

THE HARBINGER

South Side Christian Church

September 2025

Issue 9

Kevin's Korner

Do you boast about your weaknesses? Probably not, most of us associate weakness with failure. We display our strengths as badges of honor, but hide our weaknesses with crosses of shame. Yet, Paul chose to boast about his weakness in 2 Corinthians 12:9. He understood that faith strives to trust in God's strength and not ours. Our strength can become a roadblock to a greater faith because we can end up relying on our abilities rather than God's.

Moses was a leader who believed he was called by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Initially, he killed an Egyptian believing his brothers would understand that God was delivering them through his hand (Acts 7:23-25). Yet, something went wrong and Moses had to flee for his life to live in exile for forty years in the desert. Then Moses had an encounter with God. God called and Moses resisted; he was scared. He was now a shepherd and seemed content to remain so. His fear offered up excuses as to why he wasn't the right man for the job: "Isn't there someone better qualified?" (Exodus 3:11); "I don't know enough." (Exodus 3:13); "What if they don't believe me?" (Exodus 4:1-2); and finally, "I don't have the ability to do what you are asking." (Exodus 4:10). Sound familiar?

Ultimately, Moses' excuses came down to one problem; fear. Fear was his weakness, and yet, this was what led him to trust in God. Deliverance came when Moses acted upon God's strength and not his own. Andrew Murray writes; "The Christian often tries to forget his weakness: God wants us to remember it, to feel it deeply. The Christian wants to conquer his weakness and to be freed from it: God wants us to rest and even rejoice in it. The Christian mourns over his weakness: Christ teaches His servant to say, "I take pleasure in infirmities; most gladly will I glory in my infirmities."

As Christians, we think that our weaknesses are a hindrance in the life and service of God; God tells us that it is the secret of strength and success. It is our weakness, heartily accepted and continually realized, that gives us our claim and access to the strength of Him who has said, "My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Read Exodus chapter 3 and you will note that God never once said to Moses; "I know you can handle this Moses," or "I believe in you Moses." Instead, God called Moses to rely on His strength; "The Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say." (Exodus 4:10-12) In other words, God responds to Moses by saying this is about Me, not you.

God wants to increase our faith. In order to do so, He calls us to do things we cannot do without Him. Therefore, our reliance on Him increases, because "... God's power is perfected in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). We don't have to trust in our ability, but rather God's ability to do great things through us.

Kevin W. Stohm

From The Elders:

Dear South Siders,

It's 119 days until Christmas 2025, and 126 days until New Year's Day 2026. There are a lot of things happening at South Side before the end of this year. Here are a few of them:

- ♦ September 14—the SSCC Fall Potluck dinner; see the details later in this newsletter
- ♦ September 21—Youth Sunday, the Youth Group, John Helton, and the Worship Team will be leading our Worship Service, leading us in song, as well as handling all of the various parts of the Service; be sure and be there to support this group of Youths as they lend their talents in service to our Lord
- ♦ September 28—Congregational meeting to affirm the new leaders for the 2025—2026 year
- ♦ October 18—19—All Church Rummage Sale; all of that Fall cleaning and giveaways can be brought to the church and sold to help raise funds for church improvements
- ♦ October 25—Harvest Carnival; John will begin collecting candy on September 28; if you are interested in dressing up (or not!) and helping with this event, see John
- ♦ December 24—6:00 PM will be the Christmas Eve Service held to honor Christ's incarnation

Don't forget the Bible Study Groups that meet at the church at the following times: on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:00 AM, the Monday Evening Men's group (7:30 PM), the Wednesday Morning Women's group (10:00 AM), the Wednesday Afternoon (1:00 PM) co-ed group, and the Wednesday Evening (6:30 PM) group.

Please continue to pray for the national, state, and local governmental leaders, our church's leaders, the church staff, and those attending Worship Services here at South Side and world wide, and your family as we all try to abide by God's Will and grow into the Christians Jesus wants us to be.

Jeff, Dan, and Orlando



South Side Christian Church Calendar for Leadership Nominations and Selection

August 17, 2025	Nomination forms will be made available to the congregation to nominate any SSCC immersion baptized member of the congregation for an office of Deacon, Elder, or Trustee. Nomination forms may be submitted to any member of the Nominating Committee.
August 24, 2025	Last day (12:00 PM, noon) for Nomination forms to be submitted to the Nominating Committee.
August 31, 2025	Labor Day Weekend
September 7, 2025	Elders receive the list of member candidates from the Nominating Committee. Elders vet candidates and inform nominees of the office for which they have been nominated.
September 14, 2025 September 17, 2025	Deacon Class - nominated Deacons must attend this class, or be removed from the nominated list. Candidates will review SSCC's Belief Statements, verify their support of these beliefs, and the role of Deacons in the church. Nominated deacons must inform the Elders of their intent to accept the office nomination, or decline the nomination.
September 21, 2025	Final candidate list is published to the congregation.
September 23, 2025	Any Scriptural objection to any nominated candidate must be submitted to the Elders by 5:00 PM.
September 28, 2025	Congregational Meeting following Worship Services – nominated officer candidates are either affirmed or not affirmed by the congregation members present at the meeting and casting an “yea” or a “nay” ballot for each candidate.
October 21, 2025 All Deacons, Elders, and Trustees are expected to be in attendance at these meetings.	5:30 PM – Elder Meeting- election of officers 6:00 PM – Deacon Meeting- election of officers 7:00 PM – General Board Meeting- election of officers

Kidz and Youth

This month at youth group, we will be kicking off the year with a series called *A Better Way*. We will be taking a look at 4 key areas of our lives: friendships, relationships, conflict management, and stewardship. We will be learning to tell the difference between God's way and the world's way and seeing why God's way is a better way to live. Please be in prayer for us this month that we come to know and understand God's plan and desires for our lives!

Our elementary class will continue going through the book of Exodus to see God's plan to save His people from slavery in Egypt. We will be learning that God wants to save us from being slaves to sin and help us walk in freedom with Him as our King. Please pray that we will see God's plan of redemption in our lives through His book of Exodus.

This year's Harvest Carnival will be Saturday October 25th from 3-5 PM. We will begin collecting candy on Sunday September 28th. Please consider donating a bag or two and signing up for a spot to help us run games for the kids and families in attendance. Thank you in advance for your efforts to make this year's Harvest Carnival another great one!

John Helton



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 new men's and women's underwear (large and XL), boys' underwear (size 2-3, 4-5, 5-6, 10, 14), girls' underwear (especially size 7), boys' undershirts, and training bras in any size. Please drop your donations in the bin outside the office.

Thank you for your generosity and for making a difference!



Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our church family, we were able to send 177 shoeboxes last year! This year, our goal is to send 200 shoeboxes. Each shoebox requires a \$10 shipping donation, so if you feel led to help cover these costs, your support is greatly appreciated.

We are currently collecting deflated soccer balls (sizes 4 or 5) and small pumps, perfect for children who love sports. We're also collecting fishing accessories such as lures, bobbers, and other small items to create fishing kits for boys ages 10 to 14. If you have gently used shoeboxes at home, please bring them in so we can pack even more gifts.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for helping make a difference in the lives of children around the world!



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

We warmly invite you to join us for Coffee Fellowship on the first Sunday of each month. This special time is a wonderful opportunity to slow down, connect with one another, and enjoy conversation over a warm cup of coffee.

On Sunday, September 7, the Kara Ladies will be providing coffee and an assortment of delicious treats.

Fellowship will take place from 10:00 to 10:25 AM, giving everyone a chance to gather together before the morning service begins.



POTLUCK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

JOIN US AFTER THE MORNING SERVICE!

BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT
TO SHARE AND ENJOY FELLOWSHIP
WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY.



Senior Saints—News for You!

Welcome back to Senior Saints on **September 9th** at noon. It will be good to see everyone after our little break. We will have a “back to school” theme of literature and books this month. Terry Lynch, who has done so many excellent programs for us will portray Mark Twain. His program is “Between Two Comets: The Life of Mark Twain.” Twain lived his life between the Halley’s Comets of 1835 and 1910. During that time he wrote some of the most beloved and controversial literature of the 19th century. Mark Twain will tell us about his life, his writings and constant struggle to be accepted by society.

Lunch will be a cafeteria favorite “pizza” and tossed salad. Please bring a favorite dessert to share. So I’ll see you on September 9th at noon. Don’t miss this program!!

Donna Abercrombie



The Salvation Army

We are collecting school supplies and 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.

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 Sister 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

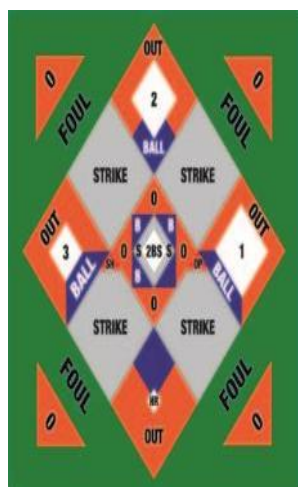
Afternoon Session 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Evening Session 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Same lesson both session.

We are taking a break for the summer and will be back on Sep. 3rd.

Ladies Dartball



Ladies, join us for an exciting evening of Dartball with women from various churches on **Monday, Sep. 8 and 22** at church from 6 to 9 PM. No experience needed, just come for fun, friendly competition, and great fellowship! Snacks will be provided. We can't wait to see you there!

Kara Ladies Group

Join us on **Thursday, September 4** at noon in the church atrium for a time of fellowship and planning. Bring your lunch and be part of the conversation as we also begin sorting filler items for the shoeboxes that day.

Jam making will be on **Friday, September 5** at 9:00 a.m. Come join us for a fun morning of fellowship as we prepare homemade jam to share and sell in support of our ministries.



Room #4 is now open to receive donations for the rummage sale. We welcome household items, decorations, small furniture, and gently used treasures that can be given a new home. Please note: no clothes or books, we've already received more books than we can display. If you'd like to donate items, please contact the church office. We could also use empty boxes to help pack the books we've already collected. Your contributions make a big difference in helping support our mission projects.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1-Sep	Richard Schulp
5-Sep	Diana Groben
7-Sep	Rosalinda Cortez
7-Sep	Larry Radas
9-Sep	Brylie Bridges
12-Sep	Fred Martin
15-Sep	Noah Frazier
23-Sep	Daniel Greenya
27-Sep	David Barrows
28-Sep	Elena Newhuis

September

New Testament

► LUKE

1. ☐ 20:27-40
2. ☐ 20:41-47
3. ☐ 21:1-19
4. ☐ 21:20-28
5. ☐ 21:29-38
6. ☐ 22:1-13
7. ☐ 22:14-23
8. ☐ 22:24-30
9. ☐ 22:31-38
10. ☐ 22:39-46
11. ☐ 22:47-53
12. ☐ 22:54-62
13. ☐ 22:63-71
14. ☐ 23:1-12
15. ☐ 23:13-25
16. ☐ 23:26-31
17. ☐ 23:32-37
18. ☐ 23:38-43
19. ☐ 23:44-49
20. ☐ 23:50-56
21. ☐ 24:1-12
22. ☐ 24:13-27
23. ☐ 24:28-35
24. ☐ 24:36-44
25. ☐ 24:45-53

► HEBREWS

- ☐ 1:1-9
- ☐ 1:10-14
- ☐ 2:1-9
- ☐ 2:10-18
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4:1-11
- ☐ 4:12-16
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6:1-12
- ☐ 6:13-20
- ☐ 7:1-10
- ☐ 7:11-28
- ☐ 8:1-6
- ☐ 8:7-13
- ☐ 9:1-10
- ☐ 9:11-28
- ☐ 10:1-18
- ☐ 10:19-39
- ☐ 11:1-16
- ☐ 11:17-31
- ☐ 11:32-40
- ☐ 12:1-13
- ☐ 12:14-29
- ☐ 13:1-8
- ☐ 13:9-25

Old Testament

► PROVERBS

- ☐ 18
- ☐ 19:1-14
- ☐ 19:15-29
- ☐ 20:1-15
- ☐ 20:16-30
- ☐ 21:1-16
- ☐ 21:17-31
- ☐ 22:1-16
- ☐ 22:17-29
- ☐ 23:1-18
- ☐ 23:19-35
- ☐ 24:1-22
- ☐ 24:23-34
- ☐ 25:1-14
- ☐ 25:15-28
- ☐ 26:1-16
- ☐ 26:17-28
- ☐ 27:1-14
- ☐ 27:15-27
- ☐ 28:1-14
- ☐ 28:15-28
- ☐ 29:1-14
- ☐ 29:15-27
- ☐ 30
- ☐ 31

► ISAIAH

- ☐ 1-2
- ☐ 3-5
- ☐ 6-8
- ☐ 9-10
- ☐ 11-13
- ☐ 14-16
- ☐ 17-20
- ☐ 21-23
- ☐ 24-26
- ☐ 27-28
- ☐ 29-30
- ☐ 31-33
- ☐ 34-36
- ☐ 37-39
- ☐ 40-41
- ☐ 42-43
- ☐ 44-45
- ☐ 46-48
- ☐ 49-50
- ☐ 51-53
- ☐ 54-55
- ☐ 56-58
- ☐ 59-61
- ☐ 62-64
- ☐ 65-66

