

# The Garden Gate

www.sidebyside-rochester.org

## Snow Daze



The Midwest has been blanketed with snow. And when I say blanketed, I mean a nice "thick" blanket!

The tiny city in which we live, has long since exhausted its budgeted amount for snow removal, and the public schools have had to tack on days to the end of the school year to make up for missed "snow days." The rest of us have been dealing with the fluffy white stuff as best we can.

My husband and children have been involved with clearing the walks and the driveway of snow. And, though not actively involved with the actual shoveling, I have done my part by keeping hot meals on the table for those who were.

We had a beautiful "White Christmas" with all of our children here at the house ... SNOWED IN! It added an element of fun, and I think it was our best Christmas ever.

Despite the frustration caused by having to deal with it all ... I love snow!

I love it because it always reminds me of the Bible verse found in Psalm 51:7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Whiter than snow. What a word picture!

Psalm 51 is a prayer of repentance and a plea for mercy written by King David over 3000 years ago. But despite the passage of time, the cry of David rings as true now as it did then. Psalm 51:1: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

David, the King of all Israel, was guilty of adultery with Bathsheba and of the death of her husband, Uriah. When David admits his crimes to God he says these words: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

He admits that he has sinned and done what is evil in God's sight. Even though King David is the highest reigning official in the land, he confesses that he has broken God's laws and that God is right when He judges. In this David shows that God is over him and will one day judge his actions. Or, in other words, "Just because you are the king ... you can't just do whatever you want." God is sovereign.

In His Word, God gives us a picture of how His grace and mercy affect us. He teaches us this vast concept in a simple object lesson about snow. David says that if God washes him, he will be made whiter than snow. And we can know that, if God washes us, we will be made "whiter than snow" as well.

This is a great difference between Christianity and other forms of religion. In so many other religions, people are busily trying to clean themselves up, so that they can get in to heaven someday. But in Christianity, it is God who cleans us up!

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### Dates to Remember

**March 1**  
*Faith Fillers*

**April 29**  
Devoted Hearts  
Conference (no SBS)

**May 20**  
*Farewell Brunch*

### Theme Bible Verse

*"Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."  
-Psalm 46:10*

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*Side by Side Rochester*

*Morning Steering Committee*

2010-2011

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**Snow Daze** (continued from page 1)

Christianity is God coming to us! Jesus, the Son of God, came to us in our dirtiness (or in our sin) and washed us clean by the shedding of His blood for us. Romans 5:8 says: ... God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Christians don't do good things so that one day we might eventually earn our way into heaven. The truth is that God has paid the price for our sins and has given us eternal life and the assurance of heaven as a gift. Remember, God never cleans us up part way. When He cleans us up we are always whiter than snow!

Acceptance of Jesus as our Savior causes a new birth in our lives: We are born of the Spirit. This life-changing reality eventually begins to reveal itself in new behaviors and good works ... but it is not the good works that save us. We are saved already.

They say that every snowflake is different. I haven't looked at all of them to see, but I trust those who have studied them. Can you imagine the immense number of them over time? (Just the vast number of them in my backyard is pretty amazing!

Can this same God, who creates every snowflake to be unique and pure, know each of us and purify each of us as well? Will this same God, who forgave King David, be able to forgive us of our sins and make us whiter than snow?

He can and He will. I John 1:9 says: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**Snow Daze was written by Sharon Chatwell.**

*Sharon is the wife of a physician, who enjoys owning a snow-blower, and the mother of four children, who are very adept at shoveling! She wishes you and yours an early spring!*

**Use this coupon and save \$1.00 off a SBS onesie!**

Your child could be riding in style with an exclusive SBS onesie sporting the SBS logo.



Sizes 6 months and 12 months

No expiration date. Questions? Contact Cari Ekbohm at (507) 288-5995 or dcekbohm@gmail.com.

# Happy Birthday!

To:



Ute Koenig	February 2
Kara Durgin	February 3
Amy Gillen	February 4
Erin Shimko	February 6
Rebecca Griffith	February 6
Rebecca Nesse	February 10
Trina Morris	February 12
Deb Zeldenrust	February 18
Catherine Stryker	February 18
Priti Sitoula	February 21
Sarah Tenpenny	February 28
Casey Yelfimov	March 3
Lisa Friese	March 6
Stephanie Schmitt	March 6
Jodie Hook	March 7
Jiyoung Park	March 9
Shelly Storm	March 15
Jackie Tilburt	March 16
LeAnn Tebben	March 16
Janette Reeves	March 28
Kate Bartelt	March 30
Mayumi Hamaji	March 30

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*Side by Side Rochester  
Night Steering Committee*

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2010-2011

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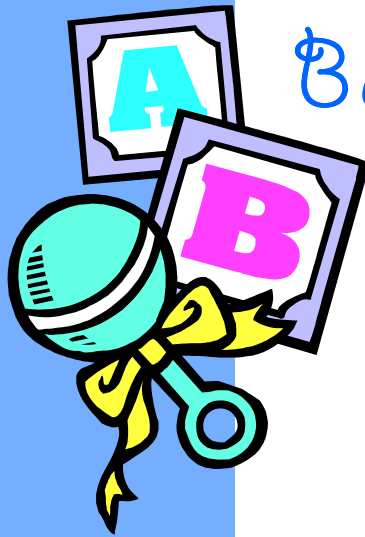
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## Baby News



*Cayden Joseph Dufendach*

Congratulations to Kevin and Nicole Dufendach and big brother Addison (pictured above) on the birth of Cayden Joseph. He was born on Thursday, January 27 and weighed 7 lbs and was 19 inches long.



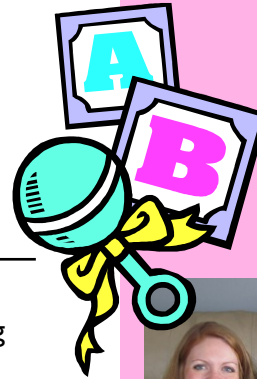
*Paul Raymond Rogstad*



Congratulations to Katie & Dan Rogstad and big sisters Rachel & Rebekah on the birth of Paul Raymond Rogstad. He was born at 7:20pm on November 5th, weighing 8 pounds and 21 inches long. Katie and Paul are doing well. The birth could not have possibly gone better, they are very thankful for God's provision!



# Baby News



## Maggie Lynn Solomon



Congrats to Tricia & Ben Solomon and big brothers Luke & Issac on the birth of Margaret (Maggie) Lynn Solomon! She was born on February 9, 2011 at 8:52 AM. She weighed 6 lbs 5 oz and was 19 inches long. Both Mom and baby are doing really well and they can't wait to come back to SBS.



## Kaelin Mae Kirksson

Congratulations to Cami & Eric Kirksson and big brother Brock on the birth of Kaelin Mae. She was born on Sunday, December 12th at 12:58pm. She was 5 lbs 12 ounces and 19.25 inches long.



## Anne Elizabeth Hart



Congratulations to Kerri and Phil Hart on the birth of Anne Elizabeth Hart. Precious little Anne was born on November 14, 2010 at 5:31 pm. She weighed 6 lbs 15 oz and was 20.5 inches long.

Do you have baby news to share? If the answer is yes, please contact Katherine O'Grady at [ogrady@aridge.org](mailto:ogrady@aridge.org). We would love to showcase your new little one(s).

# Practicing Compassion

by Carol Mason Shrader

Once upon a time, I was the mommy of three adorable toddlers. At three, they were full of cuteness, love and compassion. I'll never forget the day we got on the elevator at the Mayo Clinic's St. Mary's Hospital and were joined by an elderly lady on a stretcher. The minute she was taken off the elevator and the doors closed behind her, my three almost in-sync began to pray out loud for God to take care of the "very sick lady." I may have patted myself on the back a bit. Three years later, however, we were traveling cross-country when the truck in front of us swerved and rolled. While I called 9-1-1, Dad jumped out to check on the passengers. And my son, now 6, began to cry. I (obviously remembering the level of compassion exhibited at 3) assumed he was scared for the people in the truck until I heard him exclaim, "But, Mommy, it is Daddy's day off!" Houston, we have a problem.

See, in the years between adorable three-year-oldness and our trip, my kids had learned that when people got hurt, Daddy's pager would go off and Daddy would leave. And frankly, three years of residency was already enough to teach them when Daddy left, he was gone for a while and they did not like that. Not one bit. I was unprepared for this turn of emotions – unprepared for how to help my children navigate the unique experience of growing up during residency and missing their Daddy.

And yet, I did not want uncompassionate children. I envisioned a family that prayed for Daddy's patients. Not one that resented them. Colossians 3:12 says "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (NIV)



The scripture in Colossians is only one of many where we are commended to be compassionate. I realized on the side of the road somewhere in Oklahoma that compassion would not be accidental or automatic. If my children were to be clothed in compassion then teaching compassion needed to become a primary focus.

Admittedly, the end of residency, made the task easier as Dad's hours became somewhat better. We also began making it a point to pray for Dad's patients. We don't know names, but he tells us the kind of cases he has each operating day. We pray for him and the patients. God knows who they are and the details we do not.

I will not tell you that we are perfect. We still prefer Daddy to be home with us rather than at the hospital. But we are learning and practicing compassion, and hopefully more often than not, we are wearing our cloak of compassion.

## What is Side By Side Rochester?

Side By Side--Rochester is a group of women from all over the country and the world who are here in Rochester, MN, both short and long term, who desire to grow in their walk with Jesus while supporting one another as medical spouses. Being married to a physician 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 Mission

We are a group of medical wives that meet together weekly to pray for, love, support and encourage one another, while spurring each other on in our personal relationships with Jesus Christ.

## Have you ever read the history of SBS?

Side By Side--Rochester has such a God-inspired beginning. We encourage you to read all about it. "The year was 1987 and Robin Morgenthaler was living in Hawaii while her husband, Tim, finished his internship in the Navy. This was obviously going to be a drastic move for the family. But Robin felt a calling. She remembered thinking, "Yes, the Mayo Clinic. There are a lot of internationals there...I can see having a Bible study, one aimed specifically at supporting the spouses of the physicians from all over the world ..." Read more at: [www.sidebyside-rochester.org/our-history.html](http://www.sidebyside-rochester.org/our-history.html)

### Garden Gate Information

The Garden Gate is published bimonthly and passed out at the first meeting of the month and mailed to those who were unable to attend the meeting. In addition, the newsletter is emailed to all night members, alumni, or morning members who choose to receive theirs electronically. Past issues are available at:

**[www.sidebyside-rochester.org](http://www.sidebyside-rochester.org)**

If you would like to change your delivery method, please contact the Garden Gate editor Katherine O'Grady at **[kogrady007@gmail.com](mailto:kogrady007@gmail.com)**. We encourage all members to contribute to the newsletter. Your thoughts and testimonies are a blessing to others.

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