

The South Louisville Christian Church

SOUTH LOUISVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SPRING, 2016 – EDITION EIGHT, ISSUE ONE
A Christian Church for South Louisville

E-NEWSLETTER

Resurrection Sunday!

By: Pastor Theodore Dues

It is Easter time again. As a preacher, this is the greatest time of year for me, because the Easter message is the greatest sermon to preach. As a Christian, this should be the greatest time of year for you, because the Easter message is the greatest sermon to hear.

Matthew 28:5 “The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.’”

We don’t usually associate gladness with the grave. When we go to visit a grave – we are going to a place of sadness. We are going to a place where tears will be shed – and hearts will be heavy. And yet the strange thing is, in that passage from Matthew, when the angel wanted to make the women glad, he invited them to come and investigate a grave.

I want to suggest to you that this one moment in history is one of the strangest moments in all of history. It is the only time I know of where the grave is the ultimate place of gladness.

The gladness of that grave was born of this extraordinary fact: The grave was empty. The grave was empty! Jesus was not there. And that empty grave is a place that we are all invited to come and see. And that empty grave is the place where countless lives have been transformed and made new again. The empty grave satisfies something deep within every human heart. For once, the grave is not a place of sadness. For once the grave is not a place where tears are shed and hearts are heavy. Instead, just this once, the grave is the birthplace of the greatest gladness that any man can ever know.

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This Spring’s Events

- April, 9 & 23, May 14 & 28, June 11 & 25 – Food Distribution
- April 10, May 9, June 13 -- Women’s Ministry Meeting
- May 6 & 7 – Derby parking in our lots
- May 22 – New Grow U classes begin
- June 18, 12:00 Noon – Women’s Luncheon
- Vacation Bible School -- June 26 – July 1

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When we come and see the place where He lay, it is there that we realize that our greatest enemy has been defeated. Death has been conquered. Each one of us knows that death is waiting for us, and that death will have a word to speak to every one of us. But when we come to the empty tomb we are reminded that death will not have the last word. Death was powerless to hold Jesus. Death is powerless to hold us.

And so, just like those women on that day so long ago, we are invited to come and see the place where He lay. And standing there, looking into that empty grave, we proclaim with the prophet Hosea – **“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”** Standing there, looking into that empty grave, we shout with the Apostle Paul – **“Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Grow U Update

By: Clay Gilbert

I have to say I have been encouraged with the increasing attendance in our Grow U program. We have some brothers and sisters in our congregation who are clearly eager to learn and take seriously the charge to **“. . .grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18)**. I need to say that I am hearing great things about the Chronological Life of Christ” class. . . valuable information that we all need to know. In our class we recently discussed the topic of biblical stewardship. Many of us were eager to share their convictions that God is the rightful owner of all that we receive, including our money, our time, and even our bodies. One brother asked me after the class if we could discuss this topic in more detail. We had to understand this is simply a class on “basics” of Christianity, although I do feel that in a later curriculum we might spend more time in order to “go deeper.” I am certainly encouraged to receive feedback, but please realize that I need to hear the views of all . . . even those who may not be thrilled about the present classes. You certainly need to know that you have the right and opportunity to share with me or any of the teachers your suggestions on how we can improve. I will take seriously whatever you have to say, whether positive or negative; as long as our common goal is to grow in Christ and to glorify Him. All of us have much to learn, and I stand at the front of the line regarding this need! I do thank everyone for their participation. You make teaching a joy. And to those who have not yet joined us in Grow U . . . there is still room in all three classes, and you are always welcome!

Youth News

White Mills Christian Camp 2016

By: Ron Matthews

Summer is fast approaching, which means another fun experience at White Mills Christian Camp for you, 1st thru 12th graders! In the past we have sent many youth to any available weeks of camp. This year my goal is to send our youth to specific weeks. The purpose is to create unity in our youth group as well as help with home sickness. We will also be offering free transportation up and back on these specific weeks if a parent cannot get a ride for their camper. Parents are strongly encouraged and needed to drive to assist with registration at the camp.

Now for those wonderful weeks of camp! If you are leaving 1st -3rd grade, then please join me at the Jiffy Junior on June 19-22. The Dean of this week is Chris Cunningham, he is a friend of mine and the Children’s Minister for Shively Christian Church. I am also advertising this week because I will be on faculty and, therefore, will be able to assist our youth if there is a need.

The next age group is 3rd through 5th grade. If you are leaving these grades, then you will definitely want to come to Junior 3 on July 17-22. This is going to be the best week of summer camp any one will experience. Why? You may ask -- because this is the Week of camp that I, Ron Matthews extraordinaire, will be the Dean. And you will also recognize many of the Faculty because they are members of South Louisville Christian Church. This week is shaping up to be most excellent week of camp. You won’t want to miss it.

Now we come down to the final weeks of camp for the rest of you older youth. If you were in Junior High (6th thru 8th Grade), this past school year, then the week you will want to attend is June 12-17 with the Dean being Geoff Lawson. For you Senior High attendees, well, there are only two choices. The choices you choose will depend on your level of commitment and the desire to work at camp next year. If you just want fun in the sun, then your week will be June 26-July1, with Mark Hancher as your Dean. Now, if you were looking for something more serious to help you with your walk with Christ and would like the opportunity to work at the camp next year, then Leadership Camp is your week. This week is offered on June 5-10. This camp will challenge your walk and your personal endurance. This camp will teach you how to be a team player and how to use your skills and talents for your church.

We do not want any child left out due to financial problems. So parents -- if you need to receive financial help this year, there are several ways to do this. First, see me, Ron Matthews, after any church service.

Miracles In The Church

By: *Joe Douthitt and Neil Seow*

“pray continually...”

“but in every situation by prayer and thanksgiving, present your requests to God...”

“pray for one another, that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

“they should always pray and not give up.”

We are repeatedly told in Scripture about the importance of prayer. We know the power of prayer and how essential it is to our relationship with God. We pray for the things we need, the things we want and maybe even sometimes we ask for things just to see if God is listening. Sometimes it's used as a powerful tool and sometimes it can be used as a crutch.

Here at South Louisville, we have tried to place an emphasis on prayer. In many ways we have succeeded and in many ways we have fallen short. We have had our 24 hours of prayer that has taught many of us that praying for an hour isn't as daunting a task as we may have thought and we have also learned different types of prayers for the many needs that are out there. We try to pray preemptively and many times when we believe it's the only option we have left.

So now we would like to try a little of both. We know that the success of this church is in the hands of a loving God who wants nothing more than for us to cry out to Him. So starting on March 16, 2016 we are going to do just that. At 5:00 every Wednesday evening, we are going to begin coming together as a church to lift our voices in prayer. We are going to open the sanctuary to any and all who want to come. There will be no set format, no specific time frame, just the opportunity to come and worship God together as His body of believers. You can come and stay as long as you would like or you can drop by when you have just five minutes to spare. We will have a list of prayer needs for those who have asked if you are unsure what to pray for or whatever God has put on your heart at the time.

Jesus spent much time with His Heavenly Father in prayer! Jesus' life set so many examples for us to live by! His prayer time is one of his greatest teachings! Jesus saw with spiritual clarity, we only see dimly, so what He clearly knew and we barely understand. **“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” Ephesians 6:12.**

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Are you trying to fight your spiritual battles without prayer? Jesus never did! Jesus so wanted His Apostles to pray with Him in the Garden that last night--not for Him, but for themselves! They didn't see what Jesus clearly saw was just ahead. If they had, they would have been praying more! Jesus' example of powerful, constant prayer demonstrated His expectations for the way Christians should pray. We cannot successfully live this Christian life without prayer! Come practice praying powerful prayers like Jesus!

What Exactly is Worship?

by: Molly Shorter, christwill.com

Submitted by: Jason Philpot

What exactly is worship? If you had to write out a definition, what would you say?

Some would answer that worship is what we do on Sundays when we sing together in church - during the "worship service." Yes, part of our worship to the Lord is gathering together and corporately lifting up our praise and worship to Him. What a joy as musicians in His service to have the opportunity to lead that time of worship.

But worship is so much more than just singing. Worship isn't just for Sunday services. Worship is how we live our lives, minute by minute, day by day, unto the Lord. Worship isn't a feeling - it's a choice - a choice of obedience.

I love the story of Paul and Silas in Acts 16. They had been arrested, beaten and thrown into prison. Acts 16:25 says, *"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them."* (ESV)

Now you know that they didn't feel like worshipping. They made a choice and lifted their voices in worship to the Lord, declaring their faith in His trustworthy faithfulness.

Another example is Abraham. Genesis 22:1-3 says, *"After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him."* (ESV) Abraham made a choice - obedience. His worship was lifted up through obedience to his completely trustworthy God. God was honored and Isaac was spared.

Romans 12:1 calls us to that same obedience. *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."* (ESV) Laying ourselves on the altar as living sacrifices, dead to self, alive to God; It is expressed through our daily lives, the choices we make to be obedient to God's Word.

We express it through songs of praise when we gather together and corporately worship. Galatians 2:20 says, *"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me"* (ESV). This is a life of worship! Let's encourage one another to live it. And as we gather to sing songs of worship let's sing from hearts that are committed to obedience.

Jesus

Shared by

Neil and

Theo

Theo

Joe D

Rick

Bob

Mark

Neil

Ed and Willie

Doug and Joey B.

Tom B. and Rob

Kevin and
Danny P.

Jakie and Paul

Clay and Joey D.

Security/MAST/
Greeters (Ed)

Facilities
management
(Doug Taylor)

Women's
Ministry
(LaVon A.)

Coffee
Connection
(Marie)

Senior
Minister

Family
Minister

Staff

Prayer Ministry
(Joe D, Tom,
Shirley)

Food pantry
(Myers and
L.Able)

Treasurer/Financ
e (Mary D.)

Baptism
Community
(Danny S.)

Missions
(Jakie)

Pastoral
Care
Minister

Wednesday lesson

Tally

History
Preservation
(Doug)

Communion
(Rob)

Community
Dinners/Kit
chen
(Danny)

Men's
Ministry (Paul
and Clay)

Sunday Service

Christian Education

This is a copy of the 2016 flow chart for South Louisville Christian Church.

Jesus is the Head, and the Elders are listed with their respective Deacons and Ministry Team Leaders.

If you have a praise, a concern, or an idea, this should help direct you to the correct person, whether it be Ministry Leader, Deacon, or Elder.