Southland Christian Church ... 
equipping you to LIVE OUT your faith
as you ENCOUNTER God, CONNECT with others,
GROW DEEP and BUILD UP one another.

What’s Inside ...
2-4 General Reminders & Info
5 "WE DO!"
6-7 Les’ Latest ... for children and youth
8-9 southlandwomen
10-11 ENCOUNTER
12 CONNECT
12 GROW DEEP
13-14 BUILD UP
15 Dec. Serving Schedule
16-17 LIVE OUT

2014 Children of Praise Christmas program
Sunday, December 14 at 6 PM
Dessert reception to follow immediately afterwards

Parents ... for information and updates about the production (including the schedule for remaining practices + more), see the Children & Youth section of The Vine (see the bottom of page 7).

Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, December 24 at 6 PM
Come join us as we celebrate Christ’s birth together!

The Empty Nesters are inviting any and all who want to help decorate the church for Christmas to join them again this year. See page 2 for details.

We will publish the next edition of The Southland Vine on December 17.

Upcoming Leadership Meetings:
December 4 @ 6 PM Elders and staff
December 18 @ 6 PM Elders

Happy Thanksgiving
STAFF ADDITION UPDATE ...

We want to again make sure we are keeping you updated on the process of hiring another staff member. As a reminder, this position will work within our student ministries, leading the grade school and middle school portions. With this addition, Les will continue to work with the high school youth, but also be freed up to devote attention to the college age group. All in all, we feel like this set-up will give us the best possible scenario as we move forward.

Leadership continues the preliminary “vetting” process. Before long, we will have the candidates narrowed down to a list of the top 3. Each of these 3 will meet the foundational standards established by leadership: - for example, a love for Christ and His church, strong character, a commitment to Scripture, a fit with who we are (e.g. our basic ministry approach, doctrine, heritage of faith, etc.), as well as an obvious passion for working with young people. This is the point we are at now as we make sure we’re hiring the right kind of person.

After we have narrowed the candidates down to the top 3, a “Consulting Team” (consisting primarily of parents) will come alongside the leadership. They will participate by helping to identify which one candidate would provide the best leadership for both the grade school and middle school ministries. They will be paying attention to such things as personality, relational skills, ministry heart, experience, etc. This level of involvement will really help us to identify which candidate fits Southland, and especially our young people, best!

We continue to be in prayer that the end result of this process will be an enhancement of our student ministries as we strive to equip even our young people to LIVE OUT faith. We certainly want God’s will to be clear above all else. In the end, His Holy Spirit has a much greater grasp of who needs to be here than even we do. We look forward to seeing how this unfolds and ask that you continue to be in prayer as we proceed.
Each year, Ozark Christian College in Joplin hosts their “Living Christmas Tree” performance ... this year’s production is called *A Strand of Pearls*.

This is a music and drama production set in modern-day. It tells the tale of a family trying to celebrate Christmas amongst the conflict of family issues and the world around us. You are invited to join the O’Malley family as they learn the reason God sent His Son to earth and celebrate His unconditional love and forgiveness.

There are 6 Performances to choose from:

- **Thursday, December 4** 7:30 p.m.
- **Friday, December 5** 7:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, December 6** 4:00 and 7:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 7** 4:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are $7 for adults and $5 for children under 12 or for the overflow seats. Tickets may be purchased at the ticket desk in the OCC Chapel foyer, by phone at (417) 626-1221 or online at [www.occ.edu/lct](http://www.occ.edu/lct).
"THANK YOU" Notes
From time to time, we receive cards, notes, etc. expressing gratitude to the SCC family. Since there is not a great place to display these cards, we will share them with you here in The VINE.

"Thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent in Tim’s honor (Carissa’s dad). We appreciate your continued prayers during this time of healing." - Carissa Virtue and family

We are excited about this ministry tool we are using at Southland! It’s already getting some rave reviews. In case you are not aware of what this is about, read on ...

Right Now Media gives us digital access to a vast library of Biblical content through online video streaming. It’s kind of like NETFLIX … Jesus-style!

In addition to all the ways we will be able to use this in our ministries here at Southland, we are most excited about what it makes available to everyone connected to the SCC family. Through our subscription, you can have your own log-in with FREE access to all the content wherever and whenever you have an online connection (via smart phone, computer or any other connected electronic device).

Remember, if you haven’t yet, please send a request via e-mail to the church office (info@gosouthland.org) and we will help you get set-up.

FINANCIAL UPDATE … October 2014
(the most recently completed month)

We want to provide this basic info to keep you aware of what’s happening. Keep in mind, this is a snapshot of one month. Please feel free to ask any questions you might have through the office staff.

INCOME …

- Regular tithe for the month - $34,692.54
  (total for Sept. 2014 - Aug. 2015 = $72,967.54)
- Average weekly tithe for the month - $8,673.14
  (for Sept. 2014 - Aug. 2015 = $9,120.94)
- Weekly Goal for Sept. 2014 on - $10,000
  (This is based on an estimated annual budget of $520,000 ... NOTE: This is our target; we adjust as necessary along the way. This will be going up for September and beyond).
- Love Offerings - $1,120

We are excited to be utilizing the YouVersion "app" for tablets, smart phones, and other electronic devices during our Sunday services. Among other things, it’s a great way to follow along with the sermon and even take electronic notes. You can even send your own notes to your e-mail account from right there within the app!

See the posters around the building for specific instructions on how to find our LIVE event using this app each week: “SCC — Sunday ENCOUNTER.”

Got Questions?
While we work hard to communicate information, there may be additional questions you have about Southland. If so, please contact the office and someone on staff will help you. To e-mail: gotquestions@gosouthland.org.

PRAYER
To share a prayer requests with the Southland church family, you can send an e-mail to us at prayer@gosouthland.org or call the church office.

We encourage you to take advantage of Southland’s online presence ... check out our website to listen to sermons, check out upcoming events, etc. Don’t forget: you can also get updates and information by "liking" our "Southland Christian Church” Facebook page.
REMEMBERING OUR COVENANT COMMITMENTS

One of the great privileges and joys of following Jesus is being joined together with other believers as His church. Here at Southland, we express that vital connection in part through our “Membership Covenant.” It provides the basic parameters for belonging to the church family here – the commitments we have made to Christ and one another as His people. Now, these are not just our own ideas. Rather, they are our attempt to communicate the teaching of God’s Word when it comes to His Church – just what is required of us to belong to His Body? In this section of the Vine, we will be reviewing these commitments, specifically focusing on the membership section (as you can see below, we also leadership commitments as well). It’s a way for us to keep fresh in our hearts and minds just what it means to be connected to one another as His church.

GENERAL LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT (for both elders and staff) … We covenant to follow Jesus’ own leadership example – serving with humility and investing ourselves in those we lead.

ELDERS’ COMMITMENT … We covenant to seek God’s will for Southland as we are led by the Holy Spirit and God’s Word.

STAFF COMMITMENT … We covenant to partner with other staff members, functioning as a unified team for both greater effectiveness and, more importantly, God’s glory.

MEMBERS’ COMMITMENT … As members, we covenant to strive for holiness so that our individual lifestyles appropriately represent Christ and Southland.

God’s Word calls us to “be holy!” This is not just an expectation of God’s OT people, but even for us as followers of Jesus. In 1 Peter 1:14-15, we read these words:

“So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn’t know any better then. But now, you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy” (NLT – emphasis added).

It’s so integral even to our lives as followers of Jesus that the writer of Hebrews goes so far as to say that without holiness, we will “not see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14). It’s not how we earn salvation, but it is how we reflect our new identity in Christ (e.g. see Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:20-24 and Colossians 3:5-11)!

The specifics of what that holiness looks like for us today in Christ are different than they did for the nation of Israel long ago. What isn’t different is the foundational expectation that we will be HOLY – that we will live “set apart” lives (that’s what the Biblical language means) that are different. The world will live by one set of values and priorities, reflecting such things through their actions. As His people, we are to instead live by His values and priorities. It’s about living in obedience to God’s instructions found in His Word, reflecting His holy character in our lives. We pursue what is good, righteous and pure by His standard, living out godly values even in the midst of a world where they are unpopular. This is especially important as Christ’s representatives in this world since our conduct reflects both Him and His church.
GROUP HUDDLE BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAY NIGHTS (6-8 PM)

This semester in Group Huddle, our students have opened God's Word to see how faith in Christ can give us the ability to live courageous lives. Each Sunday night, we offer young people the opportunity to worship, study, fellowship over great food and be strengthened by small group discussion.

Here's what's happening in the next few weeks (no meeting on 11/30):

**November 23**

**GH Camouflage Night!** Do you remember the song “The Lord’s Army?” If not, no problem – it will be stuck in your head by the end of the night! Here are the words to the first stanza:

- I may never march in the infantry,
- Ride in the cavalry, shoot the artillery.
- I may never fly o’er the enemy,
- But I’m in the Lord’s army ... Yes sir!

Wear your camo, lace up your boots and borrow some hunting jacket as we study about being bold in our Christian walk.

**December 7**

**AGLOW Glow-in-the-Dark Christmas party.**

Come celebrate Jesus’ birth through worship and God’s Word. We will enjoy festive food and some hilarious games. Be sure to bring an inexpensive gift so you can participate in the “Merry or Bright” gift exchange.

FRIENDS AGAINST HUNGER

On November 16, armed with hair nets and plastic gloves, Southland’s youth rolled-up their sleeves to help feed the hungry. In an assembly line fashion, they took turns scooping, weighing and sealing bags full of rice and beans or macaroni and cheese.

Some of these meals will stay here in the Ozarks, filling the shelves of local food pantries. Other boxes will go to places like Guatemala, Liberia and Sierra Leone. These food bags are fortified with essential vitamins to help children get the nutrition they need for growing bodies.

Special thanks to chaperones: Ceci Drake, Kristin Londeen and Cameron Flatt!
**Student Spotlight**

Congratulations to **Will Deckard** (Republic HS) on making the district honor band.

District choir included **Kayla Gray** (New Covenant Academy) and **Kendall Wooldridge** (Willard HS).

**Brittney Shearin** was recently inducted into the Junior Honor Society – Brittney is an 8th grader at Ozark Junior High.

**Trevor Cobb** (freshman at Drury U.) submitted an article published in the *Springfield News-Leader*.

**Shelby Ritz** (freshman at Nixa HS) has made the freshman basketball team and **Rachel Graves** (sophomore at Republic HS) will be participating in winter guard. Way to go girls, represent Southland well!

The following students performed and/or assisted in the theatrical rendition of “Cinderella” at Parkview HS: **Sarah Holt, Wesley Holt, Luke Evans** and **Bailey Lenae**.

**Kayla Bryant** made finals in a district salsa dance competition. Ole!

**Linsey Drake** (sophomore at Kickapoo HS) was accepted into the Medical Explorers program. She will tour and assist medical professionals in a local hospital.

---

**“Children of Praise” Christmas Program**

**Rehearsal schedule:**

- Saturday, November 22 (10 AM - noon) – **special rehearsal only for drama parts**.
- Sunday, November 23 and 30 (5-6 PM) – **practice for all participants**.
- Sunday, December 7 (4-6 PM) – **full show rehearsal for all participants (snacks included)** ... note the different time for this practice.
- Saturday, December 13 (11 AM - 1:30 PM) – **dress rehearsal (lunch included)**.
- Sunday, December 14 (at the church by 4 PM) – **final rehearsal + performance** ... this will include a meal before the performance at 5 PM + a dessert reception following.

*Parents ... please remember to bring at least 2 dozen cookies (or similar quantity of another dessert) for the kids and guests to enjoy afterwards.*
It happens every year around this time. As the holidays close in I begin to take stock of the past year. To be honest, it feels a little like Ken and I have been under siege for the past couple of years as we have moved from one difficult situation to the next – sometimes with no breathing room in between. And yet, what stands out most is not the stresses that God allowed into our lives, but His faithfulness. I don’t mean faithfulness that makes everything turn out the way we want, but faithfulness that is sustaining and strengthening.

Of course God is always faithful, but perhaps at no other time in our lives together have we felt His guidance and presence in the midst of this chaos. He has been faithful to speak to our hearts and guide us even when we were pressed to make life-changing decisions without much notice. We have learned to tune-in to His quiet voice prompting us into action even in the midst of the stress. He has been faithful to multiply our time when we have had too many “must do’s” on our plate; faithful to show the priorities for each day in the midst of a long list of pressing matters; faithful to provide a friend’s prayers and encouragement exactly when it is needed; faithful to break the dam of control holding back the tears so that we can eventually sit at peace in His presence.

I have shared this lesson from God with some of the women, but it has been brought back to my mind over and over during the past couple of years …

About 30 years ago (or so), I was going through a particularly challenging time in life. It just seemed like the stress and drama would never ever end. I was talking to God one day in the car – asking Him why things had to be so hard and His answer was one I will always remember. He led me to consider a mountaintop. He said that when we are in the valley, all we want to do is to be on the top of that mountain – high above where we are. And when we finally do get there, we look back down at the valley and only from that height can we see its beauty and the life-giving resources in it. When we are trudging through the valley, every stream and tree was an obstacle to navigate. But, from above, they all fit perfectly into the landscape to make it beautiful. The mountaintop is lovely for a time, but the air is thin and there is no food or water to sustain us. Before long, the very place that we longed to be feels desolate and isolated. And so, in order to drink water and eat, in order to live, we must head back down into the valley. I have never looked at valleys the same since.

Among other blessings, navigating our time in those valleys gives us the opportunities to take in God’s faithfulness. Certainly, there are times when the walk seems too difficult. There are times when it seems like even the smallest bit of food must be hunted down with tenacity. There are times when the valley seems to close in on us and we want nothing more than to sit down and beg God to make it easier. But it is at those very moments when God gives us the gift of His faithfulness in the form of His Word, a peace that we could not on our own manufacture or a sentence in a sermon that speaks to us more than all the other sentences. Those gifts allow us to press forward, spurred on in our own faithfulness to continue following after the One who has been so faithful to us.

Persevering through our valleys is transformational. It is in the seeking and searching for food and water that we focus on God’s provision rather than our own ability to provide for ourselves. Somehow it’s hard to think you’re “all that and a bag of chips” when barely holding on. It’s in the seeking of God’s protection
that we focus on His sovereignty and might rather than relying on our own wisdom and strength to fight the terrors of the valley nights. It is truly hard to walk through a valley and not come away with a strong sense that what we are up against is much greater than our ability to overcome without His assistance. It’s along this walk through the valley that we learn to be thankful for the “little” gifts of faithfulness that God gives which strengthen us for the journey to the next mountaintop.

Psalm 100:4-5 says this ...

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise;  
Give thanks to Him and praise His Name.  
For the Lord is good and His loves endures forever;  
His faithfulness continues to all generations.”

While it seems to communicate a tone of joyful celebration, this is a wonderful reminder to consider even in the times of struggle. First of all, it’s a reminder that even then, we must move toward Him. To “enter” requires intentional action. His courts can become a place of refuge from all that would press in on us from the outside, but we must enter to find that refuge. And as we come into His presence in such times, our heartfelt thanksgiving becomes much more poignant. Why? Because we offer it as praise in recognition that He has been with us, leading us even in the midst of a journey through a valley. Secondly, it reminds us that He is good and loving – and most of all, faithful.

As the time of Christ’s return gets closer and closer, we are going to have to learn much more about walking through the valleys of life, even more, about truly thriving during our journey through them. May we begin now to prepare ourselves to find the beauty and provision of our valleys so that we will not be overwhelmed in the midst of them. Even there, we find our good, loving and faithful God!
Formula to a Great Encounter, Revisited
by Jon Carmichael

I was reminded this past weekend of a comment I made about my wardrobe a couple of years ago in a Vine article. As I attempted to remember the context, I was reminded of its point, which I think was an important one. So I wanted to revisit the article this month and share with you what I believe is the Formula to a Great Encounter.

What is it that you look for on a Sunday morning during our ENCOUNTER time?

As a worship leader, I have overheard numerous comments from people about what’s on their minds before they arrive and after they leave on a Sunday morning. Here are a few (these are not specific to anyone in our congregation, just a general accumulation of comments over my last eleven years of worship ministry):

“I hope we sing more hymns this morning.”
“I wish we could hear the electric guitar better.”
“I wish we could hear the backup singers a little more.”
“I wish we’d do more specials.”
“We should read more Scripture.”
“I hope they don’t forget to turn the heater on in the sanctuary.”
“I hope we sing that one song again.”
“I hope we don’t sing that one song again.”
“Which of Jon’s four shirts is he going to wear today?”

You get the point. I find it humorous how everyone (and their uncle) believes they have discovered the perfect formula for a great worship experience or, as we call it, "Encounter" time. I have to admit, I even fool myself into believing that I know what people need to hear, see, sing or do in order to really encounter God.

But here lies the truth: I, your worship leader, don’t even know the perfect formula in order for us to truly encounter God on a Sunday morning. Try as I may, I think it impossible for me to come up with the absolute perfect set of songs, videos, Scriptures, song specials and/or volume levels in order to lead absolutely everyone into a real encounter with God. “Well, why not?” you might ask. I’ll answer your question with another question – have you met yourself lately? Each of us was created so incredibly different than the one sitting in the chair beside us each week that there is no magical song or style formula in the entire history of the church that can bring everyone into a true encounter with God.
So, how do we encounter God? What’s the game changer? The answer is you ... and me. Please, let me rephrase: the answer is our attitudes. After all, we aren’t just encountering God, but one another.

Paul, in Colossians 3:12-16, says this:

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ... And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”

God works so much more effectively through his people than he ever has through a song. Don’t get me wrong, music is an amazing and precious gift from God, and there is nothing that can replace the effect it can have on the human spirit if we approach it with the right heart and attitude. But that’s just it. We, His chosen people, are the key to a true encounter, not the songs themselves. Say both a surgeon and I have a scalpel in hand ... which of us would you prefer to transplant your kidney? The tool is the same. So what makes all the difference? It’s all about the person holding it.

UPCOMING PREACHING CALENDAR

For the last 2 Sundays in November, here’s the plan:

November 23 The final week of our Acts series — “MEGA ... God’s Church at its Greatest“
November 30 A special service designed to help us express our gratitude for all of God’s great faithfulness

As for the Christmas season ... it always presents somewhat of a challenge for preaching. After all, even those with minimal church experience know the basics of the story of Jesus’ birth. So, how do we re-tell the story in a way that keeps it fresh? How do we look at it from a different angle? This Christmas season, we’re actually going to try to do just that!

We’re going to be in a series called “PERSPECTIVES of Christmas ... Angles of the Nativity.” It’s actually going to be a series that runs through both December and January. Each week in this series, we are going to consider the Christmas story from the eyes of a different character in the story — some whose roles are quite well-known, others whose parts may be overlooked at times. And yet, as we stop to look at what’s happening from these different angles, we begin to see the significance of the story in a new way. It’s the same incredible story, just from perhaps a different perspective than normal!

December 7 Christmas from the Eyes of the Dragon
December 14 Christmas from the Eyes of the Father
December 21 Christmas from the Eyes of the Baby Jesus
December 28 Christmas from the Eyes of the Mother, Mary
(Les will be preaching this week)

UPCOMING PREACHING CALENDAR

For the last 2 Sundays in November, here’s the plan:

November 23 The final week of our Acts series — “MEGA ... God’s Church at its Greatest“
November 30 A special service designed to help us express our gratitude for all of God’s great faithfulness

As for the Christmas season ... it always presents somewhat of a challenge for preaching. After all, even those with minimal church experience know the basics of the story of Jesus’ birth. So, how do we re-tell the story in a way that keeps it fresh? How do we look at it from a different angle? This Christmas season, we’re actually going to try to do just that!

We’re going to be in a series called “PERSPECTIVES of Christmas ... Angles of the Nativity.” It’s actually going to be a series that runs through both December and January. Each week in this series, we are going to consider the Christmas story from the eyes of a different character in the story — some whose roles are quite well-known, others whose parts may be overlooked at times. And yet, as we stop to look at what’s happening from these different angles, we begin to see the significance of the story in a new way. It’s the same incredible story, just from perhaps a different perspective than normal!

December 7 Christmas from the Eyes of the Dragon
December 14 Christmas from the Eyes of the Father
December 21 Christmas from the Eyes of the Baby Jesus
December 28 Christmas from the Eyes of the Mother, Mary
(Les will be preaching this week)

If you miss a sermon, you can catch it online! Go to the “Sermons & Media” tab on the home page of our website. Once there, click “Launch Sermon Player” to find the one you want to hear.
To be a part of a “D-Group,” please fill out one of the GREEN CARDS found at the Welcome Center, and we will make sure we contact you about the opportunity. There have been many groups forming recently. It’s a great way to GROW DEEP in your faith as a follower of Jesus!
This section of the Vine provides a central place for you to be informed about how to become active in service at Southland. One of our major priorities is to be a place where God’s people BUILD UP one another. In fact, according to Ephesians 4:16, the overall health of the church (the Body) depends upon each part doing its "own special work." Through our acts of service, God uses us to help others grow. At the same time, here’s what is beautiful about God’s design: what we do for the benefit of others even has benefits for our own growth as followers of Jesus. That's why we share this section with you. While we cannot include every potential opportunity to serve, we want to (1) highlight some specific areas where we have a need for help, (2) make you aware of special opportunities to serve and (3) provide a place to thank some of our volunteers.

To volunteer to serve in any area of ministry, please fill out one of the BLUE “Build Up” response cards at the Welcome Center. We will pass your name along to the appropriate leader.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE & “BUILD UP” THE BODY**

Below, we have listed some areas where we specifically need volunteers. If you are willing and able to help in any of these areas, please contact the people we have listed or simply use one of the blue “BUILD UP” response cards.

- **We need some ladies or couples who would be willing to serve during the 9 AM time slot in the nursery as part of a rotation.** Please contact Amanda Miller or call the office if you can help in this area.

- **We need couples who are willing to come in and fix communion on Sunday mornings.** This opportunity is a simple, behind the scenes way to serve. And yet, it is also one that is essential to our ENCOUNTER time each and every Sunday. Contact Deb in the office to volunteer for this area of service.

- **We need some more help at the Welcome Center.** Those who serve in this capacity work with our foyer hosts and greeters to help us show hospitality as people come to Southland. Each Sunday morning, we have two time slots – both during the high traffic times: (1) around the start of 1st service from 8:45 - 9:10 and (2) in-between services from 10:15 - 10:40.

**Ephesians 4:11-16**

“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

- Ephesians 4:16
Mowing season has come to an end and we would like to thank all the men who worked so hard throughout the summer to make the lawn and grounds look fantastic! These are the men who brave the heat to make the church presentable on Sundays:

- Mark Miller  
- Marty Hamm  
- Mike Seal  
- Billy Constantine  
- Bill Foster  
- Jeff Gouge  
- Justin Virtue  
- Truman Haynes  
- Keith Wall

Dennis McCann serves as the leader of the Grounds Ministry and is often here at the church between mowing days making sure equipment is ready to go and doing the odd jobs that are not covered with the mowing teams. Make sure to let these men know how much you appreciate all their work!

SHOWCASING SERVANTS: Youth Sunday School teachers

Instead of showcasing just one servant this month, we want to take the opportunity to showcase a whole group of servants: **those Sunday School teachers who BUILD UP as they devote themselves to helping our young people GROW DEEP in God’s Word.**

We are blessed to have a team of teachers committed to teaching our children God’s Word. It happens at 9 AM on Sunday mornings, starting in Kristie Martin’s classroom of 2 and 3 year olds all the way down the hall to Les’ high school class. Each week, you can hear SCC’s youth reciting memory verses and having a wonderful time learning the foundations of Scripture. It takes a lot of preparation and planning to keep kids focused for the timeframe. Creativity is essential so the same story or truth can be reinforced over and over in different ways. But, it is truly a wonderful thing to see the light bulb come on when kids “get it” or even more special are the talks teachers get to have with students about baptism and making Jesus Lord and Savior of their lives. Sunday school teachers have the opportunity to powerfully influence a lives and we are privileged to have some teachers who not only teach, but also model what it means to follow Christ.

These are our dedicated teachers:

- **2/3 year olds**  
  - Kristie Martin (assistants: Kathy Grover and Brenna Prestien)

- **Pre-K**  
  - Sonya Simpson + April Carmichael

- **K/1st grade**  
  - Melissa Mittag + Sydney Wooldridge

- **2nd & 3rd grade**  
  - Debbie Jennings + ??? (You never know, Les might be calling you!!!!)

- **4th & 5th grade**  
  - Branden Warden + David and Malia Turney

- **Middle School**  
  - Scott and Jill Wooldridge + Emily Sampson

- **High School**  
  - Les Londeen (Emily Sampson if he is not able)

This Sunday as you drop your children off for class – or even if you don’t have children but are headed down the hall toward service or Connect group – let the teacher(s) know that you appreciate the time and effort they put into teaching our children. They are such an important part of what makes Southland great!
# SERVING SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 2014

Communion Prep: Ritz Family (1st 2 Sundays)/Warren and Carolyn Burros

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1ST SERVICE</th>
<th>2ND SERVICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/7/14</td>
<td>Various People</td>
<td>Mark Miller Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14/14</td>
<td>Various People</td>
<td>Doug Graves Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/21/14</td>
<td>Various People</td>
<td>Ben Jennings Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/28/14</td>
<td>Various People</td>
<td>Les Londeen &amp; Youth Ministry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1ST SERVICE</th>
<th>2ND SERVICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/7/14</td>
<td>Donna Lillard</td>
<td>Amanda Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14/14</td>
<td>Erica Shaw</td>
<td>Debbie Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/21/14</td>
<td>Jill Sims</td>
<td>Jill Cobb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/28/14</td>
<td>Amanda Miller</td>
<td>ONE SERVICE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1ST SERVICE</th>
<th>2ND SERVICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/7/14</td>
<td>Dustin &amp; Lacey Shumaker/Donna Lillard</td>
<td>Millers &amp; Stewarts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14/14</td>
<td>Gabrielle Carroll/Danielle Keeton/Erica Shaw</td>
<td>Debbie Gray/Jenelle &amp; Ezri Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/21/14</td>
<td>Jill Sims/Cheryl McAnally</td>
<td>Jill Cobb/Amanda Butler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/28/14</td>
<td>Joy Shearin/Linda Jones/Amanda Miller</td>
<td>ONE SERVICE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1ST SERVICE</th>
<th>2ND SERVICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/7/14</td>
<td>Kristin Londeen</td>
<td>Brad and Marsha Foster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emily Weber</td>
<td>Allison Ritz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14/14</td>
<td>Andrea Conboy</td>
<td>Ceci Drake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cindy McMillian</td>
<td>Linsey Drake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/21/14</td>
<td>Amanda Hamilton</td>
<td>Sara Emmerton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Britney Shearin</td>
<td>Anna Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/28/14</td>
<td>Gabrielle Carroll</td>
<td>Sara Emmerton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Janet Kubitschek</td>
<td>Shelby Ritz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1ST SERVICE</th>
<th>2ND SERVICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/7/14</td>
<td>Katy Carmichael</td>
<td>Sonya Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14/14</td>
<td>Dan Gray</td>
<td>Dan Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/21/14</td>
<td>Jordan Marsh</td>
<td>Jay Butler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/28/14</td>
<td>Carl Simpson</td>
<td>Sonya Simpson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our goal this year was to build 66 food baskets. At this point (before final collection), we are likely going to end up with the necessary supplies to completely build around 35-45. We distribute these each Thanksgiving season through those in our SCC family who work in schools. These 35-45 baskets will cover the needs that they have identified for us.

All of this means we may end up with more supplies than our actual need. With any surplus that we have, we are going to donate that directly to the Salvation Army so it can be distributed from their food pantry as needs arise during this season.

Thank you for all who participated by contributing to the G6:10 Ministry’s food baskets during this Thanksgiving season!!
The Christmas season we are again offering a couple of opportunities for LIVING OUT our faith. As we approach that time of year, we wanted to highlight a few of these for you in this section of the Vine. Maybe these can offer you the opportunity to LIVE OUT the generosity of Christ:

- From Sunday, November 30 through Sunday, December 14, we will have barrels from the Salvation Army in the foyer. These are for their annual Christmas toy drive. You can bring toys for children of any age to participate in this effort.

- Starting Sunday, November 30, we will have a table set up in the alcove of the auditorium. It will have some information regarding “alternative gifts” to support Kingdom causes around the globe. You can go ahead and check out the same information via the following links if you are interested in doing so:
  - Christmas Gift Catalog for Central India Christian Mission
  - Samaritan’s Purse Christmas Gift Catalog
  - Compassion Gift Catalog for 2014 (online access)

If you have people on your gift-giving list that are hard to buy for and you know they have a Kingdom heart, why not choose to give a gift to one of these causes in their honor? It can be a great way to LIVE OUT faith by supporting God’s work around the world. For some, that would be a great gift to be a part of!

“International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church”

On Sunday, November 9, we participated in this special day of raising awareness and prayer. As God’s church influences the surrounding world, it tends to create a COMBUSTIBLE set of circumstances. It’s been that way since Acts and the earliest days of the church. Around the globe still today, that is the experience of many believers in Jesus - they share our faith, but not our freedom to express it. This special day was about declaring our solidarity with them as we are “one with them.”

Here’s why we’re still bringing this to your attention - it’s not just a one day reality! In the alcove, we have some magnets that can help serve as a reminder to pray + some prayer booklets. These will help guide your prayers for the persecuted church as well as lead you to online resources that can help you stay informed.

To keep you informed about Southland’s foreign missions partners, we strive to provide updates when available in the alcove of the auditorium (by the map). This is really the only way one of our partners can communicate with us. Their location makes any online presence too risky from a security standpoint. We do make their newsletters available as they come in.

There is a website for the “Central India Christian Mission.” Check out www.indiamission.org for more information about some of the global Kingdom work we get to partner in here at Southland. You can also “like” their Facebook page for ongoing updates.