

The Southwest Spirit

The Newsletter of Southwest Baptist Church
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Honored Members of our Southwest Family

Jim and Martha Durbin, long time members of Southwest Baptist Church, were recently honored by the Kirkwood-Des Peres Chamber of Commerce as their 2006 Citizens of the Year. Jim and Martha own James Durbin Jewelry Design in Kirkwood and were honored for all they give back to their community.

"I've been told to accept this award graciously, but I can't," said Martha Durbin. "Now I feel like I am really challenged to show that I deserve it. This will push Jim and I to get even more involved with the community."

Martha has plenty on her plate as co-president of Kirkwood's Mary Culver Home For the Visually Impaired, formerly known as the Blind Girls Home, which was originally organized in 1866. At Southwest Baptist, Martha is a leader in our AWANA program.

Jim has been involved with Special Olympics and as treasurer of the Kirkwood Rotary – he finds himself pulled into many of that service organization's educational and international charitable programs. Jim serves in a variety of capacities here at Southwest, including driving a van, helping to replace seat cushions in the sanctuary, and as the immediate past chairman of the Personnel Committee.

Thanks Jim and Martha – We are proud to call you family!

A TUCCO MOMENT

Phil Tucco does such a marvelous job of bringing members of our church together for times of food and fellowship that he is given personal privilege with the following announcement. Phil is planning having the June fellowship dinner in Rome, Italy. If you are interested in traveling with Phil, Betty, Doris and Pastor Pulido to Italy in June contact Phil. Phil isn't receiving anything from coordinating such a trip other than knowing that he is once again making it possible for members of Southwest Baptist Church to have another great time.

Eyeing Easter – Walking Through Lent

Come join our observance of the Lenten season as we move toward Easter. "Eyeing Easter – Walking Through Lent" begins Wednesday, February 14th, at 6:15 in Memorial Hall.



Thus far in AWANA this year we have celebrated Chocolate Night, Crazy Hat Night, and Popcorn Night. We have had over 100 children (pre-school through 12th grade) come through our doors to participate in our programs and we average 50 children a night. With our year just half over, we are still looking for people who have been called to serve our children. Our youth program in particular is growing by leaps and bounds and our workers are stretched very thin. Is God calling you to serve? Come celebrate Super Dooper Scooper Night, Bible Character Night and Green Scene Night with us.

Many of the children who participate in our program do not attend church. Maybe because of other commitments you can not work with us on Wednesday nights, but you would be interested in going to visit these children and their families. We would love to meet our parents and invite them to church. Please contact a member of our church staff if God is calling you to serve our community and church by helping children.



Congratulations to Steve and Meredith Rataj on the birth of their son, Asher John Rataj. Asher was born at 3:18am on Wednesday, January 31. He weighed 6 lbs 1oz and was 20 inches long. Mother and son are doing well!

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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From the Pastor's Pen

Two weeks ago I was received onto the cabinet of the Interfaith Partnership of Metropolitan St. Louis. I assumed a seat on the cabinet as a representative of the Baptist General Convention of Missouri.

Sitting on the cabinet were Archbishop Burke and Batya Abramson-Goldstein. One represents the Catholic Community of St. Louis, the other the Jewish Community. At the table were leaders from the Hindu, Muslim, B'hai faiths as well as mainline churches such as the Lutheran, Methodist and UCC church. I was warmly welcomed and informed that it was good to have another Baptist voice on the cabinet.

Fred Craddock is one of my favorite writers. He wrote of a chaplain visiting with students in a college setting. The chaplain had served with distinction in World War II and was present on the beaches of Normandy when hundreds of Americans lost their lives. He told of going from fallen soldier to fallen soldier of praying with them and being with them as they died. A student asked the chaplain if some of fallen were Jewish, Catholic or some other faith other than his own and if so how could he deal with them. The chaplain answered that when you are in a situation like that the only question that really matters is asking, "How can I help you?"

Sitting on an ecumenical board such as Interfaith Partnership I find myself in the company of those who differ from me theologically but there's a spirit among board members that as they see the world the question is not how we are different but how can we work together to help people. Pray for me that I might represent Baptists well on this august body.

On a similar note, I have been invited by Jewish Temple in Ladue to come and speak at their Friday evening service in February. They have asked me to speak on the subject of faith groups working in partnership for a common good. Pray that I will do well representing the spirit of our faith at this service.

See you in worship, Sunday.

Pastor Pulido