

November 2008

# The Monthly Vine

Staying connected on the latest happenings...

*Loving God, Investing in Community, Following Jesus, Engaging Our World*

## Continue Stepping Out.....

Last month our church took a huge leap of faith in stepping out and putting our Faith In Action. Together, as a church community, we endeavored to show God's love in practical ways. THANK YOU for taking this first step in acting on our faith. Don't stop there! We want all of us to continue stepping out. Build relationships with your neighbors

or co-workers, volunteer in community programs - our church has a handful of serving opportunities - invite others to attend **A Night In Bethlehem** on December 5th - another way for us to serve our community in showing God's love. Let's continue putting a step out and forming relationships with our community.

## Mark your Calendar....

**November 7 & 8** - Leadership Training

**November 9** - Plug into Life

**November 12** - Night in Bethlehem Work Night, 6:30-9:30

**November 14** - Prayer & Worship Night

**November 14-15** - Youth Dare 2 Share Conference

**November 15** - Night in Bethlehem Work Day, 9:00-Noon

**November 16** - Night in Bethlehem Team Meeting

**November 16** - Plug into Life

**November 18** - Youth Missions Trip Meeting

**November 23** - Boston Market Fundraiser

**November 24** - Serving Dinner at Denver Rescue Mission

**November 23** - Plug into Life

**December 5** - A Night in Bethlehem

**December 11** - Serving Dinner at Denver Rescue Mission

**December 14** - All Church Christmas Potluck, 12 noon

**December 24** - Christmas Eve Service

For additional information on these dates, please visit our Website [littletonvineyard.org](http://littletonvineyard.org) or contact the church office at 303.797.0201.

## Pastor's Corner.....

*By Sue Prichard*

Like most adults, my childhood memories are dim, but there is one memory that has defined my life. I remember the despair I experienced as a child for many years following my parents' divorce and their broken lives. I struggle wondering how much to share, but I will say that by the age of 9 I was in a place of utter hopelessness.

That summer my mom's younger sister, my Aunt Candy, came to live in our basement to look after my brothers and me. At the time she was a wild child, fitting in well to the culture of our home. But one day everything changed. Much to everyone's horror my aunt became a Christian. All I knew was Aunt Candy was shaking things up, so I kept my distance, as I tried to do with everyone anyway. But one evening, a night when I clearly remember my thoughts as if it were yesterday, my heart pounded in my chest as I weighed seriously different options as to how to end my life that evening. My aunt knocked on my bedroom door. "Susie, can I talk with you for a

minute?" "Sure," I said simply, but kept silent otherwise. My aunt told me she had been downstairs praying for me and wanted to tell me about God the Father. She began to explain how God was a father who created me to be his child. She said God wanted to be there for me every day as my father. She said more, which I didn't understand at the time, but what I did hear went into my heart and filled me with a hope that changed everything for me from that moment on. Now, did I tell my aunt? No! She moved out shortly after that and likely didn't have a clue what she had done for me until a few years ago when I wrote to her to tell her the difference she'd made in my life. I began a prayer life at that time, talking with God as my father. As I did, he cared for me and showed me in different ways how real he was. It was years after that time that I came to an understanding of my need for Jesus, my need for him to make me whole, and I placed my life in his hands. But what began that day with my aunt truly saved my life.

Wess Stafford\* writes, "The spirit of a little child is a lot like wet cement. When a child is young, it takes little effort to make an impression that can last a lifetime." We all continually have opportunities before us to transform a young persons current reality, future, life and eternity. These opportunities are there for every follower of Christ. The simplest encouragement, single phrase or act of kindness you show a neighbor child, a niece or nephew, a young person in line behind you at the grocery store, or even a child that joins us on a Sunday, can make an impact you may never see yourself until you are with them in eternity.

I encourage you to look for ways to bring hope to young people and show them Jesus. "Your small pebble in the pond of one child's life may send out ripples that eventually transform many others."\*

\*Too Small To Ignore, Dr. Wess Stafford, President & CEO, Compassion International

## What is "A Night in Bethlehem?" .....

What if you could travel back in time and experience the first Christmas for yourself? Christmas would never feel the same again! We wanted to give families an opportunity to experience Christmas from a different perspective, having the opportunity to spend time together experiencing something new while seeing and experiencing the story of Christmas unfold around them.

At a Night in Bethlehem families will approach the Littleton Vineyard and find it lit up in white lights and Christmas trees. Guests will be met by a census taker, welcoming them as they arrive in Bethlehem for the census. Just inside, families will have the opportunity to have their portrait taken (by Troy Rowe, a gifted professional photographer) as a gift to them. Guests will find Bethlehem full of

bustling sounds of a bazaar with beautiful Christmas music, full of the aroma of hot cider, baked bread, and spices. The town of Bethlehem will be spread out through the entrance and auditorium where families will find market place stalls, an inn, a stable, gifted artisans, activities and crafts to engage in, dancers, actors in costume, a tax collector, an inn keeper, Mary, Joseph, Roman soldiers, shop keepers, and more! Throughout their time with us, families will hear and experience the beautiful story of Christmas.

In designing this evening we've thought of families who may not normally "do church". We want to give people the opportunity to experience Christmas in a different way. We encourage you to invite friends, neighbors, family members and co-workers to join us



**Savor the sights, sounds, and excitement of the first Christmas in Bethlehem.**

... a special evening for the whole family!

*Invite friend, neighbors, family or co-workers to this special family event!*

**Friday, December 5th  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**FREE** for the community!

**Littleton Vineyard**  
6657 W. Ottawa Ave. in Littleton  
Preregister online at  
[www.littletonvineyard.org](http://www.littletonvineyard.org)

for this special evening.

Please register early, and encourage those you invite to as well, so we are able to plan and

be ready for all who attend!

You can register online at  
[www.littletonvineyard.org](http://www.littletonvineyard.org).

### Night of Prayer and Worship

Friday, November 14th at 7:30 p.m.

*"My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever."*

**Psalm 145:21**



**BOSTON MARKET**  
FUNDRAISER LUNCH BOSTON MARKET!  
*Restaurant*  
Church Family Lunch  
**COME TO BOSTON MARKET**  
11 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
HELP US RAISE SOME MONEY AND ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL, TOO!  
Sunday, 11/23  
DATE  
Wadsworth & Crestline  
LOCATION  
DON'T FORGET YOUR TICKET.  
To Benefit A Night In Bethlehem

*Christmas Potluck*  
Sunday, December 14th  
At 12 Noon in the church lobby

**Littleton Vineyard**  
Experience Real Life.

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