



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



## HAPPENING AT SOUTHSIDE



# LENT

Join us this Sunday as we begin the Lenten season together!



# SOUTHSIDE COLUMNS

February 2016 Vol. 2 No. 2

## *Making Good Use of Cold Days...*

The weather forecast for the coming week is one of bitter cold and maybe even some snow flurries. I am not fond of the bleak cold days of winter, but I know that the cold days are a necessary part of nature and the rhythm that maintains a balance in creation. Cold temperatures are important for plants and trees to send roots deeper and grow stronger, for the elimination of pests that could do harm. Therefore, the season of cold short days make possible the health and capacity to burst forth with flowers and foliage as the days become longer and warmer. Oh, how I look forward to those warm days of spring.

By comparison, the days of Lent are similar for every Believer.

February 10, Ash Wednesday, was the first of forty days in the Lenten Journey to Easter 2016. The days of Lent are days for introspection, confession, repentance and renewal and correlate to the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness immediately after his baptism. Jesus' journey to the cross was one of focus, intentionality and submission of his will unto the will of his Father.

As disciples of Christ, the question we must ask is: how will we spend the days of Lent? Will our days be spent going about our lives as usual, or will we be intentional and spend them with times

set aside for prayer and mediation clearing the way for hearing more clearly the voice of Jesus? These days provide the opportunity for the roots of our faith and spiritual sustenance to grow deeper. This process promises to draw us closer to the one who through his mercy and grace has forgiven us and made possible a life that is abundant and free today and for eternity.

Psalm 32: 1-5

Blessed is the one  
 whose transgressions are forgiven,  
 whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one  
 whose sin the Lord does not count against them  
 and in whose spirit is no deceit.

When I kept silent,  
 my bones wasted away  
 through my groaning all day long.

For day and night  
 your hand was heavy on me;  
 my strength was sapped  
 as in the heat of summer.[b]

Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
 and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess  
 my transgressions to the Lord."

And you forgave

the guilt of my sin.



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## 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

## FEBRUARY 7

"Prayer"  
Scripture: James 5

## FEBRUARY 14

First of "When I Survey"  
Lenten Series

## FEBRUARY 21

Second of "When I Survey"  
Lenten Series

## FEBRUARY 28

Third of "When I Survey"  
Lenten Series

## When I Survey...

In the town where I was raised, on the west coast of Scotland, there stands a 'market cross'. It is located in the very heart of the community, close to the post office and banks, near to a grocery store, a butcher's shop and a bakery. It speaks of a time when the cross of Jesus Christ occupied the center of all human experience, standing where the main streets intersected, where people met to gossip, where justice was often done and in whose shadow went on the business of buying and selling. The cross which is still at the heart of our faith as Christians.

Like a great piece of architecture, such as a cathedral, the cross is something which we are called upon contemplate and consider over and over again so that we can discern the 'length, breadth, height and depth of the love of Christ..that surpasses human knowledge.' During Lent, the focus of our homilies will be on 'surveying the wondrous cross.' In one sense, we can never fully comprehend the mystery of the death of Jesus Christ. We will never fully plumb the depth of its meaning. Like Paul, we glory in the cross, awe-struck by its wonderful mystery, but admitting with Martin Luther that 'the wisdom of the cross is hidden in a deep mystery.' We are always aware that the cross is not something which waits for our questioning, but something which questions us.

Join us on Sundays during Lent to allow the cross to change the way we look at our life in the world.

14 February – The cross of the dimensions of God's love

21 February – The Cross and human ambition

28 February – The Cross and human evil

6 March – The Cross and human failure

13 March – The Cross and reconciliation

20 March – The Cross and the crowds



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## Meet Your Neighbors!

Each month, we feature one of the nonprofits housed in Southside's building to help you better get to know those who share our space. Meet Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI)!

Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI) is a non-profit organization that provides national technical assistance, training, capacity building, strategic planning and similar services for government, organizational and community partners. The overall focus of our services is on improving housing and health systems that affect the lives of low-income individuals with special needs, including those who are impacted by issues related to health, mental health, those who are HIV+, and have other challenges that make them especially vulnerable.

CSI does not provide direct services to individuals; rather, we work with organizations and systems that provide assistance to those with special needs to help them develop and maintain systems of care that are responsive to community needs and designed to have the greatest impact. CSI has three primary program areas, which include HIV/AIDS Housing & Health, Homeless, and Affordable & Rural Housing. CSI specializes in a number of federal programs related to housing, health, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and homelessness and is also known for its expertise in rural housing and service issues.



## WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper  
in Drennen Hall

6:00 p.m. - Bible Study in  
Drennen Hall

## FEBRUARY 3

"Minor Prophets"

## FEBRUARY 10

Ash Wednesday

## FEBRUARY 17

1 Thessalonians 1: Mission of  
the Church

## FEBRUARY 24

1 Thessalonians 2: Ministry of  
the Church