

SOUTH RIDGE REFORMED
CHURCH

DECEMBER 2011 / JANUARY 2012

A VIEW FROM THE RIDGE



Dear Friends,

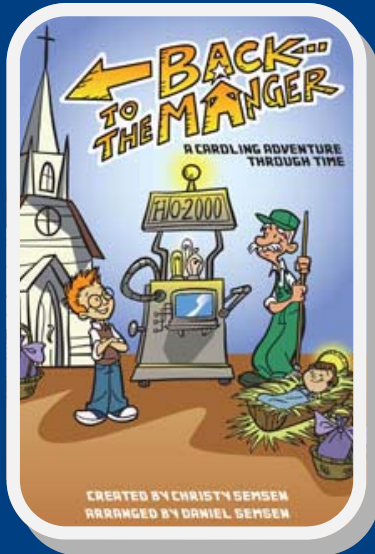
Sometimes I get the feeling that for too many folks Christmas is like a group of people who decided to throw a party to honor a very special friend. They sent out invitations, decorated the banquet room and had delicious food catered. All the people came together at the designated time, but to their surprise, the guest of honor was not there. Finally, they made the embarrassing discovery that no one had ever invited the guest of honor.

Could this possibly happen to us at Christmas time? Do we go through all the decorating, the buying of presents, the preparation of elaborate meals and the attendance at several elegant events, but somehow forget whose birthday we have been called to remember?

May this be for you the best Christmas ever as you invite and celebrate the presence of the babe born in Bethlehem into your heart this season.



“BACK TO THE MANGER”



DECEMBER 4

**CHILDREN'S
MUSICAL**

**“BACK TO THE
MANGER”**

“CHRIST IS BORN”

The message from the Angels to the shepherds proclaiming the birth of our Savior, is just as relevant to us today as we celebrate the Advent/Christmas season.

DECEMBER 11

II. “Do Not Be Afraid”

Luke 2:10

Installation of Brian Switalski as Director of Middle School Youth
We Celebrate the Lord's Supper Offering: All Southridge Missions

DECEMBER 16

III. “Good News of Great Joy.”

Luke 2:10

Reception for Stephanie Willoughby between both worship services

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Celebration
3:00-5:00-7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 25

No Worship Services
Celebrate Christmas with
Your Family

“GETTING OFF THE SHELF IN 2012”

In a year in which we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Southridge Church, we look at ways we can initiate ministry opportunities.

JANUARY 1

“I. Why Is It So Hard to Make Those New Year Changes?”

Ephesians 4:21-27

JANUARY 8

“II. When You Feel Like Walking Away.”

Hebrews 11:35-12:4

We Celebrate The Lord's Supper Communion Offering:
Peter & Patty Ford

JANUARY 15

“III. The Cost of Doing Battle.”

Romans 7:15-25

JANUARY 22

“IV. My Biggest Problem: Myself.”

Romans 8

JANUARY 29

Youth Worship Service



DECEMBER 2011-JANUARY 2012



Adult Spiritual Growth Opportunities



As 2011 ends and a new year begins, there have been and will be many ways to seek, share, and serve Christ here at Southridge. Below are just a few, but watch for the weekly e-mails being sent with all the current weekly opportunities and details.

SEEKING

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Monday Night Classes begin again on January 23 with Beth Moore's newest 8 week study "Mercy Triumphs-a study of the life and book of James". Class starts promptly at 7:00; come at 6:45 for fellowship. Please e-mail Becky at rjr413@comcast.net, sign-up at the Welcome Center beginning in late December or watch our Southridge Facebook page to register. Our LAUGH group will once again provide an opportunity immediately following class. Watch for full details coming soon.

Our Wednesday morning class will begin on January 11 at 9:15 with the study "Breaking Free". Watch for sign-up opportunities at the Welcome Center in late December or e-mail Linda Riley at lindarileycmc@gmail.com.

Study books for both classes are \$15.00 and are purchased at the first class.

MARRIAGE MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY

How is your love life? Think it should be better? No other area of our life impacts our quality of life more than this one. It can lead to the best of times or the worst. Love Life is an investment into your present situation, your future and even your kids and grandkids. One of the most important roles we play as parents is giving our children a well-adjusted home and that starts with a happy marriage. Love Life features best selling author and Pastor Mark Driscoll of Mars Hill Church in Seattle. With the Bible, primarily the Old Testament book of Song of Solomon, Pastor Mark will teach us with humor, candidness and grace, God's design for love, dating, sex, & marriage. Classes will be held on Sunday mornings at 10:30, beginning January 8. Sign-up online at www.southridgechurch.com.

SHARING

MOPS

December is all about sharing the love of Jesus with moms and kids as we focus on the true meaning of Christmas and God's great gift of Jesus given to us. On December 7, moms and older kids will create a special Christmas craft together and on December 21, the Christmas story will be shared in a meaningful way. For more information about MOPS and how you can share in their ministry, contact Melissa Shripka at 353-3743.

SERVING

ADULT WORKCAMP

We'll once again be returning to Annville, KY to serve at Jackson County Ministries April 20-25, 2012. If you would like to join us as we do rehab and other service projects at the ministry and in the Appalachian community, please e-mail Becky at rjr413@comcast.net or watch for the sign-up at the Welcome Center. Cost of the trip will be \$250.00 which covers everything but a few meals on the road. This is such an amazing way to put our faith in action as we serve in a community that so needs to know the love and care of Christ! Don't miss this opportunity to bless and be blessed as you serve with the other great members of our team.



WHAT'S GOING ON IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

This is the two month special edition! This gives me the chance to look ahead, envision the future, get excited about being uncertain since God's thoughts and ways are higher than our thoughts and ways. But I do know that what is coming is going to feed into our students and continue the forward motion of their relationship with Jesus. So, check out what we have coming up and join us in prayer as we dive into what God has in store for us at oneeighty!

Our next series is going to be on the subject of "HOPE". With so many uncertainties that take place, where do we go, whom do we seek out to truly know that things are going to get better?

Ahead we have some incredible opportunities. We started out with a discussion on how words offer hope or hopelessness. We all wear labels. Then on December 4 we will have special guest Psychologist Laurie Assadi, who will speak to us about "De-mystifying depression and how to cope with suicidal thoughts in ourselves and in others."

BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR THIS SERIES:

November 20– Labels

December 4– I Will Survive

On December 11, we will have a worship service/Christmas Party that brates Jesus. We'll also end the night with caroling at a local apartment complex.

In January we will look at what our lives line up with. If we say we are Christians, do our lives look like they come out of the Bible? Or do our lives look more like 'Jersey Shore', 'Survivor', or, God forbid, '16 and Pregnant'?

HOPE



cele-



Passion 2012– January 2-5 will be our third time to this life changing event! And every year the group grows larger. This year we are taking 27 adult leaders, college students and Senior and Juniors. Please pray for us all as we worship with over 30,000 others and fill up the Georgia Dome!



Summer Mission Trip– We have begun the process of registering for our summer mission trip to Balsam Lake, WI (July 7-14). We will have an information meeting on November 20 at 5:15. A \$75 deposit will also be due on that date.



Winter Retreat– This year's retreat also has a different date, February 13-15, although we are still at the same great place, Springhill Camp. Turn in your \$70 deposit to secure your spot on this trip! The speaker this year is Jeffery Dean (speaker in 2010) and the band Sevenglory will be leading us as well.

Serve Kalamazoo: This is our community service opportunity where we go out and serve with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Ministry With Community, Bickford Cottage and more. We also meet several needs within our own church! Opportunities are monthly and there are sign-ups at ignite.

October Opportunities:

December Salvation Army Bell Ringing

December 11 – Ministry with Community

December 17 – Habitat for Humanity
Bickford Cottage

December 18 – Community Christmas Party

January 8 - Ministry With Community

January 21 – Habitat for Humanity
Bickford Cottage



Upcoming Events:

Bible Study Dates:

December 7, 14, Jan. 18 & 25

Sunday Morning Youth Service: January 29





Happenings

Youth Sunday Service January 29th!

FBI© for Middle Schoolers is the place to be! XLR8 on Friday night keeps getting better together, as students grow closer to Christ and each other.



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Twitter: @brianswitalski
Church: 269-353-2700 x224
Cell: 248-396-6786
bswital-
ski@southridgechurch.com

Meet the new Middle School Director#

By the time you read this I hope to have met many of you already. If not, hi, I'm Brian. I am excited to get to know you and for you to know my family! I have a wife, Kim, and two children, Anna who is 3, and Elijah (Eli) who is almost two. We also will have foster children (teens) from time to time to hang with. Friend us on Facebook.

Important Dates:

1. **Mission Trip July 21-28:** A payment of \$130 is due December 9th.
2. **Winter Blast Retreat January 13-15:** \$100 is due by December 2. The price goes up to \$135 after that date.
3. **Bike Trip June 17-22:** 8th Graders, signup begins December 2. Spots are limited so sign up now!

December 2 - Labels

HOPE

December 9 - I Will Survive

Our December series is "HOPE." With so many uncertainties that take place, where do we go? Who do we seek out to truly know things are going to get better? Join us for this series.

January Series

Ultimatum#

Who will you serve?



Bike Trip Update

There are many changes to the bike trip this year. We would love to have you come with us! This year will look different. We are limiting the trip to 30 youth. The trip will fill up based upon grade. (8th grade first, 7th, then 6th) The trip dates have also changed to June 17—June 22. For FAQ on the changes please go to:

<https://sites.google.com/site/biketrip2012/>

Brian will be at the Tuesday Turnaround



December 6. Come hang with him and see if you can beat him shooting hoops! Tuesday Turnarounds happen December 6, 20, January 3 & 17.

CORE

CORE is a deeper dive into a book of the Bible, currently Acts, meeting on select Sundays during the 11:00 a.m. service. December CORE meets the 18th. January Core meets the 8th & 22nd.

Fusion Groups

Fusion Groups of up to 10 students each meet weekly in homes to grow in relationship with fellow students & adult leaders, as students learn about their identity in Jesus. **If you have not been contacted yet let us know.** Get connected!



RAAW (Real Actions At Work) is serving on **December 17th** from 10 AM—2 PM at the **Kalamazoo Gospel Mission**. There are always many great opportunities to serve at Southridge on Sundays in the nurseries or at Amplify!

More event info go to: <http://www.southridgechurch.com/events/> #

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**DECEMBER 4
9:00 & 11:00
A.M.**

JOIN US FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL...

During the annual Christmas Caroling Outreach at Midway Community Church, Madison and her friends discover a time machine in the basement. After accidentally hitting a lever, they embark on an adventure throughout the twentieth century and learn how helping others changes lives. Seeing the caroling outreach effects over the decades, once-skeptical Madison comes to know Christ better and discovers the true value of God's gift and why we celebrate His birth.

NURSERY CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE
(PRESCHOOL-5TH GRADE WILL WORSHIP WITH THEIR FAMILIES.)

FGF IN DECEMBER

At our December meeting we will be setting up and helping get ready for our annual **Community Christmas Party!** We will meet December 18 (time TBA).

OUR COMMUNITY

WINGS OF GOD:

Please join us for a long awaited viewing of the Wings of God Home in Paw Paw for a Christmas Open House, Dec. 17 & 18 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Your prayers, financial giving and physical labor has been a huge blessing in preparing this house for newly released female inmates to call home. We are close to opening our doors at 310 N. Kalamazoo Ave! Please bring friends and family and enjoy delicious refreshments along with the opportunity to purchase home baked delectables to share with your families throughout the Christmas season."

MOPS NEWS:

We are very blessed this year with lots of moms coming to our meetings and a wonderful Steering Team working very hard to meet MOPS needs. That said, we are desperately in need of volunteers still! We are looking forward to Samantha Anhalt speaking to us on "Love" in January and Becky Powers speaking to us on "Nutrition" in February and the "Spa Day" in March. If you are interested in donating your services or any door prizes for our Spa Day, please contact Melissa Shripka, (mshripka@gmail.com).

Senior Citizens Invited to the
**Community
Christmas Party**

**Sunday, December 18th
4:30-6:00 p.m.**

Please RSVP to Shelly Losey
by Friday, December 9th
353-2700 ext. 226 or
slosey@southridgechurch.com



The **Children and Youth Ministries at Southridge** would love to serve you this Christmas with a night just for you!

Sit back and enjoy the Christmas season with a dinner, Christmas variety show, craft, and some caroling.

DECEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 7:00 XLR8	2
4 9:00 Sunday Worship Service 11:00 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 Adult Bible Study Amplify ages 3-5th grade 3:00 FPU 6:30 Ignite	5	6 6:00 Tuesday Turnaround	7 9:00 MOPS Senior Moments 6:30 oneeighy Bible Study 6:30 Financial Dream Team	8	9 7:00 XLR8	10 5:30 FBI© Parent Night out
11 9:00 Sunday Worship Service 11:00 Sunday Worship Service Amplify ages 3-5th grade 12:30 Ministry w/ Community 3:00 FPU 6:30 Ignite	12	13 7:00 Oneeighy Leader's Mtg	14 6:30 oneeighy Bible Study	15 12:30 "WSGL" (Women Spreading God's Love) Lunch at Field-Stone Grille	16 7:00 XLR8	17 7:30 Serve Kalamazoo-Habit 9:30 Bickford Cottage 10:00 FBI© Kalamazoo Gospel Mission
18 9:00 Sunday Worship Service 11:00 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 Adult Bible Study Amplify ages 3-5th grade 3:00 FPU 4:00 Community Christmas Party	19	20	21 9:00 MOPS	22	23	24
25 NO Sunday Worship Services 6:30 NO Ignite	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 Sunday Worship Service 11:00 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Couple's Bible Study 12:30 Ministry w/ Community Amplify ages 3-5th grade 6:30 Ignite	2	3 6:00 Tuesday Turnaround 6:30 Deacon's Meeting 7:30 Consistory Meeting	4 9:00 MOPS Senior Moments	5	6 7:00 XLR8	7 Empty Nesters
8 9:00 Sunday Worship Service 11:00 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Couple's Bible Study 12:30 Ministry w/ Community Amplify ages 3-5th grade 6:30 Ignite	9	10 7:00 Oneeighy Leader's Mtg	11 9:15 Women's Bible Study 6:30 oneeighy Bible Study	12	13 FBI@ Grace Adventure Winter Blast	14
15 9:00 Sunday Worship Service 11:00 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Couple's Bible Study Amplify ages 3-5th grade 6:30 Ignite	16	17 6:00 Tuesday Turnaround 7:00 FBIC Leader's Mtg	18 9:00 MOPS 9:15 Women's Bible Study 6:30 oneeighy Bible Study	19 12:30 "WSGL" (Women Spreading God's Love) Lunch at Field-Stone Grille	20 7:00 XLR8	21 7:30 Serve Kalamazoo-Habitat 9:30 Bickford Cottage
22 9:00 Sunday Worship Service 11:00 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Couple's Bible Study Amplify ages 3-5th grade 6:30 Ignite	23 6:45 Women's Bible Study	24	25 9:15 Women's Bible Study 6:30 oneeighy Bible Study	26 7:00 XLR8	27	28
29 9:00 Sunday Worship Service 11:00 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Couple's Bible Study Amplify ages 3-5th grade 4:00 FGF 6:30 Ignite	30 6:45 Women's Bible Study	31				

"And His name shall be the hope of all the world."

Matthew 12:21

Merry Christmas from Kids Hope USA!



The gift of prayer and time are opening doors for young students at Moorsbridge Elementary.

It is the time of year when excitement and expectations run high for the students in elementary school. A time when more than ever some of our students need the love and concern of our mentors. Please be in prayer for them as they interact with their children at this very special time of year.

We have started five new students so far this year and have at least three more waiting for mentors. I want to thank Carolyn Everts and Jeff Mohny for coming back into this ministry and Mark Vanderson for picking up another child. Marti Beebe and Ardith Vandenberg have gone from being mentors to prayer partners. We thank them for continuing to be a part of this program. **We need mentors and prayer partners.** If you would like to be part of this vital ministry, please call Marilyn Petzold at 344-4126 for information.

By praying and mentoring a student, Southridge Reformed mentors are giving a wonderful gift to the children of Moorsbridge Elementary!
Thank you for all you do.



FINANCIAL REPORT

	Oct. 2011	Jan. – Oct. 2011
Total Cash Receipts	\$143,158	\$1,289,732
Total Expenses	\$117,443	\$1,258,176
Net Excess/(Deficit)	\$ 25,715	\$ 31,556

We experienced in October donations of \$25,715 in revenue above our October expenses, so we have ended our first 10 months in 2011 with a modest surplus of about \$31,556, which is good for this time of year, when compared to past years.

Thank you for your generosity!

With all of the financial uncertainties that accompany our current state of the economy, it is more important than ever that we continue to trust in God, and remember our church's financial needs as we move through the final month of the year 2011. Many exciting plans have been made and goals have been set for this year and 2012.

Good News:

- We celebrate God's goodness in providing us with a new middle school director, Brian Switalski, who joined us November 15, along with his wife, Kim, and two children. Thank you to the members of our Search Team for their diligence and dedication exhibited during the last seven months, as they reviewed resumes, interviewed candidates, and prayerfully sought God's direction for whom He had chosen to fulfill our children's needs at Southridge.
- We have had 16 new members attend our New Members' Class in November.
- We collected almost \$30,000 this year for Christ Followers for Change ministries!
- We had another overflow of generosity for our Thanksgiving donations to help feed the hungry through our local Food Pantry. Thank you for helping local families that are suffering in this time of need!
- Our students have served over 90 hours since the beginning of September serving and sharing the love of Jesus in Kalamazoo.
- Our Children's ministry attendance at the 9:00 a.m. service has more than doubled this year, with over 40 children in attendance, and we have begun using our new computerized check-in system to improve our security for our children and youth.
- Fallapalooza was a great success, with over 170 families participating in our gala, fun for kids event.
- Student Ministries are excited about having over 50 leaders; parents, college and high school students who have come together to serve high school and middle school students. While we still have opportunities for others to discover their gifts and make an impact in the life of a student, we are thankful for the commitment of our team.
- Construction on our new café in the main lobby will be completed in November.
- In our adult ministry, we had over 170 ladies attending our Monday night bible study, with over 90 staying afterwards to attend the yoga class that is offered.

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Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
From
Your family at
Southridge
Church

