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The Window

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Search Committee

Jim Bryant, Chairman
Paul Flahan
Ian Harrier
Sally Horstmann
Laura Osborn
Dave Rochleau
Linda Spradling
Rick Haverman, alt.

VAN DRIVERS

Jan. 7 Mark Teichler
Jan. 14 Bruce Hicks
Jan. 21 Lance Lancaster
Jan. 28 Mike Brown

November Report

Bal. 10/31	\$83,766.61
Receipts	\$29,972.00
Expenditures	\$37,140.54
Bal. 11/30	\$76,598.07

Dates to Remember

December 24 Christmas Eve/Cantata
6:00 pm
December 27 Reception for Dr. Steve
& Dawn, 4-7 pm
NO WED. ACTIVITIES
December 31 No 8:15 am or
6:00 pm service
January 1 Office Closed
January 7 January Bible Study
January 14 January Bible Study
January 15 Office Closed
January 17 Women on Mission
January 21 January Bible Study
January 28 Lord's Supper
January Bible Study
Every Tuesday Romeo's at 8 am,
Juliet Breakfast at 8:30 am
Every Thursday Open VB 7 pm

ONE LAST WORD

How often have you heard it said, "Winstanley is not like any other church I know"?

That is what I was told when I came here as pastor seventeen years ago, and I still believe it to be true.

I know Winstanley is not like any other church I have pastored. With its choir, unique missions focus, openness to the community, and unique collection of believers, so far as I know, it is not like any other Baptist church in the Metro East. To that end it serves a vital role.

It is true that you have different feelings about the shape of worship. You have different musical preferences. You come from a wide geographical area. You have a variety of political opinions. You do not all look or sound alike. Yet all those things mean little, compared to the fact that you all profess faith in Jesus.

Frankly, I am grateful for the mixture of lives that is Winstanley and think that mixture is the way God's church should be. I value the fact that this family, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, is who it is. To me you sound and look a lot like the church described in Acts 2. You sound like Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

As I depart, I am praying that you will bear in mind this profound biblical truth. Jesus is and wants to be Lord of our individual and collective lives, future, thoughts, and opinions.

Please hear this.

Every one of you is part of this fellowship for a reason. You are not here by accident. God called you here. Every one of you contributes something important and vital to the church. Winstanley would be a diminished body without your presence and your service. You are the congregation's present and you are its future.

In my judgment, during the coming interim you must keep asking yourselves in what ways you can work together. A church does not exist for what any one of us can get out of it. It exists to serve God, to offer honor and praise to Him, and to minister to the many who do not yet know Him. God is first. Others are second. We are third.

I am praying that you will keep your minds and hearts outward-focused. When God is receiving from His church what the church is supposed to offer, I suspect that the congregation will in return be blessed and grateful. You will realize that God's Kingdom is even larger than the church.

You can do it, my friends. I love you.

Proud to have been your pastor,
Dr. Steve

I've never been much of a singer. So I felt a little uneasy about our plan. I wasn't sure if my voice would drive the elderly folks back into their rooms, or possibly help bring some Christmas cheer. Thankfully, I was not caroling alone at the Caseyville Nursing Home that Wednesday evening. Sally Horstmann and Kira Grindstaff led our youth through the halls singing carols such as "Joy to the World," "Silent Night," and others. During our time there, we had the opportunity to talk with several residents and even give out some hugs. A few people asked us where we were from. As a result of our time spent at the nursing home that evening, I know our youth helped bring much joy and encouragement to the residents. I am also convinced that we received just as much joy ourselves, if not more, from the experience. Sometimes we are provided with ministry opportunities that seem to take us out of our element, out of our area of expertise. This is not a bad thing, especially when you are serving alongside your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fielding

FROM THE LIBRARY...

Tim Lahaye, *Left Behind* author has created a new series. It has faster-paced thrillers based on prophecies that are not covered in the *Left Behind* books.

Michael Murphy is a scholar of Biblical prophecy and a field archaeologist. He defies danger and fearlessly hunts down and authenticates ancient artifacts from Biblical times. His latest discovery will send him hurtling from a life of excavations and revelations to a confrontation with the forces of the greatest evil.

This man of courage is tested and proves ready to become a much needed hero for our times, and that's just the beginning.

WINTER BIBLE STUDY

Fielding will be teaching from **1 Peter** starting **January 7-February 4**.
The study, will be preceded by lunch and be held in Garrison Hall.