

The Journey FORWARD

South Side Christian Church

April 2011



By **JASON LOGUE**
Campaign Communication
Team Leader

I miss using maps. I liked unfolding one in front of me to measure the distance between two places and looking at it after I traveled several miles to see how far I progressed. Most people today use a GPS device

when traveling. We can get precise measurements for how far we have come, how far we have to go and even how many McDonald's restaurants are along the way.

The Journey Forward, however, is a bit like using a traditional paper map again. And I think it's time we pause and reflect on the miles we've traveled, where we've been and how far we have to go.

Since we started The Journey Forward fundraising campaign last fall, we've experienced some momentous things at South Side. Some were part of the itinerary, and some were unexpected side trips or bumps in the road. We recently said goodbye to three of our servants in Christ, Jim Caler, Jeff Chitwood and Ron Good. And while we were sad about their departures, there was understanding and excitement for them as they continued their own journeys.

While we were still healing from the loss, we began searching for a new Senior Minister. Through much prayer and consultation, God has provided us with Brooks Wilson. He will join us in May, and we look forward to sharing the journey with him and his family.

With the space provided at the Southwest Campus, God has continued to provide ministry opportunities, such as another year of Garage-A-Palooza, The Mix and a new ministry for mothers and their children called Sprouts. God has used the Southwest Campus to draw in more people from the surrounding community, which has led to baptisms, membership commitments and major life decisions for Christ.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

- Total pledged:
\$687,935.00
- Collected as of March 20:
\$185,000.33

There is a tendency to focus on the financial figures in this campaign. Just like on any journey, we want to know if we have enough money to continue, and we start asking questions. What if we don't raise enough to buy the Southwest Campus? Will I have enough money to continue contributing to the campaign? I know I have asked myself similar things over the past year.

It was hard for me not to wonder about the future of the campaign when we had such major, unanticipated changes happening at the church. And when I saw the big hurdle that remained after the initial pledges came in, I wondered some more.

Yet God has proven His faithfulness to the mission of South Side. People who did not initially make pledges are giving generously. Considering the tough financial times we live in, this is a true blessing. In a way it's like having more people take over at the wheel when others are getting tired.

We are still on the journey. We still must continue moving forward. We may get tired, hit some road bumps and need maintenance, but as long as we are obedient, God has and will continue to bless South Side in unexpected ways.

I love witnessing the fruit of the Holy Spirit being manifested at South Side in the generosity, compassion and obedience of His people. I am honored and humbled to be a part of this journey with such amazing congregation. I hope you will continue to join with me on this adventure.

More campaign info, past newsletters, videos at southsidechristian.com/journeyforward

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Southwest Campus contract update

By **DOUG DILLON**
Campaign Co-chairman

In August 2006 our congregation voted to approve a contract for deed to purchase the Southwest Campus 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.

In October 2008 the congregation voted to approve an amended contract for deed that extended the purchase deadline to August 2011 and added two pieces of land adjacent to the Southwest Campus. The church secured a loan of \$308,000 to pay for the land.

This loan was paid off in January 2010. Under the contract, the \$1.6 million balance on the building is due by August of this year.

Because of God's blessings as shown in your faith and generosity, we are able to complete the purchase of the Southwest Campus facility. It is our plan to close on the property prior to the August deadline.

Interest rates are very low, and it seems prudent to secure financing now so we can take advantage of those rates. There is no way to know what future interest rates will be, but we know that historically they likely will never be lower than they are right now.

This also will allow us to begin paying down the principal. A team is currently working on securing the bank financing that we will need to conclude the contract. We will let you know of all the details in our next quarterly newsletter this summer.

This is an exciting milestone on our journey as a congregation, but it is not the destination. Our faith journey continues as we seek to grow in Christ both personally and as a congregation.

The Southwest Campus is one of the tools that we are using for the advancement of the Gospel through the ministry of South Side Christian Church. Thank you for sharing in the journey.

Meet the new Follow-up Co-director

By **SHAWN SNYDER**

I have been attending South Side since 1970, shortly after my family moved to Springfield. I am honored to join the Journey Forward campaign leadership team as the Follow-up Co-director.

The fourth son of John and Shirleen Snyder, I began my journey attending Miss Peggy's class. Now, I am married to Angie, and our children have started their journey in her class, as well.

I became a Christian when I was in fifth grade and was lucky enough to have my father baptize me. I remember that day very well, probably because I had a broken arm and leg because of a skating accident in my driveway. I was positive I could jump over that ramp on a pair of roller skates and land on my feet with no problem. Well, I was wrong.

Growing up in the church has been a wonderful experience. I cannot imagine what life would have been like without the support of my family and the church. Now that I am older and can understand why my parents wanted to raise us in the church, I want nothing more than for my children to have the same love and blessings I had growing up at South Side.

I have not always been an active member of South Side. In fact, I wasn't always a regular attendee after I moved out on my own. But God never failed me. He has opened my eyes to how much he really loves each and every one of us.

God has blessed me with a wonderful family and has provided for every need beyond my wildest dreams. I try to give back to Him as much as I can, both financially and with my time.

Since I began to tithe regularly, Christ has blessed us more and more. I have also come to discover that sacrificing my time – even though it's difficult with young children around – can be the most rewarding gift to give.

My family and I attend the MacArthur Campus and serve in many different ways. I urge all of you to prayerfully consider how you can use your God-given talents to serve His Kingdom.

