

"THE WEST SIDE STORY"

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
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(Disciples of Christ)
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FROM THE PASTOR

Once again, we find ourselves swept back into the holiday season. Year after year, it seems that December creeps up on us and shows it's wonderful, but overwhelming head at about the time we need a sense of peace. December does, after all, come at the end of our calendar year—so many loose ends to tie up, so many final preparations to make, and so many things that need to come to a close.

However, for Christians, the month of December is about making preparations for *new* beginnings. It is about making way for order to emerge out of chaos. It is about laying the foundation for presence to manifest out of absence. It is about preparing for the Christ child to come into the world.

The word Advent, literally defined, means a "presence or coming." So it is during the season of Advent in which we anticipate this gift of our Savior being born into our lives. Our world is chaotic. Our time is demanded in so many ways. Our lives can feel like they are spinning out of control, particularly during the holiday season.

Nevertheless, if in the midst of the chaos we can fill ourselves with prayer, worship, and time with family and friends, then perhaps the Advent season will not be a time that drains our energies. Instead, this season can become a time for replenishing our spirits with the joy and celebration of new life which makes Christmas day such an important holiday for all of us.

During the Advent season, come be rejuvenated by the many opportunities for worship and fellowship here at West Side Christian Church. On December 11th, our children will be putting on their annual Christmas play at 5:00 PM. On December 18th, the choir will be providing our worship during the 11:00 AM service with special music. On December 24th, our Christmas Eve candlelight service will begin at 8:00 PM. And, of course, on Christmas day we will have a casual service filled with favorite Christmas carols and hymns.

May this Advent season be used in a way that would build up the members of the body of Christ so that in the coming year, we might collectively have the strength and wisdom to continue meeting the challenges of doing God's ministry on earth. O come Emmanuel, O come Prince of Peace, O come Light of Hope, O come Savior of the World!

Peace, Nathan

THE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL DAY OFFERING supports the ministries of our region. Each Region of the Christian Church (DOC) is part of the vital work of Christ in our world today. Our GOAL IS \$3,000 and will be received on December 18 and 25.

"Go tell it on the mountain . . . that Jesus Christ has come!"

MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER



What do you know about the new Medicare Drug Benefit that begins in January 2006? This is the topic of our Wellness Day on December 10. Laurie White, a Consultant Pharmacist and

the granddaughter of Margaret Poole, will present an informative program on this new benefit at 11:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Mary Perris by December 8.

COME WITH ALL YOUR QUESTIONS!

Medication Tips

All medications, prescriptions or over-the-counter, can be very helpful when used properly, but can create serious problems if used incorrectly.

--Become informed about the benefits and side effects of any medication before taking it.

--Know why you are taking the medicine, and what the minimum effective dose is.

--Prescriptions are written for a specific purpose, and a specific person.

DO NOT TAKE ANOTHER PERSON'S MEDICATION

--Know specific precautions before taking certain medicines.

--Medications should be stored in the original bottle and out of the reach of children.

-- Before taking a new medication, talk with your doctor or pharmacist. They can give you important information about the medicine. Your doctor also knows your history.

--Remember the 5 rights of taking medication: Right drug, Right dose, Right person, Right time and Right route.

"The Lord Created Medicines from the Earth."

Ecclesiastes

Mary Peris, Parish Nurse

Parish Nurse Note:

I would like to start building a library of Christian Novels or Inspirational Books on tape. If you have finished listening to some of these "Books on Tape," and wish to contribute to this type of Library, let me know. I already have 6-7 books and additional ones will be gratefully accepted. We have a library of Video Tapes which is made up of Wellness tapes and Bible Tapes. This is located in the Parish Nurse Office. You are welcome to sign these out and sign them back in when you are finished with them.



"I WILL BE WELL"

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

On Saturday, January 21, 2005, The DMF is inviting men and women to join them for breakfast. Dana Crosby RN,

BSN and Health Service Coordinator for Life Line Screening, will be presenting an educational program on your options for prevention, early detection, and lifestyle management. Life Line Screening is the nation's leading provider of mobile health screenings and they help educate people about the prevention of strokes, abdominal aortic aneurysms, peripheral arterial disease, and osteoporosis. Come join us for an informative session and possibly help save a life! This will also be an opportunity for you to ask questions about the health screening event that will take place at West Side Christian Church on Friday, Feb. 3, 2006.

Nursery Attendant needed during the worship hour. If you are interested in this paid position, please contact Dee Ann Phelps, 686-1955

CWF NEWS

Rebekah Group had 9 members and 1 guest present. Offering was \$68 and blanket money was \$57. They read 7 books, 5 Daily Devotions, 1 Disciples, 3 Regional papers, 1 teaching and 2 leading magazines. They made 12 calls and had 9 hours cooking/crafts. For December they will have dinner out and attend a concert.

Lydia Group had 10 present. Offering was \$49. They read 3 books, 6 regional papers, 2 teaching and 2 leading magazines. They also had 46 calls/cards, 7 hours making crafts and provided food for a funeral.

Sarah Group met with Debbie Tibbits on November 3. There were 4 present and the offering was \$45. Our group contributed \$24 for the Blanket Service Project. Jennifer Larson shared with the group, her experience at the Blackstone Women's Retreat.



The Bethlehem Walk is planned for Saturday, December 3. If you are unable to walk there will be chariots (golf carts)

available. The event is free. We will leave the church at 1:00 p.m. The walk begins at 4:00 and then we will eat at a local restaurant. Please sign up early so we can give Salem Baptist Church a count of how many are coming.

“FEEDING/SHELTERING THE HOMELESS,” 2006

WSCC is once again feeding/sheltering the homeless from February 5-11, 2006 (Sunday thru Saturday).

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! On

Sunday, January 1, 2006, Volunteer Sign-up Sheets will be placed in the hall leading to the Fellowship Center. Please plan to give some time for this special service.



OUR SHUT-INS: Sandy Cotton, Sentara Nursing Center, 4201 Greenwood Dr., (P); Mary Mingis, 4107 Heritage Rd., Richmond, 23227; Ruth Blackman, 1 Bon Secours Way, Cedar Pt. #241, (P); Sylvia Dickens, Autumn Care, 3610 Winchester Dr., (P); Helen McQuade, Maryview Care Center, 4775 Bridge Rd., (S).

OTHERS ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Sarah Crawford; Sid Price; Betty Lou Fox; Ellen Nelson; Hilda and Glen Weaver; Connie Hutto (cousin of Brenda Hayth); Pete Darden; Sam Waugh (brother-in-law of the Nutting's neighbor); Betty Bryan; Betty Lou Fox; Margie Robinson; Barbara Kauffman (pre-school grand-parent).



ATTENTION ALL HOOPSTERS

The Church League Basketball Team is back and is calling all of you ballers out there to pull those Nikes out of the closet, dust those gym shorts off, and support your church by playing on our basketball team. Of course, if you cannot play, we would love for you to come out and support us. The league begins play on December 3, 2005. Watch the information board outside the sanctuary for more information and a schedule of games.

“OPERATION SANTA CLAUS”

Ingathering of gifts for Portsmouth's Foster Children is Friday, December 2, at 11:00 a.m. It will be held at West End United Methodist Church, 1800 Rodman Ave.



SPECIAL TAX BONUS INFORMATION

On September 23, of this year, the President signed into law the Katrina Emergency Relief Act of 2005 (KERA). The act, designed to give relief to those persons directly impacted by the hurricanes, does contain several provisions regarding the deductibility of charitable contributions that apply to all taxpayers.

The act states that charitable *cash* gifts made by individuals to eligible public charity for any charitable purpose between August 28 and December 31, 2005 will not be subject to the 50% annual charitable deduction limitation.

The only limitation placed on qualified contributions is that the total deduction for charitable contributions, both qualified and those deducted under the existing rules, may not exceed 100% of an individual's adjusted gross income (AGI).

These new rules regarding qualified contributions are NOT limited to gifts to organizations or uses associated with Hurricane Katrina relief. All gifts to West Side, whether for operating budget, building fund, or roof fund would fall under KERA.

This presents an excellent opportunity for you to prepay pledges or to make special donations and get full benefit on your 2005 taxes. Donors are advised to contact their tax advisors in order to insure compliance.



Dear West Side,
I truly appreciate the lovely flowers, cards, prayers and the hard work of all the ladies of the church who prepared the luncheon which followed mother's memorial. Some of my fondest memories are of growing up in the West Side family.

Love, Donna

(Donna's mother, Leona Brodie passed away on October 20, 2005. Leona was a charter member of West Side and for the past few years had resided in South Carolina near her daughter.)

SECRETARY TO RETIRE

Barbara Brown, our secretary for the past 31 ½ years will be retiring December 23. A reception will be held for her on Saturday, January 7, 2006 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Center.



ARTICLES FOR JANUARY, 2006 NEWS-LETTER DUE DECEMBER 13!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER

- 1 Kathy Saunders
- 3 Brian McCrickard
- 5 Kathryn Bean
- 6 David Bond
- 8 Michael McCrickard, Jr.
- 10 Karen Brown, Nora Davenport
- 15 Ken Bryant, Gladys Smith, Marleen Whitehurst
- 17 Leo Gibbs
- 21 Shannon Wilson, Jennifer Larson
- 24 Rick Oliver, Cassie Honeycutt
- 25 Ethelyn Huddle
- 28 Emily Gray Metz, Wendy McNelis
- 29 Alison Ehlers, Cecil Dillon

“POP A CAN TO LEND A HAND”

The Richmond, Virginia Ronald McDonald House now participates in the “Pop-Top” Program. It’s easy to help and costs you nothing. Simply save your clean, dry pop-top tabs from canned beverages and bring them to the House in wide-mouthed containers (bags, pretzel jugs, coffee cans).

This is a perfect way for your club, office or classroom to get involved in helping the House That Love Built.

Pop-top donations are accepted at the House between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., seven days a week. Bring the whole gang for a tour! All money raised from recycling of these pop-tops will go directly to House operations.

2330 Monument Ave.
Richmond, Va. 23220
(804) 355-6517

Advent Giving

For each Sunday in Advent, we will be collecting different items for our Food ministry to be given to those who are in need. Our children will bring forward a different item each week for the children’s message as a way for us to give to others this holiday season. They will place these items in boxes under the Christmas tree. A schedule of

what to bring each Sunday is listed below. Thank you for your contribution to this important

ministry of the church.

December 4, 2005 – Any boxed meal

December 11, 2005 – Disposable Diapers

December 18, 2005 – Any kind of hygiene product (soap, shampoo, tooth brush, tooth paste, etc)

December 25, 2005 – Baby Food

SPECIAL DECEMBER EVENTS

December 2: “Operation Santa Claus”
West End UMC, 11:00 a.m.



December 11: Christmas Pageant, 5:00 p.m.
Reception to follow pageant

December 18: “The Living Creche,” 11:00 a.m.
Presented by our Choir

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight/
Communion, 8:00 p.m.



December 25: Merry Christmas!
Worship at 11:00 a.m.

ROOF UPDATE

In order to insure transparency in the process, the Property Committee would like to update our church family on the progress being made on the roof repair. The contract for the repair has been awarded to Tidewater Roofing and work will begin around December 5, 2005. Tidewater Roofing estimates that the work will take approximately a week to complete. The repair will include the roof area over the wing of the church where the Sunday School rooms, church office, and pastor’s study are located.

The total cost for this project is an estimated \$18,000. To date, approximately \$4,300 has been received to be allocated to the roof repair. For those who have contributed to this cause, we would like to extend our thanks. For those who have not had the opportunity to contribute to this much needed repair, we hope that you will prayerfully consider giving. Please designate your gifts to West Side Christian Church and mark your checks “roof repair.” We greatly appreciate all of your

support.

-Property Committee

WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

535 Cherokee Road

P. O. Box 3345

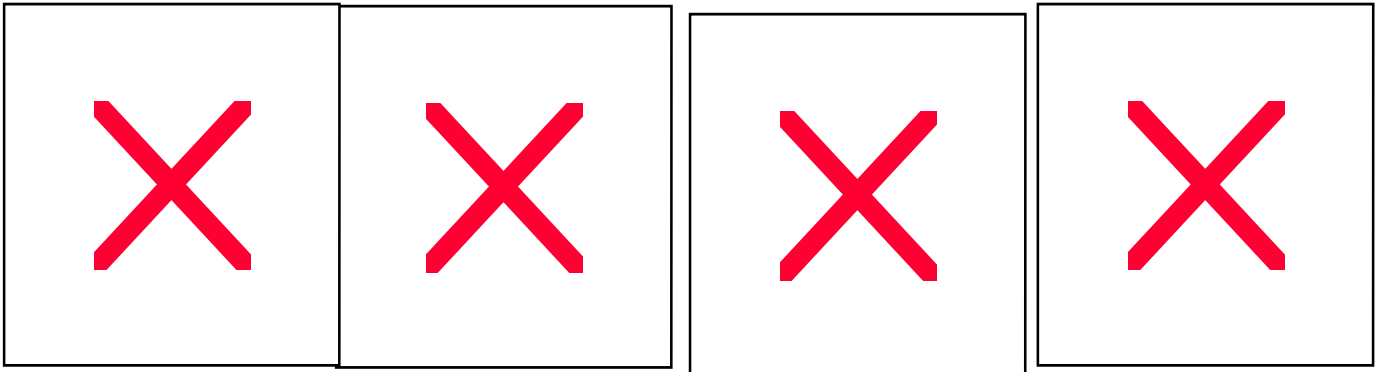
Portsmouth, Virginia 23701



**Rev. Nathan Brown,
Minister**

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

**Address Service
Requested**



Wishing each of you the joy and peace that Christmas brings!

The church staff: *Nathan, Barbara, Joe, Becky, Mary*

**The Pre-school staff: *Jennifer, Cheryl, Carrie, Donna, Cathy,
Lisa and Michelle***

