

COMMUNITY CARE

West Side's Food Pantry Needs: Did you know that West Side has its own food pantry? Because of congregational donations, West Side is able to help feed 12 families each week. Here are the items that we are in need of for this week: *green beans, corn, cream corn, peas, mixed vegetables, pork & beans, baked beans, tomato sauce, chunky soup, macaroni, beef stew, Tuna Helper, Hamburger Helper, chili, tomato soup, jelly, peanut butter, cereal, pudding, Complete Meals, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti sauce, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, toothbrushes, deodorant.* These items may be left in the large black bins under the staircase near the Main Entrance or at the church office.

The 12-Step Ministry ministers to those struggling with addictions or compulsions. Meetings are held every Thursday from 7:00-8:30pm. For more information please call the church office at 793-2800.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Alive With Christ: The summer study, *Wising Up* by Beth Moore, begins the week of June 1. This 5-week study is based on the Book of Proverbs. Groups will meet on Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm or Tuesdays, 9:00-11:00am. To register, call the church office at 793-2800. Childcare is provided; please indicate childcare needs when you register.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Grow! The next GROW! is Friday, May 15, 7:00pm, at the home of John & Becky Minick (2043 Briarcliff Drive). GROW! is a monthly opportunity for young adults to grow deeper in their faith. This is a unique time to gather in an interactive environment that is bigger than a small group and more intimate than a Sunday Service. Contact John Minick at johnm@wschurch.org for more information.

STATISTICS

April 26, 2009 AM Worship – 2095 (2203 avg)
Offering – \$77,405.26 (\$81,091.76 avg)

May 3, 2009 AM Worship – 2092 (2197 avg)
Offering – \$96,540.96 (\$81,950.05 avg)

New Members: April 26-May 3, 2009

By Baptism: Nicholas Updike, Kody Kirkpatrick, Petyon Kirkpatrick, Abbie Steelman

By Transfer: Ann Lewis, Ron & Risa Kirkpatrick, Skylar Kirkpatrick

Summer Kickoff! The Young Adult Ministry Summer Kickoff is scheduled for Monday, May 25, 5:00pm. This Memorial Day bash will take place at the home of Paul and Kim Johnson. The highlight of the event will be reuniting with returning college students and welcoming graduating high school seniors. Watch your e-mail for more details. If you would like to help plan this big event, contact John Minick at johnm@wschurch.org.

MISSIONS

Mexico Missions: West Side is sending a team to the Ninos de Mexico children's home in Mexico City in late May. Our team, led by Deb Knoles, would like to take funds to purchase medicines, clothing and other needs for the children. Checks may be written to West Side and given to Deb Knoles or Steve Stewart. There will also be a designated counter in the Concourse on May 17 for monetary contributions.

Cookson Hills Christian Ministries (Oklahoma) has openings for ministry-minded, active Christians with training and experience as teachers and/or house parents. Contact www.CooksonHills.org for more information.

Mission of Hope: Steve Stewart and Erik Wolle will be sharing news about West Side's partnership with Mission of Hope this Sunday, May 10, 9:30am, in the TruthSeekers ABF in CHI.

THIS 'N THAT

Ladies, join us for **"10@10"** (walking 10 laps at 10am one Saturday a month). Meet at West Side's parking lot near the ball diamond at 10am on the following Saturdays: May 23, June 20, and July 18. One lap on the outer edge of the parking lot is approximately .5 miles. You are not required to walk all ten laps.

Lake Springfield Christian Assembly: West Side's PANTRY PROJECT for the summer camp season is napkins; they use lots! Napkin donations may be left at the Welcome Center or church office. The camp is also in need of 2 kitchen helpers for June 18 and July 30; please contact Erik Wolle at 787-0477 if you can help.

Thank You Note: Thank you for all of your prayers, support and comfort through countless ways throughout our journey. Thank you to Eddie and Gary for making Michael's memorial and burial a celebration of his life. We are forever grateful to be a part of such a great church. — *Amelia, Madison & Tucker Hirsch*

Congratulations to Don & Christine Rummans on the birth of their son, GRIFFIN MICHAEL CARL, who was born April 29, weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz.! His big brothers are Tucker (age 9), Brayden (age 8) and Camden (age 4). Proud West Side grandparents are Gary & Ellen Ahrens.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ WEST SIDE

A Bi-monthly Publication of West Side Christian Church

May 6, 2009

WIPEOUT! Profiles in Forgiveness

No promise in scripture is more comforting than the promise of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. However, forgiveness is not a one-way street. God calls us to be both forgiven and forgiving.

May 10 – The Forgiving

NEW MESSAGE SERIES

All in One

In a world where we are inundated with misleading offers and deceptive appeals, how shall we evaluate the claims of Jesus? The Gospel makes bold assertions about the identity and sufficiency of Christ – claims which could be captured by some of the overused advertising language we've heard over the years. The New Testament letter of Colossians is a defense of the legitimacy and value of Jesus Christ. He is everything we need in a Savior. He is the authentic *All in One*.

Weekly themes:

May 17 – If You Find a Better Faith, Believe It
May 24 – It Costs More, But It's Worth It
May 31 – Beware Cheap Imitations
June 7 – Keep the Change
June 14 – Something for the Entire Family
June 21 – Tell All Your Friends

FOR OUR GUESTS

New to West Side? Visit www.wschurch.org, and click on the "New to West Side" button to find up-to-date information that will help you connect to life at West Side.

Welcome Center: Guests are invited to stop by the Welcome Center any Sunday morning to meet some of our staff, grab a gourmet beverage at Guest Perking and receive a special gift.

Questions? If you have questions about your faith or WSCC, please contact Robin Pickett at robinp@wschurch.org or 793-2800, ext. 3417.

PRAYER MINISTRY

As our nation struggles with current economic situations and division in governing this country, let us focus prayer during May for "revival and spiritual awakening of our nation."

DECISION DAY – SUNDAY, MAY 17

Are you intimidated by the thought of making a public decision at West Side? Would it be helpful if others were making similar choices the same day? Many answer "yes" to these questions, so we created Decision Day!

On Sunday, May 17, we expect several people to respond when Eddie invites baptism and membership decisions following the sermon. Some will express faith in God's Son for the first time and be baptized into Christ. Some, who already believe, will come to experience biblical baptism by immersion. Others, because they are already immersed believers, will make West Side their church home. If you need to review the scriptural basis for any of these important choices, we are glad to assist.

Have you hesitated to make one of these decisions? If you realize you shouldn't wait any longer, take advantage of this opportunity to respond while others do the same. We promise to make you as comfortable as possible.

If you have questions about what spiritual step is best for you, contact Outreach Minister, Robin Pickett at robinp@wschurch.org or 793-2800, ext. 3417.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Michelle Davis recently joined the West Side staff team as the Community Care Administrative Assistant. Michelle and her husband, Kyle, along with their children Hallie and Joshua, have been attending West Side for over 9 years. Michelle has a caring heart for people in need and will be a great addition to the Community Care area. Michelle can be reached at michelled@wschurch.org.

ELECTIVES

Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No, To Take Control of Your Life – In this 9-week video study, authors Cloud and Townsend show readers how to set reasonable boundaries in order to follow the true path of Christianity. The study will be offered Sundays from May 17 – July 12 at 9:30am in the Cafeteria. Participant guides will be available to purchase for \$8.00. To register or for more information, please contact the church office at 793-2800.

Good \$ense Budget Class (in a new format) will meet on Sunday morning for 6 weeks from May 31-July 5 (same fee

\$25/couple; \$15/single) – pre-work is strongly suggested (see downloads available on our website). The class will be taught by Joe Oettel and will be at 9:30am in the SCS Library. For more information, call Cindy at 793-2800 or register online at here.

VOLUNTEERS

Serve With Us! New volunteer opportunities are now posted at www.wschurch.org/serve. Check it out!

The Early Childhood Ministry is looking for an adult or high school student who has a really fun spirit to help with a new puppet element in West Side's preschool worship environment. If you have a desire to help our preschoolers get to know God and have a silly or animated personality, contact Jessica to find out more about this opportunity.

Children's Guest Center Volunteers: Some exciting changes are coming to the children's guest center. We are currently looking to increase our team. We need volunteers who are friendly, dependable and willing to go the extra mile to help a new family connect to our West Side Family. Please contact Jessica at jessicas@wschurch.org or 793-2800 ext 3427 if this sounds like a good fit for you.

FAMILY MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Save our blog to your list of favorite links! There's lots of up-to-date information for parents, kids and volunteer at www.westsidekids.org. If you are on Twitter, follow westsidekids to stay connected and be the first to know what's coming next!

We are excited to announce that we have launched our new ELECTRONIC CHECK-IN for kids birth-5th grade. This will create a few changes for the early childhood and elementary age children. Now ALL children will be given a family ID number (not just those in the ECM department) and all parents will be given a receipt that they will present when they are ready to pick up their child. Please note, only parents will be allowed to use the computer kiosks, so children will not be able to check themselves in. To see more about the new check-in process and policies, please visit www.westsidekids.org.

VBX 2009: Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible eXperience is an exciting week for kids at West Side. This year's VBX is July 19-24th from 6:00-8:30pm. We'll begin registering kids in June, but if you are a grown-up who knows where they want to serve, feel free to volunteer now to ensure that you get the volunteer role that you want! Contact Jessica (jessicas@wschurch.org), and a director would be happy to sign you to their team.

STUDENT EXPLOSION (Jr. High): Final Fuel Parties will be Wednesday, May 13, as we wrap up our small groups

for the semester. Visit www.studentExplosion.org to find out what your group is planning. **CIY Move Conference** is a trip our high school ministry is planning this summer from July 26 through August 1 and each year they invite the graduating 8th graders to join them. It is the best trip they take all year so you won't want to miss it. The deadline to register has passed but we may still have some spots so let us know ASAP if you'd like to go. **LSCA Summer Camp** for our 6-7th graders is July 5-10. For our 8th graders it is June 21-26. Register at www.LSCACamp.org. Register by May 30 for the early bird discount.

STUDENT LIFE (High School): Senior Recognition Luncheon, Sunday, May 31, 12:30pm-2:30pm. Seniors: Return your bio information form, pictures, and reservations to the church office (Attn: Ruby Scherpinsky) by Sunday, May 17. Juniors & Parents: We are in need of help for the Senior Recognition Luncheon. Please contact Ruby at rubys@wschurch.org or 793-2800 as soon as possible. **CIY MOVE** is July 26-August 1 in Carbondale, IL; cost is \$350. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required; the deadline to register has passed but there may still be some open spots; sign up in Connection.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Charlie's "Angels", a part of the Senior Adult Ministry 60+ at West Side, will be hosting The Chosen Ones in concert at West Side on Thursday, May 7, 7:00pm, in the Worship Center. **The Chosen Ones** were organized in 1974 and continue proclaiming the gospel in song throughout Illinois and surrounding states. Admission is free; a love offering will be received. All ages are invited.

SINGLES MINISTRY

Wednesday night bike rides: meet at 5:30pm at Chatham/Wabash Bike Trail (weather permitting). **Singles Volleyball** meets Fridays, 7:00pm, in the Gym. **Bike Ride to Salisbury** on Saturday, May 9. Meet at the southwest parking lot at West Side at 9:15am. Come earlier for bike safety check. The distance is 12 miles (one-way) and we'll have lunch at Morning Star Cafe and then bike back. Not into biking? Just drive out and join the group for lunch around 11am. **Annual Memorial Day Potluck** is at West Side, so please don't show up at Gary's old house (or new house). Meat will be furnished; just bring \$2 plus side dishes and soda to share and a lawn chair. We'll set up a volleyball net, but bring any outdoor games that would be fun for everyone. We will eat at 1:00pm. **Canoe Trip** to Meramec State Park, south of Sullivan, MO, is July 17-19. Sign up in Singles ABF and turn in a \$20 deposit to reserve your spot! Questions? Contact Gary Boner at garyboner777@yahoo.com. Information is also available in Singles ABF.