

*Our vision is to be a community of grace,
telling the unsaved of salvation by grace,
encouraging the saved to live and grow in grace,
and extending grace to others.*

Don't Give Up!

"Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."

Galatians 6:9-10 NASB

In 2007, my family arrived in St. Louis, Missouri, where I was called to be the next senior pastor of South County Bible Church. The church had been without a pastor for about a year and a half. All that remained of this once thriving ministry, started in 1918, was about 60 very faithful silver-haired saints.

When the previous pastor (along with about two-thirds of the church) abruptly walked out one Sunday morning, there was a deep sense of hurt and sadness that permeated the church. With that sadness though also came a deep sense of responsibility to step up and step in to serve in the areas that were left unmanned in the wake of the mass exodus.

When I was installed as senior pastor there was a renewed sense of excitement and hope that God can rebuild what was lost over the recent years. So, with that excitement and hope, many started serving, or continued to serve in ministry positions while the church experienced growth.

But then, it happened. The faithful and enthusiastic saints who stepped up, began to lose heart. The excitement began to wane. One by one, the silver-haired seasoned saints who stepped in to meet crucial needs in the church began to "step out" of their ministry roles.

A common sentiment that I heard was, "We've done our time for years, now it's time for the next generation to step up." This mindset was the church's death knell. We were just getting a glimpse of what we could become by God's grace.

But it was not time. They were desperately needed. The new people coming, and the next generation were not ready to step in. They were not equipped like the older generation nor were they experienced enough to lead.

BBC family, may we learn the lessons from past experiences in life. God is working in our church. He is using the faithful servants He has used for many years here. Please do not lose heart in doing good! Please do not grow weary. Please do not step out!

We will reap a harvest "in due time" if we remain faithful to the Lord and the work He has called us all to do.

Gary

December

THE MONTH OF

Calendar of Events

Join us for these upcoming events.

- 5 - Evening of Prayer, 7pm
- 9 - Ladies Christmas Party, 7pm
- 17 - Men's Breakfast, 7:30am
- 17 - Armstrong Open House, 1pm
- 25 - Christmas Day Worship, 10:30am
- 25 - No Sunday School, ABF, nor AWANA Club
- 28 - No youth activities

- Praise the Lord for answered prayer. We celebrate with Gary and Chela for the good report Chela received regarding her cancer.
- Steve and Ruth Porter are officially retiring from their ministry with SIM. Pray for the next chapter in life and God's blessing on their family.

FAMILY UPDATE



CHRISTMAS






SERVICE TIMES

Join us at our regular time at 10:30am
There will be no Sunday School or ABF

Open House Christmas Cookie Exchange

Armstrong's House
Saturday, December 17
1-3pm

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>*Birthdays</i>				1	2	3
4 9:15AM Bible Classes 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM AWANA	5 	6	7 6:30PM Youth Group	8	9 	10
11 9:15AM Bible Classes 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM AWANA	12	13	14 <i>*Verna Matlack</i> 6:30PM Youth Group	15	16	17  
18 9:15AM Bible Classes 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM AWANA	19 <i>*Wayne Hammond</i> <i>Evan Lutz</i> <i>Caitlin Ridlen</i>	20	21 6:30PM Youth Group	22	23	24
25  10:30AM Worship	26	27 <i>*Sonja Rains</i>	28	29	30 <i>*Karen Shaffer</i>	31