



# 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!*



As I write this newsletter article, I continue to hear updates on the devastation experienced by our neighbors in Suffolk. The rush of violent wind produced by the tornados caused catastrophic damage, affecting the lives of thousands of Virginians.

Ironically, on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate a rush of violent wind. Albeit, this wind is representative of God's Spirit. However, after the disaster in Suffolk, it is hard to believe that this would be the image the biblical writers use in describing the Holy Spirit. As we saw this week, violent wind can be devastating, destructive, and divisive.

Nevertheless, after witnessing the power of the violent winds that swept through Suffolk, we get an idea of what is being entrusted to us on Pentecost in the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit given to the church at Pentecost is a power unlike any other. The difference is that instead of being used to devastate, destroy, and divide, we are to use it in reconciliation, edification, and unification.

At the first Pentecost, this wind filled the house where they were gathered and *all of them* were filled with the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost Sunday, we not only celebrate the birth of the church, but we also celebrate the Spirit that was given to us *all* to continue God's ministry on earth. This Spirit is as powerful as a violent wind. If we use it to build the kingdom of God, imagine the possibilities.

The last few months, you have been discerning and reflecting on what gifts you have been given to live in ministry to the world. Now that you have become aware of some of those gifts, you are given the awesome task of putting them into action. Whenever you feel like you cannot use your gifts, whenever you want to justify not using them, whenever you become fearful of putting your gifts into action, remember that you are not alone.

God has filled us with God's Spirit, strengthening our community with the power and force of a mighty wind. You are equipped to do God's ministry. You are gifted to serve. Let's celebrate the Spirit given to us at Pentecost by using it as God intended: in ministries of reconciliation, edification, and unification!

*Peace,*

*Rev. Nathan Brown*

Disciples of Christ



WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA 23701

(757) 488-0514 • [www.westsideccdoc.org](http://www.westsideccdoc.org)

REV. NATHAN BROWN, MINISTER

## MARY'S WELLNESS CORNER

“Blessed is the man who perseveres.”

James 1:12

**Don't let “the silent killer” end your life-  
or your quality of life.**

“High blood pressure, or hypertension, gives few or no warning signs before it erupts with major complications, such as a stroke. That's why it's often referred to as “the silent killer”. If you have hypertension (high blood pressure), you have one of the most prevalent and serious disorders in the United States. Hypertension affects more than 72 million Americans and is the most important risk factor for a stroke. Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the United States. Over the course of time, high blood pressure can take a major toll on your health. It can damage both large and small arteries, leading to strokes. High blood pressure can also lead to disease of the heart, kidneys, eyes and erectile dysfunction. Fortunately, by controlling your blood pressure, you can help prevent or slow the progression of many of these complications.”

Tuesday, February 12, 2008, Simeon Margolis, MD, PhD  
Professor of Medicine and Biological Chemistry, Johns  
Hopkins Medicine.

Hypertension is more treatable than ever before, thanks to a wide variety of lifestyle measures and blood pressure medications.

### Here are a few Lifestyle Changes you can make:

- **Exercise regularly**, with soft exercises, such as yoga, gardening or dog walking
- **Lose excess weight**
- **Eat a healthy diet**
- **Reduce Sodium**
- **Limit alcohol and caffeine consumption**
- **Avoid tobacco and secondhand smoke**
- **Reduce your stress levels**
- **Cultivate a support system**
- **Get regular check-ups**
- **Start early to develop good health habits in your children. SET A GOOD EXAMPLE!**

### A Native American Way to Begin the Day

○ Great, Holy Spirit, I take this step into the day you have given. I embrace all I see—the season, the wind, the fragrances, the weather. Let me always accept the day given with a grateful heart.

Mary W. Peris, Parish Nurse



## **CWF Reports:**

### **LYDIA CIRCLE:**

Lydia Circle met in April with 6 members present. They collected an offering of \$23.00 and used their talents in the following capacity.

Leading - 1

Teaching - 1

Daily Devotions Read - 1

Regional Papers Read - 1

Calls/Visits/Cards Sent - 28

Their next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, May 1st at 7:00 PM.

### **REBEKAH CIRCLE:**

No Report Submitted.

### **SARAH CIRCLE:**

Sarah Circle met in April with 5 members present. Brenda Hayth was the hostess. They collected an offering of \$27.00. Their next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1st at 7:30 with Rosemary Lahy as the hostess.

## **CWF NEWS**

The CWF Spring Luncheon will be held Saturday, May 17th at 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Center. Reservations are required. Please pick up a form in the gathering area. Cost is \$2.00. The CWF will furnish our famous and back by popular demand “salads”. Billy Batte will be presenting a musical program. He is a singer, violinist, and keyboard player. Billy will entertain with wonderful religious and secular songs. He is on the staff of Freemason Baptist Church where he directs the children's choir, hand bell choir, and plays the violin for the worship services. Come and join us for a delightful program.

The District VIII 2008 SPA DAY ( Self-Care, Prayer, and Action for Women ) will be held on Saturday, May 24th at Grafton Christian. Please have your reservations in by May 13th. The theme this year is “Bible Building Blocks”. Cheryl Jarvis has reservation forms as well as the office. They will meet at 8:30 AM at Cheryl's home. The cost is \$20.00.

CWF will host a Baby Shower for the Keim Center on Thursday, June 5th. This will be in lieu of our regular meeting schedule. Contact your group leader for more information. If you are not currently attending a CWF group meeting and you would like to join and help with the shower, please call Cheryl Jarvis at 538-0508.

The next General Meeting will be either Saturday, June 12th or Sunday June 13th. Please watch for a more definite date.

**CMF News****CMF BREAKFAST**

Saturday, May 17th

8:00 AM

**Guest Speaker: Rebecca Currie**

Rebecca was born in Portsmouth and raised in Pennsylvania. Rev. Paul Thompson baptized Rebecca when she was 11 years old. She is the granddaughter of Wilma Ingram. Currently, Rebecca is the Admission Coordinator and Marketing Director for Harbour Point Medical and Rehabilitation Center in Norfolk. This center owned by Kindred Health Care.

Rebecca plans to speak on "Medicare Coverage's and Entitlements in Skilled Nursing". She also has a great deal of knowledge in senior housing including independent/assisted living in skilled nursing facilities.

Rebecca welcomes questions in the above subjects.

Come and hear Rebecca talk about a subject all senior citizens need to know about.

If you plan to attend, please let the church office know so that Chef Cornwell can properly prepare.

Larry Hackler, 488-5997

**Reservations need to be made by  
Wednesday, May 14th**

**PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING****Sharing: Multiplying by Dividing**

Linda had been teaching 3-year-olds in Sunday School for nearly 20 years. It was time for her to hand over the reins. In explaining her methods and ideas to the new teacher, a "young adult" taking over the class, she smiled, and gently said, "At this age, all you can really teach is, 'Jesus loves you,' and 'You have to share.'"

That's not a bad lesson plan for any age group in Sunday School. Adults know, but sometimes forget, the wonders of God's math. By sharing what we have, dividing it in effect, we actually see it multiply—often with amazing results. This year, through the Pentecost Offering, we have the opportunity to take part in that witness. Through the Pentecost Offering, we support the New Church Ministry of the Disciples throughout the U.S. and Canada, and right here in our region. We help in the recruiting and training of New Church planters, and we share in the fruits of their ministry, bringing God's message to new places and new communities. We "Share the Chalice," and multiply the love. Pentecost Offering will be collected May 4th - May 11th.

**New Church Ministry**  
130 E. Washington St., 9th Floor  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
800.274.1883  
[www.newchurchministry.org](http://www.newchurchministry.org)

**STEWARDSHIP NEWS****Mortgage Update**

In March, we reported that 81% of the mortgage on the Fellowship Center had been paid. We have GOOD NEWS. After the April payment, we owe only \$59,000. In 2 months we have paid another 3%.

Keep up the good work!!

Sharon Jenson

Stewardship Committee

**THE COUNTERS  
NEED YOU HELP!**

After church, at least two counters take the day's offering and attempt to count it. Further, WSCC provides You with a statement of your contributions in July and at the end of the year for income tax purposes.

In order for the Financial Secretary to provide you with a correct statement the counters need the following information.

When possible, please

- Use the envelopes provided you from WSCC, showing your identification number
- Place your name on the envelope
- Put the \$\$ amount of your contribution on the envelope
- Designate where you want your contribution to go
- If a pew envelope is used, please provide as much of the above information as possible

Otherwise, all cash and personal checks placed in envelopes without some way of identifying you will be counted as cash and assigned under current expenses.

Thank you,  
Stewardship Committee



## *A Moment with Your Board Chair*

In case you are not aware, Mother Theresa was known as the Saint of the Little Ways; meaning she believed in doing the little things in life well and with great love.

### **Saga of the Blue Moneybag -**

Let me illustrate how one seemingly small low-profile church job suddenly became very important. Recently, WSCC was making a change in assignment of personnel authorized to pick up the bank's blue moneybag that is used each Sunday by those counting the day's contributions. The moneybag was not picked up as scheduled because of miscommunications between church officials. **SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL! Let's list the problems.** Since the moneybag was not picked up during the week, Trish was unable to verify the accuracy of contributions given on the past Sunday. Further, since the counters did not have the moneybag, they were not able to make a bank deposit of the Sunday's contributions. It had to be stored in the safe. The next day (Monday), a Trustee went to the bank to get the moneybag and brought it back to the church. After Trish verified the contributions from the previous Sunday, the money was removed from the safe, placed in the moneybag and immediately taken back to the bank. Once the bank counted the money, the moneybag was once again returned to Trish for verification funds deposited.

In all fairness, this is the first time, ever, anyone can remember that the moneybag was not picked up as scheduled. As readily seen, the failure of not doing this seemingly small unimportant task caused additional problems. The following personnel had to get involved to correct this situation. Trish, two Trustees, Chair of Stewardship, the person authorized to pick up the moneybag and the Board Chair. There are many similar jobs performed by our members. For example, can you imagine how many members would be affected if there were no coffee or donuts on Sunday morning. Do you know who makes the coffee or who picks up the donuts?

You have probably attended/heard about the Spiritual Gifts Workshops. The theme was "the church is one body made up of many parts all functioning as one in service of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 12)". Not everyone can serve, or even wants to serve, in one of the many high-profile church positions. However, there are many low-profile positions members can serve Christ. **Low-profile positions are the oil that makes WSCC function efficiently and effectively.** Most members are not aware that someone is doing them, but many problems arise when these seemingly small jobs aren't done. These members neither want recognition or praise for their work. This is the way they like to serve our Lord and God. This is how Mother Theresa served our Lord and God.

Below are just a few of the many low-profile positions at WSCC that our loving members do well and with great love. Do you know who performs these tasks?

- Cut, trim grass
- Pick up Attendance Sheets after church service
- Assist in the Church Office when needed
- Assist Custodian when needed
- Volunteer to serve at Oasis
- Volunteer to serve and stay during Homeless Week at West Side
- Replenish pew pencils and envelopes
- Ensure that all doors are locked and lights are turned off in the church building
- Donate food to the Food Pantry
- Volunteer to help with Tuesday's Tales
- Work in VBS
- Maintain, erect and dismantle the Tomb during Holy Season
- Assist in the kitchen preparing meals and washing dishes

Look around and see how many others worship Jesus and our God. When serving God, no matter how or in what capacity, always do it well and with love. Without expecting anything in return. God knows what you are doing and that is all that really matters.

~Larry Hackler  
Board Chair

## ~Lectionary Readings for May 2008~

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
<b>May 4th:</b>	<b>Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 John 17:1-11</b>
<b>May 11th:</b>	<b>Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 20:19-23</b>
<b>May 18th:</b>	<b>Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 May 28:16-20</b>
<b>May 25th:</b>	<b>Genesis 22:1-4 Psalm 13 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42</b>

## ≡ ☺ Thank You ☺ ≡

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*In the course of my lifetime, and I'm sure in the course of your lifetime as well, we all have pondered at times why in this world would God allow so much pain, suffering, misery and personal tragedy to exist. Especially to God fearing Christians who try everyday to do the right thing.*

*Lots have been spoken, written and preached about this subject of pain. I have just experienced a long bout with pain myself and I am no closer to that answer than most of you. However, going through this recent ordeal, I got a chance to witness God's love and concern for me thru the actions of my West Side family. There's just no love like West Side love. Every last one of my dreary days spent were lifted up by either a phone call, a visit, a card, a ride to and from the hospital, or someone standing at my front door with food to offer.*

*I wish I had the skill and wisdom to express my feelings to you dear folks. I'll just leave it with.....*

**THANKS!**

*In Christ, Bobby Beal*

## IN NEED OF PRAYER

Short-Landowski Family	Ron Riffle
Janice Deweese	Herschel Carter
Doug Tatum	Brenda Lohse
Carl Loving	Gray Family
Dennis White	Wilda Dyer
Debbie Tibbits	Christine Bradley
Lorraine Shea	Jessica & Michael Gates
Paul Parker	Kristin & Anthony Williams
Bobby Beal	Cavanaugh Family
Hastings Family	Sandy Phillips
Dick Cornwell	Phillips Family
Marlene Whitehurst	Masil Jones
Mark Warren	Ben Adderholdt
Ann Hall	Branch Family
Dickie Hayes	Esther Daniel
Dawn Price	Joseph Irwin
Debbie Johnson	Sarah Crawford
Betty McCrickard	Bobby Ryder
Jimmy Bracy	Tara Weinmann
Matthew Davis	Ellen Nelson

## SHUT - INS

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

## Congratulations

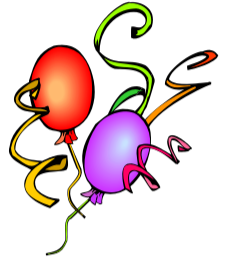
To  
**Chris & Amy Gray Blazek**  
 on the birth of their daughter,  
**Emmarie Grace**  
 Born  
**April 24, 2008**  
 at  
**10:25 PM**  
**Weighing 7lbs. 5 ozs.**  
**20-3/4 inches long**  
**Proud Grandparents are**  
**Steve & Fran Gray**

# Ministry Fair

**Come Celebrate !  
Food, Gifts and Fellowship**



*West Side Christian Church  
May 4, 2008*



It's time to celebrate our gift assessments and bring our gifts into reality. This is your chance to see all of the ministries of our church and to talk with one another about how we can put our gifts to work. Church leaders will be there to answer any questions you may have and for you to share any ideas you have to use your gifts to the glory of God. Stephanie McLemore the Regional Representative, will be here to share in our celebration. This is what all the hard work has been about. Discerning how God has called us, as brothers and sisters in Christ, to be the hands and feet of the Body of Christ.

Rosemary Lahy  
Transition Team





## Calling All Grads!

If you will be graduating this year from high school, college, nursing school, etc., Christian Education wants to hear from you. We will be having our annual Graduation Sunday on June 1st. This service is dedicated to all our graduates and each of you will be honored. We will have a Sunday Luncheon in your honor as well. Even if you can not be present on that Sunday, we still want to honor you.

Please contact Pam Brown (465-0612) or Kim Powell (465-8779), if you are interested. We will let you know what information we need from you. We are planning on a pretty large group this year. I know we have at least 1 college grad and at least 5 high school grads.

## Vacation Bible School

### Director or Co-Directors Needed

Summer will be here before we know it. Christian Education is desperately in need of a Director or Co-Directors or even a group of individuals to take on the task of holding a VBS program this year. This is a wonderful service that we have always offered in the past. Our past programs have been well attended and have been a blessing to all that helped out and to all that have attended. If you would please take a moment to pray and see if one of your spiritual gifts could be put to use for this program, we would be grateful. We have programs during the day and evening. Usually the day program is better attended. VBS is a very important part of the Christian journey for our younger folks. Please pray on this issue and let Pam or Kim know if you are interested in helping out in any

# WSSC YOUTH

West Side Youth have been very busy studying for the Bible Bowl "Jeopardy".

They are studying the book of Mark.

The Chi-Rho would also like to thank Mrs. Gray for working with them during Sunday School.

"Thank you Mrs. Gray!"

After the Ministry Fair on May 4th, the youth will be going to Busch Gardens.

If you are planning to go, please let Lois know so that proper arrangements can be made for transportation.

Also, "THANKS" to Mrs. Thornton for the "goody bags" she made at Easter for Chi-Rho and CYF. They were delicious!!

From July 15th—August 15th, the Rocky Hock Playhouse will be performing "Under His Wings",

(The Love Story of Ruth and Boaz)

Show times are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM

Saturdays, 10:30 AM, 2:00 PM and 5:15 PM

If we can get 8 or more youth between the ages of 5-19, we can get tickets for \$9.

Otherwise the cost is \$15. If any youth are interested in going, please let Lois know so that she can order tickets. All money must be paid before tickets can be ordered.

# Reminders

- **Administrative Cabinet:**  
No May Meeting
- **Official Board:**  
Tuesday, May 13th @ 7:00 PM
- **Pastoral Relations:**  
Tuesday, May 20th @ 6:00 PM
- **Elders:**  
Tuesday, May 20th @ 7:00 PM



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
in Virginia  
168th Regional Assembly  
Lynchburg College  
June 6-8, 2008

If you are interested in attending please let Rev. Brown know ASAP. Registration information is posted on the bulletin board outside the offices.

## DIACONATE SERVING MAY

May 4th	Nina Milam Karen Hartzog Allison Nutting Dudley DeStefano
May 11th & 18th	Michael Stidham Shannon Stidham Rick Lahy Cecil Dillon
May 25th	Cindy Wallace Curtis Nelson Melinda Powers

## *May Birthday's*

2nd:	Danielle Greenwood
4th:	Virginia Wiseman
5th:	Rita Antonucci Rosemary Lahy
6th:	Margaret Poole
7th:	Myrtle Henderson Brennan Pieroni
8th:	Jana Pieroni
10th:	Christian Larson Keirsten Larson
13th:	Zachary Larson
14th:	Thomas Gray
16th:	Sandra Cotten
18th:	Kimberly Acors
19th:	Edith Ross Cindy Wallace
20th:	Tiffany Jarvis Brooks Jarvis
21st:	Debbie Tibbits
22nd:	Richie Oliver Larry Hackler
25th:	Michael Pyles
26th:	Esther Daniel
28th:	Erica Zylak John-Michael Gardner
30th:	Dudley DeStefano
31st:	Donald Thomas



Registration for the 2008-2009  
Kindergarten & Preschool has begun.

Contact the church office,  
Carrie Kelly or Donna Nutting  
for details.

K-4 Graduation  
is scheduled for  
Thursday, May 22  
At 7:00 PM

## SERVING LUNCH AT OASIS

Thursday, May 15th  
Meet at Oasis around 10:00 AM

***Newsletter Deadline***

***Wednesday, May 21st***