

The South Louisville Christian Church

SOUTH LOUISVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
FALL, 2015 – EDITION SEVEN, ISSUE THREE
A Christian Church for South Louisville

E-NEWSLETTER

VISION
2020
God's Mission Our Vision
By: Neil Seow and Joe Douthitt

If we could sum up our church in one verse from the Bible it would be this verse from Jeremiah, ***“For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*** It is amazing the work that God has done through SLCC over the last 113 years and we believe it’s only the beginning! We believe the reason that we’ve been able to not only survive, but thrive is that we always look to the future and not just focus on the past, or the problems and successes of the present. So that’s what we are doing now, we are turning our focus on the next 113 years and that starts with our **2020 Vision!**

With the start of our Capital Campaign we are beginning to look toward the year 2020 and begin to plan for the growth and future of SLCC. There are so many things that need to be done and that will only happen when we all come together as one body and use the gifts **GIVEN** to us. ***“We have different gifts,***

according to the grace given to each of us, if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously.” We say it all the time, God has so richly blessed us and we deserve none of it, yet He continuously gives to us and provides for us daily.

So now we have another opportunity to give back. We know that it is our privilege to continue to provide for God’s house and the work that He has called all of us to do. As the leaders of the church, it is our responsibility to set that example. We know that what we say carries merit but our actions will always speak louder than our words. After prayerful consideration, the Elders of the church have pledged the first 10% toward the total amount. Deacons and staff have given an additional 10%. These decisions were made after much thought and prayer, and represent a sacrifice by those who gave.
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This Fall’s Events

- Sept. 12, 26; Oct. 10, 24; Nov. 14 & 28– Food Distribution
- Sept. 27 – New GROW U Classes begin
- October 11 – 113th Anniversary Celebration
- October 31 – Trunk or Treat
- Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9 – Women’s Ministry Meeting
- Thursday, Nov. 26, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Thanksgiving Day Dinner for our community.

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Our prayers are not only for us alone but for you all as well. We are asking you not only to be in prayer for what you may be able to contribute, but for God's blessings on what is given and that it is used for His glory.

By the time this newsletter is published you will have made your decision on what to contribute to the **2020 Vision** effort. The SLCC leadership is not as concerned with the amount given as we are with the condition of the hearts that gave. When God asked the people to give to the construction of the Tabernacle, He was concerned about the attitudes of their hearts, "... **and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the tent of the meeting...**" **Ex. 35:21.**

We understand that not everyone can or is willing to participate, and that is perfectly fine. We will utilize whatever amount is given to renew God's SLCC house. Additionally, we have complete confidence that God will bless what is given and make it adequate! There is a very old Christian song entitled, "Little is Much When God is in It," and we have seen this again and again at SLCC!

SLCC was built and has survived for over 100 years on the gifts gladly given by God's children, in fact, Christ's church has survived this same way for 2000 years now--as the apostle Paul told the first-century church. **"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God lives a cheerful giver."** **2 Cor. 9:7.**

Thanksgiving, 2015

Once again this year we are planning our annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner to the community around us, and those right here in our church family. Please consider being a volunteer this year. It is one of the greatest feelings of "giving" you will ever experience, and on a day that we observe thankfulness, you will be thankful. The hours are from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, so you have plenty of time to be with your family. You might even think about inviting your family here on Thanksgiving Day, so no one has to cook! Please begin praying NOW about how you will serve that day.

Greetings from the SLCC Pastoral Care Ministry!

It will soon be a year that I have officially become the Pastoral Care Minister of South Louisville Christian Church. I am very blessed to work in this ministry and I pray you are blessed by it as well. The year to date has been all about preparing and planning for this ministry. It is important moving forward to have a firm foundation planted for the ministry. Let me share with you a few things we have done and what is yet to come. We have a new Pastoral Care Ministry office located above the gym next to the prayer room. If you see the light on...please stop by and say hello. We now have a "24-hour care line" (632-3248) that you can call for your emergency care needs. We are always ready to listen and jump into action if necessary. We have revised the way the "prayer-chain" works and we hope this has made receiving urgent prayer needs faster and easier. By the way, if you would like to be part of that ministry, please let me know. We also have a short meeting just before Worship each week for all deacons and servers to get together for prayer and fellowship. During this meeting we find out which members need home or hospital communion. We have shut-ins as well to whom we take communion every week. So many exciting and great things happening in the Pastoral Care Ministry!

Here are some more plans we have that will be implemented in the coming weeks: There will be a webpage just for pastoral care that you can access from the church website. This page will allow you to contact us for prayer, appointments or questions...whatever your need. It will also have any news or events that need to be shared with you concerning pastoral care. We will also have "prayer boxes" that will be placed around the church for you to place cards with your prayers and/or concerns. You will soon have many ways in which to reach the Pastoral Care Ministry here at SLCC.

Pastoral care is something that you really don't think much about until you experience a crisis or have a need for it. My prayer is that when and if you need care that we come alongside you and give you the very best care that can be given. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or needs. I would also ask that you pray for this ministry. Thank you and I love each and every one of you!

Yours for the Master,

Jason Horn, Pastoral Care Minister

Youth News

By: **Ron Matthews**



Most summers come and go with just fond memories to show for them. But not this year! This year we have growth in the church. Vacation Bible School brought in new growth from our neighborhood. We have several families and youth attending our Sunday and Wednesday Night programs. If you missed the theme this year it was Zero to Hero. Melissa Matthews with the assistance of our intern Erick Clemens, put together a smash hit theme for our youth. They had wonderful supporters from the church that helped out in crafts, recreation, snacks, registration, and music, set up and clean up. We were able to reach over 50 youth, which is major growth from just a short few years ago. God is really blessing the efforts of these wonderful supporters and the church as a whole.

Now to talk very briefly about some really exciting news. I am excited for VBS 2016, "GOD IS HERE", and the book of Daniel will be our source of inspiration. Erick Clemens will be leading us in this amazing adventure. The theme originally came from our CIY trip this year. I can't wait to do VBS 2016! I hope you will find the time to serve God and join us in this great adventure. I promise you won't want to miss this VBS.

CAMP 2015



We were able to send 17 youth to White Mills Christian Camp this Summer. But that is just the beginning of the story. This year the camp sent an S.O.S. out to supporting churches. And South Louisville Christian Church answered that call. The camp lost a great dean to another ministry, so the Junior 2 Week was without a leader or crew for that week of camp. I informed the eldership of the need, and they sent Erick and me with their blessing to assume that leadership role. We put together a great week. But again that is just part of the story. God opened the hearts of Justin High, Cindy Holloway, and Joey Davidson. They heard the call and accepted the invitation to work with 4th and 5th graders for one week. They, with other Christians from different churches in the area, made a huge impact on the lives of these youth. The best part is that South Louisville has

been invited to take an ongoing leadership role. This is going to be a work of love and joy. If you feel God calling you to work with these youth from all over the state of Kentucky and Tennessee, please see Erick or me to get on board -- the ship sets sail July 17-22, 2016.

Parents of J.A.M. and B.O.L.D.

We will start our Fall through Spring programing on September 2nd. There will be structural and program changes in both departments. Come and check it out. We are really excited for these changes, as we will have more opportunities to impact the youth and help them grow closer to Christ our Savior.

God Bless and thank you for allowing me to be a part of your family.



Meet Erick Clemens

South Louisville Christian Church, "the church where you can't possibly *not* fit in" has once again proven itself to me. Since I first started attending here, this church has welcomed me, and for that I thank you all. Many of you I already know, but some I have yet to meet. Greetings to you, I am Erick Clemens and I am happy to say that I am the new Intern here at South Louisville Christian Church.

I didn't grow up in the church. I was one of the kids that would show up and then disappear for a while before I returned. My walk started off with only walking when I felt like it, spending more time sightseeing than anything. It wasn't until my Grandma really pushed me that I started to notice the church. And even then, it wasn't until I got to know the people before I started wanting to give it my all. Many of you know the Matthews family: Ron, Melissa, and their son, Joshua. They are my family. It is because of the time they have invested in my life that I am who I am, what I am, and where I am at this point of my life. Even so, I was stubborn and it was not until a "CIY Move" conference with the church that I was attending when I gave my life over to God through the blood of Christ. Since then, my freshman year in high school, I have had a passion to work in ministry and to work with the youth. I even started an after-school Christian club that began with just me, a friend, and a teacher. Now the club has more than 50 children attending each week. All of this was made possible because I was willing to give in to what God wanted -- which brings me to this chapter in my life.

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Being the Intern at South Louisville has to be one of the biggest choices I have ever made. It is no longer just a commitment within myself, but now with each and every one of you, to grow together in knowledge and faith. I also look forward to working with Pastor Theo on sermons and lesson preparation, Pastor Jason in Pastoral Care, and Pastor Ron with the Youth Ministry. I am excited that I am getting the chance of a lifetime to learn about all areas of ministry within a church, all at the same time. It is indeed a blessing to have all of you at this time in my life!

Greetings South Louisville Christians!

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We live in an age where almost everything is expendable. Almost everything is made to be replaced. Almost everything is designed to last for a short period of time – and then be discarded or replaced. Nothing seems to last anymore. Nothing is built to stand the test of time anymore. South Louisville Christian Church stands in open defiance of that truth. At a time when nothing is built to last – our church has stood – and has remained strong for 113 years! I challenge you to look around the world you move through every day and find anything that is as old – and yet as strong as we are. Every year in October our church has a birthday. Every year we stop and we celebrate the birth of our church. This year that celebration will happen on October 11 – and we will be celebrating our 113th birthday. This year we are honored to host Dr. Terry Peer as our guest preacher. Dr. Peer was the Vice-President and a professor at Louisville Bible College for many years, and he is currently a professor at Summit Theological Seminary. Dr. Peer has also spent many years as a preaching minister at various Christian Churches.

We are also honored to host the Praise and Worship Team from Christ International Church for our anniversary celebration. These incredibly gifted singers and musicians are all first generation immigrants from various countries across the continent of Africa. They sing and worship with a passion and enthusiasm that is indescribable. They will inspire you with their talent and their love of God.

This promises to be a day of worship that will be unforgettable. You don't want to miss it. Please invite friends and family to join us. As is our tradition, the worship service will conclude with a fellowship meal in our gymnasium. We have some amazing cooks in our congregation and we invite you to show off your culinary skills by bringing your favorite covered dishes. We expect several hundred people – so bring as much food as you can. Before closing, I want to share this thought with you: Celebrating our 113th birthday is a way of looking back and rejoicing over the long and powerful life of this church. It's important to look back and celebrate this milestone. But I also want to encourage all of you to keep looking forward. When you are driving your car, it's important to occasionally glance in the rearview mirror to see what's behind you – but it is far more important to keep your eyes fixed on what is ahead of you. The same truth applies to our church. What's behind us is important – but it is far more important to keep our eyes fixed on what is ahead of us. There are countless people living all around our church who don't know Jesus – and we still have to do our best to reach them. There are dozens of children in our church who we have to raise up to be the next generation of leaders here. There are many members of this church who still struggle to live a Christian life on a day-to-day basis. There are desperately needed repairs that we still have to make to our church building. All of that is still ahead of us – and all of that is far more important than what is behind us. And one more thing that is still ahead of us; Jesus is coming back. Let's keep our eyes fixed on that. Let's keep doing everything we can to get ready for that.

I love you all – and wish God's very best to you always,

Pastor Theo

New GROW U Classes!

The newly appointed Dean of Grow U, Clay Gilbert, announced recently that we will be offering three new Grow U Classes with a completely new format beginning September 27, 2015. You will want to be present at 9:30 AM on Sunday, Sept. 20 for a detailed explanation of the changes and the new classes, with time for questions. If you have not been attending Grow U, please come on the 20th and see that this is definitely something that will Grow U!