

REFUGE  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH  
11772 196TH ST.  
NOBLESVILLE,  
INDIANA 46060

317-773-3475

STAN SUTTON,  
SR. MINISTER  
*S.R.SUTTON@  
SBCGLOBAL.NET*

NATHAN  
WAINWRIGHT,  
YOUTH/ASSOC.  
MINISTER  
*NAWAINWRIGHT@  
SBCGLOBAL.NET*

JAN SUTTON,  
MUSIC MINISTER  
*JASUTTON@  
INSIGHTBB.COM*

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

First Impressions 1

Children's Church 1

Youth, etc. 2

Church Data Update 2

# The Refuge Christian

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## First Impressions Matter... by Pastor Stan

This month we are handing out the new Greeter's List along with some reminder instructions for our Greeters. And while the instructions certainly apply to our Greeters, in a way they apply to all of us.

First impressions matter. In just a few moments people who come to Refuge form an initial opinion. So, don't be "overwhelming" to visitors—some of them just

really want to be anonymous those first few times they come and that is ok.

In general, treat them like you would like to be treated the first time you entered someone else's home. The Greeters will do their job, but all of us can go a long way toward making visitors feel at home.

Finally, about those "Welcome" cards that are

in the pews. Help us keep accurate attendance records by always signing the Welcome cards. Also, if it looks like you have a guest in your row, please include your address. Yes, we already have YOUR address, but the chances are greater that the visitor will give us THEIR address if they see that you have signed and included YOUR address. Omit your address and in all likelihood we won't have an address to follow up on that visitor with.

## Children's Church...

Beginning the first Sunday of March we will be making some changes to our Children's Church program. The purpose of these changes is to provide a better educational and worship experience for our youth and teachers.

First, we will not be dismissing children to Children's Church until after the communion time. This will allow those who are working with our young people to experience the personal worship time that

our Communion Service offers. And, it will let all young people begin to have the seeds of faith planted in their hearts concerning what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross and being risen from the dead.

Next, we will be targeting Children's Church on children up through 3rd grade. We believe that it would be better for older children to experience the adult worship rather than a Chil-

dren's Church worship. If you are a parent and have reservations about how your child will respond to being in adult worship, we ask that you talk to Stan or Nathan about this and we will certainly work with you on what is best for your child. While up through 3rd grade is our "target" we will not "prevent" other children from attending if their parents deem that best for them.

(cont'd page 2)

**(CHILDREN'S CHURCH  
CONT'D)...**

Finally, the new Children's Church program for our children will feature a Music Time and a Children's Sermon that in total time will approximate the length of the sermon time in adult worship. Then, the workbook or craft activity that is used to reinforce the lesson will be taught during the Sunday School time. We hope you will begin to see the second hour as important for your children and as a parent you will stay for the second hour and join one of the small group Sunday School classes.

We welcome your comments about these matters. That is the reason that we are not implementing these changes immediately. Thanks for caring about our kids and about Refuge.

Pastor Stan

# Youth, etc.

by Nathan Wainwright

YOUTH:

30 Hour Famine is the 8-9 of this month. The teens will be fasting for 30 hours in an effort to raise money to help children who are starving around the world. Our goal this year is to raise \$4500. Last year we raised over \$3600 (which fed 10 kids for the entire year) and we would like to be able to feed 2 more this year. If you don't have the capacity to donate to each student you could also make a donation to the general fundraising efforts and it would be applied to the collective donation. We still also need donations of juice and water for the weekend.

Teen small groups will soon be beginning. They will be meeting in houses throughout the week in different locations around town. Keep an eye on your bulletin and we'll be posting those times and places. We hope to be able to reach out to the students who have a hard time making our Sunday night meeting. This also gives our students the chance to own their group, to take responsibility for its growth both spiritually and numerically.

CARTRIDGES FOR KIDS CHANGE

We appreciate the donations that all have made of used printer cartridges for youth fundraising. This year our focus is going to be on getting old cell phones. The recycle rate on cell phones is very low in the US (2.3%) and it is more profitable than the printer cartridges. According to the statistics, the average American has 3 or more expired cell phones. Bring those phones on down and drop them into the box by the main bathrooms. Your RefugeTeen Youth group thanks you.

## Church Data Update

Statement of Cash Flows:

This is cash from all available sources—checking account, savings account, and money market account.

Report figures provided by Pam Sweitzer, Financial Sec.

Cash 2/1/2008:

\$54,540.42

Thanks for caring about  
Refuge,

*Pastor Stan*

Worship Attendance:

January 6      163

January 13     144

January 20     138

January 27     156

Average for the month: 150

Congratulations to new Grandparents Mark and Maryanne Coverdale on the birth of their grandson, Landon Coverdale, born on January 24. He weighed 9 lbs. And was 21" long.