

# Monthly Update

An overview of **January**  
activities at Southside  
Presbyterian Church

## A Note from the Pastor ...

As we begin another year together, I offer this Franciscan blessing for us all.

### A Franciscan Blessing For The New Year

May God bless you with discomfort . . . at easy answers, hard hearts, half-truths, and superficial relationships.

May God bless you so that you may live from deep within your heart where God's Spirit dwells.

May God bless you with anger . . . at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people.

May God bless you so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears . . . to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war.

May God bless you so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, in your neighborhood, so that you will courageously try what you don't think you can do, but, in Jesus Christ, you'll have all the strength necessary.

May God bless you fearlessly to speak out about injustice, unjust laws, corrupt politicians, unjust and cruel treatment of prisoners, and senseless wars, genocides, starvations, and poverty that are so pervasive.

May God bless you that you remember we are all called to continue God's redemptive work of love and healing in God's place, in and through God's name, in God's Spirit, continually creating and breathing new life and grace into everything and everyone we touch.

In Faith,

*Pastor Alison*

## Church Photo Directory



## Pictorial Directory Update

Southside is compiling the final materials to publish a new Picture Directory. **Photos:** If you did not have a photo taken by Olan Mills last spring, you can have a free photo session at another church in early 2011. More information will be provided by calling the church office. If you previously gave a snapshot to the church office, please contact Rachael in the church office or Pastor Alison. **Contact information:** We need everyone's up-to-date contact information. Please contact the church office if you are new or have changes. On January 9 and 16 after worship in the Fellowship Hall, there will be an opportunity after church to review your name and contact information, and to make any corrections or additions.

## January 30: Annual Meeting

Plan to stay after worship as we receive the budget for 2011, elect members of the 2011 Nominating Committee, and receive annual reports from the Session and Deacons.



Happy 80th birthday,  
Dalton McClelland!

## Adult Education Opportunities

**Wednesday Night Bible Study, Wednesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Library:** In the New Year, consider gathering with other Southsiders as we reflect on scripture and its meaning for our lives today. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark. You are invited to stop by any time!

## Children, Youth & Family Opportunities



**Sunday, January 9 @ 5-7:30pm:** The Jesus Champs Tween Group Game Night, Library

**Sunday, January 16 after worship (11:30am-2:30pm):** Children & Youth Committee Retreat, Library

**Monday, January 24:** Youth Event with Father Greg Boyles from Homeboy Industries—Contact Pastor Alison for more details.

**Sunday, February 6:** Souperbowl Sunday: Youth will collect for Casa Maria

**Sunday, February 13 @ 5pm:** The Jesus Champs Tween Group Bowling Night. Meet at Southside with \$5 for a night of fun, food, friends &

bowling!

**Saturday, February 26:** Parents Group will make, serve, and eat breakfast at the Ronald McDonald House. See Tyler for details.

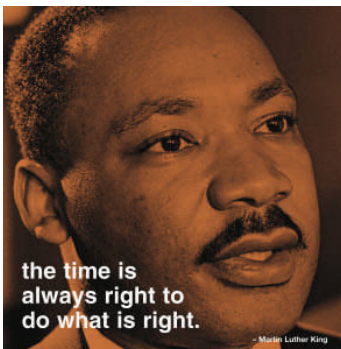
**Sunday, March 6 after worship:** Youth Lunch & Spring/Summer planning event

The Jesus Champs Tween Group is for all tweens ages 10-13. Youth events are for all high school age students.



## Congregational Nurture Opportunities

**January 23 after worship: Celebration for Tyler and Phil Le Peau:** As you know, Tyler and Phil LePeau are expecting an addition! A third son is expected in late January or early February. Please join us on Sunday, January 23 after worship in the Fellowship Hall for cake, punch, and a celebration of this joyous expectation. No gifts are expected, and all are welcome, but there will be some time for gift opening during the celebration. One Southsider has suggested -- and we think this is a wonderful idea -- that Tyler and Phil would welcome the promise of a meal delivered to their home in the weeks following the birth. They would also enjoy games and activities that can be shared by the whole family. Mostly, they will appreciate your presence to celebrate with them this happy time in their lives.



## Worship Opportunities

**January 9: Ordination and Installation of New Elders and Deacons:** We will install the following Elders: Hale Thomas-Hilburn (Elder for Adult Education), Lupe Chavez and Rene Fernandez (Elders for Children and Youth), and Debbie Bergman (Clerk) and Deacons: Kim Brown, Alyce Sadongei, and Sterling Vinson.

**January 16: Civil Rights Sunday:** Join us as we remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement in worship!

**Eco Events** On January 23, the ECO Committee will host a presentation after church in the Library on Food and Sustainability, including such issues as gardening and food justice. The presenter is Melissa Mundt from the Community Food Bank. We look forward to seeing you there. For more information, contact Anne Gooden (325-7965).



## Stewardship & Finance

**In the spirit of disclosure of our financial circumstances, here are figures for November and for the year to date:**

	November 2010	Year to Date 2010
<b>Income</b>	\$16,428	\$182,930
<b>Expenses</b>	\$13,780	\$183,883
<b>Totals</b>	\$2,848	(\$953)

By Susan P. Halversen, Elder for Stewardship & Finance

Can it really be 2011 already? Last year seemed to fly, busy as we all were with church activities, school, housework, jobs, and life in general. I'm pleased to be able to report that Southside's



financial picture seems brighter at the beginning of 2011 than it did at the beginning of 2010 – the final figures are not in yet, but I have

hopes that the church will have ended the year with at least a slight surplus. This situation is thanks to the generosity of all of Southside's members and many friends, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere and humble gratitude to everyone who contributed to the church in 2010, monetarily and otherwise. Stewardship is more than just capital campaigns and fund-raising; it is sharing our time and talents with each other and those in need, and taking care of the physical fabric of Southside's buildings and grounds. As we head back to work or school following the Christmas season, may we go back with a renewed sense of what it means to be Christians and to live out the life we have been called to live. Happy New Year!

## Community Announcements

**January 12: Harlem Gospel Choir Concert to Benefit ICS:**

ICS (Interfaith Community Services) and the Fox are bringing the



Harlem Gospel Choir to the Fox on Jan. 12. Tickets range from \$15 to \$40 and are available at the Fox box office (17 W. Congress), by phone (520-547-3040), or online ([www.foxtucsontheatre.org](http://www.foxtucsontheatre.org)).



**February 11: PCM Spaghetti Dinner:** Get your tickets for the Presbyterian Campus Ministry's (PCM) spaghetti dinner on Friday, February 11 from 5:30-6:30 pm at Northminster Presbyterian (the corner of Ft. Lowell and Tucson Blvd (note the change in location)). Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Sally Curd will have tickets

for sale in Fellowship Hall after church.



**January 24: Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion: An Evening with Fr. Greg Boyle, S. J.:** Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church (1300 N Greasewood) will host Fr. Greg

Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries in LA on January 24 starting at 6:30pm. The title of the evening comes from his most recent book, which will be available for purchase that evening.



When a family from the neighborhood surrounding the church recently attended one of our children's events, it reminded me again of the importance of caring for our neighbors in the area of the church. One way we can do that is by volunteering with Ochoa

Elementary School. The volunteer coordinator for the school specifically requests volunteers who can work on reading, math, and science with kids and form mentoring relationships with them and also volunteers who can work with the new preschool class or help with organized outdoor games after school (these types of volunteers require fingerprint clearance). There is also a need for help with an ESL class for parents and other adult learning opportunities. I know Southsiders always have the desire to reach out to others. Please let Tyler Le Peau ([tylerlepeau@gmail.com](mailto:tylerlepeau@gmail.com)) know if you are interested in these volunteering opportunities and she can connect you with the coordinator at the school.

## January 15: Margie Ford's Memorial Service



Margie Ford's memorial service will be on January 15 at 2:00pm in the Kiva.

Margie Ford, age 65, died peacefully on December 6, 2010, surrounded by dear friends and family. She carried her convictions as a peace activist into her relationship with cancer, writing, "If the concept of non-violence means anything, it has to be applicable to every level of life. From international relations to politics, from community to family, from others to self, from small occurrences of daily life to dramatic incidents of disease. Even cancer." Born and raised in East Oakland, CA, Margie was exposed to social justice as a small child, accompanying her grandfather each week in the family Woody as he picked up donuts to distribute at a shelter for the homeless. In 1967, as a twenty-two year old newlywed in Georgia, she worked by day as Coretta Scott King's personal secretary, and by night taught a social studies class to poor Southern whites outraged by everything Martin Luther King represented. "Each day with Mrs. King, I absorbed more of what Dr. King taught--that non-violent resistance was grounded in dignity which transcended insult, rooted in strengths so deep they had to be spiritual. We were all God's children. Even me. Even bigots. I began to see my students' ignorance as a kind of innocence and judged them, and ultimately myself, less harshly." Through reading the Constitution, Margie and her students explored each other's values, and by the end of the semester found that "(their) willingness to learn, to be reached, to take in this strange Yankee had matched my own willingness to know and accept who (they) were." Margie had a great passion for justice. She was drawn to difficult issues and cared about all people, even those she disagreed with. By respectfully and carefully listening to all sides, she fostered discussions that began peacemaking. Immediately after 9/11, she initiated interfaith dialogues at Southside Presbyterian Church, and brought many in her church and community to a deeper understanding of the Palestine/Israel conflict. After working for thirty years as a teacher, health educator, healthcare manager, and university administrator, in 1998 Margie earned a Master's Degree in Counseling, going on to graduate from the Academy of Guided Imagery in 2008. Margie thrived as a writer and psychotherapist in Tucson and Mt. Lemmon, AZ; San Diego, CA; and Princeville, HI. In addition she volunteered as a CASA volunteer, a guide at the KARE Family Center and Stars Mentoring Project, and as a Deacon at Southside Presbyterian Church. Margie served as an extremely effective Court Appointed Special Advocate for children, establishing relationships with children in crisis that continued long past their day in the court. At 38, Margie had her first encounter with breast cancer. Her daughter Michelle says, "What she wanted most was normalcy: to make me lunch and pick me up at the bus stop and go to my soccer games -- those everyday things were what she cherished. She hated the cancer but saw its blessing: that it makes you realize the beauty in life." After fifteen cancer-free years filled with activism, education, and friendship, Margie had a recurrence in 1998, soon after her granddaughter Ellie was born. Not expecting to live more than two years, she wrote a journal for Ellie, telling her everything her Nani thought she should know, including this advice on men: "Stick with men that love you truly and be wary of men who just need you. And if you don't get it right the first time, get it right eventually." Margie was truly loved by her husband, Frank, whom she met in 1989 while shuttling a car full of hikers to the Sutherland Trail. That morning, she cracked a joke and he busted up laughing, a pattern repeated many times in the ensuing twenty-two years. Soul mates, playmates, partners, lovers and friends, they lived their lives with a blend of individuality and connectedness, filling it with friends, discovery, and adventure. Seeing her daughter Michelle flourish professionally and personally gave Margie great pleasure, as did their deepening relationship as adults. She loved her son-in-law Bill's gift of beingness, his competence, and his smile. Watching grandchildren Ellie and Quinn develop and grow was a joy that delighted and sustained her. "I love my life," she recently told her friend Dorsett. "I'm doing the things that are important to me, and I've eliminated the others." Margie had inner strength, not an in-your-face strength. Her deep compassion and wisdom were not the gifts of an easy life; they were hard-earned and generously shared. She had continuous strength for her own battles and the battles of others. When she heard a story or deed that spoke of kindness and justice, Margie rejoiced. Margie pursued the truth honestly, frankly, and humorously, whether about her family, her relationship to her body, or her relationship to the world and what was right. Her clear vision, her utter devotion to the beauty in life, and her love of Frank and Michelle and her grandchildren helped sustain her over recent years checkered with illness and pain. Margie was a no-nonsense, straightforward kind of girl, yet lived lofty values and convictions and performed deeds that go beyond what most people attempt in their lives. Above everything, Margie was courageous. She knew how to live mindfully with joy and freedom, and how to love and be loved deeply. Thank you, Margie, for all that you have been for us and all that you have helped us be. In addition to her husband, Frank Stangel, Margie is survived by her daughter, Michelle Crow; her son-in-law, Bill Mark; her grandchildren, Ellie and Quinn and her sister, Marilyn Unruh. A celebration of Margie's life will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, January 15, 2011 at Southside Presbyterian Church, 317 W. 23rd, Tucson, AZ 85713. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Southside Presbyterian Church.