

December 2011



*We wish You a  
Merry Christmas!*

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Special points of interest:

- Seniors & College Age Christmas Dinner
- Wednesday Night Groups Christmas Parties
- Children's & Student Ministry Skill Building Workshops
- Boy Scouts
- Small Groups
- Men's Friday Morning Group
- Women's Bible Study
- Club56
- U-Turn Student Ministries
- Seniors Luncheon
- Christmas Eve Service

## Rick's Reflections

"I figured no one was going to come to Watts and help us. No one had ever done that."

The December 20, 2004 issue of *TIME* has an article describing one of the top ten television shows, *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. It told the story of Alice Harris of South Central Los Angeles, who remembers the day the good people from ABC volunteered to demolish her house. In 2003, a flood had left the community activist and her family, who had no insurance, living in one bedroom. Worst of all, the waters had ruined a stash of Christmas toys Harris had collected for poor kids. Harris said, "I figured no one was going to come to Watts and help us. No one had ever done that." But *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* found her. It's bullhorn-wielding host, Ty Pennington, shipped Harris and her family off for a week's vacation in Carlsbad, California. A hundred workers and neighbors tore her home down to the foundation and built a new, bigger one. They replaced the Christmas toys and donated appliances, mattresses and landscaping to her flood-stricken neighbors. They even threw in a basketball court for the neighborhood kids.

That's an extreme makeover, isn't it!

Jesus said, "**For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life**" ([John 3:16](#)). This means God-quality life, right now, in this life and in the life to come. Talk about extreme makeover! This extreme makeover is designed to help you live and help you die so that you may live again with God in eternity!

*The coming of Jesus Christ into the world makes possible this extreme makeover!*

Frederick Buechner, in his book titled *Listening to Your Life*, wrote: When the child was born, the whole course of human history was changed. That is a truth that is as unassailable as any truth. Art, music, literature, western culture itself, with all its institutions and western man's whole understanding of himself and his world. It is impossible to conceive how differently things

would have turned out if that birth had not happened, whenever, wherever, however it did. And there is a truth beyond that for millions of people who have believed since. The birth of Jesus made possible not just a new way of understanding life, but a new way of living it. The truth of this incarnation should never cease to amaze us. The mystery of the eternal, cradled in a manger, elicits awesome wonder and grateful praise.

God, since the very time of Adam and Eve, has reached out to all humankind. The Old Testament gives record to it as the prophets foretold the coming of the Savior of the world. All through human history, up until that night in Bethlehem, men, women and children have, in anticipation of that coming, experienced this extreme makeover. And it has been happening ever since that night since Jesus came.

## In Tune with Tommy



*Tommy pictured at a Thanksgiving Dinner with a variety of students from the University of Utah*

I appreciate serving alongside the following people this past year. It's a joy to help work with others of like-minded faith, inching towards achieving goals that will make an eternal difference.

### Sound Team:

Bill Rogers, Jason Rosvall, Vanja Wahl, Mike Hylland

### Computer Team:

Lisa Kildoo, Nicole Tryon

### Singers:

Ashley Alfieri, Jodi Hylland, Karen Geertens, Vicki Williams, Tanja Rigby, Nicole Tryon, Mirjam Curry, Abbey McClain, Pat Tsuyuki, Carolyn

Toepke, Marv Hawkins, Jeff Rolan, Jennifer White

### Band:

Mark Watson, Alex Brittain, Aja Watson, Steve Leister, Dylan Austin, John, Curry, Jennifer White

### Prayer Team:

Cindy Cummings, Lisa Kildoo, Jodene Watson, LoriAnne Tryon

Staff: LoriAnne, Ashley, Allison, John... And thank you to Rick for his constant support and his example of what it means to be a man of prayer and the Word. We should all

be thankful for our leader to be faithful in these disciplines.



## *Kids Under Construction ~ 'Tis the Season for Giving*

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and loved ones. Can you believe it is already December?! 2011 sure did fly by. I always think of December as the "season for giving." We're giving presents to one another, we're giving our time to spend with family and friends, we're giving away Christmas cookies and other goodies. It sure can be fun, but it can also be quite overwhelming! *Who do you give gifts to? Who do you choose to spend your holidays with and for how long? What and who do you*

*spend your money on?* It can be tough and stressful at times, but don't forget to take a step back and remember why you're giving in the first place. It shouldn't be to please people, it shouldn't be to win others over, and it shouldn't be because you like to spend money. We give because God gave us Jesus. He is the ultimate gift this Christmas season.

In the light of giving, I want to thank you for giving so much of your time and energy to serve in the Children's Ministry here at Southeast. Thank you

for the many contributions and donations you have made to make the collection of school supplies for the Haitian children a success as well. Our church truly is such a giving and loving group of people. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas!



## *U-turn Student Ministry*

The months just seem to be flying by. It is hard to believe that Christmas is almost here once again and soon it will be a new year. As I look back on 2011 there are many fond memories. I have greatly enjoyed

about what God is doing throughout the Salt Lake Valley and how He is using Southeast to reach people with His love. I don't know what you are feeling this Christmas season. I know that the holidays tend to stir up so many different emotions. If I can encourage you in one area it is this: find someone this holiday season who you can show the Love of Jesus to. It may be someone in your family, it may be a close friend, or someone you hardly know. This Christmas, let's be the hands and feet of Jesus. Merry Christmas and God bless!

**Club56 & U-Turn  
Student Ministries  
starts Wednesday  
January 11th 2012**

"This Christmas, let's be  
the hands and feet of  
Jesus."

getting to know everyone here at Southeast, and having the privilege of investing in Student's lives. Yet I do not just want to dwell in the past, rather I look forward to the future. I am excited





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## Happenings at Southeast ~ December 2011

Dec. 4 12:30pm Children's & Student Ministry Skill Building Workshop & Lunch

Dec. 7 9am Women's Group Christmas Party at the Lundberg's

Dec. 10 6pm ABF Christmas party at the Williams'

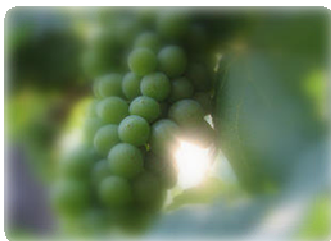
Dec. 12 10:30am Seniors Luncheon

Dec. 14 7pm Club56 & U-Turn Christmas parties

Dec. 24 6pm Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25 10:45am Christmas Morning Worship Service

Dec. 26 Office closed



### Christmas Season at Southeast ~

#### Family Christmas Ornaments

It's a tradition at Southeast to bring a family ornament to hang on our Christmas tree. If you are new to Southeast, or if you've never brought your ornament, bring one and hang it on the tree in the foyer. Don't forget to mark your ornament with your family name!

#### Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

We decorate the sanctuary each year with poinsettias donated by people who would like to remember a loved one. If you'd like to donate a poinsettia, place \$8 in an envelope provided at the Info Center and leave with the attendant or church office. The names will be printed in the program on Christmas Eve

#### Mail Boxes

Instead of mailing Christmas cards to your church family, bring your cards to the church and place them in the special mail boxes provided. Consider donating the money you would have spent on postage to the Missions Ministry and place in the donations box provided

#### Cards for Missionaries

If you would like to send a Christmas card to a missionary, cards are available in the foyer by the missionary bulletin board. Simply write a note on the card provided, label and mail the card with appropriate postage in time for the holidays