A Guest Editorial, by former pulpit committee member, Kirk Lewis
Honoring our Pastor, Dr. Ron Lyles, on his 30th Anniversary at SMBC

Maybe everyone carries a stereotypical image in his or her mind about what a Southern Baptist pastor looks like. For most of us on the pulpit committee in 1981, our image of our new pastor was a slightly younger version of Dr. B. J. Martin. I think we all envisioned a tall man with a face showing the beginning lines of wisdom and maturity, topped with a carefully sculpted head of hair. He would make his home and hospital visits in an understated, but dignified automobile representative of his respected place in the community. He would preach an elegant sermon and help us to "note yet another thing." It’s that image we set out to find as we began our search in January of 1981.

Truthfully, we saw a few of those men during those first six months of the year. Yet, Fayrene Traynham put it succinctly. None of them “tripped our triggers.” It had nothing to do with how they looked, but whether or not we felt the Spirit of God in the sermons they delivered.

A respected pastor tossed a name of a young north Texas preacher our way in June. The young preacher’s name was Ron Lyles. Honestly, the resume appeared a little light. He had a good pedigree, but had only served three relatively small churches. He didn’t exactly fit the mold of what we were searching for, but the church expected us to be out looking and we had nowhere else to go that Sunday, so we piled in our cars and drove north.

Strangers stick out in a small church. We sat in different places across the church, telling the curious and the friendly that we were “just visiting” or “just passing through on the way to Dallas.” They knew. We had the guilty look of a Pulpit Committee stamped across our foreheads.

Ron preached. We listened. God moved. Dr. Lyles and his family came to our church 30 years ago in view of a call to be South Main’s second pastor. The church welcomed them with open arms. When you look at the mental image those of us on the committee had created in our heads for our new pastor, Dr. Lyles didn’t match the stereotype. But once you got past the youthful face, the ordinary height, the curly hair, the little sports car and the goofy hat, the man could preach. The man could teach. The man could serve. The man could let himself be led by the Holy Spirit and translate that vision in each of our lives.

In the end, as a Pulpit Committee, you hope and pray that God will push aside the stereotypes or preconceived notions of the human mind and enable His will to be done in the life of His church. Reflecting on the way God has led our church for the past 30 years, it’s clear that God’s hand was in the recommendation of the Pulpit Committee, the assenting voice of the church and the decision of Dr. Lyles to follow His call.

Dr. Lyles and South Main Baptist Church… Ours was a match made in heaven… literally. Ron signals the end of his columns by signing “Your Pastor.” Without a doubt and by the grace of God for 30 years, he is that and so much more.
Music Notes

Kick Off the New Year with Wonderful Wednesdays
August 17, 6:15 – 7:45 p.m.
Music and Missions leadership for the fall will be on hand for information and questions, as well as to supervise an evening of play for the children on inflatables. This will be a wonderful time for your child to meet their Wednesday leadership team as well as classmates for music and missions.

August 24 – “Collide”
Parents are invited to come register their children for our 2011-12 Wonderful Wednesdays of Music and Mission that will be offered this fall from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. Room assignments for music are:
- K-116 3 year old choir
- K-115 4&5 year old choir
- M-154 grades 1&2 choir
- M-216 grades 3&4 choir
- M-208 grades 5&6 choir
Missions will follow choirs on Wednesdays from 7:00-7:45 p.m.

Singers & Instrumentalists
Adult and senior adult choir will resume rehearsals in August. The Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:15. Our Senior Adult Choir rehearses the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Both groups meet in the choir room and will be working on music for a September 11 concert. August will be a perfect time to join one of these choirs.

Youth Choir Converge
August 6 & 7, First Baptist Church, San Marcos
This is a weekend experience for youth in grades 7-12. Cost is $75.00 which includes everything, including tube rental for floating the river. Space is limited. Register online or in the church office.

Youth Choir for grades 7-12 kicks off for the new school year on Sunday, August 28. Ensembles for girls and guys will be held from 2:30-4:00. Please register for an audition time online or by calling the church office at 281-487-8200 x113. The Youth Choir rehearses each Sunday from 4:20-5:20 p.m.

Instrumentally speaking, we will resume our handbell choirs later this month. Children will meet on Wednesday evenings and are encouraged to contact Tony Warner at atwkmm@att.net or 281.615.0844. If you are interested in the Adult Handbell groups, contact Jane Logan at jalogan@southmain.org or 281-487-8200 x113. Instrumentalists interested in being a part of the 10:45 band are encouraged to contact Kari Mitchell at kmitchell@pasadenaisd.org.

An Evening of Southern Gospel Music
With the Harris Family and our Adult Choir
Sunday, September 11, 5:30 p.m.
The concert will conclude with an all church fellowship.

- Bobie

Tech Tidbits
Viruses, viruses everywhere! If you have an email account, then you should know the importance of having a good spam filtering system built into your email program. I have received quite a few questions recently about viruses and email, so here are some things to note. Have the settings for your spam filter set to “high” although you will need to check the folder often to avoid missing some emails that are accidentally caught. The number one way that viruses attack your computer is through clicking on an email attachment. A few tips to guard yourself from downloading a potential virus:

1. If you don’t know the person, don’t open it. This will save you a lot of headache down the road. Just delete the email. They can always resend it if it was legitimate.
2. If the email claims to be from a company that you don’t do business with, it is probably fake, especially if it is asking you to click on a link in the email. Again, hit delete.
3. If the email is from someone that you know, but doesn’t seem to make sense or just doesn’t look quite right, be sure to ask the person before you open, click or download anything. Many times when someone else gets a virus, the virus will take that person’s email address book and resend the virus to everyone they know.

Be in prayer for Steve and Rosie Scott as they move to NYC/Long Island this month. Several from our college ministry will be moving them to New York on August 13.

- Erick
New Sunday School Year
August 28

All of our children and teenagers will promote into their new departments on this day. Adults, it’s up to you whether you want to promote to a new department or stick with your current Bible study group. If you need help finding a class, I’m here to help. Contact me at the church office or e-mail bradw@southmain.org. All of the Education Ministry Team will be happy to assist you in whatever way we can as we begin the new year.

- Brad

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BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

Are you looking for additional Bible study experiences? What about connecting with fellow Christians in your discipleship journey? If so, B.S.F. may be for you. B.S.F. follows the school calendar and will begin the new year the week of September 12.

Daytime
Women’s Group
9:55 a.m., Tuesdays
University Baptist Church, Houston

Evening Women’s Group
6:55 p.m., Tuesdays
South Main Baptist Church

Evening Men’s Group
6:55 p.m., Mondays, Sagemont Church

John Turner, Sr., the teaching leader for the men, will speak about this Bible study opportunity at our Men’s Ministry Breakfast on Sunday, September 11, 7:00 a.m.

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SECRET KEEPER GIRL:
A special time for Moms & Daughters
1st - 6th Grade
Introductory Dinner September 7
5:00 p.m. in the Parlor

This program will consist of 8 dates with a purpose: facials, tea parties, and shopping challenges while delving deep into the heart. After all, God says what’s on the inside is what really counts. This will be a fun time for moms and daughters to connect while at the same time teaching them vital truths about beauty in a world that bombards them with lies.

Cost will be $20 for materials. Call or email Jennifer to sign up.
**FLC News**

**Kids Day Out**
For kids who have completed the 1st grade through 6th grade
August 5- Children’s Museum $10
August 19- Moody Gardens $30
We still have spots available. Call Belia in the FLC office for more information.

**Upward Sports**
Upward Flag Football and Soccer start in August. Practices start the week of August 8 and games will kick off on Saturday, August 27. Flag Football should be a blast! We’re trying this new sport for children and teens in grades 3-8.

- Tico

Main Events is a publication of South Main Baptist Church, Pasadena, TX. For more information about the ministries of the church please call 281-487-8200 • www.southmain.org