



SOUTH LOUISVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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E-NEWSLETTER

A Christian Church for South Louisville

Historically, the Christian Church in Kentucky began June 28, 1804 at Cane Ridge, Kentucky, a little village just a few miles from Paris, Kentucky. Three years earlier in 1801, the renowned Cane Ridge Sacramental Revival Meeting had taken place drawing over 25,000 people in attendance. Ministers from several persuasions preached morning, noon and night. There were Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian clergymen delivering fiery, evangelistic messages from the Word of God.

During preaching services, unusual emotional outbursts began. In earlier revival campaigns, similar excitement and passion was manifested in Logan County, Cabin Creek, Indian Creek and Carlisle, Kentucky. What were some of the “bodily agitations or religious exercises” as Minister Barton W. Stone described them? He said “they baffled description and were passing strange.” The major activity was the “falling performance” where both men and women would fall to the ground unconscious and would lie there for extended periods of time. They claimed they had been “slain in the Spirit.” Then the jerking movement of women whose long hair would resound like a whip lash. Other physical manifestations of spiritual enthusiasm included:

jerking and dancing; loud, hearty laughter; running away from the Devil and Hell; loud singing from deep in the throat and chest; shouts of verbal

Bizarre Behavior at the Cane Ridge Revival

By: Dr. Charles Burgin

bitter groans and cries for mercy comprised the behavior in these exciting moments of revival at Cane Ridge. James Deforest Murch in his monumental work, “Christians Only” describes this 1801 meeting as “the greatest manifestation of revival power ever seen in America.” In his autobiography, Elder Stone affirms, “I do not remember that any one of the thousands I have seen ever sustained any injury in body. This was as strange as the exercise itself.”

The Cane Ridge Revival continued one week until the food supplies ran out and everyone faced starvation. All the grass was eaten by the horses in the campgrounds also, which necessitated a quick departure.

How may we explain this religious phenomenon that has been termed “The Second Great Spiritual Awakening?” Stone noted that the religious climate of the frontier was improved immeasurably,

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This Month's Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 13 & 27 – Food Distribution
- July 9 – 12 – North American Christian Convention in Louisville
- July 20 – 10:00 AM – Noon Youth Coach Training

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Bizarre Behavior at the Cane Ridge Revival *(Cont'd. from Page 1)*

church attendance increased and the moral behavior of the frontiersmen was refined and enhanced substantially as a result of the events at Cane Ridge. We may definitely link our church to those classic events at Cane Ridge and to the exciting events that followed in the Springfield Presbytery in 1804 when all the church leaders vowed to become “Christians only.”

So, the history of the Christian Church movement included some very emotional demonstrations of spiritual energy. I bring that up because our worship services at SLCC sometimes include emotional displays of spiritual energy. It is not uncommon here for people to shout “Amen” during our services – or for people to yell out other types of affirmation during the sermons. There will often be spontaneous applause while the Word of God is being preached. And there will always be some who feel it is inappropriate to allow that kind of behavior in church. But as I have already described, these kinds of behavior were very much a part of the earliest history of our church. And the early leaders of the Christian Church found no reason to believe that these behaviors were anything other than sincere manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 – “Do not put out the Spirit’s fire.” Sometimes demonstrations of the Holy Spirit are controversial – that was certainly the case at Cane Ridge. But rather than trying to extinguish the Spirit’s fire there – they allowed the Spirit to move in people. And as Mr. Murch said, the Cane Ridge Revival was “the greatest manifestation of revival power ever seen in America.”

The great founders and early leaders of the Christian Church movement may not have understood these manifestations of the Spirit – but they did accept them – and they didn’t try to put out the Spirit’s fire. We may not always understand the manifestations of the Spirit in our church, either. But just like our great founders and early leaders, we can work to accept them – and we can decide that we will not put out the Spirit’s fire just because we don’t understand it!

Five Steps to a Spiritually Happy Family

By: Pastor Ron Matthews

We will be exploring five essentials to build and keep a Spiritually Happy Family. We will be taking a look at one step a month for the next 5 months.

“It really bothers me,” a parent confided to a friend, “to hear how Nancy and Phil’s boys talk to them. They don’t show respect at all.” “Well” the friend replied, “that’s pretty much how Nancy and Phil talk to the boys and each other.”

Step 1 -- Spiritually Happy Families apply God’s direction to respect, trust and appreciate each other.

As adults we are to show respect in private family times, church times, and in public times so that others as well as our own youth, may learn the respect that Jesus calls all His believers to demonstrate as His Ambassadors. We need to keep in mind that children as well as adults learn by seeing and experiencing behaviors rather than just being told how to behave.

As you study the scriptures below as a family or by yourself consider where you struggle with respect. Write those down and then opposite of those, write how you can resolve your struggles:

Titus 2:1-2 - Proverbs 3:34 - Proverbs 21:24 -
Proverbs 24:8, 9 - Proverbs 11: 16 - 1 Peter 2:17 –
1 Peter 3:16 – 1 Timothy 4:12

Through the hard days remember that it takes a lot of love, hard work, and putting God first to maintain a happy family.

Food Pantry Needs for July

- Bar Soap
- Dish Soap

We need YOUR help! Please give donations to
LaVon Able or the Myers.

Hymn Highlight

By: Carl Henry

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" has become one of the best known hymns across the world. It was written by the great hymn writer Isaac Watts, who is often called the father of English hymnody. It was for a communion service and first appeared in his collection of Hymns and Spiritual Songs in 1707. In that day and age, the title of the hymn was often a summary of the hymn. As a result, it was entitled "Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ; Gal. 6:14." Almost all congregational singing up to this point had been quotations or paraphrases of Scripture, especially the Psalms. This hymn is perhaps the first in the English language to use the first person "I." Such hymns were labeled "hymns of human composure" and caused a great deal of controversy, as they spoke of human thoughts and experience rather than being pure doctrinal statements, a major shift in worship practice. Originally there were five stanzas; the fourth was bracketed by Watts himself, indicating it could be left out. Over time, it was no longer included. It read: "His dying crimson, like a robe, Spreads o'er His body on the tree: Then am I dead to all the globe, And all the globe is dead to me." It first appeared in the United States in 1758 as part of the hymnal The Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs of the Old and New Testament. From that point, it spread around the world. In England, it was and is still often sung to the hymn tune called ROCKINGHAM. In the United States it is more often used with the tune called HAMBURG. The latter was based on a Gregorian chant popular in the Middle Ages. A Gregorian chant was a free flowing single note unaccompanied melody that was the descendant of Hebrew temple and synagogue music. There were thousands of these melodies in existence in the sixth century when Pope Gregory lived. His personal concern about these early melodies led to his work to improve and organize them, preserving them for later generations and eventually leading to their becoming a major part of Western music. Much of our music today developed from this early music.

The final stanza sums up Watts' own deep personal gratitude to his Savior: "Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

Sources: Center for Church Music, songsandhymns.org/hymns/detail, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." Selah Publishing, www.selahpub.com/Choral/ChoralTitles, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

Dinner with Bob and Etta Kastens

Former Minister, Bob Kastens and his wife, Etta, will be in Louisville for the North American Christian Convention. We are planning to meet them for dinner on Monday, July 8th, 6:00 PM at Kingfish in Jeffersonville, Indiana. If you would like to attend, please call or see Bob or Janet Parrott. Each person will be responsible for their own check. This will be a great time of fellowship, reminiscing and "catching up!"

Church Safety and Security

By: Ed Wall

South Louisville Christian Church's new Safety & Security Ministry

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen". ~2 Timothy 4:18 (NIV)

"You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety."(Job 11:18 , NIV)

The people who come to church – congregation members, visitors, friends, and strangers – bring their issues with them. And when the front doors are open and the welcome mat is rolled out, churches have to be prepared for who, and what, walks in.

Bearing the above in mind, we are very pleased to announce the creation of the Safety & Security Ministry at South Louisville Christian Church. The purpose of the Safety & Security Ministry is to allow the members and guest of SLCC to focus on worship, love, and discipleship while they are here without worrying about who or what might come through those open doors. Overseen by Elder Joe Douthitt and Brother Ed Wall, the Safety & Security Ministry has already begun making changes for the benefit of the members and guests of SLCC:

- 1) Radios have been purchased to allow the Safety & Security Ministry to communicate with each other before, during, and after the service. The nursery also has a radio to allow workers to reach a Safety & Security Ministry member if needed.
- 2) Six (6) cameras have been installed inside & outside SLCC. These cameras are monitored during the service by a Safety & Security Ministry member. These cameras can also be monitored remotely at any time by Safety & Security Ministry members.
- 3) The Safety & Security Ministry met with Louisville Metro Police to share information and develop emergency action plans.
- 4) Our security system has been upgraded to include monitored smoke detectors.
- 5) Patrolling the parking lot during service.

This is just the start though. In the near future Safety & Security Ministry members will be participating in CPR & First Aid training so that we will be better prepared to deal with injuries, accidents or life threatening illnesses. Brother Ed Wall is working on writing a grant request to obtain an automatic external defibrillator, a costly device used in the event of a cardiac emergency. Our team will also be working with other local churches to observe how they deal with safety & security concerns at their facilities.

By taking these proactive actions we hope to be prepared to deal with any safety or security issue that may arise at South Louisville Christian Church so that our members won't have to deal with these issues.

Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company 'Safety & Security Guidebook'

Member Spotlight

The Matthews Family

By: Pastor Theodore Dues

Early in 2013, SLCC began the search for a new Youth Minister. We posted our job opening at bible colleges all over the southern United States, and we quickly began receiving resumes from many qualified candidates. After a long process of initial interviews, we reduced our list of prospects to just a few. Ron Matthews was one of those candidates. He and his family were living in Ft. Pearce, Florida where they were serving at Southside Christian Church. So we brought them to Louisville to meet with us in person, and continue the interview process. Through that process we fell in love with them, and felt like they would be the perfect fit for our church. So we prayed a lot. And through our prayer, we believed that God was leading us to ask Ron Matthews to become our new Family Minister. Fortunately, he and his family had fallen in love with us, just as we had fallen in love with them. So, they accepted our offer, and they arrived in Louisville and began ministering here on April 2, 2013. Let me tell you a little bit about them, so you can get to know them better...

Ron and Melissa both grew up in this area (Ron in Franklin, Indiana – and Melissa in Felicity, Ohio). They met when they were both children attending a Christian retreat at Cincinnati Bible College. After the retreat they remained pen pals. Then they lost contact for a few years. But as fate would have it, they met again when they were both freshman enrolled as students of Cincinnati Bible College. Melissa says that after she met Ron again after all those years, she knew right away that he was God's man for her. She even told her friends on campus, "He's taken." A few months later they went on their first date. A year after that they were married. At the time they were both sophomores in Bible College. They graduated together two years later. Melissa had earned a degree in Christian Education, and Ron had earned his degree in Ministry (with an emphasis on youth ministry.)

They went on to serve together in a couple of different Christian churches. During that time their son, Josh, was born. And they describe this as one of the most difficult times in their lives, because their son was born with autism. And there were many things that were challenging about this; they had to reorganize their home, they had to restructure their diets, they had to change their social lives. But what was hardest for them, they say, is that they lost many of their friendships. Apparently people felt uncomfortable around their son, and just started staying away from Ron and Melissa. They even say they started to feel outcast at their church. I can't imagine anything more hurtful than that.

Shortly after Josh was born, they began working together at a home for troubled youth. This home housed runaways, abandoned children, and children that were removed from parental custody. Ron and Melissa say this is where they truly learned to love all kids, just as God

loves them. And even though this was not a church, they were definitely still serving God. Melissa said, "Those kids felt so imperfect, so we got to introduce them to a perfect God."

After serving two years at the youth home, Ron and Melissa accepted a call to ministry from Southside Christian Church in Ft. Pearce, Florida. They served there for the next 9 years. But during that time, both of them started feeling a desire to be closer to home – closer to their families. So, they started watching for ministry opportunities in this area. That's when they found our job posting. So Ron sent his resume. We interviewed him on the phone. We brought his family here for more interviews. We fell in love with them. They fell in love with us. We felt God moving. And here they are.

I knew why we fell in love with them. They had such an openness about them. They really seemed like they wanted their lives to be dedicated to the service of God. They were humble. They were warm. They were kind. Ron had all the professional skills that I wanted my staff to have. I knew why we fell in love with them. But I wondered why they fell in love with us, so I asked them. Here is what they said – "We feel loved here, and we feel accepted here. We don't have to pretend to be something we're not. The worship services here are so authentic. There is real fellowship, and real friendship. Coming here made us realize what we've been missing in our lives for a long time. For many years, it felt like it was just the three of us. Now we feel like we're part of a community, where even our son is welcome and loved."

Ron says that his most immediate goals are for the children of this church to become effective workers in the church. He wants to see kids inviting other kids here because they have found Jesus and they want their friends to know Jesus, too. Ron has certainly hit the ground running. He has already started implementing new ideas – challenging and equipping the adults that volunteer in youth ministry – and planning new programs for our kids. Over the course of the summer he will be organizing camp weeks at White Mills for our kids – and he will even be serving on staff at White Mills. He is also planning our VBS program for the summer. Ron got very busy very quickly here, and he is doing a great job for us. Melissa has also started working for the church. She is already serving in the food distribution, in the Women's Ministry, in the Jr/Sr High Ministry, and she has started a greeting card ministry where she creates beautiful, hand-made cards to send to members of the church when they are hurting and need to be reminded that we love them. At the beginning of the next school year, Melissa hopes to become a substitute teacher at JCPS.

So, there is your introduction to the newest members of your church staff. There are many more wonderful things to get to know about this family. So spend a little of your time with them. Get to know them. I know they are anxious to get to know you.