

# "THE WEST SIDE STORY"

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
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VOLUME 36

MAY, 2005

NUMBER 5



## Spring Forth In Praise!

*Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.*  
(Psalm 111:1)

The weather has finally turned! The cold winds and damp air have left us and we are free to enjoy the warmth of spring. (And it's about time you are probably saying to yourself!) Isn't this the perfect time to be in church praising God for who He is and all He has given us? One would think so.

But I can't tell you how many times I have heard, "You won't be seeing much of me at church now that the weather has turned warmer, preacher. I'll be enjoying God's beautiful world down at the Outer Banks fishing." Or perhaps it is at the lake boating, or maybe in the mountains hiking. Wherever or whatever, it is away from church.

Now don't get me wrong. It is good to take a break. Vacations are great and necessary. And it is certainly good to enjoy God's beautiful creation. But let's not use the beauty of the natural world as an excuse to stay away from church, or equate it to being in church worshipping with other believers.

I enjoy spending time in the mountains. For me it is refreshing and inspiring. I enjoy the sights, the sounds, the smells of the mountains. And I can worship God there, but that experience can never take the place of being in church worshipping God with other Christians. There is something special about a group of God's people expressing praise and worship together.

You all know I love football. I enjoy watching a football game on the television – which I

often do – however, nothing can compare to being there in person. Sitting in the stands with thousands of other folks all watching the game, smelling the hot dogs and popcorn, hearing the cheers in person, there is nothing like it.

That's like public worship. We can listen to church on the radio or watch it on television, or pray while hiking in the forest or while on a boat fishing, but there is nothing like being in the assembly of the people of God praising and praying together. Nothing can compare with being there in person.

In the above verse, the psalmist is calling for authentic public worship. He is testifying to the fact that he goes to church. He worships God with every fiber of his being. He expresses his thanks for God in front of God's people. He worships God in public.

I admit it is possible to worship God in private, by oneself, but there is something exciting about worshipping the living God in the "assembly of the upright." It is almost electric when a group of people are worshipping and thanking God. It is exciting and contagious. The excitement catches on.

I've been at ball games where someone starts the wave. You know the wave – where people stand up and sit down real quick, and it looks like a wave rippling through the stadium. It starts with one person who is enthusiastic. At first very few participate, but after a while the whole stadium is into it and cheering wildly. It is infectious.

Spring is here and summer is not far behind. It is tempting to "cut out" on church. Don't! Be in the house of the Lord. Catch the wave! Praise the

Lord! Be contagious! Be in church! "Praise ye the LORD."

Serving Him with you, Jane

## MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER



"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: A time to be born and a time to die." Ecclesiastes 3:1-2(NIV)

God, our Creator, has a plan for the lives of each and every one of us. He knew when each of us would be born and knows the time when He will call each of us home. God also gives us many choices along the earthly path of life, and one of them is the choice of caring for His temple of the Holy Spirit, our bodies.

As long as we are mentally and physically able to choose and communicate, we can make our wishes known about our health care. The question we must ask ourselves is: "What will happen to my health care choices if I become mentally or physically unable to make decisions, due to illness or injury?" One way to protect this choice is by initiating, "Advance Medical Directives" now, whether you are 21 or 91!

### Advance Directives:

- Protect your right to make medical choices.
- Protect your family from having to make difficult medical decisions.
- Protects people, who may become unable to communicate, due to injury or terminal illness.
- Provides your physician with guidelines for your care.
- An Advanced Directive can address pain relief and comfort measures, and limit life prolonging measures, according to your wishes.

### There are two types of Advance Directives:

- A "Living Will" is written and explains your wishes regarding health care, when one has a terminal condition.
- A "Durable Power of Attorney" is also written. You name a person to make medical decisions for you, should you become incapable of making decisions.

Exercise your God given right to choose, and let your values be your guide when creating Advance

Directives. Remember these words of Christ, our Savior, and Counselor:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you...and I will come back and take you to be with me, that you also may be where I am". John 14:1-3 (NIV)

Mary Peris, Parish Nurse

## DMF BREAKFAST MEETING

May 21, 2005 – 8:00 a.m.



### LIVING WILLS, who needs one and why.

We all know about Terri Schiavo and how her illness/death cause big-time disruption/trouble in her family. When possible, the decision on how much suffering we endure and how much life support is administered should be made by us alone. Further, we must let our family members know our wish/decision. Then, perhaps this decision will be a lot easier on them. No one wants to be the cause of a rift between family members. A Living Will is a must.

Ms. Kim Limbaugh from the Lake Taylor's Speaker's Bureau will address WSCC on understanding power of attorney, advance directives, DNRs and wills. This information is almost a required/necessary discussion everyone should have with their respective family.

DMF invites all WSCC members to attend this breakfast meeting to learn more about these subjects.

**ARTICLES FOR THE JUNE, 2005  
NEWSLETTER WILL BE DUE MAY  
15.**

### CWF NEWS

Lydia Group had 7 members present. Offering was \$31.00. They read 3 books, 1 Daily Devotion, 1 leader, 1 craft, 1 teacher magazines and had 12 calls/cards.

Rebekah Group had 9 present. Offering was \$76.00. They read 25 books, 8 Daily Devotions, 3 Disciples, 5 Regional Papers, 2 teaching and 1 leader magazines, made 56 calls and had 7 crafts/cooking hours. May meeting will be with Frances Wells.

Sarah group had 6 present. Offering was \$55.00. They read 8 books, 4 Daily Devotions, 4 Regional Papers, 2 leader magazines. 1 called/outreach, 1 cooked/made crafts and 2 taught. May meeting will be with Jennifer Larson.

The following organizations received food from the "Brown Bag" project and have sent thank you notes: H.E.R., The Salvation Army, P.A.R.C., Social Services and 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church food pantry. Also, thank you received from Veteran's Medical Center in Hampton for the valentine cards.

**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); Shannon Stidham, Kathy Saunders.

### FAMILY NIGHT DINNER



On Wednesday, May 18th, at 6:30 pm, there will be a fellowship dinner and praise service in the church social hall.

Please bring two of your favorite dishes to share with everyone. The praise service will be led by the West End United Methodist's Praise Band. They were at West Side's first praise service, and we are pleased that they could make a return appearance this month. Be sure to invite your

family, friends and neighbors to come and join you for an evening of food, music and fellowship! Mark your calendar for July 6, 2005, at 7:15 PM. On that night the Norfolk Tides host "Faith Night at Harbor Park." Tickets will be \$7.00/person. Last year we had over forty people attend the game and we hope to have at least that many, if not more. Watch for the sign up sheet at the May fellowship dinner or contact Fran or Cheryl to make reservations.

### Membership

#### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We extend our Christian Sympathy to Cecil Dillon upon the death of his cousin, Bill Owens March 28. A memorial service was held April 11 at WSCC.

### WANTED: VOLUNTEERS FOR SPRING CLEAN-UP

May 7, 2005 we will sponsor an "all church work day." We need to work in the flower beds, trim the shrubs, clean out both furnace rooms and the lawn mowing room. Bring your clippers, hoes and gloves. We would appreciate any time that you can give us.



We solicit all of your help in assuring that everyone involved in programs where meals are being served in our fellowship center sees that food is confined to that area only and not other parts of the church building. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Bubba & Dave, Property Co-chairs

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### MAY

- 2. Danielle Greenwood
- 4. Virginia Wiseman
- 5. Rita Antonucci
- 6. Margaret Poole
- 7. Myrtle Henderson
- 16. Sandra Cotton
- 18. Kimberly Acors
- 19. Edith Ross, Cindy Wallace
- 20. Tiffany Jarvis, Brooks Jarvis
- 21. Dettie Tibbits
- 22. Amy Blazek, Richie Oliver, Larry Hackler
- 25. Michael Pyles

26 Esther Daniel  
30 Dudley DeStefano  
31 Donald Thomas

*Cecil Dillon wishes to thank all who helped with the memorial service and reception for his cousin, Bill Owens. The service was held April 11. He also wishes to express his appreciation for the prayers and cards.*



Dear Church Family,

*I would like to thank everyone for their calls, visits, prayers, thoughts and good deeds during this long illness. I have finally completed two rounds of chemo, surgery and radiation therapy. Each form of treatment presented it's own challenge. However, I am starting to feel stronger each day. I am looking forward to finding a full time job to resume productivity. While God has provided for us during my illness, I feel I need to now do my share. Please keep me in your prayers. Tabetha & Daniel welcomed Thaniel Becket to their family on April 14. -Sarah Davis Crawford*

Powell: 93 Jamaica Loop  
Jamaica, Va. 23079

## PENTECOST OFFERING

GOAL: \$1,900

Will be received May 8 and 15

**CALLED CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING, MAY 8, after worship.**

**ANNUAL MOTHER-DAUGHTER  
BANQUET, May 9, 2005**



Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program which is Music by "The Reflections." The cost for adults and children over 10 is \$7.50 and children 6 to 10 is \$3.50. A nursery will not be provided. Seating is limited to 120 so get those reservation in early! Please pay when you make your reservations and make checks to CWF.

### LECTIONERY TEXT

May 1: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 8: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; I Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

May 15: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; I Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 10:19-23

May 22: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; II Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

May 29: Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24, 8:14-19; Psalm 46; Romans 1:16-17, 3:22b-28 (29-31); Matthew 7:21-29

### -----ANNOUNCEMENTS-----

If you have an announcement that needs to be made on Sunday mornings, please use an ANNOUNCEMENT FORM which can be found in the church office. You may leave the completed form on the secretary's desk or give to the presiding elder or minister. This will keep announcements accurate and concise, be more comfortable for visitors and cause less disruption in the spirit of the service. Thank you.



**DON'T FORGET!!!!** We will be hosting a retirement reception for West Side's Pre-school teacher, "Miss Evelyn," after church service

on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. All past and present pre-school students (and their families) are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Dudley DeStefano at 465-0341 or the church office, 488-0514



Please note an address change  
For William and Barbara

**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  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit 118  
Portsmouth, Va.**

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**Address Service  
Requested**

**TURN CLOCKS**

**AHEAD**

**ONE HOUR**

**AFTER**

**MIDNIGHT**

**APRIL 2ND**











