

The South Church News

A Publication of The South Church, Mount Prospect, IL
July 2011

Dates to Remember

**Monday, July 4 –
Independence Day and
South Church parade @
12:15 pm (see article)**



**Sunday, July 31 – Fifth
Sunday; look for
something special to
happen!**

You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism. ~Erma Bombeck

Message from the Pastor.....

"Priorities"

I hope you didn't suffer too much during the recent storm that passed through Mount Prospect on June 21. Our side of Route 83 took much less damage than the west side, where a tornado passed through. I admit I am still a bit shocked that a tornado touched down in Mount Prospect. Just another illusion of safety that I must now set aside. As I write, some of our folks are still without power. Someone dried their hair at church this week. Others have food in the freezer. We lost internet service for a couple days and phone service for a few hours but were otherwise unaffected at the church.

I had a meeting with a bride Monday morning, a woman named Angela B. who will be married here this September. I had no idea that we would have such a meaningful conversation. Angela B. and her fiancé lost their home in the Joplin tornado. They lost just about everything they owned. We spent two and a half hours talking about her experience, and somehow managed to get some wedding planning done along the way.

For Angela B. the trauma began as she was sitting in a movie theatre watching *Bridesmaids*. Suddenly she became aware that lots of people in the theatre were talking on their cellphones. Then hers began to vibrate. It was her fiancé, at work, calling to tell her that a tornado had been spotted. Well, they get lots of those in Missouri—the storm that brought the tornado to Mount Prospect actually formed in Missouri—so Angela wasn't too concerned. Then the lights began to flicker, the movie was halted, and the management moved people to the lowest level they had, which was another theatre.

Soon she and her girlfriend are traveling through a light rain toward Angela's house. The level of destruction increased steadily as they approached her neighborhood, until the damage to homes, schools, and businesses was total. They eventually had to park the car and run the last few blocks. (continued)

(Message from the Pastor.....continued)

Everything around her house for blocks was completely destroyed. Her fiancé showed up. He too had to park blocks away and run through utter devastation to get to the site of their house. It is at this point in her story that Angela B. shared an awareness that made the morning most meaningful for me.

As she put it: “God has shown me what my priorities are. You know what really matters to you when you walk up and see your house gone and the first thing you say isn’t ‘Oh my God, my house is gone’ but instead ‘Oh my God, where are my dogs.’” Just about then one of her dogs ran out of the wreckage when it heard her voice. They were sure the other one was gone but two days later neighbors found it hiding in the wreckage of their home—injured, but alive.

“I felt so blessed, and so lucky,” Angela B. said. “I was okay. My fiancé was okay. We managed to get the dogs out. Everything else is just things.”

She has guilt that she survived and that the neighbor across the street lost his wife and son in the destruction. She doesn’t think God saved her and not others but she is grateful that she is alive. She knows she is lucky because she had good insurance, didn’t lose her most important legal papers, still has a way of identifying herself to banks, and the government and the insurance company. She knows many who have none of these things.

Again and again as I continued to clean up storm damage and as I listened to others talk about their experiences, I stayed in touch with gratitude. I hope that I hold on to the simple wisdom of Angela B.’s post-tornado perspective. She has a better sense of what her priorities are: Her loved ones. Everything else? Just things.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Stacie Glogowski	July 2
Lucyle Keller	July 5
Kevin Schwake	July 8
Jackie Sielaff	July 12
Helen Knechtel	July 13
Kevin Meskan	July 13
Allyson Ryan Peterkin	July 15
Jack Piper	July 16
David Surico	July 21
William Beattie	July 29
Vladimir Zwilling	July 29
Drew Degan	July 30

Anniversaries

Chieko & Mikio Miyashita
July 16

Attendance Averages

June Average: 65
YTD Average: 67

Looking for an easy way to
help or get involved?

Check the bulletin boards in
fellowship hall and you can
sign up for after-church
treats and/or
sanctuary flowers!



The South Church's New Award-Winning Website

Have you seen it? If not, you are in for a pleasant surprise. Soon you will be able to go to www.thesouthchurch.com and check out some of the new features:

Flash slideshows located on Homepage, About Us & Weddings pages

Stained Glass Windows – located under About Us Tab

History of The South Church – located under About Us tab

South Church News – located on Homepage and News page

Pastoral Messages – Seasonal message on Homepage, and Welcome under About Us tab

Memorial Garden page

Worship page – what to expect when visiting The South Church and how to become a member

Mapquest Directions – located on Contact page

Photo Gallery – located under Gallery tab

Videos – located under Gallery tab

New purpose for Community page – featuring South Church space rentals

Members Only page – secure page where board minutes, bylaws, members directory are located

Calendar page – Know what events are going on at TSC all the time!

Plus...you will now be able to view The South Church website in other languages, share a page with a friend, send a "printer friendly" page to your printer or connect to The South Church Facebook page.

One of the most attractive features of the new website is the Content Management System which allows anyone with word processing skills, such as Word, the ability to change any content in the website quickly and easily.

The new website was designed for The South Church as an AITP computer club project by Oakton Community College students and won first place in the annual collegiate website competition in March of this year. AITP stands for "The Association of Information Technology Professionals." It is a professional organization with over 250 professional and student chapters throughout North America. Oakton's AITP student chapter is designed for students planning careers in information systems or related computer and technology fields. While this project took the five Oakton students at least 1000 hours to create, with over 200 pages of documentation, it was completed at no-cost to The South Church.

Work began in October 2010. An online survey was conducted, other church websites were researched, and meetings were held with several members of The South Church to determine the features and capabilities we desired in our new website.

The five Oakton students who created the new website are: Kathy Ryan (from The South Church), Scott Andrews, Brad Campbell, Dan Wilczak, and Elena Papastefan. Oakton was very proud of their accomplishment and trophy and the students were honored at a special Oakton event. A presentation of the new website by the Oakton website team was held during worship service on May 29th, where The South Church members present were able to express their appreciation for the beautiful new website. Oakton website students feel this was a tremendous learning experience and wish to thank The South Church for the opportunity creating this new website afforded them. This accomplishment will look great on their résumés!

The South Church Grounds

By Kathy Ryan

When I resumed attending services at The South Church three years ago, I was disappointed to see that the church grounds needed a great deal of work. You have to understand that I love beautiful landscaping and enjoy working in the yard, especially when the weather is mild. Housework is another story altogether. Can I simply do yard work and hire someone to clean my house?

Three years ago, we informally began The South Church "Grounds Improvement Project" by trimming all the many trees, shrubs and bushes and yanking out the weeds (some shoulder high). Melissa Ciske donated dozens of landscape lilies from her yard and these were planted on the side of the church nearest the Memorial Ash Garden, thanks to the efforts of Lynn Brown and Don Berg.

Last year, Angela Nicolosi donated the money to purchase the beautiful red landscape rose bushes that adorn the front of our church. What a project! We removed many of the crowded hostas, lilies and ferns from either side of the front steps, leaving the tulips and daffodils to bloom in spring. The rose bushes were planted, hostas rearranged, and a layer of mulch applied to the ground around the plants. The plants we removed were transplanted to the north side of the church where little was growing. Jill Kaeding, Coleman, Diane Beattie, Dave Surico, Don Berg and I worked feverishly in the warm weather getting everything planted – and then many days thereafter keeping all the new transplants watered. I think it was worth it, because this spring, these new beds were beautiful, thanks in large part to the efforts of John Brown and Sue Kettlesen, who removed leaves and weeds from these beds in early spring.

As I write this, my muscles are sore and Don Berg and John Brown may never talk to me again. Little did they know how much backbreaking effort and number of hours would be required when they agreed to help me turn the weed patch on the south side of the church into a flower garden. After many hours, over the course of a number of days, of yanking weeds, removing stumps, and turning the soil, we finally got this area planted – and at no cost to the church. All the plants were either transplanted from other areas of the church grounds or donated from the gardens of Don Berg, Angela Nicolosi, Joan Smith, and Cindy and Paul Zimmerman. Thank you. We also dug up enough ground cover from the Zimmerman's yard to plant under the pine tree next to the Memorial Ash Garden. If you have time, walk over and take a look.

(continued next page)

(The South Church Grounds....continued)

Watering these newly planted shrubs and flowers will be much easier this year, as two rain water collection bins and distribution systems are in the process of being installed on both the north and south sides of the church, thanks to a generous donation by Bill Petersen of EcoSystems and additional labor provided by Eric Hammer and Rick Kesler. As a secondary benefit, this new water collection/distribution system should help eliminate the problems with water in our church basement!

Also this year, thanks to Didier Farms donations, red geraniums adorn the bed next to the parking lot, impatiens by the evergreens in the north garden, petunias in front of the rose bushes in front of the church, as well as hanging flower baskets by the office door and down the education wing.

Thanks to Don Berg and John Brown, the grass is mowed and trimmed each week. Also, many thanks to Brian Wilcox, Fran's son, for his volunteer work in the yard and for painting the wrought iron fence in the Memorial Ash Garden. It looks wonderful!

I think all our efforts over the last three years are worth it when I hear from neighbors and prospective wedding couples just how beautiful they think the church grounds are!

The church yard is a large area and maintaining it is sometimes daunting. It seems I blink and there are more weeds to pull, flowers to deadhead or new plants to water. Don Berg, John Brown and I meet each Tuesday morning to weed, trim and cut grass. We normally work from 9:00 a.m. till noon. If you have the time, please join us. We'd love your company and your help.



Come and join the parade!

The South Church will once again have a float in the Mount Prospect parade on July 4. Please meet at 12:15 pm at Prospect Avenue between Maple and Mt. Prospect Road. We are float #52. Bring water bottles, sunscreen and hats. For more information, contact Katie Pantell.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Figures represent January through May 2011.

INCOME

YTD Income \$75,298.53*

YTD Budget \$73,826.60

YTD Income Over Budget \$ 1,471.93

*Represents 102.0% of Anticipated Income For This Period

EXPENSES

YTD Expenses \$73,701.47

YTD Income Over Expenses \$ 1,595.06

-Pat Piper, Comptroller

Independence overrated

It might have been humorous, if it hadn't hurt so much. One moment I was on my front porch. The next I was lying flat on my side, wedged between a bush and the house. In a split second, my 13-pound puppy had taken off after a bird, yanking me off my feet.

All it took was one ill-timed moment of distraction to transform me from a strong, reasonably healthy adult to a helpless, badly bruised victim of misfortune. Unable to move, I was pondering my dilemma when a strong hand reached down. My neighbor had rushed to my aid. Embarrassed but grateful, I accepted his help.

I'm not as independent or self-sufficient as I'd like to think I am. We were created to need and be needed. That isn't a bad thing.

—Kari Myers (adapted from *HomeTouch*)

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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE  
HELD AUG. 1-4 FROM 6-8 PM.  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED .**  
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7th Annual Bike/Canoe Trip A Success!!

This year's canoe and bike trip in Wilton, WI, was a spectacular weekend. The weather finally cooperated with mild temperatures and, more importantly, no rain! Approximately 50 people gathered in the 'driftless area' in picturesque Wisconsin, many of them hardy campers. A Friday night fish fry at the Dorset Valley School House amidst the Amish carriages was an old favorite. Saturday's canoe down the winding Kickapoo River (Algonquin Indian word for "that which goes here, then there") was a wild ride. The water was fairly high due to heavy spring rains and the current was swift. Everyone enjoyed the scenery and only two canoes dumped! Then it was back to camp for some volleyball, swimming and biking. We all enjoyed a communal

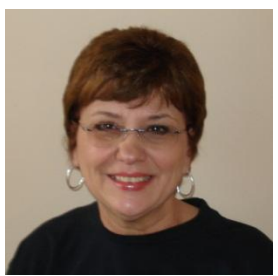
feast on Saturday night with trusty Tom Suhar at the grill. The stars were twinkling and we even glimpsed satellites traversing the night skies. Many attended the Lions pancake breakfast on Sunday morning and then it was time to make the journey back. The fellowship we enjoyed is a memory to treasure. Thanks to Pat Sajbel for arranging the trip again!!



GETTING TO KNOW YOU....KATHY RYAN

"Hard-working, loyal and family-oriented." That's how Kathy describes herself. There's no question that she's a hard worker at South Church. She is the "go-to" person for so many activities at the church. Kathy serves on the Board of Deacons. She has updated the website, volunteers in the office one morning a week and puts in countless hours keeping the church grounds groomed. She keeps the church calendar. She makes posters and banners. Oh, and she's also the wedding coordinator!

Kathy is the 4th of 5 children. Her father was a plumber and her mother taught Sunday school. She was born in Florida and lived as a child in Nebraska, California and Montana. "My dad had wanderlust," she recalls. She was a cheerleader and straight-A student in high school, and was a second runner-up in the Miss Milipitas (CA) beauty pageant, winning a sewing machine. Three days after her graduation from high school, she married her husband of 41 years, Bill. They have 3 daughters and 2 grandchildren.



Kathy joined South Church in 1995, but found her full-time job as a director of marketing and mother prevented her from volunteering too much. About 3 years ago, she left her job and helped her husband manage the two sports/game bars they own - one in Des Plaines and one in River Grove. Kathy dotes on her 11-year-old grandson and her three-and-a-half month old granddaughter. She enjoys scrapbooking and is creating a photo history of her family. She is also contemplating a book for her granddaughter entitled

"The Life and Times of Princess Toad Belly." You might want to ask her what that's about! Kathy is ultra-organized and enthusiastic, and we at the South Church are blessed to have her skills and dedication in our corner. And her reward for all this hard work? "I love the people here," she says simply.

The South Church News is published monthly for the members, families, and friends of The South Church of Mount Prospect, Illinois. Articles for publication should be submitted by the 15th of each month, either by email or on a diskette to: Ricki Sajbel at sajbel@sbcglobal.net.

Ministers: Rev. Rick Kesler and the People of The South Church
Director of Music: Fran Wilcox
Editor: Ricki Sajbel
Production Coordinator: Muriel Novy

The South Church
501 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
Phone: 847-253-0501
Email: rkesler@thesouthchurch.com;
officemanager@thesouthchurch.com
Website: www.thesouthchurch.com
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:30 am
Office Hours: 9 am– noon Monday through Thursday

How do you view God? In *America's Four Gods: What We Say About God — and What That Says About Us*, Baylor University professors Paul Froese and Christopher Bader examine research into Americans' perceptions of God.

According to research, 28 percent of Americans view God as authoritarian, 22 percent as benevolent, 21 percent as critical and 24 percent as distant. The remaining five percent are atheists or agnostics.

The authors say people's views of God affect their attitudes toward everything from love and war to economics and natural disasters. Those with an authoritarian view, for example, believe God hands out punishments for misbehavior, while those with a benevolent view believe God is loving, not stern.

How do you view God, and what Bible verses back up that view? How does your view of God affect your faith and life?

The South Church
501 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Address correction requested

FIRST-CLASS MAIL



July 2011 Events Calendar

Last Updated 6.30.11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 26	27	28	29	30	July 1	2
3 Worship 10:30 a.m.	4 Independence Day! Office Closed 4 th of July Parade! Meet at 12:15 p.m. Office Closed	5 David Bednarek, Cello Chapel, 3-9 p.m. Rick back from Vacation Montessori Closed!	6 Biscotti & Bible 10 am Garden Weeding 6:30 pm David Bednarek, Cello Chapel, 3-9 p.m. Montessori Closed!	7 Violin Lessons 3 – 8 p.m. Chapel	8	9
10 Worship 10:30 a.m.	11 Violin Lessons 3 – 8 p.m. Chapel	12 David Bednarek, Cello Chapel, 3-9 p.m.	13 Biscotti & Bible 10 am Garden Weeding 6:30 pm Weather Permitting David Bednarek, Cello Chapel, 3-9 p.m.	14 Violin Lessons 3 – 8 p.m. Chapel	15	16
17 Worship 10:30 a.m. Bd of Christian Service 11:45 a.m., Library	18 Violin Lessons 3 – 8 p.m. Chapel	19 David Bednarek, Cello Chapel, 3-9 p.m.	20 Biscotti & Bible 10 am Garden Weeding 6:30 pm Weather Permitting David Bednarek, Cello Chapel, 3-9 p.m.	21 Violin Lessons 3 – 8 p.m. Chapel	22	23
24 Worship 10:30 a.m.	25 Violin Lessons 3 – 8 p.m. Chapel	26 David Bednarek, Cello Chapel, 3-9 p.m.	27 Biscotti & Bible 10 am Garden Weeding 6:30 pm Weather Permitting David Bednarek, Cello Chapel, 3-9 p.m.	28 Violin Lessons 3 – 8 p.m. Chapel	29	30
31 Fifth Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.						



Remember: Newsletter articles are due to Ricki Sajbel by the 15th of the month.



August 2011 Events Calendar

Last Updated 6.30.11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 31	August 1	2	3	4	5	6
	Violin Lessons 3 - 8 p.m. Chapel		Biscotti & Bible 10 am Garden Weeding 6:30 pm Weather Permitting	Violin Lessons 3 - 8 p.m. Chapel		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 10:30 a.m. Trustees Meeting 11:45 a.m., Library	Violin Lessons 3 - 8 p.m. Chapel		Biscotti & Bible 10 am Garden Weeding 6:30 pm Weather Permitting	Violin Lessons 3 - 8 p.m. Chapel	Rehearsal & Baptism - 4:30 p.m. Stillwell/Galvan	Wedding - 5:00 p.m. Stillwell/Galvan
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 10:30 a.m.	Violin Lessons 3 - 8 p.m. Chapel		Biscotti & Bible 10 am Garden Weeding 6:30 pm Weather Permitting	Violin Lessons 3 - 8 p.m. Chapel		Memorial Service for John Wells, 10 a.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 10:30 a.m. Bd of Christian Service 11:45 a.m., Library	Violin Lessons 3 - 8 p.m. Chapel		Biscotti & Bible 10 am Garden Weeding 6:30 pm Weather Permitting	Violin Lessons 3 - 8 p.m. Chapel		
28	29	30	31	September 1	2	3
Worship 10:30 a.m.	Violin Lessons 3 - 8 p.m. Chapel		Biscotti & Bible 10 am Garden Weeding 6:30 pm Weather Permitting Board of Deacons Meeting 7 p.m.			



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