

# West Side Baptist Church 2011

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## **From the Desk of our Pastor:**

*He had no form or majesty that we should look  
at him....*

*He was despised and rejected....*

*He has borne our infirmities and carried our  
diseases....*

*He was wounded for our transgressions....*

*He was oppressed and afflicted....*

*He was taken away....*

*He was cut off from the land of the living....*

*Selected Statements from Isaiah 53*

Reading those descriptions almost make you shudder, at least they should. By this time the old prophet Isaiah was used to saying things that people did not want to hear. And, true to form, these words come down to us today with the same reaction and impact. They are just hard to hear, especially in light of the fact that they all came true in Jesus.

February is the time we begin the season of Lent. It is the time we remember the lengths to which God went to rescue us from sin and death by sending his son Jesus to suffer and die. It is hard to say that we celebrate Lent especially when we read the statements about the suffering servant written by



# February

Isaiah.

Lent offers a time of reflection, a time of meditation, and a time of prayer. Traditionally, in the early church, it was a time of preparation for those seeking to be baptized on Easter. Lent is that uneasy time when we stop to think about our own lives and when we take the time to examine ourselves and ask, like the psalmist, for God to “search me, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

(PS. 139:23-24)

But, February is also the month when we celebrate love and when you think about it Lent and Love go together seamlessly. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son...” is what the apostle John would write. It was because of God’s love that Jesus came. It was Jesus’ love which held him there on the cross. It is our loving response which leads us to go into the world as ambassadors of the good news of God’s love.

Lent starts this year on February 22, known as Ash Wednesday. On the following Sunday, February 26, we will begin a Lenten worship and prayer service here at the church. Every Sunday through April 1, we will meet at 4:00 to pray and worship. It will be a time to think and to examine our lives. It will be a time when we pray out loud and we spend some time in silence. But, hopefully, it will be a time when the West Side Baptist Church family can come together during this special time of the church year in repentance and forgiveness, thanking God for sending Jesus to die for us. I invite you all to come, to pray, to worship, to take the time to examine your own life, and to listen to what it is God is telling you and telling us as a church family.

~ Pastor Kip



## LIBRARY CORNER

### HEAVEN?

For some of us, as we age (who am I leaving out?), the curiosity becomes stronger, is there life after death? And, if so, what is it like? The question and understanding of heaven and hell is the focus of Eternal Life: A New Vision (Harper One, 2009), by Bishop John Shelby Spong. This is a new exploration, however, and not a rewording of historic concepts or of recent popular renderings. To answer his own question about whether or not there is eternal life, Spong starts by exploring the development of religion within

humanity and the concept of God that resulted. Finding a lot of our common



understanding outdated he spends a lot of time bringing us to a new understanding of God, Jesus and the gospel. Because he challenges a lot of our popular beliefs, this is a hard book to read. In order to keep you reading through these jarring statements let me assure you that in the end Spong does emphatically agree there is God and an eternal life, but as in his book title, they are a new vision.

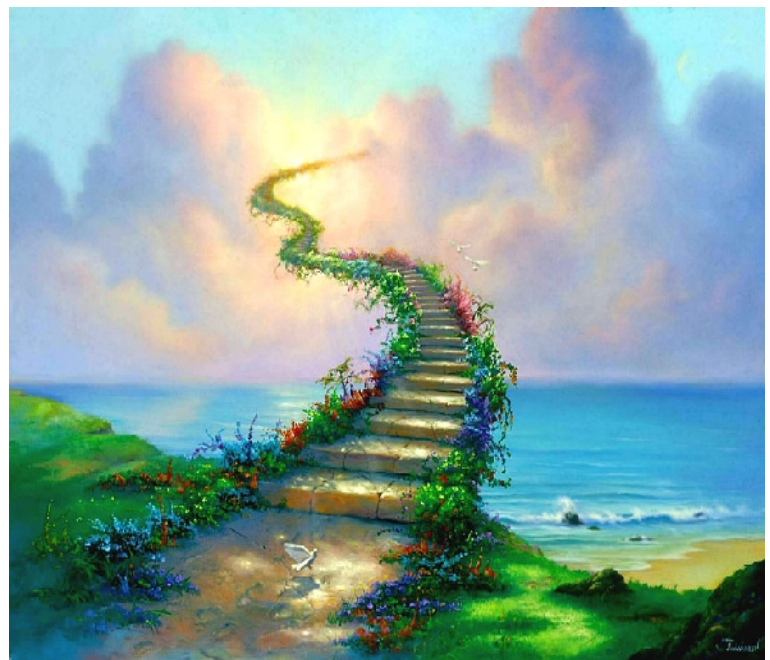
This book is very autobiographical for Spong, a bishop in the Episcopal Church. If you stick with it you will take a new look at your own beliefs, where they came from, how they were formed, what they mean to you and what gives you meaning in life. Spong attempts to help us move our faith into the twenty-first century. It is hard work and might require more reading and discussion, but this book will move you along the journey as our first, fourth and fifteenth century paradigms shift into the modern scientific world of the twenty-first century.

In his conclusion Spong writes “Jesus was a human being so whole , so free and so loving that he transcended all human limits, and that transcendence helped us to understand and even to declare that we had met God in him. That is what the story of the resurrection was all about. Every human limit, including the limit of death, faded in front of Jesus. So he opens a door for me to walk into the final arena and to walk past the ultimate boundary. I can see in him what I can be – a life at one with God, at one with myself and a part of eternity.”

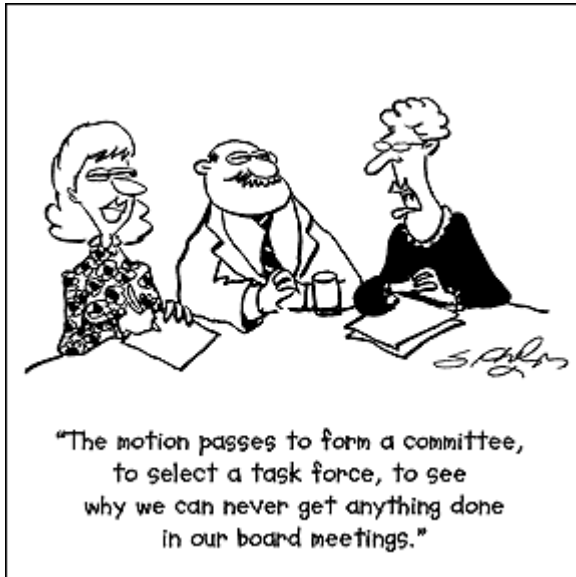
Because of the contentious debate currently raging about the ethics of end of life issues, Spong includes an epilogue to bring some clarity to these concerns from his perspective.

**To read this book find it on the display shelf in the church library, sign the check-pad, enjoy the book and return it so others might have an opportunity to read it.**

~ Fred Ansell



## Welcome our 2012 Diaconate leaders:



Senior Pastor:  
Kip Mickelson

Moderator: Brice Smith

Vic-Moderator- Personnel: Fran Seymour  
Hunter

Treasurer: Nancy Lindberg

Clerk: Marianne Spano

Outreach: Pat Carreno

Stewardship: Harry Carpenter

Fellowship: Almira Collier

Worship: Amy Cripe

Christian Ed: Marti Rosa

Membership: Mark Calloway

## Lenten Prayer and Worship Service will be held on Sunday evenings:

February 26, 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25, April 1



On February 12, 2012 after worship service, everyone is invited to our Baby Closet Open House downstairs. Come down and take a look at the work and progress that has been made for this community outreach project. See you there!



## Operation Soup Line - 2012

February 29, 2012

Kansas Expocentre's Ag Hall

11:00am – 1:30pm

Adults \$8.00 ~ Children 5 & under free

Chili, Vegetable Beef or Portuguese Green Soup,  
Dessert & Drink

Delivery Available on Orders of 10+ - Call 357-5341  
(Pre-Orders Only Order by February 24th)

- Local Celebrity Servers & Entertainment
- Silent Auction Theme Baskets

A Fundraiser to Benefit Doorstep, Inc.

February is the month that Doorstep has their annual soup and cracker drive. They are asking for donations to help fill their food pantry for those in need of food in our community. You may bring your soup and crackers and place them in the sanctuary. Thank you.

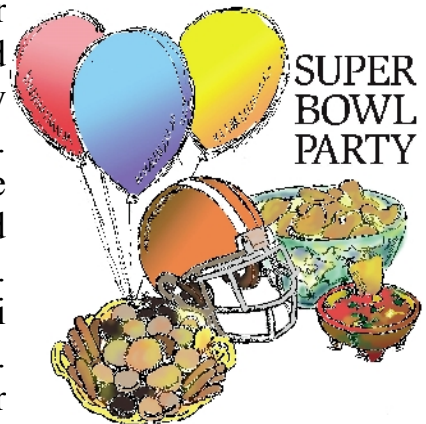


Doorstep  
Outreach

~ Outreach Team

Our annual Super Bowl Party is planned for Sunday February 5, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. There will be a large screen TV set up, and lots of good to eats. We will provide chili and buffalo wings. Please bring your favorite snack food to

enjoy during the game. If you prefer to play games, please bring your favorite one to share with others. Please feel free to invite friends to our fun evening. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board so we know how many to plan on. Come join us for a great time of fellowship.



SUPER  
BOWL  
PARTY

~ Outreach team



## Get to know our Missionaries!

Once a month we will provide four new families that are missionaries in other countries along with where they are living and what they have experienced. You will find this bulletin board outside of Holmer Hall. Check it out!

## The Brick!!!

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar..



He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something.

As his car passed, no children appeared.

Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door!

He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting 'What was that all about and who are you?

Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?' The young boy was apologetic. Please mister.... please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do,' He pleaded. 'I threw the brick because no one else would stop....' With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the

youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car.. 'It's my brother,' he said 'He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up.' Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, 'Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me.'

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat... He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. 'Thank you and may God bless you,' the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home..

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: 'Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!' God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not.

## Leap Year what does it really mean?

Leap year is basically a year that comprises of one extra day, week or month. This is in order to keep the calendar year synchronized based or with the help of astronomical or seasonal year. A year which generally does not comprise of any extra day is known as the usual common year. The best example for the leap year in the month of February one would generally see 29 days instead of the usual 28 days.

A person generally born on the 29th day of February is known as "leaping". On other usual years their birthday would either be celebrated on the 28th of February or even on the 1st of March.



# LEAP YEAR