

The South Press

is a monthly publication of
South-Broadland
Presbyterian Church.
Editor: Susan Howard.

We welcome contributing
articles from our members!
Articles may be edited for
length, content and clarity.
Please E-mail articles to Susan
at showard35@kc.rr.com or drop
in her mailbox at the church.
The deadline for submissions for
the next issue is the 10th of
this month.

South-Broadland Staff

Office Manager
Troy Dewberry

Director of Family Ministries
Troy Dewberry

Youth Outreach Kenny Buckner

Organist Harlene Scofield

Choir Director
Joe Hill

Piano Accompanist
William Evans

Praise Team Leader
Darron Story

Rainbow School Director
Deena Smith

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Financial Secretary
Susan Hartley

2009 Session

Session Members

Jean Baker
Don Benson
Dave Bergman
Kenneth Buckner
Lynne Carlson
Kim Dewberry
Pat Garnettsmith
Wanda Gunter
Susan Howard
Dottie Lafferty
Christina Spotser
Jim Tipton

Clerk of Session
Barbara Criswell

December Preaching Schedule

- 6** Marc Giedinghagen (Communion)
Second Sunday in Advent
- 13** Choir Cantata/Children's Program/
Dinner- Third Sunday in Advent
- 20** Praise Team Celebration of Christmas
Fourth Sunday in Advent
- 24** Candlelight Communion Service-
Christmas Eve Connie Happel providing
message, Rev. Donald Sears officiating
- 27** Don Benson

Join us for Worship Each Sunday
10:00 am—Combined Services for the month of
December



South-Broadland Presbyterian Church

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THE
SOUTH
PRESS

The Christmas Gift

The season has officially arrived. It's time to bring out the holiday decorations, the special trappings that announce the season of celebration. Trees are trimmed, carols sung, gifts purchased, parties planned, church plays produced, and every family tradition is carefully observed. Truthfully, the whole season with its traditions can produce a warm feeling in me, a kind of rosy glow that makes me want to stuff cash into the red pots of bell ringers, and hug strangers. That's a good thing—or is it?

I've heard many Christmas sermons over the years, but none has enlightened nor disturbed me more than the words of an unsaved woman I knew some years ago. While helping decorate for a holiday party, she made the off-handed remark, "I just love Christmas. You know, the baby Jesus thing and all that stuff. It gives me a warm feeling." I had forgotten that conversation until today. At the time, I didn't think much about her comment. Now I find her words unsettling. She had expressed sentimental feelings that are uncomfortably close to what I feel.

Sentimentality isn't necessarily a bad thing, but when it masquerades as spirituality the deep ocean of God's love and grace becomes a wading pool. Instead of being immersed in His great love, we slosh around, accepting shallow spirituality and risk missing the awesome waves of His passion that can only be experienced when we venture out into waters over our heads.

The memory of that comment resurfaced today in the form of a question God posed to me: Do you understand the cost of the Incarnation?

We are familiar with the basic theology of the Incarnation: Christ was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. God became fully human. We recite it in our creeds, we read it in the Bible, and hear it from the pulpit. We proclaim Christ's divinity and humanity. But do we really understand the price the Son of God paid when He stepped out of eternity into time and became the Son of Man.

In *The Great Divorce*, C. S. Lewis wrote, "... the higher a thing is, the lower it can descend—man can sympathize with a horse but a horse cannot sympathize with a rat." I believe it was also C. S. Lewis who observed that it is barely within the capacity of humans to understand how amazing an act of condescension it would be for a man to become a lower creature. It is one thing to have a level of consciousness that enables one to sympathize with a lesser creature, such as a dog; it is entirely another to actually *become* one and experience all that dogs experience, having left the lofty realm of humanness and all that entails.

We can only imagine the possibility, since no man has ever emptied himself of all his natural attributes, retaining only the knowledge that he is still in essence a man, and taken the likeness and consciousness of a lower creature—to be both that lower life form and man. Even though the chasm between man and animals is incredibly broad, the analogy falls short because humans and animals still share a common bond: they are both created beings. The analogy cannot begin to express the magnitude of the condescension of the *Creator* in becoming the creature.

It is the mystery of the Incarnation: God becoming one of His creatures, yet still being God in essence. What Jesus left behind when He condescended to the level of a dividing cell in Mary's womb is what I have never fully appreciated—the sacrifice of Jesus on my behalf began long before the cross. He made Himself nothing. The All in All, the Alpha and Omega, the *Almighty* became a creature, a lowly servant, and willingly bore the cross—our cross, our sin, our shame. The question still reverberates: do we understand the cost of the Incarnation?

I will enjoy the Christmas season. I will probably overeat, spend a little too much, and observe all the traditions, sacred and silly. But there will be a silent prayer offered continually from my heart: that I would grow beyond sentimentality and press deeper into the heart of God where emotions are transformed and become holy—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, the love that compelled the Incarnation and to truly understand His incredible Christmas gift.

Our Mission is:
To proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and in deed
To love God
To love one another
To make disciples of all people.

Reminders

Getting new glasses? Please donate your old prescription glasses for adults and kids in the box in the hallway? Susan Appel takes them to Lenscrafters who donates them to THE GIFT OF SIGHT for people that need them.

Also, SAVE YOUR CAMP-BELLS UPC codes and lids and put them in the red container in the hall.

Please remember to bring your newspapers, junk mail and paper to put in the recycle bins in the south parking lot. Proceeds go to Rainbow School.

Intercessory Prayer Group

On Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m. a small group meets in the Parlor for prayer. They pray for those requesting prayer and for those needing prayer. They pray for the church and its leaders and for the country and the world. They pray for you and for me. If you are in need of prayer for yourself or others, please let the church office know or note it on the pew pads. For more information contact Bonita Litizzette.

Presbyterian Women

PW General Meeting and Bible Study will be held Tuesday, December 15 at noon. We'll have a potluck luncheon with ham and drinks being provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

We'll study Lessons 8 and 9 "All Are Invited" and "The Mighty Are Brought Down...The Lord Is Lifted Up" based on Luke 14 and 16, 18 and 19. The Joy Offering will be taken. PW Council meets Tuesday, December 8. PW will not meet during January and February.

Thank You.....

To My South-Broadland Family, I am humbled and overwhelmed at the outpouring of concern and care I received while I was healing after surgery. I have had many blessings in my life and this congregation (family) is one of the most important ones so far! Even when Annie and Troy had things to do which took them away from the house, I always knew I had love and support that was just a phone call away. The food, the cards, the phone calls, the books and movies (to keep my mind occupied), and especially the prayers, were much appreciated and made the healing process more bearable.

Pastor Dan said it best, when he called South-Broadland "A little slice of Heaven"!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,
Kim Dewberry

Sorry this has taken me so long to get around to sending to you all. You all have been a rock to me through this "crummy" time. I thank you for your thoughts and prayers. I miss my little ones soooo much. I love them all. I hope to visit soon.

Very much Love and thanks
Lizzie Brown

Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for the Shklar family. Connie Shklar passed away after a long battle with cancer on December 03,2009 with family and friends by her side.

Please continue to be in prayer for Lizzie Brown, and Pat Lafferty for their healing and speedy recovery.

Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner will be on the 13th. Last names beginning with A-K, please bring a covered dish and L-W bring dessert. Also, anyone wanting to donate AND cook a turkey, please contact either Pat Garnettsmith or Bonita Litizzette.

The Author Among Us

As most know, Betty Ost-Everly is one of our newer members, but maybe you didn't know she is a published writer. Recently her submissions to Guideposts have been accepted for their eight book series, "True Stories of Extraordinary Answers to Prayer." The first volume is currently available at www.guideposts.com, and includes her short story, "A Blossom Among Thorns", which is about how they came to buy their home in Marlborough and the activities which led to the formation of the Marlborough Community Coalition.

She has also sold four devotionals to Barbour Publishing for their "Heavenly Humor for the Cat Lover's Soul." Betty's inspirational romance novel, "Love's Perfect Gift", is currently under consideration for publication by Steeple Hill publishers, the Christian arm of Harlequin Books. Betty loves to write and will no doubt be published again soon.

Rainbow School Update
11-10-09

We are thankful to the following persons for serving as congregational representatives or Session representatives to the Rainbow School Board of Directors during the calendar year of 2009: Mary Tipton, Jill Reece, Doug Baker, and Dave Bergman.

The preschool teachers volunteered their time to provide a night out for parents on November 7. The "Night Under the Big Top" was a fun night for the children with clowns, games, music, and more. Parents made a donation to the Caring for Connie Shklar Fund and then had their own evening without children.

We thank Kathy Johnson, Susan Hartley, and Bonnie Klinginsmith for helping the teachers as we take turns staying with Connie during the day so the family does not have to pay for home care. Monetary donations can still be made to the Caring for Connie Shklar Fund at Heartland Community Credit Union, 406 E Bannister Road, #A, Kansas City, MO 64131-3028. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to the fund.

Deena is attending the National Conference of the Association for the Education of Young Children, in Washington, DC November 17-22. She attends this conference annually as an officer in the Christian Early Childhood Association of Greater Kansas City.

Breakfast with Santa will be Saturday, December 5. For more than 17 years we have had this fun holiday tradition. There are games and crafts for the children and breakfast for everyone. Don't fight the crowds at the mall! Come here to Fellowship Hall to sit on Santa's lap. Purchase your tickets in advance by contacting the Rainbow School office at 816-523-4336, or by email: Rainbow@South-Broadland.org.

Once again this year, Rainbow School will be collecting hats and mittens for the needy. You can purchase new items and place them on "The Mitten Tree" in our hallway.

The Rainbow School Christmas Program will be Wednesday, December 9, at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. Each class will perform one or two songs. It is a terrific opportunity to meet the children and their families. We would love to see you there.

Mark your calendars now for our annual Silent Auction and Trivia Contest, Saturday, February 20. This year's theme is "An Evening On the Terrace." If you or a business you frequent would like to donate an item for the auction, please contact us!

July Income & Expense Report			
		MONTH	Year to Date
	Date		Date
BALANCE	9/30/2009	\$33,246.39	12/31/2008 \$9,000.00
Receipts		\$15,463.79	\$203,269.28
Subtotal		\$48,710.18	\$212,269.28
Expense		\$25,812.81	\$189,371.91
Subtotal	10/31/2009	\$22,897.37	10/31/2009 \$22,897.37
Transferred to			
Reserves		\$0.00	\$0.00
Transferred from			
Reserves		\$0.00	\$
OVERALL BALANCE		\$22,897.37	\$22,897.37



December Birthdays

- 3 Ethel Weddle
- 10 Betty Ballard
- 10 Marty Hatten
- 10 Cindy Voss
- 14 Pat Lafferty
- 16 Deidre Anderson
- 17 Joe Litizzette
- 18 Monesea Gunter
- 19 Jan Sparling-Herring
- 21 Maxine Owen
- 21 Ray Wiedemann
- 23 Gracie Crass
- 23 Lea Wylie
- 26 Laura Shklar
- 29 Kent Fredlund
- 31 Rebecca Hirtzel

December Anniversaries

- 14 Pat and Dottie Lafferty
- 15 Wynn and Midge Braswell
- 29 Jack and Donna Purdin
- 30 Milton and Nina Lang