

# The South Louisville Christian Church

SOUTH LOUISVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

E-NEWSLETTER

SPRING, 2016, EDITION NINE, ISSUE ONE

*The Church were you can't possibly "NOT" fit in!*

## Family Ministry Events for 2017

*By: Ron Matthews, Family Minister*

I can't believe 2017 is here and my calendar is already full with events for youth and families! As a father I know how quickly a family's schedule can fill up. So I want to take this opportunity to give you a complete heads-up of the Family Ministry Schedule for remainder of this year.

April has several events: an Easter program from our youth to be presented during the Worship hour on April the 16<sup>th</sup>. Then on the 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> our 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a retreat at White Mills Christian Camp.

Moving on into June there are several events, beginning with the Christ In Youth convention for our Senior High on June 12<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> at Johnson University in Knoxville, Tennessee. Our 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> graders can enjoy a few days at White Mills Christian Camp with me on June 18<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>. Then the High Schoolers can enjoy more fun and fellowship with their

week at White Mills Christian Camp on June 25<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>.

Which takes us into the month of July: our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be able to enjoy a full week with me as the Dean for White Mills Christian Camp during Junior 3 Week.

And finally we will be wrapping up the summer with Vacation Bible School on July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup>. This year's Vacation Bible School theme is going to be **LIFE ON LOAN**.

These are pre-planned activities, and you can expect overnights and one-nighters to pop up throughout the year, so watch the bulletins, take home papers, Family Ministry website, and bulletin boards.

I can hardly wait to share in the experiences and memories that 2017 has in store for all of us.

## Mark Your Calendar!

- Feb. 11 & 25, Mar. 11 & 25, Apr. 8 & 22  
– Food Distribution
- Feb. 13, Mar. 13, Apr. 10  
-- Women's Ministry Mtg.
- March 4, 9:00 AM, Men's Prayer Breakfast
- March 11, Time to "Spring Forward" move your clocks forward one hour
- April 16, Easter Sunday

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## **First Impressions**

**By: Pastor Brian Campbell**

We have all heard the saying “You never get a second chance to make a FIRST IMPRESSION.”

In my life, I have found it to be true. I go back to my first impressions of South Louisville when I first visited just a few years ago. I was very nervous as I was driving down Southern Parkway approaching the church. I had already listened to Pastor Theo’s preaching and I knew I wanted more. However, I was very apprehensive as to how my wife and I would be treated as newcomers.

When we arrived at the Southern Parkway parking lot, we observed several doors. We noticed folks going in all the doors and were not sure what to do, so we just went in the main front entrance. We purposely came on time so we would not be noticed by being there early or coming in late. There was Jim handing out the bulletins with a smile and a warm hand shake. Folks were friendly and we felt welcomed. We were impressed with the diversity of the congregation because the Bible is clear that heaven will be a very diverse place with folks there from all over the world. Of course, the sermon was great and the worship experience very satisfying.

Now I find myself serving you as your Pastoral Care Minister. Working with Pastor Theo and the Elders and staff, we are always brainstorming as to how to make a better first impression to newcomers. I am so excited with what God has done in our mission to make a great first impression. New windows in the sanctuary say to the newcomer we care about our building and your comfort. The new welcome canopy and entrance door at the Southern Parkway parking lot say to the newcomer, we want you here and you are important to us. And the beautiful landscaping says to all who drive by or arrive for the first time that we care what our place of worship looks like. We have greeters to meet you and newcomers before Grow U, during the Sunday School hour, and before the worship hour which says to the member as well as the newcomer, we are here to help and guide you every Sunday morning because we want you to be here! We try to leave the front row parking open for our newcomers to say, “You are important to us.” We have designated four handicap spaces in the Kenton Street lot to say to those that struggle with

steps that you are honored here, and the elevators will take away all the steps in your church life.

Let us always seek out newcomers and offer them the love of Jesus as their first impression of South Louisville Christian Church. Let us not be so involved with those that we already know and love and let a newcomer walk by us without saying hello with a smile that says I love you in Jesus. Thank you for all the great first impressions you have made on all those who are looking for love and salvation as they visit our great fellowship.

## **Humble Yourself and Seek God**

**By: Jason Philpot**

There’s no doubt that life can be a struggle. The so called “work week” can be full of challenges and obstacles that are draining and sometimes overwhelming. I say “so called” work week because many of us, including myself, often have to work the weekend as well. But when I do work a weekend, I’m thankful that if I have a Human Resources issue, or a question for a Sales Rep. or someone else in the Corporate office, I can at least put it off until Monday because they will be “out of the office” until then. That gives me a little less pressure, at least for a couple of days. But one thing that puts it all into perspective for me is coming to God’s house every Sunday and surrendering myself to Him in worship. That is the hope that I have when things get crazy. I am able to step away from the madness and worship an Almighty God that is so much bigger than everything that is against me.

In 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7:14, after the dedication of the temple, God tells Solomon, “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” It is so comforting to hear God say that when we “humble ourselves before Him and seek Him”, he will “hear from heaven”. When things get overwhelming it is easy to forget God is there, but even when we can’t hear him, if we stop and humbly seek Him, He promises He will hear us. Every relationship requires communication and God longs to hear you stop and worship Him. That’s why, for me, Sunday morning worship is so important. It is a truly a time when God’s people come together to humble themselves before Him and seek Him and as His own words tell us, He hears us. And, there is also hope in knowing that if we take the time to stop and seek Him in worship, He promises to “heal our land”.

# Sabbatical

By: *Rick Brumleve and Joe Douthitt*

When God led His people to the Promised Land, he gave them specific instructions for living there. One of these involved how to treat the land itself. **“When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD. For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest. a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards.”** Leviticus 25:2-4

In U.S. History class, you may recall learning about the “Dust Bowl” that occurred in five mid-western states during the 1930s. The land quit producing crops, the ground turned to dust and the winds created what was called “black blizzards.” During one such storm winds dropped 12 million pounds of dust on the city of Chicago, with lesser amounts falling as far away as New York and Washington, D.C.



A dust storm approaches Stratford, Texas in 1935.

Many theories, mostly blaming climate conditions, were given for this disaster. As Wikipedia explains, “With insufficient understanding of the ecology of the plains, farmers had conducted extensive deep plowing of the virgin topsoil of the Great Plains during the previous decade; this had displaced the native, deep-rooted grasses that normally trapped soil and moisture even during periods of drought and high winds.” It was a vicious cycle of plow, plant, produce, plow, plant, produce . . .

The simple principle that God gave to the Israelites, “the land is to have a year of sabbath rest,” had been forgotten. Greater production and profits drove farmers to overwork the land, and without rest and renewal the land failed.

It appears God’s concept of rest is important not just for the long-term survival of the land, but for His people as well. Jesus said, **“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”** Mark 2:27. God knows the capabilities and limitations of the land and of humans--He created them both!

Recently the Elders announced to the congregation that Theo would take a sabbatical the month of February. Now, you may be asking yourself what is a sabbatical and why is it necessary?

A time of rest is an important factor to longevity in ministry and to maintaining spiritual, mental and physical health.

Several years ago, the concept of a sabbatical was introduced and adopted here at SLCC for Elders and Deacons. Using these words from Leviticus, after six years of service, a one-year rest period is observed for those selected. However, there was no similar policy in place for our Senior Minister. After discussion and deliberate prayer from the Elders, a unanimous decision was made to adopt this concept for our Senior Minister. At present, Theo is now in his 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of service as our Senior Minister and we feel this sabbatical is overdue.

To gain a better understanding of the importance of a sabbatical, noted Christian author Thom Rainer gives five reasons why –

1. A pastor has emotional highs and lows unlike most other vocations
2. A pastor is on-call 24 hours a day
3. Pastors need time of uninterrupted study of God’s word
4. Pastors who have sabbaticals have LONGER tenures
5. Pastors who have sabbaticals view the time off as an affirmation from their churches

To sustain Christian ministry, its leadership needs renewal and rest, a time to “be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). By slowing down for a time, both church leaders and their congregations can come to know and obey God in new ways.

Our responsibilities during his sabbatical:

- pray for Theo
- pray for his family
- respect his privacy
- pray for those who will serve during his time away
- call the office instead of calling Theo
- continue to worship as God calls us

The objectives of this sabbatical and our collective prayer is that Theo returns:

- refreshed
- renewed
- refocused
- eager to share the Good News