

The Southwest Spirit



The Newsletter of Southwest Baptist Church
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From The Pastor....

On Easter Sunday as I was pulling away from our parking lot when a car bearing Ohio license plates pulled up and a rather large imposing man jumped out of his car and came over to me and asked if I would sign a petition. The man said the petition would amend the Missouri constitution so that the revenue generated by casinos in Missouri would go to the state's education budget and senior adult programs. Many Missourians are under the impression that this was what was suppose to happen when they approved that casinos be built in the state. To be sure that was the sales pitch but once casinos were approved it became "bait and switch" time. The revenue went into the state's general budget and the funding that many thought would go towards the education and senior adult program budget could be described as incremental at best. So now this rather large imposing man was selling me on the idea of signing an initiative petition that would give Missouri voters the opportunity to amend the law so that casino revenue would go to where Missourians thought it was going in the first place. To the surprise of the man I just didn't sign the petition but I read it. What I found was another "bait and switch" effort.

What the petition really wanted to do was to eliminate casino gambling loss limits and end the construction of more casinos in Missouri. When I pointed this out to the man, he thanked me for my time and went over to talk to another person on our parking lot.

Casino owners don't really care where the money they generate for a state goes to. Their bottom line is to generate as much money for themselves as is possible. The petition was just another effort on their part to impose their desire upon us.

I could tell you heartbreaking stories of the harm done by casinos in Missouri. Not long after the casinos opened a man I knew discovered his wife had gambled their life savings down at the "boats". Then there was the young lady who squandered her paycheck and most of the family savings down on the boats and was in debt to the casino for thousands of dollars more.

Let me say it loud and clear, casinos are a cancer that destroy lives, families and communities. So, where is this article leading to? I'll tell you in our next newsletter.

Money Matters: Epilogue



Our final session in our study "Money Matters" will be held on Sunday evening, April 27th, at 5:30 pm in Memorial Hall. Ryan McGhee, a professional financial planner and life-long Christian, will be with us to share about sound personal and family financial strategies. He will also be available to answer a variety of questions we might bring. For more information, contact the church office.

CDC Day Camp 2008

Summer will be here before you know it and the Center is getting ready for the "big" kids that will be coming for Day Camp. This summer's theme "Incredible Journey Across the USA" will let the children experience life throughout the country through field trips, crafts and other activities. All children who have completed Kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to participate in the journey. Would you or someone you know be interested in helping with this adventure? If you are, the Center is looking for part time and possible full time staff to work this summer. Please contact the Child Development Center for more information. All aboard the SWB train!!

Coming in May...

Don't forget to mark your calendars for these upcoming events. More information on each will be available soon.

- May 3 – Youth ministry event at the food pantry
- May 4 - Children's Day and Family Resource Fair
- May 9 - Ladies Banquet
- May 17 – Youth laser tag fellowship event
- May 18 – Youth Sunday
- May 18 – Walk Across the Room Revisited



Summer Calendar Dates

- Simply Enough: Living a Simpler Christian Life – begin June 1
- Youth Variety Show & Auction Fundraiser – June 13
- Youth Camp: MFuge – July 7-11
- Children's Camp: Camp – July 21-25
- Vacation Bible School – August 4-8
- Youth Karaoke Night Fundraiser – August 15

Watch your bulletin jacket and this newsletter space for more information about these and other Summer events, including missions opportunities and our all-church picnic!



A very big thank you to all of the Keenagers who brought food and helped make our event at the Langhorst Apartments such a success on April 9. We had one of our largest turn-outs yet, and everyone had a wonderful time of fellowship. Watch for our next ministry opportunity at Langhorst, and brush up on that movie trivia!



Softball is Here!

Our Men's team begins play on Tuesday, April 29, and Children's and Youth teams begin play on Saturday, May 10. For more information, contact the church office.

Southwest Baptist Church

6401 Scanlan Avenue, St. Louis MO 63139

- Dr. Rudy A. Pulido, Pastor
- Rev. James Hill, Jr., Associate Pastor
- Mrs. Ramona Davis, Director of Children's Ministries
- Dr. Larry Smith, Interim Music Director
- Mrs. Ruth Ann Yorg, Director of Child Development Center
- Mrs. Meredith Rataj, Worship Team Coordinator
- Mr. JP Davis, Administrative Assistant

Contact Information:

phone - 314-647-4567 fax - 314-647-4569
website - WWW.SOUTHWESTBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG
email - swbc@southwestbaptistchurch.org