

# The Southwest Spirit

The Newsletter of Southwest Baptist Church  
February 4, 2010 – Volume 32, Number 03



**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 this Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.



## This Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> Dylan Freeze and Drake Knoll Dedication

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 this Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> as these two families present their sons for dedication.

## 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.

## Women's Retreat Photos Now Available On-Line!

[www.southwestbaptistchurch.org](http://www.southwestbaptistchurch.org)

## With Sympathy...



Our deepest sympathies to the families of Celia Mason and Ed Smith on their recent passing.

## Guest Speaker February 14 Rev. Leslie Limbaugh



On Sunday morning, February 14, we welcome Rev. Leslie Limbaugh as our guest speaker during our morning worship. February is Martha Sterns Marshall Baptist Women Preaching month all across the country in Baptist life. Leslie is the minister of students and communication at Third Baptist Church here in St. Louis. We welcome Rev. Limbaugh as she brings the message on February 14. Make plans now to join us at 10:45AM.



The family of Ed Smith appreciated the kindness from the church at his passing. We thank Pastor Hill for his service. The ladies in the kitchen did a nice job with the lunch.

Sincerely,  
Betty Smith & Family

## From Your Associate Pastor

### Heroes Fall...Always

Recent days and weeks have reminded me of something all of us, as a culture, find it so easy to forget. Heroes and heroines never quite live up to our expectations. Inevitably, those who are admired, sometimes even placed on pedestals, come crashing down. Some of this has to do with our heroes and heroines, but mostly our expectations are at fault. There is nothing new about this cycle; after all, scripture gives us dozens of individuals who follow the same pattern.

What seems so odd to me are the extreme reactions to heroes which fall. Those who have a position which bends the public ear seem to take only one of two extreme positions toward a fallen "hero." Either (1) the former hero in question is now the greatest villain the world has ever seen, or (2) the former hero was the victim of circumstance, certainly not at fault and likely taken advantage of. He or she should be restored to his or her formerly heroic status. To these two extreme reactions I say, HUH?!?

Here in St. Louis, Mark McGwire provides the perfect example. In recent days, McGwire has admitted to using steroids (something most of us suspected), explained his thinking back then, and apologized. Some have found his apologizing lacking, but I do not believe this has been at the heart of the reaction to his admission. I'm less concerned with his motivation than ours.

The first extreme reaction has come from many a sportswriters and a handful of former players. These seek to paint McGwire as the most extreme of villains, who should be banned from working in baseball, slashed from the record books, and marked with a permanent "S" tattoo on his forehead. Ok, this last one isn't true, but I think they might be for it if they thought they could.

The second reaction is equally as puzzling to me. This reaction seems to come from die-hard fans, with a smattering of voices from former players as well. These voices seek to dismiss McGwire's failings as irrelevant, providing excuse after excuse for why this honorable man did something which really is not all that bad. The voracious cheers seem to me to rise above the tone of "we forgive you" to a fevered pitch of "you're our hero no matter what you've done or will do." I wonder if these same voices would find a way to explain away the actions of one of their heroes who was found to be pushing down old ladies and tripping children on the street in his spare time.

Mark McGwire, and every other person we exalt to hero or heroine status, is simply human. His mistakes do not make him a villain. He is not worthy of the status of hero, either. None of us are. Both history and the witness of scripture demonstrate this fact repeatedly. And this is why the fault lies with us. I fear these two extreme reactions, neither of which is healthy or helpful, only happen when we insist on creating images of grand heroes who will inevitably disappoint.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor James

## 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

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## 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](http://www.southwestbaptistchurch.org)