



From the Heights

**November
2023**

In This Issue

Pastor's Message1

New Administrator Info....2

Daylight Saving Time.....2

November Birthdays3

Stewardship Celebration..4

Stewardship Campaign....5

Thanksgiving Food

Baskets.....6

Scrip Cards.....7

Ambassador Program.....8

Book of Confessions.....9

Fiction Book Club.....9

Thank You.....10

Something Rotten!.....10

Drive Through Living

Nativity.....11

Thank You & Photos from

Pam Laws12

Getting to Know Our SHPC

Family13

SHPC Stitches.....14

SHYP Indoor Trick or Treat

Photos.....15

A Word from the Treasurer..17

Treasurer's Report.....18

Calendar.....19

Pastor's Message



Dear Church Family,

I first wrote this back in 2019, and it feels right to share it again this month as we continue on our journey together, through all that comes our way.

Have you ever been stuck in an elevator? I have, plenty of times. The elevator in the apartment building I lived in in Chicago was notorious for getting stuck. Most of the time, you weren't stuck too long, but sometimes you could wait for quite a bit of time before they could get it open. If you were in a hurry, it was wisest to use the stairs.

Because I've spent my fair share of time in an elevator that wasn't going anywhere, I've learned to, upon entering into an elevator, do a quick scan of the emergency panel. Is it a button? (Especially important if I'm in an elevator with either of my sons, because both love to push the button even without an emergency). Is it a phone? What are the instructions listed for the event of a malfunction of the device?

Inevitably, one of the very first instructions listed is "Don't Panic" or "Remain Calm", because panicking is often our first instinct, as adrenaline starts to pump and we go into fight or flight mode, without a sense of what we should do with those instincts.

But panicking in any event is, at best, counter productive, and at worst dangerous. Panic keeps you from thinking clearly, and evaluating the situation at hand logically and effectively.

(continued next page)



(Continued from pg. 1)

Panic has you running around in circles, not solving anything. Panic has you unintentionally hurting the people around you and yourself as you push when you should step back and pull. Panic breeds panic, chaos and confusion.

And so, in the event of an unexpected situation, whether it's an elevator stopping, a need for an emergency exit of a plane, a change in leadership, just plain old change, or anything else, we are urged to not panic, to remain calm. And, if we can do so, we can evaluate the situation at hand, what is truly going on, and find the best ways to move forward.

Friends, things get weird sometimes and the unexpected happens, the road gets rocky and things change, sometimes the elevator shudders to a stop and you feel stuck and helpless. And yet, even when all this, or more, happens there is no need to panic. Instead, when our heart starts to pound, our breath quickens, and we feel that flight or fight instinct kick in, let us take a deep breath, grab on to one another's hands, and walk together to figure it out.

With love on this journey,

Pastor Leanne

FOR YOUR RECORDS: NEW CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR INFO.

Karen Moore

karen@southernheights.org

Cell: 531-218-4329 (texts are preferred)

Office Hours:

M & F—8:00 am—4:00 pm

T, W, Th—9:00 am—5:00 pm

Sunday, Nov 5 ~ Daylight Saving Time Ends



**Turn Clocks BACK
One Hour!**

SHTC (Birthday) Party Animals



We wish those who celebrate Birthdays in November a Very Happy Birthday and many blessings throughout the year!

* If your name is not listed and you celebrate a birthday in November, please notify the church office so that our records can be updated.

November Birthdays

3 Will Schmeackle	11 Elaine Nelson	21 Janice Stege
5 Daniel Joseph	13 Denise Hockamier	22 Peggy Knoche
5 Andrew Niedbalski	14 Hana Takahashi	25 Erin Michaud
11 Gayle Beran	19 Jim Minary	26 Will Pool
11 Carolyn Murphy	21 Dick Campbell	28 Keira Weyer

Fall Congregational Meeting Notice

(immediately following worship)

November 19, 2023



The purpose of this meeting will be:

- ✓ To vote on a slate of candidates for Class of 2026 and elect At-Large Members to serve on next year's Nominating Committee
- ✓ To hear a report from the Financial Stewardship Committee.

Stewardship Celebration Sunday

Nov. 12, 2023



**Cookies & Ice Cream
during Fellowship!**



Sponsored by the Financial Stewardship Committee

Coming Soon ... to a Mailbox Near You!

**► Estimate
of
Giving
forms
for**



DEDICATION SUNDAY

Nov. 19, 2023

Fellow Members of Southern Heights,

Our Financial Stewardship Campaign this year has included information about some of the committees of Southern Heights. These committees are made up of members who feel called by God to use their various gifts of the spirit. They take seriously their responsibilities to fulfill their committee goals. These goals include using their budget resources wisely. These are resources you have been led to generously share. Our Southern Heights mission statement to be “Inwardly Strong and Outwardly Focused” is not possible without your support. Our campaign theme for this year is from James 1 verse 17 which says very simply that **“Every good and perfect gift is from above.”**

The paragraph Financial Stewardship Committee chairman Dick Campbell had in the October Newsletter is so true. What we often don't take time to realize is that Southern Heights is a haven for all of us, whether it be worship, fellowship, participation on committees and making decisions from our involvement that allows our church not only to serve our members but also our outreaches to the Lincoln community and beyond. In an article by E.J. Dionne, he reminds us that “Over the past several months, an old truth has become new again: Houses of worship and other religious institutions play an essential role in promoting social correctness, mutual aid and community building.” And this reaffirms our own statement of being “Inwardly Strong and Outwardly Focused!”

Throughout October and into November we will have given you information on different Southern Heights committees. This article will help you have an appreciation for the leadership and work of the **Worship and Music Committee**. Members of this committee are Sue Babovec, Mary Bell, Music Director and Accompanist Anita Elliott (ex officio), Julie Haberman, Pastor Leanne (ex officio), and Amber Weyer. Their responsibilities include assisting Pastor Leanne with worship planning, providing a variety of worship experiences, recruiting, and scheduling liturgists, recording worship attendance and supporting audio visual volunteers, arranging for supply pastors when Pastor is gone, preparing sanctuary for worship, scheduling communion, and supporting the music ministry. The worship experience you have at Southern Heights would be much less impactful without the guidance and work they do on a regular basis.

As we continue these highlighted and other committees and programs of Southern Heights, the only way they can continue to exist is through your generous support. We urge you to use the Estimate of Giving form for the coming year as accurately as possible. This will be coming to you in a letter in early November.

Please join us as we remind ourselves of all the good our congregation is doing—not only internally, but also externally. Remember that “Every good and perfect gift is from above”, and recognize that God walks with us in our important mission.

The financial Stewardship Committee:

Dick Campbell, Jim Harder, Sam Phillips, Gene Knoche, Carolyn Murphy, and treasurer Stan Fortkamp



Please join us as we remind ourselves of all the good our congregation is doing—not only internally, but also externally.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

In Proverbs 22:9 it states: “Happy are generous people, because they give some of their food to the poor.”

The Mission Committee is helping our neighbors and community by collecting donations for the Peoples City Mission Thanksgiving Food Baskets. **We need your help!** We will be collecting all the trimmings for families to be handed out at their Help Center.

There are a variety of ways you can help.

Shop. Most people love the basics for Thanksgiving. If you are at the store, pick up a few extra items. Stuffing, potatoes (in a package/box or 5 to 10 lb. bag of russet potatoes), canned yams, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, Hawaiian rolls, gravy, fruit, cake mix, pudding and Jello. All food items will need to be at the church by noon on November 15.

Donate your time. You can help organize the donations in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, November 15th at 4:00 pm or help prepare the baskets at 5:00 pm.

Monetary donation. We all know many people don't have the time during the busy holiday season to actually volunteer, let alone deal with the hassle of a busy grocery store. We will accept any monetary donations to help us purchase food items for the baskets. Please make sure you write *Food Baskets* on the check.

Checks need to be received by November 12th.

We are such a supportive, empathetic, *generous*, loving and kind family here at Southern Heights. Remember, giving back makes you feel good. We have such an incredible opportunity during this holiday season to take care of others and experience the joy of generosity.

Mission Committee





Scrip Cards for the Holidays

Plan Ahead — Every Scrip card purchase gives money back to the Youth!

Use Scrip Cards at Your Favorite Merchants

▶ Buy groceries for upcoming:

- Thanksgiving meals
- Christmas dinners
- Ingredients for Christmas Cookie baking
- Even for weekly groceries and monthly prescriptions



- ▶ Take advantage of seasonal Christmas sales
- ▶ Purchase gift cards as stocking stuffers, Teacher gifts, Scout leaders & Secret Santas

How to Buy Scrip Cards ~ 3 Easy Steps

- 1) The Scrip table is open every Sunday in Fellowship Hall for 20 minutes following the worship service—OR you can contact Scrip Coordinator, Andy Anderson, to place an order.
- 2) Andy carries some Scrip cards in stock. If what you want is in-stock, you can pick them up on Sundays.
- 3) Please provide your payment to Andy (checks payable to Scrip).

2024 Ambassador Program

In the fall of 2022 a decision was made to combine the Usher Program with the Ambassador Program starting January 2023. The Membership Committee was asked to implement both programs into one and did so.

This year the Membership Committee has decided to make a change in the Ambassador program starting in 2024. The change is to give our congregation a chance to participate on a weekly basis rather than a monthly one. Currently we have a group of 12 teams who serve for an entire month. Moving forward, our goal is to encourage our members to serve as an Ambassador on a week that fits into their schedule.

Instead of 12 teams, we could have up to 52 teams or more when including special services, giving more members an opportunity to participate. If an individual or team would like to sign up for more than one week, that would be great. They could be spread out or could be for a month. Everything is possible.

Starting November 19th we'll have a sign-up sheet on the information stand in the Narthex. The sign-up sheet will be for the first 3 months of 2024. On December 18th the sign-up sheet will be compiled with each volunteer team and a master schedule will be posted in the Narthex along with a thank you e-mail to each participant. If something comes up and you can't be there for your Sunday, we'll ask you to seek out your own replacement from the congregation.

If you have any questions concerning these changes or would like additional information concerning the Ambassador program, please reach out to Gene Knoche of the Membership committee.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

The Membership Committee

Joyce Schmeackle, Denise Hockamier, Elaine Nelson, Jan & Bob Obst, Shelly Falkinburg, Marci Elam, Gene Knoche



► **Attention** ◀

Due to a full calendar of events in November:

BOOK OF CONFESSIONS STUDY

is on Pause through November

We will reconvene on December 17

Following Worship | 12 noon
in the Conference Room

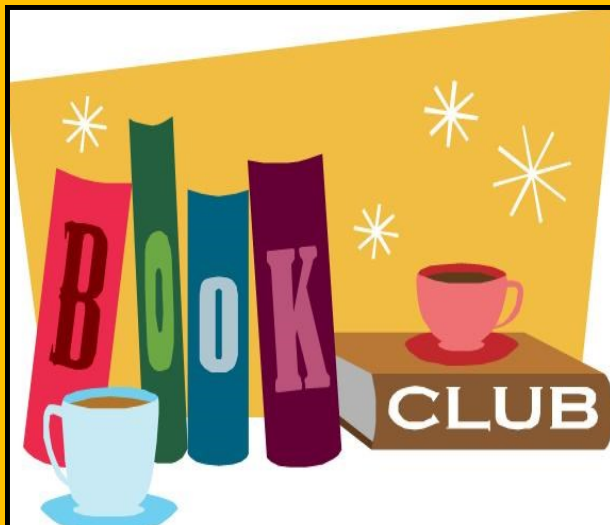
We will be reading the Barmen Declaration in December



~ **ALSO ON PAUSE THROUGH NOVEMBER** ~

MONTHLY FICTION BOOK CLUB

WILL RECONVENE IN DECEMBER



Saturday, Dec. 16

1:30 pm
at SHPC

We'll discuss:
Lessons in Chemistry

By Bonnie Garmus

THANK YOU

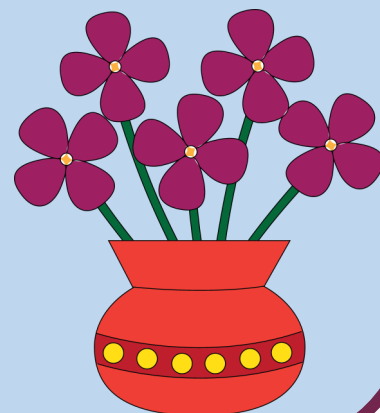
Our Church Family:

Thank you all for the prayers, love, concern and cards sent during the illness and recent passing of Eydie's sister Jodi. You wrapped your loving arms around us in comforting warmth. Thank you all so very much.

Eydie and Fred

I would like to thank everyone at Southern Heights for the cards and kind words at the recent passing of my sister Bobbi.

Roger Meyer



Midland University presents

SOMETHING ROTTEN!

Nov. 9-12

Kimmel Theatre | Fremont, NE

Jenna Pool is in the Cast!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Drive-thru Living Nativity

Dec. 15 & 16, 2023—6 to 8 pm

Ways to Help Out:

- Assist cast with costume dressing
- Bring/serve food to the cast & crew
- Take a shift portraying one of the Nativity characters
- Set design
- Help with “wrangling” the animals

If you're interested in helping out in any way with this fun & meaningful event, please contact Joyce Schmeackle.



THANK YOU

Honestly, can one have any more fun amidst the BEST Church Family—and all those Flamingos?! You all are so very dear to me and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for making my day so special. From everyone who worked behind the scenes to those involved in the service, to those celebrating in Flamingo colors, you certainly know how to make a person feel special! Even my flamingos had a great time!

Thank you for walking with me through this journey called life. I thank God every day for the gift of my Southern Heights family, the joy of your friendship, and your kind and generous hearts.

Many blessings. ~ Pam



Getting to Know our SHPC Family!

Highlighting individuals within our church family

Sponsored by the Membership Committee



**Julie Haberman
Elder**

Name Julie Haberman

Church involvement and interests (or how long you have been a member, why you love the church, etc.)

I have been attending Southern Heights since October, 2014. Anita Elliott had been the choir director at St. Mark's UMC. After she retired, she somehow became "unretired" by serving as a temporary choir director at SHPC. She was telling me how she needed to pull together a Christmas cantata in two months, and Anita rarely plans anything in such a short timeline! I offered to come to SHPC to support her through the Christmas season, after which point I planned to return to St. Mark's. However, the friendliness of the SHPC congregation persuaded me to hang around for a while longer until I finally couldn't imagine being anywhere else! In addition to the music ministry, I have served on Session and chaired the Memorial, Personnel and Administration, and Worship and Music Committees, working alongside many committed and talented people. I try to help out with events like VBS and the Living Nativity when I am able. I'm also a charter member of the crocheting ministry that started a couple years ago.

Family I grew up with an older brother and younger sister on a farm just west of Burr, Nebraska. If you've driven by Unadilla on Highway 2 - home of "Tractor Bob" - Burr is about 11 miles south and a half mile west of there. My dad (and now my brother) farmed the land my great-grandfather homesteaded, and my mom drove all of us to wherever we needed to be: ball games, school, bean fields, doctor appointments, etc. She was an amazing cook, but I think my sister got most of those genes!

I attended Burr School District 101 through the eighth grade and then graduated from Nemaha Valley Schools in Cook. I received my Bachelor's degree in Business Education and Administrative Office Management from UNL. Thirty-five years later, I tackled one of a very few bucket list items and earned my Master's degree in management with an emphasis in leadership from Doane University. It has come in handy with my work at Lincoln Electric System, where I supervise talent acquisition and development.

My son Tyler and his wife Kate live in Chicago and have blessed me with a beautiful grandson, James (aka, "Sweet Baby James"), who turned one on October 6. I married Bob Haberman (not the insurance agent!) in 1997, acquiring a step-son Josh and his wife Kim, who live in York. Josh's daughter, Vanessa, and her husband Lucas are here in Lincoln. Kim's three sons - Matt, Nick, and Alex - are in three different states, with Alex assisting Josh in his business, Haberman Construction.

(Continued next page)

Getting to Know Our SHPC Family (cont'd)

Personal hobbies and other interests When I'm not at work or church, I enjoy cross stitching, crocheting, baking, and walking our beagles, Goose and Trapper. They are just over 18 months old, and I'm hoping they can behave well enough someday to attend our pet blessing in person! I golf with friends in the summer and enjoy working on the landscaping in our yard.

Favorite things (i.e., food, movies, places you have been, etc.) I tend to be a homebody but have had the opportunity to travel within and outside of the United States. I'd love to take a Viking cruise in eastern Europe, visiting areas depicted in "The Sound of Music," my favorite film. My mom's family hails from Germany, and my dad's family is German and Wendish, a Slavic tribe that lived in eastern and southern Germany.

Best piece of advice The best advice I've received came from my parents. My dad taught me to "keep my eye on the ball" when I played softball, which is a great reminder to stay focused on the goal. My mom always reminded us that "the sun will come up in the morning," something she said when the Husker football team lost, which didn't happen too often when I was growing up! She also told my sister and me that "it looks worse than it is" when referring to the messy kitchen we were tasked with cleaning and "it's gonna get worse before it gets better" whenever we tackled a reorganization or a "yard beautiful day" project. We lost my mom ten years ago, but we recently celebrated my dad's 90th birthday.

I feel blessed to have an extended family at Southern Heights!



Here's the latest
delivery to the
Gathering Place
of warm hats
and mittens
from the SHPC
Stitchers.

SHYP INDOOR TRICK OR TREAT, OCT. 29



L to R: Jessica Manley, Brittany Mertlik, Ghost, Kelly Mertlik, Abigail Manley



The Joseph Family: Daniel, Rowyn, Ayviona Kerrington, Paige



Charlie, Henry, and Bentley Elam



Mike & Leanne Masters, *we think*



An estimated crowd of 250-300 came through, (120 kids)!



Amber Weyer, the Good Witch



Erin (Barbie) Pool



Heidi & Matt Prenosil wait with Linus in the Pumpkin patch



Verla Swearingin, Stylin Witch of the West



Bill & Ellyn Walters ~ Chefs Extraordinaire



Terry & Dan Jackson, Grandparents of this Cute 'Lil Jack-O-Lantern in search of Candy



A Word from Our Treasurer

A couple of months ago I went in front of the congregation to report that general fund giving was lagging behind budget. At that time, we were only at 80% of budget. The next few months improved to around 90% of budget but, in the last few weeks, we have fallen slightly behind again. This has caused a need to use our STFIT savings fund of \$25,000 to fund monthly payroll and mission. Our current savings has fallen to \$5,000 and without sufficient giving in the last 3 months, we will deplete that before the end of the year.



It is one of my responsibilities to keep all of our members informed on our current financial picture. I would ask the members to reflect on their current giving status and that you prayerfully consider your giving in the next few months so that we can bring our revenues in line with budget and end the year on a more positive note.

Please note that we have not budgeted for HVAC in the last 2 years, but giving has been sufficient that we have managed to fund the HVAC in STFIT in the amount of \$12,000 those two yearly cycles. If we continue on the current trend, we will definitely not meet that goal and will probably end up with negative savings for the current fiscal year.

Please note on our financial statement (next page) that our actual net income is at a negative \$7,500 at the end of September, in spite of all of our expenses being under budget for the year.

I plan on reporting back to you in the coming weeks on the status of the current year. At the same time, I will also report on the new 2024 budget year after our current stewardship campaign is completed, the new year giving estimates have been tabulated, and the budget has been finalized. I do want to remind you that the more Estimates of Giving we receive helps to improve the accuracy and reliability of the budget for the new year. I would like to see us top 80% or more of the members estimating their giving for the upcoming year.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at any time: 402-770-3838 or email me at treasurer@southernheights.org.

Stan Fortkamp
SHPC Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Jan - Sep 23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Budgeted Income	200,229.43	220,950.00	(20,720.57)
Budgeted Expenses			
Program Expense			
Mission	16,625.06	19,980.00	(3,354.94)
Life Long Learning	2,501.47	5,325.00	(2,823.53)
Worship & Music	2,015.29	2,155.00	(139.71)
Membership	327.07	1,057.50	(730.43)
Total Program Expense	<u>21,468.89</u>	<u>28,517.50</u>	<u>(7,048.61)</u>
Staff Expense			
Salaries	85,074.56	86,921.25	(1,846.69)
Benefits & Allowances	42,288.77	43,411.32	(1,122.55)
Expenses & Substitutes	4,344.74	5,894.64	(1,549.90)
Total Staff Expenses	<u>131,708.07</u>	<u>136,227.21</u>	<u>(4,519.14)</u>
Occupancy Expense			
Custodial & Maintenance	21,398.28	23,040.00	(1,641.72)
Utilities	14,300.94	15,330.00	(1,029.06)
Insurance	8,197.52	7,200.00	997.52
Total Occupancy Expenses	<u>43,896.74</u>	<u>45,570.00</u>	<u>(1,673.26)</u>
Office & Other Operating Expenses			
Office Expense	3,603.43	4,390.00	(786.57)
Other Operating Expenses	7,082.07	7,868.00	(785.93)
Total Office/Operating Expenses	<u>10,685.50</u>	<u>12,258.00</u>	<u>(1,572.50)</u>
Total Expenses	<u>207,759.20</u>	<u>222,572.71</u>	<u>(14,813.51)</u>
Budgeted Net Income or (Loss)	<u>(7,529.77)</u>	<u>(1,622.71)</u>	<u>(5,907.06)</u>

November Calendar

Room Key: FH: Fellowship Hall
WW: West Wing

CR: Conference Room
S: Sanctuary

FF (or SHFF): Food Forest
LL-K: Lower Level-Kitchenette

Wednesday, Nov 1

6:30 PM Choir Practice / S

Thursday, Nov. 2

10:00 am Study Group / WW

Saturday, Nov 4

1:00 PM Drama Ministry / S

Sunday, Nov 5—Daylight Saving Time

10:30 AM Communion—**Guest Pastor: Sue Babovec**

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH

Monday, Nov 6

6:00 PM Mission Committee / WW

6:00 PM Scouts PLC / CR

7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

Tuesday, Nov 7

5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

Wednesday, Nov 8

1:30 PM Esther Circle / FH

6:30 PM Choir Practice / S

Thursday, Nov 9

7:00 PM Deacons

Friday, Nov 10

7:00 PM Adoptive Moms Support Group / WW

SHFF Potluck

Saturday, Nov 11

1:00 PM Drama Ministry / S

Sunday, Nov 12

10:30 AM Worship / S

11:30 AM Stewardship Celebration Cookies & Ice Cream / FH

5:30-6:30 PM SHYP Youth Club (K-2nd)

5:30-7:30 PM SHYP Youth Club (3rd-12th)

Monday, Nov 13

6:30 PM Personnel Committee / CR

7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

Tuesday, Nov 14—Newsletter Deadline

5:30 PM Crocheters / WW

7:00 PM Financial Stdshp. Cte. / CR

7:00 PM Scout Parents / LL

Wednesday, Nov 15—Session Reports Due

4:00 PM Thanksgiving Basket Assembly / FH

6:30 PM Choir / S

Thursday, Nov 16

8:30 AM—4PM WIC Clinic / LL-K

2:00 PM Poli Olli / FH

6:30 PM Worship & Music / WW

6:30 PM Life Long Learning Cte. / CR

Friday, Nov 17

5:30 -7:00 PM Chili Cookoff / FH

Sunday, Nov 19 —Dedication Sunday

10:30 AM Worship / S

11:30 AM Congregational Meeting / S

Monday, Nov 20

7:00 PM Session Meeting / CR

7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

Tuesday, Nov 21

5:30 PM Crocheters

Wednesday, Nov 22

6:30 PM Choir / S

Thursday & Friday, Nov 23-24

Thanksgiving Holiday—Church Office Closed

Sunday, Nov 26—Reign of Christ

10:30 AM Worship / S

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH

Monday, Nov 27

7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

Tuesday, Nov 28

5:30 PM Crocheters

Wednesday, Nov 29

6:30 PM Choir Practice / S

Southern Heights Presbyterian Church
5750 S. 40th
Lincoln, NE 68516
402-421-3704

Return Service Requested



November 2023

Email Addresses:

Leanne Masters, Pastor: pastor@southernheights.org

Karen Moore, Administrator: karen@southernheights.org



From the Heights

A Monthly Publication of Southern Heights Presbyterian Church

We're on the Web at www.SouthernHeights.org

We welcome your suggestions and contributions to the newsletter. Deadline for each issue is the third Tuesday of each month. It is greatly appreciated if contributions are emailed to the Newsletter Editor: karen@southernheights.org.

Please don't try to structure anything . . . we will format your contribution to fit the newsletter. You may also contact us through the Church office at (402) 421-3704.

Our worship services are on Sundays at 10:30 AM. Adult Sunday school classes are at 9:30 AM from September through May.

Staff: Rev. Leanne Masters, Pastor. Karen Moore, Administrator. Anita Elliott, Music Director. Dr. Ronald L. Bump, Pastor Emeritus.