

COMING UP

24-Hour Prayer Vigil

- Noon Nov. 5 to noon Nov. 6
- MacArthur Campus

Church members will be on hand around the clock to pray for the needs of our congregation, our community and our campaign.

If you want to participate in this life-changing event, please contact the church.

Other dates

- **November 7, 14, 21**
Challenge Sundays: Morning services will focus on our vision and the goals of the campaign.
- **December 5**
First Fruits Sunday: The initial portion of your gift can be turned in during morning services.

Commitment Sunday Celebration

- 5 p.m. Nov. 21
- Southwest Campus

You and your family are invited to a church-wide celebration that marks an important milestone in our congregation's journey forward.

Members of both the MacArthur and Southwest campuses will join together to celebrate the financial commitments made earlier in the day at morning services. We also will pray for our first steps toward South Side's vision of continuing a multi-site ministry that brings God's love to Springfield.

So bring your families and your appetite for a great evening of fun, food and celebration. After all, we'll need a little fuel for the ambitious journey ahead.

You will receive a phone call soon to confirm your RSVP.

(ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED)

South Side Christian Church
2600 S. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL 62704



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The Journey FORWARD

November 2010



By **TERRY WILHITE**
Campaign Co-chairman

*Grace and peace to you from
God our Father*

I suppose that greeting sounds like the beginning of one of the Apostle Paul's epistles. He was broken, revived and called to service on a journey to share Christ. While I can never fully walk in Paul's shoes, I, too, am broken, revived and called to a journey in Christ.

This journey brought me to South Side Christian Church more than 10 years ago. Each year, we take additional steps on the journey to follow Christ and fulfill our mission to love God and love people.

In 2006, I entered a new phase of the journey as God birthed the Southwest Campus at 3040 Hamlin Parkway. God enabled me to use my skills as an electrician to help establish the building's electrical infrastructure. This allowed me to be involved and watch in amazement as God ordained His creation through the work of extremely talented people.

The process of converting a former auto-service center into a place of worship made me imagine the feelings of those involved in transforming the Gingham Gardens night club to our MacArthur Campus in the 1940s.

I am humbled and proud to be part of this campaign and to serve as co-chairman with Doug

Dillon. Together as a congregation, we embark on the next phase of ensuring that this facility continues to serve Christ. I am convinced in my heart that God calls us to grow in faith and vision as we prepare to purchase the Southwest Campus facility.

Our vision is bigger than just the Southwest Campus building, but securing this property is an important step. For the next three years we will be given the opportunity to humble ourselves as we listen, obey and reach from within to grow stronger, deeper roots of faith and be blessed in preparation for what he will call us to do next.

In the past two newsletters, Doug and John Wentz have asked each of us to pray for how God would have us serve in the journey ahead.

In the coming days, weeks and months, there may be times the enemy will strike the hardest and cast doubt, uneasiness and discord. God will protect you in this time as you let the Holy Spirit lead you in the process of serving.

I have been blessed to be a servant and leader at South Side Christian Church. I will join with the congregation in the pledge and promise to God to give of the resources He has given to Jennifer and me. When we believe, we can take this step and accomplish all else God calls on us to do. I trust in this belief because God fulfills His promise to us that we will accomplish great things in His name.

See you on the journey forward.

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More campaign info, past newsletters, video presentation at southsidechristian.com



Name(s) _____

Address _____

I/we feel led by God to give a total of \$ _____ above and beyond our normal giving over the next **1, 2, 3** (circle choice) year(s) to help SSCC achieve our vision.

Your signature(s)

(Detach this section for your records)

I/we have committed \$ _____ to be given over the next **1, 2, 3** (circle choice) year(s).



Watch your mail

The form above shows a sample of the official Commitment Card for The Journey Forward campaign. Look for it to hit your mailbox later this month.

This will be the method by which you can confidentially indicate your pledge to the campaign.

You are free to mail the completed card to the church at any time after you receive it Or, you can submit the card during morning services on Commitment Sunday on November 21.

We urge you to continue praying about how God might have you participate in this journey for South Side Christian Church.

The Journey Forward: A financial profile

By **DOUG DILLON**
Campaign Co-Chairman

Over the four-year history of the Southwest Campus, the church has entered into two agreements allowing us to use the property at 3040 Hamlin Parkway. As we move toward taking full ownership of the facility, we believe it would be useful to review the history of these contracts and discuss how they fit in with the goals of The Journey Forward campaign.

August 2006: Our congregation voted to approve a contract for deed to purchase the property at 3040 Hamlin Parkway. The purchase price was \$1.6 million. The three-year contract allowed us to make monthly interest-only payments, with the total principal amount due on or before August 2009.

October 2008: Our congregation voted to approve an amended contract for deed that extended the purchase deadline to August 2011. The new contract also added two pieces of land adjacent to the Southwest Campus for an additional \$308,000. The church secured a loan to pay for the land. The loan was paid off in its entirety in January 2010.

Under the contract, the \$1.6 million balance on the building must be paid by August 2011 to remain in the facility. With the help of The Journey Forward campaign, it is our intention to complete the purchase by the deadline to provide a permanent home for the Southwest Campus ministry.

October 2010: Our congregation was blessed with a \$590,000 estate gift. Some of this money has been used for a new roof at the MacArthur Campus. The majority of the remaining funds will be dedicated to the Southwest Campus facility purchase.

Currently: The church's monthly payment under the contract for deed is about \$6,500 per month. The payment does vary with fluctuations in interest rates but will likely remain the same for the remainder of the contract. If we are able to raise \$1.2 million through the campaign and combine it with \$400,000 from the estate gift, we would have the funds committed to pay for the facility and, once all pledges come in, no longer have monthly payments on the building.

Projections: The table below shows some examples of possible monthly payments for the church if a bank loan is used for part of the financing. All examples are based on a 20-year loan at 5.65 percent interest, the current prevailing market rate for commercial real estate. Of course, the rate is subject to change.

These scenarios are provided strictly for informational purposes. Once we know how much is pledged to the campaign and how those funds will flow into the church over the next three years, we'll be able to determine any monthly payment. But as you can see from the chart, a loan of \$800,000 or less would likely reduce our current monthly expense for the facility.

Campaign funds | Estate gift | Loan amt. | Monthly pmt.

\$1 million	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$1,400
\$800,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$2,790
\$600,000	\$400,000	\$600,000	\$4,180
\$400,000	\$400,000	\$800,000	\$5,580
\$200,000	\$400,000	\$1 million	\$6,970

Perspectives on giving

As you continue to pray over how God might have you participate in this campaign, many details are probably crossing your mind, everything from your personal budget to South Side's vision. You're not alone. Two South Siders weigh in ...



By **JULIE HOYLAND**

I came to South Side Christian Church 13 years ago seeking a church home with a vision. I have been a part of churches where there is no vision. Nothing grows, hope dies and fear reigns. From the first Sunday service I attended at South Side, it was clear to me my family would be part of a thriving community with a vision for growing God's kingdom.

Four years ago, I was happy to be part of the expansion to the Southwest Campus. It's not everyone's cup of tea, perhaps, but there is something exciting about making my Savior's message accessible in new ways. The building is unique, flexible and relaxed. It reminds me every week that people are the church, not the building.

When I was asked to be on The Journey Forward's Leadership Team, I was certain it was a mistake. While I have trusted the Lord with so many things in my life, finances always have been a challenge. I have two children in college. I have a mortgage. Like all of you, the state of the economy frightens me in ways I do not understand. And besides, doesn't good stewardship require prudence?

Pray, they said. Ask God what He would have you do. Listen. So I did.

I have been praying. I have been listening. When it comes to advancing the kingdom, I do not find caution in the Gospels. Instead, I find a challenge to put fear aside. Jesus does not chastise those who give beyond their worldly means or step out in faith to make disciples when "common sense" says don't. I found a vision for the harvest at South Side. The Southwest Campus is one field. It has proved fertile and profitable for making disciples.

I believe God can work miracles in 2010 and beyond. I will pledge an additional 2.5 percent of my personal income over the next three years to this campaign. It is a small sacrifice for such a worthy cause. I am confident God will bless each of us in ways we cannot imagine.

Pray. Ask God what He would have you do. Listen. Perfect love casts out fear. What would you do if you were not afraid? Do that.



By **JASON LOGUE**

I have not always been on the journey. When Jeff Chitwood first started talking about a second campus, I was resistant and incredibly uncertain. Then we had a congregational meeting.

Jeff and the leaders put themselves and their vision out there. We talked candidly about disagreements, concerns and issues. And through this entire meeting, God spoke to me. Not in an audible voice but through the openness and honesty of the church. I realized this is a church that follows God. This is a church that does not squelch dissension or censor unwanted voices. This is a church that has the guts to take risks when seeking God's will.

Today, four years after we began the Southwest Campus, the evidence is clear – lives have been transformed.

The blood, sweat, tears and, yes, money poured into this endeavor has seen a return on investment – people have experienced authentic love and community, and those who were lost have been found.

And now here we are. Like you, I am praying about how I can be on board for the next step. There are the numbers in the newsletters. There are the bills. There is the uncertainty of my job. I keep asking myself how I can participate. How much do I give? What should I give up?

I don't have all the answers, but I know I will make some lifestyle adjustments. One way I will contribute is by cutting back on how much I eat out and setting aside that money for the campaign. This is not a command or even a suggestion for you, just what I believe will work for me.

This will be a sacrifice. I love to eat out. But what if the money I would spend on a horseshoe at D'Arcy's means that one more person may come to know Christ? What if not getting a steak at Outback means we could see more children impacted by Garage-a-Palooza?

When I think about giving to The Journey Forward in this way, it helps me realize it is about much more than money. It is about helping to expand the reach of God's love through the two campuses of South Side Christian Church.