

# "THE WEST SIDE STORY"

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
535 CHEROKEE ROAD  
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA 23701  
Office & Voice Mail: 488-0514  
Or 488-9391

E-mail: [wsc@tni.net](mailto:wsc@tni.net)

Web Page: <http://www.tni.net/~wsc/>

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## FROM YOUR BOARD CHAIRMAN

Rev. Diann is back in Richmond settling into her new home by now and looking forward to her coming marriage in May, I'm sure.

We, here at West Side continue our search for a new minister. In the meantime, we all should be busy with the business of running our church. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of Elders, Diaconate, Department Chairpersons, and support staff working tirelessly to make sure your church is running smoothly. Your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated. There are little things each one of us can do during this special period of time. Our department committees can use all of the help they can get. Your ideas may be very helpful in the planning for the many activities the church will be conducting this coming year. We have a great church, a friendly church, a loving church, and it's not due to one but due to all of us.

I leave you with Romans 12: 9-11: *"Don't just pretend that you love others: really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy in your work but serve the Lord enthusiastically."*

Bobby Beal, Board Chairman

## DEAR CHURCH FAMILY:

I served at Wherry Housing in Smyrna, TN this past summer for 2 months and it was the most incredible 2 months of my life. I learned things about myself and about my God and I grew in ways

that I never imagined I would when I began the application process. This past summer I saw God provide building materials and financial means when there was a need. I saw young teenagers give their allowance out of love to see the ministry continue. I saw residents leave their homes to come to cookouts and musicals because they had seen the work that was done and they wanted to get a glimpse of the motivation that had teenagers out working all day for someone that they didn't even know. I saw kids in youth groups accept Jesus at the end of the week because they couldn't resist his love anymore. I saw a bunch of kids sweat all day long and do dirty tasks that they normally wouldn't have agreed to do, even without complaining, because Jesus asked them to and because they had a desire to bless others. I saw a man who had hidden from the ministry in his community for eight years come out of his solitude and initiate fellowship with believers because he saw their works of love and that they were sincere in completing them.

There are so many areas in the community of Wherry Housing which need a ministry's focus—the residents, the children of the neighborhood, the Hispanic residents, and the housing units themselves. The physical labor was tough and tiring, but it opened the door for opportunities to reach and impact the people of the community. When you work on a building or a yard you can always see all that you've accomplished when you finish at the end of the day, but when you talk with a person or serve them in love you don't always get to see if you left a deposit in their life. God was gracious to me this summer though, because He gave me so many glimpses of the harvest that I helped to reap for

Him. Summer Missions rocked my world!!!

I'm writing you this letter and telling you about my experience because I need your support. I'm planning a trip back to Wherry over Spring Break and I'm taking 6 of my college friends from my Christian fellowship with me. We're really excited about this opportunity to minister in this community, which God is really blessing. In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 9 verses 36 and 37, we are told that *"When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"*

We are the Lord's workers and we're eager to be sent out to reap a harvest for him in the community of Wherry Housing. We want to let our light shine before men, that they may see our good deeds and praise our Father in Heaven (adapted from Matthew 5: 16). If you can support us in our mission trip through a monetary love offering, or if you could just pray for our trip and for the means to make it happen, I would greatly appreciate it. I thank God for you, my church family! Be blessed!

Amy Gray

Box 2264, Mary Washington College  
1301 College Ave.  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

PS: checks can be made payable to Amy Gray.

## THANK YOU!

To Bubba and Sharon Jenson for the gift of a new Dell Computer for the church office. It is a fine gift! We also want to thank John Hayth for installing the new computer and updating our equipment from time to time. Thanks also to John and Brenda for the gift of silver serving pieces that belonged to Camille Harrell. They will be a fine addition to our kitchen. Also, we want to thank the Hervy Gray, Sr. family for the lovely buffet now located outside the entrance to the Fellowship Center.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PASTORAL CONCERNS OR NEEDS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN OF ELDERS, TOM LARSON, AT

617-3505.

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Michael McCrickard  
108 Moon Dr.  
Smithfield, Va. 23430-1512

Rev. Diann Johnston  
1412 Westshire Lane  
Richmond, Va. 23233  
(804) 377-0388

## MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER

By Mary Peris, Parish Nurse

Every second Saturday of the month we have placed our banner on the outside wall, saying "Free Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Screening Today." We have had people come in and be screened but that is not all we have done. In some cases we have made a difference in someone's life by identifying a possible life threatening condition that exists, high blood pressure

High blood pressure/hypertension is called the "silent killer." Without screening, many do not even know they have hypertension. Symptoms go unnoticed and undetected. Untreated hypertension may lead to chronic illnesses such as heart disease, cardiovascular disease, kidney failure and stroke. All of these illnesses are directly related to our God given circulatory system. Our heart is the pump that keeps it working.

Blood pressure is the natural pressure caused by blood being pumped through our arteries and veins. When the heart contracts, it pushes the blood into the arteries, causing a greater pressure (systolic), then when the heart relaxes (diastolic). This is represented in a fraction with the greater pressure being over the lower pressure, i.e., 130/85. Because each of us is unique according to God's plan, our readings can vary significantly.

Hypertension is diagnosed when pressure levels increase to a dangerous level and remain there. High blood pressure is not curable, but successful management enables each person to live a quality life actively and productively. Management focuses on those life style changes that we can control, i.e., "stress, smoking, diet, and weight." In some cases, a medication regime must also be implemented. A

LECTIONERY TEXT

Mar. 2: II Kings 2: 1-12; Psalm 50: 1-6; II Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9

Mar. 9: Genesis 9: 8-17; Psalm 25: 1-10; I Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 9-15

Mar. 16: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22: 23-31; Romans 4: 13-25; Mark 8: 31-38

Mar. 23: Exodus 10: 1-17; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 1: 18-25; John 2: 13-22

Mar. 30: Numbers 21: 4-9; Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2: 1-10; John 3: 14-21

Applications for the Edna Shearin Scholarship will be received until May 1, 2003. You may turn in your letter of request to the Education Department.

CWF NEWS:

Rebekah Group had 8 present. Offering was \$50.00. They read 17 books, 5 Daily Devotions, 2 Disciples, 4 Regional Papers and 1 teaching magazine. They made 20 calls. March meeting is with Marleen Whitehurst.

Lydia Group had 10 present. Offering was \$66.00. They read 6 books, 7 Daily Devotions, 2 Disciples, 3 Regional Papers, 1 teaching and 2 leading magazines. They made 43 calls.

Sarah Group met with Debbie Bond. Five members were present. Offering was \$40.00. Many Valentines were made. Next meeting will be on Saturday, March 8 and will be a "special outing."

ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL, 2003  
NEWSLETTER WILL BE DUE

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

The Covenant and Fellowship Classes are sponsoring a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 4 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. The cost is \$4.00 for adults, \$3.50 for children 6-12 and children under 6 will be free. The supper includes sausage and fried apples as well as all you can eat pancakes. Reservation slips will be in bulletin. You can make checks payable to WSCC/pancakes. Please invite your friends and neighbors to this event.

STEWARDSHIP

In an effort to help the counters on Sunday, we would like to suggest that when you make multiple contributions that you please fill out an envelope for each item. For instance: you want to give to the building fund and basic missions – put the amount to go to the building fund on a building fund envelope and the amount to go to BMF on a BMF envelope and place both envelopes in your regular envelope along with one check for the total amount. This will help the people who count to get the job done a little faster.

We would also like to thank those who take the time on Sunday after church to see that this important job is done. Each team of two takes two months of the year. They are: Pam and Leo Gibbs, Thomas Thornton and Jerry Thornton, Billy Powell and Bobby Beal, Janice Deweese and Rita Antonucci, Dick Oliver and Norman Dickens, Mary Cornwell and Mary Redmon.

Thanks also to Norman Dickens who calls each month to remind the counters.

Special thanks and much appreciation to Garland Cook, who for ore than twenty years made the trip to the bank on Monday morning to see that the bank bag placed in the night deposit by the counters was opened and the money was deposited. This task has been assumed by Dick Oliver and we thank him.

## WORSHIP DEPARTMENT

We would like to thank Wallace Williams for making a cabinet for us to store our banners in. This was a much needed and we appreciate you Wallace, for doing this.

**OUR SHUT-INS:** Hazel Jarvis, Sentara, Greenwood; Leona Brodie, The Heritage, 515 S. Warley, Florence, SC 29501; Mary Mingis, 4107 Heritage Rd., Richmond, 23227; Ruth Blackman, 1 Bon Secours Way, Cedar Pt. #241, (P); Hervy Gray, Sr. , 111 Kansas Ave; Martha Gray, Maryview Care Center; Oleta Cook, 319 Thelmar Lane, (P).

**OTHERS ON OUR PRAYER LIST:** Patsy Pearce; Kenneth Nelson; Sylvia Dickens (Autumn Care); John Riddick, Jr. , cancer ; Javaid Reed, young leukemia patient.



### MARCH

- 1 Erin Ripley
- 2 Shannon Bloxom
- 5 Paula Pittman
- 6 Michael Wyatt
- 8 Barbara Nelson
- 12 Patty Ross
- 20 Patrick Knill
- 22 Becky Barclay
- 23 Eddrie Bradley
- 25 Joshua Thornton
- 29 William Powell, Wanda Hackler
- 31 Kevin Gibbs

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THANK YOU, DIANN, for the beautiful plaque on which the Ten Commandments are printed. It is a

beautiful and thoughtful gift and will have a special place here at West Side.

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## **ROSEBUDS HONOR NEWBORNS**

Rosebuds were placed on the chancel to honor Cassie Briann, daughter of Brantley and Theresa Honeycutt. Cassie was born Dec. 24, 2002;

**AND**

To honor Kayleigh Regan McNelis, daughter of Wendy Redmon and Brendon McNelis. Kayleigh was also born Dec. 24, 2002.

**WEEK OF COMPASSION  
February 16-23  
OUR OFFERING GOAL: \$2,000**

## **FROM THE OFFICE OF DISCIPLES HOME MISSIONS**

The Office of Christian Vocation, Disciples Home Missions (DHM), is requesting your prayers for the military chaplains (pastors) of our church. The clergy serving in the military on active duty, national guard and reserve represent over 300 religious denominations and faith groups. The military chaplains are responsible for the worship services, spiritual counsel, guidance and support to all the armed forces personnel as representatives of the Holy.

Congregations and pastors, our Disciple chaplains are non-combat persons. They do not carry arms. They serve the religious and morale needs of the members of the armed forces (our men and women). Even though they are required to serve in areas and missions that are not always understood, our chaplains lean on their faith and prayers from you to sustain them.

To support all chaplains and members of our military, please lift up your prayers through Christ for their ministry and safety as they serve our nation. Danny Thompson, staff person of Disciples Home Missions, will provide to our churches all the names of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) chaplains representing our church at a later date. Many of them are your pastors and members of our congregations. May God bless them in their ministry and may God bless our world with PEACE.

*YOUR CHURCH STAFF WOULD LIKE TO  
WISH EACH ONE OF YOU A CHRISTMAS  
FILLED WITH THE JOY OF CHRIST*

*AND,*

*A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH HIS  
BLESSINGS!*



**WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**535 Cherokee Road**  
**P. O. Box 3345**  
**Portsmouth, Virginia 23701**

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