



Southside Baptist Church
11th Ave. & 19th St. South
Birmingham, AL 35205

"Building an inclusive community of grace"



SOUTHSIDE COLUMNS

August 2015, Vol. 1 No. 4

A Place for Everyone

Dear Church,

"Dog Days" is a term people in the South often use to refer to the long, hot and sultry days of late summer. But "dog days" actually refers to the convergence of the constellation Sirius and the sun. It also closely coincides with what folks in rural farming areas call "lay-by time" which is the time in the growing season when all that one can do for the crops has been done, and farmers rest from their labors.

Times have certainly changed, except for the long, hot and humid days of July and August. But rather than the usual slower pace and more limited schedule of events, Southside's August calendar is filled with opportunities for worship, education and fellowship that focus on enriching the lives of individuals already a part of our community of faith and those outside that community. Southside has a long history of discerning together and discovering new and different ways to reach the diverse population of our neighborhood.

While we will not "lay by" in the days ahead, I refer to "dog days" and "lay-by time" for two specific reasons. First, these terms are about a time of waiting and anticipation after plans and efforts have been made. Many individuals have worked very hard, and continue do so, laity and clergy alike, responding to the needs in our community as God gives guidance.

Flashes of creativity prompt the development of innovative means to be the presence of Christ in this community. Specifically, making ready for what is to come. Secondly, these terms convey a sense of dependence on God to ultimately bring our efforts to fruition. It is a matter of faith, believing that what God initiates through us will be used ultimately for God's Kingdom that is here now and that which is to come.

There are many wonderful ongoing programs, special events for worship and fellowship, and mission and ministry opportunities that you will read about inside this issue of the Columns and in the Weekly Updates. Truly, there is something for everyone.



I enjoy our journey together.

Tim

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HAPPENING AT SOUTHSIDE



Dixie Swimclub August 21-23

Come out to Foster Auditorium and enjoy the show as the Southside Players present, "Dixie Swimclub." Performances include a 7:00 p.m. show on Friday and Saturday and a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are just \$15 and can be purchased at the door.

Covered Dish Lunch August 9

On August 9, immediately following the service at 12:15 p.m., we will be dining in Drennen Hall to welcome back Dr. Ken Roxburgh. Please bring your favorite covered dish so that we can have a pot luck lunch in fellowship together. For more information contact Peggy Gentry or the church office at (205) 933-8381.



Samford Move-In August 14

On August 14, Southside Baptist Church will be assisting Samford University with their freshman move-in day. Volunteers will help incoming freshmen move into their new dorm rooms from 8:00 a.m. until noon. For more information, to sign up or to volunteer, please contact the church office at (205) 933-8381.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. - *The Gathering in Drennen Hall*

9:30 a.m. - *Sunday School*

11:00 a.m. - *Worship in the Sanctuary*

6:00 p.m. - *Communion Service in Foster Auditorium*

AUGUST 9

Dr. Ken Roxburgh

OT: Psalm 130

NT: 1 Peter 5:7

Evening Service in Foster Auditorium

AUGUST 16

Dr. Ken Roxburgh

OT: Proverbs 9:1-6

NT: Mark 4:35-41

AUGUST 23

Dr. Ken Roxburgh

OT: Psalm 34:15-22

NT: John 11:17-35

Evening Service in Foster Auditorium

AUGUST 30

Dr. David Gushee

OT: Song of Songs 2:8-13

NT: Luke 10:38-42

"Rescue at Sea" by Phil Watts

"Love God and Love Your Neighbor are the greatest commandments."

On July 10th, my wife Carol and I sailed from Venice on the Island Princess down The Grand Canal past St. Mark's Square with the voice of Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli booming over the loud speakers. It was a beautiful day in the mid-eighties and we along with 2000 other souls were in route to Istanbul, our next stop on a twelve day cruise that would end in Barcelona. It was perfect; one of those magical moments that you'll remember always.

As the cruise line intended and as the passengers expected we were enjoying near perfection; but the real world with all its imperfections was about to thrust itself into our idyllic escape. The Captain's voice on the ship's speaker system broke into our conversation with Russian emigres with the news that Greek authorities had advised him that there was a boat near our location with a number of people on board that was in distress. This small boat was filled with Syrian refugees.

It was an epiphany for me - the four year civil war in Syria became real and not just another story on TV. The voices I heard and the images I saw were real human beings in mortal distress. You don't get this reality when filtered through the screen of even the highest definition television set. There is a partition between you and all the suffering and injustice in the world; it has to be so, otherwise the body's senses would simply be overwhelmed. But when we actually hear and see fellow human beings in dire straits, we must feel empathy for them; otherwise what kind of people would that make us?

Our participation in the rescue of these refugees was an ongoing topic of conversation for the passengers of the Island Princess for the remainder of the cruise and I'm sure continues still. I think most passengers felt good about or were okay with the rescue but there were some who were unhappy about it. You heard snippets of conversation, "maybe there are terrorists among them"; "maybe they brought diseases on board with them"; "they were crazy to attempt such a trip"; "we saved them and they still weren't satisfied"; "I paid good money to get to Istanbul"; "what kind of parents would let their children go off on a trip alone like that?"

There were many who needed rescuing off the coast of Greece the night of July 11, 2015 - some were picked up from a leaky sailboat and taken to an uncertain fate in Katakolon; while others (their neighbors) remained in spiritual distress and sailed on in near perfection to Santorini.

This article was shortened due to space limitations. To read more, visit www.southsidebirmingham.wordpress.com.

Learning In Action

"God Cares" Every

Christian has, at some point in their lives, doubted the goodness of God in the midst of circumstances that bring suffering. Does God really care that grief is overwhelming our hearts? Does God care that the "stuff" of life is making it hard to cope? Where is God when we need him?

During the final four Sundays of August, our Sunday homilies will seek to explore the question "Does God care?"

Then, on Wednesday evenings of each week, we will focus our studies on the Church as a caring community. If we are not caring for our own community within the church well, we have little hope of being able to demonstrate genuine concern for the wider communities in which we live our lives.

Come along on Sundays and Wednesdays in August to discover the generous grace of God who calls us to be generous in our own lives towards others.



Ken Roxburgh
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Hymns and the Christian Faith

"A hymn is more than a song. It is more than words set to a tune so that folks can gather in a sanctuary somewhere and showcase their vocal abilities. Hymns are a presentation of the deep and wonderful theologies of those who sing them. They remind us of what we believe and, more importantly, whom we believe in." And hymns play a vital role during our worship here at Southside Baptist Church. Whether it is a "low-church" rendition of Old Time Religion on a Sunday evening, or a masterful performance of the Hallalujah Chorus complete with the accompaniment of the Southside orchestra on a Sunday morning, there's nothing like sinigng praises to God with our family of faith. As Ernest Agyemang Yeboah once said, "When we live a day without a hymn or a song, we disregard the essence of the day."



WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m. Fellowship Supper

6:00 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study in Drennen Hall

6:30 p.m. Theology Roundtable @ O'Henry's Coffeehouse in Brookwood Village

AUGUST 5

Bible Study - "Southside Stories"
Roundtable - "The Birth of Jesus"

AUGUST 12

Bible Study - "Shepherding God"
Roundtable - "The Second Coming"

AUGUST 19

Bible Study - "God Who Remembers"
Roundtable - "Jesus and the Christian Life"

AUGUST 26

Bible Study - "God of Hope"
Roundtable - "The Meaning of Jesus"