

“SideLines”

Pastor Tracy Gorman – Southside Church of the Nazarene – July 9, 2008

Dear Church Family & Friends,

Happy Wednesday! Hope your week is going well, and that you're enjoying these beautiful days we're having here in Muncie. This is my FAVORITE time of the year!!!

Well, I am looking forward to a new sermon series I am beginning this Sunday. For the next 4 weeks, I am going to be using 4 modern songs to enhance the message during the series, which is called, “Just Like Music.” Each week, we'll be viewing a music video featuring some of America's best known artists, which will go along with the point that I'll be trying to make with the sermon. This will be a great series in which to bring lost friends and family members, because they'll more than likely really be able to relate to the topics. This Sunday morning, we'll be talking about the story of Lazarus, and how things don't always turn out like we think they should. We'll be using the video from the song, “Anyways,” which will be sung by Martina McBride. It's a very moving video, and the message will encourage people to do what they know is right, even when it's tough. As well, it will encourage people to climb out of their “tombs” that they've been living in, which has kept them from enjoying life. So, I hope you'll be with us this weekend, and for the next few weeks as we let some of today's music teach us some great lessons about life and living. The following three weeks, we'll hear from Queen Latifa, Reba McEntire and Kenny Chesney, and U2. Join us this Sunday morning for Sunday School at 9:30, and then for the service at 10:30. I hope to see you there!!!

You know, I've been reading a lot lately, and so much of what I've been reading is dealing with the purpose and mission that we, as Christ-followers, have. Once we understand and accept our calling as children of God, it's then (and only then) that we can possibly begin to understand the reason that our church exists in our community. But, one cannot be understood until the other one is. Think about this, if the church “exists to connect people with Jesus Christ and with each other,” then that means that each of us who are a part of the church has that same mission and purpose, because we're the church. That has been reaffirmed over and over again in my heart through what I've been reading, and through the witness of the Holy Spirit. So, in essence, that means that everything we do as a church, and of course everything we do as individuals who comprise the body of Christ, must be done to fulfill that mission and vision of connecting people to Jesus Christ and to each other. What an awesome responsibility and privilege it is to be able to be a part of something like that. WOW!!! This is a great time to be the part of the church, and a fantastic time to be a part of Southside!

Please keep our Senior High students in your prayers as they and Pastor Neal are at camp at Shiloh Park this week. Speaking of camp, THANK YOU SO MUCH to all who contributed so generously to the fund to allow our kids and teens to go to camp this summer. Your generosity will end up allowing around 30 kids (+/-) to go to camp. Their lives will never be the same because of this experience. I truly thank you for your help and investment, and if you've not yet paid the pledge you made, thanks for getting that done as soon as possible.

Real quickly, I want to let you know that we're still about \$10,000 short of reaching our goal this year for Faith Promise. If you've not yet pledged, we will be wrapping those up this Sunday morning. We truly need everyone to participate if we are to ultimately reach the goal of \$40,000.00, which will allow us to do the things we're asked to do by our denomination for missions, and also complete some other projects we participate in. Please see Melinda Ray (our Nazarene Missions International President) this Sunday morning for a pledge card. THANKS SO MUCH!

If you've not contacted Barry Hickey or Julie Murphy to give your opinion / feedback about how the church can best use the Sunday evening / Wednesday evening time slots, please get with them ASAP. They are leading the Worship / Service Study Commission, and your input is valuable to this study. As you know, we've been taking Sunday nights off this summer, and during this time, hopefully you've been praying about where we go at the end of the summer. Obviously, we just want to follow God's direction and make as big of an impact as we possibly can with the time slots we have available to us. The Commission has heard from a very small number of individuals, and they really need to hear from everyone who cares to comment. Please pray for the Lord's leadership, and then respond to Barry or Julie at Office@TrySouthside.com, and your comments will be forwarded directly to them.

One last thing...David Dixon has been working on the restrooms in the Sanctuary part of the building, and should be wrapping up those first two in the next few days. We decided to start with those because we did not want our senior adults who typically use those facilities to have to go so far when they're in a worship service. After those are completed, work will begin on the Nursery, followed by the restrooms in the Gym part of the building. Please continue to give to support this project. It's so necessary, and we'll all appreciate this work once it's finished!!!

Well, I'll wrap this up for now. I hope the rest of your week goes well. We've got a lot of exciting things coming along on the horizon, and we intend having an incredible kick-off this fall for some great ministry initiatives! Please stay tuned, and be a part of everything you can.

*With much love,
Pastor Tracy*

Ps Here is a little funny for ya!

