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

MERRY CHRISTMAS 
CHRIST IS BORN

The SCC Elders and Staff (plus spouses)

Warren & Carolynn Barnes
Donnell & Lisa Dickard
Jay & Kim Tyler
Bob & Duy Wood
Pat and Debbie Little
Matt & Kristie Little
Ken & Deb Nelson
Erik & Aiyanna Loganville

And may you have a blessed 2016!

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We will publish the next edition 
of The Southland Vine on January 6.

Upcoming Leadership Meetings: 
Dec. 17 @ 6 PM Elders

Christmas Eve 
December 24th | 6pm
Congratulations to AMANDA SIMS and ZOYEY SMITH who were immersed into Christ recently at SCC!

(A note from Jon Carmichael about the 2015 Children of Praise Christmas program)

Season’s Greetings, Southland Family!

We simply wanted to make sure and get the word out to all of you about how excited we are about this year’s C.O.P. Christmas program titled “Merry Christmas, Charlotte Brown!” If the title sounds familiar, then you’ve likely seen the classic Christmas TV special “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” Although our play is similar, we’ve rewritten the script in a way that incorporates singing, dancing and a message with even greater emphasis placed upon the birth of Christ.

Our performance follows Charlotte Brown - a young, sweet, melancholy girl. She simply cannot grasp why everyone is so joyful around the Christmas season, especially when the world has made it into such a shallow and commercialized, money-making event. She has her friends, family and, of course, her side-kick dog, Snoopy, with her along the way. They help her discover that Christmas isn’t about presents, flashy lights, Christmas carols or all the other things that the world has glamorized, but this season is about one thing only - no, one PERSON only, the Savior of the World!

So, even if you don’t have a family member in the performance, please show our kids (who are, after all, part of your church family!) your love and support by joining us Sunday, December 13th at 6:00pm for loads of fun, laughter, great songs and an even greater message!

P.S. We’d also love your support by bringing some Christmas treats (cookies, cupcakes, etc.) for the reception that follows the performance, which YOU are invited to, as well!

Thank you all and hope to see you there!

ATTENTION PARENTS ... make sure you check out the top of page 8 for the remaining rehearsal schedule.

We will have a “one service Sunday” on Sunday, December 27 (this is typical for us on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year’s Eve/Day). There will still be nursery/kids’ programming, just as normally would happen during the 10:30 service.

Kids’ Sunday School classes and CONNECT Groups will NOT meet on that Sunday - no donuts/coffee fellowship time either.
For the first 3 Sundays of December, a team assembled by Susan Gouge will be leading our worship through song during the 9am ENCOUNTER time. It will be an opportunity to celebrate the story of Jesus’ birth with more familiar songs of the Christmas season and story. If that’s something that you would find valuable, we’d love for you to join us!

“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.

“Southland Christian Church ... Thank you so much for all of the prayers, calls, cards and visits. Also, thank you for the lovely flowers and wonderful food. I am so blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring church family. You are greatly appreciated.”

- God’s blessings, Pam Foster

NOTE: Sean Falconer has been attending SCC for the past year or so with his family (parents, Mark & Stella, plus brother, Jonathan). He will be going on a missions trip to 11 countries in 11 months during 2016. It’s called “The World Race” through Adventures in Missions. SCC has provided some missions funds to support Sean’s endeavor.

“Dear Southland Church Family ... I wish to convey to you my gratitude for the support - both individually and collectively - that you have extended to me these past few months. The financial support, especially that of the missions (ministry), has enabled me to pursue God’s calling with a true sense that my church is behind me and what God is going to do in me and through me. I am humbled by the love you’ve shown. Thanks you so much!”

- Sincerely, Sean Falconer

NOTE: Norma McConnell was a member of the Southland family for many years. She passed away towards the end of September. We had the privilege of providing a funeral meal for the family. We received this card back in October, too late to make it in the previous edition of the Vine.

“Dear Southland Christian Church ... Norma was one of a kind woman (mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend), quiet, sweet funny and loved a good laugh. The church made her very happy. Thank you for the plant and the wonderful dinner. ‘Them church women buddies always made a delicious meal’ (as Norma would say). Thanks again for wrapping your arms around her and loving her. ... (The church family) would light Norma’s eyes up. She loved all of you very much - her home away from home. The Bible Study women were her sweeties. Thank you all for everything you have done for Norma.”

- Love in Christ, The McConnell Family

NOTE: We received the following two notes from recipients of Thanksgiving baskets.

“Thank you so much! I was able to use some of the stuff to make dinner last night and breakfast this morning, and will still be able to fix Thanksgiving dinner!!!”

“Happy Thanksgiving! God is so good! I want to thank your church people for the groceries and gift cards. My neighbor turned in my name to receive these gifts. Thanks again! God bless!” (Virginia Caudill)

A NOTE ABOUT GIVING ...

To check the current status of your giving before the end of the year arrives, let the office know and we will help you get that information.

Of course, as always, receipts for 2015 giving will be sent in January 2016 so be looking for those in the mail. Thank you for your faithful participation in this privilege of giving!
A SEASON FILLED WITH SPECIFIC LIVE OUT OPPORTUNITIES!

We want to make you aware of specific ways you can capture the spirit of this Christmas season especially through giving and serving. See pages 17-18 (the “LIVE OUT” section) for more information about these opportunities.

IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER ...

It’s that time of year again when wintry weather is becoming a possibility. Unfortunately, there are times when we have to either cancel or adjust our regular schedule because of snow or ice. These changes will be made as soon as reasonably possible (we try to have a decision made at least 2 hours prior to start time) and communicated in these main ways:

* On the front page of our website: www.gosouthland.org.
* Via an e-mail we send out to our “Vine distribution list.”
* We also make an attempt to call those who may not have such “electronic access.”

We encourage you to check in these places for an official word from SCC if you’re wondering. Of course, if you are in doubt at all about conditions or circumstances make travel unsafe particularly for you, please choose wisely and be safe.

For all elders, staff & ministry leaders ...

Our next ministry meeting for everyone together is Thursday, January 7 at 6 PM. If you are directly involved in leading any Southland ministry area, please plan on being here for this time of collaboration as we work together towards our common goal as a church. As always, supper and childcare will both be provided.

As noted in the two previous editions of the Vine, the “WE DO!” section will return at a later time. It’s not that we are moving away from the covenant commitments in any way here at SCC, just that we are not including this section in the Vine for the time being.
From time-to-time, we want to make sure we bring attention to RightNow Media, an exciting ministry tool that we have available here at Southland.

RightNow 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 our use as a church, through our church subscription, everyone connected to Southland can have his or her own log-in with FREE access to all the content wherever and whenever there is an online connection (via smart phone, computer or another connected electronic device). 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 and November 2015)

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 direct any questions you might have to the office staff.

INCOME …
- Regular tithe for October - $33,549.00
- Regular tithe for November - $45,080.00
  (total for September - November 2015 = $119,788.00)
- Average weekly tithe for October - $8,387.25
- Average weekly tithe for November - $9,016.00
  (for September - November 2015 = $9,214.46)
- Weekly Goal from Sept. 2015 - August 2016 = $10,000
  (This is based on an estimated budget of $520,000 … While this is our target, we adjust as necessary along the way.)
- Love Offerings - $795.00 (Oct.) and $1,862.64 (Nov.)

We use the YouVersion “app” for tablets, smart phones and other electronic devices during our Sunday ENCOUNTER services. 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 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 any 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.
What MATTERS to me …

Unlike Matthew and Luke, John doesn’t tell the traditional Christmas story. But, I love how he begins his story about Jesus’ life. He writes words packed with significance about Jesus’ coming to the earth, even stretching back to the beginning. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning” (vv. 1-2). “He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him … His own did not receive Him” (vv. 10-11). “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us” (v. 14). They are powerful words capturing the divine mystery we call the Incarnation – in Jesus, God became human, one of us.

Verses 4-5 seem particularly significant: “In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.” Throughout Scripture, we see a contrast between light and darkness. It’s especially prevalent in John’s writing.

Light stands for truth and revelation, darkness for uncertainty and even deceived thinking.

Behavior characterized by goodness and righteousness shows one “lives in the light,” while “deeds of darkness” come from those whose conduct is evil and ungodly.

Light represents life and hope, darkness death and despair.

Not surprisingly, then, we see Jesus as “the Light of the world;” Satan, on the other hand, is the “prince of darkness.”

Of course, even beyond the contrast itself, we can see the reality of a struggle between the two. Light comes and shines in the midst of the darkness. At the same time, spiritual darkness tries to overcome the light. And yet, listen again to the words John writes: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it” (NLT). Simply by shining, light makes it impossible for darkness to overcome and prevail!

At Christmas, we celebrate the story of God “flipping on the light switch” in a world of darkness. Through the Baby born in Bethlehem, He has sent His Son – “the Light of the world.” What a needed encouragement for our ears weary with the news of darkness all around us. It seems particularly poignant in light of recent events grabbing the headlines. A mass shooting in California on the heels of other acts violence across the country. Evil seems to be thriving around the world: a rise in the threat of terrorism, the growth of ISIS, trafficking/exploitation of children, civil wars tearing apart nations, governments taking advantage of their own people, etc. That’s not to mention the far more “acceptable” forms of darkness and evil lingering all around us in our culture. In the midst of all that, it can seem as if the darkness is prevailing. I wonder if there isn’t a lesson for us in the everyday act of walking into a dark room … we don’t have to somehow remove the darkness so that light can shine. No, we get rid of darkness simply by turning on the light! When it shines in the midst of darkness, the darkness simply disappears – overcome by the light.

This Christmas season, we celebrate the LIGHT that has come into the world – Jesus, the light that can never be extinguished by darkness, but instead overcomes the darkness. It’s also a time to remember that Christ calls us as His people to be LIGHT to the world, reflecting His light as we shine for His glory. And so, as we celebrate the season, as we are confronted by the darkness around us, may our response be to confront the darkness the best way we know how. At Christmas, God metaphorically “flipped on the light switch” by sending Christ into the world. Everyday, we have opportunity to continue allowing that light to shine. Wherever we are and whatever we’re doing – especially this season, may we shine His light through our lives!

1 Some translations read like the NIV “has not understood it.” The word can mean both grasp in an intellectual way (as in “understand”) or in a forceful way (as in “seizing” on to something and overpowering it). Both meanings are possible here.
With Thanksgiving just past, the Christmas season here and a new year on the way, I felt it time to do something different. We just talked on Sunday morning in children’s church about Jesus letting the little children come to Him. So, I wanted to take a more child-like approach with a picture poem. Jesus says that if we are to enter the Kingdom of God, that we are to come as a child. And what’s amazing is that He led by example by coming to earth as a child.

Humanity has not followed His lead all that well. Sadly, many have joined society’s commercialization of Christmas. Shopping is not a sin, and giving gifts to others is not bad, but I think we need to get back to the right order of things. I believe Jesus said we need to enter as a child because it is the right order. The picture above is about order. Being humble comes first. If we have not been humbled at Thanksgiving, then we will grumble at Christmas and be stumbling coming into the New Year. Jesus came so that we could be made new. So don’t wait until the new year to try to be made new on your own. Get ahead of the culture. Come as a child to see the Christ-child. Do December different!
CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS

The remaining rehearsal schedule for C.O.P. is as follows:

Wednesday, 12/9 (6:00-7:30pm) - rehearsal (only for kids with speaking lines and solos)
Saturday, 12/12 (10:00am - 12:30pm) - dress rehearsal & pizza party (all kids)
Sunday, 12/13 (4:00pm) - rehearsal & dinner with the performance at 6:00pm (all kids) ... parents, please help us by providing dessert (e.g. cookies, cupcakes, etc.) for the post-performance reception.

Group Huddle

Last Sunday night, students came to Bible study with a sense of holiday fashion as several participated in the "Ugly Sweater" competition. Congratulations to Macy Stewart, our grand champion. Honorable mention candidates included: Taylor Cobb, Shelby Ritz, Luke Bryant, Noah Wooldridge and Kaitlyn Graves.

This semester we’ve challenged our students to be intentional in their walk with Christ. We pray that they will model their everyday walk to that of 1 Timothy 4:12 … “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." We’ve enjoyed our time together studying, praying for one another, participating in zany group games, as well as fellowship with delicious meals. After the Christmas party on 12/6 (see below) Group Huddle will resume again in January.

Group Huddle Christmas Party

Sunday, December 6 6-8pm

This year’s theme coincides with the theme of Group Huddle, "Go, Tell It on the Mountain." The evening will include a time of worship, devotion and testimonies. Students will also enjoy the crazy group games and are reminded to bring an inexpensive wrapped present for a gift exchange.

Annual Winter Lock-In for Middle School/High School Students

Friday & Saturday, January 8-9
7pm - 7am (12 hours on non-stop fun!)

“Heads up!” The annual youth lock-in will take place the weekend after Christmas break. We will again team-up with Countryside Christian Church for an all-night adventure of laser tag, skating and dodge ball. The cost is $20 per student, and parents willing to sponsor are greatly appreciated.
LES’ LATEST

Student Spotlight

Kayla Gray represented New Covenant Academy in the district honor choir and by playing the oboe in the district band.

Timothy Cobb and the academic team of Kickapoo High School earned two second place medals in area competitions.

Sarah Holt and Kaylea Espinoza recently performed in the theatrical rendition of "Guys and Dolls" at Parkview High School.

Will Deckard, a senior at Republic High School, was selected to play his trumpet in the district honor band.

Brittney Shearin will participate in the Ozark High School drumline.

Rachel Graves will represent Republic High School as a member of the winter guard.

Trevor Cobb was featured in a documented video produced by Drury University. The admissions department chose Trevor to highlight his school involvement and his three majors: writing, Spanish and graphic design.

Matthew Graves proved to have a steady trigger finger, capturing a five point buck. Matthew is a sophomore at Republic High School.

Jonathan Falconer was cast in the Kickapoo high school production of "Fiddler on the Roof." He was also selected as a member of the district choir.

2016 MOVE Conference

Summer 2016 is still a long-ways off, but we wanted to go ahead and make sure dates for the MOVE Conference are on your calendars for SCC high school students.

Sunday, July 10 through Saturday, July 16
(the conference itself is Monday - Friday)

The theme for the 2016 conference is #KINGDOMWORKER - students being used by God to change the world.

The group will again be attending the conference at the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln, NE.

More information (including registration, etc.) will be made available in February
Instead of a normal article, I will be using this space to highlight what’s coming in January for both MSA groups as well as for Ladies’ Bible Study.

Moms Set Apart

The second semester of MSA begins the first full week of January. It will be good after all the busyness and stress of the holiday season to start into normal routines again! Both MSA leadership teams are excited about this new semester and the topics we will be discussing.

Here is what is planned:

**MSA MORNINGS** will be going through a series entitled “LET. IT. GO.” by Karen Ehman. This series is full of doable ideas, thought patterns and tools to help women let go of our need to control. The first video session is titled “God Called and He Wants His Job Back.” That pretty much sums up the point of the whole series. As women, most of us are wired to control life’s details, but that control can cause a landslide of negative effects in our relationships and even in our own hearts.

Here is what well known Christian author Liz Curtis Higgs has to say about LET. IT. GO.:

“Especially written for wives and mothers who try to control everyone and everything around them … Let.It.Go. offers solid advice, wise counsel and a healthy dose of humor. Full of why-to and how-to suggestions, plus helpful tools to measure what needs fixing. Karen Ehman’s book goes right to the heart of the issue: ‘Are we trying to be godly or are we trying to be God?’”

**Next M.S.A. Mornings Meetings – 12/17 and 1/7 (9:30-11:30am)**

For more information, contact Debbie Jennings … msamornings@gosouthland.org

**MSA NIGHTS** will go through a series entitled “Unglued” by Lisa Terkeurst. Even when we love Jesus and strive to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, there are moments (actually many moments) when we women struggle to keep our emotions in check. While these emotions are God-given, as Lisa puts it, “God gave us emotions to experience life, not destroy it!” This study includes sessions such as “Grace for the Unglued” and “Four Kinds of Unglued.” Through Biblical teaching, this study will help us be equipped for the following: (a) to know how to resolve conflict with confidence in important relationships, (b) to find peace in our most difficult relationships – learning to be honest but kind, (c) to identify our default of either stuffing our emotions or exploding with them and (d) to respond without regret by managing our tendencies to either stuff or explode.

**Next M.S.A. Nights Meetings – 12/15 and 1/5 (7-8:30pm)**

For more information, contact Kristie Martin … msanights@gosouthland.org
Of course, throughout the semester there will be many opportunities to laugh, share and grow friendships. In **MSA MORNINGS** we will determine the winner of “CORE GROUP WARS” and even enjoy a day of “CHOPPED” competition. In the midst of our time during **MSA NIGHTS**, we will also have various fun activities along the way. One thing is certain: there is never a lack of chatter and laughter in the midst of any MSA meeting!

If you have not been able to join us yet this year, January is a great time to get started. We promise that it is well worth the couple of hours away. In fact, many of the women express how much they miss it when they cannot make a meeting. As one MSA Mornings mom just this week said, MSA is a “retreat” in the middle of a crazy life! That is exactly what we want this ministry to be. You don’t have to enroll or sign-up, just come to the meeting.

Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to start off the new year spending just a few hours a month in a place that will provide support and encouragement as you strive to be the best woman you can be.

The cost for each meeting is $5 - among other ways, that helps with the cost of childcare which is provided each meeting time (morning and evening sessions). If the fee is a hindrance, just see Deb; we certainly don’t want that to stop someone from coming!

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**LADIES’ BIBLE STUDY 2016 WINTER SESSION**

All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you – unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny.

But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you’re tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you.

The enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. *The Armor of God*, more than merely a biblical description of the believer’s inventory, is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory.

**9:30 TUESDAY MORNING, STARTING JANUARY 12, 2016**

**AS ALWAYS, CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED.**

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**Box Top Girls**

Due to the Christmas season, the next BTG meeting will not be until Friday, January 29.
SERMON SERIES for the Christmas season

In many ways, the Christmas season is one of anticipation and expectation. Children look forward to the day when presents can be opened, even counting down the days. Even adults look forward to Christmas - maybe it’s the time off of work ... maybe it’s the time with family ... maybe it’s simply enjoying the spirit of the season. Even though it can have its own challenges and difficulties, there’s still something special we look forward to with this season. It’s about waiting, and then, the celebration and joy when it actually arrives.

That framework of anticipation/expectation followed by fulfillment fits so perfectly with the story we celebrate at the heart of Christmas - the birth of Jesus. Yes, it’s this marvelous story of “incarnation,” the divine taking on human flesh. Of course, it’s also this incredible story of Jesus being sent because of the Father’s heart of love. It’s this story of a census, a small town, shepherds, angels ... and, at the center of it all, the Baby in a manger. And yet, in the midst of all those details and theological realities, this story is also about a centuries-old promise being fulfilled. God, in faithfulness to His Word, had sent the Messiah.

Leading up to the Christmas season this year (December 6 - 20), we are going to be focusing on this theme: Jesus’ birth as the fulfillment of God’s promise - He is the One God’s people had been expecting. It’s a reality demonstrated through the character of Simeon (Luke 2) as well as the songs of Mary and Zechariah in Luke 1. We’re calling the series “An Old Testament Christmas.” Each week, we are going to focus on a different part of the OT anticipation for God’s promised Messiah seeing how Jesus fulfilled those particular hopes through His coming (not just through His birth, but through His whole earthly life culminating in His death and resurrection). Indeed, the Messiah has come! But, there’s more - we find ourselves in a peculiar position. We can see Jesus having come to bring about God’s promised purposes. And yet, we also see Him announcing there is more still in store ... we’re not all the way there yet! Indeed, all that God has promised is still waiting its ultimate fulfillment. In that way, even as we celebrate Jesus’ coming, we too are still waiting for Him to come again and finish what He started. That’s why we’re using this sub-title for this series: “Awaiting the Messiah Who Came and Is to Come.” As we celebrate the way Jesus has already fulfilled God’s promise in part, it whets our heart’s appetites with anticipation for what He will bring about at His return.

In the end, we want this to be a series that encourages our hearts as we celebrate Jesus’ birth and God’s faithfulness to His promise. As recipients of His ongoing promise, such things are certainly worth our consideration and celebration.

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.
## CONNECT Ministries

... a place to discover Christian community.

We have designed our CONNECT Ministries to help people discover Christian community. They provide the right kind of place to build relationships with other believers, pray with and for one another as we strive to follow Jesus faithfully and consider how God’s Word applies to our lives. **Please see the CONNECT Area in the foyer for information about where these groups meet weekly (mainly 9 and 10:30 on Sunday mornings), and for more details about any upcoming events.**

Here are the CONNECT Groups that are currently meeting and their locations:

### CONNECT Groups that meet at 9 AM on Sunday mornings:
- **Free at Last** (Fellowship Hall)
- **The Morning Branch** (the Great Room)
- **The Refuge** (in the Gathering Room - off the Great Room)
- **LAUNCH** (Room #5)

### CONNECT Groups that meet at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings:
- **Free at Last** (Room #6)
- **Empty Nesters** (in the Fellowship Hall)

### CONNECT Groups that meet outside of Sunday mornings:
- **The Evening Branch** … meets Sundays at 6 PM @ Ben and Debbie Jennings’ house (will not meet again until January)
- **The revamped 242** … will be going back to Sunday evenings @ Jon and Katy Carmichael’s house (check with Jon about the schedule during December)

A note about content … each group is on its own at this point.

### GROW DEEP Ministries

... an opportunity to plant deep roots in Jesus and God’s Word.

At Southland, a significant part of what we do is designed to help people GROW DEEP. This happens through our Deeper Life Groups (a.k.a. "D-Groups") as well as other opportunities like Ladies Bible Study. Beginning in September, it will also include our new Wednesday evening ministry called **"CULTIVATE"** (see below). Though each one is somewhat unique in its format, they all have the same basic purpose: to help us plant deep roots down into Christ and God’s Word (see Colossians 2:6-7).

Our next CULTIVATE session will begin Wednesday, January 20, 2016. We will communicate details about this session as we get closer.
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 need 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.

Specific OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE & “BUILD UP” the BODY

Bill Foster has taken on the responsibility of overseeing various maintenance projects around the building. Please let Bill or the office know if you have an area of expertise in such things as carpentry, plumbing, painting, etc. We also need people who are willing (a) to assist in such projects and/or (b) to help with miscellaneous “odd jobs” around the building.

At the Welcome Center, we have provided flyers with specific ways people can serve and BUILD UP one another here at Southland. If you’re looking for a specific way to get involved, we encourage you to take a look at these materials and find the right place for you. It matters what we're doing as followers of Jesus beyond the church walls as we LIVE OUT faith. And yet, it also matters what happens when we’re here together as a church family! That's why each one of us needs to participate in serving and BUILDING UP one another within the Body.

THANK YOU to Pam Foster and the G6:10 Ministry for organizing our annual Thanksgiving basket food drive and making it a successful effort in LIVING OUT faith.

THANK YOU to those who served by leading our adult classes during the second CULTIVATE … Pat Little (Philippians) + Darrell and Lisa Deckard (Sacred Marriage).

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)
# SERVING SCHEDULE – December 2015

Communion Prep: Amy Ritz (weeks 1-2), then Dennis & Kay McCann (weeks 3-4)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>GREETERS</th>
<th>WELCOME CENTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/6/15</td>
<td>Empty Nesters (8:45-9:10) The Refuge (10:15-10:40)</td>
<td>Wilber Kaylor/Sue Malina (8:45 - 9:10)</td>
<td>Terry &amp; Brenda Ochs</td>
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<td>12/6/15</td>
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<td>Tony &amp; Kim Flatt (10:15 - 10:40)</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Pam Foster</td>
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<td>12/13/15</td>
<td>10:30 Free At Last (8:45-9:10) The Branch (10:15-10:40)</td>
<td>Catherine Correll (8:45 - 9:10)</td>
<td>Mike &amp; Carolyn Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/20/15</td>
<td>Empty Nesters (8:45 - 9:10) Launch (10:15-10:40)</td>
<td>Jerry &amp; Brenda Doty (8:45 - 9:10)</td>
<td>Ben &amp; Debbie Jennings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/27/15</td>
<td>9:00 Free at Last (8:45-9:10) Pat Burge/Dorothy Marti (8:45 - 9:10)</td>
<td>Pat &amp; Debbie Little</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Servers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1st SERVICE</th>
<th>2nd SERVICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/6/15</td>
<td>Various People</td>
<td>Mark Miller team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13/15</td>
<td>Various People</td>
<td>Doug Graves family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/20/15</td>
<td>Various People</td>
<td>Ben Jennings team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/27/15</td>
<td>Les Londeen &amp; Youth Group (1 service Sunday)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nursery check-in**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1st SERVICE</th>
<th>2nd SERVICE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/6/15</td>
<td>Lacey Shumaker</td>
<td>Susan Graves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13/15</td>
<td>Jill Sims</td>
<td>Debbie Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/20/15</td>
<td>Donna Lillard</td>
<td>Jill Cobb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/27/15</td>
<td>Amanda Miller (1 service Sunday)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nursery**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1st SERVICE</th>
<th>2nd SERVICE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/6/15</td>
<td>Lacey Shumaker/Carissa Virtue</td>
<td>Graves family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13/15</td>
<td>Jill Sims/Caryl McAnally</td>
<td>Debbie Gray/Kayla Gray/Jenelle Smith/Ezri Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/20/15</td>
<td>Donna Lillard/Joy Shearin</td>
<td>Cobb family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/27/15</td>
<td>Amanda Miller/Emily Owen/Ciara Romero/Abbi Miller (1 service Sunday)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wee Cruisers’ Leaders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Kristin Londeen/Emily Weber</th>
<th>Sara Emmerton/Ezri Smith</th>
<th>Les/Javan L.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/6/15</td>
<td>Andrea Conboy/Cindy McMillian</td>
<td>Katie Kilgo/Lizzie Kilgo</td>
<td>Amber N./Noah W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13/15</td>
<td>Judy Schiller/Aimee Garrett</td>
<td>Brad &amp; Marsha Foster</td>
<td>Brad &amp; Ashley W./Kayla B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/20/15</td>
<td>T. B. A.</td>
<td>Sara Emmerton/Shelby Ritz</td>
<td>T.B.A.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Li’l Cruisers’ Leaders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1st SERVICE</th>
<th>2nd SERVICE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/6/15</td>
<td>Alexis Simpson</td>
<td>Sonya Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13/15</td>
<td>Dan Gray</td>
<td>Dan Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/20/15</td>
<td>Simeon Martin</td>
<td>Jay Butler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/27/15</td>
<td>Sonya Simpson (1 service Sunday)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CPU (in service)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1st SERVICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/6/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/13/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/20/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/27/15</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

- Galatians 6:10

OPPORTUNITIES TO “LIVE OUT” YOUR FAITH

One of the key purposes of the G6:10 Ministry is to offer opportunities for us to LIVE OUT faith (see the theme verse of Galatians 6:10). That is not so much about creating new events, but helping to keep the SCC family aware of events that are already happening, especially with our local ministry partners. The goal is not for everyone to participate in every single event. Rather, we want to lay these opportunities before you so you can decide how/where/when to participate. We want to provide you with some very specific ways you can participate in Kingdom work as you LIVE OUT your faith!

The next G6:10 Ministry meeting will be Thursday, January 14 at 6pm.

Our local ministry partners:

- Maranatha Bible Camp: www.maranathabiblecamp.org
- Christian Campus House: www.cchonthe.net
- The Salvation Army: www.417pcc.org
- Pregnancy Care Center: www.occ.edu
- Show-Me Home: www.show-mehome.com
- Ozark Christian College: www.occ.edu

The Salvation Army has several different volunteer opportunities through the end of December:

- 12/5: Sorting toys donated through their annual Christmas toy drive (a 12-3:30pm shift and a 3:30-7pm shift)
- 12/14 - 12/16: Sorting and preparing donated food items for the “Family Distribution Event” (kids welcome … a 9:30am - 12:45pm shift and a 12:45-4pm shift each day)
- 12/17 - 12/18: Assisting in passing out food baskets and helping parents pick out toys for their children (adults only … 9am - 4pm)
- 12/25: If you would like to help serve the meal on Christmas Day, please contact Betty at 831-3371.

You can also volunteer to be a bell ringer by visiting the website www.registertoring.com.
Starting Sunday, December 6, we will have a table set up in the alcove of the auditorium. It will have some information regarding special gifts to support Kingdom causes around the globe. It’s a way to give gifts that truly make a difference this Christmas season!

At the table we have some print copies of the catalogs. If you prefer to access that information electronically, you can check out the same information via the following links:

- **CICM Christmas catalog** [click here] ... you can access this information at [www.indiamission.org](http://www.indiamission.org)
- **Samaritan’s Purse Christmas Gift Catalog** ... [http://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/gift-catalog](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/gift-catalog)
- **Compassion Gift Catalog for 2015** ... [http://www.compassion.com/catalog.htm](http://www.compassion.com/catalog.htm)

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 giving generously to support God’s work around the world.

**NOTE:** Giving such a gift is far from the only way you can capture the heart of the Christmas season. We just wanted to make sure we provided a few Christ-centered organizations to make such an opportunity available to our people.

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### “International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church”

On Sunday, November 8, we participated in this special day of raising awareness and prayer. It was a day about declaring our solidarity with our believers around the world who share our faith, but not our freedom. Truly, we are “one with them.” It shouldn’t just be a one day reality! In the alcove, we have some magnets that can help serve as a reminder to pray plus 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.

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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](http://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.

Our newest “foreign partner” is an organization called “Life of Hope Ministries” [you can check out their website at www.lifeofhope.org](http://www.lifeofhope.org). This group has ministry partners on the ground in Guatemala. In essence, we are partnering with them in supporting the work that is being done. It’s another way we can participate in furthering God’s mission globally.