

Salina Heights Christian Church



Youth Update

Ahhh, Thanksgiving was a blast. Spending time with God and family and friends, that's what life is all about! We have so much to be thankful for as we enter this season of holidays with the celebration of Jesus' birth just around the corner. It's a great time of year! We'd love to have your middle or high school student come check out youth group on Wednesdays from 6:45 to 8:00 pm!

Here are some upcoming events that we'd like you to know about:

United at the City – Wednesday Dec. 9th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

We will be going as a group again to the City this month for UNITED! This is a great time where our youth group can get together with other youth groups and be a part of the larger body of Christ for the evening. It's packed with great worship, and an awesome speaker, along with everything the City Student Center has to offer! So come on out and have a great time with us!

Youth Christmas Party/Last Youth Group of the Year!

Wednesday December 16th 6:45 – 8:00 PM

This is going to be our last youth group for the semester. We're going to have snacks and games and just celebrate our amazing God as we enter into the season of Jesus' birth!

No Youth Group December 23rd or 30th

We just want to encourage you all to have a great Christmas break with your families and we'll see you again at youth group on January 6th!

A little further on the horizon . . .

Living Pants Up in a Pants Down World – Purity Retreat

Friday 7:00 PM to Saturday 3:00 PM – January 29th and 30th

This year, the Salina Youth Ministers Alliance is putting on it's semi-annual purity retreat at the Webster Conference Center. We are planning on taking as many of our students as we can! This is a great opportunity for your students to hear about how God cares about our purity and treating others in a godly manner in our dating and love lives.

The cost for this retreat is only \$20 if we register by January 11th. There will be more information on this in the coming weeks, again this is a great opportunity to start a discussion with your students that can help them learn how to live pants up in a pants down world!

If you have any questions you can contact Micah at micah@salinaheights.com or you can reach him at 823-7050.

DATE NIGHT UPDATE

There will be no official "date night" evening in December. Couples are encouraged to be creative in choosing venue to get away from some of the extra stress of the holidays. To help couples do this, the **Singles Ministry** is offering **FREE babysitting** on Saturday, December 19, from 8:30 am until noon. Call Monica Englehardt at 643-5464 to reserve your place. There are 25 spots available for children under 10 years of age. Children over 10 are welcome, but will be encouraged to be helpers. Activities include crafts, games, and a mid-morning snack. One more thing - parents are asked to stay in Salina for this outing!

Upcoming Events

New Year Game Night - January 15
At the home of Kyle & Denise Martin
Sweetheart Banquet - February
(More details coming soon!)
Let's Go Fly a Kite Family Day -
March 20 at the old airport on
Markley Road

Future Link . . .

- **December 16**
Caroling 6-8pm
- **December 19**
Free babysitting - Reservations required
- **January 15**
New Year Game Night
Date Night



Outreach Link . . .

Join Danae and the Elementary Sunday School classes in reaching out to our missionary families and servicemen.

They will be collecting items for each family and will try to get it mailed so that they receive the gifts sometime in January.

To find out how YOU can give generously this Christmas, contact Danae Houser or your child's Sunday School teacher.

Mission Link . . .

GREGORY & RONDY OHRENBERG PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise God for keeping us safe through an earthquake and two tsunamis!

Pray for continued protection, especially during hurricane season which begins in November.

Pray that our work permits will be granted soon.

Also continue to pray for Darrel and Cindy Boyd, Aaron and Jennifer Vesterberg, and Matthew and Heather Carder as these members of the SHCC family serve in far-away places.



Do You Hear the Trees?

Read Psalm 96:1-13

Does your Christmas tree talk to you? You say you can't hear it. Okay, put your ear right up to a branch. WAIT! WAIT!! Do not try this with a live tree. The sap gets into your ear, which makes it hard to remove the needles. WAIT! WAIT!! Maybe this is a bad idea with an artificial tree too. No use making the ER personnel unduly merry as they try to extract a Christmas light from your ear canal. And whatever you do, don't tell anyone you were listening to your tree. They will admit you for observation. For a long time.

All seriousness aside, today's Psalm points us to that festive day when the Maple Tabernacle Chorus will join ranks with the Cottonwood Chorale and the Sycamore Singers to praise Jesus. Not that we haven't made a commercialized attempt to simulate this upcoming event.



801 E Cloud / Salina, KS 67401
785-823-7050
email: shcc@salinaheights.com
website: www.salinaheights.com

But revolving Christmas tree stands emitting artificial Christmas carols is not what the Psalm writer had in mind.

Why in the world would trees want to sing? Maybe it's because they can't play the accordion. More likely, it's the same reason that motivates little kids to sing from their hearts (rather than their vocal chords) and youth groups to venture into neighborhood caroling. Or maybe it's just because forests are so quiet. Of course, the real reason is that Jesus' next coming will be even more reason for joy than His first, when only the angels sang.

With the splendor of Christmas upon us, it might be hard to think of anything better. However, our earthly Christmas celebrations are tainted. The clichés have soured, as the reality of real life—sin-sickened life—sets in. "Peace on Earth" remains only a dream. "Goodwill toward all people" is more a condition mandated by legislation than an attitude of the heart. Green reminds us not only of wreaths and garlands but also of Grinches. Oh, oh. Looks like we're getting stung by the humbug.

The Bible says, ". . . the sting of death is sin" (1 Corinthians 15:56 NIV). Sin sometimes gets pushed to the background during the holiday season, except when we see its dramatic effect in reruns of *A Christmas Carol*. Yet, if we dismiss sin from our holiday meditations, we risk losing the real meaning of Christmas. That cuddly, cute, bundle of Boy would be nailed to a cross before He got to enjoy middle age. And we would be the ones to do it!

The Bible exterminates humbugs when it says, "Thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57 NIV). Now that gets more into the Christmas spirit! To dwell on the manger Babe's earthly future would be to miss His victory over sin—and the victory that He shares with us.

Merry Christmas!. Don't be surprised if your visions of sugar plums turn into fantasies of resounding seas and jubilant fields.

Oh, yes, and don't forget the singing trees.

Prayer Thought: Pray not that all the Earth will have the Christmas spirit but that it will have the Holy Spirit. Pray especially for those who do not accept the real meaning of Christmas.

Written by Edward Grube

Kerry

MEN'S MINISTRY

Due to the holiday schedules, we are going to take a break until January. Enjoy some rich and blessed time with your family.

More *WILD AT HEART* in January.

Get connected!



LIFE GROUPS

Sunday Morning: 9am
Kerry's Office with Gary Hobbie

Sunday Afternoon: 1pm
Monica Englehardt's home
1316 Indian Rock Lane

Monday Evening: 7:00pm
Duane & Judy Eilrich's home
819 W Walnut

Tuesday Morning: 9:30am
Church Overflow Room w/ Sue Dickey

Tuesday Evening: 6:45pm
Eric & Amy Wolf's Home
2873 Mahan Rd., Brookville

Wednesday Evening: 6:45pm (OFF until Jan)
Kerry & JaNae Basinger
Church 801 E Cloud

Thursday Evening: 7:00pm
Chuck & Lana Heaton's home

December Calendar 2009



Caroling December 16th from 6pm—8pm. Meet here at the church for instructions.



Free Child Care for Christmas shopping!
December 19th from 8:30am—Noon

Have a Blessed CHRISTmas!