

The Garden Gate

MY FATHER IS THE GARDENER...I AM THE GATE; WHOEVER ENTERS THROUGH ME WILL BE SAVED. JOHN 15:1; 10:9

SBS Annual Garage Sale

Side by Side would like you to save the date!

SBS Garage Sale

May 15th and 16th @ Sue Davies' house

3998 Autumn Lake Court SW

Friday 12PM - 5PM

Saturday 8AM - 1PM

Volunteer sign-ups will be available in April.

Can drop off items the previous week. Will take anything except adult clothes, excluding maternity.

Summer Park Dates

Our first summer park date will be Friday, May 22nd!

10am - Soldier's Field Castle Park

Bring yourselves, your kids, a picnic and a friend!

Today, I Just Want to Be Mom

By Abbie-fo Wilcox

All of us moms have been there. It's the point you reach when you've used up all of your reserves as a mom. You have nothing left to give and desperately need alone time-something extremely rare for a medical spouse. I was becoming an angry mom who could hardly face another day with no end in sight. It had been over five years since I had a night away from my Mommy responsibilities. So, I attempted to plan a get-a-way with an old elementary school friend. At the last moment we were unable to connect our schedules. I tried

another old friend of mine-a simple weekend where three friends could get caught up, reminisce on old times and lift each other up. Long story short, it didn't happen. A third and final attempt was made, this time a quiet place just to relax. The center I had chosen was unavailable, so I gave up, resolved to stagger along half heartedly.

Then, out of the blue a personal hardship reared its head. Nothing life changing but something enough to turn my world upside down. All I could think about, all I could do was deal with this problem. *(continued)*

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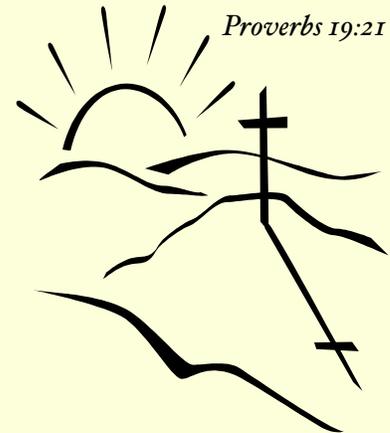
Dates to Remember

- April 21 - PM Social, check your e-mail
- May 12 - PM Final Spring Meeting
- May 15 - AM Farewell Brunch
- May 15-16: Garage Sale

2008 - 09 Theme Verse

Many are the plans in the man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

Proverbs 19:21



Side by Side Rochester

www.sidebyside-rochester.org

*Side by Side
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*Steering Committee
2008 - 2009*

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TODAY I JUST WANT TO BE MOM CONTINUED

My every thought and action revolved around the situation. My house became a complete mess, meals went unplanned and unmade, and my girls were left to play by themselves-Mom unable to help. Fights erupted and even the dog became anxious. I longed for something different to occupy my thoughts and energies. It was then, in a flood of tears I cried out: "Lord, today just let me be a mom!" The words shocked me as I realized I had been crying out for the exact opposite this past year. Now, I was even tempted to go into the girls' rooms and cuddle them as they slept. What a

transformation! Through this struggle God had shown me the true desires of my heart. I wanted to be the best mom that I could and ultimately that was all that mattered.

The next day, I loaded my girls up in their little red wagon, put the leash on the dog and walked to the neighborhood park despite the migraine headache from the previous night's worries. I wanted just to be mom to my girls-to push them on swings, chase them on the playground equipment and delight in their laughter. Yes, for today I just wanted to be mom.

SBS Night Service Opportunities

The Spring service dates for the SBS Night groups at Ronald McDonald House are April 16 and May 21. The Night service project for all groups will be July 22. Please e-mail Cecelia at cecelajeter@yahoo.com with any questions.



Tough Questions about God and the Bible

By Paige Kuske and Ashley Powell

Whether you've been in church your whole life or just started going to your very first Bible study, you have questions. Tough questions about God, His Bible, and how it relates to your life here and now.

In an effort to start filling in a few of the knowledge gaps relating to living the Christian life, the ladies of the night group gathered for a night called 'Faith Fillers' to spend time reflecting on areas that have been known to be particularly challenging.

Some questions, like 'What role does the Holy Spirit play in the Trinity?', have straightforward answers in Scripture. Others, like 'When does life actually begin?', are more challenging. The Faith Fillers Q&A panel responded to questions submitted ahead of time by Bible study members and made an effort to give thorough, Scripturally-sound answers. Although many responses were given, the subject matter brought up as many new questions as it answered. *(continued)*

TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD AND THE BIBLE CONTINUED

So what should we do when the Bible doesn't give a straight answer to our difficult questions? And what do we do when our personal beliefs do not line up with the Bible?

‘Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls’ (Matthew 11:29)

If you find yourself in either of these situations, here are some ideas for what to do next. First, we should pray, because God promises that ‘if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach’ (James 1:5). Sometimes a single prayer brings an answer, but more often, these difficult matters require prayer and reflection over time.

Another step in seeking wisdom is to use resources for studying the Bible more deeply. Tools like a concordance, a Bible dictionary, and good commentaries can take you to relevant passages and shift the way you look at them so that God's teaching becomes more apparent. Many of these resources are available online and are free to users.

As you seek independently, it is also wise to look for guidance and encouragement in your community of Believers. Trusted Christian friends, topical books, and especially church and Bible study leaders can be helpful resources in guiding your thinking around challenging topics. Conversations

over time with trusted Christians can sometimes bring clarity or a change of heart about the topic we are struggling with.

Sometimes we come to hard lessons in Scripture – things we do not agree with or believe. Does this mean that if you feel this way, you have to put your faith on hold? We all find at different times that it is difficult to believe that God is good or that God is enough. It can be tempting to retreat, but this is an important time to pursue answers to the questions heavy on your heart. If you think a topic relating to the Christian faith might hold you back from believing, know that your question – or your doubt – is not too much for God to handle. He welcomes our honest misgivings and frustrations and is more than strong enough to bring us peace and understanding. He invites us through Christ, ‘Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls’ (Matthew 11:29). God promises to teach and love us even when we cannot see or accept his Truth, and He will not abandon us in our doubt. When we are faced with doubts, let's pray like the man said to Jesus, ‘I believe; help my unbelief!’ (Mark 9:24).

*Side by Side
Night - Rochester*

*Steering Committee
2008 - 2009*

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Anywhere

By Karen Seery

Psalm 139:7-10

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

My daughter has not been born yet. She is still inside my big, pregnant belly. Soon, she will break out and keep growing, but her current situation teaches me about how God relates to us.

No matter where she goes, I am there. She can scoot really far to the right, or squirm up really high, motions that may feel like major journeys to her. It's as far as she can go! She can't even imagine going further than the edges of her little cocoon. But even when she traverses the whole distance of her little world, I can still reach her. I know right where she is. It is not hard for me to touch her, covering the little protruding parts with my hand.

How can I find her so effortlessly? Why can't she hide from me, burrowing down deep inside? Why can't she get out of my reach? Simply because she is in me. Her whole world is inside me. I am bigger than everything she knows; I surround and contain everything she knows. I feel all her actions. She cannot get away because I am her world. I am her life support system. My body forms her boundaries. I am the source of both her strength and her borders.

Anywhere she goes, I am there.

Happy Birthday!!



April 8 Jennie LaBrin
April 10 Keeseuk Oh
April 14 Tracey Kirkeby
April 15 Esther Claassen
April 16 Tracy Bonilla
April 19 Christon Sawatsky
April 20 Shelly Haugen
April 24 Kerri Hart
Paige VanNorstrand
April 25 Kirsten Zuehlke Homme
April 26 Chantel Remick
Jessica Soma
April 29 Gina Eisenach
April 30 Hallie Wold

May 1 Cari Ekbo
Heather Levy
May 5 Alexandra Muthu
May 6 Ashley Powell
May 7 Enrene van Tonder May
17 Kristin Clark
May 18 Lori Curtright
Marci Bruner
May 22 Molly Kor
May 25 Mary Beth Hoover
May 28 Tanya Florin
May 29 LaNae Richardson
May 30 Leah Calvin
May 31 Jeemin Yoon

Baby News

Congratulations to
Ingrid & Jeff Geske on the arrival of Kyra
Linnea

March 9, 8lbs 5oz, 21 3/4 inches

Allison & Seth Sullivan on the arrival of
Sylas Justin

March 6, 8lbs, 20 1/2 inches

Jess & Keith Swetz on the arrival of Ryan Lawrence

March 18, 7lbs 6oz, 20 inches



Garden Gate Information

The Garden Gate is published six times per year. The Garden Gate is passed out at the first morning meeting of the month and then mailed to those members who don't pick theirs up. The Garden Gate is e-mailed to all night members as well as those morning members or alumni who have chosen to receive the Garden Gate electronically. Past issues are also available on the website.

If you would like to change your delivery method please contact the Garden Gate editor, Cheri Milligan at cherim@kualumni.org. If you would like to contribute to the Garden Gate please e-mail Cheri by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

SBS Night Needs You!

The night steering committee has two positions opening up this year and is in need of your help to fill them! Please contact Nicole Dufendach (Nicole.dufendach@gmail.com) if you are interested in learning more information. The two positions and their responsibilities are :

Administrator Chair: Esther Claassen, emclaassen@charter.net

- Coordinates with leadership chair

- Emails birth announcements
- Emails announcements
- Receives registration forms and places members in groups
- Sends member info to treasurer
- Forms groups and sends member info to teaching and care leaders
- Maintains SBS Night database
- Plans SBS Night Calendar



Contributors

ABBIE-JO WILCOX

Abbie-Jo is originally from Holland, Mi. She moved to Rochester, Mn with her husband Ryan in 1996 "just" for medical school. Twelve years later, they are still at Mayo, where Ryan is half way done with his fellowship in Hematology/Oncology. They have two daughters: Adelyn age 6 and Nellie age 3.

KAREN SEERY

Karen grew up in Littleton, Colorado. After a few years in Nebraska and the Czech Republic, she married Loren and moved to California. Loren is now finishing his second year of Ophthalmology training. They're planning to work at a Seventh-day Adventist clinic in Guam for a few years after Loren's fellowship. Karen is now "retired" from teaching elementary school, and enjoying her new career as "Ashlyn's Mommy."

PAIGE KUSKE

Paige is a Seattle native, now learning to fit into authentic Minnesotan life. She is married to her true love Dave, who is a potentially life-long student (currently somewhere in the middle of the MD/ PhD program). Paige is a social worker at Olmsted County and spends most of her free time listening to music, drinking good coffee, and dreaming about overseas adventures.

ASHLEY POWELL

Ashley grew up in Auburn, Alabama, and went to college in Tennessee. She and her husband, Benjamin, moved to Rochester three years ago for his ENT residency. She loves her job teaching kindergarten at Gage Elementary. Ashley has made tons of friends through the night SBS group and is enjoying co-leading one of the groups this year.



What is Side By Side Rochester?

Side By Side Rochester is a group of women who desire to grow in their walk with the Lord while supporting one another as medical spouses. Being married to a doctor brings with it a unique set of circumstances. We are here to pray for, love and encourage one another through whatever those circumstances might be, while spurring one another on in our personal relationships with Jesus Christ.

Our goals are as follows:

- To build Christian friendships through fellowship.
- To be a place of prayer and support.
- To challenge women to study and apply the Bible to their lives daily.
- To learn more about God and the Bible while growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ.
- To provide a safe atmosphere for children where Biblical principals are modeled and taught.

While striving to meet those goals, we are committed to nurturing and upholding these truths:

We believe in one God who exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We believe Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead. Through his sacrifice, we can have eternal life and a personal relationship with God. The purpose of Bible Study is to help each of us grow in that relationship through study and fellowship.

The women of Side By Side come from all over the United States and from countries all over the world. We have different backgrounds and were raised in different denominations, many having never attended a bible study before!

We extend you an invitation to join us!

THEREFORE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD EACH OTHER UP...I THESSALONIANS 5:11

The Garden Gate
Side By Side - Rochester
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Meeting at Autumn Ridge Church
for the 2008-09 year
and in members' homes

