

The Southwest Spirit

The Newsletter of Southwest Baptist Church
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That All May Know Him...

Oh the miracle of forgiveness! Nearly 30 years ago I was part of a group of teenagers at Southwest infamously dubbed "The Vandals." Considering some of our antics it is amazing that Dr. Pulido would be so supportive of the new church I am planting. He is either very forgiving or very forgetful. Thank you, Dr. Pulido and Southwest Baptist Church, for sponsoring Southtown Family Church.

This new mission will be a multi-cultural church uniting all peoples in the family of God. The church will be modeled after the biblical church in Antioch. It was there that the early Jewish Christians first began reaching out to their Gentile neighbors. Because of this, Antioch grew rapidly and became one of the most influential churches in the first century.

Southtown Family Church envisions drawing various ethnic groups together to make an impact on our community. Currently we have a small group meeting for Bible study and we hope to begin public worship services this September. You may be hearing of ways you can be involved in this mission in the coming months. Thank you for your support and please pray for God to be glorified in this new church.

Gratefully in Christ,

Rev. Jim Bender

The Gospel of John: Coming Soon!



"This is the kind of theater that illuminates the whole idea and point of Easter. If you're hearing "The Gospel of John" for the first time, this is a good way to hear it! And this (performance) is a purer depiction than most.....every word of The Gospel of John performed by one man!" Canadian Broadcasting Co. – Toronto

Our Church will be hosting a wonderful evening of drama and fellowship on Friday evening, March 30th. Watch for more information from our Gospel of John planning team in the next few weeks!

Eyeing Easter – Walking Through Lent

Come join our observance of the Lenten season as we move toward Easter. "Eyeing Easter – Walking Through Lent" Continues every Wednesday evening, at 6:15 in Memorial Hall. See Pastor James for more details.

Take Note!

A special Christian Education/Sunday School teachers' meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, March 3rd. It is very important that all of our teachers attend this meeting – it will beginning at 9:00 am will end no later than 10:30 am. Those unable to attend should contact Pastor James, jhill@southwestbaptistchurch.org.

From the Pastor's Pen

Vision Planning Begins

In my January 14 sermon I mentioned that I would be asking our Church Council to begin work on a Vision Plan for our church that would guide our ministries for the next three to five years. The Church Council's work begins on Sunday evening, March 4.

Our guest for the evening will be Mr. Dan Kappel, director of the South City YMCA.

I serve on the board of advisors for the South City Y and last year the branch began developing a plan for expansion of its facility. Part of the process called for the Y understanding the dynamics at work in our community. A professional firm provided the Y with a profile of our neighborhood. I found the profile informative and because any Vision Plan we develop as a church must take into consideration the dynamics at work in our community, I asked Dan to come and share what insights we might gain from the profile.

The March 4 meeting and the meetings that follow are open to all members and interested guests. The Church Council will have vision planning meetings twice a month through the month of May and then resume its work the end of August. It is hoped that the Vision Plan can be presented to the church family at the Thanksgiving season.

Our 40 Days of Prayer for Vision and Renewal begins on February 26. Prayer guides for the 40 days that lead up to Easter Sunday will be made available on a weekly basis. Prayer is a major component of all we hope to be as a church. Pick up your prayer guide on Sunday, February 25 and take the 40 day journey with other members of your church family.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Pulido

Day Light-Savings Breakfast on March 11

Our Deacons will be hosting a special breakfast to help our church family get back the hour of sleep lost on Sunday, March 11th. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am for good food and fellowship.

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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