

# "THE WEST SIDE STORY"

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WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
535 CHEROKEE ROAD  
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA 23701  
Office & Voice Mail: 488-0514  
Or 488-9391  
Rev. Jane Cherry,  
Interim Minister  
E-mail:  
[westside@westsideccdoc.org](mailto:westside@westsideccdoc.org)**

Web Page: [www.westsideccdoc.org/](http://www.westsideccdoc.org/)

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Dear West Side Congregation,

On behalf of the entire Thompson family, I would like to thank all the members of the West Side Christian Church, and their extended families for their expressed sympathy, and remembrance of my beloved father, The Reverend Paul E. Thompson, who began his journey home to God, on February 19, 2005.

This man who had once saved my life, after being struck by a swing at age four, nurtured me from infancy to adulthood, taught me to pray and read and cross the street, and protected me from harm, is now gone.

With my father's death, memories of exhaustion, fear, self-doubt, second-guessing, have left me in a fog. I have experienced the death of loved ones before, but never did it hurt like this. There is a sense of abandonment and even panic that catches me by surprise.

The world is a different place after losing my father. Even though I have experienced a strong sense of relief mixed with my grief, the sorrow is very deep and very real. I am confident that my deceased father forgives me for all my mistakes and unfulfilled expectations.

My father will no longer be there to applaud my adult accomplishments or offer direction at critical crossroads, to worry about me when I am ill or telephone "just to say hello."

I now move to the center stage to leave my mark on the world. But I do not move forward alone. I bring along with me a rich store of treasures from my childhood and adulthood – hard-learned lessons and principles, fond and painful memories, family celebrations and traditions. I bring who I am, thanks to the love, nurture, and guidance I received in my formative years from my father, whose presence I now miss.

I was never able to assure my father that I would accompany him on the final leg of his journey home. But as I continue the second half of my life's journey, I can feel the power of his presence. He was my partner, my best friend, my counselor, but most of all, my father!

Drew



**In Memory of  
Paul E. Thompson**

(Paul served West Side from  
1969-1989)

## MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER



"He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way." I Timothy 3:4

### DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

There is one poison exposure every 15 seconds in the US? 90% occur in the home. 52.7% occur in children younger than 6 years of age.

The most common exposures for children are: ingestions of cosmetics, cleaning substances, medications, personal care items and plants. The most common exposures for adults are: pain relievers, sedatives, anti-depressants, cleaning substances, and bites and stings.

The most fatal unintentional poisoning in the US is carbon monoxide. Prolonged exposure to CO can result in unconsciousness and or death of an entire household.

### MAKE YOUR HOME AND FAMILY A "POISON STOPPER!"

Post this Poison Control Number on all phones in your home: 1-800-2122-1222.

Keep all medicines, household cleaners, personal care products and other hazards, out of the reach of children and locked in cabinets. Identify all poisonous plants in your home and keep them out of your children's and your pet's reach. Every year have fuel burning appliances inspected. Install carbon monoxide monitors near bedrooms to monitor the air quality in your home.

### USE POISON PRODUCTS SAFELY!

Keep all household items and medications in their original container. Read labels before using and never leave these items unattended. Handle all medicines with care by keeping the lights on and reading the labels. Do not call medicine candy, and if possible, avoid taking medicine in front of a child.

When using chemical products, open windows and use protective clothing if necessary. Do not burn fuel, charcoal or gas engines in confined places.

Finally, if a poisoning occurs: stay calm, call Poison Control, or if the person has collapsed or is not

breathing, CALL 911. You can prevent poisonings by following these basic steps.

"May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." I Thessalonians 5:23

Mary Peris, Parish Nurse

**WE HAVE A POTENTIAL PASTORAL CANDIDATE.** Do you want to get to know more about him before his visit? Copies of Nathan Brown's resume are available for you to pick up on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. Please, only one copy per family. Plan on coming to the Potluck this coming Thursday at 6:30 pm. Following the meal, we will move to the sanctuary for your questions, and maybe Nate will have some for us. See you there!

## DMF BREAKFAST MEETING

April 16, 2005



Garland ((Cookie) Cook will be our featured speaker. His subject is "Safety and History of Firearms, and how I became involved." Many may not know about Cookie's hobby. He is considered an expert in both pistols and rifles. For many years he repaired/built firearms. Also, he is a certified Safety instructor for the Virginia State Hunter Club. Come and hear Cookie discuss his hobby and eat a gourmet breakfast prepared by Chef Cornwell.

## KITCHEN NEWS

A new commercial faucet and sprayer has been installed in the kitchen to aid with washing commercial pots and pans. The Christian Women's Fellowship donated the faucet and sprayer, and Bubba Jenson installed them. Thank you Bubba, for doing such a wonderful job!



**ARTICLES FOR THE MAY, 2005  
NEWSLETTER WILL BE DUE  
APRIL 17.**

**CWF NEWS**

Lydia Group had 9 members present. Offering was \$51. They read 8 books, 3 Daily Devotions, 1 Regional Paper, 1 Disciple, 1 teacher and 1 leader magazines and sent 45 cards. April meeting will be to visit a nursing home and eat out.

Rebekah Group had 6 present. Offering was \$50. They read 8 books, 6 Daily Devotions, 2 Disciples, 4 Regional Papers, 1 leader, 1 teacher, 3 cooking/crafts magazines and made 24 calls. April meeting is with Elnora Phillips.

**OUR SHUT-INS:** 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; Evelyn Thomson; Adean Wyatt; Sarah Crawford; Hilda and Glen Weaver; Gilman family and Gabrielle Wilds (pre-school family and student respectively); Connie Hutto (cousin of Brenda Hayth); Oscar White (cousin of Marleen Whitehurst).

**FAMILY NIGHT DINNER**



Membership will be sponsoring a family night dinner on Saturday, April 23rd at 6:30 pm. (Please note change from Wednesday to Saturday). Bring two of your family's favorite dishes and join in the fellowship. Following the meal, we will experience a musical treat as "Forgiven" brings us a program of

sacred music. They have a wonderful reputation.

Be sure to invite your friends, neighbors, and family to join you for this evening of good food and wonderful music at West Side.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area for the Family Night Dinner so we can have adequate tables set up.

**Membership**



**WANTED: VOLUNTEERS  
FOR  
SPRING CLEAN-UP**

**Saturday, May 7 – 8:00 a.m.** until we are finished. (note: date on calendar is incorrect)  
**Rain date:** the following weekend.

Spring is here and it's time for the yearly clean-up of the church grounds. Things that need to be done:

1. Cleaning/reworking flower beds and pruning bushes.
2. Fertilize and apply weed killer to the front yard and patio area.
3. Raking and removing pine straw, pine cones, dead branches, especially from back yard area of the church.

Needed: broom rakes, wheel barrows, pitch fork, fertilizer spreaders, hedge trimmers, leaf blowers, chain saw (if we can find someone to trim low hanging branches) and most of all, volunteers!

Hope to see you,  
Bubba and Dave

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**APRIL**

1. Barbara Powell, Diann Johnston Borden
5. George Pyles
6. Brian Hayes
7. Sam Wiseman
8. Allison Nutting
14. Lois Pyles
16. Shannon Stidham
17. Debra Trevino, Brooke Kays
18. Stephen Henderson
19. Jerry Thornton, Jr.
20. Kelly Wallace
21. Nina Milam
25. Brenda Hayth

## Vacation Bible School



The Education Committee is looking for volunteers! We need a director (or co-directors), storytellers, activity leaders, music leaders and arts and crafts

leaders. While we have not yet determined the actual curriculum, we do know that we will use a rotational model rather than a standard classroom model. Volunteer now and you will help determine curriculum and the date for VBS!

### LECTIONERY TEXT

April 3: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; I Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 10: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 17: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; I Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

April 24: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; I Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

## EDNA SHEARIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Every year since its inception the Edna Shearin Scholarship Fund has awarded a modest scholarship to members of West Side who are pursuing post high school education. It is our fondest hope that every member who applies will be granted an award. However, we find ourselves in a very difficult position this year. Our scholarship fund was completely depleted last year (a good thing) but, since this scholarship is not a budgeted item, we foresee more applicants than the fund can accommodate. So, what will we do? First we will pray and have faith that the Lord will provide. We know we have a fund raising event in the Mystery Dinner Theater, and we know that other groups and individuals will continue to contribute to the fund. In order to insure fairness the Education Committee wishes to notify the congregation of the revised criteria for this scholarship. These changes were presented to the Board on February 8, 2005, and have the Board's full endorsement.

1. Scholarship Fund to be administered by the Education Committee.

2. Eligibility: Recipient must be an active member of West Side Christian Church; active to be defined by the Education Committee, based on the recipient's attendance, giving, church participation, etc. Preference will be given to those pursuing church related vocations.

3. Scholarships, not to exceed \$200, are to be awarded to individuals, at the discretion of the Education Committee.

4. Criteria:

- Applicant must submit a written request detailing his/her major and/or minor field of study, Christian activities and other community service, and why he/she is requesting the scholarship.
- Written requests must be received PRIOR TO MAY 1.
- The recipient must have a grade point average of at least 2.0 and provide a transcript at the time of application.

5. Recurring Aid: The Education Committee may, at its discretion, provide aid annually, as funds allow.

6. Funds should be used for tuition and/or school related expenses. Funds will be made payable to the student.

7. Scholarship Funds are to be deposited by the church in the same manner as Memorial Funds and should be retained in savings institutions earning interest at the best current prevailing rates.

Application forms can be obtained from the church office or from the Education Chairs, Kim Powell and Mary Redmon.

### CRAIG SPRINGS CAMPERS!

The Education Committee is sponsoring campers who are attending MADD Camp (July 3-8) and New Covenant Camp (July 17-22). The church will pay \$100 toward camp registration for each applicant. Applications and camp information are available in the church office and on the bulletin board outside the office. Completed application forms and registration fees must be submitted to the Education Committee by Sunday, May 22, 2005.

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We extend our Christian Sympathy to Bobby Beal upon the death of his brother, Marvin. A funeral service was held March 23.

LOOKING AHEAD---West Side



**Christian Pre-school teacher “Miss Evelyn,” will be retiring this year. We will be honoring her with a reception following church service on Sunday, May 22. We would like to have as many past and present pre-school students in attendance as possible, along with any photos you may have. Please pass this information along to any former students you come in contact with. If you have any questions, call Dudley DeStefano at 465-0341.**

**Pre-School will be looking for a new lead teacher. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this position, please contact Jennfer Larson.**

**WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
535 Cherokee Road  
P. O. Box 3345  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23701**



**Rev. Jane Cherry,  
Interim Minister**

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**Non-Profit Organization  
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**Address Service  
Requested**

**TURN CLOCKS**

**AHEAD**

**ONE HOUR**

**AFTER**

**MIDNIGHT**

**APRIL 2ND**











