have selfish reasons for going. What none of them expects is how profoundly their lives will be transformed by the people they meet. This is a moving story about the power of faith and hope to overcome even the most tragic circumstances.

### **More Bad Girls of the Bible**

This Bible study consists of 12 units and is designed for individual or group study. Each unit begins with a focus text and reviews stories of selected biblical women and ends with reflection questions to start a discussion about what we can learn from these characters and their stories. The book is designed to help examine our own motives, assumptions and identity as we explore the stories of our faith.

### **This Child Will Be Great**

In January 2006, after the Republic of Liberia had been racked by fourteen years of brutal civil conflict, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf - Africa's "Iron Lady" was sworn in as president. In her stirring memoir, she shares the inside story of her rise to power, her early childhood, imprisonment and exile, and her fight for democracy and social justice. By sharing her story Sirleaf encourages women everywhere to pursue leadership roles at the highest levels of power, and gives us all hope that, with perseverance, we can change the world.

### **Same Kind of Different as me**

A modern-day slave, an international art dealer, and the unlikely woman who bound them together. The story begins outside a burning plantation hut in Louisiana and unfolds in the upscale art scene in Texas; it exposes pain, betrayal and brutality, and it shines with an unexpected life-changing love. In the end, Ron Hall and Denver Moore, form an unlikely friendship resulting from charity and challenged by tragedy.

### **Ostriches, Dung Beetles and Other Spiritual Masters**

This book tells us about the wildlife of Africa and teaches us about ourselves and what we're capable of, how from the elephant we can learn the meaning of community, or from the hippopotamus humility and self-acceptance.

### **Laugh Your Way to Grace**

Laughter is the gift that you received at birth, one thing you were able to do freely as a child. It's a gift that may fade but never fully disappears. *Laugh Your Way to Grace* is intended to give you permission to reconnect with your own sense of joy and hope.

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## United Methodist Women

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**YUM CIRCLE** will meet Sunday, January 22 at 3:30 pm in the Fireside Room. The *Upward* season will have started, which means **the concession stand** will be up and running. The YUMs run and operate the concession stand through-out the *Upward* season (approx **8 weeks**), every Saturday. This concession stand serves as **one** of our two-yearly-fundraisers. The **first** day of *Upward* basketball and cheerleading is scheduled for Saturday, January 14.

**MEADE SHOTWELL CIRCLE** will meet January 9th, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Dennis Burrows will be speaking on “Remembering Good Times”.

**THE PAT HERREN CIRCLE** will meet in the Fireside Room at 9:30 a.m. on January 10th. Dennis Burrows will speak on “The Best of the Best”.

**THE SARAH BAGBY CIRCLE** will meet on January 11th at noon in the Fireside Room. Everyone bring a sack lunch. The program will be announced later.

**THE NEW LIFE CIRCLE** will meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, January 12 in the Reception Room. Members will discuss their February Room in the Inn responsibilities as well as the PEO Founders’ Day Luncheon and Hug Buddy updates. Please contact Kay Griffin or Patti Lester for further information.



“Deliverance Frees us, community binds us, the image of Christ defines us”

-The Source focuses on Hebrews 5:9b: *“He became the Source of eternal salvation for all those who obey Him.”* Christ’s love and sacrifice is a constant reminder and motivator for all actions in our day-to-day lives. We are called to be a unique, radical people to build lasting relationships with any and all around us. I invite you to browse the ministries available here and to our services (9:30am in Herren

Hall) to see how we can work together to impact each other, Lexington, and the world for Christ. -

Adam Vodicka, Pastor

### **NEW WAYS FOR GREAT FELLOWSHIP!**

**Supper 8** – Are you a couple looking for a way to meet new couples? Join Supper 8! This is a program where we pair 4 couples up to have dinner with each other, rotating at each couple’s places. No structure at all, just fun and fellowship! Talk to Pastor Adam or email him with questions.

**Worship Service for Lexington Country Place** – Lexington Country Place is looking for help to set up a worship service for their residents every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2:30pm in the afternoon. This is a great opportunity to spread Christ’s kingdom and love to those who cannot get out to attend a service. If you would like to lead prayer, speak, share music, etc... for this, please let Pastor Adam know at [avodicka@southernhillsumc.org](mailto:avodicka@southernhillsumc.org). (FIRST SERVICE IS JAN 29TH!)

**Source Small Group** – We have a small group that meets every Sunday morning at 11pm in the activities building. We will be starting a new series in the beginning of January. Please come and enjoy fellowship with each other! Email Linda Wickstrom at [davmorwic@insightbb.com](mailto:davmorwic@insightbb.com) for more info.

**NEW Young Women’s Small Group** – Every Monday night at 7pm @ the Vodicka House, a group of young women (20-50) meet for fellowship and a closer look at the Word. Sarah Billings and Danielle Roark lead this group. If interested email them at [sarahkbillings@gmail.com](mailto:sarahkbillings@gmail.com) or [danielleroark@gmail.com](mailto:danielleroark@gmail.com).

**A Young Men’s group** – The Source will be starting a new young men’s group in January! If you are interested, please let Pastor Adam know along with good times for you to meet.

**Don’t miss our new preaching series starting this month, eternity hangs in the balance....**

Find us on Facebook (The Source) and Twitter (Shumysource)!  
[www.sourceworship.com](http://www.sourceworship.com)

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## Worship ~ Joan Wooden

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### Expressing Appreciation

From my perspective, 2011 was a fabulous year for music ministries at Southern Hills. All of our choirs and ensembles were committed, worked really well together, undertook challenging music, and led us all to the very throne of God through their beautiful musical offerings in worship. Throughout the year, I found myself continually thanking God for the gifts that abound at Southern Hills and for the dedication of those involved in music ministries. I continually felt blessed to be able to work with such amazing individuals, and I felt that it was a privilege to be able to serve God with such very special people. I was stunned (speechless, in fact!) when, in December, the Chair of our Administrative Board, Bill Kimbrell, escorted *me* to the front of our sanctuary to receive flowers and accolades from our Lay Leader, Dr. Oran Little. I was grateful for his kind words, but the truth is that the real appreciation should go to those persons who so willingly gave of their time and talent to enhance our worship through music. Thank you, Southern Hills musicians, for sharing your gift of music. You are “blessed to be a blessing!”



### New Year's Resolution? Sing!

Are you struggling to make a New Year's Resolution that you can actually keep? Why not join one of our vocal ensembles in 2012? Our choirs are always open to new members and include components of service, spiritual growth, small group and church family, all rolled into one!

Choirs for adults include:

Chancel Choir	Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Men Only Vocal Ensemble (MOVE)	Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.
Ladies Only Vocal Ensemble (LOVE)	Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m.

### Children's Choirs/Handbells Resume Practice January 8

Our children's choirs and handbell program will resume rehearsals on Sunday, January 8. All ensembles are open to new members, and children, ages 4 through the 5th grades, are encouraged to attend. If you know of a child who should be involved in music ministries, please contact Joan Wooden ([jwooden@southernhillsumc.org](mailto:jwooden@southernhillsumc.org)). Below is the Sunday afternoon rehearsal schedule for our children:

- 3:30-4:30 Elementary Handbells (grades 3-5)
- 4:30-5:00 Children's Chimes (grades K-2)
- 5:00-5:15 Snack for all children
- 5:15-6:00 Love Notes Choir (ages 4-Kindergarten); Elementary Choir (grades 1-5)

### Taizé Service offered January 18

Our monthly service of Prayer and Holy Communion in the style of Taizé will be held in our sanctuary on Wednesday, January 18, at 6:15 p.m. This contemplative service includes sung prayers from the community of Taizé, led by members of our Chancel Choir and accompanied by some very fine instrumentalists from our congregation. The service culminates with the sacrament of Holy Communion and is held the third Wednesday of every month. Please make your participation a part of your New Year's resolution!

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## From the Business Office ~ Bill McKinney

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Our first order of business, as we enter into the New Year, is to be aware of the stewardship campaign status and potential budgetary implications for 2012. As of Dec 19th, we have received 311 pledges for \$1,015,814. That's a bit better than last year at this time, but still well short of our goal of \$1.22 million. I recently sent reminder cards to those members who have pledged before (and have not yet this year) and several pledges have come in as a result. I hope to see more soon. If you haven't pledged, and want to,

please contact me immediately.

The good news, of course, is that so many of our members who pledge regularly meet their obligations. That planned income is the mainstay of our budget, and enables us to feel confident we can pay our bills throughout the year. The tentative budget developed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Administrative Board required \$1,225,540 in pledged income and \$160K in non-pledged (see 2012 budget at end of article). One can see we will probably not make our goal, therefore in January the Finance Committee will meet to come up with recommendations on what cuts to make to balance our budget — it will not be easy and very well may impact our programs and personnel. We made great strides the last two years in improving our facilities and are developing plans on continuing that trend. In the past, these have all been funded through the generosity of our members and friends. I trust we will also have the funding available to keep the lights and heat on, make repairs, pay for staff and programs, and all the other things needed to meet the mission of Southern Hills.

Please remember, write checks to "Southern Hills" rather than a specific charity or mission (Books for Children, Methodist Home, Nathaniel Mission, etc) when we have special offerings. That allows us to write one check to the charity for our church's entire offering and enables me to document your donation on your contribution report. If you want to write it directly to another group, please mail it to that group directly—thanks.

By the way, I appreciate the members who are enrolled in our contribution auto-payment program. This painless way to contribute via a weekly or monthly auto-draft of your checking account has been available for over a year now and seems to be working well. Join those of us who use this free service—contact me for more information.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year,  
Bill McKinney



### Financial Peace University

A biblically-based accountability class that will teach and train you to manage your resources. The class will be taught by Dave Ramsey, via DVD, followed by a small group discussion, led by Pat O'Laughlin.

**Classes begin on Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the Library.** Teaching over 800 scriptures regarding personal finance ~ topics will be covered over a period of 13 weeks. Contact Rev. Dennis Burrows for more information (859-277-6176).



# SHUMY YOUTH GROUP



Here's what's coming up in the new year with our youth...

## **SPRING KICKOFF!**

Our big spring kickoff for SHUMY is right around the corner! But...SHHHH...it's a secret event! Just be at the church at 5pm on January 15<sup>th</sup> for the big surprise! (Hint...back to basics)

## **THE BLITZ OF WINTER!**

Winter blitz will be January 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> this year! It will be held in Louisville and will feature The Skit Guys, music by Nic Gonzales and Jaci Velasquez along with Not One is Upright and Sheltered Reality Drumming group, and Joe Castillo with SandStory! Cost will be \$70 a person and, as always, money should never be an issue so if you need help, let Adam know! Please don't miss out on this event!

**REMINDER:** Don't forget our compassion child that we have adopted! Bring in \$1 or more each month!

## **WEBSITE**

Our new website has launched! You can find us at [www.shumyouth.org](http://www.shumyouth.org). You will find the new fall semester permission form that everyone must fill out on the site. Also, facebook us and find us on twitter (shumysource)! We invite all of our middle school and high school age students to come worship with us on Sunday nights from 5-7pm. We will have music, lessons, fellowship, food, and fun! Come check out our youth group and bring a friend!

-Adam Vodicka

## **BIBLE STUDIES** (call Adam to get involved...859-277-6176)

High School Girls – Tuesdays at 7pm at the Vodicka House

High School Boys – Wednesdays at 7am at Chick-Fil-A

Middle School boys and girls – Wednesdays at 7pm at the Youth House

Middle School boys and girls – Sundays at 9:30am in the Fireside Room

## **SHECP DONATION TREE (SOUTHERN HILLS EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM)**



**The tree** is located in the Education Wing foyer. This tree has paper ornaments hanging from the tree. On these paper ornaments, various needs for each classroom will be listed. If you are interested in helping purchase needed items for SHECP, please take a paper ornament. At your convenience, purchase the item that is listed and then you may deliver your donation to the very appreciative teacher of the classroom designated on that ornament. Or, if you prefer, you may deliver the purchased item to the SHECP office in which we will deliver the item to the classroom. Thank you in advance for helping the SHECP classrooms!



**Southern Hills  
United Methodist Church**

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January 2012



Ministers: Dr. Bill Moore  
Rev. Dennis J Burrows



**GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY:** We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the Church. This book is being provided at no cost to our Church, including the mailing to each family, and again is being subsidized by local businesses that advertise in it. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the church office, 277-6176 and leave your name and number and a representative of Guide Book will return your call. Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It “will pay” to advertise in our new Guide Book & Directory for 2012.



**UPDATE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:** If you have not already informed the Church Office about changes to your membership record (new phone number, address etc.), please call Joyce Storch at the church office, 277-6176.

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