

# THE SOUTHWEST SPIRIT

Southwest  
Baptist  
Church

Celebrating our 85<sup>th</sup> year of service to Christ

December 14, 2006 – Vol. 28, No. 24



## Pastoral Potpourri

In Christmases past, members of our church have been asked to bring

gifts to our Christmas Eve Service that are presented on Christmas Day to women and children residing in a community shelter. This year our Christmas Eve gifts are directed to a specific family. Information about the number of children in the family, their clothing sizes and gifts desired will be printed in our bulletin. If you can include members if this family on your Christmas list, please do so.

In the next few weeks we will begin reupholstering the seat cushions in our sanctuary. The present cushions have served us well for almost 40 years but they are well beyond a reasonable expected life time. Even the color of our seat cushions, gold, speaks of a time that has come and gone. Our new color is a dark burgundy. The cost of reupholstering a seat is about \$18. If you would like to assume the cost of one or more seats, include that with your regular offering and note on your offering envelope the number of seats you will assume responsibility for.

On a similar note, the reupholstering of the seats will occur over the next several months so it may be that on a given Sunday the row in which you typically sit will be missing. Be patient, your row will return.

On December 22 Doris and I are opening our home for a Christmas Open House.

*continued. . .*

Everyone is welcome to drop by and have a cup of Christmas tea and other goodies. Transportation to our house will be available. More information about our Open House will follow in the coming weeks.

*Pastor Pulido*

## Bad Weather Concerns?

Any change to the church's regular schedule of activities will be posted on the church's website.

[www.southwestbaptistchurch.org](http://www.southwestbaptistchurch.org)

Members not having internet access are asked to call their Shepherds. Typically, a church service will be cancelled if it is found that roads are unsafe or entry to our church plant from our parking lots is unsafe.

## Church Business

On Sunday, December 3, the church voted to adopt the proposed 2007. Copies of the adopted budget are available through our church office.

## 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary News

The Finance Committee reminds members that 85th Anniversary gifts should be made by December 31. Likewise regular gifts to the church that are to be credited in 2006 must be in the church office by December 30 or if mailed must bear a December postmark.

## Our Sympathies

Christian sympathy is extended to Mary Ann Kirchner upon the death of her husband Steve. Mary Ann is one of our Child Development Center employees.

## From the Children's Director

As we begin this very hectic and wonderful month of December, I can't help but marvel at the excitement of the children. They don't seem to be affected at all by the long "to do" lists that we adults are going over and over in our minds.

Let us all learn from our children and slow down long enough to experience the wonder and awe of this blessed season.

Some of the best opportunities to do just that will come here at Southwest in the coming weeks.

As you receive this we will have already experienced the annual Procession of the Poinsettias. What a beautiful tradition of our children honoring our loved ones. Next we will look forward to our Birthday Party for Jesus in Children's Church on the 17th, then our special treat of the children singing the traditional songs of Christmas in our morning Christmas Eve service. Each week the children will be learning about the Birth of Jesus in their Sunday School classes as each class presents this beautiful story.

Please take time out of your busy schedule to talk with your child about what they are learning and experiencing about the true meaning of Christmas. Often the words of a child have a way of bringing us straight to the heart of the matter. May we listen carefully as they tell us the story of Jesus.

*Serving Him,  
Ramona Davis*



A couple of weeks ago Tara and I had a the privilege to lead our international missions study, which this year focused on Nigeria.

It is always amazing to me the creative means through which missionaries in varying locales care for needs and share the love of God in Christ. I hope you were able to be with us – if not, mark your calendars for next December. We hope to make this an annual event.

Of course, learning about and supporting mission work is not a once-a-year event. However, it is at this time of year that we have the opportunity to directly support missions and missionaries in a very special way. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is an annual offering which directly supports on-field mission work. In other words, money given through this offering is not for denominational administrative expenses.

The Lottie Moon offering monies are used to support only missionaries – and the money received from this offering helps support missionaries all year long.

Southwest Baptist Church has set a goal of sending \$5,000 to support the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions this year. If you have not already seen it, make note of the special display in the church foyer/entryway.

As a way of marking our progress toward meeting this goal, we will be shading each of the 5 continents where international missionaries serve (South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia) as we receive gifts for the Lottie Moon offering.

This year, when we are giving so much to each other in genuine expressions of Christmas joy, let's also remember those we might not even know, but who faithfully serve and have great need.

*Grace and peace,  
James*

## Southwest Baptist Church

6401 Scanlan Avenue, St. Louis MO 63139

- **Dr. Rudy A. Pulido**, Pastor
- **Rev. James Hill, Jr.**, Associate Pastor
- **Paula Bittle**, Interim Minister of Music
- **Ramona Davis**, Interim Minister to Children

### Contact Information:

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**Don't Forget:**  
Christmas Eve Service  
9:00pm on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>



**That all peoples  
may know Him**