

# south shore fellowship

"it's all about relationships"  
bridgman, michigan



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## Spring Greetings to you all,

May 2008

A few weeks ago I visited my friend Leah for a week. She lives in Chicago and was recovering from surgery. She and I both love to watch the shows on home improvement on the home and garden station. Since she was housebound, we got to see a lot of those shows together! One of our favorites is "Designed to Sell". The people who are trying to sell their homes and haven't had any luck, turn to the design team of this show for help. They come in and assess the situation, find out how much money they have to work with, come up with a plan for re-design and then get to work. The before and after photos are amazing and of course, the house gets sold right away.

something someone will want to buy. First, you must get rid of clutter. There should be nothing on the floors or counter tops or desks....no paper, no dishes, no sign of anything that would let you know "regular" people live there!

It doesn't matter that you absolutely love your bright orange dining room. It has to go! Walls are repainted to muted and soft colors that are in style. It doesn't matter that your kid's artwork has a place of honor on your fridge. It must be taken down....along with magnets and photos of everyone you know!! Family photographs are packed away also. People coming to see your house could care less about you or your family.



SSF worship team

Photo:Sian Beck

When we sold our home in Hawaii a year and a half ago, we went through much the same thing. By the time we got done putting in new counter-tops, fixtures, & clearing out clutter, I wanted to stay in my house!

There are a few rules to follow to make your house into



SSF worship service 5-4-08

Photo:Sian Beck

Pictures on the wall? The plan to follow is "less is more". The more wall space that is showing, the bigger your rooms appear to the public. The house that is designed to sell looks absolutely nothing like it did before. The personality of

the people who live there isn't transformed...it is just hidden away.

It has been over six months since South Shore Fellowship started. Our mission statement is still the same...It's All About Relationships. Our purpose is to form relationships with others and introduce them to a relationship with Jesus. There is no other relationship more important than one with the God of the universe!



*Its all about relationships*

*Photo: Sian Beck*

We rent the beach house at Weko beach...the most beautiful beach on the south shore of Lake Michigan. We don't need to stage anything. God did a great job with the scenery! The inside of the beach house is casual and we like it that way. Aside from a few banners and the sound equipment for our worship, what you see is what you get!

We want to be an authentic church. We believe that people need a place of acceptance and the assurance that no matter what is going on in their life, they are welcome. We don't want people to hide the clutter of their lives. We are interested in every aspect and more importantly, so is God.

Pastor Jack is preaching through a series based on the book, "Victory Over The Darkness" by Neil T. Anderson. This book deals with how to live the Christian life authentically and victoriously. The powers of darkness are all around us and bombarding us daily. The church needs to be a place where people can come in and be real, and at the same time know, that what they are seeing and hearing "up front" is also real.

Part of becoming authentic is resisting the temptation to "stage" our lives in front of each other. We put on our "Sunday best" and our fake smiles before we walk through

the door. Jesus isn't interested in staging. He wants to knock down the fake walls & take off the paint covering our wounds. He wants to wade with us through the clutter and help us to get cleaned up.



*SSF worship service*

Then, he wants us to see who we truly are. He wants us to look at ourselves through the truth in His word and to see ourselves as He sees us....as saints...holy and set apart for Him.

### **SSF Updates:**

Beginning Sunday, May 18th and continuing through Labor Day weekend we will be meeting at 9 A.M. We encourage you come and experience our church at the beach! Remember...it's all about relationships!

Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day weekend) we hope to have Jack's book, "A Lake Surfer's Journey" available. If you live within driving distance please join us. WEKO Beach has 40 campsites. They are on a first come, first serve basis. I am told they fill up by Friday about noon.

*Aloha Ke Akua,*

*Jack & Maree*