

Koinonia *focus*

SPRING NEWSLETTER | SOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH | MARCH 2017

PREPARING FOR EASTER

So, we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

Nehemiah 4:6

It happens every year, and it always seems to sneak up on us, but Easter is right around the corner! This year our Easter theme is “ALIVE: Celebrating the Resurrection!” And that is exactly what Easter is all about – celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

In preparation for Easter we are asking our church family to get involved in a couple of projects that we have designed to help us be prepared for this special day. First, we will be preparing for Easter with 35 Days of Prayer leading up to Easter Sunday. These days of prayer will begin on Sunday March 12 and continue to Easter Sunday. We have prepared a prayer guide to help you as you

pray. A prayer guide has been included in the mailing with this newsletter.

Secondly, we have made a list of work projects around the church and have set a goal of having these completed by Easter Sunday. Many of these jobs could be completed at any time by our members and so we are asking for your help in one or more of these projects. Projects range from general cleaning, to painting, changing light switches and so on. Pastor has a full list of projects we would like to see completed by Easter. If you are willing to help please contact Pastor to sign-up for a spot.

MISSION TRIP TO AFRICA

In our last newsletter, we shared about a potential opportunity for Kim and I to go on a short-term missions trip to Africa with our missionary David Whetstone. Since that letter was mailed out God has led us to commit to this trip! We will be leaving for Africa on July 18 and returning on July 29. The trip will cost approximately \$4,000 for each of us to go, and we are trusting God to provide these funds.

While in Africa we will be working with the Mentor Leaders Team led by David Whetstone to do Evangelism to the Village of Gbentchal, Togo, West Africa. We appreciate all the encouragement we have received so far and we ask for your prayer for God’s provision of the necessary funds and for God’s blessing as we prepare and go on this exciting trip!

Church Events

- Mar 12 – Daylight Savings
- Mar 12 – 35 Days of Prayer for Easter
- Mar 14 – Board Meeting
- Mar 19 – Quarterly Business Meeting
- Mar 20 – Released Time Bible Class
- Mar 23 – GSRM Chapel Service
- Mar 24 – Singles Ministry Activity
- April 1 – Church Work Day
- April 9 – Palm Sunday
- April 14 – Community Good Friday Service
- April 16 – Easter Sunday

Revised Church Constitution

One of our strategic planning goals for the church at this time is to complete a thorough revision of our church's Statement of Faith and Constitution. Earlier this past year we completed and had approved the Statement of Faith for the church.

Since the completion of the Statement of Faith, Pastor and the Deacons have been working on the revision of the Church Constitution. This revision has been developed with the following 2 goals in mind:

① to help provide clarity to the order of the church and ② unity to its function both for the present time and moving forward into the future.

We have spent many hours praying and working through each part of the Constitution, to present to the church for consideration for approval. Initial discussion and review of the revised Constitution will take place at our Quarterly Business Meeting on Sunday March 19, 2017, following the AM Worship service.

We are asking all our church members to take the time to review this document (included in the mailing) to be able to best participate in the discussion at our business meeting.

As stated our desire and purpose was to provide clarity and unity for both now and the future. As you review this document you will find areas where wording from the previous Constitution has been altered but communicates the same message. In other areas, you will find specific changes to the previous document. And there are a couple of brand new points that have been added where we believe they were needed. One of the big changes we have made is in regards to our

membership policy, with the addition of a new church covenant. This change has also been a part of our strategic planning for the church for this time. Upon approval, we will require all members to affirm this covenant as part of our commitment to the Lord as a member of South Baptist Church.

Please read through carefully with a prayerful heart so that we will be able to have effective discussion guided by a unified desire to please the Lord and bring glory to His name.

Sunday Night Bible Classes

So, shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11

We have said that our vision for the process of discipleship here at South Baptist Church is to see every person in our church, "Worship God, Grow Together, Serve Others, and Go Boldly!"

It is a process of spiritual growth and development. Research shows that the greatest number of people who identify with a specific church are committed to attending the public worship of that church (Worship God). Joining others for the study of God's Word is the next step in the process and in an individual's spiritual growth.

Recently, we began a new segment of Sunday night classes which offer a great opportunity for you to be a part of this process of discipleship.

The first class is led by Frank Davenport and is entitled, "Walk in Him: A Study of Colossians and Philemon." The goal of this class is to read, understand, and apply the truths of Colossians and Philemon together, so that we might continue to walk in Christ, who is fully sufficient as Creator, Savior and Ruler over all things. This class is structured around group discussion of the texts and the weekly study questions assigned for each text. This class meets each Sunday night in the Awana circle area.

Our second class is led by Pastor Mark and is titled, "Foundations of the Christian Faith." This class is intended to help the student of the Bible

New Membership Class

One of the most important and necessary steps you can take to becoming a part of South Baptist Church is completing our "New Member Class." During this class, we will discuss information regarding our church's vision, doctrine, facilitates, ministries, leadership, and what's important to us. After completing this class, you will be able to walk away with a clear understanding of what our expectation is for you and all our people as members of this church. Our next offering of the class will take place on Sunday afternoons April 2 and 9 at 4:00 pm. The classes will meet in the welcome area and will run approximately 1 ½ hours. If you are interested in becoming a member of South Baptist Church and taking this class, please see Pastor Mark to get signed up.

establish a Biblical foundation upon which he/she can build a successful life. Pastor Mark and is titled, "Foundations of the Christian Faith." This class is intended to help the student of the Bible establish a Biblical foundation upon which to build his/her life. This class is built upon the foundational doctrines of the sovereignty of God and the inspiration and authority of Scripture. Each session includes a worksheet that is filled out in

class together, and 5 days of study questions to be completed outside of class to complement the previous week's lesson and take the student further in their personal study.

During this segment, we have a children's class that will be taught by Lennie and Kathy Zink and Tammy Heydens.

If you haven't been able to attend on Sunday nights, please make plans to be here next week!