

# The Southwest Spirit

The Newsletter of Southwest Baptist Church  
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## From Your Associate Pastor...

(This article first appeared on Pastor James' Blog, jameshilljr.blogspot.com, on Monday, January 18)

### Reflecting on MLK Day

On days like today, on Facebook and many other outlets, we are reminded of the wisdom shared in the wonderful teaching of our country's greatest modern day prophet. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a great theologian and advocate for the world's oppressed. It is easy to be captured by his charisma and powerful speaking ability; we shouldn't forget how brilliant and insightful he was as well. I was reminded of one of my favorite quotes from his writing and I learned another quotation I had not previously known.

"There is an almost universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think." (MLK from "Strength to Love")

A former professor of mine from seminary reminded me of this quotation today. These words are an accurate, stinging indictment. I think the church culture can be particularly guilty of promoting an attitude of "easy answers" which don't actually mean anything. Empty platitudes, cliché riddled perspectives, and cute aphorisms rarely do much but reinforce a status quote of either injustice or apathy. Nothing replaces thoughtful examination and reflection.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter."

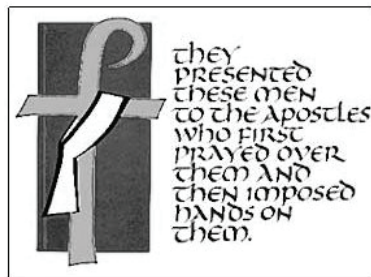
I wish I would have had this quotation available to me as I prepared yesterday's sermon. Among other illustrations, I used a portion of Dr. King's most famous speech as I chose the question "Why can't we dream?" as a driving force for my sermon. How can we look at the life of such a man and live with a pessimism or indifference which chokes our ability to dream?

I have truly enjoyed reading through the comments on Facebook and other blogs on this Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. His life continues to make a profound difference in the world.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor James

## Upcoming Special Sunday's!

Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>  
Ordination of  
John Weidlich  
as a Deacon



Deacon Ordination is a special time in the life of our church. Join us for worship on January 31st as we celebrate the ordination of Mr. John Weidlich.

Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>



Dedication of Dylan Freeze and Drake Knoll.

Is there a more exciting time in any family than the arrival of a child? Our church family rejoices in the addition of Dylan and Drake to the Freeze and Knoll Families. Baby dedication is truly a time of family dedication - and church family dedication as well. Plan to join us in worship on February 7th as these two families present their sons for dedication.

2010

## Offering Envelopes



### Now Available

2010 Offering Envelopes are now available in the foyer. Offering envelopes can be a wonderfully helpful tool in our regular Christian stewardship. Please check the table for your family's envelopes. If you do not find your offering envelopes, please call the church office and we'll have them ready for you next Sunday.

## Shepherd Ministry



The Shepherd Ministry is open to any member of the church who would like to assist in caring for the members of the church. Shepherds are given a list of members who come under their care for this calendar year. Shepherds pray regularly for their members. Shepherds remember members on their special days during the course of the year, e.g. birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Shepherds provide a Christian example of faithfulness and love for our Lord and his church. Shepherds do not take the place of Southwest's ministerial staff in providing for the special needs of the membership.

If you are interested in serving as a Shepherd in 2010 call our office or indicate the same on your bulletin insert this Sunday.

## International Mission Offering Emphasis Continues



Look for a display on the bulletin board in the main stairwell. This offering supports the Lottie Moon Christmas offering of the International Mission Board the World Mission Offering of the Baptist World Alliance. Our goal is \$3,000.



## Southwest Baptist Church

6401 Scanlan Avenue, St. Louis MO 63139

- Rev. James Hill, Jr., Associate Pastor
- Dr. Larry Smith, Director of Music Ministry
- Mr. Michael Hodges, Youth Minister
- Mrs. Ruth Ann Yorg, Director of Child Development Center
- Mrs. Meredith Rataj, Worship Ensemble Coordinator
- Mr. Jim Dinkins, Property Manager
- Mrs. Judy Fussell, Secretary

### Contact Information:

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

## Church Website Updated!

Travel on over to our church website to see the updates and changes. The following features are now available:

- Downloadable bulletins & newsletters
- An always up-to-date church calendar
- An interactive map to the church
- Information on church ministries
- Even a few recent sermons!

www.southwestbaptistchurch.org



Sunday, February 14, 2010  
12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

All ladies are invited to a baby shower for Christena Frank on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall following morning worship. A light lunch of sandwiches, salad, and dessert will be provided by the Young Adult Co-Ed CE Class. Please RSVP to this special event on your bulletin insert by Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.