

"THE WEST SIDE STORY"

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Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” (Psalm 100, NIV)

As we enter the month of November our thoughts naturally turn to Thanksgiving and we are reminded of our many blessings -- large and small, significant and not -- and we are reminded to be grateful to the One who is the source of every good and perfect gift.

A recent Barna poll revealed that despite international tensions and domestic problems, nine out of ten Americans report that they are basically happy with their lives. That's an impressive statistic! But why are we surprised? After all, Americans are a very blessed people. It should be easy for us to give thanks to God this Thanksgiving and every day. But what if we didn't have it so good?

In 2001 Gregory Knox Jones wrote a book entitled *Play the Ball Where the Monkey Drops It*. In it he tells a story about how British golfers in India were constantly bedeviled on a golf course they built in Calcutta in the 1920s. After inventing a half dozen

ways to combat the monkeys who kept picking up the golf balls -- sometimes helping the golfer, sometimes

hurting the golfer -- an ingenious new golf rule emerged: Play the ball where the monkey drops it. Sometimes the monkey helps you, and sometimes the monkey hurts you. Sometimes you hit a perfect shot, and the monkey carries it into the rough. Sometimes you hit into the rough, and monkey carries it and places it next to the hole. Either way, you never know how the monkey will affect your shot or your game. Life is like this! But even in the darkest of human circumstances, the prophet Habakkuk reminds us of a very important affirmation of faith: God remains in the fabric of our lives and that is something for which to be thankful.

Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will exult in the God of my salvation.

(Habakkuk 3:17-18)

Now go back and read Psalm 100 again. It doesn't say give thanks to God only in the good times, only in the times of plenty, does it? It says, *give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.* That is what true thanksgiving is all about.

On his way to church, the elder was surprised to see a man in tattered clothes and barefoot. As a good Christian, he greeted the poor man: "May God

give you a good morning!” The poor man replied cheerfully, “I have never yet had a bad morning.” “Then may God give you good luck!” “I have never yet had bad luck.” “Well, may God give you happiness!” “I have never yet been unhappy.” The elder then asked the man, “Could you please explain yourself to me? I do not understand.” And the poor man replied, “With pleasure! You wish me a good morning, yet I have never had a bad morning. For when I am hungry, I praise God; when I feel cold, or when it is raining or snowing, I praise God; and that is why I have never had a bad morning. “You wish that God may give me luck. However, I have never had bad luck. This is because I live with God and always feel what he does for me is the best. Whatever God sends me, be it pleasant or unpleasant, I accept with a grateful heart. That is why I have never had bad luck. “Finally, you wish that God should make me happy. But I have never been unhappy. For all I desire is to follow God’s will; I have surrendered my will so totally to God’s will that, whatever God wants, that is what I also want. That is why I have never been unhappy.”

God is faithful. He has given us salvation through Jesus Christ. What more could we possibly desire? Give thanks to God today and every day. Happy Thanksgiving!

Jane

MARY’S WELLNESS CORNER



FLU SEASON IS HERE!

Recently, I received an email from one of our church members, with this request.

"I need to be made aware of the many ways of not getting the flu." With the limited supply of the Flu Vaccine this year, I think all of us are asking this very same question. What can I do to prevent the flu?

The influenza virus is primarily transmitted by airborne droplets. The secondary route of transmission is direct contact with an infected person. It is a proven fact, that frequent, effective hand washing, is the single most important thing you can do, to prevent the spread of influenza. You also want to avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

The second most important thing you can do is avoid close contact with infected persons. Give your body's immune system a boost, by exercising, eating right and getting plenty of sleep.

Early detection of the Flu Virus is an essential element, to decrease the spread of the illness. Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms: fever greater than 100, sore throat, headaches, muscle aches and pains, chills, cough, and fatigue.

If you are sick, keep your distance from others so you won't spread the virus.

Stay home when you are sick. Save those errands and public activities for when you are well. When coughing or sneezing cover your mouth and nose with a tissue.

Finally, if you do become ill, take care of yourself. Help your body heal. Get plenty of rest, increase your fluid intake, and relieve aches and pains and fever, with non-asprin products. Don't rush back to your normal routine too soon. That may lead to further complications and increase your recovery time. If your symptoms do not improve or they get worse, call your doctor. Ask questions and follow his or her instructions.

Follow the instructions of the Great Physician.

“Love one another.” (John 15:17). If your neighbor is sick pray for his healing. If you are sick ask your neighbor to pray for your healing.

“. . . and the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up . . .”

James 5:15.

Mary Peris, Parish Nurse

ARTICLES FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ARE DUE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 14. (Due to the holidays, articles and calendar events must be in by the above date). Thanks!

CWF NEWS

Lydia Group had 12 members and 3 guests present. Offering was \$65.00. They read 3 books, 4 Daily Devotions, 1 Disciple, 2 Regional Papers, 1 leader and 1

teaching magazine. They spent 2 hours making crafts and made 39 calls and cards.

Rebekah Group had 8 present. Offering was \$51.00. They read 28 books, 6 Daily Devotions, 3 Disciples, 5 Regional Papers, 2 teaching, 1 leading, and 2 cooking/craft magazines. They made 39 calls. Mary Wyatt will host the Nov. meeting at church.

OUR SHUT-INS: Hazel Jarvis and Sandy Cotton, Sentara Nursing Center, 4201 Greenwood Dr., (P); 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); Sylvia Dickens, Autumn Care, 3610 Winchester Dr., (P).

OTHERS ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Betty McCrickard; Sid Price; Beverly Baker Jones; Evelyn Thomson; Linda Britt (daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Mullins); Adean Wyatt (sister-in-law of Mary Wyatt.); Sarah Crawford; Tracy Lenderson (Pre-school parent); Hilda and Glen Weaver (former minister); B.L. Hardison, III (Janey Culpepper's brother); Pete Darden (Maud Hemby's brother).

Christopher Adam Blazek who were married in Carova, NC on October 16. A wedding reception will be held in their honor on November 6 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Center.

WELCOME new members, Ernestine Atzert who joined WSCC on Sept. 12 and Patrick Knill who joined on Sept. 26.

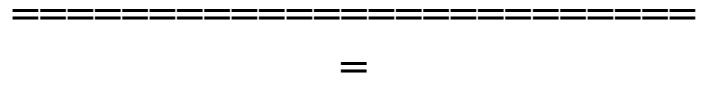
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 14, 2004

Following Worship

The purpose of this meeting is to consider and approve the budget for 2005, as well as the new officers to lead our church. I ask that each of you would make a special effort to attend and exercise your voting rights as a member of West Side Christian Church. See you there!

Your Board Chairman



WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to Debbie Trevino and Lois Pyles and their families upon the death of father and step-father, Harold Brooks, Sr., who died Oct. 1. **AND** to Jim White, whose sister, Mildred Hill died in Sept.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER

- 1 Marla Terry, Al Hemby
- 2 Dave Tugwell, Greg Deweese
- 3 Theresa Honeycutt
- 6 Mary Wyatt
- 8 Steven Henderson, Heather Dougherty
- 14 Rebecca Passariello
- 15 Jane Cherry
- 16 William Brown, Sr.
- 19 Michael Redmon
- 22 Thomas Thornton, Sr.
- 25 Pat Price, David Lowman
- 26 Darryl Phelps
- 28 Roland Thornton
- 29 Mary Lou Williams
- 30 Erin Ehlers

LECTIONERY TEXT

Nov. 7: Haggai 1:15b—2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; II Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

Nov. 14: Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 98; II Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

Nov. 21: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

Nov. 28: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44



CONGRATULATIONS

To Amy Elizabeth Gray and



“I want to thank the congregation for the kind expressions of condolence on

the death of my sister, Margaret Hill.”

Jim White

My Dear Church Family:

“Chemo therapy has taken a toll on me. With both my white and red blood counts severly low – I was advised no visitors and to stay at home. So I appreciated the cards and calls. The pneumonia made me sleep a lot and I’m sorry if I missed a call.

I go to the surgeon on the 28th re the surgery. I will keep you in the know about that outcome. I have missed church!” Sarah Davis-Crawford.

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THANKSGIVING OFFERING

GOAL: \$2,000

November 14 and 21

Leadership is vital to a strong future. Give generously, and support Disciples leadership development through our colleges, universities and theological institutions.

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FYI: Hervy and Charlene have transferred their membership to Zion United Methodist Church in South Hill, Va. They have a new email address: bluebirdhill@buggs.net.

FAMILY NIGHT THANKSGIVING DINNER

November 17, 6:30 P.M.

Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Wednesday, November 17.

Our Pre-School children will be bringing us a delightful program: music and poems. Come

celebrate with the church as we gather and give thanks for our many blessings. Please bring two of your favorite dishes. If you are planning to attend, there will be a sign-up sheet next to the office. We want to make sure we have plenty of delicious turkey, dressing and gravy and that the tables are set for you and our guests!!!



PRE-SCHOOL has Chapel the first and third Wednesday each month. We need volunteers who would like to read a story or speak briefly to the children. See Jennifer Larson.



A COPY OF THE 2005 BUDGET HAS BEEN INCLUDED. Please review and bring to Congregational Meeting on November 14. If you have any questions or concerns, please call

Sharon Jenson, Chairman, or any member of the Stewardship Committee.

OBCCM THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Olive Branch Churches will be held at Collinswood Baptist Church this year. The date is November 24 at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 1030 City Park Ave. around the corner from West Side.

A food offering will be taken during the service. Our own Jane Cherry will be the speaker.

Let’s attend to support Jane, the Olive Branch Churches, and the food offering.

DISTRICT VIII ASSEMBLY

Sunday, November 7 at 2:30 p.m.

Hosted By

Hilton Christian Church

And

Korean Christian Church

100 James River Drive

Newport News, Va.

PRESENTS

“A SALUTE TO LYNCHBURG COLLEGE”



Highlights include: The Unity Chorale directed by Dr. Eugene Song, Participation by College

Students, and Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Garren will be present.

Programs have been planned for children 6 to 10 years old, 11 to 14, and 15 and up.

AND, THERE WILL BE

A DISTRICT VIII YOUTH GATHERING

Hosted by First Christian, Hampton

Saturday, November 6, at 6:30 p.m.

There will be a pizza party with Lynchburg College students, icebreakers, games, college talk and devotions. It will end at 10:00 p.m. Middle School and High School students are invited to attend.



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