



# The West Side Story

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## A Note from Rev. Brown!



The stone has been rolled away! The tomb is empty! Christ is risen! Alleluia!

The Easter Message is the reason for which the Christian tradition exists. We have now celebrated the joyous occasion of the resurrected Christ within the life of the church and our hope is renewed in the eternal life we are given in our risen Savior. The resurrection promises change for new life and we are now called, as God's people, to help bring forth this new life in the world by sharing the good news we have received in the Easter story.

However, one of the things I hear people say over and over again is that our "spiritual balloon" seems to deflate after Easter Sunday. On Easter morning, our pews are full with people, we baptize individuals into new lives in Christ, and the overall energy level is high within the church. Then, we walk out the doors of our church buildings and Easter is over. If Easter is over after church on Sunday morning, then the point of the Easter message has been lost.

Easter is a new beginning. It is the beginning of living a new kind of life. It is the start to a change in the way we think, feel, and act. It is the inception of a unique kind of relationship with God and with one another.

In order for this change to take place, we must allow the Easter message to *continually* transform our hearts and minds. Easter cannot be a one time event. It must be an ongoing process, always urging us to live out Christ's message of love poured out for *all* the world.

The season of Eastertide will take us through the month of May. The fifty days of Easter are an abundance of feasting, joy, and passionate immersion into the new creation revealed in the death and resurrection of Christ. Let us not be tempted to accept that Easter Sunday is the climax of our faith followed by weeks of letdown. Instead, may each Sunday of the Easter season be part of a great festival in which the energy of the resurrection is sustained and celebrated. And may Eastertide remind us that bringing forth new life into the world is not a one-day event, but rather a life-long calling that has been instituted by our risen Lord and Savior.

*Peace.*

MAY  
2006



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Disciples of Christ

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## MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER

This morning as I was looking out my window, I could not help but reflect on how blessed we are to live in an area where we can experience all four seasons of the year. God is an awesome Creator of each season, with its own uniqueness and beauty.

Now that spring is here, we begin to spend more time outside planting, biking, camping, barbecuing, or just relaxing. We are also exposed to many allergens such as pollen, insects, dust, chemicals, and even some foods and pets. As we know, many of us experience an allergic reaction to some of these things. So, how do we enjoy this season while also controlling or avoiding allergy attacks?

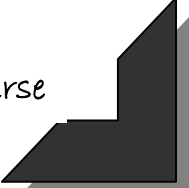
Here are some tips:

1. Keep a record of the symptoms you experience when coming in contact with plants, animals, food, chemicals, etc. Try to avoid those that cause a reaction.
2. In the spring, pollen is the #1 allergen! When these counts are high, close windows in homes and cars and limit time outdoors.
3. Dust is with us year round. Keep the house as dust free as possible. Try to use your air conditioner.
4. Mold and mildew are especially bad during damp weather. Keep the house dry and well ventilated. Keep bathroom and kitchen surfaces clean. A dehumidifier is especially helpful during very humid periods.
5. Decrease irritants when working outside by using a mask. Avoid breathing in smoke and cleaning fumes.
6. Finally, recognize these signs are precursors to life-threatening allergic reactions:
  - severe swelling (especially in the face, around the eyes, mouth & nose)
  - feeling of warmth, itchiness or hives

**IF ANY OF THESE OCCUR, SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY!**

Listen to what your body tells you, and be aware of what is around you! As part of God's creation, we are meant to live in mutual interdependence with the whole of creation.

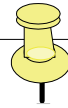
Mary W. Peris, Parish Nurse



### ~ 167<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly ~ Christian Church in Virginia Biennial Family Gathering

Mark your calendars for the Biennial Family Gathering held at Lynchburg College the weekend of Friday, June 2nd through Sunday, June 4th. The theme is: "The Emerging Church: The Roadmap to the Future". The weekend is sure to be packed full with events and activities for the whole family! You can pick-up a registration form on the bulletin board in the hallway. Hurry, the Early Bird deadline to register (saves you \$15) is May 8<sup>th</sup>!

For more details and information, please call (434) 846-3400 or you can visit [www.ccinva.org](http://www.ccinva.org). Please be sure to let Rev. Nathan know if you plan to attend this regional event.



## FAMILY NIGHT DINNER!

The May Family Night Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Entertainment will be provided by the musical group "Fourgiven". We have been privileged to listen to "Fourgiven" before, so rest assured that the entertainment will be well worth your time! Be sure to bring your favorite dish to pass, as this will be a potluck affair. We hope you can make plans to join us for good food, fellowship and entertainment!



## CMF News

The next CMF meeting is May 20, 2006 at 0800. Our speaker will be Charles Kelly, III. Charles is well known and loved by all at WSCC. Charles is employed with the Portsmouth Sheriff Office. Charles' subject will be PROJECT LIFESAVER. This important project is managed by Charles, and ensures that all families of Alzheimer patients are aware that wrist bands permitting radio tracking are available for use by their loved ones. These bands provide caregivers with the exact location of an Alzheimer patient should they become lost/separated.

Please plan to hear Charles' interesting discussion on a subject that will most probably become important to each of us. Of course, Chef Cornwell will provide another one of his scrumptious breakfasts. Please be sure to RSVP to Larry Hackler no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 17th (488-5997).

## CWF News

LYDIA GROUP had 6 present in the April with an offering of \$29 + \$5 from their year-long pennies collection, for a total of \$34. Lydia used their talents with 2 teaching and 1 leading. They read 2 books, 4 regional papers, and 1 daily devotional. Lydia also provided outreach with a total of 38 crafts, visits, cards & calls.

REBEKAH GROUP had 8 present in April with an offering of \$74 and a Blessing Box total of \$52, for a grand total of \$126! Rebekah used their talents with 2 teaching and 2 leading. Further, they provided outreach by making 37 calls. Rebekah also read 7 daily devotionals, 2 disciples readings, 5 regional papers, and 24 books. Crafts and cooking were 2. Rebekah will meet at the church at 7:30 p.m. on May 4th.

SARAH GROUP - report not available for the April meeting.

### UPCOMING CWF PROJECTS:

- ▶ MAY: Mother-Daughter Banquet
- ▶ JUNE: Father's Day Goodie Bags



### Annual Mother-Daughter Banquet

In honor of Mother's Day, West Side Christian traditionally holds a Mother-Daughter Banquet. This year's banquet will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 13th in the Fellowship Center. The theme for the banquet is "A Sentimental Journey". We look forward to our entertainment for the evening, The Heavenly Harmonies. This group includes Faith Gutierrez, Kathy Lay, Diane Edwards and their accompanist, Jean Hilton. Cost is \$7.50 per adult & \$3.50 for children age 9 and under. Reservations must be made no later than May 10th with either Nora Davenport (488-2146) or Doris Tugwell (238-3632).



### SENDING THANKS!

West Side Christian has reached out to many local charities in the past months. Several acknowledgement letters have recently arrived in our mailbox! CWF received a thank you letter from the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia for their \$100 donation, as well as from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their valentine's & candy donations. Thanks was also sent from the Salvation Army for the generous donations to the CWF sponsored Brown Bag Food Drive. Thank you to all who contributed!

## May Birthdays!

2nd: Danielle Greenwood  
 4th: Virginia Wiseman  
 5th: Rita Antonucci, Rosemary Lahy  
 6th: Margaret Poole  
 7th: Myrtle Henderson, Brennan Pieroni  
 8th: Jana Pieroni  
 14th: Thomas Gray  
 16th: Sandra Cotton  
 18th: Kimberly Acors  
 19th: Edith Ross, Candy Wallace  
 20th: Tiffany Jarvis, Brooks Jarvis  
 21st: Debbie Tibbits  
 22nd: Richie Oliver, Larry Hackler  
 25th: Michael Pyles  
 26th: Esther Daniel  
 28th: Erica Zyliaik  
 30th: Dudley Oliver  
 31st: Donald Thomas



### IN NEED OF PRAYER:

Thomas Thornton, Rev. Ken Bryant, Sarah Crawford, Betty Lou Fox, Berry Brown, Sid Price, Margie Robinson, Masil Jones, Esther Daniel, Ellen Nelson, Hilda and Glen Weaver, Pete Darden, Connie Hutto (cousin of Brenda Hayth), Sam Waugh (brother-in-law of the Nutting's neighbor), Kathryn Bean and Jordan Blount (preschool child).



**SHUT-INS:** Ruth Blackman, Sylvia Dickens, Sandy Cotton and Helen McQuade.

## Christian Family Week!

~ May 7th - 14th ~

The week of May 7th-14th is Christian Family week. Here at West Side, we will celebrate with a special worship service on Sunday, May 7th at 11am. A light reception will follow. We have extended invitations to this service to all of our preschool families, as we consider them a part of our greater Christian family. We hope you can make plans to attend this service and help welcome our guests!



## Member Spotlight

This month's spotlight member is **Garland Cook**. Garland is one of our founding fathers at West Side, having first attended Park View Christian in its original location and then helping to start up the seedling church of West Side. Garland served as West Side's first treasurer and most recently served on the auditing committee for 2005.

Born and raised in the Park View section of Portsmouth, "Cookie" cut quite a dashing figure in his youth (I know because I've seen the pictures!). Before graduating from Wilson High School in '36, Garland took the Army up on its offer of a summer training camp held at Ft. Mead in Maryland. There, dressed in the uniforms from WWI, and living in tents, the young men were introduced to military life and became familiar with weaponry of various kinds. It was through this training, along with his neighborhood experiences with small rifles, that Garland began what was to become a long-term vocation as a gunsmith. Having worked as a machinist at the Navy Yard and the Naval Air Station, Garland applied those skills and obtained the necessary equipment to outfit his garage for the manufacture and repair of small arms. He did work for Sears and both the Virginia State and local police departments. He became a Certified Pistol and Rifle Instructor as well as a Certified Virginia State Hunting Safety Instructor.

But guns were not his only passion. Around 1950, Garland obtained his pilot's license and began flying a variety of craft, mostly Piper Cubs and some old WWII army PT-17s, 19s & 23s, all propeller planes. He flew some for business but mostly for pleasure, including some acrobatic flying!. But the demands of a growing family led him to give it up after about 10 years.

Let's talk about that family. As Garland puts it, he used to "run around" with a group that included his wife-to-be's sister and through the sister, he met Oleta. Later, through a chance meeting in downtown, they became an item. That marriage would endure for 60 years and produced 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren! Sadly, Garland lost Oleta in August of 2004.

While his eyesight makes driving difficult, Garland still manages to participate in almost every activity at church. He's a Sunday School teacher for the Boothe Class, attends the Disciples Bible Study Class and is a strong supporter of the Disciples Men's Fellowship. He's still an adventurer; email Garland at [CookCanO319@aol.com](mailto:CookCanO319@aol.com).

(Submitted By: Kitty Baker, Membership Chair)



## Gearing up for VBS!

This summer's Vacation Bible School is set for the week of June 19-June 23, from 9:00am to 12:00pm daily. We are currently in need of one person to teach the 2nd-4th grade group and anyone else who can assist in any way. We could also use donations of the following craft items:

- ♦1yd x 1yd fleece squares
- ♦brown lunch bags
- ♦black felt
- ♦fabric glue
- ♦Popsicle sticks
- ♦old puzzle pieces
- ♦glue
- ♦ribbon or yarn
- ♦index cards
- ♦pipe cleaners
- ♦permanent markers
- ♦hot glue gun & glue
- ♦paper plates (plain)
- ♦tape
- ♦gold paper fasteners
- ♦photo paper
- ♦colored markers
- ♦glitter
- ♦metallic stickers
- ♦edged scissors
- ♦paper towel tubes
- ♦toilet paper tubes
- ♦tissue paper
- ♦balloons
- ♦bubbles
- ♦narrow funnel
- ♦plastic straws
- ♦dry beans
- ♦candy treats
- ♦plant stem tubes (that hold water)

NOTE: These items do not need to be brand new and we can also take items on loan. Supply will need to be for 60-100 children, but you need not donate the full amount. Any donation you can provide will help offset the cost that will be absorbed by the church.

If you have questions or think you can help in any way, PLEASE contact Wendy McNelis at (757) 465-2003. Thank You!

### HOW DO I REGISTER?

VBS is for children age 3 through those in the 6th grade. Your kids will enjoy games, story telling, snacks and more! There is no charge for enrolling your child in VBS. You can call the church office at (757) 488-0514 to register your child or children!



### Wedding News!

Congrats to Mr. & Mrs. Wayne and Melinda Powers, who were married by Rev. Brown on April 15th. After a beautiful ceremony, the two honeymooned in Paris! Please update the address for Wayne, Melinda, Sean and Patrick to:

115 Burnetts Court  
Suffolk, VA 23434  
(757) 287-7318



### ~Lectionary Readings for May 2006~

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
May 7th:	<i>Acts 4:5-12</i> <i>Psalm 23</i> <i>1 John 3:16-24</i> <i>John 10:11-18</i>
May 14th:	<i>Acts 8:26-40</i> <i>Psalm 22:25-31</i> <i>1 John 4:7-21</i> <i>John 15:1-8</i>
May 21st:	<i>Acts 10:44-48</i> <i>Psalm 98</i> <i>1 John 5:1-6</i> <i>John 15:9-17</i>
May 28th:	<i>Acts 1:15-17, 21-26</i> <i>Psalm 1</i> <i>1 John 5:9-13</i> <i>John 17:6-19</i>

### ~ Christian Women United ~

Christian Women United (CWU) will host a May Friendship Day service on Friday, May 5th at 11:00am. The service will be held at Monumental United Methodist, located at Queen & Dinwiddie streets in Portsmouth. You can speak to Nora Davenport for more information.

### SOFTBALL SCHEDULE!

Come support the West Side co-ed softball team! Below is the game schedule for May. All games are on Tuesday nights and are double-headers:

- May 2: 8:30pm, 9:30pm (Highland Biltmore Park)
- May 9: 8:30pm, 9:30pm (Cradock Park)
- May 23: 8:30pm, 9:30pm (Highland Biltmore Park)



**Welcome!**

We would like to take a moment and welcome the most recent additions to the West Side family! Ricky & Rosemary Lahy joined the church on April 2nd, and Fred & Nancy Fritts became members on April 9th. Please update your church directory to include their contact information:

Ricky & Rosemary Lahy  
4608 Indiana Ave.  
Chesapeake, VA 23321  
(757) 488-0141

Fred & Nancy Fritts  
3325 Woodbaugh Dr.  
Chesapeake, VA 23321  
(757) 483-7379

## ATTENTION CRAIG SPRINGS CAMPERS!



This year, the West Side Education Committee is, once again, sponsoring campers who are attending MADD Camp (July 16-21) & New Covenant Camp (July 30-August 4). The church will pay \$100 toward the camp registration for each applicant. All applications & 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 no later than Sunday, May 21st.



We express our deepest Christian sympathy to the family of Mary Mingis, one of our shut-ins, who recently passed away. May the Lord be with Mary's family during this time.

## TIDES ALL FAITH NIGHT!

Mark your calendars now for All Faith Night at the Norfolk Tides baseball game on June 19th! More details to follow as the date approaches.

## New Address!

Rev. Nathan and his wife, Marion, have recently purchased their first home! Many people have called the church office asking for their new address. Please update your church directory with their current address:



Nathan & Marion Brown  
713 Mashie Court  
Newport News, VA 23602  
(757) 234-0734

## What Can We Learn From the DaVinci Code?

On Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> we will enjoy dinner & a movie. The much anticipated film, *The DaVinci Code*, starring Tom Hanks, will be released May 19th. We plan to see the matinee film around 5:00 pm. We plan to grab something to eat following the movie. All are invited. More accurate times will be announced as we approach the date. Please RSVP to the church office by Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.

Beginning the following Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, we will begin a study of a book entitled, *Solving the DaVinci Code Mystery*, by Brandon Gilvin. This will be a six week study, taking us through the different questions both the film and book raise. Again, all are welcome to participate in this study.

Sources:  
Brown, Dan. *The DaVinci Code*.  
Doubleday Publishing, 2003.

Gilvin, Brandon. *Solving the DaVinci Code Mystery*.  
St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2004.



## Calling all Graduates!

If you will be graduating from high school or this this May or June, or did graduate this past December, please be sure to contact one of the chairs of Christian Education (Mary Redmon, 484-8945 or Kim Powell, 465-8779). Or, you can call the church office. We will hold Graduation Sunday on June 11th and want to be sure to include you. We need to hear from you by May 28th!

## Make a Note of it!

The Brownie Troop that has been using the classroom space for their meetings every Tuesday night has recently began to meet at another location. There will no longer be Brownies at the church on Tuesday nights.

## Dead Sea Scrolls Trip

Unfortunately, the trip to see the Dead Sea Scrolls from May 19th-20th had to be cancelled due to lack of response. Please see Elnora Phillips with any questions.