

The South Louisville Christian Church

SOUTH LOUISVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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A Christian Church for South Louisville

E-NEWSLETTER

God With Us

By: Rick Brumleve

For many February 1st was another Sunday with Grow U classes followed by a spirit-filled worship service. And it was indeed, but what you might have missed was an extraordinary event that would occur in the sanctuary a few hours later that very afternoon.

For a better understanding of what was to take place let's remember these words from Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". God has a plan for each of us, and I can't think of anyone who better exemplifies that scripture than our brother in Christ, Muhoza Rushingana.

Forced to flee his home and church in the Congo on the African continent with his wife and six children, the hardships he and his family endured and survived and end up refugees in Louisville, Kentucky, is nothing short of miraculous! Ask him how he and his family came to SLCC and his response without hesitation is "God led them here", and that "God would give him a church to preach the Gospel". His love for God is obvious and infectious! It's that love that burns inside him to preach God's word as he had done for 20 plus years at his church in the

Congo. (His church, their church was destroyed by rebel fighters.)

A few months ago, Muhoza and others met with the Elders of SLCC to discuss holding a worship service for people from the Congo and other African refugees here on Sundays at 2:00 PM. After much prayer and discussion from all involved, approval was given, and on February 1, 2015, Christian International Church held their first service.

Their service is a spirit-filled, 2 hour plus worship service conducted in Swahili and French with an occasional English translation. It truly is an uplifting worship service with singing, dancing, and powerful preaching. While you may not understand the language you feel the sincerity and love of the souls worshipping our God.

The Elders of SLCC and Pastor Muhoza invite all members of SLCC to attend a worship service and experience their love of God!

The title of this article is "God with Us" and scripture has examples of Godly people persevering against different obstacles in their lives. The Rushingana family are living examples for us. Their faith in God even in the darkest times was not shaken and never wavered. God has a plan for each of us and He never leaves us. We should take great comfort in knowing our God is with us!

This Spring's Events

- March 15 – Food Drive for SLCC food pantry
- March 14, 28; Apr. 11, 28; May 9, 23 – Food Distribution
- March 27, April 24 and May 29 – Craft Night
- April 19 – Pulpit exchange with North Bullitt Christian
- May 16 – Women's Spring Salad Luncheon

Food Pantry Needs:

Personal Hygiene Products such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, deodorant (*Place donations in the bin in the coffee area at the church*).

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By: Pastor Theodore Dues

There are so many things I love about South Louisville Christian Church. If I had to define the one thing I love the most, I guess I would have to say that it's our diversity. Every Sunday I stand in the pulpit and I look out at all of you and I think, "This is what Heaven is going to look like." We are a family of black and white, young and old, wealthy and poor, new Christians and mature Christians, and we have people who come wearing dress suits and we have people who come wearing shorts and t-shirts. We come from so many different backgrounds. And one of the ways we always express our diversity is in our worship styles. We have people who raise their hands in worship – people who shout "Amen!" – people who can hardly sit still in worship. And then we have people who came from a very different background – and they tend to worship quietly – they are not as demonstrative in their worship – preferring to be still and silent in their reverence. And the great danger we all face is in judging one style as being somehow more godly than the other. So, I wanted to write an article about this subject. But then I came across this article written by Bob Russell – and as much as I hate to admit it, his words are so much better than anything I could have written. So, I decided to print his article here with his permission...

How To Express Your Love For God

Written on February 1, 2015 by Bob Russell

I recently observed an unrestrained public display of affection by a couple who had just fallen in love. They were quite demonstrative, leaning on each other, fawning over each other, frequently kissing each other. It made some onlookers feel uncomfortable.

In the same gathering was a couple who had been married for over forty five years. They smiled understandably at the younger couple. Maybe the P.D.A. rekindled some past memories. The older couple wasn't touching and there was little outward show of affection between them. But no one questioned their love for each other. They had been faithful to one another for four decades and were devoted to serving each other.

Paul Harvey once pointed out that love usually goes through three stages. First there is romance when the couple wants to be together twenty-four hours a day and can't keep their hands off each other. But romance, as wonderful as it is, always fades. It gives way to the second stage, which is tolerance. Each learns the other has faults, the excitement dwindles, and the infatuation wears off. The couple sits in awkward silence when traveling and learn to put up with each other. Then, later, mature love sets in—love in the third

degree. Mutual experiences have bonded the couple together and they have remained committed to one another for a long time. They have learned what it means for the two to become one.

Paul Harvey points out that one of the problems of our shallow society is that people in the tolerance stage think that because romance has faded, their love is over. So they jump the fence and try to rediscover romance. But in reality they go back to the beginning of the cycle and delay the ultimate fulfillment. Mature people know that romance, while an exciting phase, is just the beginning.

I went to a very expressive worship service recently. Young people were clapping their hands, closing their eyes, raising their hands, and at times even jumping up and down to the exciting music. They were very expressive in declaring their love for God and it was enjoyable to witness. It did make some older Christian observers uncomfortable, however.

It seems to me there are two wrong reactions to emotional, demonstrative worship. One is to be condescending and say, "That's phony! God can't be pleased with that; it's not done decently and in order." However, romance is a wonderful stage of a developing relationship and we ought to rejoice with those who are falling in love with the Lord. Jesus commended the woman who was so overcome with her love that she washed His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair.

But while spiritual enthusiasm is refreshing, it's wrong to conclude that the more expressive love God more deeply than those whose worship is more restrained. Some of the most dedicated Christians I know are very reserved in the manner in which they express it. Their many years of faithful service to Christ is ample proof that they love the Lord with all their heart, soul, strength, and mind.

"Jesus replied, 'If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching' (John 14:23-24). God makes it clear repeatedly in His Word that He measures our love for Him by our obedience to His commands, not the public display of affection.

Samuel told King Saul, "To obey is better than sacrifice." Jesus said simply, "If you love me keep my commandments." Do you put Him first? Do you sacrifice for the needy? Do you guard your speech? Do you worship regularly? Do you respect your parents? Do you tell the truth? Are you faithful to your mate?

One preacher told an excited audience, "I don't care how loud you shout or how high you jump as long as when you land, you walk straight." Good counsel. Mature love for God is not just an emotional expression but what Eugene Peterson calls, "A long obedience in the same direction."

Greetings from the Family Ministry

By: Ron Matthews

We have several new things happening that I am ecstatic to reveal to you the reader.

Let's start with an age old ministry that had a very bright existence from the mid 70's all the way through the early 90's. This ministry brought a lot of smiles and entertainment to a great many generations from young to old. I have the privilege to count myself one of blessed that not only watched them but also was a performer and later a teacher of this ministry. After several long years of searching and pleading, I am pleased to announce we have PUPPETS. Now that they have arrived, we need your help if you are an adult that would love to donate long hours, is creative and have a sprite spirit, then we need you. If you are a youth above the 3rd grade and wanting to be a part of a ministry that allows you to reach all generations but does not require you to be up in front of people, then this ministry is right for you. Keep watching the bulletins and the Family Ministry website for the starting date of the first meeting. Adults, we will be having a meeting on March 25th after Wednesday Evening Services. Please pray for this ministry.

Now on to our next new happening, "CIY MOVE." This is an old ministry that dates back to the 1960's. The look of this ministry has drastically changed, but the meaning and purpose still remains the same as it has since its founding days. CIY is Christ In Youth, founded and managed in Joplin, Missouri, for the sole purpose of reaching youth from grades 8 – 12. This conference takes place not just in the U.S. but in the other parts of the world, and has a profound impact on every youth who attends so they can go forth becoming leaders of all sorts in their churches and for the church as a whole. I have seen many youth that I have taken to this event choose to go into full-time ministry. Others have chosen careers in other fields but are very effective missionaries in their workplace due in part to their experiences at CIY. All youth return home with a stronger walk with their Lord than those that never attend. This year I am pleased that two of our youth, Emmanuel Gantzer and Raef Davidson, have heard the call and have chosen to spend a week praising God, learning about God in their lives, and how they can serve God and their church and world. You can help these two youth and their parents by praying for them daily until they return. They will leave in June to go to Milligan Bible College for one week.

And finally with the help of Brian Kallam, (he did most of the work) there are QR codes posted around the building. If you have a smart phone, please download a QR Reader and scan our QR code. I think you will be surprised what you find! Our plan is to distribute these throughout our neighborhood. If you would like to have our QR code to post at a place near you, see me this week for a copy.

Thank you for blessing me, as always, with the opportunity to serve with you in this ministry.

A Musical Note from Carl Henry

What is the Purpose of Music in Church Services?

by Molly Shorter, christwill.com

It may seem like an elementary question but if you're involved in the music ministry then it may be helpful to be find the answer to this question in God's Word. The answer is deeper than "that's just what we do" or "we've always had music in the church services". It's much more than "talent show" time for musicians. [I would rather say it should NEVER be "talent show" time period - semantics, but important ones. – Carl.] And music isn't included just to fill some of the time. There is truly a deep purpose for music and I'd like to give you several Scriptures passages to answer this question. Granted, this is not an exhaustive study - just a few Scripture passages that encourage me and I hope will encourage you.

When we gather together on Sundays and music fills the sanctuary we are doing what Psalm 100:2 says to do, "Come into His presence with singing." Praises are lifted through music as the instruments play and voices are united in song. Music leads our hearts in praise and worship and prepares our heart to receive God's Word.

When you have a moment read Psalm 68:24-35. It describes a scene of a processional going into the temple. At the front of the processional are singers and musicians leading the way into the sanctuary to meet with God. It's a picture of what we do each Sunday. The singers and musicians lead the congregation in praise and worship, preparing hearts to meet with God.

Years ago in a church that I was involved in, one of the members said that he didn't see the point of music in the church services. He was not musically inclined and did not enjoy music. He admitted that he often times arrived late to church, after the music, to hear God's Word taught. He viewed the music as "a filler." Not so- according to God's Word. Ephesians 5:19 says when we gather together, we are to minister to "one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart." (ESV) We are to use music in our church services to edify and build up the body.

I love the story in 2 Chronicles 5. The work on the Temple had been completed and the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord was brought into the Most Holy Place. The people were gathered together and as the singers began to sing in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, the glory of the Lord filled the house of God. They were in His Presence! Wow!

What is the purpose of music in our church services? Music leads our hearts in praise and worship. As we worship through the music, we are brought into the presence of the Lord. Our hearts are prepared to hear and receive God's Word. The Body is edified, hearts are blessed, and the Lord is lifted up and glorified!