

"THE WEST SIDE STORY"

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“When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?”

When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”

(Matthew 25:38)

Strangers! Our world is full of them and the world of technology is creating more of them every day. We buy gasoline or make an ATM withdrawal from our bank and never learn the name of the cashier behind the counter. We browse “reality TV,” where intimate details of the real lives of our fellow citizens become entertainment before our voyeuristic gaze — and we become strangers ourselves, the anonymous audience.

We live in a world full of strangers who have needs and loves and desires. We see them every day — and yet technology makes it easy to escape the inconvenience of their humanity. Jesus had plenty to say about strangers and our responsibility to “welcome” them; to show them hospitality, care, concern, assistance; and to greet them as if they were as beloved to us as our Redeemer!

Gifts to *Week of Compassion* provide a way to respond to the needs of strangers. Through your gifts to *Week of Compassion* you have helped provide emergency shelter, food and

medicine for refugees fleeing violence in Darfur, Sudan — and have provided immediate temporary shelter and food for the survivors of hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, Jeanne and others — as well as survivors of innumerable natural disasters both here and abroad, most recently for the victims of the devastating tsunami in southern Asia.

Our world is full of strangers who need our love and assistance — strangers who Jesus calls on us to welcome. The suffering seems so great, but God’s everlasting love, abounding grace, and healing power is even greater! May this inspire us as we respond to our sisters and brothers in southern Asia and around the world, and may Christ’s healing balm soothe the souls and bodies of people everywhere through the gifts we give.

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

(Matthew 25:40)

Please give generously toward our congregation’s WOC goal of \$1,900.00.

In Christian love and service,
Jane

MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER



Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (I Peter 4:10 NIV)

During WSCC Homecoming Dinner last fall, Jo Laslo, my friend and colleague, shared her story with me about her disease, Celiac Sprue. I was not familiar with this disease, so I asked her if she would share her story with our congregation. Jo graciously agreed and now shares her gift of knowledge with all of us.

"I am a Celiac! Celiac Sprue is a disease of the lining of the small intestine. This part of the bowell lies between the stomach and colon or large bowel. It is about 20 feet long and is where nutrients, calories, vitamins and minerals are absorbed into the blood. The inside lining of the small bowel has tiny microscopic finger-like projections called villi. It is through these villi that nutrients are absorbed. Eating wheat, rye, oats and barley flatten them.

Celiac Sprue is commonly called Celiac disease or is known as gluten enteropathy or intolerance. The disease is a genetic disorder meaning that it can be passed through genes from parent to child. It can be found in all ages from infancy to adulthood.

The physician may suspect the disease by medical history and abnormal blood tests, such as a low red blood cell count. Then more specific blood work is done and an endoscopy exam is done to look at that area of the small bowell. Many people in the US suffer from this disease. We are not considered rare, even if you have not heard about it.

In children, the symptoms may include irritability, diarrhea or constipation, nausea, vomiting and failure to thrive or grow. The same symptoms may occur in adults along with abdominal pain, weight loss and anemia, joint and muscle pain, fatigue and skin rashes. It is also possible to have no symptoms at all and still have the disease. Therefore, family members of a celiac need to be tested.

The treatment of Celiac disease is simple but yet difficult. A STRICT gluten free diet or the avoidance

of wheat, rye, barley and oats. These grains,

especially wheat, are part of almost every meal. Most patients have good response to the elimination of gluten in the diet. I am one of those patients.

We have a local support group that meets at Norfolk General Hospital monthly. We are part of the national group, Celiad Sprue Association/USA, based in Omaha, Nebraska.

Thanks for the opportunity to share information about my disease with you. I am available for questions or help at any time." Jo Laslo

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and . . . they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body . . . and we were given the one Spirit to drink." (I Cor. 12:12-13 NIV)

Mary Peris, Parish Nurse

ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH, 2005
NEWSLETTER WILL BE DUE
FEBRUARY 20.

CWF NEWS



PRAYER
BREAKFAST



WHERE: Olive Branch CC

WHEN: February 12, 2005

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

COST: 8:00

Reservations: by February 5, 2005 to Wilma Ingram, 483-1991 or Jennifer Larson, 640-1915.



"FEED MY SHEEP"

Guest Speaker: Stephanie McLemore,
Assistant Regional Manager.

Lydia Group had 6 present. Offering was \$33.00. They read 5 books, 5 Daily Devotions, 3 Regional papers, 1 teaching, 1 leading and 15 crafts/cooking

magazines.

(continued next page)

Rebekah Group had 6 present. Offering was \$70.00. They read 8 books, 4 Daily Devotions, 4 Disciples, 3 Regional papers, and 1 teaching magazine. They made 20 calls. February meeting is with Maud Hemby.

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, #229, 4775 Bridge Rd., (S); Sylvia Dickens, Autumn Care, 3610 Winchester Dr., (P).

OTHERS ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Betty McCrickard; Sid Price; Evelyn Thomson; Adean Wyatt (sister-in-law of Mary Wyatt.); Sarah Crawford; Pat Henderson; Hilda and Glen Weaver; Pete Darden; Paul Thompson; Gracie Pickett (sister of Joe Antonucci).



In case of inclement weather, such as ice, snow, etc., Sunday worship may be cancelled. To find out if church is cancelled tune to WAVY News Channel 10 for information.

- 27 Janice Deweese
- 28 Carrie Kelly, Jimmy Milam

WANTED:



Pre-School is looking to fill a position for a teacher. The position is five days a week, 8:30 am -12:30 pm. Must have a teaching certificate. Please contact Jennifer Larson or check out the web site and e-mail her at pre-school@westsideccdoc.org for an application.

LECTIONERY TEXT

Feb. 6: Exodus 24;12-18; Psalm 2; II Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Feb. 13: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Feb. 20: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Feb. 27: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42



DISCIPLES MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING

February 19, 8:00 a.m.

Justin Friberg will be the speaker for our February meeting.

Justin is originally from Idaho. For the past 24 years he has been an Associate Professor of Geology at ODU, focusing on sudden and severe natural events such as hurricanes, volcano eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc.

We are all vividly aware of the tsunami that occurred on 12/26/04 in southern Asia. This tsunami had devastating results in the death of well over 220,000 natives and tourists. Further, this same tsunami caused extensive property damage. Justin's subject for this DMF meeting is "THE WRATH OF A TSUNAMI."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY, 2005

- 1 Jessica Terry
- 4 F. P. Phillips
- 5 Robert Brown
- 6 Michael Hunt
- 9 Shelly Davis
- 10 Matthew 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

So, plan to attend this most interesting/current DMF meeting. Of course, Chef Cornwell and Bubba Jenson will serve another delicious breakfast. As always they need to know how much food to prepare. If you are coming, please let me know by Wednesday, February 9.

Larry Hackler, 488-5997

DISCIPLES RESPOND IN ASIA

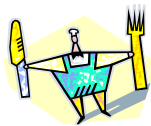
As Disciples continue to respond magnanimously to the staggering humanitarian need in the aftermath of the Dec. 26, 2004, earthquake and tsunamis in the Indian Ocean, WOC continues to channel resources to meet the urgent needs of survivors in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and other impacted countries. The death toll is now estimated to be 220,000 with thousands missing now declared as dead. An estimated 5 million people have been severely affected and now face hunger, homelessness, disease, unemployment and other life threatening challenges.

Please know WOC is working closely and carefully with our partners like Church World Service, Action by Churches Together, Global Ministries and others to ensure that the resources are used effectively and faithfully to assist the most vulnerable survivors. For current updates go to WOC website at <http://www.weekofcompassion.org>
Johnny Wray

OUR GOAL: \$1,900

We will receive this offering Feb. 20-27

MEMBERSHIP



Now that we have really settled into winter, come join our Praise and Prayer Service as well as the Family Night Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on

Wednesday, February 16. Make a favorite dish (bring two please) and join together as a church family for fellowship. Our theme will center on

Week of Compassion with even a few new food dishes from other countries. It will be an evening to learn and celebrate what Disciples of Christ Missions is doing. Invite a neighbor, friend, or other family members.

Membership strives to create an opportunity for all members to participate in the monthly fellowship

times. Here is a list of the upcoming events planned. We would like your input as well as more suggestions:

March 16: Family Night Dinner and Easter Play presented by our youth.

April 23 (Saturday): Family Night Dinner and Special music performed by "Forgiven."

May 18: Family Night Dinner and Prayer and Praise Service. Guests will be "The West End UMC Praise Band."

June (date TBA): Tides Game.

Fran Gray & Cheryl Jarvis, Membership



WEST SIDE DINNER THEATER

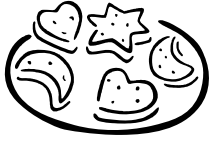
The Fellowship Class is doing another Dinner Theater, "The Mystery of Montley Manor," to be presented Saturday, February 26, at 6:00 p.m.

Cost will be \$7.50 a person. Seating is limited (fewer than 75), so a reservation is mandatory. (We are hoping the demand will be large enough to warrant a second performance.) Proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund.

FYI: The tapestry hanging in the "gathering area" has been given to the church by Frances Wells. Our thanks to her and the Interior Decorating Committee for the time and effort in working on this area of our church.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of South Hampton Roads, matching adult volunteers with children from single parent families, needs volunteers. You can work with the children at their school or in the community. They also need volunteers in their office, at special events and in the community. Please call Nina Stickles at 549-7437 or email her at:





“Sweets For Milk”

**Bake Sale – February 13 -
immediately after church.**

**Sponsored by the young people of
our church. Proceeds will go towards the tsunami
milk fund.**

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

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