

REACHING MORE VIEWERS

- by Pat Gardiner

Have you ever wondered if, perhaps, even more people could benefit from the CART/captioning you provide at your church? Those of us who provide this service, I think, all agree captioning for even one is well worth it, but you might consider reaching more people by putting the pastor's message on the Web for more to view.

In our last article, Kathy Smith, CSR, of Springfield, Illinois, shared her thoughts and feelings on providing CART at the church that she attends, Western Oaks Baptist Church. She also told us, after captioning her church service, the sermon then goes on the Web for more people to read.

Kathy says she hadn't realized how popular reading the sermon on the Web was until an attorney told her he reads it in addition to attending the church service. Kathy also told us one of her pastor's daughters lives in Hawaii, and wants to read her dad's work.

Putting the sermon on the Web is done for many reasons, and it is a great way to increase the number of people using your CART/captioning.

How is this done? Well, Kathy explains, "After church, I copy the service transcript to a disk, and give it to some wonderful technical people in our church who edit it for me and put the sermon on the Web."

Shirley McKinstry, Website Manager at Kathy's church, explains further. "Kathy types the messages for the hearing-impaired people in the congregation. She gives me a text file of what she has typed.

"I edit the text file using Microsoft Word. This includes removing line numbers, removing the line feeds at the end of the lines, changing from all capitals to sentence case, correcting spelling errors and other errors that are there because Kathy has to work so fast, and dividing the text into paragraphs. Sometimes I listen to an audio file of the pastor's message (which we also upload to our website) to make sure I edit correctly.

"I copy the text into a web page – a page in HTML format (Hypertext Markup Language). I connect to the Internet and upload the web page to the church's website using an FTP PROGRAM (File Transfer Protocol)."

Now the sermon, or the message, is ready for many more to view. You can see for yourself by going to www.westernoaks.org, and the messages will be found under "Website Features" in the menu at the top of the screen, with the option of audio or text.

Well done, Kathy and Shirley!

And, by the way, what does Kathy's pastor think of all of this? Pastor Jeff Blevins says: "Realtime captioning has been a wonderful addition to the ministry of our church and fits well with our vision to be a church of influence. I have enjoyed seeing Kathy use her gift within a ministry context and bless others.

“The ability to put the transcript of each Sunday’s message on our website has provided an opportunity for many to review and reflect on what God was saying to them in that context. Everything about this ministry has enhanced our church and fits within our vision.”

And what do two of Kathy’s “customers”, as she affectionately calls them, think of the CART she provides at the church? Don and Urma Patrick – people who use the CART – say, “We appreciate being able to know what is being said from the pulpit. We were not aware the service of captioning could be available in our church. With captioning, I heard our youth pastor pray for the first time. I was so impressed and blessed. The captioning provided by Kathy Smith has made us feel we are participating in the worship service and challenged by the pastor’s message. We thank the Lord for Kathy’s faithfulness to share her talent.”

JCR Contributing Editor Pat Gardiner is from Milton, Ontario, Canada. For more information on church captioning go to www.captioningtheword.com. You can contact Kathy at Smitty3713@aol.com.

OUTLINES: Provided by Beverly Bridges, CCR, RMR, from Atlanta, Georgia.

Apostle Paul PO*P

Christ Jesus KR-PBLG

descendant STKAEPBT

disobedience TKOB/KWREPBS

disobedient TKOB/KWREPBT

gracious TKPWRAEURBS

iniquity TPHEUBG/TAOE

Isaac SAEBG

Jerusalem SKWRAURS

message PHEPBLG

Priest PRAOEFT

presence of God PRUG

sermon SERPL

shepherd SHEPD

wisdom STKUPL

zeal SAO*EL