

# The South Louisville Christian Church

**SOUTH LOUISVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**MAY, 2014 – EDITION SIX, ISSUE FIVE**  
**A Christian Church for South Louisville**

**E-NEWSLETTER**

**Editor's Note:** Recently, Pastor Theo preached a sermon on the fact that as Christians, we are all commanded to "GO!" One of our members heard this message and responded with these words:

Last Sunday was a great day at church, but frankly, I came away from Grow U and the morning worship with only four letters – two small words. The words were "if" and "go." I was struck with how often those words are linked.

So often when the Lord tells us to "go," we respond with an "if." For example, consider the following:

God says, "Go to your neighbor and tell him about me." We respond with, "If I knew the Bible better, I would go."

God says, "Go to church Wednesday night and talk to our neighborhood guests." We respond with, "If they were more like me, I would."

God says, "Go downtown in July and hand out cold water in my Name." We respond, "If it were safer, I would."

God says, "Go to your wallet and give more money to Me."

## Go!

**By: SLCC Member**

We respond with, "If I had the money Bill Gates has, I would give it to You."

God says, "Go to Africa and help the children there." We respond, "If you didn't have to take an airplane, I would."

The list could go on forever. We all have our own "go's" and "if's." There is a reason we call it our COMFORT zone!

However, as Christians there should be only one "if" in our hearts. When God tells us to "go" we should respond with – "If you will go with me." We should always remember that God never sends us out alone. He always goes with us. "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." *Matthew 28:20*

## This Month's Events

- May 10 and 24 – Food Distribution
- Sat., May 17, 12 noon – Women's Spring Salad Luncheon (Make reservations at the Connect Table)
- May 30 – 7:00 – 9:30 PM – Craft Night

**Food Pantry Needs for May:**  
Laundry Detergent  
Macaroni and Cheese  
*(Place donations in the bin in the coffee area).*

**South Louisville Christian Church**  
**3845 Southern Pkwy.**  
**P.O. Box 14154**  
**Louisville, KY 40214**

[www.southlouisvillechristianchurch.com](http://www.southlouisvillechristianchurch.com)

## Your Role in Pastoral Care

**By: Jason Horn**

I am a newly ordained minister and am graduating from Louisville Bible College this month. I am excited about my ministry role at SLCC as your Assistant Associate Minister of Pastoral Care and want to ensure that this ministry is a blessing to you. SLCC has Pastoral Care to assist her members whenever you or a member of your family are facing situations involving births, deaths, illness, stress from life changes, or other life situations, whenever your spiritual strength is weak and you need someone to stand or sit alongside of you to listen to you, to give you comfort or encouragement.

Charlie Burgin and I have been working to expand the role of the Pastoral Care Ministry and we need your help to make this successful. What can you do? Often you will need to inform us of your personal situation and allow us to be involved with you or your family. In some instances, others may request that you be contacted. So you will need to allow us to care for you. If you feel you are handling the situation in your life and do not need our assistance, just say so, it won't hurt our feelings! We want to be here for you, when you need us to listen, empathize, give spiritual guidance, or pray with and on your behalf.

As I mentioned, we are expanding this ministry and need your feedback on what you need during these times in your life. So feel free to ask for whatever you think would be of help to you. Our main role is to be Jesus to you in a physical and spiritual way during critical times when you are hurting and struggling to make sense of life. As a pastor, I want to care for the "flock" that God has brought to SLCC. John writes about this relationship between the sheep and the shepherd, in 10:3-4, ". . . **the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. . . he goes ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.**" That is the kind of relationship I want us to have--I want to care for you and for you to learn that I love you. We will grow together!

In the past, churches often used their senior minister for everything--leading singing, preaching, teaching, and pastoral care (or anything else). SLCC has been and will continue to grow well beyond what any one man can do. The elders of SLCC have instructed Pastor Theo to focus his efforts in his areas of his giftedness--preaching and teaching! That said, my position was added to SLCC originally to assist Charlie Burgin with the increasing needs for Pastoral Care, and it continues to increase!

We are developing a Pastoral Care Team that I am training and organizing to properly handle these needs so that we will be able to handle multiple situations at the same time. Therefore, neither I nor Charlie may be the person who comes to your hospital room or who calls you when you return home, or stops by to check on you when you have been absent for a period of time. We want you to realize that it is still the love of Christ that is being expressed through this team of caring Christians who are each part of the body of Christ at SLCC, in fact this is what Scripture requires, ". . . **there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it**" (1 Corinthians 12:25.26). With our Pastoral Care Team we can ensure that whenever you call or need us we will be there for you!

## Vacation Bible School . . .

. . . is just around the corner, June the 22-27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 pm. In years past we have opened up this awesome event to Pre-k -- 8<sup>th</sup> grade, however, now we are going to change some things. This year, the program will be opened up to Pre-K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade only which will allow the Junior and Senior High opportunities to assist in Vacation Bible School. If you are a Junior or Senior High student who would like to work with younger youth, sign up opportunities will start on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Connect Table. If you would like to help with donations to make this year's VBS a success just like in the years past, please see the Assistant Directors, Melissa Matthews or Janet Kallam. They can supply you with a list of needed items.

On a different note -- we would like to take this opportunity to tell everyone who has made our first year here such a wonderful and joyful experience, THANK YOU! We know a lot of hard work and effort went into making us feel loved and welcome here at South Louisville Christian Church. I truly am thankful for the Youth Coaches and parents who have made my visions for a Family Ministry take root and grow fruit. We look forward to a long and strong future here at SLCC God Bless everyone.

Again,

*THANK YOU from Ron and Melissa Matthews*

### **(Cont. from column at left)**

This gives you some idea of what our expectations are for Pastoral Care, and if you have other suggestions please let me know. However, there is something that the SLCC Pastoral Care is not—if true "counseling" is needed it will be done by a referral to a qualified professional with an expertise in the area necessary. Christian Pastoral Care is intended to provide encouragement, care, love, spiritual guidance, prayer, and assistance in determining if additional outside resources are necessary to help our members keep their physical and spiritual life in balance.

Finally, SLCC hopes to soon provide you a 24/7 phone number that you can use to contact Pastoral Care, because sometimes things happen to our members at the worst times of your life. So even if your life situation occurs during the middle of the night, you will be able to call one number and reach an on-call minister or elder. More information will be provided about this in the near future. 1 Corinthians 12 describes the church, the body of Christ, like this, "**Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body . . . Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.**" You are an important part of the South Louisville Christian Church!

## Wasteful Love

By: *Pastor Theodore Dues*

I have been listening a lot to WJIE lately --- and I listened to this Christian author being interviewed—and they were asking him the typical questions about his church and his faith and the inspiration for his book – and then they asked him what he thought was the most distinctive characteristic in Christian behavior ---what sets us apart?

His answer caught me off guard --- and I had this really weird reaction to it. He said, “Christians are people who love wastefully.” And it caught me off guard because I have been trained not to waste anything. Waste is bad. When I was growing up, we didn’t waste anything. My dad would roll up the old newspapers and make firelogs out of them. My mom would sew material on the bottom of my bluejeans when my legs got longer than my pants. Wasting was not part of our family culture. So when I heard this man associate love with waste, that was hard for me.

But once I was able to get past my own prejudices, I could see his point. The Christian life should be modeled in wasteful love. In Luke 6, Jesus said, “**What good is it if you only love those who love you --- even the tax collectors do that.**”

Sometimes I am very selfish with my love – and I only want to give it to the people who will give it back to me – or the people who I think deserve it. But Jesus was able to love people who probably wouldn’t return it – and He was able to love people who certainly didn’t seem to deserve it. To our sensibilities, that seems like wasted love – but that’s the way Jesus loved. Jesus loved wastefully.

In Mark 14, a woman anoints Jesus’ head with a jar of very expensive oil. The disciples get angry when they see this. They are indignant over such wastefulness. That oil could have been sold and the money given to the poor, they say. They speak very harshly to the woman. And they are certain that their anger is justified. This woman’s behavior was unacceptable – embarrassing. Wasteful. But Jesus says in **Mark 14:6** – “**Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.**”

What the disciples considered wasteful, Jesus considered beautiful. And Jesus went on to say in **V 7-9** – “**The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them anytime you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached**

**throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”**

Jesus says that this woman’s act of wasteful love would be eternally linked to the preaching of the gospel. One wasteful act of love that happened 2000 years ago – and we are still talking about it today.

I was raised to think like those disciples – I would never be so wasteful – that would be offensive to me. But I am trying so hard to become more like that woman – and be willing to be wasteful when it comes to the way that I love my Lord and His people.

To whom do you relate more? The disciples who were offended by the woman’s wasteful act – or the woman who somehow knew that no act of love is wasteful?

## A Note from a Special Family

I always enjoy teaching the Bible and the challenge of teaching the book of Revelation. So, I was glad for the opportunity to teach at South Louisville for those 12 cold weeks!

The wonder of Revelation is in its beauty and its applicability to all people in all places and times. The book is an intricate work of art, combining different literature types, images and numbers, prophecy and worship. Its message is a set of amazing combinations: judgment and hope, intimacy and power, warning and opportunity, supernatural power and everyday life.

The irony of Revelation is that it is often ignored and seen as inaccessible—a bizarre mystery beyond the ability of average people. But as we saw, the first five chapters are relatively easy to read. It’s a shame that they don’t get more attention! The last two chapters are full of symbols. But it’s easy enough to understand the big picture! And yes, the middle 15 chapters are a handful. But with some basic principles, it’s not as rough as it looks—and the payoffs are rich indeed!

We had some fun with the heating system and the microphones, but everything worked out. Clay Gilbert did a great job reading—with help from Bob Parrott. My younger boys got some practice in serving others, by distributing hand-outs. We had great attendance. People had great comments and seemed to learn a lot.

We enjoyed being with our brothers and sisters in Christ at South Louisville. You were encouraging and welcoming, humble and approachable, gracious and growing. May God continue to bless you and your church in the days to come!

Grace and peace,  
Eric and Tonia Schansberg