

# THE MESSENGER

Published by the First Baptist Church of Altamont, Illinois

## February 2010



### Our Mission:

*“The First Baptist Church of Altamont seeks to glorify God by worshiping together, enjoying the fellowship of one another, providing opportunities for people to grow in Christ, ministering to the needs of all, and reaching people for Christ.”*

## Pastor’s Paragraphs

There *is* strength in numbers. By coordinating evangelism efforts, churches can share resources, planning and the excitement of large-scale mobilization. The latest such effort for Southern Baptists is God’s Plan for Sharing (GPS). It’s a 10-year effort with the “audacious vision,” as NAMB’s Jerry Pipes calls it, of every believer sharing and every person in North America hearing the gospel message by 2020.

The first GPS campaign, known as *Across North America*, already is well under way. State conventions, associations and churches are gearing up to touch millions of households in March with a targeted media campaign, prayer-walking and distribution of packets containing Find It Here drop-in pieces and invitations to Easter services. The effort will culminate in five weeks of follow-up with new believers. Our church has voted to participate in this effort to reach our community and world for Christ. I ask each of you to begin praying now and ask God how He would like for you to become involved in this project. Please watch the bulletin for more details.

In His Service,

*Pastor Lowell*



## *Sunday Worship Notes*

February	Morning Worship @ 10:15 am	Evening Bible Study @ 6 pm
7 <sup>th</sup>	“Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.”	“Experiencing Resurrection Power” John 11:1-57
14 <sup>th</sup>	“I assure you: Today you will be with Me in paradise.”	“Why People Follow Jesus” John 12:1-50
21 <sup>st</sup>	“Here is your son.” “Here is your mother.”	“How to Please Jesus” John 13:1-38
28 <sup>th</sup>	“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”	“Making Fear Disappear” John 14:1-31

### NEW SUNDAY MORNING SERMON SERIES

*In preparation for Easter, Pastor Lowell will teach a series entitled, “Jesus’ Last Words from the Cross” during February and March. These statements are important, not only because of the Person who spoke them, but also because of the place where they were said. When our Lord was doing His greatest work on earth, He was uttering some of His greatest words. These last words from the cross are windows that enable us to look into eternity and see the heart of God.*



### SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY SERIES

*During February, Pastor Lowell will continue teaching through the Gospel of John. The study theme is “Knowing Jesus.”*

# Evangelism & Missions Mentions

**God** is at work in North America. He is at work in the hearts of those who know him and those who have yet to know him through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The goal of “God’s Plan for Sharing” (GPS) is to fulfill the Great Commission in North America by every believer sharing and every person hearing by 2020. This journey is guided by a process with four biblical markers:

**Praying** – every church praying for lost people

**Engaging** – every believer sharing as a trained witness

**Sowing** – every lost person receiving a witness

**Harvesting** – every church harvesting and celebrating every salvation result

The **Across North America** evangelism campaign consists of each state convention, association, and church taking the initiative to develop their own contextual plan to reach their Jerusalem.

It is an initiative to share Christ through prayer-walking, gospel distribution, and an invitation from your church for an evangelistic Easter worship service on Sunday, April 4, 2010, concluded by five weeks of follow-up connection with those who responded to your invitation.

## Across North America Timeline

Praying	Engaging	Sowing	Harvesting	Assimilating
March 1-19	March 20	March 27	April 4	April 11-May 2
Promotion	Praying Across North America	“Find it Here” Gospel Distribution Door-to-Door <a href="http://www.FinditHere.com">www.FinditHere.com</a>	Easter Sunday	Five week follow-up plan
Get Ready	Prayerwalking	Sharing the Gospel	Every Church	Visit, Enroll, Lessons

# Worship & Music Team Wonderings

## Drama Delights

In February, we are excited to introduce four new actors performing a drama titled "Watch What You Hold On To." This is a story of two women who have a change of heart one Sunday morning after the Pastor preaches a sermon on unforgiveness. You will remember this thought-provoking drama.

March's drama will be "What A Pain!" We'll tell you more about it next month.

...Lowell and Janet



## Music Notes

This past week I had the opportunity to participate in two Worship Leader Conferences. I came back with some new ideas and also with a renewed sense of responsibility for the ministry that God has given me. I pray that I will do it to the best of my ability.

The Chancel Choir did not perform an Easter Cantata last year, so I wanted to make sure we have one this year. Also, Easter Sunday is the culmination of our GPS program and I hope that many visitors will be here that day to will hear about the one true Savior. The title of our cantata is "I Know My Redeemer Lives." The choir is in need of more sopranos. If you are a soprano, and are not in the choir yet, please come and see me.

In Christ,

*Mirta*



## Pianists and Organists

**Thank you for sharing your beautiful talents with us!**

## Money Matters

January was another one of those months that our treasurer, Art Davidson, wishes came more than four times a year. There were FIVE, count 'em, (5), Fridays and FIVE Sundays. Five paychecks (three if you are paid biweekly) certainly help pay the Christmas bills and the heat bills that our arctic weather ran up. This kind of month was also a good time to make a contribution to the church above and beyond your usual amount. It happens again in May. How about making a commitment **NOW** to return an extra increment to God in May? Not just a fifth check, but a larger check.

What's the church going to do with all that extra money you ask? Well, those dry monthly reports that Art Davidson puts together so carefully make it clear that there is no "extra" money. The church pays Pastor a salary, pays a mortgage of \$632.50 per week, buys Sunday School Quarterlies and AWANA materials as ministry expenses. We bribed men to sing in choir for Baptist Men's Day and Randy McElroy's licensing by buying, cooking, and feeding them tasty groceries the previous Saturday.

Christian vocabulary word of the month: **pledge** [plej] –noun



***a solemn promise or agreement to do or refrain from doing something***

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by Houghton Mifflin Company.

In the past, church members would *pledge* the amount of money they would contribute to the church's general fund in the coming year so a budget could be based on realistic revenue projections. The pledges were confidential. They might be submitted without a name or the identity would only be known to the financial secretary who keeps the donation records.

# Kid's Cove Corner



## 1 John 4:7

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who



*Decorate a plain Band-Aid for some Valentine fun!*



**C  
H  
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S**

Helpful Hands

Eager Smiles

Artfully Expressive

Raw Material

Trusting Souls

Singing Voices



## **Valentine Smile**

**On Valentine's Day we think of those  
Who make our lives worthwhile,  
Those gracious, friendly people who  
We think of with a smile.**

**I am fortunate to know you,  
That's why I want to say,  
To a rare and special person:  
Happy Valentine's Day!**

*By Joanna Fuchs*

# Ministry Team Ministrations

## Men's Fraternity

The Men's Fraternity will begin meeting in February here at the church on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month, starting at 9 am and lasting about an hour. It is a combination of self-examination, personal & spiritual growth.

*Bring your Bible and bring your thirst for learning about "The Quest for Authentic Manhood."*



## SHUT-IN MINISTRY

**"Now these three remain: Faith, Hope, and Love. But the greatest of these is Love"**  
*1 Corinthians 13:13*

Our **Shut In Ministry** team continues to contact those folks who, for one reason or another, are unable to worship and fellowship with us. We minister via telephone, cards, and visits to let them know we care. We had opportunity to spend a short time with **Irene Tucker-Riley** upon her return home in early January. Visits with **Cleo Allen, Vivian Prater, and Doris Larsen** are scheduled. Please keep these ladies in your hearts and prayers this Valentine season.

If you have an interest to serve in this ministry or if you know someone in our body in need of encouragement, please contact **Alice Potts (618.483.3126)** or **Nancy Byars (618.483.9826)**.



Several of our AWANA clubbers are moving ahead very quickly in storing God's Word in their hearts. All the children are having a wonderful time enjoying games, songs, theme nights, snacks, memory work and activities.

### How you can help

- Light snacks--If you can bring and serve a light snack on a Sunday evening for our AWANA clubbers, please contact Eeva Davidson at 483-6577.
- Financial Support--This is our hometown community mission, ministry and discipleship effort that is reaching our children to give them a foundation for a meaningful future with Jesus Christ.

your prayers are so important—all glory goes to God for AWANA successes!

## < 2010 Youth Events >

**The Youth Committee will soon announce events planned for 2010.**

***Stay tuned to the bulletin for announcements!***

# Church Administration

## Church Library

**Traffic** The foundation has been meticulously laid through the effort of Melvin Williams and the Library Committee. We have a tremendous variety of topics and materials just waiting for you to enjoy. *Please stop in today to select an item to enrich your life!*

**Self-Service Circulation** If you see something interesting simply sign it out on the library check out sheet you'll find on the library computer desk (aka circulation desk). When you return it, mark it as returned on the same sheet. Then place the item back on the shelf in numeric order.

**Monthly Spotlight** Watch the PowerPoint Announcements each month for the new round of library materials in the spotlight.

### Adult Midweek Programs

We invite you to attend Midweek Programs each Wednesday at 6:30 pm. The first week of each month we have a **Missions Night program**, and the third week we have our monthly **Business Meeting**. The remaining weeks we have **Prayer & Discipleship Training**, so please join us here on Wednesday nights!

### Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer need, update or praise for the weekly Prayer List, please drop off a note or email it to the office at: [secretary@altamontfirstbaptist.org](mailto:secretary@altamontfirstbaptist.org)



### Please call....

If you or someone you know is ill, injured, admitted to the hospital, and/or needs pastoral ministry, please call the Pastor, your deacon or any of the other deacons.

#### Pastor Lowell

483-3250 church  
483-5264 home  
618/553-5560 cell phone

Kieffer Milam	618/483-6374
Larry Riley	217/868-5751
Art Davidson	618/483-6577
Jim Pritchard	618/483-6810
Ron Hite	618/483-5058
Randy McElroy	618/245-9155
Duane Guffey	217/536-5727

### Church Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)

All church leaders are invited and encouraged to attend our CMLT meetings scheduled for 6 pm on the first Tuesday of every month.

Tuesday ~ February 2nd @ 6:00 pm  
(election day)

# Member Minutes

## Hospital/Remembrance Flowers

*If you have family hospitalizations or passings in February, please contact*

**Linda Riley**  
(217)868-5751 hm

or

**Angie McElroy**  
(618)245-9155 hm



## February Birthdays!

- 4 – Megan Donnelley
- 5 – Kenny Wright Jr
- 9 – Eydie Carruthers
- 14 – Cassandra Lambert
- 20 – Vivian Robertson
- 21 – Kim Hite
- 24—Tyler Hurst  
Zain Parker
- 25—Betty Duckwitz
- 26—Delores DuBois



## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our church family expresses Christian sympathy to:

Dallas & Charlene Sidwell & Family on the loss of his brother,  
Donald Sidwell.

## NEW MEMBERS

**Our church family welcomes new members**

**Wes Myers & Morse Hames!**

Happy Birthday to you!

Happy Birthday to you!

Happy Birthday! God Bless You!

Happy Birthday to you!

## Joining the Church

*You may become a member of our church by:*

1. **Profession of Faith & Baptism**—If you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and follow Him in baptism by immersion.
2. **Promise of Church Letter**—You can transfer your membership from another Southern Baptist Church or a church of like faith and order.
3. **Statement of Faith**—If you have already accepted Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior and have been baptized by immersion as a believer in a church of like faith and order.
4. **Baptism**—If you are a Christian but have never been baptized by immersion.

# Discipleship Team Doings

## Explore the Bible

If you haven't found a Bible study class, you're invited to "Explore the Bible" each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the church library. The class is a co-ed study for adults of all ages.

## Sunday School

We invite you to attend Bible study each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:00 am. It's a great place to learn, share, and strengthen your commitment to Christ.

**Classes are available for all ages!**

## Women's Bible Study

This ladies group meets every Tuesday at 2:00 pm at the Nancy Powell residence. Please join the group--this is a wonderful way to grow in the knowledge of God's Word.

# Fellowship Findings

The Fellowship Team met and "cooked up" some great ideas for food, fun, and fellowship, beginning with a Valentine's supper on Friday, February 12th, at 6:30 pm. We will be serving lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and some yummy deserts. We will revisit "The Newlywed Game", with Pastor and Mirta defending their title as Champions. If you would like to challenge their title, please see Janet Hunsaker. A sign-up sheet for food will be on the cart at the back doors, as we could use some bags of lettuce, salad fixins', and French bread.

Everyone please bring your wedding photo to display. We will have a game to guess whose photo it is. Comon"! Shake the winter blues, and join us for an evening of warmth, laughter, and supper with your church family.

*Janet Hunsaker*

## Sunday Morning Coffee Stop Service Change!

Beginning in February, Coffee Stop service will include freshly-brewed coffee from 8:30 - 8:45 am each Sunday morning. A light breakfast snack will be provided in the children's classrooms. *If you can start the coffee at 8:15 am please let Janet Hunsaker know!*

## Church Teams

*Our teams are led by the following dedicated individuals:*

Fellowship	Ministry	Missions & Evangelism	Worship & Music	Discipleship
Janet Hunsaker & Ethelyn Williams	Robin Heltsley	Linda Riley & Larry Riley	Dr. Mirta Donnelley	Dr. Lowell Donnelley & Paula Putnam

## Member of the Month



As I prepared to do my interview this month, I was excited by the fact that I'd heard my "interview-ee" mention "piloting an airplane". Since that has been my secret dream for the last 60 years, I knew I had to find out more about this lady!

Karen Sue (Durbin) Hyde was born April 6, 1942, at her parents' home in St. Elmo. "Home" was a round top cabin located at the site of the present Richardson Bros. Greenhouse. Karen's parents are Beryle and Reva Durbin. Her father Beryle worked in the oil fields, drove a plant truck for Richardson Bros and also did custom hauling jobs of grain, etc. except for the time when he served in World War II as a U.S. Army Ranger in Germany and Czechoslovakia. Reva, Karen's Mom, was mostly a stay-at-home Mom except when she worked in a restaurant while her husband was away in the Service. Karen has three sisters and two brothers. Karen is the oldest, Donna is two years younger; twins Joy and Joyce are five years younger, Albert is seven years younger and Earl is twenty-four years younger. Earl was somewhat of a surprise. Reva Durbin had been having some problems and was scheduled to have a hysterectomy but the doctor decided to do a pregnancy test before the surgery and - sure enough - it came back positive!!

Karen says she doesn't have a lot of memories of her pre-school years but she does remember the time when Grandma Lu Dicie Kelly came to stay and help care for the babies when the twins were born. Grandma got to use Karen's bed and Karen was delegated to a make-shift bed - "two chairs shoved together". However the roof happened to leak one night and Karen and her "bed" happened to be in the path of the dripping water. Karen protested that!! She also protested getting her picture taken with her Grandpa and Grandma the next summer, but even though Karen remembers that incident, she isn't sure why she didn't want her picture taken! Karen's father was called into the military in June of 1944 and while he was gone, Karen often would climb in a visitor's lap and say, "I've got a story-my Daddy is coming home today." It truly was a story - just wishful thinking on small Karen's part.

Karen's mother is still living. Her father passed away in 1994. Karen did have the rare distinction of having two grandmothers, four great grandmothers (both maternal and both paternal great-grandmothers) and two step great-grandfathers all living at the same time until she was 10 years old. She has a precious and unusual picture of four generations four ways of her family. She also knew both of her grandfathers. Karen says her family had the usual sibling "scraps" but they also took care of one another. Karen, being the oldest, was the boss most of the time. Karen's mother seldom knew how many would be there for a meal. Reva's brothers and sisters were around a lot so it was a busy household - and her brothers lived with them while the boys were in high school.

When Karen started school at St Elmo, Ms. Kramer was her first grade teacher. And she was a teacher that Karen really liked. Karen did have a problem though when it came to lunch time. The kids usually brought a sack lunch and could buy milk. It took Karen forever to eat her lunch. But the teacher discovered why Karen was so slow eating. Karen's mother was sending the same amount of sandwiches, etc. for the little first grader as she was sending for her own husband's lunch - and Karen could hardly get through it all before it was time to go back to class! Karen says she loved it when the school finally got a hot lunch program. Karen had been taught to eat and not complain - so she had no problems with the food served her. Karen loved going to school and liked to read very much. She says she did O.K. in school. When she was in the fourth grade, Karen started taking trumpet lessons but in the latter part of her fourth grade, her family moved out to a house in the country and there she attended a two room school - with no band lessons. When Karen reached seventh grade, changes were made in the school district and even though Karen lived in the country, she now attended the junior high which had been built on to the high school. That allowed Karen to get back into music. She played the French horn in both junior high and high school.

Karen says she learned early on not to complain about being bored in the summertime. Mom had a huge garden which could feed half the county and she welcomed helpers! But they also had a swing, a big yard, and a front porch to sit on. Neighborhood children would arrive to play before the Durbin children would get their breakfast finished - and the cousins would be there often. So you didn't have to work in the garden!! Karen says her family didn't have much money but they had cows, milk, pigs and chickens out there on the farm. Besides the big garden!

You were wanted and loved even though you had responsibilities because there were things to be done. Karen's parents sometimes took in other young people to live with them and attend school and this gave Karen and her siblings some significant lessons in reaching out to help others. One teen boy had gotten in trouble with the law and needed a place to stay. And a teen aged girl had gotten pregnant and been thrown out of her own home by her parents. Having these youth living with them were valuable teaching times for the Durbin children.

Karen says she remembers her Mom taking the kids to church from the earliest years. Karen's Dad was of the Methodist faith and lived a Christian life even though he rarely attended church but he never stopped Mom and the kids from going to the Baptist Church in St. Elmo. There at St. Elmo First Baptist Church, Karen and her siblings were active in Sunday school, VBS, GA's and GA Camp. Karen was well acquainted with Alice and Kenny Potts and Homer and Betty Gardner. Her Aunt Vera Rose Miller (then Craig) was also active there and then later in our own church at Altamont. Karen remembers that it was on Easter Sunday when she was ten years old that she gave her heart to Jesus there at St. Elmo First Baptist. Cecil Martin was the pastor at that time.

Karen always wanted to go to school and never made up excuses not to attend. She stayed active in the band and went to band contests in District and State and won a lot of ribbons (a good many of them were blue ones) with both the band and ensembles. As a part of the band, Karen attended every home football and basketball game and was in the Marching Band and Pep Bands for most athletic events. Her band group went to Chicago to take part in a Marching Band Contest at Soldiers' Field. Karen also took piano lessons in junior high and high school. From the early age of six or seven, Karen knew she wanted to be a nurse even though that meant she had to have two years of Latin for nurses' training. When Karen was in the eighth grade, she had a new Math teacher at St Elmo Junior High School. His name was Melvin Williams. Karen says Math was not her greatest subject – making somewhere less than stellar grades, she says, - but Melvin Williams certainly did his best to make her an A student!

Karen graduated from High School in 1960 and that summer she cleaned houses for a couple of older ladies. In the fall of 1960 she enrolled in the Missouri Baptist School of Nursing in St. Louis and shared a dorm room with another girl there on campus. The school was very protective of their young nurses-in-training. The girls had to be in by 10 o'clock when they were freshmen. No one seemed to have a lot of money to do outside activities. One interesting program consisted of a "tea" with "pretend moms". At the tea, they were introduced to local Baptist women who would be a pretend mom to the nursing students – sometimes a one-time event and sometimes an ongoing situation. Karen was lucky and got a whole new family. Not only did she gain pretend parents – Chris and Lola Long – but she also gained two pretend brothers, a pretend aunt and uncle and a pretend grandma. The pretend Dad would pick her up and she would spend weekends with them. They even brought her home to St. Elmo and visited her real family on the farm. The pretend brothers certainly enjoyed the farm. Karen says you could get awfully homesick and tired of the dorm without the pretend family. Karen's pretend parents became the third set of grandparents for the Durbin children.

Karen was in Nurses' Training for three years. During Karen's senior year, Karen's sister Donna was in the Air Force and Karen decided to go into the Air Force also. She had had her physical and even went over to Scott Air Force Base but Karen says there were some things going on at home that helped her decide to stay in St. Louis and work at Missouri Baptist Hospital. She worked nights in the psychiatric ward. I asked Karen how it was to work in that ward and she said since it was a private hospital they didn't have chronic long term patients but she admits that the treatments they used might now be considered cruel. Also there were none of the medicines available that we have in use now. From 1963 to 1965, Karen worked at Missouri Baptist Hospital.

In 1963, Karen met an orderly working at the hospital named Noel Hyde. Or as Karen put it – a "disorderly" orderly! They started dating and were married in July of 1964. At that time Karen was working in the Psychiatric Unit at Missouri Baptist. Noel decided he wanted to go back to Engineering School at Rolla, MO. So Karen got a job at Phelps County Hospital in Rolla.

At the end of May 1965, Noel enrolled in a work study program in which he spent the summer in Ohio working for Ford Motor Company. Karen and a girlfriend shared an apartment in St. Louis that summer. Karen says she and Noel had a \$100 phone bill for one month. At that time that was a lot of money.

That summer she worked at Missouri Pacific Railroad Hospital and then when she had four day weekends, she would drive to Ohio to see Noel. That fall when he came back to Engineering School at Rolla, Karen got a job at the Pulaski County Hospital in Waynesville, MO. In January of 1966, when Noel went back to Ohio – Karen went with him. There she worked at Fostoria City Hospital in an Ohio town about the size of Effingham. At this hospital Karen worked in a variety of areas – Women’s Surgery – General Medicine/Surgery and Labor & Delivery.

In 1966 when Noel went back to Rolla, Karen was expecting a baby and decided she wanted to have her baby in a bigger hospital. So she and her friend Theresa got a house in Kirkwood and they worked at St. Joseph’s Hospital. Noel would then travel from Rolla to Kirkwood and Karen would see a doctor in St. Louis. She developed a severe back pain and had to be hospitalized twice before the baby was born. But on May 15 – when Noel was studying for final exams – Noel Anthony - weighing 9 pounds 15 1/2 ounces and measuring 23 inches long - was born. This was the first grandson for both families. After two months Karen went back to work at St. Joseph’s and then she worked at Fort Leonard Wood at the Army Hospital until April of 1968. Noel was in his last semester of school when the doctor told Karen she had to quit working because of some problems that developed during Karen’s second pregnancy. In 1967 and 1968 Karen was not working and money was very tight. Noel was to go to California to work but since Karen was expecting again soon, the doctor said Karen could not go to California. So Karen and toddler Tony stayed a month with her parents and then stayed two weeks with Noel’s parents until baby daughter, Wendy, arrived – weighing 8 pounds 9 ounces and 21 inches long.

Karen’s sister Joy was going to California so she flew with Karen and the two children (14 months apart in age) to San Diego. Karen and Noel lived at Santa Anna, CA while he worked for North American Rockwell. They came home for Christmas in 1969 but then found that a company in St. Louis had gotten the bid for the manufacture of a new fighter plane. Because North America Rockwell had lost the bid for the fighter, they reduced their work force; however, they did keep Noel on until June of 1970. At that time Noel and Karen moved to Concord, CA where Noel worked for the Federal Government in the General Services Administration and Karen went to work at Community Hospital in Walnut Creek on the evening shift. A neighbor would keep the kids until Noel got home from work. Noel was employed there in CA for 1 1/2 years.

Then in December of 1971 Noel was transferred to Washington, DC and the Hydes moved to northern Virginia. Karen found employment as a Contract Nurse in Federal Agencies and then got on as an Employee Health Nurse for the Washington Post Newspaper. This, Karen found, was a totally different kind of nursing. Previously when Karen had worked in hospitals, the situation was that the patient was sick in the hospital and the nurse directed the nursing services. At the Washington Post newspaper, the employees directed their own health care and went to the nurses for their nursing services. Karen put it this way, “From heart burn to heart attack – to broken hearts to paper cuts to amputated limbs - all the way from board of director to the common worker.” Karen also became company leader for the Alcoholic Anonymous Group and had two recovering alcoholics leading with her. “Then”, Karen says, “Those were the days when OSHA was checking in on everything. And the work was certainly varied. We had to help the employees want our services – there were hearing losses and back injuries, problems that stemmed from computer use and also labor management relations. Also Watergate made it an interesting time in Washington, DC!”

From the years of 1967 to 1974, Karen and Noel and family were not regular in going to a church. Then on Memorial Day of 1974, a neighbor invited them to attend the Church of God in northern Virginia. When the Hydes had visited different churches before this, they just didn’t seem to fit into any of the congregations. However, this Church of God seemed different. This was a church that taught the Word of God and the people seemed to practice it also. The pastor seemed to be a real man of God and so Karen and Noel took part in the choir and the kids soon got active there also. However in the late 70’s, Noel seemed to question his faith and stopped going to church with his family. Karen and the kids continued to go- Karen continued to invite Noel to go with them every time.

About that time Noel got a job offer to go to Connecticut. That Sunday Noel put on a white shirt and went to church with them and a big change occurred in his life. When they moved to Connecticut, they attended church the first Sunday there with a friend who had invited them to go to the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church. However, it was this pastor’s last Sunday.

After that the Hydes visited some other churches for almost a year but Karen says some of them were preaching strange (even scary) things and even the kids were uncomfortable. Then in 1981 the new Pastor of the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church (where they had visited) ran across their names in a list of previous visitors and contacted them. He invited them back to church and invited the kids to go on a canoe trip with the youth group. The Hydes went back to that church and that was the beginning of a very active period of serving the Lord. Noel and Karen became youth leaders and much enjoyed service in that area.

In the spring of 1980, Karen had read an article about a new program, "Occupational Health and Safety Program" which interested her very much. So she enrolled in classes at the University of New Haven in January 1981. This was quite a shock – Karen is now 40 years old, the first nurse to enter the program, from a small town and here she is on an urban campus with hundreds of students – all those kids! And there was a big difference – it was her money this time, not her parents, and she still had her family to care for and the school work to keep up! It was scary!!

In 1976 when she had been working a shift of 24 hours on and 24 hours off and Noel had worked extra, they had a little extra money. Noel decided he wanted to learn to fly an airplane. Karen agreed to that on one condition. "It's O.K. if you learn to fly - if I can learn to fly also. I want to be able to handle the plane if something happens to you while we're up in the air." Between the book learning and the flying time, it took Karen about a year to learn to fly. She said Noel learned a little quicker – Karen was somewhat shaky. She confesses that the radios "drove her up the wall – I hated them." But her instructor worried more about Karen learning to fly simply because she was a mother with two children down on the ground! Karen says she loved to fly. She loved the precision of the take-offs and landings. She flew several types – the Cessna 152, the Cessna 172 (with the kids along) and a Cherokee Beechcraft. She says her scariest flight came one day after she had "soloed" but hadn't received her license. Karen said everything went well - the pre-flight, taxi-ing down the runway and the take-off – but suddenly the instrument showing her altitude indicated that she was flying underground! The needle was going "flip flop"! Karen was able to land the plane safely, exclaiming, "There's something wrong with this plane!" When the instructor and mechanic checked the plane over, they found that the altitude tube had been left uncovered and water had gotten into the tube! When this problem was taken care of, the instructor asked if she wanted to go up again. Karen assured him that she did, knowing she'd better fly again soon or she'd probably never fly again. Incidentally, the airfield that they flew out of there in Maryland was called Hyde Field!

The Hydes lived in Connecticut for two years and then in 1982, Noel felt that the Lord was calling him to go back to school – to seminary. Noel applied at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in northern Illinois. He had the choice of four locations. He found that the deadline for the application to Trinity was already past but when he got a call from the Dean telling him he could start in September, Noel was sure he'd made the right choice. July of 1982 found them looking for a place to live in northern IL. They sold a lot of their belongings, got a moving truck and headed back to Illinois with two kids, a dog and two cats. Karen said the next several months were difficult financially. Noel worked for a cleaning service and for a farmer who had a pumpkin patch. Karen worked as a nurse for a non-profit agency. Christmas of 1983, Noel came home from school with a box of groceries. It contained a box of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese and Karen cried – it had been a long time since she'd been able to afford that! The summer of 1984, they were invited by a church to go back to Connecticut and preach there. As Karen carefully checked out the mileage and their money, she knew that they didn't have enough money to buy the gas to get them there. On the day of departure, a letter and a check arrived from the church that had invited them. Karen had told no one how much money the trip would cost but the check was for the exact amount they needed. The Lord had provided their needs.

In May of 1985, Karen learned that her 16 year old daughter, Wendy, was pregnant and wanted to get married. After a family conference and much prayer, Noel and Karen arranged for the chaplain from the VA Hospital to do the ceremony for Wendy and Buddy in July. Their daughter Brandy was born the following January. Buddy, Wendy and Brandy lived with Noel and Karen until April and Wendy finished high school with home schooling. Just after they learned that their landlord was going to raise the rent, a church in Chicago offered them the use of their parsonage if they would do the janitorial work at the church. So Tony, Noel and Karen went to live in the parsonage and Buddy, Wendy and daughter moved into an apartment.

When the church called a new pastor in August of 1989, Noel and Karen moved into an apartment but stayed - wanting to help with a church plant. When they decided to leave the church plant, they moved into a basement apartment owned by some friends. There they experienced Chicago – they were active in the Northwest Alliance Church and held different church offices. By 2002 the church had closed because attendance was so small and the Hydes moved to Wooddale.

By this time Karen was working in a nursing capacity for Children’s Home & Aid Society of Illinois where she was employed for thirteen years. Here she cared for the children under their charge. In 2003 Noel and Karen came back to St. Elmo to visit her sister Joyce. At that time they were trying to decide if they wanted to retire. After they returned home, they received a call from Karen’s brother- “Were you serious about coming down here? I’ve found a house and 15 acres that is being foreclosed on.” Noel came down, talked to the owner about repairs that needed done on the house and then returned again for the auction. Noel was the only bidder. The Hydes now owned property south of Altamont. But certain repairs had to be done and some were jobs they paid someone else to do. Such as putting in the propane hook-up, putting in the furnace and A/C, and putting in a new kitchen countertop. Then Karen and Noel moved into the house in 2008. Karen says they have been richly blessed. They have a daughter, a son, a son-in-law and four wonderful grandkids, Karen’s Mother is still living in Hartford, Alabama and all of Karen’s siblings are still living.

Karen says they first visited the Christian Church but it didn’t feel like a comfortable fit even though her Aunt Vera attended there. So they decided to try Altamont First Baptist Church and found that Karen already knew some of the people attending: Ross Koberlein whom Karen had known from their youth, her former Math teacher, Melvin Williams and a friend, Alice Potts, who had attended the St. Elmo church where Karen had grown up. She said she felt like they got such a warm welcome and were just enfolded into the group at FBC where they experienced the different gifts and needs of members.

Karen says that she feels that major changes in society were begun by “man into space in 1961”. The whole world was impacted in so many ways. Karen says, “One thing I see that saddens me is the lack of respect for self and others. If you show no respect for yourself in dress, speech, attitude and care of self, you rarely show respect for others. This shows even in our churches. You can care for yourself even if you’re not wealthy. I truly thank God that he had enough respect for me to send His Son – if He could do that for me, I certainly should have respect for myself and , in turn, for others.” When I asked Karen what she felt was her proudest accomplishment, she said, “Professionally, the job at the newspaper and the job at Children’s Home & Aid. I was involved in the growth of both of those programs - from the basics to the completed programs. We went from 10 to 20 shifts of nursing at the newspaper. The Children’s Center went from no medical records to a complete medical record system”.

Karen’s most Cherished Memory? “Noel asking me to marry him. If anyone had told me that I would love and experience the things we’ve done, I would say they were dreaming. The Lord has provided and led in a wonderful way. I’ve had a full life. Our first date was really a proclamation of what our life would be. From the banquet we had, to the roller coaster rides at Forest Park Highlands in St Louis (we closed out the place that night) and then had sandwiches and sodas at the home of some friends! We’ve had fabulous friends, fun, adventure – yes, even a few ups and downs – but the Lord has directed it all. What more could you ask for?!” When I asked Karen how she would like people to remember her, she said, “I’d like to be remembered as a Christian woman who cares about others. I’d like to be remembered as a nurse, a mother, a friend – someone in the community who really cares about others. God has been so good to us. My favorite verses in the Bible are John 3:16 and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.”

I knew as I finished my interview with Karen that I would continue to hold close my dream of flying an airplane and Karen would go on helping others – whether it’s as a nurse or as a disaster relief worker (Yes, she’s done that too!) She’s a giving person!!