



The West Side Story

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A Note from Rev. Brown!

A couple of weeks ago, a small group from West Side journeyed to the Oasis Social Ministry, downtown Portsmouth, to serve lunch to clients of their free meal program. If you were not aware, we participate in this ministry once a month. I hope you will consider taking a day, in the near future, to serve in this meaningful ministry. June's Oasis date is included within this newsletter.

Each time I serve at Oasis, I am reminded of the mantra spoken within the walls of that soup kitchen: "Have a blessed day!" For each client who receives a plate of food, almost inevitably, he or she replies to those of us serving, "Have a blessed day!" It seems ironic that, in a place where blessings seem few and far between, thankfulness is prevalent.

Subsequently, whenever I leave Oasis, I am always forced to take notice of the blessings in my life and rethink the meaning of the word "blessing" altogether. I wonder what you would consider to be your blessings—your family, your friends, your vocation, your house, your gifts or talents?

Before going into Oasis, these blessings are always at the top of "my list." I am grateful for all that I have received, knowing that God has given to me many blessings in this life. However, every time I walk out of Oasis, I am also reminded of the blessing of being able to serve my neighbor, a blessing that I overlook all too often.

After Pentecost, Paul says to a group of leaders building the church, "In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Certainly, we have received many blessings from God—our families, our friends, our vocations, our talents.

Perhaps, though, Paul reminds us in the season of Pentecost that blessings are more about what we have given than what we have received. I hear Paul's reminder each time I hand a plate to a client at Oasis who responds to me with, "Have a blessed day." Do you hear Paul's words calling you to some kind of service in the church?

This summer, there will be a variety of opportunities to serve through the ministry of West Side Christian Church. I hope you will participate. Also, I pray some of you will cultivate new ministries that will serve one another and our community. In any case, whenever and wherever you have the opportunity to serve, I hope you, "Have a blessed day!"

Peace.

Rev. Nathan Brown

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Disciples of Christ

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REV. NATHAN BROWN, MINISTER

MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER

We are stewards of God's temple and are called to health and wholeness as individuals, families and as members of the family of Christ. In order to be good stewards, we assume the responsibility for developing healthy Christian lifestyles. By acting on our Christian values and faith, we can establish a lifestyle that will prevent illness and accidental injuries, and promote well being.

WAYS TO STAY HEALTHY

Keep life simple: Prioritize by putting safety, and prevention of illness and injury, first.

Keep moving: Physical fitness is essential for good health and it makes you feel good.

Eat right: Sound nutrition keeps you energetic and nourishes the body.

Control stress: Develop strategies for directing the energy of stress into productive uses.

Avoid harmful habits: Change behaviors which increase risks for illness, injury or premature death. Be smoke-free and avoid drugs and excess alcohol.

Pursue healthy pleasures: Enjoy naps, hobbies, relaxing meals, playing with children and pets.

Keep cool: Use air conditioning, slow down, shower, wear lightweight clothing and loose fitting clothing, drink lots of water, avoid hot foods, heavy meals and alcohol, and watch your salt use.

Cultivate spiritual habits of prayer, confession, reconciliation, renewal, and restoration of wholeness. Allow the Spirit of God's presence and grace, to nourish your spirit daily.

WE ARE ALL MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

"From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Ephesians 4:16

Mary W. Peris, Parish Nurse

CWF Reports

LYDIA CIRCLE had 6 present in May with an offering of \$25.00. Lydia used their talents with 2 teaching and 1 leading. They also provided outreach by contacting 69 through cards, calls and visits. Lydia also read 3 Daily Devotionals, 2 books and 2 Regional Papers. They also did lots, and lots of cooking. Their next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 7th at 10:00 a.m. in the church fellowship center.

REBEKAH CIRCLE: The Rebekah Circle met in May with 7 members and 1 guest present. They collected an offering of \$53.00 and used their talents with 1 leading and 2 teaching. They provided outreach by contacting 3 through cooking and crafts and 28 through calls. Rebekah read 4 books, 4 Regional Papers, 6 Daily Devotionals and 2 Disciple Papers. Their June meeting will be on Thursday, June 7th at 7:30 PM.

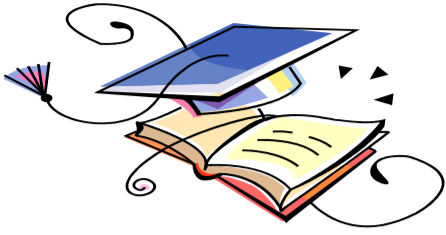
SARAH CIRCLE: The Sarah Circle will meet on June 7th, 7:30 p.m. at WSCC.

The women at West Side had a wonderful May Medley Tea. Approximately 45 women attended. A "special thank-you" to our Hostesses. The tables were decorated beautifully, each displaying a theme such as "Fruits of the Spirit", Polka Dots, Pink & Blue, Dollywood, and Pink, Pink and more Pink. We enjoyed many different flavors of tea, too. The dainty sandwiches, fruit, and desserts were scrumptious. Thanks to Jennifer Larson who was the "Grand Hostess". Brittany Gay and Allison Nutting delighted us with special music. Allison also did a dramatic reading. Anne Myers shared a liturgical dance to the "Prayer of Jabez". The entire afternoon was enjoyed by all.

CMF News

CMF will not be meeting during the summer months.

It will resume in September or October 2007.



2007 GRADUATES

Rachel Widener - Lynchburg College

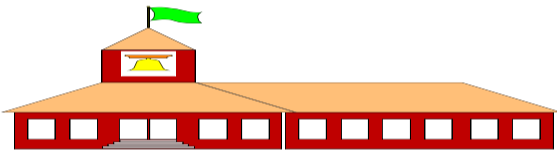
Richie Oliver - Randolph Macon College

Emily Gray Metz - William & Mary College

Sarah Phillips - Indian River High School

Sidney Oliver - Western Branch High School

Joshua Thornton - Middle College High School



Once again, Preschool ended with another successful year and with many happy children embarking on new adventures. I would like to especially thank all my dedicated teachers for their support and devotion to West Side's Preschool. Graduation night, as always, was entertaining, educational and sadly tearful. 23 aspiring young future leaders received their diplomas and sang for the last time, "The Goodbye Song". A special thank-you to Jimmy Jarvis, Kitty Baker, Mary Cornwell and Jake Widener for helping out on graduation night. The preschool teachers for the 2006-2007 year are as follows:

Carol Spruill	Carrie Kelly
Kathy Jenson	Cheryl Boomer
Donna Nutting	Cheryl Jarvis
Laura Jones	Lisa Suter
Susan Buchy	Claudia Thompson

Preschool Director: Jennifer Larson

S.S. TEACHERS NEEDED !

Christian Education is in need of teachers for Sunday School. We need a teacher or team teachers for the 3, 4, and 5 year old class, the 3rd—5th grade class and the Women's class. If you would like to teach any of these classes, please contact Pam Brown or Kim Powell.

We need teachers right away !

June 18th—22nd
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!!

If you are willing and able to help with VBS this year, please contact Jessica Terry as soon as possible or call the church office.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

The following items are needed for VBS. If you can donate, please bring them to the church no later than Sunday, June 10th

Play Sand—10 lbs.
Zip-Lock Bags (150 Small)
Clear Hair Gel
Food Coloring—Blue & Green
Glitter Glue—Assorted Colors
Card Stock—Assorted Colors
Stickers—Ocean & Fish
Glass Jars w/Lids—150 Small
Glitter—Assorted Colors
Packing Tape—Clear
Sea Shells—Small
Coral & Seaweed
Epsom Salt—2 Boxes
Sea Salt—2 Boxes
Powdered Milk—2 Boxes
Construction Paper—Assorted Colors
2 Liter Soda Bottles (100 Empty)
Fishing Line
Rubber Stamps—Ocean Creatures
Water Color Paints -
(Blue, Green, Purple)
Tagboard—150
Clear Plastic Coasters—150

Visioning Team Brief

Well, here we are with June knocking at our door. Summer is upon us which brings to mind thoughts of vacation, the beach, grilling outdoors and just relaxing. The Visioning Team is doing anything but relaxing (although we may throw a hot dog or two on the grill).

Wednesday evening, May 22nd was a whirlwind session which led to the completion of a proposed Statement of Calling and the beginnings of the proposed congregational goals. A draft of the Statement of Calling is listed below. Much work remains in order to complete the task and make a presentation to the Administrative Cabinet, the Board and the Congregation in September. Please let the Visioning Team know your input on the Statement of Calling. It too will be voted on by the congregation.

Please keep the Visioning team in your prayers as we strive to realize the direction that God would have this church family steer over the next few years.

Blessings,

Tom Larson

STATEMENT OF CALLING

West Side Christian Church is a faithful and caring church family committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ in our **CHURCH**, our **COMMUNITY**, and our **WORLD**.

CHURCH: Equip our church family through spiritual growth and leadership development.

COMMUNITY: Share the love of Christ through service.

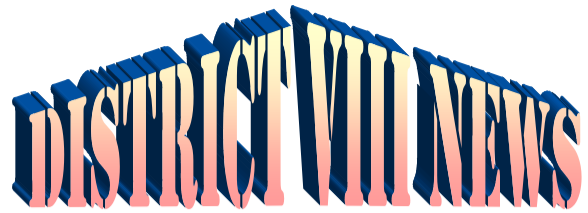
WORLD: Witness through support of Disciples' missions.

Team Members:

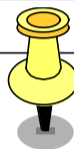
Nathan Brown	Dave McCrickard
Jimmy Jarvis	Mary Redmon
Mary Cornwall	Tom Larson
Brendon McNelis	Erin Ripley
Fran Gray	



vision@westsideccdoc.org



- **July 8th - District VIII Board Meeting**
3:00 PM at Virginia Beach CC
- **July 21st - 25th - General Assembly**
Fort Worth, TX
- **July 26th - District Men's Quarterly Mtg.**
6:30 PM at Diamond Springs CC



REMINDERS

- Administrative Cabinet
Sunday, June 3rd @ 1:30 PM
- Worship Committee
Wed., June 6th @ 6:00 PM
- Official Board
Tuesday, June 12th @ 7:00 PM
- Visioning Team
Wed., June 13th @ 6:00 PM

Prayers for Congregational Transformation Event

On June 1st, a small team from West Side Christian Church will be attending a Congregational Transformation Event in Lynchburg sponsored by the Christian Church of Virginia. The workshop is designed to help congregations revitalize and transform in order to better live out mission in their respective communities. A number of leaders from the General denomination will help us through the workshop as we talk about doing ministry in the 21st century. The team attending from West Side includes:

Kitty Baker
Mary Redmon
Tom Larson
Jennifer Larson
Nathan Brown

Please pray for those leading the event, that all who participate might be blessed by the experience and carry fresh ideas back to their congregations. Also, pray for the team from West Side, as they gain important knowledge and perspective for the church and visioning team, in order that we might continue working toward living out our mission more effectively in the community.

Share
the
Feast

2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
JULY 21-25, 2007

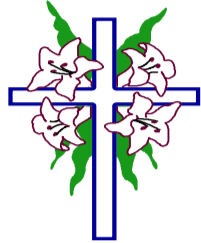
2007 is an Assembly year for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Rev. Brown will be attending the General Assembly July 21st - 25th. If you would like to be a lay representative from West Side or are interested in attending the Assembly, please let Rev. Brown know soon. More information about the Assembly can be found at this website.

<http://www.disciples.org/ga/>

Sympathy

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Pat Price and her family in the recent loss of her husband,

Sid Price.



We also extend our deepest sympathy to Darryl Phelps and his family in the recent loss of his father,

Bobby Ray Phelps.

Thank You

Thank you to my church family for the lovely meal that was served after the service for Sid. Your calls, cards and prayers mean so much to our family.

In Christian Love,

Pat Price and Family

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Nancy Fritts	Dot Wells
Jimmy McRae	Pat Price
Orid Graves	Karen Brown
Rev. Dick Laslo	Phillips Family
Wilma Ingram	Jessica Terry
Roland Thornton	Ruby Fulcher
Vinson Family	Charles Wheeler
Baker Family	Jim White
Logan Osborn	Judy Kelly
Branch Family	Margaret Bacon
Margie Robinson	Ben Adderholdt
Connie Hutto	Juanita Gray
Esther Daniel	Pat Henderson
Melodie Bronson	JoAnna Best
Edith Ross	Powell Family
Elnora Phillips	Joseph Irwin
Kathryn Bean	Carole Wynn
Sarah Crawford	Jay Naclerio
Bobby Ryder	Myrtle Henderson
Bill Wagner	J.T. Joyner
Ellen Nelson	Frankie Louer
Jordan Blount	Masil Jones
Martha Hewitt	Tara Weinmann
Chris Louer	

OUR SHUT-INS

Ruth Blackman	Sylvia Dickens
Rev. Glenn Weaver	Sandy Cotton
Dennis Davenport	

Dear West Side Members,

Thank-You for all the calls, cards, and prayers that have been bestowed upon us during the recent loss of our father and husband, Phil. We appreciate so much the memorial donations that have been given to the church in his name.

Love in Christ,

Elnora Phillips and Family

~Lectionary Readings for June, 2007~

DATE

READINGS

June 3rd:	<i>Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15</i>
June 10th:	<i>I Kings 17:8-16,(17-24) Psalm 146 Galatians 1:11-24 Luke 7:11-17</i>
June 17th:	<i>I Kings 21:1-10,(11-14) 15-21a Psalm 5:1-8 Galatians 2:15-21 Luke 7:36-8:3</i>
June 24th:	<i>I Kings 19:1-4,(5-7), 8-15a Psalms 42 and 43 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39</i>

May's Member Spotlight

Tom & Jennifer Larson

What would bring together a 3rd generation Swede from Minnesota and young local gal from Norfolk? Read on to learn the story of Tom and Jennifer Larson, our June spotlight members.

Tom's grandfather was a Swedish immigrant who settled in Minnesota where two generations later, Tom would be born. Like many families whose forefathers were from the "old country" Tom's dad was a firm believer in the premise that children were both a blessing and a built in labor force! Tom's dad never used power tools—he had his boys to dig and lift heavy objects and physical labor was the way to build character in the Larson household. Tom recalls his dad going to demolition sites and bringing home the discarded wood. The boys would spend days pulling out and straightening the nails and putting them into 5 gallon pails. While Tom surely didn't appreciate it at the time, dad's work ethic helped shaped Tom into the man he is today, a tireless worker who makes great use of recyclables and his own ingenuity. The Larson clan grew to 7 children, including two sets of twins, so dad had a pretty good labor pool!

When Tom was quite young his dad, who worked for Firestone, was transferred to Texas. After about 5 years of dealing with the Texas heat, dad quit his job and the brood packed up and moved back to Minnesota "on a wing and a prayer". Tom's dad found work delivering milk and ice cream and often took young Tom with him. Like the cobbler's children having no shoes, Tom recalls the only time the kids got ice cream was when the foreman would give Tom's dad a 5 gal pail of ice cream that had melted and been refrozen.. And they never had real milk in the house—only powdered milk! Tom worked with his dad on the milk route on Saturdays and summers till he was old enough to get his own job at 16 (so he could pay rent.) Tom remembers building a fire under his truck to help heat the oil so the truck would start. He and a buddy spent summers at their church camp, Camp Shamineau, driving the camp bus and taking care of the horses. At the end of the camp season they would make numerous trips to take the horses to private homes for boarding over the winter.

At 18 Tom joined the Navy and after boot camp in the Great Lakes and school in San Diego he was stationed in Norfolk where he spent most of his naval career. While in Norfolk, Tom married and had two sons. Tom attended First Norfolk Christian Church and became friends with an older couple, Jan and Charles Cloud, who had a young teenage daughter, Jennifer. Not many men have the opportunity to know and become friends with their future in-laws years before they even start dating their daughter! While stationed in Norfolk Tom got the opportunity to serve on the Joint Oil Analysis Program committee. This was a congressional mandate to standardize oil analyses across all branches of the military. In this capacity Tom came to live the Navy slogan, "Join the Navy and see the world." While working on this committee he traveled to Japan, Spain, Italy, France, Germany, the Panama Canal, Norway and Sweden as well as circumnavigating South America.

Meanwhile Jennifer was growing up as part of a blended family with 2 older sisters, 1 older brother and 2 step brothers, 2 step sisters, and a half sister. Her parents owned and operated the Kempsville Inn and Barron's Pub and later the Carriage House. Not wanting to work for the family business, at 18, Jennifer took a job at Shoney's and went to nursing school. She worked for a year at Norfolk General and then decided she'd like to go back to school to obtain her RN degree.

Her minister recommended his alma mater, Atlantic Christian, which we know now as Barton College. Well, love intervened and the degree was never obtained but a wedding ring was. Jennifer's husband joined the Air Force and he and Jennifer and baby Rachel moved to McDill AFB in Florida. During their five years there Jennifer worked at the base golf course and tended to toddling Rachel and, during her last year there, welcomed baby Jake. Before that year ended, Jennifer and her husband split up and Jennifer and her children moved back home to live with her parents.

Member Spotlight continued.....

Enter Tom Larson once again. His marriage had also ended in divorce and he moved into an apartment three doors down from Jennifer's parents. The two renewed their friendship and spent a lot of time together "hanging out". They had a lot in common given their respective situations and from a solid friendship would evolve an even stronger love. After two years they were married. Their honeymoon was a combination honeymoon/family reunion involving all of Jennifer's immediately family, numerous local aunts and uncles and aunts and uncles from Oklahoma as the entire crew met in Reno, Nevada. They all stayed in one hotel in a string of rooms with connecting doors. Picture a "National Lampoon Vacation" and you've got how they described their honeymoon. But love can conquer all, even family vacations!

In the early years of their marriage Tom and Jennifer were very active at First Norfolk. Through the CWF Jennifer was one of sixteen women who went on a "Woman to Woman" trip to China. She recalls this trip as one of the most profound and impacting events of her life. She then spent the next year traveling to many congregations and sharing the experiences she had on the China trip.

In late 1997 the Larson's began attending West Side. They visited the Disciples class and the Ruth class before settling on the Fellowship class. Soon Jennifer was back involved with CWF, both at West Side and for District VII. Tom and Jennifer both joined the choir and we are still blessed to have Tom sing a solo every now and then. In fact, Tom sung the national anthem at the Admirals Hockey game for one of their group promotional events. Jennifer confesses to having aspired to be an opera singer in her youth when she rehearsed with a Gilbert and Sullivan troupe that used to practice at First Norfolk. Both Tom and Jennifer have served on the Diaconate and Tom has also served as an Elder. He currently is President of District VIII and is Co-chair of Outreach for West Side. Both have been involved in Bible Studies and are key contributors in their Sunday school class.

In 2000, Jennifer became the Pre-School Director. At the time the school offered a two-day 3yr old class, a three-day 4 yr old class and occasionally a two-day pre-three class. There were only three staff members. Today there are ten staff members, 2 two-day and three-day 3 yr old classes, a three-day and a five-day 4 yr old class, plus for the last three years, an extended care class. This Fall Pre-School will be able to offer its first ever kindergarten class! This is Jennifer's last year as Director and her leadership will be sorely missed. In addition to all the hours Jennifer has given to Pre-School. She has Co-chaired the Education and Worship Committees and has served as Board Secretary for three years. For the last several years Tom and Jennifer have created the inspirational setting in the sanctuary for our Easter Prayer Vigil.

Tom has become our chief audio-visual engineer and is a fabulous web master. If you haven't visited West Side's site recently you really should. Tom continues to add innovation to the site. Now in addition to being able to access newsletters, bulletins, the Church calendar of events and Pre-School information, you can actually see a video of the Sunday service! Tom is also our network guru for the new church software program. And who could forget his masterful Emcee job on the Disciples vs. Youth Bible Bowl, or his hilarious roles in the various Mystery Dinner Theater productions.

If there is an event at West Side you are likely to see Tom and Jennifer as they give so tirelessly and freely of themselves to the Lord and his work, whatever it may be. Both of them were part of our Mission Team that went to New Orleans last summer and as a outgrowth of that, Tom and Bill Loftis, his co-chair for Outreach, have instituted a community mission program of providing home repairs, yard work, etc. to area residents as well as church members.

They go about their Christian walk so humbly, never seeking or being comfortable with recognition, so I thank them for allowing me to feature them as our June Spotlight members.

Submitted by Kitty Baker

SERVING LUNCH AT OASIS

Thursday, June 28th

9:00 am—2:00 pm

Meet at West Side to carpool



DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!



Coming this Fall is the return of Disciple Bible Study, a 34 week journey through the Bible. Enough notice is being given, so that YOU might plan to participate in this life-changing study. Rev. Brown will be facilitating the study once again. The study will begin in late August or early September. An interest session will be held later this summer for those thinking of participating. Also, for those who participated in Disciple Bible Study I, a Disciple II class (Into the Word, Into the World) will be offered this fall. This class is designed to take a more in-depth look at the books of the Bible and is intended for those who have completed Disciple I. If you have completed Disciple I and are willing to consider facilitating a Disciple II class, please let Rev. Brown know as soon as possible.

CONGRATULATIONS

Marion Brown is being Ordained at the Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference in

Roanoke, VA

Monday, June 11, 2007

Please pray for her and her family during this special time in her ministry.

Nathan will be with Marion in Roanoke for her Ordination on June 11th and 12th.

June

Birthday's



- 1st: Jim White
- 5th: Jerry Thornton, Sr.
- 14th: Andrew Cherry
- 18th: Ivy Kelly
Lorraine Shea
- 22nd: Tony Peris
Robin Ehlers
- 23rd: Sara Phillips
- 27th: Kim Powell
- 28th: Fran Gray
Charlene Gray

SEEKER'S NEWS

Hello to all! As many of you may know there is a Sunday school class geared towards 20 to 30 something men and women. This group is called the Seeker's class.

The class was founded in fall 2005 and led by our fearless leader Nathan Brown. This past spring, Reverend Nate decided that our group was now strong enough to pick a new leader. So we have chosen to take turns leading one another on a monthly basis.

For the past few weeks, we have been using a wonderful video series by Rob Bell. If you have looked at the bulletin, you have probably noticed that Sunday school starts at 9:45 am. Unfortunately, our class is not the most prompt group of individuals, so we start class at 10:00 am instead. Don't worry if you're running late because the rest of us probably are too. Just come anyway!

Another thing we try to do is fellowship outside of class. Although busy schedules make it hard, we do attempt to plan something at least once a month. Whether its dinner, a movie, or a special event, it's always great to hang out for some adult conversations and fun together.

Our fellowship event for June is a trip to Busch Gardens on June 24th following worship. Child care is being provided at the church for anyone in need. Then on July 27th, we will be having dinner at Nathan & Marion's house at 6:30 PM.

For those who are new, please stop by one Sunday or join us for an outing. We would love to have you! The ones who haven't been in awhile, come on back. We've really missed you! To the ones we see most of the time, continue to come. It wouldn't be the same without you.

Elder's Journal

Being an Elder:

Believe it or not, being an Elder is more than being the bearer of bad news. One of the many duties of an Elder is to implement the Rapid Notification Procedure, i.e., notifying all members of WSCC that something has happened and every member needs to know about it as soon as possible. Usually this information is considered bad news. Elders would be seriously remiss if they failed to notify everyone concerning this situation.

Elders have many other duties and responsibilities that many may not know about. For example, prayers at the Communion Table are the most visible and certainly important. Another function of Eldership is taking Communion to the sick/shut-ins, usually on a monthly basis. Further, the entire congregation is divided into 9 sections and each Elder is given one of these 9 sections which becomes his/her Flock. He/she will notify each member of his/her flock that he/she has the honor and privilege of serving as their Elder. The Elder tends to his/her flock by implementing the Rapid Notification Procedure; being aware when a member of the Flock has not been attending Church services regularly; and just being available to members of his/her flock for information concerning Church functions.

Serving as an Elder automatically makes you a member of the Official Board which is another important way to serve Christ. As Christians, we should place ourselves in positions so we can serve Christ. Being an Elder is such a position. You will have many opportunities to serve and to minister. After all, isn't this what it's all about?

Someone stated succinctly... "God doesn't always call the qualified, but He always qualifies the Called!"

Larry Hackler