

# "THE WEST SIDE STORY"

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
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VOLUME 35

FEBRUARY, 2004

NUMBER 2



*"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve*

*the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."* (Joshua 24:15)

Looking for a New Year's Resolution for 2004? You probably can't find a better one than the resolution Joshua made many years ago when he said, "... as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

It has been a wonderful holiday season, hasn't it? We have sung praises to God and adored his infant Son. We have been generous and kind to others in the true Christmas spirit but, let's face it, Christmas is over. Most of us have already begun our journey down from the mountaintop of "Joy to the World The Lord Has Come" into the valley of the shadow of life in the real world.

In a Charlie Brown Christmas cartoon several years ago Lucy approaches Charlie and yells "Merry Christmas!" Then in the spirit of the season she says, "I think we ought to bury past differences and try to be kind to one another." Charlie Brown philosophically asks, "Why does it only have to be this time of year? Why can't it be this way all year long?" Lucy disgustedly looks at

him and replies, "What are you, some kind of fanatic?"

Very soon a brand new year will be here, and with this new year come 365 fresh, new, completely pure days - days to be lived anyway we wish. While Christmas cannot last all year long, the Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace of Christmas can if we keep the Christ of Christmas in our hearts.

Joshua said, "... as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." How will you choose to live in 2004?

Happy New Year! May God bless you and yours in the coming year! Love, Jane

## NEW YEAR MEDITATION

*What may I ask of the glad new year,  
Whose golden dawning paints the eastern sky?  
What may I hope to accomplish here as the  
Days and seasons move so swiftly by:  
What shall I promise myself to do  
Before this priceless year is through?*

*Help me to live in a noble way  
And earn the comradeship of loyal friends.  
Let me know laughter and wholeness play . . .  
The joys on which all happiness depends.  
Give me the courage and faith to see  
That God will bless each day for me.*

*Strengthen my arms with a purpose true,  
Yet keep me humble, honest and sincere.  
Give me a strenuous task to do  
And urge me on with never-failing cheer;  
Then let me rest in the evening sun*

## MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER

Happy New Year! We are blessed that our Lord and Savior has been a part of our lives for 2004 years. I cannot imagine life without Him. Can you? Through Him God has provided us with an abundant life. Health stewardship is taking care of the whole life God has given us in mind, body and spirit. Here are some suggestions to help you improve and maintain health and wholeness in your life:

- Prevent sickness and accidents by receiving immunizations and using safety equipment.
- Ask questions about family history and age related illnesses.
- Be physically active by walking or doing some other exercise.
- Eat right and avoid drug and alcohol abuse.
- Learn to use relaxation techniques such as breathing exercises, music or meditation (healing intervals).
- Keep a journal.
- Laugh and play.
- PRAY AND LOVE!

We all need several "healing intervals" every day. Jesus was and is the greatest advocate for self-care. He experienced many "healing intervals" by going off alone to pray. Our God has every intention to restore wholeness to all people and to all creation. We are spiritual beings, made in the image of God (genesis 1:26-27).

**MAY YOU HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY  
NEW YEAR!**

Mary Peris, Parish Nurse

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**FOR 2004, THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH WILL BE "WELLNESS DAY."** There will be exercise, blood pressure and blood sugar screening, but there will NOT be a Wellness Program.

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## FROM YOUR BOARD CHAIRMAN

As your Board Chairman for 2004, I would like to share with you some of my personal thoughts as we begin this walk together. In Colossians 1:10 . . . "And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."

If our pastor commended our church the way Paul praised the Colossians (1:3-8), you would feel pretty proud of yourselves. But even while you were appreciating the encouragement on how faithful you'd remained you'd probably understand that it wasn't the end of your Christian walk. The apostle didn't stop there – and neither would our Pastor. Instead of assuming that the people of that church would never fail in their belief, Paul kept on praying that they would know God's will and understand it. Doing okay for the moment, as far as Paul was concerned, was not enough for Christians. He rejoiced in the church's growth, but he didn't encourage successful believers to rest on their laurels. In the spiritual life things always change; new challenges come up, and God ordains additional growth every day for his children. Just when any of us think we've got things under control, Satan launches another attack, or God ordains a challenging service. No one can stop doing God's will and remain a faithful Christian. So though Paul was thankful, he asked God to keep the Colossians spiritual lives moving forward.

When you've done well in your walk, be thankful that God's spirit kept you faithful. Appreciate anyone who has helped you along the way. But don't sit back and imagine that you are at the peak of Christian faithfulness.

For growing Christians there are new opportunities to know Jesus and bear fruit that pleases Him. Keep on growing in Him today. There is plenty for all of us to do, so join with me in this new year, that we might do and be the best we can for Jesus and West Side Christian Church.

**ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH 2004  
NEWSLETTER WILL BE DUE**

In Christ's service,  
Dave McCrickard  
CWF NEWS

**DIST. VIII CWF WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAK-FAST** to be hosted by West Side CC on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Check-in will begin at 9:00 a.m. Deadline for registration is Feb. 2. Cost is \$6.00. Dick Cornwell will be preparing our meal. Speakers are Kay Edwards a Disciples Minister and John Morri from Southeastern Food Bank. Contact Jennifer Larson for more info.

**GROUP REPORTS**

The Lydia Group had 6 present. Offering was \$31. They read 5 books, 4 Daily Devotions, 2 Disciples, 2 Regional papers, 2 leader and 16 cooking/craft magazines, and made 41 calls.

Rebekah Group had 7 present. Offering was \$74. They read 7 books, 7 Daily Devotions, 3 Disciples, 4 Regional papers, 2 teaching, 2 cooking/crafts, and 1 leading magazines. They made 19 calls. February meeting is with Edith Ross.

After many years, DMF at WSCC finally came together and will begin meeting on a regular schedule. The first meeting was held January 10, 2004, with a good breakfast prepared by Chef Bubba Jenson. Thirteen were present.

Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 13, at 8:00 a.m. Please plan to attend. We want to set some goals and objectives for DMF. More info will be in March newsletter. Please note that the name of this group is now Disciples Mens Fellowship (DMF).

**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, (S); Sandy Cotton, Sentara Nursing Center, 4201 Greenwood Dr., (P); Sylvia Dickens, Autumn Care, 3610 Winchester Dr., (P)

**OTHERS ON OUR PRAYER LIST:** Patsy Pearce; Norman Dickens; Oleta Cook; Betty McCrickard; Stephen Henderson; Melanie Grace Hatfield.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**FEBRUARY**

- 4 F. P. Phillips, Shari Johnson
- 5 Robert Brown
- 6 Michael Hunt
- 9 Shelly Davis
- 10 Matt Gray, John Milam
- 11 Mary Cornwell
- 12 Pam Gibbs, Freda Pyles
- 15 Mike McCrickard, Helen Frink
- 18 Shelia Davidson
- 19 David Davidson
- 20 Betty McCrickard, Alexa Stidham
- 23 Frances Wells
- 27 Janice Deweese
- 28 Jimmy Milam, Carrie Kelly

**LECTIONERY TEXT**

Feb. 1: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Feb. 8: Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 15: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; I Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

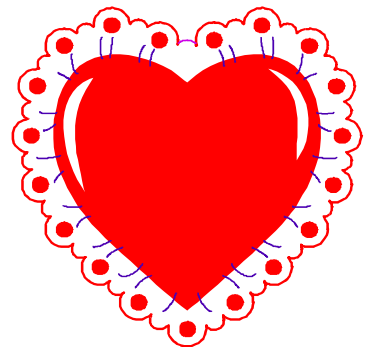
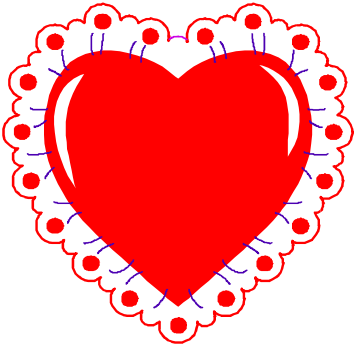
Feb. 22: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; II Corinthians 3:12—4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)

Feb. 29: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;

**A VALENTINE'S  
MYSTERY DINNER THEATER**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2004**

**DETAILS INSIDE**







**WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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**Rev. Jane Cherry,**  
**Interim Minister**

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