



THE HARBINGER

South Side Christian Church



January 2026

Issue 1

Kevin's Korner

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines blessing as "a thing conducive to happiness or welfare." Blessings are not just the material goods we receive here on earth but include the heavenly ones which await us. In truth, God's blessings can 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. In the case of our inheritance in Christ both of those examples define that blessed reward awaiting us. This is a blessing not given to the angels or any of the other myriad of heavenly beings. Moreover, the full understanding of this blessing cannot be comprehended here on Earth. Like a wrapped Christmas present we don't really know what's inside, but we know it will be a gift we will enjoy. Knowing we have an inheritance awaiting us can spark a joy within 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 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 is going to be big, the richer the father the greater the inheritance and God is the richest of all. 2) We will have eternity to enjoy it. No matter what our struggle is here on earth we can look forward to an eternity enjoying our riches. All of our struggles on earth are temporary, but the inheritance will be enjoyed forever.

At times it can be difficult for us to see just how rich we are. Our attention focuses on the difficulties we face here on earth such as struggling paycheck to paycheck, health problems, and family problems to name a few. Like a thick fog impeding our vision we often see only what's directly in front of us. When we focus our attention on the blessings from God the fog begins to lift and we are left with a vision of a beautiful blue sky filled with the treasures we have in Christ. Our spirits begin to soar, and life begins to lose that gloomy feeling. Our walk becomes a little lighter, less burdensome, and that smile comes a bit more easily. When our life feels brighter our attitude becomes more pleasant and we find ourselves giving generously and caring towards those around us. When life is good, we are more likely to focus on other people and that brings joy to our hearts as well. 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. Shober

From The Elders:

It's that time of year!

Just a few days ago, the stores were packed, the trees were tied down on top of the cars or decorated in the front window, nearly everyone's front yard was full of inflatable reindeer, snowmen, or elves, and Santa had come to town. At church, we pulled out the stops with music and decorations and programs. Personally, I get as excited as though I were in elementary school again. It was "go all out" Christmas time!!

The question, of course, is why don't we "go all out" every day? Every day is a celebration of Jesus' coming to earth and dying for our sins. Every day is a day to be filled with joy because God created you, made you unique, equipped you, and most importantly, saved you from your sins.

How can we resolve to "go all out" going forward? The days I feel best are when I read my Bible, pray, challenge my body by moving around for half an hour or so, and help someone other than myself. 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that, "16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." What better way to "go all out" than to do so with the breath of God giving you strength? In 1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah starts her prayer, "My heart exults in the Lord; my horn is exalted in the Lord. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation." If my heart exults in the Lord because of His salvation, how can we not be motivated?

Paul references exercises, like running and fighting. He definitely wasn't a guy who stood still for very long. And Jesus said in Matthew 25: 40 that ..40'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" And all throughout Scripture, there are commands from God to look after widows and orphans and those in need, and to "love your neighbor as yourself".

Four walls of strength to make it through each day. And four basic principles to help us "go all out" every day. Let God breathe life into you, talk to Him, move this body that is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and serve outside of yourself. There's nothing to purchase. He already purchased you. There is no decorating necessary. He loves you how He made you. There is no stressing over what to buy others. He equipped you to help those He puts in your path. I think it simply comes down to going all out for the right reason. God created you, and Jesus died to save you. Let's go all out every day in this new year, 2026!!

John Helton has been with South Side for nearly ten years, and recently informed the Elder Board that due to family matters, he needs to return to Cincinnati to help his mother. The Elders have offered John a six-month leave of absence, which would begin January 31 and end July 31, 2026. If John is able to help his mother and make arrangements that will take care of the issues, then he would be returning to South Side. If things are not settled by July 31, then John would resign his position as a minister at South Side. There are plans in place to take care of the Youth Group and the young peoples' educational needs. We ask that everyone pray for God's Will in this matter and wish John the best, as he returns home to aid his family at this time.

Jeff, Dan, and Orlando



Kidz and Youth

This month, our youth group will be going through a series called Fighting Temptation, taking a look at the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness and what we can learn from it. Please be in prayer for us as we seek to grow in wisdom and knowledge to follow Christ more and more!

This year's Spaghetti Dinner will be Sunday March 15th, with seatings at 12 & 4:30 PM. Please plan to sign up with one of our youth kids and thank you in advance for your support!

This month, our elementary class will be continuing through the first five books of the Bible and learning about God's plan for the Israelites. Please pray that we will know more deeply how much God loves us!

John Helton



Senior Saints — News for You!

We had a wonderful fun and festive Christmas luncheon on December 9th. Everyone was dressed in their holiday apparel which added to our merriment.

Jimboo's never disappoints so our luncheon was delicious! By the way, he loved the card we all signed. There were many luscious desserts too—if you brought something to share, thank you. Adam Gawlikowski gave a lovely program, singing Christmas carols and playing his guitar. He told the Christmas story and sang religious carols and later he sang a selection of secular Christmas songs. We enjoyed him so much. It was a perfect afternoon.

We do not meet in January but when you get that new calendar mark the second Tuesday of each month for Senior Saints. I'll see you in February on the 10th. Meanwhile keep warm, stay safe and take care.

Donna Abercrombie



- Thank you to our church family for your generous donations and support of our Christmas meal and gift outreach. Through your kindness and our partnership with Hammond Area Love, INC, three local families were blessed with tangible expressions of Christ's love this Christmas season, and we have seen firsthand how meaningful your gifts have been to the families we served.
- From all of us on the staff, thank you for the generous Christmas gift. Your love, kindness, and generosity mean so much to us, and we feel truly blessed to be part of this loving church family.

Kevin, John, Audrey, and Patricia

COFFEE Fellowship

On Sunday, January 4, 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!



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.

Eyeglass Collection

for Medical Missions Outreach



Bring your gently used eyeglasses to the Welcome Center drop-box for donation



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



Kara Ladies Group

Join us on Thursday, January 8, 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.

If you are getting rid of a Christmas tree, ice skates, or sports memorabilia, please consider donating them to help us create fun, special crafts.

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1-Jan	Orlando Ugarte
2-Jan	Kevin Groben
3-Jan	Omar Padilla
5-Jan	Camden Foster
5-Jan	Nancy Lear
5-Jan	Suellen Stookey
10-Jan	Joan Giberson
11-Jan	Cindy Rogers
13-Jan	Pam Fordyce
13-Jan	Valerie Helton
14-Jan	Donna Abercrombie
27-Jan	Mike Abercrombie
28-Jan	Judi Radas
31-Jan	Alessandra Tovar
31-Jan	Patricia Ugarte

January

New Testament

► MATTHEW

1. 1:1-17
2. 1:18-25
3. 2:1-12
4. 2:13-23
5. 3:1-12
6. 3:13-17
7. 4:1-11
8. 4:12-17
9. 4:18-25
10. 5:1-12
11. 5:13-20
12. 5:21-32
13. 5:33-48
14. 6:1-15
15. 6:16-24
16. 6:25-34
17. 7:1-14
18. 7:15-29
19. 8:1-13
20. 8:14-22
21. 8:23-34
22. 9:1-13
23. 9:14-26
24. 9:27-38
25. 10:1-20

► ACTS

- 1:1-11
- 1:12-26
- 2:1-21
- 2:22-47
- 3
- 4:1-22
- 4:23-37
- 5:1-16
- 5:17-42
- 6
- 7:1-38
- 7:39-60
- 8:1-25
- 8:26-40
- 9:1-19
- 9:20-43
- 10:1-23
- 10:24-48
- 11:1-18
- 11:19-30
- 12
- 13:1-25
- 13:26-52
- 14
- 15:1-21

Old Testament

► PSALMS

- 1
- 2
- 3
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- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18:1-24
- 18:25-50
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22:1-11
- 22:12-31
- 23

► GENESIS

- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-8
- 9-11
- 12-14
- 15-17
- 18-20
- 21-23
- 24
- 25-26
- 27-28
- 29-30
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- 32-33
- 34-35
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- 37-38
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- 42-43
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