

“SideLines”

Tracy L. Gorman – SouthSide Church of the Nazarene – December 10, 2007

Good morning, dear friends!

I know that you're not used to getting an issue of “SideLines” from me this early in the week, but I wanted to write to you while yesterday was still fresh on my mind, so I could talk about some of the important highlights of that day, and to speak for a few minutes about some of the awesome things coming up on our calendars the rest of this month.

First of all, let's talk about yesterday: With a cloud hanging over our heads about the possibility of a major ice storm heading our way, I assumed that we would have just a small fraction of our regular attendees here, but I was proved WRONG-O! Yeah, we were down a bit, but it was not substantial. Thanks to all who braved the threat of bad weather, and came to church! If you were here, you already know that we had a wonderful service, and believe it or not, we actually saw some new faces in the crowd (even though I don't think they raised their hands as new guests). It's always good to see newcomers checking out the worship experience. Let's always remember to seek out folks whom we may not know, and make them feel wanted and welcomed!

During the service, Chris Cook (our Finance and Administration Team Leader) talked about a project that the Church Board is launching to substantially renovate the 6 main restrooms in our facility. A slide presentation was made, which showed the terrible condition those restrooms are in. The cost of this project is expected to be close to \$50,000 (undertakings of this magnitude are not cheap), and we asked yesterday for pledges. So far, \$25,000 has been pledged towards this amount. Tammy and I decided to give at least \$1,000.00 towards this project, and several of our leaders in the church stepped up and have matched that pledge. Now, I know that not everyone can give that much, but I do ask that (even if you've already pledged) that you consider doing so, if you have that capability. You're more than welcome to increase your pledge. Just let me know via email, or a phone call. Frankly, I am embarrassed by our restroom facilities, and after seeing the pictures yesterday, I know that many of you were, as well. We absolutely cannot continue allowing the property to fall into disrepair. It is a 3+ million dollar investment that we are responsible to care for, and that's what we intend to do. So, if you have not pledged, or if you'd like to increase your pledge, you can either contact me at PastorGorman@aol.com, or you can fill out a pledge card (located at the Information Center in the Lobby), and return it via the boxes in the Inner Lobby, or by sending it to the church office. This is SUCH an important project, and I hope we can get it moving along quickly, so it can be **COMPLETELY FINISHED** by Easter Sunday. Believe it or not, that's not that far off. We want our facility to be warm, inviting, updated, and in good condition. Thanks for the part you'll play in making that possible. As Chris said yesterday, this is the first phase of a long-term project to get our entire campus in an acceptable condition. Right now, it is not in such a state. It did not get this way overnight, and we will not be able to fix everything overnight. However, we certainly can start. We need everyone's help and participation to get this accomplished.

Well, last night was our second-annual “Mug ‘n Muffin.” What a great time we had! The teens and kids provided the entertainment, and did a wonderful job. The Jolly Old Elf stopped by, and lots of kids and teens enjoyed telling him what they were hoping to get this Christmas. Thanks to all who worked hard to make Mug ‘n Muffin a great evening, including all who helped set up and tear down tables, brought goodies, etc. And, thanks to all who came to enjoy the evening of fellowship (which is an important aspect in the life of the church).

This weekend, we are blessed to have our Choir presentation, “I'll be Home for Christmas.” Two presentations will be offered (Saturday evening at 7:00 and Sunday evening at 6:00). On Saturday evening, Café 2:42 will be open, and will be serving chili for all who want to stop in for a cup of coffee, and a bowl of chili. The café will open at 6:00 on Saturday evening. The choir / drama team have worked hard on this musical, and I truly hope you come, and invite others to join you. Pastor Andy and the team will definitely appreciate your support!!!

You know, I am truly hoping for good weather next Sunday morning. Please join us at 9:30 for Sunday School, and then at 10:30 for our morning worship experience. We'll sing some great Christmas songs, enjoy an awesome worship atmosphere, and (hopefully) hear a challenging message from God's Word. Attending church is also an

important part of the Christian experience, and if you have not been here in a while, please come back! We miss you, and whether or not you know it, you miss church, too! I hope to see you this Sunday morning at SouthSide!

We have a few Bibles remaining for sale, and they're only \$2.00 each (suggested donation). These NCV Bibles make great gifts, as do our SouthSide travel mugs, which we're liquidating for \$7.00 each. Both items are available in the Lobby, and you can drop your payment in Café 2:42, or you can place it in the Communication box in the Inner Lobby (be sure you mark what your \$\$\$ is for). When these items are gone, they're gone!

If you don't have anything going on, my son (Seth) plays at home (Yorktown Middle School) tonight at 5:30 against New Castle. He always enjoys it when people from the church come to watch. Now, New Castle is very good, so I am not sure how competitive the game will be...but it's always fun watching Middle-School kids play. As I've said many times, please try to support all our teens / kids as often as you can with their school events. Pastor Neal tries to keep an updated schedule of those opportunities. Contact him at PastorPeterson@TrySouthSide.com for an updated listing. (Parents, please try to keep an updated list / schedule with Pastor Neal for your kids' events. Thanks!)

Well, I think that's about it for this week's edition of "SideLines." Just remember during the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, not to forget the baby! It's all about Him. It's about Him coming to earth, taking on the form of a man, and doing it all because He loves us. It's all about Him!

*Have a terrific week. We love you very much!!!
Pastor Tracy*

“We exist to connect people with Jesus Christ and each other!”

