

South Park Presbyterian Church
1501 30th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201-3797

Non-Profit Organization
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Rock Island, IL 61201-3797

Christian Education

Sunday School for children begins at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday with Director of Music, Kenn Logan, beginning the hour with 15 minutes of music. Following the music time, the children attend class in their respective age group as follows:

Kindergarten - 2nd grade

3rd and 4th grade

5th and 6th grade



South Park Church Annual Meeting

January 27, 2008
Sunday
11:00 a.m.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend! We will be electing officers for 2008 and approving a new vision for our congregation.

Church Office: 786-6466 Fax: 786-6470
Email address: donnab@spchurchqc.org Website: www.spchurchqc.org
Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00-4:30 p.m.

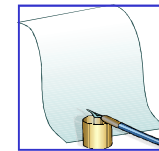
Touchpoints is published monthly by South Park Presbyterian Church
1501 30th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201-3797
No Subscription Charge to members and friends

SOUTH PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TOUCHPOINTS

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 20, 2007



**From the
Pastor's Pen**

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is always a splendid time for Christians. It is the night of our Savior's birth – a night of celebration and joy. Even folks who do not regularly attend church enjoy the festivity of welcoming Jesus into our hearts once again. There is nothing to compare to that joyous experience of lifting our candles up high and letting the glorious music filled our heads and our souls.

Let's make this year especially meaningful by preparing ourselves spiritually to participate in the ceremonies of this holy night. Christmas is so much more than that one hour on the night before the birth. As we move through Advent we pray for the destruction of the powers of evil, for the righteousness and justice of God, for the dawning of God's peace over all the nations. Our Advent readings in Scripture express not merely expectation of Christ's birth, which has already happened, but the coming of Christ again to rule, to judge and to save.

We cannot understand Jesus' birth without first understanding this ultimate truth that he is Savior and Lord. This foundational piece of our theology can get lost in the hectic preparations for Christmas. And then we come to the manger unprepared. As a result we regard Christmas as emphasizing the incarnation in a narrower sense than is appropriate to the full richness of Word made flesh and manifest in Jesus Christ.

This year let's thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the promises of the prophets and let the story of Christmas come alive deep within our souls. It is the night of our Savior's birth. It is also the night of anticipation for the consummation of all things in Christ at the end of time.

Rev. Virginia Murray

Touchpoints Publication Schedule

Next Touchpoints will be mailed on Thursday, Jan. 31. The deadline for articles to be submitted is Sun., Jan. 27.

Church Services Schedule (see enclosed January calendar for all events)

Church Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:00-4:30

Sunday, January 6

Parish Nurse
9:00 Church School
10:00 Worship Service

Communion

Sanctuary

Sunday, January 13

9:00 Church School
10:00 Worship Service

Sanctuary

Sunday, January 20

Churches United Food Pantry
Parish Nurse
9:00 Church School
10:00 Worship Service

Sanctuary

Sunday, January 27

Recycling
9:00 Church School
10:00 Worship Service
Annual Congregational Meeting following
worship service
Touchpoints articles due

Sanctuary

Be Still and Know

Recently in a busy Moline YMCA lobby, there seemed no place of quiet. The big lounge was noisy with the blare of the TV loud speaker, and even the reading room was taken over by a committee that was meeting. In desperation I stepped to the desk and said to the clerk, *"Is there any place in this sizeable building where a person can find a quiet corner - a place to read and think?"* She cast a look about her, and with a somewhat discouraged-looking smile, said, *"There ought to be - in the lounge, or in the reading room, but since there isn't why not try the chapel. It's on the second floor at the end of the corridor."*

"Thank you," I said gratefully. I found the chapel, and enjoyed an hour of quiet meditation. What strength there is in such quietness! In our noisy world we need the reassurance that comes from carrying out the precept, *"Be still, and know that I am God!"*

We have a chapel at South Park and also a beautiful sanctuary. Are they quiet worship centers? Why not take advantage of them during the week or before the Sunday service in preparation for worship. Any congregation should sing much more beautifully and sincerely after a time of quiet spent in the presence of God. Let the message of God come through our music and enlighten your hearts as we enter this new year together.

South Park Music Ministry
Kenn Logan
Director of Music

Church Events Calendar

Week of January 2 - January 5

Thurs., Jan. 3
9:00 Foot Clinic
9:30 PW Mission
7:00 Covenant to Care

Week of January 6 - 12

Mon., Jan. 7
1:00 Circle of Faith
3:30 Personnel
7:00 C.E.
Tues., Jan. 8
3:30 Stewardship
6:30 Handbells (and every Tues.)
6:30 Fellowship
7:00 Circle of Love
7:00 Outreach
Wed., Jan. 9
6:30 Church in Society
7:00 Choir Rehearsal (and every Wed.)
Thurs., Jan. 10
10:00 PP&E
Sat., Jan. 12
9:30 Book Club

Week of January 13 - 19

Mon., Jan. 14
3:15 Tutoring (and Jan. 28)
4:00 WEM
5:30 Session
7:00 Worship/Music
Tues., Jan. 15
1:30 Finance
7:00 Covenant to Care
Wed., Jan. 16
5:00 Meal Site
Sat., Jan. 19
12:30 Ladies Afternoon Out

Week of January 20 - January 26

Mon., Jan. 21
1:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tues., Jan. 22
12:00 VIP
Thurs., Jan. 24
7:00 Deacons

Week of January 27 - February 2

Mon., Jan. 28
1:30 PW Coordinating Team
6:30 Session



Sunday Attendance:

	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16
10:00 Service	108	100	112

Income:

Dec. 2	\$	8,819.87
Dec. 9	\$	3,941.60
Dec. 16	\$	8,086.00
Dec Food Pantry	\$	85.00



Address Changes:

Yvonne Brumas 1717 31st St Rock Island, IL 61201	Gary Logsdon 3992 Pagosa Ct. Loveland, CO 80538
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Marian Timm
16329 Rt. 67
Milan, IL 61264

Address Correction:

Rick Stevenson
2842 7th Ave.
Rock Island, IL 61201

Deaths: Marjorie Beasley

Meal Site - Thank you to those who provided food and helped serve at the Meal Site on Wed., December 19. There will be a sign up sheet in the Parlor in January if you would like to help provide food for the January 16 Meal Site.

**P N U R S E
A R I S H
C O N F I Z I N G**



Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Irritable bowel syndrome is an irritate and inflammatory disorder of the intestine. It is not contagious, inherited or cancerous. Only the small and large intestines are involved. It is twice as common in women as it is in men.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Nausea
- Headache
- Rectal pain
- Backache
- Diarrhea or constipation, usually alternating.
- Occasional appetite loss that may lead to weight loss.
- Fatigue
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Bloating and gas

Causes:

Stress and emotional conflict resulting in anxiety or depression. Situations that often precede an attack: obsessive worry about everyday problems, marital tension, fear of loss of a beloved person or object, or death of a loved one. Symptoms may also be triggered by eating and sometimes no specific food can be identified as the responsible one.

Risks increase with:

- Stress
- Smoking
- Fatigue or overwork
- Poor physical fitness
- Excess alcohol consumption
- Improper diet
- Use of drugs

Diagnostic Measures:

- Observation of symptoms.
- Medical history and physical exam by the doctor.
- Lab tests, including stool studies to exclude other disorders such as ulcerative

colitis, parasites and enzyme deficiency.
X-ray of the colon (barium enema).
Colonoscopy

Treatment:

- Medication may help, but will not cure this disorder.
- Antispasmodics to relieve severe abdominal cramps.
- Short-term tranquilizers to reduce anxiety.
- Diet - increase fiber in the diet to promote good bowel function.
- Don't eat foods that aggravate symptoms.
- Avoid gas producing foods.
- Medication, exercise, diet changes and adequate rest can help, but the best thing is to define, confront and solve conflicts in day-to-day living.

Joanne Stice, Parish Nurse

Foot Clinic
Thursday, January 3, 2008
South Park
Presbyterian Church
9:00 a.m.



Points of Interest

Circle of Virtue - No meeting on Jan. 1, 2008. Happy New Year!

Maxine Patterson

Book Club - We will meet on Sat., Jan. 12, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in the South Park Church Library. We will read and discuss the book, 90 Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper. Everyone is welcome. Call Dorothy Meyer, 793-1323, if you have any questions.

Covenant to Care - Please contact Brenda Thompson, 788-7769, for dates, times and location for the January 2008 Covenant to Care meetings.

V.I.P. - will meet on **Tuesday at noon on January 22**, for the monthly potluck in the church Dining Room. Everyone is invited to gather for fellowship and learning.

Our speaker will be **Adrian Madunic**, from Blackhawk College. We will learn about the 1990 breakup of Yugoslavia, and the formation of the new independent states of Croatia, Bosnia and Slovenia, and the causes of the ensuing war. This promises to be a very interesting and educational program.

The host committee will be Bev Linn, Bus & Annette Iglehart, and Frances Langston will give devotions. LaNeve Birkel will be the MC. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service with a cup and/or a glass. Beverages are provided.

Anyone that is unable to attend the potluck is welcome to come for the program at 12:45/1:00. Come, bring a friend. For more information call 787-3830.

VIP/D. & B. Berg

Ladies Afternoon Out - We will gather at 12:30 p.m. on Sat., Jan. 19, 2008 in the Ed. Center. The film is "Mrs. Palfrey at the Clairmont". Please bring treats to share. Coffee and tea are provided. Members and friends are invited.

Fellowship Committee, Maxine & LaNeve

Lectionary Readings

We have begun an enthusiastic Adult Bible Study group that meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

During Advent we have been exploring the Advent lectionary readings – the readings that we use each Sunday for worship.

During our discussions it became apparent that a list of the readings would be handy for study during the week preceding the class. Therefore, in this and future copies of "Touchpoints" we will publish the list for the month.

January

6: Epiphany of the Lord

- Isaiah 60:1-6
- Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14
- Ephesians 3:1-12
- Matthew 2:1-12

13: Baptism of the Lord

- Isaiah 42:1-9
- Psalms 29
- Acts 10:34-43
- Matthew 3:13-17

20: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Isaiah 49:1-7
- Psalms 40:1-11
- I Cor. 1:1-9
- John 1:29-42

27: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Isaiah 9:1-4
- Psalms 27:1, 4-9
- I Cor. 1:10-18
- Matthew 4:12-23

Pastoral Nominating Committee - The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) has continued to update and review the Church Information Form (CIF). These important review steps were necessary because of the year since the PNC hiatus and the addition of two new PNC members. The last CIF changes the PNC made were considered on Dec. 19. A final committee vote will be on Jan. 9 and the document will be forwarded to the Session for approval. After Session approval the South Park's CIF will be forwarded to Presbytery's Committee on Ministry in late January. The PNC looks forward to considering applicants in early spring.

A New Piano!

We are ready to start our fund raising campaign for a different piano for the sanctuary. As you know from our previous communications, the present piano needs to be replaced. It has served well for many years but it can no longer be effectively repaired. We will actually be purchasing a gently used one.

Part of the cost will be covered by funds we already have earmarked for this purpose. But there is an opportunity for each of us to contribute as well.

We are mentioning this now so that you can take advantage of a tax break for the 2007 calendar year if you so wish.

Please clearly mark any check for this effort with the words "Piano Purchase Fund". If you like you can add the account number: 3.000.726

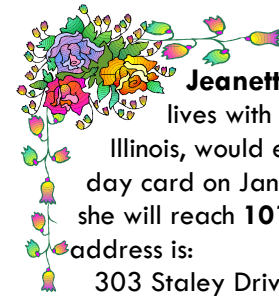
If you have any questions please contact Kenn Logan, our Music Director or Virginia Murray, our interim pastor for more information.

Stewardship Thoughts - Stewardship is not only about returning a part of our treasures to God gratefully but also about our time and talents. Giving of both time and talent is just as important to help God's Church and ourselves, as Christians, grow. Volunteering to usher or greet can be an easy way to share our time. Serving on a committee can be a rewarding way of using both our time and talents. There are many ways, besides these listed, that we can show God how grateful we are for the many blessings we have as a Church and individually. Stewardship needs to be thought of as a way of life for all of life.

The Peanut Butter Lady - Yes, the Peanut Butter Lady and her fella have been busy and I thought you might like an update. During October, November and December along with the peanut butter that you so graciously gave for the Food Pantry and that which I held back for when the kids were out of school, we gave 47 more jars of peanut butter and 47 loaves of bread. This has helped to fill a lot of tummies of kids that would have gone to bed hungry. This is my last year on Deacons[Ⓜ] and this project was an offshoot of our Third Sunday Food Pantry. Never in my wildest dreams did I think this project would take off the way it did and it's all due to our caring church family. The need will always be there. Please continue to support the Food Pantry. It is a vital local mission project.

I just talked with Murray. If you are willing in the coming year to continue to support the peanut butter project, we will be willing to supply the bread. Please let Shirley Suarez, who is and will continue as Moderator of Deacons, know your wishes.

Your Sister and Brother in Christ,
Cheryl and Murray Pople



101 Years!

Jeanette W. Edler, who now lives with her daughter in LeRoy, Illinois, would enjoy receiving a birthday card on January 18, 2008, when she will reach **101 years!** Her mailing address is:
303 Staley Drive, LeRoy, IL 61752
She misses her South Park Church and reads every newsletter! From son, Robert Edler

Thank You for Remembering - Thank you so much for remembering me with the lovely Christmas bag full of fruit, candies, and cookies - and especially the little book "Sunny Thoughts". I enjoy it very much. Your kindness is appreciated.
I hope you all have a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Carol McAllister

Presbyterian Women - Thank you - thank you! Thank you for your generous support of Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering. \$830 was collected and sent for mission projects around the world!

Harriet Plutz, Moderator

Join us for worship every
Sunday at 10:00 a.m., following
Sunday School
at 9:00 a.m.

Churches United - Thank you for your \$1,205 contribution to the Churches United Hunger Ministry which includes 24 food pantries and 3 meal sites; making sure that the hungry in the Quad Cities have access to free food on a daily basis. The volunteers and staff that work with our ministries are blessed to have your support. We wish you and your family a very blessed Holiday Season. We are truly blessed by your very generous gift. Thank you!

Melanie Jones, Financial Manager

Thank You!! - The Staff wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you for all your kindnesses during the Christmas season. We have greatly enjoyed the treats, the gifts and most especially your warm thoughts and greetings. We look forward with anticipation to serving you for another year!


With Sincere Thanks - A sincere thank you to all who made our Christmas season so special.

So many of you were here to help decorate. Others worked hard with the Christmas Eve Children's program.

The musicians made every worship service a joy and delight.

Thank you also to the lectors, ushers, greeters and those indispensable people who are here to pick up and do whenever called upon.

You are a great congregation in your willingness to serve.

 *Our Deepest Sympathies to...*
...the family of Marjorie Beasley
upon her recent death on November 29.