

I Never Intended to Quit

A man who had not attended one service of the church in four years told me he had never thought of “quitting” the church. I reminded him that he had:

- Withdrawn his presence from the services.
- Refused to give his moral support to the activities of the congregation.
- Withdrawn his financial support, for he had not given one dime to help carry on the Lord’s work.

Then I asked, “What else would you have to do in order to ‘quit’ the church? In case you ever decide that you no longer desire to be a member, what other steps will be necessary to ‘quit’ the church?”

As the true status dawned upon him his expression reflected his sober thoughts. He replied, “Why brother Nichols, I’ve already quit, haven’t I? Well, I surely didn’t mean to! And I don’t know when I did it... But I’ve quit the Lord and his church! I’ll tell you right now... I’m coming back.” He did too! At the next service he was restored, and three years later he is still faithful.

Dear reader, how about you? Have you quit the Lord and His church without resolving to do so? Perhaps no one deliberately decides to quit, but many carelessly drift into backsliding.

If you quit attending services, quit boosting the program of activities planned by the elders, and quit giving as God has prospered you to enable the congregation to meet its budget, you need to be restored.

The New Testament still says: *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much more, as ye see the day approaching.”* Heb. 10:25

- Gus Nichols

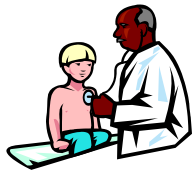
West Siders— As we move into a new year, let’s be challenged to consider some things that will make for a stronger church here, both spiritually and numerically.

- Resolve not to be a “quitter”.
- Ask someone a church related question every week.
- Make a contact with someone you know personally, who has “quit” the church.
- Encourage, uplift, invite, strive and let your light shine and be a friend in 2010.

- the Elders

Continue to remember in prayer:

Sick Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Martha Keith, WJ Wood, Al Furrow, Lyn Anderson, Marguerite Charles, Jo Musgrove, Isabelle Simmons, Sandra Wood, Carol & Vernon Daniels



- Walter Jenkins is now home from his stay in the hospital.
- Debbie Bumbalough, who works for the Gospel Advocate, will be having back surgery.
- Joanna Rogers, Tom's mother, has been moved to Hospice Care Center in PA.
- Several are out with the seasonal illnesses.

Sympathy is extended to Hazel McFalls in the death of her sister, Beatrice Burlison. Funeral will be in TN.

Happy Birthday this week to:



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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Lori Cook—12/27 | Kylie White—12/28 |
| Kay Anderson—12/29 | Melissa Rogers—12/30 |
| George Mellon 12/30 | Cindy Nicholas—12/31 |
| Squeaky Valentine—12/31 | Nancy Benefield—1/1 |
| Amanda Brown—1/2 | |

Happy Anniversary this week to:

Jim & Charlotte Harrington—1/1



Military



Jay Martin—Afghanistan

DECEMBER ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Poppy Seeds and Instant Swiss Mocha sugar free coffee Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



Upcoming Events:



Check with your team leader to see if you have any events going on soon. Or make a suggestion for a get-together!

Teens

December Dates

December 31—New Years Devo

January Dates

January 9—WYD—Radford

January 17—TBS

January 31—Young Men conduct services.

Bible Bowl is set for March 6
Study Guides are available!



The Mock Bible Bowl is Feb. 13th. at 9am. It's for ALL youth to pre-test their Bible Bowl knowledge before the actual Bible Bowl on March 6th. Youth & Parents should reserve this date on their calendars now! Breakfast items will be available.

WOW

The next regular meeting will be on January 12 at 10:30.

I AM THE NEW YEAR

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.
 I am your next chance at the art of living.
 I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.
 All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.
 All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.
 All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have--all these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.
 I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new."

For Your Information

GUEST SPEAKERS

It is good to have the Tom Duff and Steve Hall families with us today. Tom will be preaching for us this morning and Steve will be preaching for us tonight. We look forward to hearing these two "native sons" preach the gospel of Christ. Let them know you appreciate their work.

PICTURE UPDATES

Picture Board updates and new pictures will be taken after morning services on January 3rd. See Jim Harrington if this date is not good and schedule another time.

NEW MEMBERS DINNER

The New Members Dinner is Jan. 16th at 5:45. It's for ALL to welcome our 2009 newly baptized and relocating members to West Side. PLEASE RESERVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

EDUCATION APPRECIATION BANQUET

The Education Appreciation Banquet is Feb. 6th at 5:45. It's for ALL teachers, education workers and helpers and their spouses or special friends. PLEASE RESERVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

SPRING LADIES CLASS

There is a sign up sheet for all ladies interested in attending a Ladies Class during the Spring Quarter.

From The Elders...

The elders solicit your input in suggesting the names of men who could possibly serve as elders and deacons at West Side. The sermons for December 13 and December 20 will center on the qualifications for these men and their wives as given in the New Testament. Forms are available in the foyer for your convenience. Please submit these names to one of the elders. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this matter.

New Year Thoughts

An optimist stays up late until midnight to see the new year in. The pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions.

Weekly Reminders

Prayer List:

Marguerite Charles
Lyn Anderson
Martha Keith
Miriam Majors
Betty Jenkins
WJ Wood
Margaret Kratz
Jim Dorsett
E.V. Wimmer
Charlie Puckett
Jo Musgrove
Al Furrow
David McFalls
Michelle Earnhart
Isabelle Simmons
Ed Argabright
Sandra Wood
Vernon & Carol Daniels
Walter Jenkins
Glenn & Ruth Hartman
Jo Hartman
Joanna Rogers
Debbie Bumbalough

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January 2010

Announcements: Jerry Anderson
Song Leader (AM): Eric Earnhart
Communion: Jeff Durham (preside)
C. Brown, W. Campbell, J. Bush, G. Durham
Prayer: Fred Altizer (open)
Herb Baker (close)
Next week prayer: Gene Benefield (open)
John Black (close)

Song Leader (PM): Charlie Gwaltney
Scripture Reader: Bradford Durham
Prayer: Collin Gregory (open)
Danny Guard (close)
Next week prayer: Jim Harrington (open)
Glenn Hartman (close)
Communion: Paul Mays, Roger Mays

Song leader (Wed): Sam Valentine
Prayer: George Mellon
Next week prayer: Don Pettit

Open/Close Building: Mike Durham
Greeters: Benefields, Paxtons
Nursery: Rebecca Durham (AM) Judy Durham (PM)
Ushers: Curtis Oakes, Squeaky Valentine
Handouts: Mark Brooks, Paul Faw
Prepare Communion: Kay Anderson, Jean Argabright

