

# **SKYWORD** January, 2012 edition

## **The Skycrest United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter**

A Few Words from the Pastor

### ***VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL***

“There is a God-shaped hole in each person’s heart, nothing else will fit.” You may have heard this saying, or something like it, at some point in your life. You may not only have heard this statement, but like me, you have recognized how true it is within your own spirit.

There is another fundamental truth about this life, which is that we also have a “human shaped” hole in our heart that nothing else can fill. God set our internal programming to require relationships with other people.

In fact, it seems biblical that the health of our *God relationship* and our *interpersonal relationships* are intertwined. At a minimum those relationships are significantly enhanced by each other, and quite possibly they are dependent on each other.

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20*

Maybe you are weary of relationship building. You’ve tried and you’ve been burned. You’ve tried and you didn’t do as well on your end as you had hoped. Whether it is your connection to God or your connection to others, maybe it seems like a viable alternative to accept the hell of a known situation rather than risk the glory of the unknown.

Know that it is not.

Come to worship for these next seven weeks with your sleeves rolled up, ready to take a chance on developing greater relationships! We’ll search the Bible for relational attitudes, commitments and actions. When we embrace these core values, we’ll find our deep thirst for connection with God and people quenched.

May the Lord bless and keep,

## January Birthdays



1/2	Samantha Watkins
1/4	Allison Jester
1/6	Susan Bissell
1/7	Jeffrey Winkler Kris Kinsey
1/10	Susan Landa Mary Smiech
1/11	Edward Ballard
1/13	James Summy
1/19	Frank Hemming
1/24	Patty Gray
1/25	Shirley Cobb
1/29	April Mills
1/30	Ted Rokitowski



United  
Methodist  
Women

### United Methodist Women News UMW Upcoming Events

The Methodist Women will lead the Sunday worship service on January 1, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. in a unified service in the Sanctuary.

All UMW members are invited to attend the first meeting of 2012 on Thursday, January 5 at 11:45 a.m. in the large Fellowship Hall. Mary Lydia circle will host a brown bag luncheon. Beverages and dessert will be provided. The program will be installation of officers.

The UMW Executive Board will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the library before the Unit Meeting.

All officers should plan to attend the Leadership Training program which will be held at Eastlake UMC on Saturday, January 28 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.



All men are invited to attend our monthly dinner meeting on **January 9th** at 6:30 p.m. in large Fellowship Hall.

### Join Us for a Visit to the Children's Home

Did you ever wonder just where your donation was going on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday? There are four 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday opportunities to donate each year to the Methodist Children's Home in Enterprise, Florida and what we give *DOES* make a difference!

On Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, everyone is invited to join us for a wonderful day trip to tour the campus at the Children's Home. The church bus will leave the parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and we will plan to return by late afternoon.

Please bring a bag lunch for yourself; bottled water will be provided. Sign up for the trip in the Church office, on the Missions' bulletin board or call Shirley Summy at 531-2466.

### 2012 Commitment Card Update

The response to the invitation for 2012 giving commitments has been tremendous. Here are the updated figures:

2011 – 87 pledges for approximately \$209,000

2012 – 99 pledges for a total of \$240,000

This is a 15% increase in commitments over 2011. Praise God! Thank you to all who have pledged to support our continuing ministries. If you would like to make a pledge, please contact the church office.



During the month of November we collected 848 pounds of food for RCS!

Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 23 lbs.

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – 18 lbs.

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 619 lbs. – (Brown Bag Sunday)

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> – 136 lbs.

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> – 52 lbs.

*Thank You!!*

Your generosity is always appreciated! Bless you all for giving to the outreach of our Church in this community.

### SKYCREST KIDS

I am giving a big, **BIG thank you** to all the folks who took the time and effort to make the last quarter of the year a stellar one in the Children's Ministry. At no point does one person make anything happen – it's *always* the Holy Spirit swirling within this church, and the effort of our congregation. Volunteers have been making the Skycrest Kids ministry move forward; from the Sunday morning crew who give their time to watch the young 'ins in the nursery, and the Small Group Leaders who engage with our Preschool and Elementary kids, to the over 15 people that took a Friday night to assist with Parent's Night Out!

**Thank you.**

I'm asking anyone who volunteers with the Skycrest Kids to **commit to a 3 month schedule**. That means that they will volunteer *every other*, or, *every third* week for 3 months. After that time, we evaluate where they are at and give them the chance to either **re-commit for another 3 months**, **take a break from volunteering**, or **shift their volunteer time** somewhere else. This is to ensure that **no one gets 'trapped'** into volunteering forever, and we **avoid being 'burned out.'**

At the **end of January**, our current volunteers have the opportunity to assess the time they've spent in the Children's Ministry and decide to recommit or take a break. If there were ever a time you were thinking about volunteering – **this is it!** I'll have several volunteer spots open at the end of January.

Sunday morning Small Groups are already *critically* short of volunteers. I've had some good responses with the nursery, but come January, we're going to *need more folks*. Please, once you finish reading **this very sentence**, take a moment to **pray**, and ask God if and where you can be used at Skycrest!

Great! Here's a brief overview of what is needed for the Skycrest Kids:

- Nursery volunteer - 2 shift-times to choose from
- Group Worship leaders - lead or co-lead music, games, and/or story time

- Preschool Small Group leader - lead kids in Scripture, activity/games, prayer
- Elementary Small Group leader - lead kids in Scripture, activity/games, prayer

None of these opportunities ask more than 90 minutes of your time every other week. To put it another way: That's **90 out of 20,160 minutes!** For every **336 hours**, you are committing to **no more than 1.5 hours**. That's a *small* commitment for such an *important* ministry.

Make no mistake, though - you are not being asked to merely babysit - you are being asked to **be a part of children's spiritual lives**. You are being asked to engage with these kids during that very short, very precious time.

**Head over to [skycrest.net/volunteers](http://skycrest.net/volunteers) to see more details or contact Ted Rokitowski ([ted@rokitarts.com](mailto:ted@rokitarts.com))**

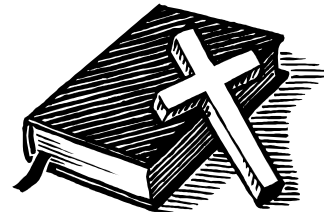
## Lifted Youth News

**Jan 8<sup>th</sup> – Know Your Story, Confirm Your Faith, Live It Out**

For our Middle Schoolers, we will be

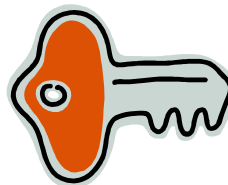
starting a new Sunday school class on January 8<sup>th</sup>. It will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the youth room every Sunday. This class is going to *begin* like a confirmation class. Which is a really big word... but it just means a special time to focus on building and "confirming" your faith. This study is 36 weeks long, beginning in January (we'll do some kick-off

activities at the lock-in), and ending in October, when we will have a Confirmation Retreat. At the end, if you choose to, we will have a time in worship where you can become a member of the church. This class will be way more than just a class, and will cover the foundation of Christian teaching, hook you up with a mentor, require you to participate in some service projects, and to attend worship. I think it may be really life-changing if you choose to be a part of it. Don't miss out!



**Jan 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> – Lock-In!**

Students have January 20<sup>th</sup> (Friday) off from school! We will meet at the church at 3:00



p.m. on Friday. Our focus for the evening will be on prayer. We will also have food, games, craziness, and lots of fun. Bring a friend! Pick-up will be Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Details and permission slips will be available in January on the website.

**January  
Worship Opportunities**  
*BETWEEN YOU AND ME: RELATIONAL  
ATTITUDES, COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS*

- January 8 – Love (John 13:34, 35)**
- January 15 – Concern (I Corinthians 12:24-26)**
- January 22 – Devotion and Honor (Romans 12:10)**
- January 29 – Submit (Ephesians 5:21)**

**Prayer Topic for January**



The leadership of Skycrest is asking all members and friends of Skycrest to meditate and pray on the same topic each month. In the Skyword and weekly bulletin you will be given a focus topic, scripture, and thought. We encourage you to join in uniting Skycrest to focus on God and Jesus Christ and what we should be doing in His name.

**Topic:** January – Love  
**Scripture:** Galatians 5:6

**Focus question:**

“Reflect on a time when you have felt love from someone or a group of believers in this church. What was the need? How was love given? How did it make you feel?”

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*Thank you*

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits and cards and for Pastor Michael’s concern and visit during Glenn’s extended illness.

Lovingly,  
Glenn & Mary Savage

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On behalf of the French, Stier and Dall families we want to thank Pastor Michael and Becky for conducting the funeral service for our Mom and making it so meaningful. Thank you bereavement committee for all you do!! You’re the best. Thank You to my Skycrest family for all the love, cards and prayers, you have no idea how much that has meant to me.

In His Love,

Jo Dall

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I want to thank everyone for their prayers for my daughter, Patty Shaw. Her surgery went well and there was no cancer.

Betty Herrmann



**Communion Servers**

- 1/1** Flo Ballard & May Hemming  
Jo Ann French & Ann Butz

**Bus Drivers**

- 1/1** Robert Craig
- 1/8** Katrina Pershing
- 1/15** John Humphries
- 1/22** Darell Long
- 1/29** Jack Weber

**Money Counters**

Carole Fluharty, JoAnn Ramsey  
Mary Sewell

**Greeters**

- 1/1** Jean Crawford & Shirley Cobb
- 1/8** Caroline Wagoner & June Weber
- 1/15** Marilyn Wallace & Mary Sewell
- 1/22** Sam & Mary Jane Johns
- 1/29** Jim & Judy Johnson

**Ushers**

- 1/1** Caroline Wagoner, Corrine McElroy,  
Lucille Gawthrop, Peggy Berry
- 1/8** Ed Dudley, Larry French,  
Alex Reynolds, Jack Weber
- 1/15** Herb Johnson, Jim Dall  
Jim Johnson, Ken Liebich
- 1/22** Ed Summy, Mike Petryszak,  
Bill Meeks, Rene Holley
- 1/29** Herb Johnson, Jim Dall,  
Ken Liebich, Jackie Rogers

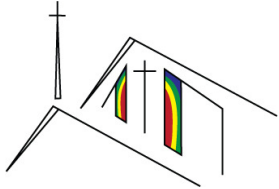
**Liturgist**

- 1/1** UMW
- 1/8** Alice Thalheimer

1/15 Dorothy Cain  
1/22 Becky Rokitowski  
1/29 Norma Fitzpatrick

**Skycrest United Methodist Church**  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



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Is the monthly newsletter of  
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*Skycrest United Methodist Church*  
*Connecting to:*  
*God // Each Other // The World*

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*Open hearts, open minds, open doors.*



-The United Methodist Church

