

# south shore fellowship

"it's all about relationships"

bridgman, michigan



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## Aloha

Don't you just love newborn babies? They are so tiny and fragile. Their tiny finger and toes are just perfect works of art! Their cries are so pitiful and precious...well, maybe not at 2 a.m. if you have one in your house!

They are easily transported. They can just fit in the crook of your arm and they are so light you can carry them for hours...and many times that's just what they demand we do!!

The most exciting part of being around babies is watching them grow. The changes in them physically & emotionally are astounding. In one short year they grow from being helpless and completely dependant into a curious little people who are voracious in their desire to be on their own and explore the huge world around them.



Jack Vance Nordgren 10-25-07

Our fourth grandchild, Jack Vance Nordgren, was born just one year ago on September 25th. The last time we saw him, he was 3 months old. So, in our minds he is still tiny and helpless. When we talk with our son Josh and his wife Taylor we get entirely different descriptions of him.

He is crawling, pulling up, standing and working hard on that walking thing! He is engaging, funny, and serious about his food, the park, and the ocean (his three most favorite things in the world!) He is no longer just a baby. He is a person with a personality all his own.

Recently, I talked with Taylor about this past year. I asked her to give me her thoughts and also Josh's on parenting Jack. The two words she used were "privileged and thankful". She said this past year has just been amazing and she is so thankful for the opportunity God has given her to raise Jack. "Watching him grow and change has just been amazing".

Josh said he has this "overwhelming sense to protect and provide" for his son and also "to be a role model". He said they are both so in love with him and really

can't believe that they've made it through a year already.



Jack Vance loves his food

September was also the month of another one year old's birthday. South Shore Fellowship turned one on Sept. 16th and we gathered the first Sunday of October to celebrate. We had a great attendance that day (54 people) and something even more important than that....relationships!

As I looked around the room I couldn't help but think of the way it all began a year before. Our first service was held in our living room with 12 people in attendance. We had one person on the worship team...me. It was a tiny, fragile beginning.



SSF first worship service in our house

We now have a full worship team with drums, guitars, keyboards, & singers. We are more than a worship team. We are family...brothers and sisters in Christ.

Because we meet in the beach cafe we decided to leave the table and chairs set up in the restaurant format. As a result, we have the best breakfasts in town! Each week, volunteers bring bagels, donuts, fruit, etc. The table is always loaded with good food which always paves the way for good fellowship.



*SSF café style worship service*

After worship, we take a few minutes to greet one another and refill our cups and plates before Pastor Jack brings us our spiritual food. It thrills my heart to hear the "din" of conversations all over the room. New people are embraced and welcomed and friends greet each other with hugs and laughter. I always think that God must look upon all that "noise" as the most beautiful worship song of all!!



*SSF worship team*

Last winter brought a lot of snow...a lot!! But the city of Bridgman always had our roads plowed and also the parking lot at the beach. So, we still had church, even though a few times other churches had to remain closed. Many times we'd be sitting there watching the snow blow sideways across the Lake while Jack preached. I must say that it was at those times I missed Waikiki Beach and those beautiful palm trees the most!

God sent us faithful people who braved the snow and kept coming. He gave us generous and giving people who have opened their homes for Bible Study, opened their hearts to befriend each other, and opened their wallets to keep South Shore Fellowship going.

On our special birthday Sunday we asked a local family to come and share their gifts of music with us. They are a family of 9 and all of them, with the exception of the 3 year old and the 3 week old sons, shared in song and music and their love of our Lord. The dad, Mike Balos works with our very own Brent Bean at the Cook plant.



*The Balos Family*

They are called the Balos Family. They play Bluegrass Gospel music. There was no ukulele but the mom of the group played a mean stand-up bass! They also played the mandolin, guitar, banjo, and fiddle. It was amazing. We had a good old foot-stompin' time!

Yes, a year makes a huge difference in a newborn....child or church. Like Taylor, we feel privileged and thankful for this opportunity to give birth and to raise this body of believers and watch them grow. Like Josh, we too have an overwhelming sense to protect, provide, and be a role model to the precious people God has given us here in Bridgman.

And....like Josh and Taylor, Jack and I are in so in love with our people here at South Shore Fellowship. It's been an amazing year and we really can't quite believe we made it!

### **SSF Updates:**

**The Breakfast Club**-Wednesday mornings we have a Men's Bible study at Sawyer Truck Stop at 7am. Its off I-94 exit 12.

**Our Small Group Bible Study** meets on Thursday 7 p.m. Locations change so please check bulletin or call Jack & Maree 269-465-6264.

**Worship at WEKO** is now at 10am. There is no charge at the front gate after Labor Day.

**Soul Mates Seminar** Saturday- Nov 15th 9am-3pm. It's not too late to sign up. Call or see Jack for more info.

**We had another wedding.** A while back, Jack's surfing buddy Mike Mooney (aka Moon Doggie) brought some friends he works with to church. They, like him and Chris, were also engaged. The rest is history. It's all about relationships.



*Congratulations to Jeff & Inga Stupar*

We now have a projector thanks to Bill Erkelens via Homewood Church. Our good friends Bob & Karen graciously offered to purchase a screen to go with it. Dave Cowan, our business administrator, is working on getting it. We hope to have it this Sunday



*It's all about relationships*

***Aloha Ke Akua***

*Jack & Maree*

***Jack & Maree***