

# Monthly Update

An overview of January activities at Southside Presbyterian Church



## “Happy New Breath?”

I have a friend who often uses the phrase “happy new breath.” I think what he means by this phrase is that newness and renewal are not something just for the first of the year, but lie within every breath we take. I love this idea of the hope and newness that is felt at the beginning of the year actually being available to us in every breath. The reality is that some of us will make new year’s resolutions and we will keep some and break others, which can be frustrating to us. We identify with the words of the Apostle Paul when he writes in the letter to the Romans, “I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate” (7:15). Sometimes we can feel as if we have somehow failed before we have even begun...but here is the good news, we do not need to wait until January 1, 2013, to start again! Within every breath lies newness and a chance to begin again. While it is always a blessed thing to examine our lives and to think about what habits and behaviors we should let go of and what new disciplines we might like to practice in order to be faithful disciples of Christ, we should always remember that the love of God is with us no matter what. In the words of Father Gregory Boyle, “God would seem to be occupied in being unable to take Her eyes off of us to spend any time raising an eyebrow in disapproval. What’s true for Jesus is true for us, and so this voice breaks through the clouds and comes straight at us. ‘You are my Beloved, in whom I am wonderfully pleased.’”

Perhaps we would be better off just making a resolution to remember our Belovedness in every breath we take—perhaps everything else in our lives would then fall into place.

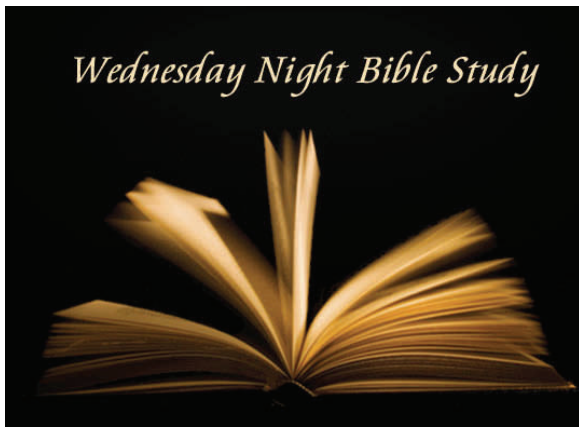
May every breath you take this year be filled with the knowledge that God is madly in love with you!

In Faith,  
*Pastor Alison*

## Committee Meetings in January

<b>Committee</b>	<b>January Meeting</b>
<b>Adult Education</b>	No meeting this month.
<b>Children &amp; Youth</b>	Sunday, January 22 after worship, Library
<b>Communications</b>	No meeting this month.
<b>Congregational Nurture</b>	Tuesday, January 24 at 6:00pm, Location TBA
<b>Deacons</b>	Saturday, January 21 from 10:00am to 3:00pm, Library
<b>ECO</b>	ECO conducts its business via email. Contact Sarah Roberts.
<b>Facilities and Maintenance</b>	No meeting this month.
<b>February Newsletter Deadline</b>	Thursday, January 26
<b>Personnel</b>	No meeting this month.
<b>Samaritans</b>	Every Tuesday at 7:00pm, Kiva
<b>Samaritans Training</b>	Sunday, January 1 at 2:00pm, Kiva
<b>Session</b>	Saturday, January 14 from 9:00am to 3:00pm, Library
<b>February Session Reports Deadline</b>	Thursday, February 2 at 5:00pm
<b>Social Justice</b>	No meeting this month.
<b>Stewardship &amp; Finance</b>	Tuesday, January 10 at 5:00pm, Library
<b>Worship</b>	No meeting this month.

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

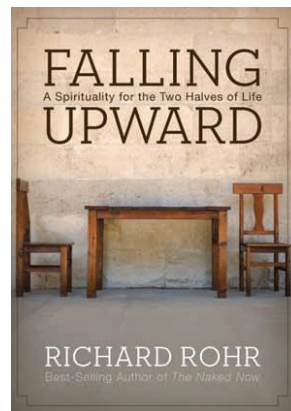


## Adult Education Opportunities

**Wednesday Night Bible Study, Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm in the Library** The Wednesday Night Bible Study will meet sporadically in January and February. The dates we will be meeting are: January 11, February 1 and 15. It is never too late to join us as we finish up our study of the Gospel of Mark.

**January 5: The Southside Women's Spiritual Discussion Group Resumes** Join the women of Southside at 7:00am on Thursdays. They are

currently reading Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. Please contact Kathy Norgard (325-6240) or Sally Curd (881-4473) for the location.



## Children, Tween, Youth & Family Opportunities

January 6-8, 2012  
The Jesus Champs

Tween Group

Retreat  
Prescott, AZ  
Winter Olympics



**January 6-8: Tween Retreat to Prescott** Meet at Southside at noon on January 6 and return on the evening of January 8. Get ready for an amazing "Winter Olympics" weekend!

**January 22 after Church** Children and Youth Committee meeting in the Library.

**January 22 at 5:00pm: Family Bowling Event** Meet at Golden Pin Lanes (1010 West Miracle Mile) for a fun family night of bowling. All ages are welcome! \$1 games and \$1 shoe rental.

**February 5: Souperbowl Sunday** Youth will collect money for Casa Maria after worship

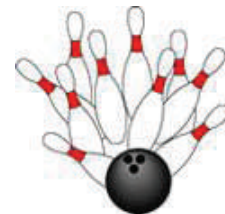
**February 12 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm: Tween Night** The Jesus Champs Tween group dinner, games, and Bible Study night in the

Fellowship Hall.

**February 24 at 6:00pm: Tween Night at Pump it Up** Meet at Southside at 6:00pm for dinner and JUMP-N-JAM tween night! Bring \$5, bring friends!

Parents/guardians, please pick up your child at Pump it Up (3248 North Freeway Industrial Loop) at 9:00pm.

*Tween events are for 10-13 year olds and youth events are for high school students.*



## Worship Opportunities

**January 15: Social Justice Fair** Wanting to get more involved with one of the social justice ministries of Southside or one of our partner organizations? Stay after worship on Sunday, January 15th for our Social Justice Fair and learn more about the Southside Worker Center, the Samaritans, Cross Street Ministries or a number of local organizations looking for volunteers and supporters.

**January 22: Ordination and Installation of New Officers** We will ordain and install our new Elder Sarah Roberts (ECO) and Deacons Bryan Smith, Tom Anderson, and Jim Walsh in worship. Their bios and pictures can be found on page 4.

**January 29: Annual Meeting** Join us for our annual meeting after church on January 29. Annual reports detailing the highlights of our ministry together in 2011 will be handed out, the 2012 budget will be presented, terms of call for Pastor Alison will be voted on, and the 2012 Nominating Committee will be elected. This is an important meeting as we look ahead to another year of ministry together, so please plan on attending.

## Service Opportunities

**Dinner at 5 Points** On the fourth Monday of each month, Southside serves an evening meal to the residents of Five Points, Primavera's halfway house facility. Help us support these folks in their recovery efforts. Call Sally Curd (881-4473) if you can contribute to the dinner.

## Financial Update

In the spirit of disclosure of our financial circumstances, here are figures for November 2011 and for the year to date:

	November 2011	Year to Date 2011
Income	\$16,824	\$184,088
Expenses	\$17,689	\$193,402
Totals	(\$845)	(\$26,983)



By Susan P. Halversen, Elder for Stewardship & Finance

It is discouraging to report such a large deficit for 2011 (as of November 30) at the beginning of 2012, but, unfortunately, the numbers do not lie. Though we were faithful to the budget the congregation adopted in January 2011 in terms of expenses, income (giving) was down overall – not really difficult to understand, considering the current state of the economy – but discouraging, nonetheless. I hope that, once the year-end numbers are in, the news will not be quite so bleak. Southside is a very generous and caring community; it may well be that the final figures for 2011 will tell a different story. When the proposed budget for 2012 is presented to the congregation this month, I hope that we will all consider it carefully and prayerfully, and then do our best to provide the necessary income to support Southside and its programs throughout the year.

## January 22: Budget Open House



On Sunday, January 22 following the morning service, the Stewardship and Finance Committee will hold a Budget Open House to share the proposed 2012 budget with the congregation. Please plan to stay for this important meeting, as all members should be aware of the church's budget and what is being proposed for the year. This will be your chance to discuss the figures being presented prior to the annual Congregational Meeting on January 29, during which the budget will be voted on, and (hopefully) accepted by members. Southside is a generous, giving, sharing community. We need to be sure that we budget properly so that the work we do here can continue. So, mark your calendars for January 22 (and January 29) and come prepared to participate in these important meetings.

**A LOOK  
at the  
BUDGET**



## Congregational Nurture Events

**February 12** Join the Southside family in celebrating the new addition to Pastor Alison and Bryan's family and our church family. Watch for more details!

## February 19: Sister Helen Prejean Talk

Sister Helen Prejean, one of the nation's foremost advocates to abolish the death penalty, will make a rare Tucson appearance on February 19, sponsored by the Coalition of Arizonans to Abolish the Death Penalty. Prejean will speak at 1:00 pm on February 19 at the Rialto Theatre (318 E. Congress St.) at an event that will include other special guests. Tickets for the event, which is open to the public, are \$10 and will be available online at [azabolitionist.org](http://azabolitionist.org) and at the door. After Sister Helen's talk, a New Orleans-style procession will be held through downtown Tucson to show support for the abolition of the death penalty in Arizona. A private meet-and-greet with Sister Helen will follow the procession. Tickets are \$100 per person. Sister Helen is best known for her Pulitzer Prize-nominated book, *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*, which recounts her prison ministry that led to her introduction to capital punishment, through her friendship with death-row inmate Patrick Sonnier. The book became a hit movie starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn. Sister Helen also is the author of *The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions*. For more information, contact Kathy Norgard (325-6240, 520-838-1721) or online ([www.azabolitionist.org](http://www.azabolitionist.org)).



## Community Announcements Southside's Overture to Presbytery



**March 3: 10 Hours at Tumamoc Hill Relay Fundraiser**  
The Young Adult Volunteer program

here in Tucson is holding a fundraiser to support next year's program. If you would like to put together a team of six, please contact the church office or Brandon Wert.



**Sunday, January 22 at 3:00pm: Benefit Concert for PCM** Join Presbyterian Campus Ministry

supporters for a concert at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (7650 N. Paseo del Norte). Choirs from 11 Tucson Presbyterian churches, including Southside, will each sing an anthem. In addition, a mass choir of 180 voices under the direction of Dr. Bruce Chamberlain will perform. The concert is free.

**Pima Council on Aging Offering Healthy Living: Managing Ongoing Health Conditions Workshops** If you

live with a chronic condition or care for someone with a chronic condition, sign up for a fun, interactive course to help you manage pain and fatigue, decrease frustration, and increase fitness and self-confidence. This six week program costs \$15 per person or \$25 a couple contribution to Pima Council on Aging (PCOA). The fee covers your copy of *Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions*, a relaxation CD, and program supplies. This workshop will take place at the University of Arizona Medical Center-South Campus Behavioral Health Pavilion (2800 E. Ajo Way) on January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 9:30 am to noon. For more information and to register, contact PCOA (790-0504) or online ([www.pcoa.org/arizona-living-well/](http://www.pcoa.org/arizona-living-well/)).

Local congregations and presbyteries all over the country are preparing for the 220th General Assembly by putting together Overtures in regards to immigration. Southside joined in this effort to bring to light the injustices faced by immigrant communities by drafting our own overture, which will be voted on by Presbytery de Cristo at our annual meeting on January 27-28. Pray for the adoption of this overture by the Presbytery, so that the voice of Presbyterians in the borderlands of Arizona might be heard by the General Assembly. Text of the overture is on the insert and will be available on the website.

## New Elder & Deacon Bios



**Elder for ECO: Sarah Roberts** is a Registered Nurse, working in 3 elementary schools in TUSD, and part time at St. Mary's Hospital. Born in Ohio, she moved to Tucson in 1982. Active in border humanitarian aid work since 2001, she volunteers with the Samaritans and No More Deaths. Previously a member and Elder at St. Mark's Presbyterian, she is honored to be asked to serve as an Elder at Southside. She lives on the westside, with her partner, Jim Walsh, and they have a grown daughter, Lida Sophia, who lives in Italy.

### Deacon Nominees for the Class of 2012:



**Bryan Smith** has been attending Southside since July 2010. He became a member of Southside in Fall 2010. He currently serves on the Congregational Nurture Committee. Bryan is a full-time undergraduate student at the University of Arizona, where he is studying psychology and sociology.



**Tom Anderson's** family moved to Tucson in 1967, when he was 12. He grew up attending the Christian Churches in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona where his father was the preacher. An electrical engineer and engineering manager, Tom has worked in the microelectronics field since 1977. He is also an avid reader, lifelong learner, a musician, and music lover. Tom loves to spend time loving his family, which also includes his wife, Lisa, 5 daughters, 3 sons-in-law, and

4 grandchildren (5 in February). Tom and Lisa have attended Southside since April 2010.



A longtime Tucsonan, **Jim Walsh** has been part of the Casa Maria community since 1982 and had attended services at Southside since 1983, finally and joyfully becoming a member this year. He has lived, worked, and volunteered in Korea, with the Korean Federation of Environmental Movements, and in Kenya, where he was proud to be part of the Greenbelt Movement for the environment and good governance, founded by the late Nobel Peace Prize Honoree, Wangari Maathai. He was a volunteer hiker during the

Sanctuary Movement and volunteers today with the Samaritans and No More Deaths. He lives on the westside with his partner, Sarah Roberts, and works as a residential counselor with developmentally disabled adults.