

"THE WEST SIDE STORY"

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FROM THE PASTOR

Christ has been born! Our world is changed forever. Praise the Lord! Rejoice with gladness. The Christmas season

has passed and we enter into a new year—revived, rejuvenated, and ready to begin anew. January presents new opportunities for ministry and for giving new life in the world. Give thanks to God, for Christ’s transformative love has been born into the world!

On January 16th, our nation will recognize Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in honor of the late prophet whose work during the civil rights movement in this country transformed the landscape of our culture. King believed in new beginnings and the transformative power of Christ’s love in the world. He often spoke of this love.

In 1967, King delivered his final presidential address to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) entitled, “Where Do We Go From Here.” In this address King speaks out against his critics who do not believe love and non-violent protest are the answers for the future of the movement. King says, “And I say to you, I have also decided to stick to love. For I know that love is ultimately the only answer to mankind’s problems. And I’m going to talk about it everywhere I go. I know it isn’t popular to talk about it in some circles today. And I’m not talking about emotional bosh when I talk about love, I’m talking about a strong, demanding love....If you are seeking the highest good, I think you can find it through love. And the

beautiful thing is that we are moving against wrong when we do it, because John was right, God is love.”

As we begin to ask the question of ourselves in the next year, “Where do we go from here?,” no matter the direction, may it always be in love. Along the way, we will experience challenges, we will endure heartache, and we will struggle to do God’s Will. However, in all our decisions both communally and individually, if we are able to move in love, then we will be moving with God toward God’s kingdom.

At the end of King’s address he says, “And let us be dissatisfied. Let us be dissatisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. Let us be dissatisfied until that day when the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and every man will sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid. Let us be dissatisfied. And men will recognize that out of one blood God made *all* men to dwell upon the face of the earth.”

In the coming year, may we be dissatisfied with everything that is not done in love. And may we use the power of Christ’s transformative love, born anew to us, to do God’s ministry through West Side Christian Church. Here the good news again, “Christ has been born!” Rejoice and be glad in it!

Peace,
Nathan

MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER

"I Will Be Well" Educational Workshop

On Saturday, January 21, 2006, 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 to 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.

I WILL BE WELL

Presented by: Dana Crosby, RN, BSN
Health Service Coordinator
Life Line Screening 1-800-897-9177 Ext. 673

Assess your own health risk factors.
Learn about the warning signs of stroke and vascular disease.
Find out steps you can take to help reduce your risk of stroke.
Discover the facts about Osteoporosis that effect both men and women.
Take steps towards your own personal wellness program.

These workshops empower individuals who are interested in being proactive about maintaining a healthy and rewarding lifestyle.

Mary Peris, Parish Nurse

DISCIPLES' MENS MEETING



DMF will meet on Saturday, January 21, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. with Chef Cornwell for another great breakfast.

All WSCC members and their guests are invited to attend. After breakfast, Mary Peris, our Parish Nurse, has invited Dana Crosby, RN, from Life

Line Screening to present the program. The emphasis will be on the number one cause for nursing home admissions—STROKES. Unfortunately, one half of all stroke victims have no warning. Come and learn some of the signs/causes of strokes and perhaps, how to prevent them.

It is vital that the total number of members planning to attend breakfast is known by Wednesday, January 18. Chef Cornwell needs this information for the purchase of food, etc. Please, please call!

Larry Hackler

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

CWF NEWS

Lydia Group had 9 present. Offering was \$49.00. They read 1 teaching, 1 leading magazines; 3 Daily Devotionals, 4 Regional papers and 2 books. Calls/craft were 18.

Rebekah Group had 9 members present and 5 guests. They read 10 books, 6 Daily Devotions, 3 Disciples, 4 Regional papers, 4 teaching, 2 leading and 10 crafts/cooking magazines. They made 24 calls. January, 2006 meeting is with Wilma Ingram.

"FEEDING/SHELTERING THE HOMELESS," 2006



Volunteers Needed for the Homeless

WSCC will feed/house the Homeless from Sunday night to Sunday morning, February 5-12, 2006.

For the last 10 years, WSCC has supported Portsmouth's effort in housing/feeding the homeless during the winter months. Our Fellowship Center provides a warm place for them to sleep. Each night, Chef Cornwell and his loyal supporters have prepared a hot delicious meal for approximately 60+ homeless men, women and sometimes children.

WSCC has earned the reputation of providing the best meals to the homeless in all of Portsmouth. Thirteen Volunteers (9 Servers and 4 Chaperones) are needed each night. The servers will: place a portion of food on plates; carry plates of food to tables; clean up tables after they eat; wash/dry all pot/pans; and stack tables/chairs preparing the area for our Guests to sleep.

Further, four adult Chaperones are needed to spend each night, working in two four-hour shifts. Since the homeless include men, women and sometimes children, two men and two women are needed as Chaperones. Two will sleep while two are available to the homeless. At the end of the first four-hour shift, they will change places. The next morning all Chaperones are needed to get everyone up by 5:45 a.m., see that Guests clean both restrooms and are ready to board the Bus by 6:30 a.m. Also, these chaperones will ensure that all tables/chairs are replaced and the area is prepared for the next feeding/sleepover. For security reasons, there must be at least two adult Chaperones on duty each night.

So far, Chaperones are the most difficult to find. Overnight monitoring of the homeless is critical to the program. If WSCC isn't able to provide this service, then assistance from other organizations will be required. WSCC is not permitted to feed/house the homeless without Chaperones.

It is as simple as that. We need volunteers.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be placed in the hall leading to the Fellowship Center on Sunday January 1, 2006. If you can volunteer to serve and work this week into your schedule, please place your name and telephone number on one or more of these sign-up sheets at this time.

Thank you.
Outreach Committee

RECEPTION FOR BARBARA



You are cordially invited to attend a Retirement Reception for Barbara Brown on Saturday, January 7, 2006, from 2-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. Barbara

has given us over 31 years of outstanding service and dedication and we are privileged to honor her with this reception. Due to the occupancy limitations, if you plan on attending you will need to RSVP to Kitty Baker. Kitty may be reached at 465-9363 (H), 448-6755 (W), 374-9508 (cell) or via email at kitty_baker@adp.com

**ARTICLES FOR FEBRUARY, 2006
NEWSLETTER WILL BE DUE ON
JANUARY 15!**

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; Betty Lou Fox; 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; Masil Jones; Barbara Kauffman (pre-school grand-parent); Rosalie Brown; Major David Laslo (Iraq).



JANUARY

- 1 Pam Brown
- 2 Jamey Corbett
- 7 Catherine Buchanan
- 8 Zachary Lowman, Maud Hemby
- 9 Chris Terry
- 12 Brant Honeycutt, Freda Pyles
- 14 Jimmy Powell, Kelly Terry
- 16 Shanna Trevino
- 17 Millicent Wise
- 19 Dick Cornwell, Tommy Thornton, Jr., Ruby Fulcher, Stephen Milam, Kayleigh McNelis
- 21 Barbara Inman
- 28 Betty Lou Fox
- 29 Janey Culpepper
- 30 Wallace Williams, Roger Gilley, Sharon Trevino
- 31 Sid Price, Michael Stidham, Roy Cherry

MISSION TRIP TO LOUISIANA

There will be a brief interest session for a potential mission trip to southern Louisiana after church on Sunday, January 15, 2006. The mission trip will be planned for some time during the summer of 2006. All ages are welcome. The trip would focus on tasks in helping hurricane Katrina victims rebuild. For more information, please contact Rev. Brown.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER

Our new office manager, Tracy Adams, will begin work at West Side on Monday January 9, 2006. She will be in the office Monday - Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 1:30 pm. Tracy is a native of Michigan where she grew up and completed her education. She has a degree in Social Work from Central Michigan University and a Masters Degree in Clinical Social Work from Michigan State. Tracy has come to the Tidewater area with her husband, Shannon, and their daughter, Hannah. Shannon is a physician serving his intership year at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. Hannah attends kindergarten at Portsmouth Christian School. You will find that Tracy is competent, vibrant, and a wonderful blessing to our church family. Please give her a warm West Side welcome in the weeks ahead.

PASTOR'S CLASS

A pastor's class will be offered beginning the first week of February for those who are seeking baptism. The class will include four one-hour sessions accomodating the times and schedules of those participating in the class. The class is designed to prepare individuals for baptism through, prayer, study, and reflection. Those who desire baptism at the conclusion of the class will be baptized on Easter Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Brown.

FAITH AND FILM

The Younger Adult Class will be looking at aspects of faith and theology in film during the Sunday school hour beginning on January 15, 2006. Each

week a film will be assigned to be watched. On your own time, you are to watch the movie. Then, during the Sunday School hour, we will discuss the film within the larger group. While the Younger Adult Class is hosting these sessions, all are welcome to participate. We will continue to meet in one of the new Sunday school classes on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am. Look to the message board in the gathering space for a schedule of films to be viewed.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is busy planning for the New Year and what a great year it will be! Our church's 50th Anniversary will be celebrated this year.....Rev. Nathan will be with us one year in July.....Nathan and Marion will celebrate their 1st wedding anniversary in June.....We hope to add new members each Sunday in this New Year.....we will be hosting the Homesless and the list goes on and on.

Along with all of the joys in the church we also remember those that who are experiencing illnesses and family losses. Remember them in your prayers. We are a church family that cares for you.



On Wednesday, January 18, at 6:30 pm we will join together in fellowship for our monthly Family Night Dinner. Please watch for more info in the church bulletins. Mark your calendars and don't miss this opportunity to be with your church family.

"CHURCH AND THE LAW"

On January 28, 2006, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm, Hilton Christian Church, in partnership with First Christian Church in Hampton, will be hosting a seminar entitled, "Church and the Law." Our regional minister, Lee Parker, as well as regional church attorney, Fred Smith and Church Mutual Insurance/Church Board agents, David Rogers and Bonnie Creasy will be presenting on such topics as disillusionment of the Church, risk management, insurance updates and concerns, current legal requirements and concerns regarding the function of the church in the world today, and other issues of importance. All congregational members are invited and encouraged to attend this seminar, however, it is crucial that board members, trustees,

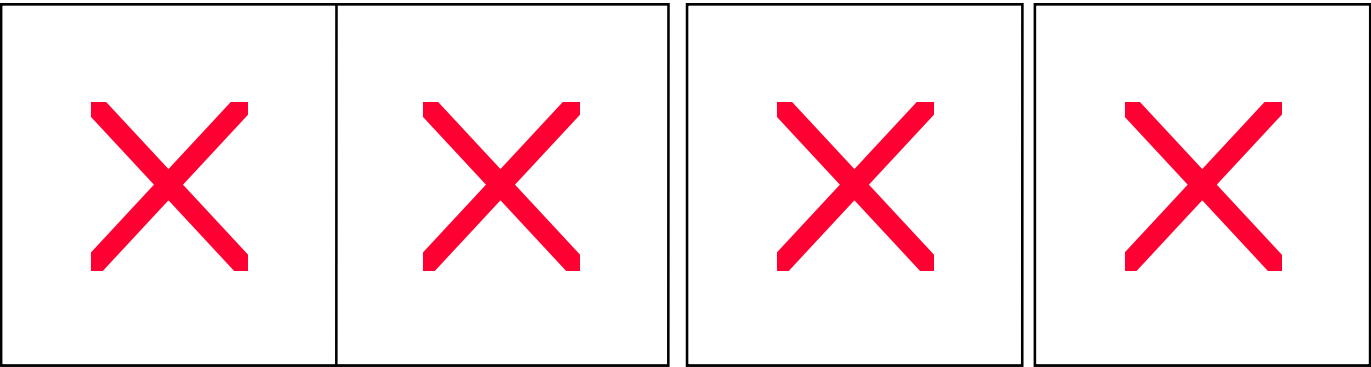
and other interested church leaders are present. If you would like to attend with Rev. Brown, please let him know by Monday, January 23, 2006.

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

**Address Service
Requested**



**Rev. Nathan Brown,
Minister**



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*

