

# “SideLines”

Pastor Tracy Gorman – Southside Church of the Nazarene – July 18, 2008

Hey friends!

It just seems like yesterday he was born, and now he’s 14. WOW!!! It’s not just a matter of me feeling like I am getting older, but it’s also the realization that he is only going to be at home with us just a few short years. What I am speaking of, is the fact that Seth turned 14 yesterday. I am happy that he’s growing up, but I am sad of the “other side” of what that means. I know many of you have already experienced what I am talking about MANY times over, and hopefully when my kids go off to college, you won’t miss me too much when Tammy and I move in across the hall from them in their dorms!!! HAHA!!! Seriously, I think my kids are expecting THAT VERY THING!!! It makes me laugh.

Well, here we are at the end of another week. I hope it’s been good for you. Here at the office, I think it’s been a pretty great week. We’ve gotten a lot done, and I am thankful for that. You know, I am just so blessed to have the pastors and staff around me that we have. I don’t say this nearly enough, but I sure love Pastor Kelly, Pastor Andy, Pastor Neal, Jennifer, Brenda, KevO, and Sharon. They are truly wonderful people whom I love very, very much. Southside Church is truly blessed with the staff that you have, and I hope that you’ll tell your pastors and our staff how much you love them when you see them this weekend. I know they’d appreciate hearing that from you, because they truly do work very hard for the Kingdom of God, and for you.

I hope you remember that we’re having ADAM’S VOICE here with us this Sunday morning for a mini-concert during our Worship Experience at 10:30. Come to Sunday School at 9:30, and then get ready for an awesome service, full of God’s precious presence. We love Adam’s Voice a lot here at Southside, and they’re always a blessing to our hearts. I am planning to bring a short message, continuing in our “Just Like Music” series. This week, we’ll be looking at “Life’s Journey,” and we’ll hear the song, “I Know Where I’ve Been,” sung by Queen Latifa from the musical / movie, “Hairspray.” It’s a great song, with a truly excellent message. I absolutely hope you will be here and be a part of the awesome service we’re going to have. BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU!!!

Brothers and sisters, the Worship Commission met this week, and they’ve developed a plan to present to the Church Board, which will be done VERY soon. As soon as the plan is discussed, adopted and finalized by the Board, it will be presented to you. I have read their recommendations, and I think everyone who is a part of the Southside family will be pleased, and I believe this plan will give us a lot of opportunities going forward to CONNECT PEOPLE TO JESUS CHRIST AND TO EACH OTHER! Please continue to pray for leadership as we wrap this part of the process up, and as we prepare to move forward. I sure appreciate those who’ve served on the Commission, and I thank each of you for your patience as this has all been worked out.

As well, I want to take a moment to apologize to you for the way we presented the news of the temporary suspension of our Sunday night service to you a few months ago, and the subsequent establishment of the Worship Commission to study our future usage of time, space, personnel, services, etc. We (I) should have taken a little bit more care to get our “ducks in a row” before we (I) laid that on you, and we (I) should have developed a plan first, rather than after the fact. For not having done that, I take full responsibility. Too much confusion was caused, and I have been doing what I do long enough to know that we got it a bit backwards. Moving forward, we will do our best to make sure we don’t do it quite like that again. Yep, we all make mistakes, even the pastor (especially the pastor). But, remember this: YOU’VE GOT TO LOVE METO GO TO HEAVEN! Just keep that in mind, and be assured that I love you, as well (because I want to go to Heaven, too!). Truly, I thank God for each of you!

Yes, there will always be changes. Anything that doesn’t change dies! (As I’ve said many times lately, consider a swamp if you need an example of this statement.) In fact, I am sure that we’ll have many more big changes in the days and years ahead, just like you’ve always had in the life of this church. But, in the future, as much as we can, we will always try to keep you apprised of information BEFORE the fact, and not after, and when possible, we’ll try to solicit opinions and input ahead of time from as many people, age groups, etc, as we can. We can’t always do

that, but when we can, we definitely will. Just please know that I only want what's best for Southside, and that I have absolutely no ulterior motives in anything I do. I want to see people's lives changed forever! Thanks for your patience and understanding. Great days are ahead for this wonderful church, and I am confident of that. We cherish you, our church family, and we want to see Southside move forward and grow to where God wants us to be from this point forward.

Now, as I wrap this up, I just want to once again say a HUGE THANK YOU to all of you who are giving towards the teens and kids' summer camp costs. We've sent more kids to camp this year than we have in a VERY long time, and so much of that is due to the passion and leadership of Pastor Neal and Miss Elicia, but it's also due to the sacrificial giving of our church family. We've raised a LOT of money this summer for this cause, and from the bottom of my heart, I thank you! THANK YOU!!! And, if you've made a pledge towards this, please help out by getting that paid as soon as possible. You're the best!

You know, a few weeks ago, we had our annual Faith Promise weekend, and at the close of the service, our church family pledged around \$30,000 towards World Evangelism for the coming year, and THAT'S AWESOME! A lot of lives will be changed because of your involvement...all around the globe. However, we're about \$10,000 short of where we need to be to be able to pay 100% of our World Evangelism allocation from the denomination, as well as the other mission-type projects we are involved with. So, if you've not pledged yet, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE see Melinda Ray this Sunday, or send her an email to [MRayNMI@aol.com](mailto:MRayNMI@aol.com). I know she'd love to hear from you. We really need to get those pledges in. Thanks a whole lot.

Much progress is being made on the restrooms!!! That project is well underway, and we're looking forward to the completion of it in a few months. David Dixon...you do great work, brother! Thanks to all who are making this all possible.

Finally, just let me tell you how much I love and appreciate you. This has been a challenging year for me, for my family, and for our church. But, as I write this to you today, I can assure you that I still have a clear vision of what I believe God wants to do in our community through the work and involvement of Southside Church. In the days ahead, we will focus more than we ever have on reaching them, teaching them, guiding them, and equipping them. As well, we will wrap our arms around our community in new and exciting ways. Finally, we will be rolling out a new, workable discipleship plan which will enable us to help people to move from "salvation to service." That's the goal, and by the grace of God, we will start focusing on what really matters, and push the trivial matters to the side of the road! God is ready for Southside to take up our cross and follow Him!

Have a GREAT Friday and Saturday. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday for worship. Remember, Adam's Voice will be here, and you won't want to miss this awesome service at 10:30. Pray for me tomorrow! I am going to Kings Island with our teens. I HATE ROLLER COASTERS!!!

*Much love,  
Your Pastor*



**Our Denomination's Centennial Celebration: October 5, 2008**  
**We will have a major celebration that morning right here at Southside Church!!!**