I have become a firm believer in simplicity. Keeping things simple in life helps us to focus on things that are really important. Over the past year of being your pastor, I have been studying and praying constantly for God’s mission and vision for our church, and He has provided us with a very simple message.

**Our Mission**: To lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

How are we going to accomplish this Mission? What will be our strategy? God has provided a simple plan for that as well.

**Our Strategy**: To create environments where people are encouraged and equipped to pursue intimacy with God, community with insiders, and influence with outsiders.

After all, we cannot make or force anyone to believe. All we can do as a church body is create environments that are conducive to gathering and saturated with truth. God has to do the rest, and that is exactly what He has promised us in His Word. Therefore, by God’s grace, we will create a …

**Welcoming** environment through our Weekly Worship experiences. The goal of this environment is to commit to regular attendance. The win happens when a person returns for the third time.

**Connecting** environment through our Membership Orientation experiences. The goal for this environment is to commit to Jesus and the South Bay Bible Church family. The win happens when a person becomes a Jesus follower and joins the church.

**Growing** environment through our Community Group experiences. The goal for this environment is to commit to a Community Group. The win happens when a person becomes accountable in a Community Group. We will be hearing much more about this in the weeks to come.

**Serving** environment through our Ministry experiences. The goal for this environment is to commit to serving others. The win happens when a person joins a ministry team.

**Inviting** environment through our Outreach experiences. The goal for this environment is to commit to inviting others to Jesus. The win happens when a person invites someone to church or wins someone to Christ.

(Cont’d on p. 2)
Each of these environments can easily be pictured through the different rooms of your home. When you first meet guests in your home, usually they enter through the foyer where you welcome them. This is your first impression. Then, you invite guests into your living room where you connect with them. As time passes, they are no longer considered guests but part of the family where relationships continue to grow.

As more time passes, soon your new friends become so familiar they stand in your kitchen serving along side you – in a place you would never expect your guests to go. Then, you go to the park together and inviting to join your ever growing circle of friends. Soon, these new friends visit your home and enter your foyer.

~ Pastor Martin Hawley

Discipleship Moment: The Word of God (The Bible)

The entire Bible is the embodiment of God’s character explained to finite, sin-limited mankind. God’s Word is alive through the action/unction of the Holy Spirit to those who are re-born. However, God’s word is dead (foolishness) to the spiritually dead. He is the word which is self-existing, self-explaining, self-supporting, self-defending, and self-defining. God’s word is perfect, eternal, unchanging, without error or contradiction, sinless, pure, and infinitely deep. To the re-born it is spiritual, spiritual food, wisdom, knowledge, insight, understanding, glorious, holy, beautiful, merciful, lovely, and loving. God’s word is his sword which is probing, convicting, exposing, cutting, judging, and perpetually drawing us to God.

II Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

Law in the Hebrew means “teaching” and teaches us the basis of His character. His word has application to every form of teaching: learning (increasing knowledge), reproving (convicting of error), correcting (applying His direction to deal with life’s problems) and training (learning to apply His principles to daily life before errors are committed).

~ Scott Walker

The Holy Bible is the Word of God. It is the Christian’s handbook for life. God’s message to mankind—his love letter—is contained in the pages of the Bible.

Happy Birthday!

Marg Wells—2/1
Maria Camarro—2/17
Jeff Rostek—2/27

Christianity Explored

Every Tuesday evening through February 25, we will meet to discuss the big questions that impact us all. All are welcome to join the discussion. Free dinner will be provided.

7:00—9:00 PM
We have been given the awesome privilege at SBBC of starting our area’s first “Good News Club” at East Moriches Elementary School. Each Thursday afternoon volunteers from SBBC join together with these precious children to sing, memorize scripture, play games, win prizes and most importantly teach the word of God. We are currently teaching a series on peace keeping. The children are learning how to respond to conflict and bullying in a way that glorifies God. Please continually be in prayer for the kids attending Good News Club. Daily they face challenges most of us never dreamed of when we were their age. God is working in the hearts of these children each week and we look forward to all God has in store for their bright future.

~ Kimberly Hawley

So many life lessons are learned in elementary school. During our first 12 years we learn how to respond to others. Maybe when we are being challenged on the playground or when our friend says something mean about us or calls us names. Remember the old saying “sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me”? That is completely untrue. As I have grown older I realize physical pain is so much easier to deal with and get over than hurtful words spoken against me.

We will be updating the church directory throughout the month following Sunday service. See Janet Downs if you have not yet had your photo taken.

Chili Cook-Off — Feb. 15 (Saturday) 6:30pm.
Join us for the second annual Chili Cook-off! Great fun, fellowship, and surprises await you. Bring a pot of your best chili to share.

Connect with SBBC — On Sunday, February 16, after the morning service we will have an Orientation class. Lunch will be provided and class will dismiss about 3:30pm.
Changes at South Bay Bible Church

SBBC Web Site

The SBBC website has been updated and re-designed to better serve you. Pay us a visit at:

www.southbaychurchli.org

Sunday Service Times
Beginning March 2, 2014

South Bay Bible Church will have two Sunday morning services to accommodate the growth our church has been blessed to experience.

Starting March 2, our new service times will be at 9:00 and 11:00 am.

Food and fellowship will be between services at 10:15 am.

Current Study
The God of New Beginnings

Feb. 2 (Sunday) — God Rewards Faith (Genesis 8:15-19)

Feb. 9 (Sunday) — The Service of Deacons (Acts 6)

Feb. 16 (Sunday) — God Receives Worship (Genesis 8:20)

Feb. 23 (Sunday) — God Reaffirms the Natural Order (Genesis 8:21-22)