



Southwest Church of the Nazarene

CHURCH NEWSLETTER
MARCH 3, 2021 – VOLUME 50

What Are You Reading?

Every book has a story to tell. From "Once upon a time" to "How to" and the vast world in between. Each wants to share its information to the reader. The curious reader may engage enthusiastically, or casually peruse the pages to see if anything jumps out and grabs their attention. Books are still one of the best ways to learn... about anything. In fact, Amy Watson, in U.S. book industry - statistics & facts, shares that though the book industry has struggled due to the heavy use of the digital world, books still remain important to the American people. Her data reveals that book sales have improved in the last five years and unit sales are over 650 million dollars per year. She also shares that nearly two-thirds of adults prefer a "hand-held book" versus a digital read. At the same time though, audio books have soared and in 2019 reached over one billion in sales... yes, that was a billion!¹

But looking at the vast number of books we have – alongside the troubles of society we have – makes one wonder "Will another book really help?". Maybe it is time to go back to an "old Book," one that is tried and true. Its pages are filled with the history of our world; its storyline revolves around One main character who dies then comes back to life; and the plot is the battle

between good and evil, while humanity hangs in the balance. Of course, this Book is no ordinary book, written by 40 different authors, over a 1,500-year period, with all facets of writing from wisdom, literature, and history to poetic, in three different languages, Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. It was a "God-breathed" book – in that the Holy Spirit guided the writers as they inscribed the pages to be shared for all humanity in the future centuries. Naturally, the final chapter is a revealing one... pun intended... it is actually the Book of Revelation. The reader is afforded a look at the climactic end of the civilized society that we know, and we find an unhappy ending for evil and a glorious victory for the righteous.

On this day, there will be "books" and a "Book" opened. John writes in Revelation 20:11-15, "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged,

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each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. NKJV

On that day, the only book that matters will be the Book of Life and whether my name was inscribed on its pages... with red ink from the Blood of Christ which was shed for me. For this book is the only one that grants us entrance into the heavenly Kingdom of the Savior. As has been said, the Bible means "Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth."

Pastor Scott & Cindy

1 Amy Watson, in U.S. book industry - statistics & facts,
Published by Amy Watson, Nov 10, 2020,
www.statista.com/topics/1177/book-market/

ATTENTION ONLINE GIVERS:

We wanted to give you a "heads up" on some changes coming with our online giving platform. The platform was upgraded on March 2, 2021. If you have not already, you will soon be sent a message to the email address you had on file regarding the process you need to take with updating your account. Nothing needs to be done at this point, but once you receive your email message, please follow any necessary steps outlined in that message to update your account and to be made aware of any website changes upcoming.

Treasure Hunt - Saturday, April 3rd at 1:00pm For children Ages 0 through 5th grade

Check in at the registration table outside at 1:00pm. The Treasure Hunt will begin promptly at 1:15pm. We'll hold the event outside, and we will do our best to social distance!



If it rains, we unfortunately will have to cancel the event, but special treats will be given to children on Sunday after the morning service. Please be sure to check the church's Facebook page (at Indy Southwest Naz) for updates! See you there!

Wrapped Candy Needed:

As we prepare for this Easter season and the Children's Treasure Hunt, we are looking for wrapped candy or financial donations. These items will be placed in the eggs hidden for the children on that fun day! Our preference is that the candy donated *be non-chocolate and also peanut and nut free*. There will be a container in the foyer at church for these donations. You can also give financial donations by placing them in an envelope labeled *for Treasure Hunt* and dropped in the offering box at the back of the church. Donations needed by March 28th. Thank you for your generosity!

Some Peanut/Tree Nut Free Candy Suggestions:

- Laffy Taffy
- Twizzlers
- Dots
- Skittles
- Smarties
- Swedish Fish
- Nerds
- Starburst
- Runts
- Sour Patch Kids
- Mike & Ikes
- Airheads

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Praises:

- Praise the Lord for our growing church! Sunday several things took place:
 - An announcement about Celebrate Life and how our own Dave and Dana Metcalf ran this event and Southwest had 26 teens represented!
 - Steve Miller, our SDMI Supt., announced the reopening of one adult Sunday School Class in the fellowship this coming week.
 - We received more transfer members and celebrated a baby dedication.
 - Following this, our District Supt., Dr. Blake shared with us how the Lord can help us accomplish whatever is needed... be it a river to cross or walls to fall. With a beautiful time of worship, nearly 130 in attendance with new visitors, and a great offering, what can we say but Praise the Lord!

Prayer Needs:

- Swahili Ministry, for the Lord to guide, protect, bless, and supply every need.

Please find personal prayer requests in the emailed and mailed versions of the newsletter.

My Mother's Bible

This book is all that's left me now,
Tears will unbidden start—
With faltering lip and throbbing brow
I press it to my heart.
For many generations past,
Here is our family tree;
My mother's hand this Bible clasped;
She, dying, gave it me.

Ah! well do I remember those
Whose names these records bear,
Who 'round the hearthstone used to close
After the evening prayer,
And speak of what these pages said,
In tones my heart would thrill!
Though they are with the silent dead
Here are they living still!

My father read this holy book
To brothers, sisters, dear;
How calm was my poor mother's look,
Who loved God's word to hear
Her angel face—I see it yet!
What thronging memories come—
Again that little group is met
Within the halls of home!

Thou truest friend man ever knew,
Thy constancy I've tried;
Where all were false, I found thee true,
My counselor and guide.
The mines of earth no treasure give
That could this volume buy;
In teaching me the way to live,
It taught me how to die.

—by George P. Morris (1802–1864)



Important Updates for the Annual Church Meetings, Conventions and District Assembly 2021

Annual Church Meeting

From Office District:

Because of the pandemic, the Board of General Superintendents has approved some temporary rulings regarding the Annual Church meeting. They are as follows:

- The church board, with the approval of the district superintendent, may vote to continue with the church officers that are currently in place. This would be the Local Church Board, the SDMI, NMI, and NYI leadership.
- You may meet electronically. Voting methods shall be approved by the Local Church Board. All communications and voting required may be carried out electronically.

*Southwest Church has adopted carrying its boards and leaders over for the 2021 year. However, we have one board member who has decided not to stay on this year, therefore, we need to elect one board member this year. There will be no elections for delegates, only an appointment of delegates to view the District Assembly at the TBD location.

Southwest Annual Church Election will take place Sunday, March 7, at the morning worship service at 10:40am. When you arrive, at the entry table all MEMBERS (those who have been received into membership to the Southwest Church, not simply attending), can pick up a ballot at the table, fill it out and place it in the offering box in the back of the sanctuary before or after the services. Appointed Tellers will then tally the ballots following the service. We will publish our year end reports and election results in the March 10th newsletter.

SDMI/NYI and NMI Conventions will be virtual (online viewing only) this year. More details will be given in the days ahead.

District Assembly 2021

May 2 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

From the Indy District Office:

District Assembly will look a little different this year. It will be a "Hybrid Assembly." This means that there will be a central location where the business of the assembly will transpire. At the location will be Dr. David Graves, GS; Dr. Ron Blake, DS, Rev. Josh Robertson, district secretary, support staff, ordination candidates (and spouses) and their guests.

The service will then be streamed to different locations across the district. We are asking that pastors and delegates in those areas go to these locations (still to be determined). The different locations will be treated as an extension of the assembly. There will be a way for anyone at these sites to communicate with the main location when committee reports are presented as if we were all in one room.

Upon the recommendation of the General Superintendent, there will be no election of officers. The current officers will serve for one more year. However, delegates will still need to be present. We will be hearing from Dr. Graves and Dr. Blake, receiving reports, and having an ordination service.

***Please note - Dr. Blake, is approving the following plan for those churches who will NOT be having elections this year due to the pandemic: The church board, acting as the nominating committee, will appoint those eligible to be delegates to the assembly.

Thank you for your understanding and patience!

Blessings,
Pam

Some Upcoming Events:

- March 7th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service: Annual Church Elections; End of Church Year Reports Due (SDMI, NMI, NYI, Treasurer, Etc.)
- March 8th, 22nd, April 5th, & April 19th Mondays – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- March 14th, Sunday – Alabaster Offering: An opportunity to give to help build churches and schools and assist with costs involved in spreading the Good News all around the world!
- March 21st, Sunday – 10:30am Worship Service: Olivet Music & Preaching Ambassadors
- March 28th, Sunday – 10:40am Palm Sunday Worship Service
- March 28th, Sunday – Special Day for Swahili Church. We will take a few moments to share their vision, pray for this ministry, and also receive a love offering for their beginning days! Some of their needs include a new computer and a keyboard. If you would like to donate to either of these, please mark it in your giving. Also, we are still looking for Prayer Partners and Helpers with sound, Power Point, and greeters until they can train others for these areas. The services will be Sundays from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.
- April 3rd, Saturday – Treasure Hunt (See additional information in this newsletter.)
- April 4th, Sunday – 10:40am Easter Sunday Worship Service
- May 2nd, Sunday – 5:00pm to 8:00pm District Assembly