

"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
Rev. Jane Cherry,
Interim Minister
E-mail:
westside@westsideccdoc.org

Web Page: www.westsideccdoc.org/

VOLUME 35

MAY, 2004

NUMBER 5



"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus." (Luke 24:2-3)

I bet you didn't know I once worked as a bunny, did you? No, not one of Hugh Hefner's Playboy bunnies! I was an Easter Bunny for the Downtown Merchants' Association and in the weeks before Easter I walked – rather, I hopped – up and down High Street in a bunny suit handing out brightly-wrapped candy eggs. It wasn't a bad job. After all, kids love the Easter Bunny (except for that one little boy who always ran around behind me to pull my tail).

The Easter Bunny is appealing to kids. He isn't confrontational. He doesn't keep lists of who has been "naughty or nice," and he (or she!) is soft and huggable, and speechless (obviously this was hard for me). Children eagerly flock to the sides of mall Easter Bunnies while sitting on Santa's lap is often a terrifying experience for them. Hugging the Easter Bunny is a guaranteed "warm fuzzy."

All the strange and seemingly nonsensical (to adults) traditions that go along with the Easter Bunny are kept alive and reinvented each year by children. How many households without children color eggs and hide nests around their living rooms? How many households with children would color eggs and hide nests if children didn't insist on these messy and bothersome rituals?

The Easter Bunny's appeal is illogical, while Santa on the other hand, fits neatly into adult-centered systems of rewards and punishments:

be nice -- get presents; be naughty -- get nothing. And Santa Claus has a job -- he employs elves to work for him, crafting all those gifts we receive. Santa is a successful guy. Adults can relate to Santa.

How different is the Easter Bunny! He comes to children without a set policy for behavior. His egg tokens are left everywhere -- easily accessible to even the smallest child or the worst seeker. The mute Easter Bunny doesn't appear to espouse any particular system for punishments and rewards, and his symbols don't seem to make any sense. And, besides, rabbits don't lay eggs!

But perhaps we ought to take a cue from our kids. The empty tomb on Easter morning doesn't make sense either. It presents Christians with a vision that has much more in common with the illogical Easter Bunny than the easily comprehensible Santa Claus. The abandoned burial site is itself mute -- a visual testimony to the power of life over death. Like the Easter Bunny's ridiculous basket of eggs, the very place that surely seems to be a dead end -- Jesus' tomb -- suddenly becomes the symbol of birth and new life. The Christian life is, in a sense, one long Easter egg hunt!

Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Blessings and Happy Easter, Jane

"You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." (Mark 16:6)



ANNUAL MOTHER- DAUGHTER BANQUET

May 10, 2004

Our annual Mother-Daughter Banquet will be Monday, May 10, 2004 in the Fellowship Center. Cost is \$7.50 for adults and children over 10 and children under 10 will be \$3.50. There will be a babysitter for children up to four years of age. Please make your reservation as soon as possible and write checks payable to CWF – West Side and give to Ruby Fulcher no later than May 5.

We will start with all ladies meeting in the Gathering Area from 6:00-6:30 p.m. for light appetizers, punch, fellowship and snapshots. Upon request, a picture of your family, guest, etc., can be taken for \$1.00. At 6:30 p.m. we will process to the social hall for a wonderful dinner cooked by Chef Cornwell and to celebrate the theme “Mothers and Daughters—Hearts full of Love.” The men of the church will again be servers and waiters for you. After dinner we will adjourn to the sanctuary to enjoy a program with a variety of talents.

It will be a wonderful evening to share with mothers, daughters and special friends, and we encourage all women to attend. Invite someone who might not have a daughter or mother to attend with you. We look forward to sharing and celebrating at this mother-daughter yearly event.

Brenda Hayth



MARY’S WELLNESS CORNER

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:4 RSV

Arthritis is a painful inflammation of a joint and is well known to all of us. The three most common kinds of arthritis are osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and gout.

Osteoarthritis is the number one type that affects

the joint cartilage of both men and women between

the ages of 45 and 90. Rheumatoid arthritis affects the lining of the joint and is more common in women around age 30 to 40. Gout is more common in men over 40 and affects the joint fluid. All of these have three main symptoms: pain, swelling and stiffness.

Even though there may not be a way to prevent arthritis, there are things you can do to decrease the pain and limit the impact that pain may have on the quality of life:

- Morning stiffness may be relieved by a warm shower or bath.
- Regular low-impact exercise can relieve or prevent joint pain. Try swimming, water aerobics, biking, or walking. Regular exercise maintains strength and flexibility to muscles and joints.
- Take a few minutes each morning and each evening to gently stretch your muscles and joints to maintain pain free range of motion.
- Rest sore joints several times during the day.
- Moist heat may be applied several times a day to painful joints that are not swollen or inflamed.
- Apply cold packs to inflamed, swollen joints several times a day.

Contact your medical professional:

- If severe joint pain develops and you cannot use the joint.
- If there is sudden swelling, redness or pain in any joint.
- If numbness in the legs occurs.
- If your home treatment does not give you relief.

**NOURISH YOUR JOINTS AND THEY WILL
SUPPORT YOU FOR A LONG TIME!**

Mary W. Peris, Parish Nurse

**ARTICLES FOR JUNE
NEWSLETTER ARE DUE MAY 16.**

DISCIPLES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP (DMF)

Disciples Men's Fellowship will meet on Saturday, May 22, at 8:00 a.m. The guest speaker is Capt. Samuel Barboo, USN (Retired). Cap. Barboo has his Phd from UC, Berkely. Currently, he is President of the Tidewater Prostate Cancer Support Group.

CWF NEWS

The Rebekah Group had 8 present. Offering was \$92 (\$49 for regular offering and \$43 for Blessing Box.) They read 11 books 7 Daily Devotions, 3 Disciples, 7 Regional Papers, 2 teaching and 1 leading magazines. They made 14 calls. May meeting is with Frances Wells.

Lydia Group had 7 present. Offering was \$41.40 (regular offering was #31, "least coin" was \$6, and Blessing Box was \$5.40.) They read 3 books, 3 Daily Devotions, 4 Regional Papers, 3 Disciples, 1 leading and 3 cooking/craft magazines. They Made 31 calls/cards.

Sarah Circle met at scheduled.

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); Martha Gray, Maryview Care Center, (S); Sandy Cotton, Sentara Nursing Center, 4201 Greenwood Dr., (P); Sylvia Dickens, Autumn Care, 3610 Winchester Dr., (P); Oleta Cook, Parsons Assisted Living, 1005 Deep Creek Blvd., Chesapeake, 23323.

OTHERS ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Norman Dickens; Betty McCrickard; Sid Pride; Amy Rider (a friend of Kitty Baker's daughter); Melanie Grace Hatfield; Beverly Baker Jones; Evelyn Thomson, Pre-school teacher.

MAY

2 Danielle Greenwood
4 Virginia Wiseman
5 Rita Antonucci
6 Margaret Poole
7 Myrtle Henderson
14 Thomas Gray
16 Sandra Cotton
18 Kimberly Acors
19 Edith Ross, Cindy Wallace
20 Tiffany Jarvis, Brooks Jarvis
21 Debbit Tibbits
22 Amy Gray, Richie Oliver, Larry Hackler
26 Esther Daniel
28 Erica Zyliak
30 Dudley DeStefano
31 Donald Thomas



MAY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP Wednesday, May 19, 2004

The theme for this month's Fellowship Dinner will be "The Christian Family." Membership Committee will be asking a number of people in the church, including the youth, to write a brief meditation or reflection on this theme. These will be compiled into a booklet that will be shared with everyone at the dinner. If you are interested in submitting a meditation/reflection, please let Cheryl or Fran know as soon as possible.

The Fellowship Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. on May 19th. Come and bring two dishes to share and a friend or two to join in the table fellowship and the Praise Service to follow. We plan to continue the family theme in the Praise Service that evening. If you or your family are interested in participating in the service through scripture reading, prayer, or special music let a membership committee member know. It should be a wonderful time for praising our Lord and giving Him our thanks for the families at West Side.



To Our Church Family:

"Thank you for the love and support you gave to my sister, Irma Dean

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mowbray.” Irma Dean died on March 27.

Evelyn Brown

LECTIONERY TEXT

May 2: Acts 9:36-40; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 9: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 16: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5; John 14:23-29

May 23: Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

May 30: Acts 1:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17 (25-27)



ADDRESS CHANGES

**PFC Michael Hunt
HSB 2-320 Bldg. 6931
Fort Campbell, KY 42223**

**Mike & Stephanie McCrickard
8005 Rocks Landing Rd.
Smithfield, Va. 23430**

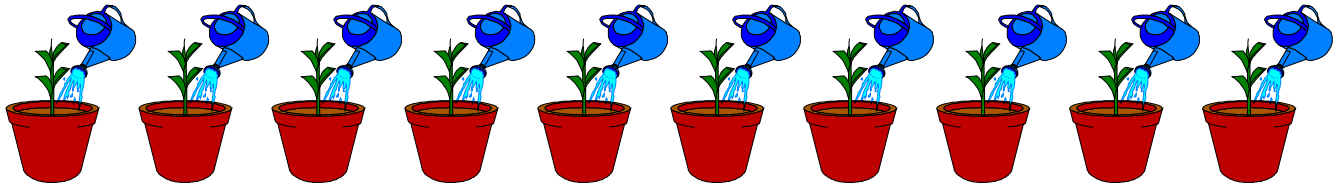
Many thanks to all who participated in the 24-Hour Chain of Prayer. Special thanks to the men who spent the night hours and to Jennifer and Tom Larson for the beautiful worship setting!

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET

May 10, 2004

6:00 p.m.

(details inside)



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 118
Portsmouth, Va.

**Address Service
Requested**



**Rev. Jane Cherry,
Interim Minister**

