



# The West Side Story

VOLUME 39

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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!*



Thank you for your prayers and support! Beginning July 1, 2008, Marion will be the new minister at Broad Street United Methodist Church in Port Norfolk. Finally, we will both be on the south side of the river serving the community of Portsmouth. We are so excited about Marion's appointment and being closer to all of you!

However, you know what a new appointment means for Marion: moving. Yes, over the course of the next month (or more) we will be in the process of trying to sell our condo so that we can buy a home closer to our respective congregations. As you know, the process of moving can be a stressful time. Transition and change are always difficult. Please be patient with us as we try to get settled into a new situation with all of you.

In reflecting upon the stress Marion and I have been experiencing the last few weeks over our move, I thought about the stress that West Side is going through as we transition as a congregation. Moving into the next phase of our visioning plans is going to call for fundamental kinds of change. As we begin to use our gifts in new ways, change will be inevitable.

However, the transition happening here at West Side is not random, ambivalent experimentation. It is intentional, faith-filled ministry. This does not mean that we will not make mistakes along the way. It just means that there is a great deal of thought and prayer being put into the planning and preparing for the next steps of our vision.

Because transition can be difficult and stressful, it can be easy to resist change. It will also be easy to criticize and stifle progress if mistakes are made. Nevertheless, I assure you that our God is not a God of stasis or stagnation. The God we know in Jesus Christ is a dynamic God—a God that is constantly nudging, prodding, and moving God's people forward.

While challenges will undoubtedly emerge in the midst of our personal move from Newport News to Portsmouth, we are given comfort in the dynamism of God, knowing that God is always part of the changes and transitions of life. As we continue to transition as West Side Christian Church, may we follow this same Spirit that is continuously moving—nudging and prodding us to something new.

*Peace,*

*Rev. Nathan Brown*

Disciples of Christ



WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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REV. NATHAN BROWN, MINISTER

## MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER

"Days pass and the years vanish and we...walk slightly among miracles. Lord, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing. Let there be moments when your presence, like lightening, illumines the darkness in which we walk. Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns unconsumed. And we, clay touched by God, will reach our for holiness and exclaim in wonder, "How filled with awe is this place and we did not know it. Amen."

*(from the Reformed Jewish Liturgy)*

"Thou doest show me that path of life; in the presence there is fullness of joy, in they right hand are pleasures for evermore!"

Psalm 16:11

**"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."**

*Jeremiah 29:11*

### Summer Safety

Warm weather has arrived, and it's time again to enjoy some of your favorite outdoor activities! From baseball to biking to swimming, there are a lot of fun things you can do. While having fun outside, don't forget to take steps to protect yourself and your family from sunburn, injuries, and other problems that can happen.

"Laughter is the most beautiful and beneficial therapy God ever granted humanity. It is often just as sacred to laugh as it is to pray." Charles R. Swindoll

### What is home?

**"A roof to keep our the rain? Four walls to keep out the winds? Floors to keep out the cold? Yes, but home is more than that. It is the laugh of a baby, the song of a mother, the strength of a father, warmth of loving hearts, lights for happy eyes, kindness, loyalty, comradeship. Home is first school and first church for young ones, where they learn what is right, what is good, and what is kind, where they go for comfort when that are hurt or sick; where joy is shared and sorrow eased; where fathers and mothers are respected and loved, where children are wanted; where the simplest food is good enough for kings because it is earned; where money is not as important as loving-kindness; where even the tea kettle sings from happiness. That is home. God Bless it!**

~anonymous

Mary W. Peris, Parish Nurse



## CWF Reports:

### LYDIA CIRCLE:

Lydia Circle met in April with 4 members present. They collected an offering of \$17.00 along with least coins totaling \$6.77. They used their talents in the following capacity.

Daily Devotions Read - 3

Regional Papers Read - 1

Calls/Visits/Cards Sent - 40

Transportation - 2

Greeters - 3

First Sunday Luncheon - 4

Their next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, June 5th at 7:00 PM.

### REBEKAH CIRCLE:

No Report Submitted.

### SARAH CIRCLE:

No Report Submitted.

## CMF News

The Christian Men's Fellowship will not have a June meeting. West Side will sponsor the District VIII Quarterly CMF meeting on July 24th. Leo Ruffing, retired Chaplain (Korea) will be the guest speaker. More information will be available in the July newsletter.



### Prayer Team Meeting

*All new and old members of the prayer team will meet on Tuesday, June 3rd at 6:00 PM to update the prayer chain and discuss other potential pray opportunities.*

## PASTORAL RELATIONS

Greetings from the Pastoral Relations Committee!

We are praising God and thanking you for the successful "Pass the Plate for Rev. Nate" campaign. More than enough money was raised to pay the registration and plane fare for our minister to attend the 2008 Pastor's Conference in Chicago. Then we received really awesome news: Rev. Brown has been chosen to receive a Young Clergy Leadership Scholarship to this conference and as a result, there will be a \$475. reimbursement to West Side. The PR Committee decided to set this amount aside to begin a Ministerial Education Fund which in the future could cover conferences like this one.

The PR Committee is also asking West Side to keep Nathan and Marion in your prayers as Marion begins her new journey as the Minister of Broad Street United Methodist Church in July. The church is located in the Port Norfolk section of Portsmouth. Marion begins her ministry there on July 1st.

Committee Members-

Fran Gray, Pam Gibbs & Allen Wallace

## Transition Team

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Ministry Fair such a success. The Committee Chairman did an outstanding job of representing their ministries in the church and their needs. The congregation responded with interest and signed up for areas where they were willing to use their gifts. There was good fellowship, beautiful weather and hopefully a new awareness of our mission in Christ's church.

Thanks also to the Seekers Class who came up Saturday night and set up the tables and tent. They are always so willing to help.

Of course, we can't forget the delicious bar-b-que and "BIG" hamburgers by Chef Cornwell and his crew. Thanks Dick!

The mission of the church continued, when Dick had \$40.00 left from donations for lunch and used it to buy fixings for the left over bar-b-que. He took the food to Berea Christian Church in Suffolk to help feed the volunteers and those in need after the tornado.

For the next few months, the Transitions Team will be looking in depth at the visioning plan for West Side. We will be studying the structure of committees and the board.

Continue the pray daily for our church, our pastor and the transition team as we move forward.

~Sharon Jensen



## Dancing Through the Decades

### Music from the 1940's - Today

Come join in the fun on Saturday, June 21st in the FC from 7 pm to 10 pm. Grab your dancing shoes, little white gloves, poodle skirts, platform shoes, whatever reminds you of your favorite dance era and boogie, fox trot, jitterbug, boot scoot, etc. to YOUR favorite music! The lights will be low; the AC on high and light refreshments will be served. Dance partners optional as there will be group/line dancing or you may just want to sit at a table and observe. If you have some favorite tunes on CD bring them and our DJ will gladly spin them! A sign up sheet is posted in the gathering area

The Worship Committee would like to Thank Jessica Terry and the dance troop for making our Pentecost and Mother's Day worship services so special! The girls danced to Amazing Grace and we had balloons & banners to help remember the celebration of the beginnings of the church.

### Dance Team Members

Brooke Lowman      Courtney Brown  
Allison Nutting      Emily Nutting





## 2008 GRADUATES

### Matthew Alan Corbett

Matt is an Honor Graduate of Western Branch High School. He will be attending Old Dominion University in the fall. Matt is the son of Darryl & Dee Ann Phelps.

### Thomas Wellington Crawford

Tommy is a Graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School. For the past 2 years he has been taking the HS/College Bridge Program in Automotive Services. Tommy is the son of Lloyd & Sarah Crawford.

### Brooke Anne Lowman

Brooke is an Honor Graduate of Deep Creek High School, graduating 3rd in her class. She will be attending The College of William & Mary. Brooke is the daughter of David & Lee Ann Lowman and Mary & David Bond.

### Erin Elizabeth Ripley

Erin is an Honor Graduate of Western Branch High School. She plans to attend Old Dominion University. Erin is the daughter of Earl & Debbie Ripley.

### Daniel Jachin Widener

Jake is an Honor Graduate of Alliance Christian Schools. He plans to attend Thomas Nelson Community College. Jake is the son of Tom & Jennifer Larson.

### Karen Leigh Brown

Karen is a Graduate of VA Tech with a B.A. of Science in Animal & Poultry Sciences with a Minor in Biology. She is planning to attend Graduate School at VA Tech studying Dairy Science. Karen is the daughter of William & Pam Brown.

### Brantley P. Jarvis

Brantley is a Graduate of James Madison University with a B.A. in Arts, cum laude - Spanish, and a B.A. of Science, cum laude - Behavior Analysis. Brantley is the son of Jimmy & Cheryl Jarvis.

### Amy Gray Blazek

Amy is a Graduate of The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a Master of Education with a concentration in School Counseling. Amy is the daughter of Steve & Fran Gray.

### Edna Sherin Scholarship Recipients

Matthew Alan Corbett

Karen Leigh Brown

Sarah Phillips

Brooke Anne Lowman

James Corbett

Wendy McNelis

Erin Elizabeth Ripley

Sydney Oliver

Jessica Terry

## ~Lectionary Readings for June 2008~

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
<b>June 1st:</b>	<b>Genesis 6:9-22; 7:24; 8:14-19 Psalm 46 Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28 (29-31) Matthew 7:21-29</b>
<b>June 8th:</b>	<b>Genesis 12:1-9 Psalm 33:1-12 Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26</b>
<b>June 15th:</b>	<b>Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)</b>
<b>June 22nd:</b>	<b>Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39</b>
<b>June 29th:</b>	<b>Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42</b>

IN NEED OF PRAYER

John Milam	Lee Parker
Short-Landowski Family	Nora Davenport
Janice Deweese	Ron Riffle
Doug Tatum	Brenda Lohse
Carl Loving	Gray Family
Dennis White	Wilda Dyer
Lorraine Shea	Christie Bradley
Bobby Beal	Jessica & Michael Gates
Marlene Whitehurst	Kristin & Anthony Williams
Mark Warren	Cavanaugh Family
Dickie Hayes	Sandy Phillips
Dawn Price	Phillips Family
Debbie Johnson	Masil Jones
Betty McCrickard	Branch Family
Jimmy Bracy	Esther Daniel
Matthew Davis	Joseph Irwin
Tara Weinmann	Sarah Crawford
Ellen Nelson	Bobby Ryder

SHUT - INS

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

## » Thank You «

*Christian Women's Fellowship,*

*To all who helped, cooked, coordinated and all that goes into putting out a beautiful lunch, Thank You! I know many hands went into our first, of many Kindergarten lunches. Thank you for your willingness in sharing your gifts and time.*

*Jennifer Larson, WSCC Preschool & Kindergarten*

*Dear West Side,*

*I cannot thank you all enough for your graciousness in providing for me to be able to attend the General Minister and President's conference in September. Your generosity to both Marion and me continues to amaze us. Because of your gifts, not only will my expenses for the conference be paid, but funds will also be left for me to attend continuing education opportunities. We are so blessed to be part of the West Side family. Thank you for "Passing the Plate for Rev. Nate." God Bless.*

*Peace, Nathan*

## Congratulations

**To  
William & Erica Zyliak  
on the  
birth of their daughter  
Tatum Lynne  
Born  
May 12, 2008  
Weighing  
6lbs. 9ozs.  
Her proud grandmother  
is  
Lynne Thomas**

## Reminders

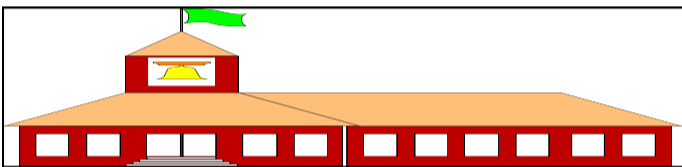
### DIACONATE SERVING JUNE

June 1st	Cindy Wallace Curtis Nelson Melinda Powers
June 8th & 15th	Kelly Terry Bill Loftis Diane Loftis
June 22nd & 29th	Steven Milam William Brown Pam Brown Kristen Brown Courtney Brown

### Staff Away

Rev. Brown will be attending the  
Christian Church in VA Regional Assembly  
June 6th - 8th

- **Prayer Team:**  
Tuesday, June 3rd @ 6:00 PM
- **Administrative Cabinet:**  
Tuesday, June 3rd @ 7:00 PM
- **Official Board:**  
No meeting
- **Pastoral Relations:**  
Tuesday, June 17th @ 6:00 PM
- **Elders:**  
Tuesday, June 17th @ 7:00 PM



Preschool has two seats still available in the K-5 class for the upcoming 2008-09 school year. All other classes are full with a waiting list. Please contact Carrie Kelly or Donna Nutting for more details.



West Side Christian Church Kindergarten is in need of a K-5 teacher for the 2008-09 school year. Applicants must have a teaching degree. If you know any anyone interested in this position, please have them contact Carrie Kelly, Donna Nutting or the church office as soon as possible.

### SERVING LUNCH AT OASIS

Thursday, June 19th  
10:00 AM

We will now serve every 3rd Thursday



Newsletter Deadline

June 20th

### June Birthday's

- 1st: Jim White
- 5th: Jerry Thornton, Sr.
- 14th: Andrew Cherry
- 18th: Ivy Kelly  
Lorraine Shea
- 22nd: Tony Peris  
Erin Ehlers
- 23rd: Sarah Phillips
- 27th: Kim Powell
- 28th: Fran Gray
- 30th: Lauren Terry



If your birthday was missed or you know of any corrections, please inform Trish.



## Pre-school now is over

.... Another year of our pre-school and the first year for our kindergarten is over!! We had over 50 children and their families benefit from the experience and education of our wonderful teachers. Thank you to Mrs. Cheryl Jarvis, our pre-three teacher; Mrs. Pam, our three year old teacher; Mrs. Spruill, Mrs. Cheryl B. and Mrs. Carrie, our four year old teachers, Mrs. Michelle, our kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Susan, our "floater", and Mrs. Donna, my co-director for all your dedication. Thank you to Mrs. Trish for all the office help. Thank you to Mr. Jarvis and Rev. Brown for leading chapel. This year two children received speech and we have a new friend, thank you Mrs. Dawn! Thank you to property, especially Norman, for all the helping hands. Thank you to the church at large for supporting this outreach mission. A special thank you to the ladies of the church, headed up by Mrs. Sharon Jenson, for providing and serving the kindergarten luncheon. I hope it is the first of many! Thank you to Mrs. Wells for her dedication to our school and playing the piano for graduation. Thank you to all who have served at different times on the preschool committee the eight years I was director. I hope you will be as supportive for our new directors, Donna Nutting and Carrie Kelly, as you were to me. There have been many blessings for me over the years and I can never express fully the blessings our ministry has given to the many families who have come through our doors. These scriptures best express why I feel this ministry is such an important one for West Side and why I have served as director these past eight years: Luke 9:46 - 48, Luke 14:12 - 14, Luke 17:7 -10, and 1 Peter 4:10. I have appreciated the opportunity you entrusted in me to serve others for our Lord and West Side.

Jennifer Larson



Good-bye, Good-bye...  
Stay always kind and true