



The West Side Story

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A Note from Rev. Brown!

For those of us who buy real Christmas trees to decorate our homes for the holidays, perhaps the best evidence of Christmas day having come and gone is the death of our respective trees. The branches begin to droop, the ornaments slide off, and the needles become brown and end up embedded in our carpet. The Christmas tree begins with vibrancy and life, but ends with dreariness and death.

Maybe this is not the brightest image for what is to come after Christmas. Certainly, new life has been born into our world in the child of Jesus Christ. We praise God with joy and thanksgiving for coming into our world as Emmanuel, "God with us."

Nevertheless, the months of January and February can be dreary during the bleak midwinter. No longer do we have the holidays to which we can look forward. No longer can we stay busy with the planning and preparing for Christmas day. Christmas day has already come and gone. Now what do we do? Do we simply throw out the tree and wait for spring?

The Christian story is one of death and resurrection, endings and new beginnings, and old realities and new possibilities. While the holidays may be over, opportunities abound to continue bringing forth new life in the world. There are still hungry to be fed, naked to be clothed, sick and imprisoned to be visited, and grief-stricken to be comforted. While one story has ended, a new story is beginning.

While the dead tree, thankfully, no longer stands in our home, we have rearranged the furniture in our living room to "mix things up" for the New Year. The death and removal of our Christmas tree opened up possibilities for us to enjoy our home in new ways. Okay, I did not exactly enjoy moving furniture around for two hours, but the end result is definitely worth it.

As we approach the longer winter months of the first part of this year, ask yourself if there are dead trees in your life that need removal. Is there a relationship that needs reconciling? Is there a habit that needs kicking? Is there a grudge or resentment weighing you down?

Whatever it may be, wrap it up, drag it outside, sweep up the residue, and replace it with new life. May that new life flourish within you the whole year through as we continue to transform this world through God's love born to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Peace.

JANUARY

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2007

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Disciples of Christ

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REV. NATHAN BROWN, MINISTER

MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER

As we begin a New Year, let us first give thanks to God for His many blessings. Secondly, let us continue to live the healthy lifestyle that God wants for us.

In January, our healthy living tip will focus on eye health. There are times when all of us experience minor eye irritations. We may notice a red spot on our eye, or see floaters or flashes. Our eyes may twitch or feel dry, itchy and watery or we may experience styes. Most of these troublesome problems are not serious. They will clear up with rest or application of artificial tears or by applying cold or warm compresses.

You should contact your doctor if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- “Pain, blurring or loss of vision”
- “Painful sensitivity to light”
- “Foreign objects in your eye”
- “Red eye with thick green-yellow discharge”
- “Unequal pupils”
- “Problems lasting for more than seven day”

Some eye problems are more serious and require preventive measures and early intervention such as:

EYE INJURIES - from flying particles, sparks striking the eye, contact with chemicals, swinging tree limbs, ropes, chains, etc.

EYE DISEASES - such as Retinopathy, Cataracts, Glaucoma, and Macular Degeneration.

ALL OF THESE CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS

It is estimated that 1000 eye injuries occur daily in the workplace. The key to prevention is wearing appropriate eye protection for the job being done. Eye diseases are frequently complications of other diseases such as diabetes. These impairments may also be age-related, especially for older adults. The key to prevention of these diseases is early detection and treatment, followed by blood sugar and blood pressure control, yearly eye exams and age appropriate exercise programs.

The gift of sight is a treasure!
Take care of the eyes God has given you!

*“It is you who light my lamp; the Lord,
my God, lights up my darkness.”*

Psalm 18:28

Mary W. Peris, Parish Nurse

CWF Reports

LYDIA CIRCLE met in December. Lydia used their talents with 2 teaching and 1 leading. They also provided outreach by contacting 40 through cards, crafts, food and visits. Lydia also read 3 Daily Devotionals, 4 books and 3 Regional Papers and 1 Va. Christian. The group took Margaret out for lunch as a going away gathering.

REBEKAH CIRCLE had 7 present in December with an offering of \$48.00. Rebekah used their talents with 2 teaching and 2 leading. They also provided outreach by making 20 calls and 5 crafts/cooking. Rebekah read 7 books, 6 Daily Devotionals, 2 Disciples and 5 Regional Papers. The January meeting will be with Frances Wells.

CWF BRUNCH

*January 13th
11:00 AM*

CMF News

Rev. Marion Brown to address CMF

At 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 20th, Rev. Marion Brown will be our guest speaker at the monthly CMF breakfast.

Rev. Brown is the Associate Pastor of Williamsburg United Methodist Church in Williamsburg, VA. She studied the Dead Sea Scrolls while attending Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, TN. Marion is originally from Baton Rouge, LA and is the wife of Rev. Nathan Brown.

Rev. Brown will speak on “The Dead Sea Scrolls.” Come and learn about the exciting discovery and significance of these manuscripts found deep within the caves of Qumran.

Another scrumptious breakfast will be prepared by Chef Cornwell and staff. All are invited, please RSVP as soon as possible.

Submitted by Larry Hackler

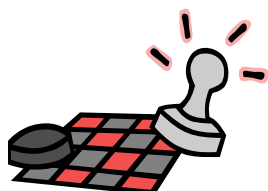
SERVING LUNCH AT OASIS

We here at West Side Christian Church feel it is important to continually do our part to help feed the homeless all year long. Rev. Brown and members of West Side help at the Oasis each month. Lunch is prepared and served from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you are able and willing to help check the information board outside the sanctuary for the next date and sign up to car pool with us. For more information contact the church office or see Rev. Brown.



Games and Reading Materials for the Homeless

WSSC will feed and house the Homeless from March 4th–10th. Current reading materials such as Reader's Digest, family/religious books and magazines are needed for them this week. Board games such as checkers, chess, and cards are also needed. February 4th a box will be placed in the hall leading to the Fellowship Center for these items. Your donations will be greatly appreciated by all.



SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELESS (2007)

Starting **Sunday, March 4th** thru **Saturday, March 10th**, West Side Christian Church will feed/house the Homeless. For the last 11 years, WSSC 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 for 7 nights. Each night, Chef Cornwell and his loyal supporters have prepared a hot delicious/scrumptious meal for approximately 80 homeless men, women and sometimes children. WSSC has earned the reputation of providing the best meals to the homeless in all of Portsmouth. Approximately 13 volunteers are needed each night, (9 servers and 4 chaperones) to place food on plates, prepare the tables for eating, clean each table afterwards, **wash/dry all pots/pans**, remove enough tables for adequate sleeping space, and spend the night to provide security for the homeless.

Volunteer chaperones are the most difficult to find. Overnight monitoring of the homeless is critical to the program. If WSSC is not able to provide this service, then assistance from other churches/organizations will be required. WSSC is not permitted to feed/house the homeless without **Chaperones**.

Ideally, **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 monitor the homeless. At the end of the first four-hour shift, they will change places. Each morning at 5:30 a.m. all four chaperones are needed to get our guests up and on their way by 6:30 a.m. Before guests depart, chaperones have many duties, one of which is to ensure that guests clean the sleeping areas and prepare the Fellowship Center for the next night. A detailed list of duties and responsibilities for chaperones will be provided. **For security reasons, there must be at least two adults on duty each night.** It is as simple as that.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS !

On Sunday, February 3, 2007, volunteer sign-up sheets will be placed on a table located in the hall leading to the Fellowship Center. It would be greatly appreciated if you could squeeze this important service into your schedule. Please place your name on **one or more** of these sign-up sheets at this time.

Thank you,

The Outreach Committee

Happy New Year ! From The Visioning Team

The Visioning Team is eager to get on with their task in 2007. We last met with a number of the Board members on December 18th to discuss the "Core Values" of West Side Christian Church. The discussion was very enlightening for all who attended the meeting. This topic will be one of many discussed at a joint meeting between the new Board and the Visioning Team on January 21, 2007.

We are in the process of putting up a communication board in the hallway. The Visioning Team will use this as a way to keep you, the congregation, aware of where we are in the process of prayerfully discerning God's plans for the future of West Side Christian Church.

If you have anything that you would like to discuss with a team member or any ideas that have been laid on your heart, please, contact one of us and let us know your questions and/or thoughts. Just a reminder of the team members: Nathan Brown, Jimmy Jarvis, Mary Cornwell, Dave McCrickard, Mary Redmon, Tom Larson, Fran Gray, Brendon McNelis, and Erin Ripley. We all ask for you to continue to pray for the Visioning Team and ask God to show us His vision for West Side's future.

Love in Christ,

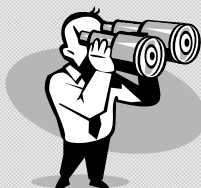
Fran Gray

Visioning Team Update

The Visioning Team has received input from the Board on a Congregational Questionnaire. The input will be used by the Team in developing mission opportunities and evaluating where we are now as a church. The Board (both 2007 members and those who were 2006 Board members, but not in 2007), will meet for a 2-1/2 hour meeting on **Sunday, January 21st**. This meeting is critical so we need all Board members to give us their input at that time.

Also on **Sunday, January 14th**, we are asking members of the congregation who have not already completed the Congregational Survey (at the December Board meeting), to stay after church to complete the survey. It takes about 20 minutes. This is the opportunity for all members to give the Visioning Team input into where God wants us to be. Please pray for the Visioning Team daily.

~submitted by Jimmy Jarvis



NEW HAPPENINGS



Disciples Heritage Study

Have you ever wondered what the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) "believes?" Have you been curious about how the church is structured? Do you have questions about our history and what kind of impact Disciples are making in the world today? Come be a part of a Disciples heritage study during the Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45 am), January 14th—February 18th. This is an excellent class for all people ranging from new members to charter members alike. Rev. Brown will be teaching the class using the book The Faith We Affirm by Ron Osborn (Chalice Press). Please pick up a copy of this book if you are able to be a part of this study. You can order the book through Cokesbury or any other book seller. Please sign up for this study on the information board outside the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Brown. The meeting room will be decided at a later date.

Beth Moore Bible Study

Get your year started off right by participating in a Bible Study at West Side. Rosemary Lamy will be facilitating a Beth Moore Bible Study the week of January 14th for 8-10 weeks. This will be a wonderful opportunity to participate in Bible Study leading up to the Lenten season. Each study will last 1-1/2 to 2 hours. There will be a brief meeting for those interested in this study following worship on January 7th in the fellowship center. If you have questions please contact Rosemary. The place and times will be announced soon.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Arnold Nelson, President of the Disciples Home Missions for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will be speaking at West Side on Sunday, February 4th at 6:00 PM. This will be a pot-luck gathering. Please bring your normal two dishes if you are planning to attend. His topic will be oriented towards the work our denomination is doing to help Katrina survivors. He will also be discussing other ministries in which the wider denomination participates through DHM. Please come and support our church and denomination through being present for this event. District VIII churches are invited and Lee Parker, Regional minister of VA will also be present. If you have any further questions, please contact Rev. Brown.

Thank You

Dear West Side Family,

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for all your cards, calls, visits, food, hugs, words of encouragement, your love and support, and your presence at the viewing and funeral. Also for your generous donations to the Building Fund in memory of Thomas.

Thomas was not a man of many words, but one thing is for sure, he loved his church and the people in it. One of the most important things to him was the children's sermon. While we were eating lunch on Sundays he would always say how cure the children were and that they are the future of the church.

Again, thanks for everything.

The Thornton Family

Joyce

Tommy, Jr., Teri, Ricky,

Crystal, Anna, Daniel & Corey

~Sympathy~

We extend our deepest
Christian Sympathy
to
Dickie and Linda Hayes
and their family
on the loss of his mother

Mary Kathryn

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Hayes Family	Powell Family
Thornton Family	Joseph Irwin
Ava Bunting	Jim Ligon
Jenny Bunting	Stephanie Duke
Kelly Witomski	Dolton Gray
Eloise Lowman	Carole Wynn
Barbara Nelson	Steven Wells
Juanita Gray	Jay Naclerio
Margie Robinson	Barbara White
Edith Ross	Elnora Phillips
Kathryn Bean	Myrtle Henderson
Sarah Crawford	Mike Johnson
Betty Lou Fox	Phil Phillips
Connie Hutto	Roland Thornton
Ted Gibson	Masil Jones
Tata Weinmann	Sid Price
Bobby Ryder	Esther Daniel
Bill Wagner	Ellen Nelson
Martha Hewitt	Melodie Bronson
Chris Louer	Jordan Blount
Frankie Louer	

OUR SHUT-INS

Ruth Blackman	Sylvia Dickens
Rev. Glenn Weaver	Sandy Cotton

~Lectionary Readings for Jan. 2007~

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
January 7:	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January 14:	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11
January 21:	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21
January 28:	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30

Reminder!

If you have not already picked up your 2007 giving's envelopes, they are still in the church office. If you wish to have them mailed to you just give Trish a call and she will be happy to get them to you.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S

- 1st: Pam Brown
- 2nd: Jamey Corbett
- 3rd: Steve Gray
- 7th: Catherine Buchanan
- 8th: Zach Lowman
Maud Hemby
- 9th: Chris Terry
- 12th: Brant Honeycutt
Freda Pyles
- 14th: Jimmy Powell
Kelly Terry
- 15th: Mike Phillips
- 16th: Shanna Trevino
- 17th: Millicent Wise
- 19th: Dick Cornwell
Tommy Thornton, Jr.
Ruby Fulcher
Stephen Milam
Kayleigh McNelis
- 21st: Barb Inman
- 27th: Braedon Terry
- 28th: Betty Lou Fox
- 29th: Janey Culpepper
- 30th: Wallace Williams
Roger Gilley
Sharon Trevino
- 31st: Sid Price
Michael Stidham

CONGRATULATIONS !



Michael George Stidham, III
Born to
Michael, Shannon & Alexa
on
December 19, 2006
8:22 AM
7lbs., 3 ozs., 20 inches

SCHEDULE CHANGE

Rev. Brown will be changing his schedule to reflect **Monday** as his designated day out of the office. This will take effect immediately and is subject to change as special circumstances arise.

Please make a note in your mental calendar.



I've Moved!

Masil Jones
Dominon Village
2856 Forehand Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23323

~REMINDER~

Lt. Governor Bill Bolling will be speaking at West Side this Saturday, January 6th @ 11:00 AM. There is still time to RSVP. Please contact the church office as soon as possible so that Chef Cornwell can properly prepare.



New Member Dinner

Plans are being made to have a new member dinner sometime in late January or early February. Check the sunday bulletins and the church calendar for more details.

ADMINISTRATIVE CABNET

Sunday
January 7th
1:30 PM

HOLIDAY CLOSING

In observance of Martin Luther King Day
January 15, 2007
The Preschool & Church Office
will be closed

5th ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ
In Partnership Together
HOSTED THIS YEAR AT
DIAMOND SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
5612 HADEN ROAD
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
Worship Service
January 14th @ 3pm

Potluck and Fellowship following Service

Contact for further information at 464-5650

**Make plans now to attend as our own
Rev. Brown will be participating in this event**

BASKETBALL NEWS

As of printing, the WSCC Basketball Schedule was not available. Please check the church calendar and/or the communications board outside the sanctuary for more details.



WSCC YOUTH

CONGRATULATIONS
to
Allison Nutting
and
Stephen Milam

“People to People Ambassadors”



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Youth Kick-Off
Sunday, February 11th
(more details to come)

Special Thanks

The 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Sunday School classes would like to thank Mrs. Doris Tugwell for the beautiful butterflies she donated to decorate our class room. We really appreciate her generosity and invite all to come by and take a look!

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The congregation of West Side Christian Church would like to thank Harry Barnes for the beautiful window treatments placed in the church sanctuary in honor of his mother,
Esther Daniel.

They have added much warmth and beauty to our church and will be admired for many years to come.

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We the Staff of West Side Christian Church would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the church for the generous Christmas gifts you so generously bestowed upon us. We are blessed and honored to serve such a wonderful group of people.

Thank you so much!
Nathan, Marion,
Trish, Joe & Becky