

THE MESSENGER

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SEPTEMBER 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

Illinois Offering and Season of Prayer ~ September 12-19

Did you know nearly 100 Southern Baptist missionaries serve in our state, and they need and depend on our prayer and giving support? These missionaries are here to start new churches and strengthen existing churches. Your gift to the Illinois Missions Offering will help start 30 new churches, train 22,500 church leaders, and provide support for a dozen associational directors of missions. Missions is not just across the country or overseas. It is right here in Illinois where 8.2 million people are lost.

Now that you’ve read about the Illinois Missions Offering, will you pray about how much you and your family will give? Please consider giving the best gift you have ever given to state missions to help reach lost people here in Illinois.

In His Service,

Pastor Lowell

September AM Sermon Series

In September, Pastor Lowell will continue our study of Ecclesiastes entitled, **“Searching for Heaven on Earth.”** Solomon wrote this book to answer the question, *“Why does life seem meaningless?”* The remaining message titles are:

September	5	When Life Is Puzzling	Ecclesiastes 7:15-29
September	12	How to Know If You’re Wise	Ecclesiastes 8:1-17
September	19	Making Every Day Meaningful	Ecclesiastes 9:1-18
September	26	Working God’s Way	Ecclesiastes 10:1-20



In October, Pastor Lowell will begin a new sermon series entitled, **Your Job: Survival or Satisfaction?**

Adult Sunday Evening Devotions

On Sunday evenings from 4:30-5:00 pm we'll have a brief devotion and prayer time. All those available to help with AWANA are encouraged to stay and help with the children's Bible memory work at 5:30 pm.

First Baptist Church of Altamont Service Teams

Our teams are led by the following dedicated individuals:

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

Fellowship Findings

I am excited to lead the fellowship team again this year. I am blessed to be working with the most kind, loving, hardworking, generous, and fun people in the church. We have many fun activities planned for this year.

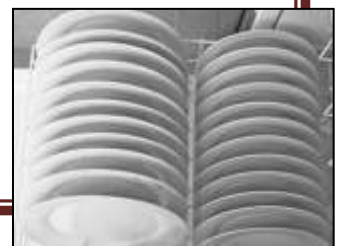
Because of the financial difficulties our church is experiencing at this time, we are trying to cut costs wherever we can. Fried chicken will no longer be purchased for our fellowship or funeral meals. Instead, a meat or meat main dishes will be added to our signup sheets. This should not be a problem at all as we have so many great and willing cooks in our congregation.

Another costly item is paper plates. The sturdy ones that we need are quite expensive. I found some nice, large, white, pottery plates at WalMart for \$1.75 each that would be a perfect addition to our kitchen. If you would like to contribute to our plate fund, please see me. I will be happy to purchase them tax exempt for you. We have ten already and are excited to watch the stack grow higher.

We pray that our fellowships together will help our church family grow closer and stronger in the Lord.

Thank you everyone for your support throughout the year.

Janet Hunsaker



Ministry Team Ministrations

September 2010 Youth Activity

The trip for September 25th will be to go to the St. Louis Mills Mall. If you have someplace else you would like to go, let Marsha or Nicholas Pritchard know as soon as possible.



NURSERY

We are blessed to have infants through 2-yr-olds in our church nursery on a regular basis these days. If you are willing to help watch these little darlings during Sunday School, worship service or special events, please let the office know.

If you have a heart for this ministry area and have a few minutes each week to oversee its functions, please contact the church office.



SHUT-IN MINISTRY

Enjoy your Labor Day Holiday! God's Word speaks to us about Labor.

Whatever your hand finds to do, verily, do it with all your might.... Ecclesiastes 9:10

Here are just a few scriptural brain teasers for you....

1. How many windows and doors did Noah's ark have?
2. What construction project did Nehemiah bring to a successful conclusion despite the mocking and threats of enemies?
 - a) the tower of David
 - b) the temple
 - c) King Solomon's palace
 - d) the wall of Jerusalem
3. What builder's tool did God show Amos to indicate Israel's coming judgment?
 - a) a chisel
 - b) a hammer
 - c) a trowel
 - d) a plumb line
4. What two grains did Ruth glean?
5. What agricultural term did Jesus use to describe the soul-winners' goal?
6. What coin did the householder agree to pay each laborer for a day's work in his vineyard?
7. What "Y" word does Jesus use in the following passage? "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, ... for my _____ is easy and my burden is light."

Answers 1) one of each (Genesis 6:16) 2) d (Nehemiah 1:1-3, 6:15) 3) d (Amos 7:1-9) 4) barley and wheat (Ruth 2:23) 5) harvest (Luke 10:1-2) 6) penny, or denarius (Matthew 20:2) 7) yoke (Matthew 11:28, 30)

Our **Shut In Ministry** team recently visited with **Vivian Prater** and **Cleo Allen**, as well as **Sybil Wooldridge**, **Bob Atchison**, and **Jonathan Clymer** at the Lutheran Care Center. We are always blessed by these visits and ask that you remember them in prayer for health needs, comfort and encouragement.

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)**.

Evangelism & Missions Mentions

Illinois State Mission Offering



100% of gifts to the IMO will be used within the state to:

- Support nearly 100 Illinois missionaries
- Start 30 new Southern Baptist churches and support several dozen new churches started the previous two years
- Initiate ministries on 10 additional Illinois college campuses while supporting current ministries on 30 campuses
- Train 22,500 leaders of existing IBSA churches in priority church ministries
- Provide salary support for 12 Associational Directors of Missions and partner with all 34 Illinois Baptist Associations as they assist their churches in reaching their communities
- Mobilize mission volunteers in at least 200 IBSA churches

Worship & Music Team Wonderings

Music Notes

I had a great summer, and I hope you did too. It is time to get back into the swing of things and that means resuming all of our music activities in the church. We will have our first choir practice on Wednesday September 15th, at 7:30pm. I will need a lot of help since Marcia and Patty are not available to help me as we start.

God is good and provided us two pianists: Megan as praise band keyboardist and Sharon Siebert as the hymn accompanist. Thank you, ladies for your dedication to the Lord's work.

On September 15th, at 6:30 pm, we will resume guitar lessons for children. Unfortunately I will not be able to pick up students at their homes since I teach piano lessons until 6 pm. It will be up to the parents to get the kids here at 6:30 pm.

I am looking forward to another great year in the life of our church.

In Christ,

Mirta



Drama Delights

We have some new members on the Drama Team this year, and I can't wait to enlist them.

In September, we will be doing the drama, "**Too Late**". Jesus is coming again. Some take it seriously, and others don't. Some are ready, and others are not. Some will be taken, and others, as in this drama, will be left behind.

We hope to see you there on Drama Sunday to experience this performance.



Discipleship Doings

Women's Bible Study

This ladies group will resume sometime this September on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm at the Nancy Powell residence. Watch the bulletin for a date. All are welcome--this is a wonderful way to grow in the knowledge of God's Word.

TREK < Jr/Sr High Bible Study >

6:30-7:30pm on Wednesdays

Starting September 8th!

The turbulent years of middle & high school...this great program begins to guide you through....

Roadsign Series

Part 1 helps students get where they're going by walking through the Bible – Genesis through Revelation. Part 2 is a study dealing with the trials, temptations, and tough times of the Christian life.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

On Wednesday evenings in September Pastor Lowell will begin an in-depth study of Jesus' **Sermon on the Mount** in Matthew chapters five through seven.



Sundays from 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Open to age 4 through grade 6.

Cubbies Hoppers Celebrations for preschool ages 4 & 5

Sparks WingRunner, Kindergarten

HangGlider, 1st grade

SkyRunner, 2nd grade

T & T Ultimate Adventure, Book 1 ~ 3rd grade

Ultimate Adventure Book 2 ~ 4th grade

Ultimate Challenge, Book 1 ~ 5th grade

Ultimate Challenge, Book 2 ~ 6th grade

A blend of music, drama, snacks, open discussion, prayer lessons, mission awareness, gospel message, object lessons, games and more await our clubbers each week.

Sunday School

We invite you to attend Bible study each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

Classes are available for all ages!

Nursery care is provided.



Church Administration

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 ~ September 7th @ 6:00 pm

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 **Bible Study**, so please join us here on Wednesday nights!

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer need, update or praise for the church Prayer List, please drop off a note or email it to the office at:

secretary@altamontfirstbaptist.

Your Church Library

Has God laid a particular issue on your heart lately? Check out our new topic areas labeled in the church library to see if we have material that would be helpful to you.

We are blessed to have a good variety of items for you to use at your leisure!

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

Christian Security Network Training Event

Watch the bulletin for the announcement of the September webinar topic and dates.



Member Minutes

September

Hospital/Remembrance Flowers

If you have family hospitalizations or passings this month, please contact:



Kim Hite
(618)483- 5058 hm

Evea Davidson
(618)483-6577

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our church family expresses Christian sympathy to:

Sandy & Cyndi Cornett & Family at the loss of her brother, Tim Brooks.

Eugene Dye & Family at the loss of two of his uncles, Gary Lamb & Richard Dye.

Gilbert & Sharon Siebert & Family at the loss of his mother, Lorna Siebert.

Robert, Bryan & Danielle Hite & Family at the loss of their mother, Mary Roedl.

Kenny & Paulean Ramsey & Family at the loss of his sister, Peggy Troutman.



September Birthdays!

- 5 – Mindy Bowman
- 6 – Desiree Harris
- 13 – Nancy Powell
- 14 – Kenny Wright, Sr
- 17 – Patty Mathis
- 18 – Jon Clymer
- 19 – Vicki Milam
- 22 – Mary Ingram
- 27 – Chris Frazier
- 28—Sharon Casselman
- 29—Caroline Cannon
- 30—Lisa Crum

NEW MEMBERS

Our church family welcomes new member Maxine Hites!

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.

Member of the Month



This month I interviewed one of our newer church members who has already become an important part of our praise team.

Jo Ann (Woolever) Huskey was born at the Mattoon Hospital on October 24, 1954. Her parents are David and Kathryn Woolever. However, Kathryn passed away at the age of 56 when Jo was 34 and David remarried. Jo's stepmother's name is Shirley. Jo has an older sister, Janet, and a younger brother, Lynn. For most of her life, Jo lived on a farm north of Greenup. Her father farmed and also worked in the Blaw-Knox factory in Mattoon. The family moved to Mattoon for a few years to be closer to the factory so Jo started first grade in the Mattoon grade school. But when she was in the second grade, they moved back to the farm. At one time Greenup had a grade school and a high school but those buildings are no longer standing. The schools of Greenup, Toledo, and Jewett were consolidated and became Cumberland Elementary, Jr. High and High School. Jo's parents were the first graduates of the Cumberland High School and Jo was in the first class to graduate from Cumberland Junior High School. Jo said she has bad memories and good memories of her school days there. She remembers the day one of the teachers told the pupils that President Kennedy had been assassinated. On a brighter note, she was elected cheerleader when she was in the sixth grade and continued being a cheerleader through high school. Jo says she was an average student – was long on common sense and shorter in book learning! She made A's in bookkeeping, shorthand and typing. Although she took two years of shorthand she says she rarely uses it now. However, her rapid typing is a valuable asset. She also played the flute and piccolo and took some piano lessons. (However her desire was to sit down and play beautiful music without lessons. Since she can't do that, she sings instead!!)

Jo says their farmhouse was located on a hilltop and although they didn't have air conditioning they put a fan in the window and lived comfortably. There was almost always a breeze on that hilltop. For the first few years the house didn't have modern plumbing, but Jo's parents were able to modernize the house. Jo shared a bedroom with her older sister until she was a freshman. Then after much begging, she was able to talk her parents into letting her "create" a bedroom (because she couldn't get along with her sister)! Jo's bedroom was a very small room at the top of the stairs that had been mostly used for storage. Jo happily claimed it as her very own. Jo loves the fall season and orange is one of her favorite colors, so she painted the room - - orange. "Allis-Chalmers" Orange, as a matter of fact! And the room remained that color as long as Jo lived with her parents.

Jo and her brother and sister were in 4-H from the time Jo was nine until she was seventeen. Her parents decided the children should have different projects so they did not compete with one another. So her sister Janet took cattle as her project, her brother Lynn had pigs as his project, and Jo took sheep as her project. Jo loved those sheep. Her cousin taught her the fine art of caring for, grooming, and showing the Corriedale sheep. Of course Jo made pets of some of the sheep – especially one little orphan lamb she called "Annie". Orphan Annie followed her like a dog and would come when Jo called her. Jo showed championship lambs and received many blue ribbons as well as the showmanship award with her sheep. She sold sheep and wool and made enough money to buy her own school clothes.

After graduating from high school, Jo got married and worked while her husband went on to college. She worked at Ferrell Hospital in Eldorado, IL; then worked in the surgical department at Mattoon hospital. A son, Chuck, was born and then a daughter, Kathryn "Katie" was born. When the marriage failed, Jo decided to go on to college.

She attended St. Mary of the Woods College in Indiana, majoring in Business Administration. She did well, making all A's! Jo started working in a doctor's office in 1975. She first worked in the clinical side assisting the doctor, putting the patients into rooms, etc. Then when she filled in for a co-worker in the business side of the office work, she found that she preferred that kind of work. Jo worked in several different doctors' offices in Toledo, Charleston and Effingham.

In 1986 Jo went to work in Effingham for Dr. Kollinger and the Kollinger family, working in both the medical practice, managing his office, and the family business, a durable goods business involving hospital beds and chairs. Then in 1991, Jo decided to go into a consulting business for herself. This consulting practice involves not only overseeing the office force but also recruiting and hiring of personnel, decorating, building construction, project manager and dealing with state and federal agencies, etc. for various doctors in this area. In 1994 while she was working as project manager for the Surgical Center that she met Drs. Haller and Whightsel who own the Effingham OB-Gyn Practice in Effingham. She now works mostly with the OB-Gyn Center as a Practice Administrator.

When Jo was attending the Senior Expo in Olney in 2003 working on an Assisted Living Project, she met Donald Huskey who was working for the State Department of Aging. Their booths were next to each other and that led to a friendship which resulted in their marriage on April 4 of 2004. (04-04-04 at 4 PM!!) In 2005 Jo and Don had a house built for them which Jo says "was built by the same builder who did one of the mansions on the hill on Rt. 32-33!" Don and Jo's house is in the Green Creek area, a secluded area overlooking the Little Wabash River.

Jo says her parents took her to church from the time she was small, and she became a Christian during a two week revival when she was ten years old. She was baptized in the Embarras River at Greenup. It was a small country church – the Jack Oak Church of God – and Jo began her singing career there. When she lived in Effingham, Jo attended the Christian Church and was active there. She loved singing with Bro Beebe. However after his retirement and under the leadership of a new pastor, the Christian Church seemed to do less singing – so Jo and Don started visiting various churches. They began visiting at the First Baptist Church of Altamont, and Jo says they received such a warm welcome. She was also drawn to the teaching/preaching style of Bro. Lowell and because she loves to sing, she enjoys it when we sing all the verses of a song! She says singing is a very important part of her life. Jo and Don joined our church on Easter Sunday, April 4 of 2010 and we promptly put her to work as part of the praise team. She also does an occasional solo and sings with the choir. Janet Hunsaker has even gotten Don involved in a drama or two!

I asked Jo what changes in the world had affected her life, and she says she believes that one good change that has taken place is people's attitude toward a divorced person. Jo said, "I was a single Mom for 15 years. I'm a very independent person and I never doubted that I would make it. I never had to rely on food stamps or welfare but worked to provide for myself and my two children. It used to be that a divorced person was not welcome in church and that being divorced carried a social stigma. But when a person is going through a divorce and trying to make a life for themselves it is just the time when life is hardest and just the time when you need somebody most. One not so good change is that parents are not instilling a strong sense of responsibility in the children of today. Kids are given too much and this gives them an 'entitlement attitude'. This in turn results in young people not treating the older people with respect as they should."

When I asked Jo what was her proudest accomplishment she quickly said, "I raised a couple of great kids. They are responsible adults and excellent parents."

And then there's the grand children – My daughter, Katie, has two girls, Macie and Kierstyn and my son, Chuck, has two daughters, Taylor and Becca Jo. Chuck will remarry in the fall, so I will inherit two more grandchildren. We go to the grandkids' ball games, etc. Don has a son, Donald, by a previous marriage. Donald is serving in Afghanistan.”

When I asked Jo to tell me about her most cherished memory, she said she was very close to her grandparents and spent a lot of time with them. “My grandpa on my father's side would take a lunch hour break and lie down on the floor in front of the door to catch the breeze. I always curled up beside him and took a nap along with him. I also sat by Grandpa at church. He always had Doublemint gum and I can still hear him singing, “Amazing Grace”.

I asked Jo what she would like future generations to remember about her, and she said, “That I believe in answered prayer and miracles. I've seen them in my own life. I do hope people will forget my mistakes and just remember the good in me!”

Jo says she has a few hobbies. She collects ducks and dabbles in wild flower arranging. And she sings! And she says she loves dogs. “They are my babies. We have four Labrador retrievers that are indoor/outdoor dogs. I tell Don I really married him for his dog, Shadow. I work a lot of hours at my job, but I'm not a workaholic. I take pride in my work and love my job but it is a job I can walk away from.”

I think in Jo Huskey we have found a warm heart with many facets. Caring for people, a love for older folk as well as young folk, independent and responsible, and one who loves to sing praises to her Lord. I'm so glad she's a part of us at Altamont First Baptist!