

FEBRUARY 1
2010

From the Desk of Steve Sargent

(After the 3am fire at the Royale Apartments just down the street from SWC, I spent a few hours at the site. These are some of my morning experiences.)

The first thing I notice, from a couple hundred yards away, is the smell. The stench of burnt wood and drywall and clothes and furniture wafts south, the direction I am coming from. Walking closer, I can see the blackened remains of Building B of the Royale Apartments. The whole front charred, the 3 third floor faux steeples sunken in towards the second floor like a ship going down, the previously 6 white columns of the portico now covered with soot, the leasing office (where I had spent time with Abigail, the onsite manager) beyond recognition, the whole structure still smoldering. Fire trucks, police cars, and mobile response teams lining the streets, blocking off would-be drivers. News reporters interview displaced persons while TV choppers hover overhead for live birds-eye view shots. Robe and pajama clad residents wrapped in blanket-sized Red Cross towels standing or sitting on the grassy median. Onlookers, including the children from Shearn Elementary across the street with faces pressed to the chain link fence, cluster together, mostly staring in surreal silence.

I walk towards the median and just pause there in amazement. Hard sight to see. Hard to realize that some of these folks now surrounding me no longer have anything. As I stand there, two women walk past me, left to right. I recognize them, and they recognize me. The older woman says, "I know you" and I say, "I think I've met you before." The young woman agrees with both statements, and we exchange names. Luella and her daughter Ilesha and I talk for a few minutes. They live in the Royale. Been there 22 years. They know I am a minister at SWC. I cannot recall where I've met them before - a neighborhood cookout, Cafe Grace, a Sunday gathering time? They ask about Larry and Martha Watson, ask about the state of the youth group, and ask if 'that red-headed guy' is still there. They proceed to tell me that many of the residents have not eaten all morning, even though the Red Cross has brought food. It's waiting in the long Metro bus near Sunny's Food Store and Gas Station. Would I get the word out? I venture over to the bus to confirm, and then walk among the folks telling them (in good English and broken Spanish) that there was McDonald's breakfast burritos and Starbucks coffee waiting for them in the bus if they want it. I meet many of the residents this way, hearing their stories, listening to what they had experienced in the early morning hours.

Several of the folks I know. Dennis, for example, lives in the Royale. I have visited with him quite a bit over the last 16 months. He and Barbara Washington are good friends (Barbara is friends with so many of those residents, by the way - she's somewhat of a celebrity there.) When people find out that I am a pastor (word gets around!), they start telling me all sorts of things ("You should come to our church," "You're too young to be a minister," "Do you know Pastor (so-and-so)?" "Thank you for caring enough to come," "This is the 3rd time in the last 15 years my home has been destroyed," "All my paperwork is still inside and I don't know if it made it," "Have you seen my cat?" "My place has so much water damage," "Here's my phone number," etc.).

I also re-meet Raj Davis, one of the firemen. As we walk past each other, he slows down and stares at me. I do the same. I know I recognize this guy. Yes, that's right - we went to ACU together. Raj now preaches at the Park Place Church of Christ near Long Dr. and Telephone Rd. Since he gets paid very minimally, he moonlights as a fireman/paramedic. We exchange numbers with a promise to have lunch together soon.

I stay for 2+ hours before I had to leave. I am glad to have spent time with the residents; saddened by what they are going through. I hope I was able to minister to some in a moment of need. Our neighbors have a long road ahead. May we be church with them on this difficult terrain.

A COMMUNITY... CREATED... CALLED... LED... RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

SOUTHWEST CENTRAL
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Spotlight-The McDaniels

Brandy grew up in Pearland. She has 2 older sisters. She grew up in the Methodist Church and started going to the Church of Christ in high school. She graduated from Texas A. & M. with a degree in Political Science. That is where she met Caleb. They were married in 2000. She received her masters at Johns Hopkins in Teaching. She taught High School History for 5 years in Baltimore, MD. She tutors in subjects as needed for a family in Bellaire with 4 boys.



They moved to Houston in September of 2008 just in time for Hurricane Ike.

Caleb is a Professor of History at Rice University.

Caleb's hobbies are and listening to jazz, reading, finding the best salsa and drinking coffee. Brandy's hobbies are knitting and reading. Ellery's hobbies are reading and bossing the cat.

Brandy and Caleb saw Southwest Central Church of Christ when driving by and then looked it up on the internet. Brandy's goal is be to a good wife and mother. Caleb's goal is to finish and publish his book. Caleb & Brandy's goal for the church is for us to continue to look to Christ for our example and not to conform to what other people or churches expect.

Caleb grew up in San Antonio. He has 2 younger brothers and a younger sister. He grew up in the Church of Christ in San Antonio. Like Brandy, Caleb also graduated from Texas A. & M. with a degree in History. He went to Johns Hopkins where he received his PHD in History. They moved to Denver where he taught at the University of Denver. Ellery was born in Denver but her parents said "she had a bag of Texas dirt under the bed".

INVITATION

MEN'S PRAYER LUNCHEON

Sunday, February 7, 2010

12:00 Noon – Fellowship Hall

Dear Brother:

Yes, the prayer luncheon will take place on Souper Bowl Sunday and the other Super Bowl that takes place that day as well. Count on good food, great fellowship and heartfelt prayer.

"The fruit I give is better than gold, even the finest, the return I make is better than pure silver". Proverbs 8:19

"Be persevering in your prayers and be thankful as you stay awake to pray". Col. 4:2

"Any one of you who is in trouble should pray; anyone in good spirits should sing a psalm". James 5:13

"My child, keep my words, and treasure my precepts, keep my precepts and you will live..." Proverbs 7:1 – 2A

In Jesus Christ,
Dick Darroh



Souper Bowl of Caring 2010

The Souper Bowl of Caring is fundamentally a faith initiative, as the idea was born of a prayer. We seek to love God by loving our neighbors, and through this, young people will see that by God's grace, they can make a difference in the lives of others. The Souper Bowl of Caring is an ideal way

to engage communities in the fight against hunger and poverty.

SWC will participate in this annual event, delegating 100% of funds raised to Braes Interfaith Ministries. This **Sunday, February 7**, you will see our youth stationed at the doors as you exit. Place your donations for BIM in their soup pots. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Carnes or Steve Sargent.

Prayer Team Meeting

The next Prayer Team Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 7** at noon in the office conference room. Please bring a sack lunch.

Donations for Haiti

SWC has raised \$1,150.00 for the earthquake victims in Haiti. Thank you for your generous spirit!



M A T T H E W 5 : 3

Sunny Glenn Children's Home

March 9-11 Sunny Glen will be picking up donations. The items needed are:

Popcorn

Non-aerosol deodorant

Liquid fabric softener

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated.

"Helping Hurting Children Become Happy Children"

Mark Your Calendar...

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4
Ladies Bible Class

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5
Bridge Night

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
Elder's Meeting
Men's Prayer Lunch
Prayer Team Meeting
Souper Bowl of Caring

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Café Grace

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11
Ladies Bible Class

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13
SEASONS

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

February 2	Leviticus 5-7
February 3	Leviticus 8,9
February 4	Leviticus 10-12
February 5	Leviticus 13
February 6	Leviticus 14,15
February 7	Leviticus 16-18
February 8	Leviticus 19-21
February 9	Leviticus 22,23
February 10	Leviticus 24,25
February 11	Leviticus 26,27
February 12	Numbers 1,2
February 13	Numbers 3,4
February 14	Numbers 5,6
February 15	Numbers 7

Family Matters

The Tucker family spent the weekend in Wimberly visiting Michael's family... **Milly Borst** will be having outpatient surgery on Wednesday to remove a growth from her ear...

Remember in Prayer...



Stephen Carnes, Gregg Cross, Evelyn Guinn, are continuing chemotherapy... Wendy Rassbach, beginning radiation therapy... Glenn Harper as he searches for a job...

Sweetheart Banquet

Save The Date

Sweetheart Banquet, Sunday February 14 in conjunction with the morning gathering time.

Continue to Remember:

Mary Drehsel... Michael Greenwood... Ginger Hanning... Lee Hayden... Jerry Leifeste... SWC friends & family in the US military... SWC families who are grieving.

Just for the Record January 31, 2009

Class	75
AM Assembly	119
Budget Gifts	\$5,418.44
Designated Gifts	\$156.00
Year-to-Date	
Planned Giving	\$156,600.00
Actual Giving	\$142,912.47
Giving Under Budget	<\$13,687.53>
Other Gifts	\$24,969.00

Elders

Dick Darroh	David Pipes
Michael Tucker	Larry Watson

Staff

Mike McAlister	<i>Interim Pulpit Minister</i>
Steve Sargent	<i>Youth & Family Minister</i>
Steve Sandifer	<i>Pastoral Minister</i>
Robyn Albright	<i>Secretary</i>
Antonio Zapata	<i>Maintenance</i>
David Louis	<i>Keymaster</i>

Assembly Times

Bible Class	9:00 a.m.
Worship Assembly	10:15 a.m.
Evening Assembly	6:00 p.m.

SOUTHWEST CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Return Service Requested