

# The South Louisville Christian

SOUTH LOUISVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH E-NEWSLETTER  
WINTER, 2015 - 2016 – EDITION SEVEN, ISSUE FOUR  
A Christian Church for South Louisville



By: Joe Douthitt

By now you are accustomed to seeing our 2020 Vision logo / giving chart, and no doubt you have noticed the steady progress we are making toward reaching our commitment goal of \$93,030--at the time of writing this article our members have now contributed \$60,740.03!

The generosity of our SLCC family continues to amaze me—early this year we asked everyone to consider tithing if they were not already, and our general fund giving went up! Then, in the last quarter of the year we began our 2020 Vision campaign to raise money for much needed repairs and upgrades. Again, the congregation responded generously--some of the gifts were one-time contributions and others were commitments to give a little more each month. Not only are those commitments being honored, but at the same time our general fund giving has also increased! While the money will certainly be put to good use, the greater good is what this

represents—giving and generosity are a "spiritual barometer" of the heart of a church! It is a true, **"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"** Matthew 6:21. This is strong evidence that God's Spirit is filling and overflowing out of the hearts of our SLCC family members!

The SLCC leaders (elders, ministers, staff and ministry team leaders) ensure we prove to be good stewards of what is entrusted to our care, **"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."** 1 Peter 4:10 includes the stewardship of the tithes and offerings of the saints who have sacrificed from their resources to give more to God. Jesus said of the "two very small copper coins" of the widow, **"this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others."**

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## This Winter's Events

- Jan. 9 & 23, Feb. 13 & 27, March 12 & 26 – Food Distribution
- January 24 – New GROW U Classes begin
- Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14 -- Women's Ministry Meeting
- Easter Sunday, Mar. 27

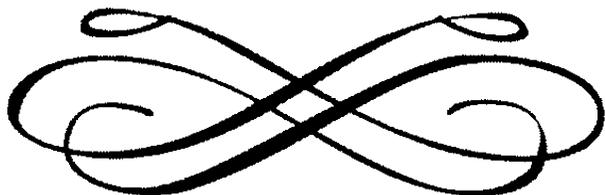
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The size of any tithe, offering or gift in no way reflects the sacrifice behind it -- each gift is precious to God and to SLCC!

The next capital project planned is the replacement of the Worship Center windows. This will cost approximately \$45,000 and will be done when the weather warms up in the spring. The new windows will be thermal-paned, glazed glass. This will greatly reduce our energy costs, both summer and winter (SLCC's largest operating expense is our *utilities*, which total \$27,000 per year). Other capital projects will then include replacing the remaining old, single pane windows in the building.

Finally, by now you have received your copy of the approved 2016 SLCC budget in the mail (if not, you may obtain one from the church office). You will see that we have been able to reduce some of our operating expenses by changing our property/liability insurance company; some costs have increased; and other funds were moved between ministries to areas of the greatest need. The elders feel that we are blessed with a gifted, devoted staff and proposed a 3% salary increase to express our appreciation and love for them and their work!

The 2016 budget of \$324,783.53 reflects an overall increase of \$26,937.53. This will require an additional \$495.84 per week, but for the last six months our offerings are averaging \$6,733 per week, which already exceeds the weekly increase needed in 2016! As SLCC continues to grow, some of our expenses will also grow, but we will continue to find ways to contain or reduce expenses wherever possible. We are each called to be good stewards of whatever God entrusts to us, and SLCC truly reflects God's grace of giving! **"But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving."**  
2 Corinthians 8:7



## Thanksgiving Traditions

*By: Neil Seow*

Most families have their Thanksgiving traditions and we have ours, and over the years our extended family has just become a little bigger. If you've ever spent any time with our family, you know food is going to be involved. As long as I can remember the most important things during our family get-togethers were God and food (not always in that order). So it just seemed like a natural fit when the opportunity presented itself for us to assist the church with its annual Thanksgiving dinner.

2003 was the first time SLCC hosted this event. Our family showed up around 9:00 and before you knew it, we had unintentionally run everyone out of the kitchen and just took over from there. That was the first time that we had ever served together as a family and I think we all knew from that point on that it would need to be a more important part of our lives. We approached the church in 2005 with the idea of our family becoming the unofficial host of the Thanksgiving dinner, and they agreed.

We have just completed our 13<sup>th</sup> year being a part of this event and it hasn't been without its ups and downs. Mistakes have been made, the weather hasn't always been cooperative, and things haven't gone exactly how we have always hoped. With that being said, it has always been a great joy and we feel so blessed that God has continued to use us in this way. Just as important as it is that our family participates is the fact that we get to do this alongside our church family. These dinners would not be possible without the prayers and efforts made by the wonderful people here at SLCC. It has become something I believe that we all look forward to every year and it is always a joy to work together to serve and show love in Jesus' name.

I am amazed every year of all the wonderful people who come, not only to serve but to be served. We are all called to use our gifts and for our family and it is a privilege and an honor to serve in this manner. God continues to pour out His wonderful blessings on us here at South Louisville Christian and I pray that we are always humble enough to allow Him to use us for His Glory.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 says, *"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."*

## Youth News

### 180° Reflection of 2015

**By: Ron Matthews**

I always wanted a pair of spy glasses as a child. You remember, the kind that has mirrors on the inside corners so you can see what is happening behind you as you look forward. That is the vision I want us to have as we will take a stroll down the proverbial sidewalk of our Family Ministry. Before we open our door to take our stroll, let's take an inventory of our youth. At the beginning of the year we were averaging around 10 youth in our elementary age group and the same number in our Teen Ministry. As the year progressed our numbers doubled in both areas. Looking forward I see God tripling our numbers, which is to say we will be in the 30 person range in each area and in need of more willing and spirit-led volunteers. As Frodo Baggins said "A journey starts with your first step out the door, but be careful as you never know where you may go or end up." So shall we start our journey, by stepping out of the front door?

Looking behind us, we see the Family Ministry started Friday night activities just for the older youth. Looking forward, we see a new year that has Friday night activities for older **and** younger youth. These events will be every other month, with activities to encourage fellowship and strengthen bonds with the youth, their families, and the youth coaches. A little bit further down the sidewalk we see behind us a puppet ministry that only performed during VBS. Looking forward, we see a thriving ministry that will be performing different programs throughout the year for us and others. And speaking of VBS, last year was a good year with some new designs and structures. This year has even more new ways to reach our youth and give them something to look forward to (June 26-July 1). As we turn the corner again, summer shines on us -- behind us we see two growing youth attending CIY (Christ In Youth). As we look forward, that number has increased to five growing youth going to CIY (June 13 -17, 2016). Along with CIY comes our summer camps, one week in particular fell far short of its possible best last year. But let's look forward to that same week of camp that God has and is blessing, so that it will be at its possible best (July 17-22).

The last little bit of our stroll takes us to our fall and winter times. Looking back, we see a very successful Fall Fest with over 300 attending. This fall and winter we see even more attending our Fall Festival -- As well, a Family Ministry Christmas Production (this project is top secret!).

Thank you for walking with me, I hope God has and is going to bless your journey with us.

## Homecomings and Homegoings!

**By: Mary Douthitt**

Let's continue with this thought of looking back AND then looking forward. 2015 has certainly been an outstanding year for South Louisville Christian Church with many new family members coming through our doors (Homecomings). However, it has also been bittersweet in that we have had to say good-bye to many of our dear saints (Homegoings). Heaven's gain is truly our loss, but we look forward to being with them again for eternity!

Our new family members for 2015 are:

- Alex and Paula Davis
- Stephanie, Andre, Stanley, Tammy, and Evans from Hazelwood (Due to HIPAA regulations, we are not given their last names).
- Sheena Downer
- Mandy Worthington
- Charles and Peggy Smith
- Linda Torres
- Harley and Tammy McCubbins
- David and Jennifer Freeman
- David and Lisa Paul
- Trish Githens
- Michael and Patricia Dietrich
- Mary Cooksey
- Batista Crim
- Darrell Meeks
- Gigi Glass
- Angela and Robert Barnes, Tyler and Julie
- Scott and Ashley Higgins and Tim
- Mary Jane Maytum
- Jennifer Allberry
- Doug and Kaye Slimick

Our dear SLCC members who went Home in 2015:

- Nancy Scheer
- Charles Roth
- LaVerne Ausmus
- Maebelle Roby

*(Please note: The above shows what is recorded in the church office as of December, 2015.)*

## Miracles In The Church

*By: Pastor Theodore Dues*

Last month, SLCC witnessed miracles in the church. More specifically, we witnessed a very special group of people called The Miracle Dancers. The Miracle Dancers are a troupe of nearly 100 special needs boys and girls, men and women. Some of them are autistic – some have physical disabilities – all of them are defined by our world as being DISabled. But after watching them perform for our church last month, it became very clear to me that they are not DISabled – God has just abled them in different ways.

My intention was to write this article to describe this group of people for you – to describe their performance for our church. But I find myself utterly unable to describe them. There are simply no words I can use to describe their performance. Perhaps their name alone is the best – and simplest way to describe them – they truly are Miracle Dancers. To try to describe them beyond that would be to somehow reduce who they are – and what they do.

I will tell you this: For over an hour this miraculous group of young people danced and sang and performed for us. They spun around in their wheelchairs like they were angels taking flight. They danced as though they were completely unaware that they had any physical limitations. They raised their voices in song – even though simple acts of speech can be a challenge for them. They adorned themselves in colorful costumes. They performed for us as though they were performing on Broadway. Every step in every dance – every note of every song – was a powerful reminder that our God can help us rise above any challenge. And in every one of their faces was a picture of courage – a picture of dignity – a picture of hope. I was profoundly humbled just by being in the audience that day.

For their grand finale they performed the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. I don't think there were many dry eyes in the room as they came out dressed as angels and shepherds and wise men and Mary and Joseph – and they recreated that magical night 2000 years ago when our Savior came to earth in the form of a human infant. They sang and danced this old story as though they really were doing it for the arrival of the Messiah. It wasn't for us. It wasn't for the audience. It was for HIM! And it was one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen. If I had to reduce my whole life to just a handful of days – I would choose that day as one of them.

Now, here's the really good news: If you missed the Miracle Dancers at the church last month – you will have a chance to see them perform here again next year. They absolutely loved being at our church. Over and over the leaders and the parents told me how honored they were by the way that we hosted them. And even though they are in great demand, especially around Christmas time – they have committed to coming back here next year. And I want to extend my deepest appreciation to all the volunteers of our church who set up the gym, and decorated the tables, and prepared all the food, and served the food. And I want to thank all the members of our church who came to the performance and loved this special group of people with the love that our church has become so well known for.

God's very best to you!

