

The Southwest Spirit

The Newsletter of Southwest Baptist Church
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The Pastor's Pen

REFLECTIONS

23-24-23-25-21-27. What do those numbers represent? An offensive football play? The measurements of some object? No. They are the ages of the soldiers buried at the foot of the mountain that leads to the monastery at Monte Cassino, Italy. As I walked among the white crosses that marked their graves I found only a few who were thirty years of age and older. Most who fell at the Battle of Monte Cassino (May 1944) were in their twenties.

The cemetery seemed a strange place for a tour bus to stop. It was not on our itinerary. But stop we did. Our tour guide explained that we stopped at the cemetery for two reasons. One reason was that there was a public restroom on the grounds and after two hours on the bus no doubt some on the tour would welcome the stop. The second reason was that he wanted our group to remember that the splendor of the sights we had seen and would see in Italy came at the cost of lives, young lives. Then our guide reminded us that as we toured in air-conditioned luxury somewhere in our world young lives were still falling in battle.

While I paused to read the names and ages of the fallen I whispered a prayer that none of my grandchildren or yours would ever be a name on a white cross. Oh, God please make it so.

26-24-28-25-21-27

Pastor Pulido

August Church-wide Sabbathical

In August our church will be allowing several of our leadership groups to take a rest to renew themselves for the coming church year. There will be no Wednesday evening meals, Wednesday Bible studies, Wednesday children's and youth programs, Chancel Choir practice, or Sunday evening programs during August. Take time to seek fellowship as we all look forward to what God has for us this year!



The First Annual SWBC Open!

On Sunday afternoon, August 19, all interested golfers should plan on attending the 1st Annual SWBC Open (also called "the Worst Golfer in the Church" contest). For details and more information, contact the church office.

Musical Guests in August

During the month of August our Chancel Choir earns a respite from their important role in worship leadership. We take this opportunity to invite guests to be with us to assist in worship leadership through music. This coming Sunday, August 12th, Mr. Jim Mayhew will be with us. Mr. Mayhew will be playing Native American flutes. On August 19th, we will welcome Mr. & Mrs. Issac Bondurant. Then, on August 26th, Alex and Yadira Ramirez, a duet from a local Spanish-speaking mission church, will be sharing with us in worship. Make plans now to be in church for each of these special Sunday morning worship experiences.

Belief or Opinion...

"Action is what separates a belief from an opinion." So says Eboo Patel, executive director of the Interfaith Youth Core, in This I Believe, a collection of essays about "the personal philosophies of remarkable men and women." (p. 180)

There are many ways we put our beliefs into action. Our faith touches every aspect of our lives, from the way we treat our families to the way we drive. In preparation for the Billy Graham Crusade several years ago, as they handed out the bumper stickers they reminded us to drive like Christians in order not to be a bad witness. The Bible instructs us to believe in the Lord and not simply have an opinion about Him because "faith without works is dead" (James 2:26).

I have some suggestions for some new ways for you to put your beliefs into action. Southtown Family Church, the mission of Southwest, will begin holding worship services on Saturday, September 22. We need some help in various areas like passing out flyers, helping prepare refreshments, and other simple tasks that can make an eternal impact. If you would like to help, please call me at 314-732-7265.

Thank you for your help and may all your actions testify to a belief in Jesus, not just an opinion.

Pastor Jim Bender

COMING NEXT ISSUE – OUR FALL SEASON PREVIEW!

Children's Christian Education Meeting



On Saturday, August 18, our Children's Christian Education (Sunday School) leaders will be gathering to prepare for the coming CE year. If you are a teacher from Bed Babies to 5th & 6th grade, plan to meet in Room 304 at 1:00 pm on August 18. Those unable to attend should contact Pastor James or Ramona. Please contact the church office or a member of our staff for more information, as well.

We Care

"We Care" forms are now available to all Southwest Keenagers through our church office. The We Care forms will help us deal with a medical emergency that might occur while a Keenager is attending a church function. The information on the We Care form is very basic and will be held as confidential material in our office only to be opened upon a medical emergency. All senior adults of the church are requested to fill out a We Care form. Forms can be obtained by calling our church office.

Southwest Baptist Church

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- Dr. Rudy A. Pulido, Pastor
- Rev. James Hill, Jr., Associate Pastor
- Ramona Davis, Director of Children's Ministries
- Paula Bittle, Interim Minister of Music
- Ruth Ann Yorg, Director of Child Development Center
- Meredith Rataj, Worship Team Coordinator
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