

"THE WEST SIDE STORY"

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Prayer Power: Are You Using It?

“The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.
(Psalm 145:18)

From the soft voice of a child’s first prayer to the whispered prayer of an aged Christian’s last breath, prayer is the greatest privilege of life and is the greatest source of power on earth. Are you using the power?

Prayer is many things: Talking with God; Listening to God; Communicating; Asking and receiving. Above all, prayer is a relationship. It is not one-sided communication with a distant God. Prayer is a conversation between us and God. Are you using the power?

Prayer is the cry of the human heart to the great God of the universe. Prayer is the voice of a child to the loving Heavenly Father. Prayer is the expression of our need to the loving Father, who is ready to help. Prayer is inviting God, who always has time, into the midst of our busy lives. Prayer is a precious gift from God that gives us the right and privilege of talking with him anytime, anywhere. The door is always open. God will always listen. God will always answer. Are you using the power?

Has someone asked you to pray for them? No greater compliment—or responsibility—could be bestowed upon you. You should be honored to

lift that person’s name and need before the LORD. Or perhaps you are praying with someone?

Nothing binds us closer together than praying together. Get a prayer partner! Are you using the power?

Coming soon, I will be preaching a series of sermons on this greatest of all power sources available to us. Are you using the power? Come to worship and hear what God’s Word has to say about prayer.

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1st Thessalonians 5:17)

Always praying for you,
Jane

* * * * *

“Destinations” Sunday School class begins at 9:45 am on October 10th in the room next to the minister’s study. This class is primarily for young (post high school/college/working) singles. If you fall into this category, or if you have a friend or know someone who does, please invite them to join us as we try to find God’s perfect destination for our lives.

CWF WOMEN’S RETREAT OCTOBER 15-17

The Annual Women’s Retreat will be held in Blackstone. The speaker, Adonna Bowman, is the

new director for Disciple Women. Cost is \$130.00. See Jennifer Larson if you would like to attend.

For your good health!
Mary Peris, Parish Nurse

**ARTICLES FOR THE NOVEMBER
NEWLETTER ARE DUE
OCTOBER 17.**

MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER



October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Although the majority of Breast Cancers are diagnosed in women, there are a small percentage of men diagnosed with the disease every year. Male breast cancer is usually diagnosed in an advanced stage. This is because detection is more difficult and men tend to ignore the symptoms and go to the doctor too late.

Early detection of breast cancer is the number one way to prevent the progression of the disease. Women have been aware of this fact for years. It is time that men expand their own awareness, and take similar action to detect breast cancer early.

**Ring Out Breast Cancer
Sunday, October 3rd**

To recognize October as National Breast Cancer Awareness month, Sentara Cancer Services and LEE'S FRIENDS would like to partner with you as we focus our collective attention on the journey of those fighting breast cancer each day.

- *Did you know that . . . being a woman is the greatest risk factor for breast cancer:*
- *Did you know that . . . having a first—degree relative a mother, sister or daughter diagnosed with breast cancer approximately doubles a woman's risk for breast cancer?*
- *Did you know that . . . the American Cancer Society estimates in 2004, 215,990 women and 1,450 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 40,110 women and 470 men will die of the disease across the country?*
- *Did you know that . . . in Hampton Roads 662 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 165 women will die from breast cancer this year? (Received permission to print the above statistics from Carol W. Olsen, Exec. Director of Lee's Friends.)*

MEMBERSHIP

A big "THANK YOU" to all who worked faithfully and long hours to make our Community Day a success! Wasn't it fun!!! Our potluck BBQ dinner was well attended and everyone enjoyed the music program. It was wonderful seeing Rev. Ken and Judy Bryant, Dick and Jo Laslo and Rev. Diann and her husband, Jeremy. Remember, "the more we get together the happier we'll be!"

CWF NEWS



SOUP AND SALAD LUNCH

Our CWF Soup and Salad luncheon is Sunday, October 24. The luncheon will be \$5.00 for those 12 and over, \$3.00 for those 6 to 12, and children under 6 will be free. Don't forget to check out our "Talents for Missions" table. We are sure you will find some wonderful items.

NEW KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

The CWF has purchased a stainless steel table, extra racks for the refrigerator, a bun rack, and tray/pans for the kitchen. This should make cooking and serving a lot easier. We hope the new equipment will bless the cooks, servers, and those who work in the kitchen. Many thanks to the ladies of the CWF for donating the equipment and to those who helped with time, knowledge, and study of purchasing the new items.

Lydia Group had 8 present. Offering was \$61.00. They read 5 books, 2 Daily Devotions, 1 Regional paper, and 1 leader magazine. Calls, visits and cards totaled 46.

Rebekah Group had 6 present. Offering was \$38.00. They read 18 books, 5 Daily Devotions, 3 Disciples, 5 Regional papers, 1 teaching, 1 crafts/cooking, and 1 leading magazines. They made 34 calls. October

meeting is with Mary Cornwell.



STORK REPORT

David and Brooke Kays are expecting a baby girl in early November.

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.); Rudd L. Jenson (Bubba's brother); Tracy Lenardson (Pre-school parent); Hilda and Glen Weaver (former minister); B.L. Hardison, III (Janey Culpepper's brother); Pete Darden (Maud Hemby's brother).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER

- 2 Dave McCrickard
- 7 Bob Nutting
- 8 Kevin Wyatt, Garland Cook
- 12 Mary Peris
- 14 Emily Nutting
- 15 Kristen Brown, Courtney Brown
- 16 Mary Bond
- 19 Joe Antonucci
- 23 David Kays
- 24 Ruth Blackman
- 26 Masil Jones
- 27 Tom Larson
- 28 Dee Ann Acors
- 31 Ben Jarvis

PRE-SCHOOL THANKS: to John Hayth for putting new tops on our tables. To Jim White and Berry Brown for fixing the lights (allowing us to receive our annual renewal from the Dept. of Social Services by passing the required fire and health inspections). To Zach Lowman for

Amy Elizabeth Gray
To
Christopher Adam Blazek
On
October 16, 2004
In Carova, North Carolina

RECONCILIATION OFFERING

Will conclude October 3.

**OUR GOAL: \$900
HEIFER PROJECT**

We received a nice thank you note from Heifer Project International for the \$432.05 that was donated during our Vacation Bible School. The letter is posted on the bulletin board outside the office. Your generosity and concern for others is greatly appreciated. The chart for Heifer designed by Andrew Cherry certainly helped us to visualize what our donations could do. Thank you Andrew!

LECTIONERY TEXT

Oct. 3: Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137; II Timothy 1:1-4; Luke 17:5-10

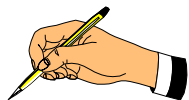
Oct. 10: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; II Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

Oct. 17: Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; II Timothy 3:14—4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Oct. 24: Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

Oct. 31: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; II Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

A NOTE OF THANKS



"Thanks for being so thoughtful. Your kindness is appreciated. Thanks for the beautiful cards and all your prayers."

Otis Ray and Ellean Mullins

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Gray announce the marriage of their daughter,

West Side members are invited to a reception in their honor to be held in the Fellowship Center at WSCC on November 6, 2004 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Please RSVP no later than October 16.

THE VALUE OF TRADITION

I don't often comment publicly in the church newsletter, but recently I came across a thought-provoking article that I'd like to share with you. Written by the Rev. Dr. John MacArthur, the article appeared in an Internet-based listserv devoted to Christian humor and modern-day parables. The ideas and sentiments that follow closely parallel my own thoughts and provide a rationale for the traditional music program that I direct here at West Side. It is reprinted in its entirety, and my own comments about our music program follow.

"Showtime Religion"

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Can the church fight apathy and materialism by feeding people's appetite for entertainment? Evidently many in the church believe the answer is yes, as church after church jumps on the show-business bandwagon. It is a troubling trend that is luring many otherwise orthodox churches away from biblical priorities.

Church buildings are being constructed like theatres. Instead of a pulpit, the focus is a stage. Some feature massive platforms that revolve or raise and lower, with colored lights and huge sound boards. Shepherds are giving way to media specialists, programming consultants, stage directors, special effects experts, and choreographers.

The idea is to give the audience what they want. Tailor the church service to whatever will draw a crowd. As a result, pastors are more like politicians

than shepherds, looking to appeal to the public rather than leading and building the flock God gave them. The congregation is served a slick, professional show, where drama, pop music, and maybe a soft-sell sermon constitute the worship service. But the emphasis isn't on worship; it's on entertainment.

Underlying this trend is the notion that the church must sell the gospel to unbelievers. Churches thus compete for the consumer on the same level as the latest TV reality show or a major motion picture. More and more churches are relying on marketing strategy to sell the church.

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