

The Southwest Spirit



The Newsletter of Southwest Baptist Church
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THE FUTURE

On the first Sunday of this new year my sermon topic was on working together to discover the vision, the dream God has for our church. This is no easy task. It requires a great deal of humility on our part.

The first step toward discovering God's vision for our church is that each of us must surrender the vision we have for our church. That's not easy. Those of you that have been members of the church for any length of time will find this especially difficult. You have experienced the good days and you have lived through some challenging days. A natural response to returning to good days is that we again exercise those things we did during the good days.

But it doesn't work that way. Our world has changed and change is accelerating rather than slowing down. Churches that don't understand that may soon find themselves in company with the dodo bird.

A second step is that we must be united in seeking what God's dream, His vision, for our church is. I believe we are still in God's plans for the city of St. Louis. I also believe that God's desire is not to hide that plan but to reveal it to us. This requires that we be of one mind in seeking God's plan. Let's remember the words of our Lord, "If a house is divided against itself, it will not stand."

A third step is that each of us must ask God to reveal his plan to us. Asking means praying. I am requesting that Southwesterners pray daily for God's direction for our church. Asking also means seeking. Therefore, I have given notice to our Church Council that our work this year will be focused on finding God's dream, God's vision for our church.

For Southwest tomorrow begins today. May God bless our seeking!

Pastor Pulido

Welcome...and Thank You!

As you may have noticed, your Southwest Baptist Church newsletter, *The Southwest Spirit*, has received something of a face lift in recent weeks. The way we prepare the newsletter has changed, and we hope to continue to revise our new format as we try to produce the best, most effective church newsletter possible.

There are two persons I need to thank for their hard work on our church newsletter. The work Becky Davis has put into the newsletter over the past years has been invaluable. Her creativity and hard work have produced many fine newsletters, and we find we are still "borrowing" some of her ideas. I also need to thank John Bossert for his efforts in producing the new electronic template for our church newsletter. This newsletter, and the past couple of newsletters, have been possible because of John's effort and hard work. Thank you Becky and John!

Do you have an idea for our church newsletter, or some information about a church event we need to promote? Let me know! Email me at jhill@southwestbaptistchurch.org, or call the church office.

Have a happy and blessed new year!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Hill

From the Children's Director

We are off to a great start for the New Year! What a blessing and privilege to worship with the children of Southwest and watch them as they grow in the Lord.

There are many plans in the making for the coming year. The children and I are working on an exciting new Children's Church and we can't wait to tell you about it in mid February.

Plans are being made for our outreach activities to the community as well as some fun church family fellowships in the coming months. And of course it is already time to begin the plans for Vacation Bible School for the summer.

With every effort we make to plan these activities and programs, we ask these questions: How does this reach children and their families for Christ? What part of this event will contain the message of Salvation? How will we minister to children and families who need to know how the message we send about Christ applies to their lives today?

If you have a heart for children and reaching out to families, please consider stepping forward to work with us as we share Christ with His precious children. As Christians we are all called to serve Him and God will use a willing heart to do great things in His name. Children need the influence of Christians of all ages and all talents to be their example in today's world. I look forward to serving alongside you.

For HIS Kids,
Ramona Davis

The Women's Retreat is Coming Soon!

Are you signed up? This promises to be one of the highlights of the winter season. Contact Dee Wiecher or Mabel DeLuca for more details!

January Dates to Note

Rataj Baby Shower – 3pm, 1/13
CE Teachers' Mtg – 4pm, 1/14
Global Mission Mtg – 7pm, 1/18
Church Council -- 7pm, 1/22
Women's Retreat – 1/26, 1/27
Business Mtg – 6:30pm, 1/28
Youth Winter Jam Concert, 1/28

Don't Forget...

To find information on cancellations regarding worship services, CDC hours, and other activities during bad weather, go to our website:

www.southwestbaptistchurch.org



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
- **Ruth Ann Yorg**, Director of Child Development Center
- **Meredith Rataj**, Worship Team Coordinator
- **Judy Fussell**, Church Secretary

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