



The West Side Story

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2008

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

A Note from Rev. Brown!



It is liturgical custom in some Christian traditions to “bury the Alleluia” during the season of Lent. As a reminder of the solemnity of this season, congregations make it a practice not to include “Alleluias” in any part of worship during the 40 days of Lent. This practice emphasizes the absence of joy as we journey with Christ toward Good Friday.

What a dreary tradition! Particularly during a calendar year in which Lent begins so early, it does not seem fair that the church would require that we already begin ceasing our Christmas Alleluias. No sooner have the angels proclaimed, “A child has been born!” that we begin journeying with Jesus toward the cross.

One of the key biblical figures who makes the journey with Jesus toward the cross is Peter. He is there at Jesus' transfiguration. He is the disciple that steps out onto the water. He is the disciple that first realizes Jesus is the Messiah. Peter is also the disciple that denies Christ just before Jesus' crucifixion. Peter is with Jesus for almost every step that is taken toward the cross. The problem is that Peter never fully understands the journey he is making with Jesus until after the resurrection.

Perhaps Peter's naiveté is the result of never stopping to listen or reflect. We know Peter is with Christ every step of the way because Peter is never quiet. In each of the instances mentioned, Peter is the first to speak. At the transfiguration, Peter tells Jesus he wants to put up permanent dwellings atop the mountain. When the disciples recognize Jesus walking on water, Peter asks if he can walk out to him. Peter is the first to confess Christ as the Messiah. Peter is also the disciple who quickly makes a promise he cannot keep by declaring to Jesus that he will never deny Jesus.

The church during Lent is like Peter—wanting to constantly proclaim “Alleluia,” but not taking the time to listen for what that “Alleluia” means. We excel at sharing the good news of the resurrection, busying ourselves with the ministry of the church. However, we do not do well counting the cost of discipleship, listening for God's direction and guidance.

While “burying the Alleluia” may seem like dreary practice and may not even seem fair, perhaps we can learn something from this tradition. It might remind us that the journey of Lent is not one of exclamation and proclamation, but rather of introspection and reflection. Before we proclaim again the good news of Easter morning, we are called to count the cost of discipleship. During this season of Lent, try “burying the Alleluia” and ask yourself the question Peter never asks: “What does it mean for me to follow Jesus?”

Peace,

Rev. Nathan Brown

Disciples of Christ



WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA 23701

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REV. NATHAN BROWN, MINISTER

MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER

"Let Love Be Genuine"

Romans 12:9

"Our purpose in life is to simply share God's love that is already ours—with each other. This love in its many forms is what each one of us craves. It is the greatest blessing we can give another or ourselves. There is no better exercise for the heart than reaching down and lifting someone up." Reverend Christopher Ian Chenoweth

February 3:

Dr. Bernie Siegel, Yale physician and author of a best-selling book titled *Love, Medicine and Miracles*, has written "Unconditional love is the most powerful stimulant of the immune system. The truth is: love heals."

February 10:

High blood pressure/hypertension is called the "silent killer." Without screening, many do not even know they have hypertension. Symptoms go unnoticed and undetected. Untreated hypertension may lead to chronic illnesses such as cardiovascular and heart disease, kidney failure and stroke. These illnesses are directly related to our God given circulatory system.

February 17:

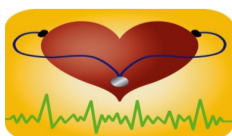
Hypertension is diagnosed when pressure levels increase to a dangerous level and remain there. High blood pressure is not curable, but successful management enables each person to live a quality life actively and productively. Management focuses on life style changes that we can control; stress, smoking, diet and weight, and exercise. The most important actions you can take against this "silent killer" are: regular screening, every third Saturday at church, and regular check-ups with your doctor.

February 24:

A diet tip: make your own low-fat, lower-calorie tortilla chips by baking fresh tortillas at 400° for 8-10 minutes, or until crisp. You can cut them into triangles before baking, or break them into chips afterward.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.*

Psalms 51:10



SHALOM!

Mary W. Peris, Parish Nurse

CWF Reports:

LYDIA CIRCLE:

The Lydia Circle met on January 3rd with 7 members present. They collected an offering of \$29.00 and used their talents with 1 teaching and 1 leading. Lydia also provided outreach by contacting 30 through cards, calls and visits. 7 members participated in the Soup & Salad Luncheon. They read 3 Daily Devotionals and 2 Regional Papers. 7 members worked on CWF projects and 7 performed outreach.

REBEKAH CIRCLE:

The Rebekah Circle met on January 3rd with 6 members present and 1 member leading. They collected an offering of \$40.00 and used their talents through the following:

Daily Devotionals read - 5

Books read - 2

Regional Papers read - 2

Provided transportation to - 2

Crafts made - 2

Their next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 7th at 7:30 PM with Edith Ross hostessing.

SARAH CIRCLE:

Sarah Circle met in January at Chesapeake Square Mall. They walked, had breakfast and a short program. Five members were present. The Sarah Circle will meet at the Olive Garden Restaurant on Thursday, February 7th at 7:00 PM with husbands/and or guests for a Valentine's Dinner. Please bring your Valentines for Veterans to our meeting.



CWF NEWS

The CWF General Meeting was held in January with 18 members in attendance. We also had 3 guests from Hilton Korean Christian Church. We enjoyed a wonderful presentation from Kilcha Kennedy about her life in Korea and now in the United States. Lydia Group supplied a wonderful brunch. We voted to send \$150.00 to the Southern Tidewater Food Bank. Our service project for February is Valentine's for Veterans.

Homeless Week Homeless Week

**Our Church will feed/house the homeless
Sunday night, March 2nd
thru
Sunday morning, March 9th**

Since 1994, 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 supporters prepares a hot delicious meal for approximately 70+ homeless men, women and sometimes children. Thirteen volunteers (9 Servers and 4 Chaperones) are needed each night. Due to the Bus's seating capacity, there will be two servings (8:00 and 8:45). Servers will place a portion of food on plates; carry plates to tables; ensure that tables are cleaned after all have eaten; wash/dry all pot/pans; and ensure that guests stack tables/chairs preparing the area for sleeping.

Further, **four adult chaperones are needed** to spend each night, working in two four-hour shifts. Since the homeless includes men and 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. The next morning all chaperones are needed to get everyone up by 5:30 a.m., so guests will have time to clean restrooms and the sleeping area. Guests will board the Bus by 6:30 a.m. Also 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 we aren't able to provide this service, then assistance from other organizations will be required. We are not permitted to feed/house the homeless without **chaperones**. It is as simple as that. **We need volunteers.**

A separate volunteer sign-up sheet for each day has been placed on tables in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Center. 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.

Thank you, Outreach Committee

CMF News

On February 16th at 8:00 AM, Professor Justin C. Friberg (Ret) will speak at the CMF breakfast meeting. Dr. Friberg was an Associate Professor of Environmental Geography at ODU. He retired in January 2007 and is originally from Idaho.

We all have grown to know and love Justin as one of our own. Justin plans to speak on "**ACROSS THE BIBLICAL DESERT, THE SINAI**". Most are familiar with Moses leading the Israelites across the desert. However, much is unknown and there is more to be learned. Looking at the map, several questions come to mind.

- What routes did they follow and what are the known advantages/disadvantages of these trade routes? And how did thousands of exiles travel and survive through 40 years in the desert? Also, why 40 years? All this through a geographic interpretation of the Sinai.

Come and hear about Justin's findings on the Biblical Desert Sinai. Always the teacher, your homework assignment is to re-read Exodus.

Please be aware the number of members planning to attend is required in order to purchase/prepare the food. If you are coming, please fill out the insert in Sunday's bulletin for February 10th, or call me by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13th.

Larry Hackler

488-5997



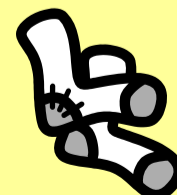
Collection for the Homeless

Cindy Wallace has graciously volunteered to work on gathering items of need for the homeless. Most requested items are socks, hats and gloves. A collection box has been placed in the church foyer.

Items are needed no later than

Sunday, March 2nd.

Please give generously.



~Lectionary Readings for February 2008~

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>READINGS</u> |
|----------------|--|
| February 3rd: | Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9 |
| February 10th: | Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11 |
| February 17th: | Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 |
| February 24th: | Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42 |

IN NEED OF PRAYER

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Dick Cornwell | Marlene Whitehurst |
| Dawn Price | Ann Hall |
| Debbie Johnson | Mark Warren |
| Betty McCrickard | Dickie Hayes |
| Gray Family | Brenda Lohse |
| Maureen Powers | Herschel Carter |
| Kristin & Anthony | Ron Riffle |
| Williams | Matthew Davis |
| Dawn Weiss | Michael & Jessica Gates |
| Cavanaugh Family | Wilda Dyer |
| Branch Family | Christine Bradley |
| Esther Daniel | Sandy Phillips |
| Melodie Bronson | Phillips Family |
| Sarah Crawford | Judy Kelly |
| Bobby Ryder | Ben Adderholdt |
| Tara Weinmann | Joseph Irwin |
| Masil Jones | Ellen Nelson |

SHUT - INS

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ruth Blackman | Sylvia Dickens |
| Rev. Glenn Weaver | Sandy Cotton |
| Dennis Davenport | Roland Thornton |
| Al Hemby | |

Thank You

Dear West Side Family,

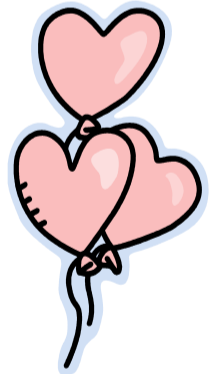
It is difficult to express our gratitude for the generous gift you gave us for Christmas. We have already begun looking at the theater schedule to determine which performances at the Ferguson to attend this year. Over and over again, we are amazed by the loving spirit of this congregation. We give thanks each day for the joy and blessing of having been called to West Side Christian Church. Thank you for your generosity and grace. Thank you for your love.

Love,

Revs. Nathan & Marion Brown

February Birthday's

| | |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 1st: | Jessica Terry |
| 4th: | Shari Paszko Brendon McNelis |
| 5th: | Robert Brown |
| 6th: | Michael Hunt |
| 8th: | Charles Kelly, III |
| 9th: | Shelly Davis |
| 10th: | Matthew Gray John Milam |
| 11th: | Mary Cornwell |
| 12th: | Pam Gibbs, Freda Pyles |
| 15th: | Mike McCrickard |
| 18th: | Sheila Davidson |
| 19th: | David Davidson |
| 20th: | Betty McCrickard, Alexa Stidham |
| 23rd: | Frances Wells |
| 27th: | Janice Deweese |
| 28th: | Jimmy Milam, Carrie Kelly |



Life
Line

Life Line Health Screening
Is scheduled to be at West Side
Friday, May 2, 2008
Fellowship Center
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

More information will be available in
upcoming

Bulletins and Newsletters

Further details can be obtained
by contacting
Mary Peris
Parish Nurse

Sympathy Note

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to
Brenda Hayth and her family
on the recent loss of her cousin
Connie Hutto



WSSCC YOUTH

CHI-RHO MEETING DATES

- February 10th @ 12:00 noon
- February 24th @ 12:00 noon
- March 9th @ 12:00 noon
- April 13th @ 3:45 PM
- April 27th @ 3:45 PM



Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, February 19th

2008 Schedule



- Feb. 2nd: 6:00 pm Gilmerton vs. West Side (Parker)
- Feb. 9th: 6:00 pm Mobsters vs. West Side (Craddock)
- Feb. 11th: 9:00 pm Pt. Harbor vs. West Side (Parker)
- Feb. 16th: 6:00 pm West Side vs. St. Mark's (Craddock)
- Feb. 18th: 8:00 pm St. Paul's vs. West Side (Parker)

REMINDERS

- **Administrative Cabinet:**
Sunday, February 10th @ 1:00 PM
- **Official Board:**
Tuesday, February 12th @ 7:00 PM
- **Worship Committee:**
Wednesday, February 13th @ 6:00 PM
- **Pastoral Relations:**
Tuesday, February 19th @ 6:00 PM
- **Elders:**
Tuesday, February 19th @ 7:30 PM

New Address



John & Joy Wikoff
12602 Granite Ridge Drive
North Potomac, MD 20878
240-477-8770

A note from The Wikoffs:

Miss everyone very much but trying to find my place here with our family and new church friends. Joined the choir, found a S.S. class and will join the women's group soon.

Hope to visit in the spring. We have a trip to Australia and New Zealand in February. A long awaited trip for the both of us.



VS.



Super Bowl XLII
Fellowship Center
West Side Christian Church
February 3, 2008
6:00 P.M.

Come join us for a time of fun, fellowship, and football. Wear your team's colors to show off your support. We will have light refreshments and a big screen TV to watch the game. We look forward to seeing you there.

SERVING LUNCH AT OASIS



We will carpool to the Oasis on
Thursday, February 21st.

If you can join us, please sign up on the information board and plan to be here at 9:30 am.

Elder's Journal

This year the Elder Journal will consist of "snapshots" of the individual elders. We hope that these write-ups will help the congregation have a more personal knowledge of those who are charged with the responsibility of the spiritual well-being of the church.

Our first snapshot is of Dave McCrickard who is also the Chair of the elders for 2008. Dave has many years of elder experience and it has nothing to do with his chronological age. Dave shared that he did not make his profession of faith until his early thirties and, as such, came into his faith with a maturity level far different from those who so often make their professions in their late childhood or early teens. He was asked to become an elder within two years of joining the church and has served numerous 3-plus year terms. He has chaired the group before and the rest of us hope to draw upon his wise counsel. He has served as Board Chair, is a faithful student of the Word, and has always been involved in leadership and service to West Side.

In his younger days, Dave was a professional baseball pitcher and NASCAR fan and recalls fondly the many races he attended with his son. He also used to enjoy working in his yard until hip issues made it so uncomfortable. Today you can find Dave at the church most mornings, fellowshiping with a few of the men who gather regularly. He has also become a mainstay with the preschool children and he greets and visits with them before class starts. Dave also is a part of the "professional ground crew" that is comprised mostly of retirees.

Dave believes 100% in servanthood. His philosophy is that you must be able and willing to serve to be a follower of Christ. His approach is "Why shouldn't I?" rather than "Why should I?" He also believes that "age" should be no deterrent to service and he will serve just as long as he is physically able to do so. And even then he'll be in God's Word and in prayer. He sees himself not just as elder to a specific flock or group but rather he is available to anyone. Dave is also a forward thinker and served on the Visioning Team and is serving as the Financial Secretary for the church. He and wife Betty both sing in the choir and are part of the Disciples Sunday school class. Dave can be reached at 488-9239.

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Greetings!

The Pastoral Relations Committee met for the first time as a committee in January and learned that our task over the coming year is "...to further an effective working relationship between the minister and the various church organizations including the congregation as a whole."

That means YOU!

So, if there is anything that you feel you want to make the minister aware of, either a concern or a commendation, you can come to us. Our ears, our minds and our hearts are open to you. Also, it is important to know that this committee is accountable to the congregation and the minister to keep matters discussed at meetings confidential. We are currently developing goals for 2008 and would love to know what you feel is important for West Side to accomplish this year.

Love in Christ,

Fran Gray: Flgrayrn@aol.com 488-7918

Allen Wallace: awallace10@cox.net 484-2911

Pam Gibbs: pamelagibbs@cox.net 488-4511



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE 2007

The Audit team for West Side's financial records for 2007 have been organized. The team is composed of Janice Deweese, Charles Kelly, Chris Larson, Bill Loftis, Brendon McNelis and Kelly Terry. Retired CPA, Jimmy Jarvis is training team.

Steve Gray

Sharon Jenson

Norman Dickens

A Moment with You Board Chair ~

Rev. Brown has established a Transition Team of seven members. The purpose of this team is to guide the implementation of the Visioning Team's objectives as outlined in Action Plan One, spiritual gifts assessments.

Part of this Plan is to train all Elders in the Visioning Team, Action Plan One which was approved/adopted by the congregation in November 2007. After being trained, each Elder will schedule Town Meetings with members of their respective flocks. At these meetings, the objectives of the Visioning Team program will be presented/discussed. Further, discussions will be on how each member can identify/utilize their talents to serve the Lord. Everyone has talents. (Sometimes a close friend can identify your talents better than you can.) The key is to become enthusiastic and get involved in doing God's will. Our first step is to PRAY. The second step is to attend these Town Meetings when scheduled by your Elder. Many members do not realize their talents and, therefore, are not using them for the Lord.

Freemason Street Baptist Church Concert Series

Mrs. Judy Bryant would like to invite you to the Rutter Requiem, Saturday, February 24th at 3:00 PM to a totally free concert. The concert will last approximately 40-45 minutes. Bob Shoup has augmented their choir with twelve singers from the VA Symphony Chorus along with around six instruments. It promises to be a thrilling afternoon. Ken Bryant is also singing for the "FUN" of it.



The season of Easter is a wonderful time to take a new step on your spiritual journey. As we celebrate new life in Christ's resurrection, we are called to make space in our own lives for new life. One of the ways this new life can take place is through the process and act of baptism and also through joining in membership at West Side. If you or your child is interested in either baptism or membership at West Side Christian Church, please don't hesitate to call Rev. Brown with any questions. If there are candidates for baptism, a pastor's class will need to begin soon. Thus, please let Rev. Brown know as soon as possible.

A Special Note From Your Minister

Visioning Plans -

For those of you who may not be aware, West Side has completed Part One of Action Plan One. During the last weekend of January, we had a successful church leadership retreat!

Additionally, we have already begun the second phase of Acton Plan One, spiritual gifts assessment through Sunday School classes and Disciple Bible study. In the next month, a number of workshops will also be offered for individuals to take a gifts inventory and process their inventory in a small group setting. Action Plan One will be complete after this assessment and our ministry fair.

The transition team is already beginning to think about Action Plans Two and Three. However, beginning with the second action plan, the responsibility is no longer in the hands of a few, but in the hands of the entire congregation. Please take the time to re-read your visioning plans and ask yourself how you can participate in bringing them to fruition.

Bound copies of the plans are located in the gathering area. The plans were not created to be completed but rather for each one of us to be transformed. Still skeptical? Try coming to an upcoming gifts assessment workshop. More information about these workshops is forthcoming. Who knows, you might learn something new about yourself.

Rev. Brown