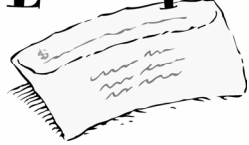


The Southwest Spirit

The Newsletter of Southwest Baptist Church
January 26, 2012 – Volume 34, Number 02



Offering Envelopes



Now Available

2012 Offering Envelopes are now available in the foyer. Offering envelopes can be a wonderfully helpful tool in your regular Christian stewardship. Please check the table for your envelopes. If you do not find your offering envelopes or would like to start using envelopes, please call the church office and we will have them ready for you the next Sunday. Watch for your 2011 annual giving statement in the mail later this month.

2012 SWBC Calendar

Business Meetings

Sunday, Feb. 5, 12:00PM
(special called meeting)
Sunday, March 4, 5:00PM
Sunday, June 17, 5:00PM
Sunday, September 9, 5:00PM
Sunday, December 9, 5:00PM

Church Council

Monday, January 30, 7:00PM
Monday, April 16, 7:00PM
Sunday, May 20, 5:00PM
Sunday, August 5, 5:00PM
Sunday, October 14, 5:00PM
Monday, November 12, 7:00PM

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 1

Easter

Sunday, April 8

Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 4 – Friday, June 8

Children's Camp

Wednesday, June 13 – Friday, June 15



New Church-wide Opportunity – Coming for Lent 2012

As Baptists, we claim to be people of the “Book.” But, if we are honest with ourselves, we don’t spend enough time with the Bible to let it meaningfully impact our lives. Recently, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, in partnership with Faith Comes By Hearing, presented a special opportunity to Baptist churches in hopes that it would assist in churches becoming more deeply formed in Christ likeness and more committed to our mission of redemption in the world.

This year, during the weeks leading up to Easter which Christians traditionally call “Lent” (or “Spring”), our church will have the opportunity to participate in this program. Each member (adult and teenager) of our congregation who wants one will receive an audio Bible in MP3 format, either as a download or on an MP3 disc. Our challenge will be to listen to the entire New Testament during the weeks of Lent in 2012. Watch for more information in the coming weeks, and consider the following...

According to various different studies and reports:

- 65% of Christians have never read the entire New Testament
- 43% of American adults function at or below basic literacy levels – making them incapable of meaningful Bible reading
- In a survey of more than 500 pastors, 47% cited “lack of time” as the main reason more Christians don’t read the Bible
- 58% of the U.S. adult population will never read another book after high school
- 42% of U.S. university graduates never read another book

From the Pastor's Desk

New Ministry Teams Have Begun Their Work...

At the time I write this, four of our five ministry teams have had their first meetings and have already begun looking at the directions they will be leading our church in the coming year. I have to admit, I'm pretty excited to see the enthusiasm and commitment which I've already witnessed in so many of our team members.

First, I would like to challenge our entire church family to be in prayer for our teams and our team members. These teams will be leading, but it is up to all of us as a congregation to decide we want to be radically hospitable, to participate in passionate worship, to seek intentional faith development, to achieve risk-taking missions and service, and to be extravagantly generous. Beginning this coming Sunday, team lists for each of our Ministry Teams will be available on the Ministry Team bulletin board in the main stairwell. Check it out!

Second, I would like to thank each of the participants in our ministry teams for their dedication and commitment. Doing something new always means challenges, but it also means new opportunities. For the commitment of your time, talents, and abilities, I get to say “thank you” on behalf of our entire congregation.

Finally...I hope everyone in our church family will be anxiously awaiting the new opportunities our ministry teams will bring. Our teams will be making their cases to our church for the direction our ministries are going. Are you ready to jump on board?

I hope so!

Grace and peace,

Pastor James

Special Called Business Meeting Following Morning Worship Sunday, February 5

On Sunday, February 5, Southwest Baptist Church will meet in a special called business session to consider the deacon candidate recommendations for this year. We will meet in Memorial Hall immediately following morning worship. Those with questions should contact Pastor James.

Don't Forget...

Weather Updates Online



To find information on cancellations regarding worship services, CDC hours, and other activities during bad weather, go to our website: www.southwestbaptistchurch.org

Southwest Baptist Church

6401 Scanlan Avenue, St. Louis MO 63139

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

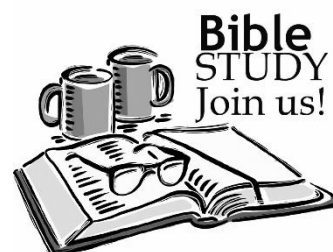
Contact Information:

phone - 314-647-4567

fax - 314-647-4569

website - www.southwestbaptistchurch.org

email - swbc@southwestbaptistchurch.org



Wednesday Night Pastor's Bible Study

“God's Kingdom Comes Near”

Gospel of Mark

Wednesday's, 6:30p.m., Room 205

Our Wednesday evening Pastor's Bible study has resumed with a 15-week journey through the Gospel of Mark called “God's Kingdom Comes Near.” What was the particular story of Jesus that Mark was trying to tell, and why is it important for us today? We will tackle these questions together beginning this Wednesday evening. Our Wednesday evening Bible study is very different from our Sunday School format, and all are welcome regardless of age group! If reading and studying the Bible more is a goal for you this year here is your chance! Join us this Wednesday. For more information, see Pastor James