

# THE HARBINGER

South Side Christian Church

February 2026

Issue 2

## Kevin's Korner

Are you blessed? Do you feel blessed even when your health begins to fail you, your spouse betrays your trust, or you find yourself without a job? How is it we are blessed? The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines blessing as "a thing conducive to happiness or welfare." Blessings can be material goods we receive here on earth, as well as heavenly ones awaiting us in the next age. Earthly treasures satisfy our immediate gratification, but Heavenly ones will bring us greater happiness because they cannot be destroyed or stolen. One blessing we are promised is the rich inheritance we have in Christ.

An inheritance can be a genetic quality passed on, or it could be an acquisition of a possession. Our Heavenly inheritance is both a genetic quality, becoming like Christ, as well as an acquisition of a possession, the Kingdom of God. This reward is difficult to fully comprehend here on Earth and thus, it's difficult to fully appreciate it. We rest on the promises of God, who cannot lie, which proclaim the eternal joy awaiting us. Contemplating this reward can help us spark a joy this world cannot steal. God reminds us, "...No eye has ever seen or no ear has ever heard or no mind has ever thought of the wonderful things God has made ready for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). The deposit of the Holy Spirit into our lives is but a portion of our heavenly inheritance. He helps to sanctify us by building within us the qualities of Christ's character.

This full inheritance awaiting us is a bit of a mystery but we can contemplate on it with joy because: 1) We know it cannot be taken from us (Matthew 6:20,) and 2) We will have eternity to enjoy it. Life here on earth is often a struggle but the eternity awaiting us comes with no pain and no suffering (Revelation 21:4).

At times, it can be difficult for us to see just how rich we are: the shrinking bank account, health problems, relational issues all of which hijack our joy and present doubts of our "wealth". Like a thick fog impeding our vision we often see only what's directly in front of us. That fog begins to lift the more our focus is on our Heavenly blessings. Gloom makes way for joy and a smile spreads across our face, even as the tears slide down our cheeks. This joy is not the absence of pain but rather joy amidst it. This joy produces a more pleasant and generous attitude towards the world around us. We are blessed as we bless other people. The secret to a happy life is to count our blessings daily. Treat yourself to a happier life by taking time each day and count all the blessings you have in your life.

Kevin W. Stolen

## From The Elders:

Dear South Sider,

Well, we have survived the “Snowpocalypse” of 2026 and the subzero temperatures of this January storm that covered nearly half of the country. What a way to start the New Year! The church building has been a little chilly, but we expect that with solid concrete floors and a brick and cement block building. However, the Sanctuary with its floor heater is comfortable and inviting to all who enter in.

In addition to the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 8, even without the Bears, the first three-weeks of February will bring us the 2026 Winter Olympics. This event has always held the world’s attention because it brings together people from all over the globe. This year there will be over 3,500 athlete participants from 92 or 93 different countries. Each of these athletes has been in rigorous training for untold hours to prepare them for this event in this year. Their chances of standing atop the medal stand, claiming their ultimate prize of an Olympic Gold medal, is entirely at the mercy of their own body and all of their training.

As Christians, we are like athletes in training as we journey on our path towards perfection. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, is where Paul tells us, ***“<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it <sup>25</sup> Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”*** No one is going to be holding up scoring cards to rate our performance, thereby determining whether or not we receive a “gold medal”. However, we will be judged. The author of the Book of Hebrews 9:27 tells us, ***“<sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.”*** Our merciful and gracious God will be our judge. These are Paul’s words from 2 Corinthians 5:10: ***“<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”***

As you watch the Olympics, please keep in mind that each of the participants is there with hopes and dreams of winning The Prize. Please pray for the athletes and other participants that they are presented with the opportunity to come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior, and that they may enter the ultimate Olympics as they strive for the ultimate prize of the upward call of God.

We ask that everyone be in prayer for the leadership and people of the United States of America. Every day seems to bring another matter that divides the people, as well as the leadership. Whether you consider yourself right or left, liberal or conservative, Republican or Democrat, we have to keep in mind Romans 13:1 where we are told, ***“<sup>1</sup> Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.”*** Please pray for calm heads and more bi-partisanship among the members of both Houses of Congress, the Executive Branch, and the Presidential Cabinet members as they all deal with their visions of what needs to happen in the country. Also, pray that God’s will be done!!

In His service,

Jeff, Dan, and Orlando



## *Kidz and Youth*

Just a reminder that there will be no youth group on February 8th due to Super Bowl Sunday. We will resume on February 15th with bowling at Stardust Lanes in Dyer. Please also be in prayer for our staff and volunteers who will be leading the youth ministry at this time that God will bless their efforts and bring about fruit for the rest of this semester!

Just a reminder that this year's Spaghetti Dinner will be on Sunday March 8th, with seatings at 12 & 4:30 PM. Please consider signing up for a seat at the table. This fundraiser is entirely tip/donation-based, and goes to offset the cost of our youth ministry activities. Thank you in advance for your support!

This month, our elementary class will be going through a series on making wise decisions and learning from the mistakes of others. We will be learning what God wants for us and how to live it out. Please pray for our elementary class as they go through these lessons and grow in wisdom!

*John Helton*



**Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**

Hosted by the  
South Side Christian Church Youth Ministry

**Sunday, March 8th**

**Two Serving Times:**  
• 12:00 PM • 4:30 PM

Come share a meal, fellowship together,  
and support our youth.  
*Your participation makes a difference!*

The poster features a red banner at the top with the title, a calendar icon for Sunday, March 8th, a clock showing 12:00 PM and 4:30 PM, and a plate of spaghetti with meatballs and bread.

## **COFFEE** *Fellowship*

On Sunday, February 1st the Kara Ladies will be serving coffee and a variety of tasty treats. Join us for a time of fellowship from 10:00 to 10:25 AM, a perfect opportunity to gather, connect, and enjoy a warm moment together before the morning service. We look forward to sharing this time of friendship and community with you!





## Senior Saints — News for You!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, February 10th at noon. I'm sorry to report that one of our members has passed away.

Russell Smiddy loved Senior Saints and he attended very faithfully for many years. Our dear Glenida would bring him and she always said that Russell would always remind her about Senior Saints. Russell even wore his kilt to one of our St. Patrick's Day meetings. He was a very sweet Christian man and one of the founders of Cline Gardens Christian Church, he brought people to Christ through his example. We will miss him.

Since we didn't do "Show and Tell" in November, I thought February would be good. Bring something "you love" to share. This can be anything; a picture, a craft, a book, an award, a piece of jewelry—the sky is the limit. The more people share, the more interesting our program will be.

Our lunch will be "foods we love." Mike loves chicken so he will buy chicken for us and we'd like you to bring a side or a dessert "you love" to go with that. We always have a nice variety, we have so many great cooks! So hope to see you on February 10th. Don't forget your side dish and "show and tell" item.

We will have a "lovely" afternoon.

*Donna Abercrombie*

## You're invited to our *Church Potluck* on March 15

*Following the service,*

**Bring a side dish or dessert**

*and enjoy food and fellowship together!*

## SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

South Side Christian Church



**Dates: April 24 & 25**



**Donations Accepted:** Starting March 1 – Room #4



**Please: NO Clothing Donations**

*Thank you for your generosity!*



**12,205,900**  
**Shoeboxes Collected!**



We give praise to God for His incredible provision through Operation Christmas Child last year! A record **12,205,900 shoebox gifts** were collected worldwide, sharing God's love with children across the globe.

We are especially thankful that **our church sent a record 402 shoeboxes to Malawi**. Malawi is a landlocked country in southeastern Africa, known as the "Warm Heart of Africa," where many families face poverty but communities are rich in faith, joy, and hospitality. Through these shoebox gifts, children in Malawi received not only practical items, but also a powerful reminder that they are loved and remembered.

Thank you to everyone who packed, prayed, and supported this ministry. Praise God for what He has done, and let us pray for even more opportunities to share His love in the year ahead.



## **Down Under Ministry**

SSCC is partnering with Love INC to provide clothing essentials to families in our community throughout the year. Help us bless those in need!

We are currently collecting boys' underwear (sizes 2 to XL), girls' underwear (sizes 6, 10, 12, 14), women's underwear (sizes S, M, L), men's underwear (sizes S, M), and socks for men (sizes 6–12). Please drop your donations in the bin outside the office. Thank you for your generosity and for making a difference!



## **The Salvation Army**

We are collecting nonperishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank to support individuals and families in need within our community.

Your donations make a real difference! Please place items in the bin located just outside the office door. Every contribution big or small helps bring hope and relief. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and care.



## **Giving Statements**

Giving statements were emailed on **Wednesday, January 26**.

If you did not receive yours, please contact the church office at **219-836-2110** to update your email address or to request a printed copy. *Thank you for your faithful generosity and support of our church ministry.*



### Disciple-Makers Class - Sunday School Class

We are studying the life and ministry of Jesus from a chronological perspective. You are welcomed to join us each Sunday.  
Kevin Groben (219) 276-0538

### The Christian Friendship Sunday School Class

We would love to have you join us on any Sunday morning. We are discussion oriented, and welcome people of all ages.  
We study from the Christian Standard lesson.  
Jeff Hayden (219) 730-2635

### Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets on Monday's at 6:30PM. Contact Jason Newhuis at (708) 825-3345 for information.

### Wednesday Sisters in Christ Bible Study

Begins at 10 am, we take prayer requests from 11:30 to 12:00. Throughout the week we support one another with calls, texting, and prayers. Contact Carol Joza at 708-955-1257 for information.

### Wednesday Kevin's Bible Study

Afternoon Session 1:00 - 2:00 pm  
Evening Session 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Same lesson both session.  
Kevin Groben (219) 276-0538

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10-Feb	Richard Moore
14-Feb	Howard Funston
15-Feb	Lily Melendez
17-Feb	Danielle Moore
20-Feb	Larry Gephart
22-Feb	Kelly Nowacki
25-Feb	Amelia Ramirez

### Kara Ladies Group

Join us on Thursday, February 5, at noon. Bring your lunch and enjoy a joyful time of fellowship.

Fresh homemade jam is available for purchase in the Church Fireplace Room to support our ministries. Come pick up a jar (or two!) and savor the flavors of the season.

We are collecting fun Valentine's Day toys to be used for fillers in our shoe-boxes.

Checkout the Valentine section at Dollar General, family Dollar or Dollar Tree, they have great buys for only \$1.



*We always welcome new members, so come join the fun!*

# Ladies DARTBALL

Monday, Feb. 2 & 16,  
6-9 PM!

Fun, fellowship, and  
snacks, no experience  
needed!



## February

### ***New Testament***

#### ► MATTHEW

1. ☐ 10:21-42
2. ☐ 11:1-19
3. ☐ 11:20-30
4. ☐ 12:1-21
5. ☐ 12:22-37
6. ☐ 12:38-50
7. ☐ 13:1-23
8. ☐ 13:24-43
9. ☐ 13:44-58
10. ☐ 14:1-21
11. ☐ 14:22-36
12. ☐ 15:1-20
13. ☐ 15:21-39
14. ☐ 16:1-12
15. ☐ 16:13-28
16. ☐ 17:1-13
17. ☐ 17:14-27
18. ☐ 18:1-14
19. ☐ 18:15-35
20. ☐ 19:1-15
21. ☐ 19:16-30
22. ☐ 20:1-16
23. ☐ 20:17-34
24. ☐ 21:1-11
25. ☐ 21:12-22

#### ► ACTS

- ☐ 15:22-41
- ☐ 16:1-15
- ☐ 16:16-40
- ☐ 17:1-15
- ☐ 17:16-34
- ☐ 18:1-17
- ☐ 18:18-28
- ☐ 19:1-22
- ☐ 19:23-41
- ☐ 20:1-12
- ☐ 20:13-38
- ☐ 21:1-26
- ☐ 21:27-40
- ☐ 22
- ☐ 23:1-11
- ☐ 23:12-35
- ☐ 24
- ☐ 25:1-12
- ☐ 25:13-27
- ☐ 26:1-18
- ☐ 26:19-32
- ☐ 27:1-26
- ☐ 27:27-44
- ☐ 28:1-16
- ☐ 28:17-31

### ***Old Testament***

#### ► PSALMS

- ☐ 24
- ☐ 25
- ☐ 26
- ☐ 27
- ☐ 28
- ☐ 29
- ☐ 30
- ☐ 31
- ☐ 32
- ☐ 33
- ☐ 34
- ☐ 35
- ☐ 36
- ☐ 37:1-22
- ☐ 37:23-40
- ☐ 38
- ☐ 39
- ☐ 40
- ☐ 41
- ☐ 42
- ☐ 43
- ☐ 44
- ☐ 45
- ☐ 46
- ☐ 47

#### ► EXODUS

- ☐ 1-3
- ☐ 4-6
- ☐ 7-9
- ☐ 10-12
- ☐ 13-15
- ☐ 16-18
- ☐ 19-20
- ☐ 21-23
- ☐ 24-26
- ☐ 27-29
- ☐ 30-31
- ☐ 32-33
- ☐ 34
- ☐ 35-37
- ☐ 38-40

#### ► LEVITICUS

- ☐ 1-4
- ☐ 5-7
- ☐ 8-10
- ☐ 11-13
- ☐ 14-15
- ☐ 16-17
- ☐ 18-20
- ☐ 21-23
- ☐ 24-25
- ☐ 26-27

