

# The December Harbinger

THE HARBINGER  
South Side  
Christian Church

Volume Dec 2009

December 15, 2009

## A CHRISTMAS "TRAINS OF THOUGHT"

Well, well, well ... we're on the "final approach" toward Christmas 2009 and the unveiling of the year 2010! We've enjoyed many blessings through the past year; we've also survived some challenges, and the cloud of uncertainty about the future looms over us all - both as a congregation and in our own personal lives. That certainly makes for a gloomy, Midwestern winter day, doesn't it?

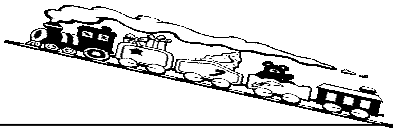
The fact is, "we're still standing" by the Grace of God! But "we know Who holds tomorrow" and we know "He holds our hand"! So, "the many things about tomorrow we don't seem to understand" are best committed to Him anyway.

All of which brings me to make this point: our Creator, the God of Heaven, has personally revealed Himself to us all in the form of Bethlehem's Baby in a manger, Jesus Christ. There have been no greater events in all history than His birth, life, sacrificial death, resurrection and ascension into Heaven. But there is an even greater event on the horizon - His Return to redeem us and set ALL things aright! Given the current happenings in this old world, He'll be back soon!!

The Greatest Christmas Gift of all IS the result of a Black Friday after all: not of the day after Thanksgiving, but of the day Jesus allowed Himself to be crucified which was followed by His Resurrection on the third day.

As you celebrate Christmas 2009, be comforted by the Promise of Scripture - JESUS WINS, and by following Him, we will, too!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!  
From Our House to Yours,  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
Mike and Brenda Gillespie



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## CHRISTMAS EVE IN OUR CHURCH BUILDING!

Please **MARK 6:00 PM, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>**, on your calendar and plan to gather for a brief **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** in the **Church Sanctuary!!** The service will be simple and last about 30 minutes. It also will be a "standing service", which means that if you wish to sit, you'll need to provide your own seating (lawn chairs, wheel chairs, walker chairs are welcomed). There will be minimal heat in the building, so please dress warmly.

For those who may wish to give an offering, we will have offering plates situated in the lobby for that purpose.

Also, it is possible that members of the media will be present for the service. Let's glorify our Lord and also "do South Side proud" by having a great crowd and a great Christmas Eve Service!

## BUILDING UPDATE NEWS

The old saying is "Patience is a virtue" - and South Side Christian Church is to be commended for being so virtuous!! What we may have assumed to be simple and straightforward project has turned out to be anything but, mainly because of twists and turns in government bureaucracy. But, with assistance from Rep. Visclosky's office and the bulldog determination of members of our building oversight team, real progress toward the successful conclusion of our rebuild project is being made. Following are a few examples ...

- It appears that the Small Business Administration is much closer to releasing a significant portion of the remainder of our loan funds. A recommendation has been made by one of their examiners that these funds be released.
- We have considered alternative financing and have provided loan packets to several local lending institutions. Their reception has been mixed, but we're still pursuing this avenue.
- We were made aware of a non-profit foundation that exists specifically to GRANT funds (this grant does NOT have to be repaid!) to churches constructing new worship facilities. A letter of inquiry was sent to the foundation, explaining our severe circumstances and we received a Grant Application in reply. The application was filled in and returned to the Foundation, along with a complete set of our loan documents and building project blueprints. We're awaiting the foundation's response - with lots of prayer!

At the building, the two new furnaces - one for preschool and the other for the office area - have been connected and lighted so that a minimal amount of heat is circulating. The radiant heating boiler for the sanctuary should be connected and operational before Christmas Eve.

When the funds are released or provided, Precision Construction Company and their subcontractors can resume work toward completing our project. Once work resumes, Precision is confident of completing the project in 8 to 10 weeks. As time goes by, there will be needs and opportunities for more volunteer labor, so keep your paint brushes, gloves, hammers, tools and strong backs handy!



## Grand-reopening T-SHIRTS



Grand reopening shirts are ready and we will begin handing them out Sundays beginning with December 20th.

If you do not make it to church to pick your shirt up please stop by the church office.

## SSCC College and Young Adult Retreat

January 8 - 10 Wisconsin Dells

Trip Cost is \$75 plus  
travel expenses

*This trip is for 18-25 year old young adults*

*See Pastor Steve for flyer*

## BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS AGES EIGHT AND YOUNGER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30  
12:00 NOON TILL 2:00 PM



Cost: \$12.00 per child (You must pre-  
register)

**BELLABOOS' PLAY AND DISCOVERY CENTER**  
Three Rivers County Park  
2800 Colorado Street, Lake Station, IN  
219-963-2070

Website: [mybellaboos.com](http://mybellaboos.com)

For Registration form see Pastor Steve!

### Bellaboo's Birthday package includes:

- Admission to Bellaboo's Play & Discovery Center
- Two hours of supervised fun (actually you can stay longer if you wish till 5:00)
- A Bellaboo Birthday parade
- Private Party Room reserved for one hour just for your birthday group
- Pizza, cupcakes, juice cup or pop served in the Party Room
- Fun and games hosted by your personal trained BIRTHDAY BUDDY
- Goodie bags for guests to take home

Two adults are admitted free of charge for each child included in the birthday package.



## DONATIONS NEEDED

SSCC is hosting a College retreat on 1/8-10. To try and keep the cost low for our college students we are asking for donations for food, gas, and scholarships. If you would be willing to donate above your regular Sunday offering please talk to Pastor Steve or turn in a donation in a marked envelope in the offering

## TEEN YOUTH EVENT

### (Junior High & High School)

Friday, December 18 thru

Saturday, December 19

### **LOCK-IN at Omni Fitness Center**

\$15.00 to register

See Pastor Steve or your Youth Sponsor  
for registration form.

December 2009

Dear South Side Family,

I am sure that everyone will agree that the last quarter of 2008 and the entire 2009 year has been a challenge for all of us. We have seen the building under flood waters, the congregation become nomads, and the services take on some major changes. Even through all of these trying circumstances, South Side has held together and become stronger for it. With the coming of Christmas comes a time to reflect on where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going. Like Christ, who knew all of these things, yet still saw his mission to its end, we have to see our mission to its end.

First of all, thank you to everyone who has persevered to this point and please continue to carry on as we head into this new year. Second, please continue to pray for South Side, the leadership and the staff, as we address the issues we face trying to return to our home. Third, consider expressing your thanks and bounty to the South Side staff by contributing to the collection of monies for their gift. You may place your gift in the offering plate or give it to one of the elders. The staff gifts will be presented on Sunday December 20, 2009, at the close of service.

Once again, thank you for your patience and your faithfulness. Please remember your church family during this Christmas season.

In His service,

*Jeff Hayden*

Chairman of the Elders

Elders serving at this time: Paul Anderson 756-7832, Paul Burrell 836-2705, Howard Caine 922-1225, Lynne Cowan 718-6967, Jeff Hayden 932-7334, Everett Thomas, (elder emeritus) 985-9781, Tim Tucker (219) 558-8218

### Sympathies Extended

- Louisa Crozier's family upon her passing.
- Rick & Debbie Smith family upon the passing of her brother, Jason Lax.

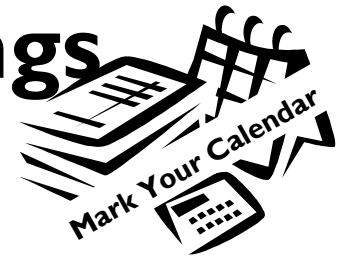


South Side's Temporary Office  
9362 Calumet Ave.  
Munster, IN 46321  
Phone: 219-836-2110  
Office Hours: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

*Mail will be received from either  
address: 1000 Broadmoor or 9362  
Calumet*



# SSCC Happenings



### Sundays Adult Bible Study

8:30 am Christian Friendship-Tappers' 63 Kenwood, Hammond 931-3277

8:15 am Seekers at St. Paul's Lutheran - Door F

### COMING IN JANUARY...

### **COUPLES MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT STUDY**

Led by Mike Gillespie

BEGINNING JANUARY 6, 2010 thru February 25, 2010

WEDNESDAY'S AT 7:00 PM

AT THE MARTIN'S  
1209 WINTERBERRY,  
SCHERERVILLE, IN  
Directions call 865-0280

See the bulletin or call 836-2110 for details.

### **Kara Ladies Group**

Next meeting scheduled for January 4th  
At 7:30 pm  
Val Kolodziej 8024 Locust Gary - 577-5819

### **Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Studies**

8:45 am Laura Carpenter (844-6020) for location and details

9:00 am Vanessa Nolen for info 219-554-5233  
Childcare Provided

### **Loyal Friends December Christmas Luncheon**

Tuesday, December 29  
11:00 am  
At the Merrillville Floral Shop and Tea Room  
Any questions call Ruth Mann 932-9085

### **Ruth Group**

1st Thursday of each month  
No January meeting  
Call Daree Tarvin 836-5916 for details

## Children & Teen Happenings

### **Kids Club**

(1st - 5th Grade)

Sundays

4:00 pm at Trinity Reformed

4:45 - 5:00 pm Bell Choir

8411 Columbia Avenue, Munster

### **Jr High/High School**

(6th - 12th)

Sundays

6:00 - 7:00 pm

at Trinity Reformed

8411 Columbia Avenue, Munster

### **Teen Bible Study**

Wednesdays

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Westminster

8955 Columbia

### **TEEN Volleyball Practice**

Sundays: 4:00 - 5:30 pm Team Elite at Suburban Bible Church in Highland

Mondays: 6:00 - 7:30 pm Beginners Volleyball Practice - FCC Dyer

Tuesdays: 6:00 pm Intermediate Volleyball Practice - FCC Dyer

**Birthday greetings..**

Gwen Campbell 2-Dec  
 Kathy Murphy 2-Dec  
 Leon Ruiz 2-Dec  
 David Runyan 2-Dec  
 Merry Funston 3-Dec  
 Mary Robinson 3-Dec  
 Tom Campbell 4-Dec  
 Ellen Haag 5-Dec  
 Frances White 5-Dec  
 Howard Caine 6-Dec  
 Glenna Chapman 7-Dec  
 Ryan Larimer 10-Dec  
 Frances Dorris 12-Dec  
 Gwen Janiga 12-Dec  
 Pamela Jostes 13-Dec  
 Noa Kayser 15-Dec  
 Cheryl Martin 15-Dec  
 Tim Fordyce 16-Dec  
 Tony Fornaciari 16-Dec  
 Rebecca Kayser 17-Dec

Mary Frevert 19-Dec  
 Jean Kessler 19-Dec  
 John Garcia 20-Dec  
 Richard Garcia 20-Dec  
 Richard Hughes 21-Dec  
 Doris Maurer 21-Dec  
 Brenda Clark 24-Dec  
 Mary Jay 26-Dec  
 Annaliese Ford 27-Dec  
 Glenn Haag 27-Dec  
 Allen Smith 27-Dec  
 Mike Gillespie 28-Dec  
 Tim Scheeringa 30-Dec  
 Rhonda Gephart 2-Jan  
 Nancy Lear 5-Jan  
 Suellen Stookey 5-Jan  
 Monterries Williams 5-Jan  
 Aubrey Choate 6-Jan  
 Katlyn Bonnell 7-Jan  
 Amy Malone 7-Jan

Lori Manthey 9-Jan  
 Joan Giberson 10-Jan  
 Cindy Rogers 11-Jan  
 Christian Campbell 12-Jan  
 Joe Durta 12-Jan  
 Pam Fordyce 13-Jan  
 Jeremy Scheeringa 14-Jan  
 Juliaana Beard 18-Jan  
 Steve Zaborowski 18-Jan  
 Liese DeVries 19-Jan  
 Danny Kolodziej 19-Jan  
 Clarence Seagraves 19-Jan  
 John Kommers 23-Jan  
 Patricia Cash 25-Jan  
 Jack Thomas 25-Jan  
 Kyle Gilbert 26-Jan  
 Mike Abercrombie 27-Jan  
 Paul Coleman 29-Jan  
 Karin Coleman 29-Jan  
 Adia Kayser 30-Jan



**Coming in January 2010...**

**BIBLE BOOK OF THE MONTH READING PROGRAM 2010 - 2014**

Each month, a book of the Bible will be designated as selected reading. Some monthly selections will be sections of longer books: other selections may include several shorter books. Our Sunday messages will be drawn from the Book of the Month selection (with possible exceptions on special occasions).

Reading participants will also be tracked, designating their reading of the Book of the Month by 1) indicating it on the weekly connection card; 2) signing the "B.O.M. Reader's Roll" at the Welcome Center; or, 3) by calling the church office. On a Sunday in January each year, faithful participants will be acknowledged during Worship. **SO... LET THE Reading Begin!!!**

**Reading Selections for 2010**

January Genesis  
 February Gospel of John  
 March Exodus  
 April Gospel of Luke  
 May Acts  
 June Ruth  
 July Romans  
 August Joshua  
 September I Corinthians  
 October Judges  
 November II Corinthians  
 December Gospel of Matthew

**Reading Selections for 2011**

January I & II Samuel  
 February Galatians/Ephesians/Philippians/Colossians  
 March I & II Kings  
 April Hebrews  
 May Ezra/Nehemiah/Esther  
 June I & II Thessalonians/Titus/Philemon  
 July Psalms 1-50  
 August Gospel of Mark  
 September Psalms 51-100  
 October Proverbs  
 November Psalms 101-150  
 December Revelation

# THE HARBINGER

The Harbinger is published monthly

Postmaster, send address change to:

**South Side Christian Church**

1000 Broadmoor Avenue, Munster, Indiana 46321

## OUR MISSION

To glorify the living God by multiplying ourselves through the demonstration of Christ's love; bringing each person into a meaningful relationship with the SSCC family; establishing each member as a life long student of God's Word; and preparing and commissioning each family member for service

Periodicals

Second-Class Postage Paid at

Schererville, Indiana 46375

**Permit #: (233-820)**

