

South Main Today

Vol. 27, No. 25
June 29, 2018



SOUTH MAIN
BAPTIST CHURCH
SMBC.ORG

SUMMER SUNDAY MORNINGS

Summertime can be a season of soul-expanding adventure—a time when we break from our regular schedules, perhaps travel a little, and hopefully take some deep breaths to reorient and renew ourselves. At South Main, our Summer Sunday Mornings are designed with all of these things in mind. Instead of our regular Sunday morning classes, we have three exciting venues to foster this sense of renewal. Each Sunday morning from 10:10 to 11:10 am, running from July 1 through August 26, make plans to be in one of the following spots:

Contemplative Practices

July 1, 8, & 15

Michael Raimer-Goodman
and Dave Robertson

Chafin 214

Bible Study

July 1, 8, & 15

Chris Dove
Jacob: Liar, Lover, Wrestler

Fellowship Hall

Life Stories & Roundtables

July 1

God, Spirituality, and the Arts:
A Panel with J Hill, JoAnn Hopper,
and Luis Campos
Moderated by Greg Funderburk

July 8

A Life Story: Phyllis Brockermeier

July 15

A Life Story: Courtney Cox Smith
and her book, *The Butterfly Catcher*

Loessner 207

Dementia Caregivers Training

Sign up for Dementia Caregivers Training In partnership with the Amazing Place, we are offering a free class intended to help caregivers learn practical skills for managing a loved one with dementia. Research has demonstrated that caregivers who participated in this program improved their skill, knowledge, and confidence in dealing with their loved one's behavior as well as reduced their own feelings of stress.

Group One:

5:30 to 7:30 PM on Wednesday evenings from July 11-August 22, excluding Aug 8.

Group Two:

12:30 to 2:30 PM on Sunday afternoons from July 1-August 5.

The sessions will take place in Loessner 207. Each session is 2 hours and materials will be provided for you. Contact Greg Funderburk at 713-305-9797 or greg@smbc.org if you are interested in attending.

South Main Summer Musical presents Hello, Dolly!

This year's South Main Summer Musical is "Hello, Dolly!" Performances are Friday and Saturday evenings, August 10 and 11 at 7:30 PM, and a Sunday matinee on August 12 at 2:00 PM. Lynda McKnight is reprising her role as Dolly Gallagher Levi, and this performance will certainly be a highlight of your summer. All shows will once again be performed at the MATCH Theater located at 3400 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002.

Tickets on sale now! All tickets are purchased through the MATCH ticket office at <https://tinyurl.com/smbc-Hello-Dolly> or 713-521-4533.

Premium Seats \$50 Youth \$20 (ages 13 – 18)
General Seats \$30 Child \$10 (ages 6 – 12)



Benevolence Offering

As is our custom on the Sundays during which we share the Lord's Supper, we will take up a benevolence offering on Sunday, July 1. This offering is separate from our systematic, pledged gifts to the General Operating Budget. If you would like to offer a gift for benevolences, please place it in the baskets the ushers are holding as you leave. These gifts assist us in serving the needs of our community in many ways.

To My Church Family

Words cannot convey how much we thank you for all the care and concern you showed us during the difficult time of Ben's hospitalization and passing. For all the cards, calls, food, flowers, and visits, we thank you. We would pray that everyone could be blessed as you blessed us. We love you.

– Mary Lou Chambers and family

Five years.



In many ministry circles that's an average stint. At South Main however, it's only a drop in the bucket as both of my predecessors Thomas Coker and Thad Roberts combined served almost 60 years.

What this five-year recognition offers is a moment to think back to what we've experienced together. We saw the building and installation of a new organ and renovation of a gorgeous Sanctuary building. We continue to enjoy

the tradition of summer musicals at South Main like *Oklahoma!* and you learned that a Minister of Music can actually fly as 'Bert' in *Mary Poppins*. We've taken youth choirs on mission tours to Charleston, New Orleans, and Peru. Our Sanctuary Choir has sung at the National Cathedral and toured the British Isles. And as beautiful, memorable, and picturesque as all the above have been, it's the friendships we've established that capture our hearts. We've shared music to celebrate new life and to mourn the loss of loved ones. You've lovingly taught our children the endless love and grace of our Lord. You have been the hands and feet of Christ to Janet and me in one of the hardest years of our lives following Harvey. These and the countless transcendent moments in worship compel us to offer prayers of thanksgiving for this family of faith. Five years - and many more to come.

– Carey Cannon
Minister of Music/Worship

Food Pantry

Please bring canned pasta (ravioli), tuna or chicken, hearty soups, or vegetables/beans as your gift to the hungry in our community next Sunday, July 1.

If you would like to help the Clothing Center, they are in need of the following: Men's pants waist sizes 32-36, Men's shoes and belts, Women's XL clothing, Blankets

Family Ministry

SUMMER BLOG

....and you will be my witnesses in Houston, Texas, and in Shaw, Mississippi, and to the farthest parts of the earth.

Acts 1:8 paraphrased

if anyone love me, he will obey my word.

John 14:23

My commandment is this – to love one another just as I have loved you.

John 15:12



What is a witness and what does witnessing look like? The dictionary tells us a witness is "one who gives or serves as evidence of; to testify to."

This summer, South Main Baptist church sent a group of witnesses to testify to the love of Christ for all people. The 527 Tribe traveled

480 miles to Shaw, Mississippi to love on the people there through the ministry of Delta Hands for Hope.

Shaw, Mississippi is a beautiful place full of beautiful people, some of whom we got to know and worship alongside. Shaw is also a rural place with a small population and sometimes without the conveniences and opportunities we take for granted in Houston.

I was blessed to see children being kind to one another, sharing with one another, laboring with and in support of one another. I saw children breaking down barriers and playing with one another, sharing stories and jokes and paint and blisters. Kicking balls and killing mosquitoes. Painting walls and downing bowling pins. Digging holes and sealing grout.

The Tribe is truly that; a group that has intentionally committed to being family to one another and to always try to see the best in one another, accept one another, and work towards the best for one another.

On this trip, the Tribe expanded in size to include some new folks into our family, and I can testify that Jesus was present in that place with us as we loved one another.

– Greg Taylor
Mission Trip Sponsor

*Celebrating and navigating
Mondays through Sundays
from week one to week 936
toward authentic and lasting faith in Christ.*

Sodzo Update

*When you are pulling
drowning people
out of the river,
there comes a time
when you must
look upstream and
see why they are falling in.*

- Desmond Tutu (and many others)

From the moment we at Sodzo set out to help kids living on the streets we knew we wanted to look upstream, to identify and address the reasons they were on the streets in the first place, and hopefully help keep kids from ever winding up there. Michael focused his public health research on this question. Hundreds of hours were spent with focus groups and population surveys. We found many things worthy of addressing. And that is where our Family Strengthening Groups were born.



A Kuja Pamoja group meets to discuss community needs.

Kuja Pamoja = “Come Together.” With sustainability as a core virtue of Sodzo, we wanted to find a way to help families support each other well with just a little help. We start with bringing 30 families together to form a “savings and internal lending community” (SILC). They bring 20 cents to add to the pool each week, and each group makes rules for how the money will be loaned out and what it will be spent on. Typically members bring loan requests as they have a need, and loans are repaid over 8 weeks with 10% interest. The money goes to buy



A mother receives a loan from her Kuja Pamoja group.

farm animals or pay school fees. As they meet weekly, our staff and social workers come to educate them on topics of their choosing - positive parenting techniques, conflict management (to reduce family and community violence), accounting and business skills, farming techniques, how to choose a good egg-laying chicken. They sing hymns and spiritual songs, pray and share life together. They discuss community needs and organize together to get things done. They have no money to hire labor, so they prepare each other’s land for planting and harvest together as well. I have heard so many beautiful stories from these groups so far this week. Women who felt isolated and alone now find themselves in rich community life. Women who would never be able to get a loan from a bank are able to purchase a cow to provide milk for their family and a source of income. When a mother in one group sadly passed away, her group took on the care of the children and none of them have moved to the streets. It is working. It is as much an Acts 2 church as I have ever seen.

We currently have 3000 families enrolled in groups around the region, and many more asking to join. We have a one-year grant

to hire resource officers to teach the groups in Early Childhood Education, Business Development, and Family Violence Prevention, and a Public Health Nurse to educate on maternal/child health. We are also partnering with the Ministry of Agriculture to train the groups in farming and animal husbandry.



A mother and her child listen to training on early childhood development.

We hope, with your continued support, to be able to extend the program beyond this year and to reach neighboring regions. We believe each staffer can directly make a difference in the lives of thousands of families.

Kuja pamoja kwa jamii- we come together, for all of us. Thanks for walking with us on this sacred journey.

– Lauren Raimer-Goodman



A member of the group takes a survey as part of a study to assess how well the groups are addressing needs as well as baseline knowledge before additional trainings begin.

Being evidence-based is a core value of Sodzo, and we continually assess to ensure our programs are serving their intended purposes and that we are stewarding resources well.

SOUTH MAIN TODAY

4100 MAIN STREET
HOUSTON, TX 77002-9693

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- 1 Combined Adult SS begins,
Family Ministry Summer
Sunday School begins
- 4 Office closed for
July 4th holiday,
Midtown Midweek break
begins
- 9 Walk with Me/MainStreamers
- 10-15 Emmanuel Baptist youth
in YC for mission trip
- 12 OSA Board Meeting
- 15 Blood Drive
- 23 Walk with Me/
MainStreamers,
Deacons' Meeting
- 26 Shoe Unpacking
- 29 Quarterly Business Meeting

South Main Today (USPS 015-323)

Published weekly except Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas by South Main Baptist Church, 4100 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002-9693. Periodicals Postage paid at Houston, TX.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *South Main Today*, South Main Baptist Church, 4100 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002-9693.



SMBC/Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls Henry Hill Memorial 2018 Shoe Drive

New shoes are
good
for the soul.
Yours and theirs.

Today, there are more than 153 million orphans around the world, children without a voice... children who need love. Buckner International provides an array of services to meet the needs of these children. Shoes for Orphan Souls is Buckner International's largest humanitarian aid project, collecting and distributing more than 3 million pairs of new shoes in 82 countries since its inception in 1999. And while Shoes for Orphan Souls serves children all over the world, 30 percent of the shoes stay in the United States, offering hope to children in communities just

like ours. South Main Baptist Church began its participation in 2001. South Main Members have generously contributed over 140,000 pairs of new shoes toward this project. This generosity has helped children around the world experience God's love and hope.

Once again, you can make a difference in a child's life. As South Main gears up for the Shoes for Orphan Souls/Henry Hill Memorial Shoe Drive, we are now collecting funds to purchase shoes. Monetary gifts which can be stretched to allow bulk purchasing of shoes may be made by writing a check to South Main or online at www.smbc.org/giving. Please designate "Buckner Shoes." Thank you for your support!



Contact Damon Ankenman at
(281) 821-6584 for more information.

JULY 2018

Sunday -Relationship with God and others	Monday Pray for church staff	Tuesday -Members, visitors, ministries	Wednesday -The sick, needy, oppressed and Armed Forces	Thursday -Houston, workplaces, school and neighborhood	Friday -The world, social justice, religious freedom and peace	Saturday -Gratitude for people, events and things in our lives
1 Our spiritual growth; giving more of ourselves to God Pray for our congregation as we share the Lord's Supper during worship LORD'S SUPPER	2 Worship Ministry: Steve/Carey, pastoral care team & support staff and their families	3 Families; the church as a place of growth for parents and children	4 Those in mourning and periods of grief	5 Our workplaces and those looking for work	6 Latin America OSA staff, other volunteers	7 Offer thanks for opportunities in our lives
8 Generosity of spirit toward those around us	9 Adult Education Ministry: Greg & support staff Pray for our senior adults as they fellowship, eat, and learn together WALK WITH ME /MAINSTREAMERS	10 Visitors to our church & those seeking answers, meaning in life,	11 The marginalized & poor, those seeking assistance, Grace Wood, EAC Pray for our youth and Emmanuel Baptist Church as they do Harvey relief this week YOUTH MISSION	12 The streets of our city; First responders	13 Asia, North Korea, China	14 Offer thanks for God's presence and authority in our lives
15 Openness to God's leading in our lives Pray for those who give blood and those who receive it	16 Youth Ministry: Suzann, J, VOX, and SS leaders	17 Visitors to our church; GO Team & Outreach	18 MANNA ministry worship & friendship for the homeless, SEARCH	19 Internationals in Houston; those who need a friend Pray for the children of South Main as they enjoy summer break and spend time with friends.	20 Africa, Europe	21 Offer thanks for God's care and guidance
22 Our growing in the knowledge of God and choosing God's way	23 Church Admin-Brad, Susan and support staff Pray for our church as they discern the best way to follow God and serve His children	24 New members: A place of connection & acceptance here	25 People with illness,, the elderly and their caregivers, Amazing Place; Sojourn House	26 Our communities; those needing friends South Main at Home	27 People who are in places with armed conflicts; refugees and their families	28 Offer thanks for the challenges that make us trust more
29 Insight for showing God's love and mercy Pray for our congregation as we learn about the business of the church and share exciting mission stories	30 Children's Ministry: Dolores, staff and families	31 Adult Communities' teachers, leaders, and classes				