

# Small Group News

## Seeking, Sharing, Serving Christ

October 2011

Southridge Church



Dear Small Groups,

I am thrilled to have the opportunity of serving you as Director of Small Groups at Southridge! It is my hope that you would see me as a resource for:

- Study Materials (discounts too!)
- Service Opportunities
- Adding new members to your existing group
- Turning your group into two new groups
- Relocating you to a group you feel suits you better.

One of the wonderful advantages of living in community at Southridge is that we have a support system in place so that you never feel that you're going it alone. So please don't hesitate to call either me or Becky Ringler with questions, concerns etc.

Something different I'd like to start doing with these monthly newsletters is a spotlight corner that highlights a positive story from a small group. An example may be a service opportunity the group participated in or a session in their study that was particularly meaningful for them. In order to do this I'm going to ask that **when you think of one please e-mail me with a brief story that your group would like to bless us with.**



I believe that small groups pay an integral role in creating the culture of togetherness, service, and a deeper focus on our personal relationships with God that we want to enjoy at Southridge. One of my goals moving forward is to increase our members' participation in small groups and I look forward to getting to know you all better in the process. Thank you for being part of this valuable ministry!

*Abby Lininger*

*"Every day they continued to meet in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."*

*Acts 2:46-47*

## Devotion

### What's Love got to do with it? A Whole Lot

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23:6

"The soul lives on words of love." These are words spoken by my pastor today. Oh, so very true...the soul does live on words of love. Whether everything is going just as we had planned, which is rare, or your world seems like it is caving in, we ALL need words of love. Too often I will think of others and sometimes I even come up with an idea of something nice I could do for them, and then, I never do it. It slips away, and I simply do nothing. Sometimes all we need is a hug. Sometimes we need prayer. Often, a few encouraging words sends us in a new direction.



We all need love. It has a whole lot to do with our view of life, our purpose, and our relationships. Thankfully, we have a Father that loves us unconditionally. He sees our faults, our sins, and amazingly never judges or loses faith in us. We have the ultimate role-model. What an encourager! This week I hope we can help fill other's souls with words of love, and may your soul be filled knowing that you are working for the Lord. Let's act on our instincts and not let our kind words remain silent!

-Kelly Vanlaningham



*Laura Scheid, Assimilation, 324.4986*

*Kelly Vanlaningham, Devotions, 372.3574*

*Becky Ringler, Pastor, 353.2700*

*Abby Lininger, Director, 271.1527*

*abigail.lininger@gmail.com*

# Fallapalooza!

## October 30th

### Service Opportunity Ideas

- **Blanket Project: You are warmed by God's Love.** Volunteers are needed to buy fabric, stitch, knit or crochet blankets and pillowcases on their own time and donate them for distribution. Projects benefit children in crises. Drop off can be done at First United Methodist Church in downtown Kalamazoo.
- **Boys and Girls Club Fun Day.** Fun Day is a family oriented carnival-like day that takes place in early October. Volunteers are needed to help with activities that include food, games, raffles, face painting and pony rides. This event takes place at our 915 Lake Street location. Hours: Sat, Oct 15, 2011 [11:00am-3pm].
- **Walk for Arthritis.** The Jingle Bell Run/Walk is looking for volunteers to fill the following positions on event day: setup, registration, course marshals, water station assistants, photographers, food & beverage servers, clean up and greeters. Location: Celery Flats in Portage. Hours: Sun, Nov 13, 2011; Various shifts [10:30-3:30].



It's that time of year again!

Once again Small Group Ministry is sponsoring the Trunk-or-Treat portion of this year's Fallapalooza! This event is a fantastic opportunity to come out and enjoy each other's company while providing a safe and positive trick or treating environment for children in our community!

Fallapalooza will be held on Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 5:30ish pm. **If you and your small group or even just you and your friends would like to sponsor a trunk or two please contact me, Abby, at 271-1527 or [Abigail.lininger@gmail.com](mailto:Abigail.lininger@gmail.com).** Parking for the trunk or treat will begin at 2:30pm. Feel free to have fun decorating your trunk at that time! Please plan on having 200-300 pieces of candy per trunk to pass out.

Also, just as a reminder if wearing a costume, please refrain from wearing sensationally scary or ghoulish ones. Other than that, have fun with this event and be creative! This is by no means an exclusive event so let's get the word out and have as many people as possible in our church parking lot to celebrate God's beautiful gift of autumn!

*Service opportunities above are just a few upcoming examples. Please let me know if you have questions about these or other events. Many more can be found at <http://vk.volunteerkalamazoo.org/>*