



# THE SOMERSET CHRISTIAN

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Volume 7 - Issue 23

December 9, 2009

## POINTS OF INTEREST

*Message from Doug*  
*Announcements/Events*  
*Prayer List*  
— *Christmas Plays* —

## ATTENDANCE

### **Sunday School**

11/29—61

12/6—117

### **Worship**

11/29—178

12/6—218

## OFFERING

### WORSHIP

November 29th \$3,390.00

December 6th 5,243.47

**Worship Total — \$8,633.47**

### DESIGNATED

Family Night \$ 129.50

Music Fund 50.00

Prayer Garden Bricks 150.00

Program Ministries 250.00

Youth (gift/yard work) 100.00

Poinsettias 165.00

God's Food Pantry 40.00

Old Bldg Fund 2,645.00

(to purchase 5 wireless mikes)

**Total Designated — \$3,529.50**

(Monthly Financial Report available  
at the church during office hours.)

Christmas always provides a unique opportunity to be introspective, to take a look back and reflect on the years blessings, challenges, successes, and failures. Sometimes the season makes us nostalgic for people, time, and places long ago. There's something about the passing of time that can take the edge off of our past, that can make it seem much better than it really was. This week, I joined Facebook for the purpose of creating a site to better promote my books.

I'm still working on that, but somewhere along the way my past ambushed me. I suddenly became "friends" with people that I hadn't spoken to since 1979, or even longer!! In case you hadn't noticed, that's thirty years and more ago. In some cases, it was a joy to renew old friendships. Others, however, brought painful reminders of our frail humanity. Like my friend Dave, from college. He's a stage 4 cancer survivor, and while he's cancer free for now, the doctors say folks with his type of cancer have a less than 10% survival rate 5 years out. His wife left him, he's no longer in ministry due to the divorce, he's living with a friend because he lost his house, and he's working at a motel part time as a desk clerk to earn enough money to keep his payments up on his health insurance. His attitude? He's studying for the chaplaincy so he can go to work for Hospice. His is about the worst of the stories I've discovered so far, but there are others almost as tragic.

So, what happened to all those wide eyed, idealists from college anyhow? "Life" happened; the dirty, difficult, gritty, hard nosed, in your face, realities of life. Some of its neat and pretty like marrying the husband or wife of your dreams, children and grand kids, and all that goes with it. Sometimes....not so much.

The next time you're tempted to look back and feel a little sorry for yourself or feel a little wistful about yesterday, go ahead, take a look. Just don't stay too long. Tomorrow's coming at you like a ten ton truck. And don't forget, Jesus knows how you feel. At Gethsemane, he didn't much feel like facing the future either.

Sunday is the choir's Christmas play presentation. Jim and the choir and all involved have worked long and hard to make this a worshipful and joyful Christmas event. I hope you'll make every effort to be present. Don't forget, due to the Christmas Musical, there will be NO 9-Alive early service this week.

Additionally, Wednesday the 16th our children will present their Christmas plays for us. Experiencing the joy of Christmas is incomplete without the participation of our wonderful children. I can't wait to see their performances!!

*Blessings,*  
*Doug*



Heartfelt prayers  
& sympathy to  
*Jean Haney*  
whose sister  
*Mary Lou Van*

Our prayers & sympathy are  
extended to

*The Barnett Family*  
due to the recent passing of

*Jean Barnett*



Dear Family of Faith

My family and I have been deeply touched by the outpouring of compassion toward us during my brother, Howard's illness and recent passing.

Thank you for your many prayers, encouraging words, cards, emails, phone calls, food and visits.

God's love is so evident in the lives of His "Earth Angels".

Thank you for being His "Earth Angels".  
God bless each and everyone of you.

*In Christ,*

*Beth L. Duncan*

*&*

*The Howard Lamkin Family*

Thank You

Thanks very, very much to Derek Eastham, Tommy Barnett and Bruce Leigh for bringing the youth to my home to rake leaves.

Thanks to the youth group for all their work!

*Ruth Dutton*

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Thank you to the many adults and numerous youth who came to my house and diligently raked the many leaves and cleaned every available space from the roof of the house to the flower beds, etc.

I am most grateful for their time and hard labor leaving the yard to perfection, making it look better than it has looked for many years.

*Nell Kennedy*

Board Meeting Notice

We will not be holding our regular board meeting in December.

A special thank you

From the Barnett family

Our heartfelt thank you to our church family for your comfort and support; and especially the meal served following services for our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother *Jean*.

A special thanks to Christy and Amanda for the caring of our children.

*God Bless you all!*

*The Barnett's*

Angel Tree

*A reminder that the Angel Tree gifts and food baskets are due this Sunday, December 13th.*

TNT One Year Bible Study

The TNT Sunday School class will be reading through the One Year Chronological Bible NIV (Tyndale) beginning January 1. We would like to invite everyone to join us in this journey. We will kick-off the study on Sunday, December 27, and continue to meet each Sunday throughout 2010 to discuss the previous week's readings. Copies of the One Year Chronological Bible NIV (Tyndale) are available at Heritage Bookstore, and online. The church will purchase a limited number of copies for people to borrow. Contact Cynthia Mullins for more details.

Even if you won't be participating with us, we ask for your prayers as we make this year-long commitment. Pray that we will be faithful in our readings, and pray for the Lord to speak to each and every one of us in exciting new ways through the scriptures. *God Bless!*



December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 10:45 service

“It’s The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year”

This musical is set in the small town square as a local church choir gets ready for their annual Christmas presentation. Through the eyes of a local street vendor, several heart-felt stories are retold to communicate just what makes this annual event so special. It is a story about giving which is what Christmas is all about; God sending His one and only Son to bring us a gift we did not deserve — the free gift of salvation.

*Featuring Doug Couch as “The Vendor”, as well as many others from our FCC congregation!*

Songs include:

*Christmas Favorites Medley*

*(Deck the Halls/Jingle Bells/Angels We Have Heard on High/Joy to the World!)*

*Come to Deliver Me • Faith Will Take You Farther • It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*

*It's Wonderful • Let There Be Peace on Earth • The Little Drummer Boy •*

*Manger Medley (Away in a Manger (Cradle Song)/What Child is This?)*

December 16th, 2009

6:00 PM

First Christian Church Sanctuary

*”A Christmas Alphabet Poem”*

*(preschool children)*

*will begin @ 6:00 PM*

*followed by*

*”The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels.”*

*(elementary children)*



*Christmas  
Program*

After the plays,

A ‘Visit from Santa & Cast Party’

for the children with cookies & cocoa. (*Fellowship Hall*)

*(There will be no Family Night meal tonight.)*

***Everyone — Please make plans to join us for these special performances by the talented adult and youth members of our church!***



## Members:

Jean Barnett's family, Jean Haney & her family, Jo Ann Cooper, Joe Altman, Myra Pilling, Marc Travis, Jean Prather, Doug Couch's father, Ron Ford, Linda Ford, Carol Norton, Nancy Phillips, Alex Hunley, Christine Hughes, Charles Meece, Hazel Spears, Sharon Walker, Loretta Canada, Faye Lawson, Virginia Murrell, Raymond Hardwick, Karen Jackson, Mona Mitchell, Vida 'Pudd' Hudson

## Friends:

Bill Harding, Susana Foley, Phyllis Lamkin, Phil Brow (*Katie Christopher's father*), Helen Altman, Gerald Haynes, Patricia McDonal, Robert Christopher (*Katie Christopher's father-in-law*), Linda Eastham Jack Goldenberg, Jan Crase, Peggy Taylor, Susanna Foley, Mary Jo Silvers, Cliff Childers, Jane Marquiss, Jean McCowan, Doug Lee, Leona McBeath, Jeanne Speckhals, Louise Conley, Bobby Gould, Mark Sype, Sylvia Rice, Bob Silvers, Ada Sue Diamond, Jamie & Tracy Flowers, Jennifer Morgan, Eric Conrad, Ada Bordes, Bill Kincaid, Frank Hughes Jr., Sylvia Gibson, Mike Clark, Hubert Hall, Clarence Girdler, Blane Bardin, Sue Stevens

\* Please keep the office updated on these and any other prayer needs. \*

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	<b>Phone:</b> 606-678-5903 <b>Fax:</b> 606-451-1393 <b>Email:</b> <i>firstcc@windstream.net</i>	✕ <b>Doug Couch, Interim Pastor—</b> <i>couch.doug@directv.net</i>
<b>Office Hours (Monday-Friday)</b> 8:30am—4:30pm* *Closed for lunch—12:00pm-1:00pm	✕ <b>Jim Ashbrook, Minister of Music—</b> <i>jlashbrook11@newwavecomm.net</i>	✕ <b>Linda Keeney, Secretary—</b> <i>firstcc@windstream.net</i>
	✕ <b>Ralph Arms, Custodian</b>	✕ <b>Office Volunteers: Betty Godby &amp; Jan Gray</b>

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