



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



SOUTHSIDE COLUMNS

MAY 2015, Vol. 1 No. 1

A Fresh Take on a Rich Tradition

Dear Church,

Some time ago it was given to me in charge to “love the past and all its traditions, but live in the moment that God is giving to you now.” A dear brother in Christ extended these words to me as I began the same pastoral journey that he had taken years before. Knowing my love for history and heritage, I suspect these words were calculated. To forget the past is a dangerous proposition, and to live in the same brings stagnation and apathy. But for those of us who put our trust in the Living God, there is a better way. Guided by the foundation established in our past, we journey into the future with full hearts and open hands. We live confidently in the moments of today because our God has shown Himself time and time again.

One needs look no further than the stately walls and columns of the sanctuary to glean a rich and proud history of the Southside Baptist Church. Positioned in the heart of Five-Points South, Southside has long stood as a proud emblem of the community. Following the calling of God in our lives, Southside has a strong tradition of serving others, both within the walls of the church and without. Indeed, there is much to be proud of when the Southside family looks back at years gone by. But the past is only the beginning. A history and heritage are meaningless if they cease to influence

the world of today. Southside has never known such a condition, and despite the ebbs and flows of congregational life, the departure of old members and the arrival of new, and the constant struggle to lead instead of follow, Southside has consistently carried the torch of the Kingdom of God into the communities of Birmingham and beyond.

A proud history and a promising future belong to all of those who place their trust in the guidance of the Living God. At Southside, we celebrate our past, but recognize the calling of today. The following pages give a glimpse of the fresh ventures that our family of faith stands ready to embark upon. We invite you to come and see how God is moving in our midst, bringing hope, love, and peace to the world in the name of Jesus.



In Christ,
Kris Roberts

Kris

Kristofer Roberts

Director of Christian Education

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HAPPENING AT SOUTHSIDE



Congratulations to Our Graduates!

On Sunday May 17 Southside will honor our graduates during a special time of our morning worship. We are proud of all of our graduates, and if you know of any students who would wish to be included, please contact the church office.

Contemplative Service and Communion

Do you feel the need for a few quiet moments of rest and reflection to calm your mind and spirit from the rigorous demands of the week? Come join us in Memorial Chapel at 5:30 p.m. every Thursday in May for a special contemplative service.



Vacation Bible School June 15-17

On June 15-17 Southside will host, “Let the Children Come To Me,” a special themed Vacation Bible School that reminds old and young alike of the vitality of children to the work of God’s Kingdom. VBS will be from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For more information, to sign up, or to volunteer, please contact the church office.

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

MAY 3

*Fifth Sunday of Easter –
Communion Sunday*

“Let's Have Breakfast”
by Ken Roxburgh

OT: *Psalm 22:25-31*

NT: *John 21:4-12a*

MAY 10

*Sixth Sunday of Easter –
Mother's Day*

“A Missional Church”
by Ken Roxburgh

OT: *Psalm 98*

NT: *Acts 1:1-8*

MAY 17

*Seventh Sunday of Easter –
Graduation Sunday*

“A Praying Church”
by Ken Roxburgh

OT: *Psalm 47*

NT: *Acts 1:9-14*

MAY 24

Day of Pentecost

“A Language Everyone Can
Understand” by Timothy
Kelley

OT: *Psalm 104:24-24*

NT: *Acts 2:1-21*

MAY 31

Trinity Sunday

“Here I Am, Send Me”
by Kris Roberts

OT: *Isaiah 6:1-8*

NT: *Romans 8:12-17*

WORSHIP AT SOUTHSIDE

“Let Us Go to the House of the LORD”



Every Sunday, we gather to worship in our sanctuary — the beautiful sacred space dedicated for worship and a place of countless memories — and something truly amazing happens. In the sixty or so minutes that follow, every individual present participates in bringing to life our corporate expression of worship. It is a service of worship that encourages engagement of every person's mind and spirit, and it is themed and planned to touch and feed the soul of every individual in some way, at some point, while directing our attention to the Giver and Sustainer of Life. Corporate worship is central to who we are at Southside Baptist Church. It is where many God given gifts are used to create beautiful and worshipful music, to deliver wonderfully crafted sermons and prayers and to guide, teach and encourage others as we journey together.

Participation in worship and learning more about worship is important for every person regardless of his or her age. In worship you will see children participating in a children's lesson, singing and presenting their own offering at the designated moment in the service. All of these elements point to the reality that we are a family; learning from one another, encouraging one another, rejoicing with one another, loving one another and worshiping corporately the One who binds us all together as family.



Timothy Kelley
Associate Pastor

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LEARNING IN ACTION

Exploring the Bible
Wednesday Night Schedule

The Bible is a classic spiritual text which has shaped the cultures of Western Europe and the Americas. Without knowledge of the Bible our contemporary culture and church is impoverished. Although it is the most translated and widely circulated book of all times, it may be a book that, even within the Baptist world, is not well read and known. It is a book that was written thousands of years ago, in the ‘there and then’ of the history of Israel, Jesus and the Church. Yet it is also a book that has a message for the ‘here and now’ and unless we read, understand and live out its message, it will fail to transform our lives. Baptists need to recover a vision of the Bible as a deeply subversive text which corrects and reproves, builds up and encourages, enabling believers to be equipped for service within society.

Studying the Bible takes considerable time and effort. On eight Wednesdays in May and June we will explore aspects of the Hebrew Bible and try to understand the historical and cultural context in which it was written, the religious message that it contains as well as seeking to understand its contemporary relevance for the 21st century.



Dr. Ken Roxburgh

Visiting Preacher
Armstrong Professor of Religion
Samford University

Young Adult Sunday School

“I've never been in a class quite like that.” Echoing the sentiments of many of the young adults at Southside, first time visitor Courtney Cameron walked out of the Parlor and into the Sanctuary better prepared to worship and respond. “Our focus is to learn what the Bible means, and then find ways of implementing that meaning into our worship and outreach,” says long time Young Adult member Rett Rivers. Studying the book of Philippians during the months of May and June, the Young Adult class has been exploring the concept of “strengthening the bonds of the church,” and taking the principle message of Philippians into the halls of Southside. “We want to know what the Bible says,” explains class member Holly Mason, “but we also want to know what that means for our time after class. Essentially, what are we supposed to do with that knowledge?” The Young Adult class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Parlor.



WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m. Fellowship Supper
6:00 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study
In Drennen Hall

MAY 6

Hebrew Scriptures
Dr. Ken Roxburgh

MAY 13

Torah
Dr. Ken Roxburgh

MAY 20

Worship and the Torah
Kris Roberts

MAY 27

*Exploring the Bible
Torah in Pop Culture*
Kris Roberts