



# heartland connection



January 2009

Volume 15, Issue 1

Dear friends,

Here we are again at the beginning of another new year. 2008 certainly has been a fantastic year in my life and in the life of Heartland. Although I didn't read everything I had planned or get all of my projects finished, it was a great year for me and my family.

Heartland has also been blessed this past year. What a blessing to see how God is using this church in so many different ways. We continue to watch our children grow and mature and have seen some weddings now and the next generation being born. God has brought us many new people of all ages from all over the country. We have a growing college/young adult group. We also have seen God raise up men to be elders and deacons. Sunday School, Youth groups, women's retreats and Bible studies, small groups, pot-providences, worship, outreach--we have truly been blessed this past year.

We have many exciting things facing us. We all need to ask, "What now?" What now would God have us do as a church to prepare ourselves for a new year. One area in particular is our outreach. I have been convicted by my lack of personal evangelism. I know that God wants us to share our faith because it was the last thing Jesus told His disciples as He left this earth. Let's all ask God to give us a heart for the lost. Let us all commit to share our faith with someone this year. As we do that, and continue to pray for God to lead, I am convinced that He will open doors for us to minister to our new neighborhood around us, our community with all of the needs we see, and our world that is filled with uncertainty, pain and fear. Heartland will only be faithful as we are faithful. Heartland will only be effective in ministry as we are involved and using our gifts. Heartland will only grow as we continue to reach out to those around us and share Christ and invite them to come. Our leaders will only be able to minister as you hold them up in prayer and follow their lead.

I pray that all of us this year will grow in the wisdom and knowledge of God and pursue deeper things. Let us examine our lives and ask God for the strength and courage to get rid of the old and put on the new.

Ephesians 4:20-24 tells us:

*"But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."*

In the Christian life, the "old self" always seems to hang on to us tightly. It takes a lot of work and prayer to lay aside those old habits, thought patterns, and ways of life that are of the world. God's desire is for us to be like His Son, Jesus -- to be righteous and holy. We know that our ultimate goal is "to become conformed into the image of His Son." (Romans 8:29) And yet sometimes, as we look at ourselves, we think that is an impossibility. Paul reminds us of our responsibility to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling". But God has not left us alone in this task. As Paul continues, "for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." (Phil. 2:12-13) God Himself is more concerned that we be like Christ than we are and He is intimately involved in that process in our lives. He will continue to mold us and make us like His Son. Let God do His part, but don't neglect to do yours. As 2009 begins, take time to evaluate your life and make some positive steps of obedience as you renew your commitment to Him to walk in righteousness and holiness -- in "newness of life." It won't be easy, but it will reap eternal rewards.

As I preached last week from Psalm 90, our prayer should be "Lord, teach us to number our days that we may present to you a heart of wisdom." What will you do with your time this year? What will your priorities be? When you get to the end of 2009, will you be satisfied with your use of time? More importantly, will God be satisfied? I pray this year that you will be overwhelmed with the greatness of our God and His love for you. I pray that you will be humbled by the grace extended to forgive your sins and make you His child. I pray that you will be motivated to honor Him by the ministry that lies ahead--"the fields are white for harvest". I pray that you will be challenged to separate yourself from the things of this world and fix your eyes on Jesus. I pray that you will be excited to be a part of a body that desires to grow in maturity and encourage each other. I pray that you will dedicate yourself to raising your children in the nurture and instruction of the Lord.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have so faithfully served over this past year. Our music, Bible studies, small groups, pot-providences, Sunday School, youth ministry, building, finances, etc. are all a tribute to your hard work for Christ. We could not have been as effective in our ministry without your dedication. I praise God for your faithfulness.

Finally, Ps. 90:14 gives us a great incentive as we enter into 2009.

*"O satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days."*

May God satisfy you and your family this year with His lovingkindness and may you experience His joy and His gladness in your life!

Pressing on in the New Year!  
George

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International Students, Inc was founded in 1953 to help university students from other countries adjust to American culture and to share the Christian faith with those who are interested. ISI ministers to international students through professional staff and Friendship Partners (volunteer sponsors) on over 300 campuses. There are over 2000 international students in Wichita. Most are eager to have an American friend, and over half of those who apply for a Friendship Partner indicate an interest in learning about Christianity. Students do *not* live in the homes of their sponsors. God has brought the world mission field to our doorstep. He's not calling everyone to this ministry, but could he be calling you?

**TR**aining for **I**nternational **O**ut-reach is a series of four classes which equip sponsors of students to build a cross-cultural relationship and lead a six-part evangelistic Bible study. This unique program is led by the Wichita staff of ISI. Dick Daeschner has over twenty years of pastoral teaching experience and leads participants through the Bible study. God is using ISI to bring many students to faith in Christ. Norm Allen has been in ministry with international students for over twenty years and personally leads many to the Lord every year. He gives practical guidance for developing cross-cultural relationships in which the gospel can be shared naturally. All or part of this training may be taken without obligation to sponsor a student. Please contact one of our missionaries below if you are interested in signing up for the training!

**TR**aining for **I**nternational **O**utreach  
**Central Christian Church**  
2900 N. Rock Rd

**Thursdays from 7-9 pm**  
**January 15, 22, 29**  
**February 5**

**Norman Allen**  
1038 N Ridgewood  
Wichita 67208  
nlallen2@juno.com  
871-8473

**Dick Daeschner**  
2219 N Bromfield Cir  
Wichita 67226  
dickdaeschner@usa.net  
681-1445

**Julie Friesen**  
julie.a.friesen@gmail.com  
239-8036

**Mark and Sherida Gray**  
mark.gray1@cox.net  
sherida.gray@cox.net

## ANOTHER NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

You may have heard the saying, *God loves you and I have a wonderful plan for your life!* It is true that Christians often have expectations for one another in the Body of Christ and pastors are often no different; especially when it comes to the New Year! Almost every pastor's January newsletter article that I have read (or written for that matter) has something to do with resolutions for the New Year. "It is time to turn over a new leaf and start a new practice" is often the theme of such newsletter articles. The advice is often good much in the sense that broccoli is good (good for you, but not something you like). This year I wish that I could say that I was breaking with such tradition, but let me once again offer a suggestion for the New Year.

The culture around us is doing everything it can to encourage us not to think, but simply to be satisfied to be entertained. So why not take time this year to feed your mind by increasing the amount of time you spend reading and pondering. I would encourage you to set some goals for your reading; not only in the amount of books you will read this year, but in the types as well. As Ligon Duncan points out, *There ought to be a part of your reading designed to foster biblical piety, the doctrines of grace, a biblical view of church and ministry, and the challenge to consecrate your whole heart (mind, will and affections) to... study.*<sup>1</sup> While Dr. Duncan was writing to pastors it is good advice for all Christians. Dr. Duncan also points out,

*...you want to be reading what the Puritans would have called "soul-fattening" books: works that will increase your knowledge, your love for the Lord and your confidence in Scripture. You will, of course, from time to time read things that are not soul-fattening, but you must never allow this best kind of book to be entirely absent from your normal plan of reading.*<sup>2</sup>

This is a good reminder as Christians are prone to simply read what is on the latest Christian best seller reading list; whether it is "soul-fattening" reading or not. To get into the habit of reading only that which is in the Christian top 50 is a poor habit; much like that of living on junk food. Besides, as C.S. Lewis points out, it is not good to read only modern books, but one should also read old books. Why? Lewis puts it this way:

*Naturally, since I myself am a writer, I do not wish the ordinary reader to read no modern books. But if he must read only the new or only the old, I would advise him to read the old. And I would give him this advice precisely because he is an amateur and therefore much less protected than the expert against the dangers of an exclusive contemporary diet. A new book is still on its trial and the amateur is not in a position to judge it. It has to be tested against the great body of Christian thought down the ages, and all its hidden implications (often unsuspected by the author himself) have to be brought to light. Often it cannot be fully understood without the knowledge of a good many other modern books. If you join at eleven o'clock a conversation which began at eight you will often not see the real bearing of what is said. Remarks which seem to you very ordinary will produce laughter or irritation and you will not see why - the reason, of course, being that the earlier stages of the conversation have given them a special point. In the same way sentences in a modern book which look quite ordinary may be directed at some other book; in this way you may be led to accept what you would have indignantly rejected if you knew its real significance. The only safety is to have a standard of plain, central Christianity ("mere Christianity" as Baxter called it) which puts the controversies of the moment in their proper perspective. Such a standard can be acquired only from the old books. It is a good rule, after reading a new book, never to allow yourself another new one till you have read an old one in between. If that is too much for you, you should at least read one old one to every three new ones.*

*Every age has its own outlook. It is specially good at seeing certain truths and specially liable to make certain mistakes. We all, therefore, need the books that will correct the characteristic mistakes of our own period. And that means the old books. All contemporary writers share to some extent the contemporary outlook - even those, like myself, who seem most opposed to it. Nothing strikes me more when I read the controversies of past ages than the fact that both sides were usually assuming without question a good deal which we should now absolutely deny. They thought that they were as completely opposed as two sides could be, but in fact they were all the time secretly united - united with each other and against earlier and later ages - by a great mass of common assumptions. We may be sure that the characteristic blindness of the twentieth century - the blindness about which posterity will ask, "But how could they have thought that?" - lies where we have never suspected it, and concerns something about which there is untroubled agreement between Hitler and President Roosevelt or between Mr. H. G. Wells and Karl Barth. None of us can fully escape this blindness, but we shall certainly increase it, and weaken our guard against it, if we read only modern books. Where they are true they will give us truths which we half knew already.*

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**\*\*REMINDER\*\*** Please remember that no food or drink is allowed in the sanctuary at any time. Thank you!

Continued from Page 3

*Where they are false they will aggravate the error with which we are already dangerously ill. The only palliative is to keep the clean sea breeze of the centuries blowing through our minds, and this can be done only by reading old books. Not, of course, that there is any magic about the past. People were no cleverer then than they are now; they made as many mistakes as we. But not the same mistakes. They will not flatter us in the errors we are already committing; and their own errors, being now open and palpable, will not endanger us. Two heads are better than one, not because either is infallible, but because they are unlikely to go wrong in the same direction. To be sure, the books of the future would be just as good a corrective as the books of the past, but unfortunately we cannot get at them.*<sup>3</sup>

So let me encourage you to read a variety of “soul-fattening” books, both modern & old. In order to help you get started let me suggest a few such books, 13 in all; one for each month of 2009 plus one extra. If you are not an avid reader (much like myself), then take heart. Rather than trying to read all these books, pick out 6 or even 3 that you will read in 2009. Also note that some of these books can be purchased on CD or mp3 so you can listen to them in your car as you go to work or as you exercise or work around the house.<sup>4</sup>

*\*The Courage To Be Protestant: Truth-lovers, Marketers, and Emergents in the Postmodern World* by David F. Wells --  
(I HIGHLY recommend this book)

*\*Give Praise to God: A Vision For Reforming Worship* edited by Philip Graham Ryken, Derek W. H. Thomas, and J. Ligon Duncan III

*\*Ten Great Ideas From Church History: A Decision-Maker's Guide to Shaping Your Church* by Mark Shaw

*\*How People Change* by Timothy S. Lane & Paul David Tripp

*\*Do Hard Things* by Alex & Brett Harris

*\*Fathers & Sons STAND FAST in the Way of Truth* by Douglas Bond

*\*Addiction: Banquet in the Grave* by Edward Welch

*\*Knowing God* by J.I. Packer

*\*Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan

*\*The Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger & Shorter Catechisms*

*\*Holiness* by J. C. Ryle

*\*Words to Winners of Souls* by Horatius Bonar

*\*Quest for Godliness* by J.I. Packer

If I may be of any assistance to you in your venture, please let me know.

In Christ,  
Pastor Rick

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<sup>1</sup> [http://blog.t4g.org/2006/02/pastors\\_studyin\\_1.html](http://blog.t4g.org/2006/02/pastors_studyin_1.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://blog.t4g.org/2006/02/pastors\\_studyin\\_1.html](http://blog.t4g.org/2006/02/pastors_studyin_1.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://blog.t4g.org/2006/02/pastors\\_studyin\\_1.html](http://blog.t4g.org/2006/02/pastors_studyin_1.html)

<sup>4</sup> A good web site for free reformed teaching, sermons, lectures, & conferences on mp3 is [www.monergism.com](http://www.monergism.com)

## Attention Parents!

We are having a Parents Meeting for those whose children are attending the Youth Ski Trip this February!



At least one parent from each family is required to attend the meeting on Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. (the start of Youth Group time). During this time, medical releases and other permission forms will be signed.

**Please call Karen Hull at 619-5796 for more information!**

## Congregational Meeting

Heartland will hold a Congregational Meeting after worship on January 11th for the purpose of electing Deacons and Elders and for a presentation of the final 2009 Budget. Please make every effort to attend and be in prayer for the coming election.



### Nominated for Elder:

Gary Gensch  
Ron Johnson

### Nominated for Deacon:

Terry Peterson  
Phil Challans

## Ladies 2009 Bible Studies

Beginning January 14<sup>th</sup>, our ladies studies will resume. The Wednesday morning group meeting at Heartland will be doing a Precepts Inductive Study of Matthew; from 9:00-11:00a.m. The video series will be taught by PCA pastor David Arthur. Child care and study hall available. More details to come (book, cost, etc.) – e-mail Vicki Granberry for more information at [covmom@juno.com](mailto:covmom@juno.com).



Also meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. is a women's study lead by Kathy Morris in her home. E-mail Kathy at [morris.6@sbcglobal.net](mailto:morris.6@sbcglobal.net) for more information. Childcare available.

Our Friday morning study for young moms will continue their study of the women of the New Testament from 9:30-11:30a.m. Child care available. Contact Janet Malcom at [malcom359@juno.com](mailto:malcom359@juno.com)

## 2009 Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars for February 27th and 28th at Crosswinds Conference Center in Hesston KS.

Our guest speaker will be Kathleen Neilson, author of many ladies Bible studies and wife to the President of Covenant College (PCA).



Brothers and Sisters of Heartland,

Below is a financial report through the month of November and some YTD numbers the we want you to know about now and every month beginning in January 2009. God has abundantly provided for us and I am very excited how the finances have worked in 2008. I have very high expectations for 2009 as well. Thank you all for your faithfulness!!!

The goal for 2009 is to reduce debt to well below \$1million. This is a lofty goal considering we started 1/1/2008 with almost \$1.3 million borrowed. But, we are sensing the capability of this accomplishment...Lord willing. Imagine funding \$5,000 or more a month into the internal/external ministry of the church or missionaries abroad, instead of debt interest!!! Wouldn't that be AWESOME!!

In 2009, I encourage you to continue to work on your personal financial freedom as families, and also on what God would call you to faithfully give toward the advancement of His Kingdom through Heartland. You will find below a summary of the 2009 session approved budget as well. If you should have any questions about these reports feel free to contact Bryan Hanning or Walter Berry. There will be a congregational meeting on January 11th, 2009 to elect deacons and elders, and to discuss the budget in more detail.

Blessings in Christ,  
Bryan Hanning

<b>Operating Budget through November</b>	<b>November Actual</b>	<b>November Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Over(Under)</b>
<b>Church Giving</b>	\$ 53,088		\$ 567,300		
<b>Church Expenses</b>	\$ 45,806	\$ 53,677	\$ 545,409	\$ 600,124	\$ (54,715)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>		
<b>Debt Balance</b>	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,102,842	\$ 1,048,842		

Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministry at Heartland. We praise God for His faithfulness to us! This record represents our monthly and year to date giving as compared with our total expenses. It also outlines our progress in eliminating the remaining debt on our building renovations. As funds are provided beyond immediate budget needs, they will also contribute to our goal of eliminating the debt, which frees up capital to be used for other important needs. To God be the glory!

**Mathew 6:33- But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.**

<b><u>2009 Budget Summary</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>
<b><u>Income:</u></b>		
General Operations	\$ 625,397	\$ 585,999
Rent and other	\$ 52,900	\$ 85,982
	<b>\$ 678,297</b>	<b>\$ 671,981</b>
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>		
Payroll- Pastors and Support	\$ 221,200	\$ 209,577
Facility Costs	\$ 248,757	\$ 265,460
Office	\$ 23,350	\$ 26,533
Internal Ministry (SS, worship...)	\$ 23,119	\$ 21,504
External Ministry (missions...)	\$ 123,471	\$ 109,140
Other misc(insurance, travel)	\$ 38,400	\$ 39,400
	<b>\$ 678,297</b>	<b>\$ 671,614</b>

**Special Note:**

The interest expense for 2009 is \$64,000 or \$5,333 per month. Every \$100,000 we pay down on the debt saves us a minimum of \$6,250 per year. Every \$10,000 saves \$625. Every \$1,000 (\$83.33 per month) saves \$62.50. Every \$100 (\$8.33 per month) saves \$6.25.

**POINT: Do NOT think your gift HOWEVER small it is will not make a difference!!! It all makes a difference now and over time.**

**Challenge:** What could we do as a church with an extra \$5,333 per month? How about the idea of investing in the mission of Heartland and the eternal rewards it can bring by advancing God's kingdom. A very practical way of financially doing this is by getting out from under the bondage of debt as it has proven to be one of the best steps we can make toward reaching that goal.

Malachi 3: 10-12



# JANUARY 2009



Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

				 Church Office Closed	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 Communion Mercy Offering	5 Pastor Rick's Day Off	6  Alpha 7pm	7  Youth Group 6:30 pm Kahrs/Yourdon Study 6:30 pm	8  Truth Project 7pm Shelden Study 7pm	9 Pastor George's Day Off  Young Moms Study 9:30 am Phillips Family Study 7Pm	10
11 Joint Sunday School  Congregational Meeting following Worship	12 Pastor Rick's Day Off	13  Deacons Mtg. 6:30 pm  Alpha 7pm	14 Ladies Studies 9am  Parents Meeting 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Kahrs/Yourdon Study 6:30 pm Granberry Study 7pm	15    Session	16 Pastor George's Day Off  Young Moms Study 9:30 am	17
18 Pot Providence	19 Pastor Rick's Day Off	20   Alpha 7pm	21 Ladies Studies 9am  Youth Group 6:30 pm Kahrs/Yourdon Study 6:30 pm Granberry Study 7pm	22   Truth Project 7pm Shelden Study 7pm	23 Pastor George's Day Off  Young Moms Study 9:30 am Hunter Safety Course Phillips Family Study 7 pm	24 Hunter Safety Course
25	26 Pastor Rick's Day Off	27   Alpha 7pm	28 Ladies Studies 9am  Youth Group 6:30 pm Kahrs/Yourdon Study 6:30 pm Granberry Study 7pm	29   Session	30 Pastor George's Day Off  Young Moms Study 9:30 am	31   Simply Dinner

## STORYTIME

*If you are unable to work during the time you are scheduled,  
you must find a replacement and notify  
Katie Waalkes of the change.*

**January 4** - Welles

**January 11** - Wilson

**January 18** - Woodlief

**January 25** - Berry

**February 1** - Doctor

**February 8** - Glass

**February 15** - Heatheirngton/  
Pohlenz

**February 22** - Hull

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Daniel Johnson
- 2: Will Morris
- 3: Zachary Dugger
- 4: Seth Lassley
- 6: Ben Franks  
Cary Humphries  
Jackson Wegener
- 7: Lois Johnson  
Heather Vaughn  
Jackson Wegener  
Katie Kahrs
- 9: Bob Crook
- 11: Nevada Castro-Miller
- 17: John Nadlicki
- 18: Mary Kay Larson
- 20: Emily Cable
- 21: Caleb Morris
- 27: Loa Kay Welles
- 28: George Bruce
- 29: Angela Deck
- 30: Erin Frost
- 31: Zach Martinez

## NURSERY

If you have a conflict, please notify Paul or Rayna Waalkes!  
(Paul - 841-4640; Rayna - 648-8202)

Sunday School 9:00-10:35

Worship 10:25-12:??

**Jan 4** Gertz

Greg & Mary Kahrs  
Lisa Paine

**Jan 11** P&R Waalkes

Nate, Celeste & Lizzie  
Mathews

**Jan 18** Challans/Blackman

Castro-Millers

**Jan 25** Schantz/Atha/A. Hanning

Ralston/Abigail Fetzik

**Feb 1** Whitman

Willis/Lois Johnson

**Feb 8** Gertz

Strains/A. Wegener/  
S. Shelden

**Feb 15** Waalkes

Greg & Mary Kahrs  
Lisa Paine

**Feb 22** Challans/Blackman

Castro-Miller

## POT PROVIDENCE HOSTS

If you are unable to host on your assigned date, please trade with another family on the list and call Jeanine Schantz to let her know! *All member families take turns hosting throughout the year.*

**January:** Frost, Hanning, Huenergardt, & Hull Families

**February:** Humphries, Johnson, Greg Kahrs & Mark Kahrs Families

**March:** Klaassen, Larson, Lukoschat, and Luper Families

**April:** Malcom, Nate Mathews, Roger Mathews, and Mork Families

*Hosts, please arrive early to set up and plan to stay after the meal to clean up. See Jeanine Schantz for a list of hosting duties.*

## GREETERS

*All member families take turns greeting.*

**January 4** - Paine

**January 11** - Morris

**January 18** - Peterson

**January 25** - Pfeiffer

**February 1** - Ralston

**February 8** - Schantz

**February 15** - Scharping

**February 22** - Shelden

heartland  
Community Church  
457 S. Woodlawn  
Wichita, KS 67218  
www.heartlandpca.org

## heartland Community Church

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**Senior Pastor:**

George Granberry - *Worship*

**Associate Pastor:**

Rick Franks - *Ministry*

**Elders:**

Walter Berry  
George Bruce  
Phil Elder - *Evangelism*  
Gary Gensch  
Bryan Hanning - *Stewardship*  
Mike Hull - *Prayer*  
Ron Johnson - *Teaching*  
Jeff Morris - *Community*  
Matt Phillips - *Community*  
Stan Shelden - *Community*  
Rocky Trammell - *Missions*  
LaVerne Waalkes - *Teaching*  
Brad Welles

**Deacons:**

Barry Malcom - *Facilities*  
Sandy Neblett - *Mercy*  
Steve Parris - *Facilities*  
Terry Peterson - *Stewardship*