

A message from Pastor John

September is here, you are here (if you are reading this). God is blessing us, so what is next? Life is an adventure of going forward, always in some semblance of the unknown. I want to share some “known” aspects of living that I learned and now “know.” God keeps God’s promises! “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” Malachi 3:10



Tithing is not a mandatory requirement for Christians but neither is taking vitamins or eating proper foods for a person to live. To forsake vitamins and nourishing food brings weakness, disease and misery i.e. ‘bad health’. To forsake the practice of tithing brings weakness and bad health to a Christian life. Tithing is a universal axiom, a principle given by God to sustain health, give joy and spiritual growth. Believers and non believers who tithe gain great rewards. Those of us who believe open up an avenue of our relationship with God closed to those who do not tithe.

The dearest to your heart other than family is the money God gives to you. Some will say “I work for my money, I’ve earned my money” and so on. I say “Whoa! Who gives you health, desire and mind to be able to earn income?” God owns it all! If you are able to sustain life as you know it, give God the credit. He gives us resources, time, energy and income to use his gifts wisely. My wife Barb and I learned this lesson many years ago. I am at a loss when trying to communicate the different dimension that God adds to those who tithe. People over the years have asked me why you ride a motorcycle, a Harley, for goodness sake. My answer, “Until you try it for yourself, you’ll never know.” In other words, ‘Don’t knock it til’ you try it’

I suggest the same for tithing; try it and see for yourself. Like many of you, Barb and I lived from paycheck to paycheck. We started to tithe 1% of our total income before taxes. Every 2 or 3 months we added another percent. In less than a year we were really tithing. I have no mathematical answer as to how we did it only that God stretches the 90% to more than we could stretch the 100%. Our spiritual life improved and is still improving after all those years. Best decision we ever made.

GOD KEEPS GOD’S PROMISES! HOW ABOUT YOU? GIVE IT A TRY!

Having Faith, Loving God and continuing to Enjoy Life at South Shore UMC,

Pastor John Bryant

Family Promise

Thanks to all who were a part of Family Promise week in August. What a blessing it is to serve God's people this way; giving them a leg up as they transition from homelessness to home stability.

Three of our families in the program have graduated out and are now fully employed and in their own homes thanks to your loyalty and dedication to this ministry. Well done, good and faithful servants! Our next Family Promise week is November 16-23! Get on board!

Imagine No Malaria

Imagine No Malaria is a global initiative of the United Methodist Church that is working to eradicate malaria in Africa. South Shore UMC is participating in this mission by collecting change for the purpose of purchasing malaria nets. Search under couch cushions, look in your car, encourage your children to do chores for change. If you missed the August 17 collection date, no worries! It's never too late! Save up change, save a life! So far we have donated \$768! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Save Your Rummage

The United Methodist Women will host their semi-annual Rummage Sale on October 4th from 8am-2pm. This is a great time for you to clean out your closets! For drop-off information contact Sharron Brunk 813-672-3553

UMW High Tea

Come join the UMW for their annual Membership Tea on Saturday, September 20th at 10am. Spend fellowship time with other women in the congregation, enjoy some good food, and hear about the mission and vision of the group for this upcoming year. Call Jackie Tempel at 813-330-1950.

Walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is a 3-day spiritual retreat for any and all who wish to have a closer relationship with God. Many in this congregation have attended this life-changing weekend and you are encouraged to take that next step in your own journey with Christ. The next walks are coming up in October: October 2-5 for men, and October 9-12 for women. Go to the website: www.tampabayemmaus.org for more information. See Kathi Sheehan, Director of Discipleship and Congregational Care to get you connected with a sponsor who can help get you started in the process.

United Methodist Men Retreat

Take this opportunity to renew and refresh your body and soul...by getting a weekend away. During the October 10-12 weekend, Rev. Scott Smith will be joined by John Riley for an inspiring retreat.

For the October 24 – 26 weekend, Dr. Timothy Tennent, President of Asbury Seminary, will be preaching and teaching lessons on the Prodigal Son. He will be joined by the always inspiring Rev. Harold Lewis, who will deliver an exciting message for our times.

Get your registrations in as early as possible to ensure the availability of your weekend choice! For the latest information and details for making reservations, go to <http://www.ummflconf.org/spiritual-retreats> or call the UMM office at 863-858-4985.

Pastor's Coffee

Many of you are probably curious about how to become an official member of this family in Christ. Well, here is your chance to find out the what, why, when and where of membership at a Pastor's Coffee on Sunday, September 7th at 6:30pm! Come and meet the pastor and staff in an informal setting, and find out about South Shore's path to membership. Childcare available upon reservation no later than Thursday, Sept. 4th. See you there!

SSUMC New Fall office hours

SOUTH SHORE YOUTH

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Sunday Night Live – Sundays from 5-7pm

SNL is our main, weekly program for 6th-12th grade students. This is a night filled with games, music, dinner and small groups.

Middle School Bible Study – Wednesday from 6-7pm

High School Bible Study - Monday from 5-6pm

We offer middle school and high school bible study every week. This is a chance for students to go deeper into scripture and learn interpretive skills to discern God's Word.



Back To School

As all of our students head back to school, we pray for a great year ahead filled with success both academically and socially. We especially are praying for new 6th and 9th grade students as they learn the new schools and groups of people.

For all the latest details visit: southshoreumc.com/youth

Lay Leadership in Worship

At South Shore, we decided a long time ago that we would hire staff to facilitate and empower lay men and women from the congregation to execute ministry. This is especially evident in our worship ministries. The overwhelming majority of the faces you see on stage, in the tech booth, greeting you at the door, putting out treats and goodies, collecting and counting offerings and anything else you can think of involved in worship are unpaid lay people. If you have any desire to learn what it means to help worship ministry happen, please contact the Director of Worship, Chris Haden. There is a place for every talent to serve and help worship be excellent. 813-677-9482, chris@southshoreumc.com





Children's Ministry News thinkORANGE

SEPTEMBER = RESPONSIBILITY

We are so happy to be back to school, which means back to Sunday Children's Church Small Groups! This month we will learn all about Responsibility: Showing you can be trusted with what's expected of you.



10:00 am = FX in Room 114 for All Ages!!

(children under 3 must be accompanied by an adult)

11:15 am = Children's Small Groups:

*PreK (ages 3-5) meet in Room 116

*K - 1st Grade meet in Room 115

*2nd - 3rd & 4th - 5th meet in Room 114



FREE MOVIE NIGHT
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH
6:30 PM IN ROOM 114
FREE POPCORN/DRINKS



We are a loving group of moms who share life together. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Playdates and MNO (Mom's Night Out) are also scheduled each month. Come join us!!