



December 2004

New Horizons

Sterling Park Baptist Church
501 N. York Road
Sterling, VA 20164-3925
Return Service Requested

The "Scoop" on Sunday School

"Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."
Ps. 119:105

Bible study is such an important part of a Christian's life. We have 21 Bible study classes meeting every Sunday morning at 9:45am. You are never too old or too young to be a part of one of these classes.

Preschool Christmas Party

Saturday, December 11th, 11:00am-12:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall, for ages Birth-Kindergarten. There will be games and crafts and a hot dog lunch at noontime. Parents are invited to join us.

Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 11th, 12:30-2:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall, for 1st-6th grades. We'll start the party with hot dog lunch. After we eat, there will be some great activities and games with prizes.

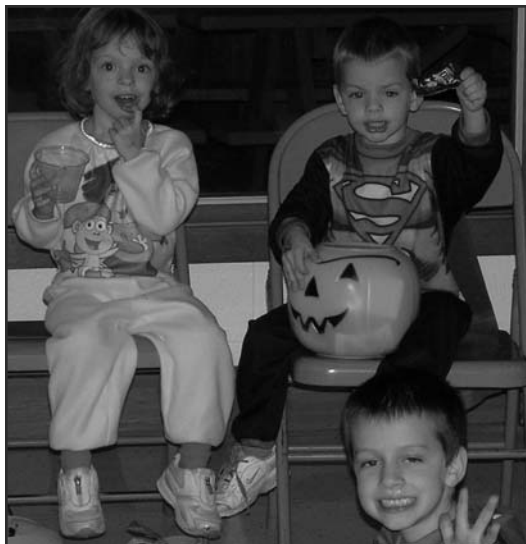
Visitation

Tuesday nights, 7:00pm. You are invited to be a part of this important ministry. We meet at the church, get our assignments, have a time of prayer and make a visit.

More "Scoops"

Welcome to our new 7th-8th Grade Sunday School Teacher, Don Fannon.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make Spirit Special a great event. A good time was had by all!!



Spirit Special 2004 – The "spirits" are Lauren, Evan, & Kyle Siecker, enjoying refreshments after a strenuous round of trick-or-treating.

New Horizons

Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Members of Sterling Park Baptist Church

Pete Hopkins Called to Overseas Missions

Dear Sterling Park Baptist Church,

I believe GOD is calling my family to overseas missions. To better prepare for this, I am accepting an offer as Associate Pastor of Missions and Ministries at Baptist Fellowship, Columbia, CT. Instead of just giving four weeks notice as stated in the bylaws of Sterling Park Baptist Church, I gave my five weeks notice as Pastor of Youth and Activities to the Pastor and Deacons on Friday, November 5 (my vacation was already scheduled for the fifth week; I will be moving on Saturday, December 11). I thank GOD and you all for the opportunity to serve this church. I have learned a lot from this experience and have been privileged to work with you all for these past eleven months. I have been blessed to see professions of faith, rededications, baptisms, and calls to missionary service. I will especially have a deep place in my heart for the youth whom I have seen grow in the LORD. My new contact address will be: 65 Pennywood Lane, Willimantic, CT 06226. My phone number will be: 860-423-4353. During this past Youth Council meeting, we discussed and adjusted some changes in the recently mailed Youth Group Newsletter. Please see Pastor Lytle Buckingham, Mr. Rod Gunther, Mrs. Sarah Minks, or Mrs. Kristi Patton for questions concerning future events with the youth and activities. I want to give a special thanks to Pastor Buckingham and his wife for taking me out to lunch during our last staff meeting, and thank you all also for the wonderful farewell fellowship, food, and gifts! May GOD bless you, Brother Pete Hopkins

Youth Pastor Search Committee Forming

The Nominating Committee has been given the task to form a Youth Pastor Search Committee. We are in search of church members that will represent various groups, including parents of youth, parents of children, youth, seniors and individuals that are interested in our youth program. If you would like to be considered for this team please speak with one of the members of the Nominating Committee (Sarah Minks, Gary Lose, Sandy Summers)

Sunday Services:
8:45am, 11:00am & 6:00pm

Sunday School: 9:45am

**Wednesday Night Dinner
& Bible Study:** 5:45pm-7:45pm

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 9:00am-2:00pm
(Schedule varies during holidays, see p. iv-v)

We welcome church news articles (both recaps and upcoming activities), news-related photographs, original columns and features (please no reprints, author unknown, or submitted by), and calendar items. All submissions must be on disk or via email to Rebecca Thomas (office@sterlingparkbaptist.org). Deadline for January Newsletter is December 14th.

News for the Pews



By Rev. J. Lytle Buckingham, Sr. –
Senior Pastor

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

A kingdom-focused life: Each year we collect a special offering for international missions in the first week of December. This sacrificial offering is separate from our gifts to the budget of Sterling Park Baptist Church. One of our first Southern Baptist missionaries, Lottie Moon (Dec. 12, 1840 – Dec. 24, 1912), is the namesake for our international missions offering. A legend among southern Baptists today, in her time Lottie was anything but an untouchable hero. In fact, she was like today's missionaries. She was a hard-working, deep-loving Southern Baptist who labored tirelessly so her people group could know JESUS.

Her mission: When she set sail for China, Lottie was 32 years old. She had turned down a marriage proposal and left her job, home and family to follow GOD's lead. Her path wasn't typical for an educated woman from a wealthy Southern family. But Lottie did not serve a typical GOD. He had gripped her with the Chinese peoples' need for a SAVIOR. For 39 years Lottie labored, chiefly in

Tengchow and P'ingtu. People feared and rejected her, but she refused to leave. The aroma of fresh-baked cookies drew people to her house. She adopted traditional Chinese dress, and she learned China's language and customs. Lottie didn't just serve the people of China; she identified with them. Many eventually accepted her. And some accepted her SAVIOR.

Her vision: Lottie's vision wasn't just for the people of China. It reached to her fellow Southern Baptists in the United States. Like today's missionaries, she wrote letters home, detailing China's hunger for truth and the struggle of so few missionaries sharing the gospel with so many people – 472 million Chinese in her day. She shared another timely message, too: the urgent need for more workers and for Southern Baptists passionately supporting them through prayer and giving. In 1912, during a time of war and famine, Lottie silently starved, knowing that her beloved Chinese didn't have enough food. Her fellow Christians saw the ultimate sign of love: giving her life for others. On Christmas Eve, Lottie died on a ship bound for the United States. But her legacy lives on. And today, when gifts aren't growing as quickly as the number of workers GOD is calling to the field, her call for sacrificial giving rings with more urgency than ever.

God's work through your missionaries: In 2003 the *International Mission Board* reported incredible growth in GOD's kingdom throughout the world, with 192 new people groups hearing the gospel for the first time. The number of

baptisms exceeded 500,000, and more than 420,000 new believers were engaged in discipleship training.

Missionary testimony: "I just have such gratefulness and admiration for many unnamed but committed people who give themselves. I believe the day will come where those who give will have people from South Asia and other places look them up in the databanks of heaven and say, 'I know that you gave at Christmastime. You chose this instead of another pair of electronic games,' or something like this. 'And because of that I join you in the celebration of JESUS.' To me, that's pretty awesome." – David Myer, a worker in South Asia.

What you need to know for this year's offering: GOD longs for all peoples to worship HIM. Response to the gospel around the world shows that now is HIS time to draw many people to HIMSELF. He is inviting us to partner with HIM through our prayers and gifts. Your gift in 2004 will allow the *International*



Missions Board to: [1] Sustain missionaries on the field – including additional missionaries sent because of your generous giving in 2003. [2] Send the record numbers GOD is continuing to call. Even last year as the International Mission Board had to limit missionary appointments, more missionary candidates became available than ever before. [3] Reach more "unreached people groups" with the gospel!

I will preach on CHRIST's challenge to be a missions-minded church in the morning worship services on Sunday, December 5, and the *Lottie Moon Missions Offering* video will be shown in the evening worship service. Special offering envelopes will be available. Pray for our missionaries and give the gift of the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST through the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions!*

Christmas Shoe Box Ministry

On November 16, Suzanne and I took 54 Christmas shoe boxes to the Drainesville United Methodist Church (a local collection center for *Samaritan's Purse*, the national organization that distributes the gifts to needy children throughout the world). I thank GOD for the love and thoughtfulness that Sterling Park Baptist Church members put into each box. Boys and girls will soon be opening their presents and learning about the love of JESUS CHRIST because of the Spirit that rests upon our fellowship!

May GOD bless you,

Pastor Lytle

Wednesday Night Dinner

If you would like to attend the dinner from 5:45pm-6:45pm, you may either sign up on the posted sheet on the bulletin board in the center hallway or call the church office at 703-430-2527 before 10 am on Monday. Please be sure to sign up or call if you plan on attending so that we can be sure enough food is available for all.

Cost:

Adult (13 & up)\$4.00
Child (3-12)\$3.00
Child (under 3)Free
(Meals include menu items below plus dessert and drinks.)

Hot Dog Meal\$2.00
Extra Hot Dog\$1.00
(Hot Dog Meals include chips, dessert and drinks.)

Dec 8

Roast beef, cream potatoes, green beans, rolls

Dec 15

Ham, parsley potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls

Dec 22

Vegetable soup, grilled cheese sandwich

Dec 29 (no dinner)

Dec 5th – 11th

5 Sunday

– Second Sunday of Advent –

Deacon Benevolence
Rev. J. Lytle Buckingham
“That All Peoples May Know Him”
Matthew 24:14

Worship Service 8:45am
Sunday School 9:45am
Worship Service. 11:00am
Evening Service. 6:00pm

6 Monday
(Tami Michelle James)

7 Tuesday

Visitation 7:00pm

8 Wednesday

Family Dinner. 5:45pm
Children’s Choir 6:15pm
Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm
Mission Friends. 6:30pm
Adult Bible Study 6:45pm
Youth Bible Study 6:45pm
Kids for CHRIST (KFC) . . 7:00pm
Bible Buddies 7:00pm
Adult Choir 7:45pm

9 Thursday

(Tami Michelle James)

MDO Christmas Party . 7:00pm

10 Friday

11 Saturday

(Megan Pruden)

**Sunday School (Preschool-K)
Christmas Party . . . 11:00am**

**Sunday School (1st-6th Grades)
Christmas Party . . 12:30pm**

**Children’s Choir Dress
Rehearsal. 2:00pm**

**Youth Progressive Christmas
Dinner 6:00pm**

Dec 12th – 18th

12 Sunday

– Third Sunday of Advent –

(Marie Twitchel)
Rev. J. Lytle Buckingham
“His Name is Wonderful”
Luke 1:26-38

Worship Service 8:45am
Sunday School 9:45am
Worship Service. 11:00am
Evening Service. 6:00pm

❖ **Children’s Choir**
Business Meeting 6:45pm

13 Monday

(Andrew Vest)

14 Tuesday

Visitation 7:00pm

15 Wednesday

Family Dinner. 5:45pm
Children’s Choir 6:15pm
Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm
Mission Friends. 6:30pm
Adult Bible Study 6:45pm
Youth Bible Study 6:45pm
Kids for CHRIST (KFC) . . 7:00pm
Bible Buddies 7:00pm
Adult Choir 7:45pm

**Deadline for January 2005
Newsletter Submittals**

16 Thursday

(Jill Zinnert)

**MDO Christmas Pageant
. 10:30am**

17 Friday

(Woody & Linda Williams)

**MDO Christmas Pageant
. 10:30am**

18 Saturday

Deacon’s Meeting 8:30am

Dec 19th – 25th

19 Sunday

– Fourth Sunday of Advent –

(Doug Reas)
Rev. J. Lytle Buckingham
“The Extravagance of GOD”
John 3:16, Corinthians 9:15

Worship Service 8:45am
Sunday School 9:45am
Worship Service. 11:00am
Christmas Cantada . . . 6:00pm

❖ **"We All Bow Down"**
**Dessert Party/Cookie Exchange
. 7:00pm**

20 Monday

(Bob Larson)

21 Tuesday

(Clayton Heflin)

–First Day of Winter–
Caroling 6:30pm

22 Wednesday

Family Dinner. 5:45pm
Caroling 6:30pm

23 Thursday

24 Friday

–Christmas Eve–
(Bill Cooper)

Church Office Closed

Children’s Service . . . 6:00pm

Candlelight Service . . . 8:00pm

25 Saturday

– Christmas –
(JESUS CHRIST)

Dec 26th – Jan 1st

26 Sunday

(David Patton, Jr.)

Rev. J. Lytle Buckingham
**Combined Worship Service
. 10:00am**

❖ **"Noel Service"**
Music Committee . . . 12:00noon
Evening Service (tentative)

27 Monday

(Norman Huffman)

Church Office Closed

28 Tuesday

(James & Leslie Roach)

(Bill & Dot Cooper)

Church Office Closed

No Visitation

29 Wednesday

(Megan Patterson)

(Bob & Louise Larson)

Church Office Closed

No Wednesday Night Activities

30 Thursday

(Earl Armstrong)

Church Office Closed

31 Friday

–New Year’s Eve–

Church Office Closed

1 Saturday

– New Year’s Day –
(Cassandra Williams Donahue)

Calendar subject to change without notice

❖ **Special Music**
(Birthdays and Anniversaries are listed in Parentheses)

December Schedule

Deacon in Service

Dec 5 John Allen
12 Jim Cosby
19 Don Fannon
26 Rod Gunther

Children's Sermon

Dec 5 Rev. Buckingham
12 Suzanne Buckingham
19 Amy Meyer
26 Debra Vest

Tellers

Dec 5 Mark Ousley
. . . . Sandy Summers
12 Jill Zinnert
. . . . Louise Larson
19 . . . Charlotte Collinsworth
. . . . Joyce Smith
26 John Shepherd
. . . . Gary Lose

Children's Church (1st-2nd)

Dec 5 Theresa Parsell
12 Rosanne Coleman
19 Linda Armstrong
26 Theresa Parsell

Children's Church (3rd-5th)

Dec 5 Mary Webb
12 Jennifer Baker
19 Julie Boyd
26 Mary Webb

Business Meeting 11/14/04

Business meeting opened in prayer by Eric Summers with 47 people present.

Reports

Wednesday Night Meals served 168 meals at four dinners. An average of 42 meals per dinner. We received \$506.00 and spent \$447.90. Our ending balance is \$580.96.

Sunday School reported an average attendance of 107 in October. There were seven visitors and they have been contacted subsequent to their visit. Visitation Report – there were seven inreach visits and eight outreach visits.

Treasurer report was presented and questions entertained. Why is there a negative balance in payroll liability? Owen will research, the amount put in was from the accountant. Do we now have the accountant year round? The treasurer and stewardship committee would like to have the CPA 4-5 hours per quarter just to double check entries in Quickbooks. The committee would also recommend outsourcing payroll to an outside company. Cost would be approximately \$100 per month. Motions will be made at another business meeting. When will the donation be made to the Fire and Rescue Company? Either this month or next. Bereavement Committee is over budget. When will the money that was donated be credited to the account? Owen will research. Stewardship Committee asked the committee chairpersons to be aware that the budget sheets are coming, they would like a quick turnaround for the sheets.

Clerk Business

Karyn Roscoe to join the church on statement of faith. Vote of acceptance was unanimous. The clerk took the opportunity to remind the deacon in service to have new members fill out forms or at least let her know the information for the new members.

Old Business (none)**New Business**

Nominating Committee brought for-

ward the following: Katie Minks to serve on the Music Committee, Vicki Johnson to serve on Stewardship Committee; Don Fannon to serve as 7th-8th Grade Sunday School Teacher. Congregation accepted the nominations unanimously.

The music director brought to the attention of the church that the sanctuary piano needs some work. Comment from the assemblage that it was tuned in June of this year. The information will be passed on to the music committee.

The Anniversary Committee has met two times. The proposed date for the 40th Anniversary Celebration is October 1-2, 2005. They are going to ask Rev. James Cates, former SPBC pastor, to speak.

Pete Hopkins gave his resignation with a five week notice. It was accepted with several no votes recorded.

Personnel Committee is asking the Nominating Committee to fill a Youth Pastor Search Committee. Brother Jay offered to help in the youth group while the church searches for a youth pastor. Personnel will take suggestions for an interim youth director. The interim could be an inside or outside the church person.

Church envelopes have not been ordered for the new year due to a surplus from last year. Motion was made that the church not order envelopes and just use the surplus. Motion passed with two no votes recorded.

Kristi Patton made a motion to direct the Personnel committee to actively search for an interim youth pastor. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

The treasurer pointed out that there is a budget line item for the building fund. He and the Stewardship committee would like all contributions designated for building fund be applied to the principal during the following month. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Vest, Church Clerk

Make Christmas Ornaments

Make Christmas ornaments for your tree or to give as gifts.

Materials you need:

- ★ a Styrofoam ball
- ★ glitter
- ★ white craft glue
- ★ a small art brush
- ★ fishing line or thin string
- ★ decorative holiday napkins
- ★ scissors
- ★ large paper-clip
- ★ small amount of water
- ★ small paper cup
- ★ newspaper to work on

Directions:

1. Lay out the newspaper to cover your work area.
2. Open a napkin all the way and cut out the design.
3. Put some glue in the paper cup and mix in a few drops of water to thin it. Use the brush to stir.
4. Spread some of the thin glue on one half of the ball.
5. Place the napkin's design (face out) on the glued half of the ball. Press gently to smooth.
6. Carefully brush glue over the picture.
7. Repeat on the other side of the ball.
8. Roll the ball in the glitter.
9. Let dry completely.
10. Use the paper-clip to drill a hole through the ball.
11. Thread the fishing line or string through the hole and tie the ends to make a big loop.



The Birth of Jesus Foretold

The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. Isaiah knew that Jesus would be called a peacemaker, but that He would also be called by other names.

Use the code to find out what Isaiah said Jesus would be called.

CODE:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

Z M W S V D R O O Y V
X Z O O V W D L M W V I U F O
X L F M H V O L I N R T S G B
T L W V E V I O Z H G R M T
U Z G S V I K I R M X V
L U K V Z X V

Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Answer: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

703-430-2527

Pastor – Rev. J Lytle Buckingham, Sr.

SnrPstr@sterlingparkbaptist.org

Youth Minister – Peter Hopkins

YthMnstr@sterlingparkbaptist.org

Office Manager – Rebecca Thomas

office@sterlingparkbaptist.org

703-430-2601 (fax)

Music Director – Suzanne Buckingham

MusicDir@sterlingparkbaptist.org

Chairman of Deacons – Jeff Trautner

DeaconCh@sterlingparkbaptist.org

Webmaster – Carsie Bozeman

WebMaster@sterlingparkbaptist.org

News to Sing About

There will be several special music events during the month of December.

1. On Sunday evening, Dec. 12 the Children's Choir will perform at 6:00pm. Dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2:00-3:00pm, immediately following the Children's Division Christmas Party.
2. On Sunday evening, Dec. 19th the Christmas Cantata "We All Bow Down" will be presented at 6:00pm.
3. We're going caroling on Wednesday, Dec. 22 and Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 6:30pm.
4. On Sunday, Dec 26 at 10:00am, we'll be having a special service of music – the "Noel Service" including solos, groups, both vocal & instrumental, and the congregation as a whole. Contact Suzanne Buckingham if you wish to participate. Come and celebrate God's greatest gift to us through music!