

“SideLines”

Tracy L. Gorman – SouthSide Church of the Nazarene – January 31, 2008

Hey, dear friends!

Well, this is probably the last email I will write to you before the BIG SNOWFALL gets here. From what I am reading and hearing, we could get quite a bit of snow tonight and tomorrow. I hope all of you are prepared for this latest winter storm that’s heading in our direction. I hear that a lot of stores are selling a lot of bread, milk, and eggs. Can anyone tell me why those three items are so sought after when snowfalls are coming? I guess bad weather makes people want to eat scrambled egg sandwiches, or something!!! HAHA!!!

Well, regardless of how much snow comes today and tomorrow, I am sure the roads will be very passable by the weekend, and we’re truly looking forward to a great day here at SouthSide Church this Sunday. Sunday morning at 9:30, we’ll kick the day off with Sunday school. There truly is a class for everyone, and I hope you’ll be here. I feel our Sunday school program is top-notch and getting better. Then at 10:30, we’ll have our Sunday morning Worship experience, and again, I truly hope you’ll come (and bring someone with you)! I plan to wrap up the sermon that was supposed to take one week to teach, and has actually taken me three weeks! It’s called, “How to Invest Your Life.” It’s all about the importance of allowing God to help you make what you do with your life something that will last a long time after you’re finished living it. Please join us for a great time of worship together!!!

On Sunday evening at 5:00, we will show the moving, “Facing the Giants” in the Sanctuary. This is a very fitting movie for the day of the Super Bowl, isn’t it? This specially timed service will take the place of our regular evening worship service. So, there will be NO SERVICE at 6:00 this Sunday. But, I truly hope you’ll come to watch this excellent movie, which was actually produced by a church, and became a worldwide hit. It’s a phenomenal story of hope and faith.

This coming Monday evening, SouthSide plays host to the Sunday School Ministries Rally. We’re looking forward to having those from across this area of the state here at SouthSide for a great dinner, speaker, and time of fellowship and learning. If you’ve made reservations already to be there, we look forward to seeing you at the Rally! If you’ve not made reservations already, it’s probably a little too late. We’ll get you signed up next year!

Last Sunday night, we talked a lot about what Luke Chapter 2 has to say about the success or failure of any church. I encourage you to read that passage of Scripture, and join me in applying what we learn to the life of SouthSide Church of the Nazarene. When we were developing the new café, one of the strong elements that we wanted to capture was the element of what Luke Chapter 2 teaches. So, Café 2:42 was born out of a strong desire by the Church Board to be a place where fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer, and teaching were possible. I believe those things are happening in that space already and I ask that you join me in supporting it. Stop in for a cup of coffee, juice, hot chocolate, or tea, grab a muffin or another baked item, and enjoy the fellowship that Café 2:42 offers SouthSide. A lot of churches have put in “coffee bars,” but I’ve yet to see any that come close to what ours offers. We are blessed to have it, and I appreciate the great work Debbie McLaughlin is doing in there each week. Café 2:42 is open before and after our Sunday services, but NOT from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. (we want you to be in Sunday School during that time). Please stop in and enjoy the atmosphere and the refreshments this Sunday!!!

An update on the Restroom / Nursery project has been posted in the Lobby of the church, but I wanted to let you know that we're moving forward. Michael and Jennifer Coffman are managing the project, and this week, they've been meeting with / talking to those who are submitting bids. We hope to get this part of the process completed in the next week or so, and then move ahead with the awarding of bids, which will ultimately lead to the completion of the work. Right now, it is so important that all of us (every person who calls SouthSide their home church) endorse this project by giving towards it. To completely renovate the nursery and 6 bathrooms is NOT an easy or inexpensive project. But, those areas are in great need of a makeover, and to be good stewards with the facility God's blessed us with, we must move forward expeditiously on this venture. So, please support this campaign with your finances, as well as your prayers. Thanks so much!

I've been so encouraged the last couple of weeks with what I see happening at SouthSide! No, not everything is absolutely perfect, but you know what, a lot of awesome things are happening. For instance, I am hearing great things from the new Divorce Care group that's meeting on Wednesday evenings. As well, I went to the Caravan awards ceremony last night, and it was great to see the participation of those kids. I know the teens began incorporating a time of worship in their meeting last night. Also, I saw your amazing generosity in supporting the young pastor that I spoke of last week. You gave him almost \$1300 to help during this time of financial need. Brothers and sisters, those are just a few of the things that I've been hearing, but those things point directly to a church that is becoming better and healthier all the time! Let's give the Lord praise for what He's doing! Believe me when I say that Satan, on the other hand, is trying to use a lot of his tricky little schemes, because he recognizes that some good things are happening, and HE DOESN'T LIKE IT! He doesn't like it when we rally around the family of a sick little girl! He doesn't like it when we take a Sunday morning service and just use it to love on people who are going through difficult times! He doesn't like it when he sees people turning their backs on gossip, dissention, and things like that! He doesn't like it when we put money in baby bottles to help save lives! He doesn't like it when we send \$50,000 around the world for missions! See, if nothing's happening, you won't have to worry about him coming around to try to mess things up!!! He only shows up when lives are being changed, and when people are being touched. When those things happen, rest assured, he'll not be far away. So, what do we do? Shouldn't we embrace a less-life-changing strategy, so we don't make the devil mad? HAHAHA!!! NO STINKIN' WAY!!! I John 4:4 says, "Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world!" Remember, we've read the back of the book. **OUR TEAM WINS!!!**

Well, I didn't mean to talk your leg off, but it's exciting talking about Christ's church. I love it, and I will do whatever I can to protect it, and to talk it up big time...because the church is AWESOME! It must be, because Jesus died for it, and He wouldn't have wasted His time on something that had no hope or value! SouthSide Church of the Nazarene ROCKS!!! I love it, and I am so glad to be the pastor of this awesome church. As well, I am so thrilled with the great staff that God has given me here to be partners in this great venture. Thanks Pastors CA, Andy, Neal, Keith; and thanks to Elicia! Also, thanks to DaRhonda, Kevin, and Sharon. I truly love each of these wonderful people who are called, "YOUR CHURCH STAFF!" As well, I am SO THANKFUL for our incredible Church Board!!! They serve us all so well!

I hope you have a great rest of the week. Keep praying, trusting, believing, and be a part of all that God has for your life through the great ministries of SouthSide. If you've not been here in a while, PLEASE COME BACK! WE MISS YOU!!!

Stay safe, and stay out of the snow!

*With much love,
Pastor Tracy*

