

From the Pen of Pastor Cory Britt



Yes or no? The decision will open your life up or shut it down. We usually do not like those short questions because they are filled with the unknown. We want information, we want facts, and we want data! Do you know who has the most fun at a pool party? It's not the kid that asks "how deep, how cold, and do you have a floaty?" It's the kid who jumps in and forgets to take his watch off.

I am not downplaying the importance of data, but sometimes you have to say "Yes" first; especially when it comes to following God. We often give Peter a hard time for his compulsive decisions in following Jesus. We say "if he had only kept his eyes on Jesus when he jumped out of the boat he wouldn't have sunk." We forget that for a few glorious seconds Peter WALKED ON WATER! The other disciples were still asking how cold the water was.

In 8th grade, I said "YES" to Jesus. I jumped out of the boat. At times I have walked on water and other times I have sucked in sea salt. The adventure of following Jesus has never let me down. It has scared me, I have wept, I have been angry, I have been confused, but I have never been disappointed or left without grace, joy, and the excitement of living God's mission. Eventually, Jesus led me to Wilmore, KY where I completed my Masters of Divinity and a Masters in Pastoral Counseling at Asbury Seminary. It was there I would meet my wonderful wife Amanda, a great source of love and laughter in my life. We finally braved having a child 7 years ago this January. We could not be more proud of our daughter, Sydney. She is a light and joy in our eyes. Our family also includes 3 dogs, a rabbit, and a fish.

The journey would continue. Last Spring, while serving First UMC Lakeland, I received a call from our District Superintendent stating that the Bishop would like me to take a mid-year appointment to South Shore UMC in Riverview, FL. Through much prayer, we knew we needed and wanted to say "yes" to what Jesus was doing and where he was calling us.

From what I can tell of South Shore, you are a people who want to say "yes" to Jesus. You are a people who want to live beyond themselves, who have followed Jesus this far and are looking with expectation to discover where he is taking you next. Are you ready to jump beyond the safety of the boat and into the vast ocean of God's dream? My goal is to walk in the footsteps of Peter, work with you to discern God's direction, and jump in. Yes or no? The decision will open your life up or shut it down. We are very excited to be here! Are you ready to answer God's call? Then let's say "YES!"

Pastor Cory Britt

Prayer for 2015

With the arrival of our new pastor Cory Britt, on January 4th, South Shore UMC is ready to embark on yet another new faith journey. Let us pray together this prayer before his arrival and during the entire month of January:

Lord, let us be thankful enough to appreciate and remember the work of those who have gone before us. Let us be humble enough to know what we have always done is not necessarily what we need to continue doing. Let us be open enough to let new voices be heard, new hands pitch in, and new people to serve in ministry. Let us be trusting enough to know that when we serve You with a true servant's heart, You will lead us in the ways we should go. Lord, transform us; individually and together, that others may see a glimpse of your Kingdom within the work of this church family.

Give Back by eating Pizza!

On Tuesday, January 13th Papa John's will donate 20% of all sales back to South Shore UMC. This offer is only good at the Papa John's on Big Bend and 301. Mention South Shore when ordering or order online (make sure to choose the Papa John's at Summerfield Crossings) and add "South Shore" to the comments field.

Pastor's Coffee

For those interested in official membership at South Shore UMC, mark your calendars for the next Pastor's Coffee on Sunday night, January 25th at 6:00pm. To register, please go on the website at www.southshoreumc.com/pastorscoffee by January 22nd. See you there!

Beth Moore Event

Beth Moore Live! June 12-13, 2015 at the Sun Dome at USF. This is a Friday evening/Sat. morning event that you do not want to miss! Early bird registration is available for \$59. Contact Judy Wall at 649-1576. Ticket payments must be turned in by Jan. 18.

New giving app for smartphones

We are excited to share with you a new way to give to SSUMC. Easy2Give app—enables you to make one-time gifts from any Android™ device* or The Apple® iOS app using your credit card or debit card. Simply download the free app from the Android™ marketplace or iTunes™.

2 If you would like to set up a recurring giving plan, we encourage you to visit our online giving page at www.southshoreumc.com. * Android versions 4.2 and newer *

A Farewell Message from Pastor John Bryant

Barb and I 'THANK YOU' for the many expressions of love you have shown to us. It has been a pleasure to have been in ministry with you. I will miss the 'snacks' between services that the Kitchen Team provided to keep me going and the many wonderful people that are part of SSUMC. We will continue to pray for you as you begin the New Year with new leadership. As Always, continue to Have Faith, Love God and Enjoy Life.

MLK Day

SSUMC is honored to have received a MLK Grant for \$4,000 for the Backpacks on a Mission Ministry! We are praying for 15 people to come and serve and celebrate God's many blessings upon this ministry on Saturday, January 17th when HCC students and South Shore UMC will be partnering together from 10-12:30 to pick up food, organize the pantry, pack backpacks and share a meal. Please register at www.southshoreumc.com/specialevents.

In addition, in the month of January, we will be collecting the following items for backpacks:

- Peanut Butter (plastic) 18 oz
- Jelly assorted (plastic) 20 oz.
- Capri Sun Drinks (25% less sugar)

Career Fair

On Friday, February 20th SSUMC will be opening its doors to the community for a career fair. If you are an expert in your field and you would like to share your time and talents in helping people improve interview skills, write resumes, dress for success, this is the event for you! There will be a variety of roles to fill. If you know of possible business partners or people who would benefit from this event, start talking to them about it! **For more information contact Kathi Sheehan at kathi@southshoreumc.com**

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.

High School Bible Study - Monday from 5-6pm

High School Bible Study is not currently meeting. We will resume when school starts again. If you're interested, this is a group focused on Inductive study of scripture. It's a chance for students to go deeper into scripture and learn interpretive skills to discern God's Word.



January Lock-in

January 18th to the morning of the 19th, South Shore Youth will be sleeping in the sanctuary. These events are always a ton of fun. We spend the majority of the night on the town enjoying all the local joints like the bowling alley, ice skating rink etc. Visit southshoreumc.com/youth for detail schedule, pricing and registration.

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

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Join The Worship Support Team

This team is the bones of our worship services. They help people find seating, pass out attendance pads, and are responsible for the offering and the elements of communion. If you are interested in becoming a worship support team member please contact Chris Haden, chris@southshoreumc.com (813) 677-9482.





Join us Friday, January 9th at 6:30 pm for:



Room 114 ~ Bring a friend! ~ Come in your PJ's!
See you there!!

Last month's movie night was GREAT FUN!



SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING:

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