

Monthly Update

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

A Note from the Pastor ...

As we focus on the theme of journeys this fall, I offer this Blessing for Travelers from Irish Poet John O'Donohue. May our journey with one another continue to be blessed.

For the Traveler

Every time you leave home,
Another road takes you
Into a world you were never in.

New strangers on other paths await.
New places that have never seen you
Will startle a little at your entry.
Old places that know you well
Will pretend nothing
Changed since your last visit.

When you travel, you find yourself
Alone in a different way,
More attentive now
To the self you bring along,
Your more subtle eye watching
You abroad; and how what meets you
Touches that part of the heart
That lies low at home:

How you unexpectedly attune
To the timbre in some voice,
Opening in conversation
You want to take in
To where your longing
Has pressed hard enough
Inward, on some unsaid dark,
To create a crystal of insight
You could not have known
You needed
To illuminate
Your way.

When you travel,
A new silence
Goes with you,
And if you listen,
You will hear
What your heart would
Love to say.

A journey can become a sacred thing:
Make sure, before you go,
To take the time
To bless your going forth,
To free your heart of ballast
So that the compass of your soul
Might direct you toward
The territories of spirit
Where you will discover
More of your hidden life,
And the urgencies
That deserve to claim you.

May you travel in an awakened way,
Gathered wisely into your inner ground;
That you may not waste the invitations
Which wait along the way to transform you.

May you travel safely, arrive refreshed,
And live your time away to its fullest;
Return home more enriched, and free
To balance the gift of days which call you.

In Faith,
Pastor Alison



Adult Education Opportunities

Wednesday Night Bible Study, Wednesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Library: We invite you to gather with other Southsiders as we reflect on scripture and its meaning for our lives today. You are invited to stop by any time!

Children, Tween, Youth & Family Opportunities



September 4 at 5:00pm: The Jesus Champs Tween Group (ages 10-13) Bowling Night: Meet at Southside at 5:00pm and return about 7:30pm. Come out for a fun night of pizza and bowling! Bring your friends!

September 16 at 6:00pm: High School Youth Dinner and Movie Night: Join us in the Library to celebrate birthdays and milestones!

September 17 at 6:00pm: Kids Movie Night at Southside: Join us for An American Tail, cheesy foods, and a family photo frame craft

September 23 at 6:00pm: The Jesus Champs Tween Pump It Up Night: Meet in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and PIU, bring friends, it will be GREAT!

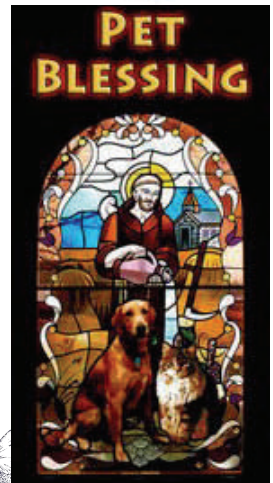
October: Watch for a Date! Youth meet for a talk with Brian Flagg from Casa Maria and deliver Souperbowl Sunday check

October 2 from 4:00-6:30pm: The Jesus Champs Tween Group in the Fellowship Hall: Join us for a pet-themed study

October 15 at 11:00am: The Jesus Champs Tweens Group Trip to BICAS: Bring your bike for a fun time of bike-fixing, riding, and learning about BICAS and bike maintenance

October 23 after church: Join us for an enjoyable Desert Museum family outing after church. The cost is \$3.25 per person (children 5 and under are free)

November 26 at 9:30am: Family advent breakfast in the Fellowship Hall



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

Worship Opportunities in September

September 18: Liturgist Training: Calling all liturgists! The Worship Committee and Pastor Alison will be holding a training for liturgists on September 18 after worship (from Noon to 3:00pm) in the Kiva. All who would like to participate in the worship by sharing the Call to Faithfulness, Scripture readings (both English and Spanish), the Call to Offering, and the Charge to the Congregation are welcome to join us in this training. This training is for all new and current liturgists. Please let Pastor Alison or Dorsett Edmunds know if you will be attending. Lunch will be provided.

September 25: Native American Sunday: Join us at 9:30am for this annual celebration as we recognize the roots of our church and the continuing contribution of Native Americans to the life of Southside. Leading us in worship will be our own Alyce Sadonge! As always, a potluck will follow the service and you are encouraged to bring a dish to share. Please see list of items to bring associated with your last names: A-L side dishes; M-R salads; S-Z desserts.



October 22: Fall Presbyterian Women's Gathering: Join other women from our presbytery on Saturday, October 22 from 8:30am-3:00pm at Valley Presbyterian Church in Green Valley. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, who has written this year's Horizon's study on the Beatitudes. For more information, please see Donna Bradley. Flyers are available at either entrance to the Kiva.

Financial Update

By Susan P. Halversen, Elder for Stewardship & Finance

I have not received the necessary financial input yet, so the usual monthly figures do not appear in this update. They will be back next month, though, and, as always, if any member needs details about Southside budgetary matters, Treasurer Paul Axinn should be able to supply that information.

Members of the Stewardship and Finance Committee have recently been discussing the question of endowments with respect to the church, and how they might be used to assist Southside financially. As it happens, the most recent Presbytery meeting included several workshops, among which was one titled Beyond the Offering Plate: Planned Giving / Endowment Program in Your Church. Two committee members attended this workshop (led by the Rev. George Herbert, Development Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation), and plan to share what they learned with the rest of the committee, and with others in the congregation, particularly any member or friend who might be considering leaving a legacy to Southside to help provide for future ministries.

In the words of 2 Corinthians 9:8, "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." May we share as we are able, and do our best to help provide enough for all.



The Next Step: New Members Class

October 23 & 30, November 1 & 13: New Members Class: In The Next Step Membership Class, we will examine what it means to pursue a journey of faith and to be a part of the people of God. We will also learn more about being Presbyterian and about Southside Presbyterian Church in particular. It is our hope that you will feel free to explore your faith, ask questions, meet new friends, be open to new ideas and, above all, know that you are always welcome in our fellowship. While this class is aimed at those who are interested in becoming members at Southside, all are welcome to come and explore with us. Classes will meet October 23 and 30 following worship from 11:30am-1:00pm and on November 1 at 6:00pm with Session (the governing board of leaders at Southside). Lunch (and dinner on the November 1) and childcare are available for all sessions. Those desiring to become new members will be received into membership on November 13 during worship. If you are interested in attending the Next Step Class, please call the church office to sign up (623-6857).

Nominating Committee Update

In September, the Southside Nominating Committee will begin their work discerning the call to leadership amongst members of our congregation. If you would like to nominate someone for the office of Elder or Deacon, please let one of the members of the Nominating Committee know or fill out a nominating form which will be available at either entrance of the Kiva. This year's Nominating Committee is: Nancy Woods, Alyce Sadongei, Abe Valenzuela, Debbie Bergman, Nancy Murphy, and Kathryn Beatty.



Toiletries Drive for October's Poz Cafe



For the month of September, Southside is sponsoring a toiletries drive each Sunday for the most needed items to fill the care packages for the Poz Cafe. If you have any questions, please see Lisa Essex. Please bring these items:

September 4: Toilet paper (2-ply)
September 18: Shampoo

September 11: Paper Towels
September 25: Bar Soap/Body Wash

Committee Meetings in September

| Committee | September Meeting |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Adult Education | No meeting this month. |
| Children & Youth | Sunday, August 26 after church, Library |
| Communications | Tuesday, August 20 at 11:00am, Staff Office |
| Congregational Nurture | Tuesday, September 27 at 6:00pm, Pastor Alison's home |
| Deacons | Tuesday, September 20 at 6:00pm, Library |
| ECO | ECO conducts its business via email. To get on the ECO listserv, contact Anne Gooden. |
| Facilities and Maintenance | No meeting this month. |
| Nominating Committee | Mondays, September 12, 19 & 26 at 6:30pm, Kiva Office |
| October Newsletter Deadline | Thursday, September 22 at Noon |
| Personnel | Thursday, September 1 at Noon, Suzanne Rabe's home |
| Samaritans | Every Tuesday at 7:00pm, Kiva |
| Samaritans Training | Sunday, September 4 at 2:00pm, Kiva |
| Session | Tuesday, September 6 at 6:00pm, Kiva |
| Session Reports Deadline | Thursday, September 1 at Noon |
| Social Justice | No meeting this month. |
| Stewardship & Finance | Tuesday, September 13 at 5:00pm, Library |
| Worship | Tuesday, September 13 at 6:00pm, Kiva Office |

The Guatemala Project 2011 Serves in Remote Areas

By Sally Curd

Southside member Sarah Roberts and the rest of the medical team from the Guatemala Project found many areas of need and some signs of hope on their annual trip to the remote regions of Guatemala. The team worked in Guatemala from July 30 to August 6. This was Sarah Roberts' ninth consecutive year to go with the Guatemala team. The Guatemala Project brings medical aid to remote areas of Guatemala by providing emergency treatment, medical supplies, personnel and maternity care to area that have no physicians or clinics.

Team leader Ila Abernathy of St. Michael's Church in Tucson reports that the communities they serve are expecting a steep reduction in their already erratic medical services. The Project team has filed two written reports with the government health ministry, Abernathy said, and team members have met with the physicians and other government staff about the reductions.

There is still much need for parasite treatment, but the rates of anemia have stabilized. Although there were no maternal deaths during childbirth in the remote mountains and infant mortality was up in that area, there were two maternal deaths in the coastal resettlements. Abernathy said she is most proud of the communities' use of the emergency medical travel money. It is most often used for difficult childbirths. In the team's time there, the life of a 16-year-old mother was saved, although her baby was born dead. The emergency travel money was used to help cover the young mother's expenses.

ECO Event in September



September 24: The Moving Planet: Moving Away from Fossil Fuel: The organization 350.org is sponsoring a worldwide event, The Moving Planet: Moving Away from Fossil Fuel. In Tucson, there will be a 22 mile bike ride and an information exchange with music at the Drachman Plaza (Helen St. and Warren Ave.) at the UA. There is ample free parking and the information tables are free for the presenters. The ride starts at 7:00 am and the information exchange is from 9:00 to 11:00am. Southside's ECO Committee is planning on having a table there. Hope to see you there!



On the Tenth Anniversary of the Events of September 11, 2001



As we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11, many are asking, "what have we learned?" I recently ran across a statement issued by more than 4,000 religious leaders from a variety of faith traditions after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and found that their words continue to resonate today. I offer them for our reflection.

In Faith, *Pastor Alison*

Deny them their victory: a religious response to terrorism

We, American religious leaders, share the broken hearts of our fellow citizens. The worst terrorist attack in history that assaulted New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania, has been felt in every American community. Each life lost was of unique and sacred value in the eyes of God, and the connections Americans feel to those lives run very deep. In the face of such a cruel catastrophe, it is a time to look to God and to each other for the strength we need and the response we will make. We must dig deep to the roots of our faith for sustenance, solace, and wisdom.

First, we must find a word of consolation for the untold pain and suffering of our people. Our congregations will offer their practical and pastoral resources to bind up the wounds of the nation. We can become safe places to weep and secure places to begin rebuilding our shattered lives and communities. Our houses of worship should become public arenas for common prayer, community discussion, eventual healing, and forgiveness.

Second, we offer a word of sober restraint as our nation discerns what its response will be. We share the deep anger toward those who so callously and massively destroy innocent lives, no matter what the grievances or injustices invoked. In the name of God, we too demand that those responsible for these utterly evil acts be found and brought to justice. Those culpable must not escape accountability. But we must not, out of anger and vengeance, indiscriminately retaliate in ways that bring on even more loss of innocent life. We pray that President Bush and members of Congress will seek the wisdom of God as they decide upon the appropriate response.

Third, we face deep and profound questions of what this attack on America will do to us as a nation. The terrorists have offered us a stark view of the world they would create, where the remedy to every human grievance and injustice is a resort to the random and cowardly violence of revenge - even against the most innocent. Having taken thousands of our lives, attacked our national symbols, forced our political leaders to flee their chambers of governance, disrupted our work and families, and struck fear into the hearts of our children, the terrorists must feel victorious.

But we can deny them their victory by refusing to submit to a world created in their image. Terrorism inflicts not only death and destruction but also emotional oppression to further its aims. We must not allow this terror to drive us away from being the people God has called us to be. We assert the vision of community, tolerance, compassion, justice, and the sacredness of human life, which lies at the heart of all our religious traditions. America must be a safe place for all our citizens in all their diversity. It is especially important that our citizens who share national origins, ethnicity, or religion with whoever attacked us are, themselves, protected among us.

Our American illusion of invulnerability has been shattered. From now on, we will look at the world in a different way, and this attack on our life as a nation will become a test of our national character. Let us make the right choices in this crisis - to pray, act, and unite against the bitter fruits of division, hatred, and violence. Let us rededicate ourselves to global peace, human dignity, and the eradication of injustice that breeds rage and vengeance.

As we gather in our houses of worship, let us begin a process of seeking the healing and grace of God.

