

# "THE WEST SIDE STORY"

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
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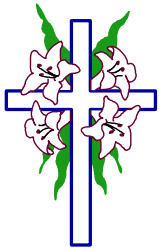
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*“At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid . . . and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.”*  
(John 19:41-42)



Do you have a garden? Gardens are such wonderful places. No place is as full of hope as a garden. Seeds, bulbs, baby plants – all are placed in the earth of a garden in the hope that something wonderful will happen!

Already, even with a cold wind blowing and snow threatening as I write this, already this year I have seen daffodils beginning to bloom. The darkness of winter may still be with us, but the light of spring is not far away.

And truly, the fact that Easter is early this year only makes the reality of Easter – the resurrection of Jesus – even more dramatic. We are able to experience both true winter and true spring within a few weeks of each other.

The first women at the tomb on that first Easter morning were prepared to find death, not life. They had planned for resurrection. It was a reasonable plan based on what they had just seen happen to their beloved Jesus. What a startling surprise met them in the garden! “He is not dead, but is risen.”

*“See the land, her Easter keeping, rises as her Maker rose;  
seeds so long in darkness sleeping, burst at last from winter’s snows.  
Earth with heavn’ above rejoices. Fields and gardens hail the spring;  
Hills and woodlands ring with voices.  
All creatures sing: Alleluia! Alleluia!”*  
(Charles Kingsley)

This season of the year and always may you know the hope of a garden which is the hope of Easter!

**“Christ the Lord is Risen Today!”**  
**Happy Easter!**  
**Love, Jane**

**EASTER OFFERING**

**OUR GOAL: \$1,900**

We will receive this offering March 20 and 27.

## MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER



*"Do you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."*

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and it is also National Nutrition Month.

Colorectal Cancer is a leading form of Cancer in the US. Our Western Civilization diet is one of the risk factors of Colorectal Cancer. We can reduce this risk factor and protect against colon cancer by eating a diet high in fiber and low in fat. Fruits and vegetables contain a lot of fiber especially if eaten raw. They also have two primary antioxidants, vitamin A and C. Vitamin A is especially prevalent in carrots, apricots, winter squash, sweet potatoes, cantaloupe and broccoli. Vitamin C is found in citrus fruits, cantaloupe, strawberries, peppers, broccoli, cauliflower and tomatoes.

### TIPS TO REDUCE YOUR RISK FOR COLORECTAL CANCER:

-- Increase your dietary fiber by eating five servings of fruit and vegetables per day, and drink at least 6-8 glasses of water each day.

--Regular exercise reduces your risk by helping you maintain a healthy weight.

--Schedule regular check-ups with your doctor for screenings. **EARLY DETECTION IS THE KEY TO PREVENTION!**

Mary Peris, Parish Nurse

### CWF NEWS

Lydia Group had 10 present. Offering was \$51. They read 3 books, 4 Regional Papers, 4 Daily Devotions, 1 teacher and 1 leader magazines and had 35 calls/cards and 5 crafts.

Rebekah Group's offering was \$45. They read 7 books, 7 Daily Devotions, 4 Regional Papers, 4 Disciples, 2 teacher, 2 leader and 1 crafts/cooking magazines. Made 35 calls. March meeting is with Edith Ross on March 10.

CWF General Meeting and Brunch will be held on March 12 at 11:00 a.m. Lydia group will host the brunch. All ladies are invited to attend.

A great big "THANK YOU" to all who participated in the brown bag project.

**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).



### DINNER AND PAGEANT

On the evening of March 16, the entertainment for the potluck dinner will be "The Easter Pageant That Almost Wasn't." This inter-generational play, which is being sponsored by the Worship Committee, will be full of fun, music and a wonderful message. Come, bring two dishes to share, and join us at 6:30 p.m. for an evening that will get you in the Easter spirit.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 23. The potluck dinner that night will be followed by special music from "Forgiven." We want to welcome the group with an enthusiastic turnout for the evening. See you there!

Membership Committee



### DMF BREAKFAST MEETING Saturday, March 12, 8:00 a.m.

Tom Larson will be the featured speaker at the

DMF meeting. Tom is originally from Minneapolis. After serving 20+ years in the Navy, Tom worked for the Norfolk Sheriff's Office with the Work Release Program. Then he worked as the Systems Administrator where he developed a

computer software program that assists in housing, tracking and classification of inmates. Next, Tom worked as the Legal Administrator for the Norfolk Commonwealth Attorney's Office, which has the largest criminal caseload in Virginia. Presently, Tom works as Chief Deputy Clerk for the Norfolk Circuit Court.

Tom's subject is "Floating Duck Blinds? Or Estate Probate?" from the Norfolk Circuit Court's perspective. Please plan to attend and hear Tom expound upon this subject utilizing his many years of experience.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### MARCH, 2005

- 1 Erin Ripley
- 5 Paula Pittman
- 6 Michael Wyatt
- 7 Bryleigh Gray, Liam Gray
- 8 Barbara Nelson
- 10 Colby Wallace
- 12 Patty Ross
- 14 Dillon Milam, McKenna Gray
- 15 Kathy Williams
- 20 Patrick Knill
- 22 Becky Barclay
- 23 Eddrie Bradley, Linda Gilley, Charles Kelly, IV
- 25 Joshua Thornton
- 28 Samantha Williams
- 29 William Powell, Wanda Hackler
- 31 Kevin Gibbs

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

## 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

Mar. 6: I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Mar. 13; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Mar. 20: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11

Mar. 27: Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 18:1-10

### 24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL



The 24 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL CALENDAR has been posted in the gathering area. The Prayer Vigil will begin on Good Friday, March 25 at noon and end on Saturday March 26. Please take a moment to sign up for one of the half hour prayer periods.

### ATTENTION CRAIGS SPRINGS CAMPERs

Once again 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 the 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.

### PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

The Property Committee would like to



take this opportunity to let the congregation know that the new committee is up and running. The only success we can have is dictated by the number of people who are willing to volunteer to help with the upkeep of the properties of our church.

We are asking for volunteers to help with the opening and closing of the church, as well as with maintenance of the grounds. Sign-up sheets will be placed on the bulletin board and we appreciate the assistance that any of you can provide.

We have changed our meeting to the first Tuesday of each month so as not to infringe on the Board meeting. The first 30 minutes of our meeting will be open for any church member to come and share their concerns or visions for the future of our church and the property. We solicit your comments as well as volunteering in whatever capacity that might entail. We look forward to working with all for the good and improvement of our church and grounds.

Co-chairpersons,  
Dave McCrickard and Bubba Jenson

## **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. Currently the fund has under \$100.

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.

## **CHILDREN WELCOME CONFERENCE**

The weekend of Feb. 11 and 12, the Chairs of Worship and Education Committees and a member of the Search Committee attended the Welcome Children Conference in Raleigh, NC. We were blessed by the inspirational messages of the Rev. Bill Lee of Roanoke and Kaye Edwards of Disciples Home Mission, as they led us in Bible Study and Worship. The bulk of the time was spent in discussion workshops on such topics as the Worship and Wonder program, Rotational Church School model and ARK (Adults relating to Kids), among

others. What we decided, as we each eagerly told the other how much we enjoyed our individual workshops, was that we were experiencing living scripture! Mark 10:15 tells us *“Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”* Most of the attendees were ministers, with Education Chairmen the next in number. It was so heartening to see so many mature ministers as excited as the youngest associate pastor about the spiritual development of children. It was quite evident that children were valued as members of God’s kingdom and were the model for how all Christians should receive the kingdom of God.

The workshops we attended excited us and have inspired us to learn more about two programs in particular. Worship and Wonder and Rotational Church School. Both of these programs are designed to instill in our children a firm foundation of Biblical knowledge by bringing the Word to a level they can understand and providing them experiential learning opportunities. They will strengthen existing Sunday School and Worship programs and can certainly help any church grow—both from within and from the outside. So many of you have expressed concerns that, during the 11 o’clock hour, our children are merely “playing” and not worshipping. These programs ensure that children ages 3 through 10-12 are actively engaged in a worship experience most adults would envy.

We hope to find several worship leaders who will want to attend a Worship and Wonder certification workshop in April and help us to initiate one or more of these programs. An added benefit of these programs is that they can involve all church members at various levels, be it in design and/or implementation. Certainly the Search Committee will be very interested in discussing with potential candidates their experience with churches that have successfully implemented one or more of these programs. As we continue to study these programs we will share our findings with the Board and the appropriate committees. We thank the Pulpit Search Committee and the Education Committee for sponsoring our trip.

Kim Powell, Education Chair  
Dee Ann Phelps, Worship Chair

Kitty Baker, Search Committee

## What is Maundy Thursday?



Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday, is the day Christians recall the events that took place the night Jesus was betrayed. It is the “anniversary” of Jesus' Last Supper. The word Maundy comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means “commandment.” At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them.

On Maundy Thursday, after the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, the traditional stripping of the altar takes place. The vessels, crosses, books, candles, linens, paraments, banners, and other decorations are removed from the chancel area. This ancient ritual is a powerful and dramatic reenactment of the Lord's humiliation at the hands of the Roman soldiers. The area, left bare or adorned only in black, is transformed from the communion table of Maundy Thursday into the tomb slab of Good Friday.

This year for Maundy Thursday, WSCC will present a living “Last Supper” and special communion service. This is an important part of the Easter experience. You don’t want to miss it!

Maundy Thursday Service, March 24, 7 P.M.



## EASTER EGG HUNT

An Easter Egg Hunt for the children will be held on Saturday, March 26 at 2:00 p.m. Bring baskets to collect your eggs in.

## OBCCM LENTEN SERVICE/LUNCH

The Olive Branch Cooperative Christian Ministries’ Lenten Service/Lunches for 2005 will begin Wednesday, March 2, at 12:00 noon at First Friends Church, 5307 Portsmouth Blvd. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. and will cost \$4.00. Please make reservations the Monday prior to the service by calling 488-0484.

**SPEAKERS:**

March 2      Rev. Mike Willis  
March 9      Rev. Charles Chappell  
March 16     Rev. Penny Cory  
March 25     Rev. Jack Stallings

(Good Friday)

A food offering will be taken on Good Friday.

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our hearts were saddened to learn of the death of Paul Thompson. Paul and Jean pastored at WSCC from 1969-89. We extend our Christian Sympathy to Jean, Drew, and Claudia; and to Jimmy and Cheryl Jarvis and family upon the death of Jimmy's mother, Hazel. A graveside service was held on February 25.

### WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

535 Cherokee Road  
P. O. Box 3345  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23701



Rev. Jane Cherry,  
Interim Minister

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