



# The West Side Epistle

Ye are our epistle written in our heart, known and read of all men—II Corinthians 3:2

**West Side  
Church of Christ**  
1705 Starview Drive  
Salem, VA 24153  
540-389-9139

**Elders:**

Jeff Durham  
Eddy Gilpin  
Danny Guard  
Charles Gwaltney

**Deacons:**

Fred Altizer  
Jerry Anderson  
Mike Durham  
Bob Garby  
Jim Harrington  
Lyn Shrader  
Squeaky Valentine

**Minister:**

Eddy Gilpin

**Associate Minister:**

Jerry Anderson

Visit our website at

[www.westsidcofc-salem.com](http://www.westsidcofc-salem.com)

**Sponsors of**

*"House to House/Heart to Heart"*

**Missions**

FHU Student Missions;  
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*Preaching the Gospel*, James Watkins (TV)  
Gospel Broadcasting Network (TV);  
*House to House/Heart to Heart* (print)  
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*We'll take a Dozen* – preacher student support – Arusha, Tanzania;  
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Jesse Nelsen, ETSPM  
Burt Jones, Tim Shoulders, Donnie Vick

## Too Much Bible Preaching?

"WHY DO YOU use so many Scriptures when you preach? No one quotes the Bible like that anymore." The answer is very simple. This is the kind of preaching God wants. God desires men to "preach the Word" (2 Timothy 4:2), "teach the Word" (1 Timothy 4:11), and "speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). The Lord intended that the content of preaching be the Bible. What is the alternative to Biblical preaching? Preaching and teaching human philosophy. Speaking the doctrines and traditions of man.

"But what if the congregation is not ready for that much Bible?" The solution requires giving the congregation more spiritual food (the Bible) so that they will grow and mature! Every time the amount of Bible is reduced in preaching, the percentage of uninspired material increases. Rather than diminishing the Word in the pulpit to accommodate our immaturity, we ought to increase our spiritual appetites (Matthew 5:6) and prepare ourselves to listen to what God has to say to us. We need more Bible to nurture our faith (Romans 10:17; 1 Timothy 4:6) so that we can become more spiritually minded (Philippians 4:9; Colossians 3:1-4). The church needs more of God's Word and less of man's words, more heavenly wisdom and less earthly wisdom (James 3:13-18). We need to be still and let God do the talking (Habakkuk 2:20).

If we really believe that God's Word is the only thing that is powerful enough to save man (James 1:21; Romans 1:16) and penetrate the heart (Hebrews 4:12; Acts 2:37), then we realize the importance of Biblical preaching. Replacing it with anything else is foolishness. Book, chapter and verse preaching is the kind that we need (Jonah 3:2). Anything else is a cheap imitation. We need to ask, "What does the Scripture say?" (Romans 4:3)

The New Testament writers record teachings saturated with Scripture. The vast amount of Old Testament quotations and allusions that New Testament characters use ought to impress us. They are an example for us to follow.

Recall when Satan tempted Jesus after his baptism, our Lord responded to each of the temptations with, "It is written," and proceeded to quote Scripture (Matthew 4:1-11). In Peter's Pentecost sermon he used Scriptures from Joel, Psalms, and 2 Samuel (Acts 2:14-36). Paul cites no less than 10 different Old Testament passages in Romans chapter nine [and the writings of these men were likewise inspired Scripture]. Let us have the same attitude the familiar song describes, and cry out, "Give Me the Bible!" That's what we need.—Selected

### From the Elders' Desk



**Welcome! We Love Visitors!!  
You are invited to all our assemblies.**

**Sunday**

Bible classes for all ages 9:30AM  
Worship Services 10:30AM  
Evening Services 6:00PM

**Wednesday**

Midweek Bible Study 7:00PM



*Happy Birthday this week:*

*November 27 Greg Edwards  
November 27 Harrison Williams  
December 2 Gloria Moran  
December 3 Velda Gearhart*

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We will begin a series on “Questions and Answers” Sunday night. The Q&A box is on the table in the foyer for any interested in asking a Biblical question.

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## W O W

The WOW group is sponsoring a Dec 31 Congregational Singing to welcome the new year. Come and bring your favorite finger food or snack and enjoy fellowship, singing, and fun to welcome in 2012. Time 9:00-12:00  
Please sign up on the WOW Bulletin Board.

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### Winter Quarter Teachers

These are our **Winter Quarter** adult and secondary teachers and classes, which begin **Sunday Dec. 4:**

**Sunday:** Auditorium: **Eddy Gilpin** (OT Survey)  
Fellowship Room: **Squeaky Valentine-**  
Sr and Jr High (OT Survey)  
**Wednesday:** Auditorium: **Jerry Anderson**  
(Book of James)  
Fellowship Room: **Jeff Durham-**  
Sr and Jr High (Book of John 1-10)

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Winter Quarter Primary teachers please go to your classroom the last five minutes on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

The Elders

**Primary Teachers' Meeting  
on Sunday, Dec 4 at 4:30  
in the Fellowship Hall.**

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### DECEMBER ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS

Poppy seeds, Instant Swiss Mocha sugar-free coffee, Meringue powder

### West Side Youth

December 3 –Movie Night—Fellowship Hall  
December 18—Bible Study—Teen Center  
December 31– Devotional/Pizza/Game Night  
–Fellowship Hall 6:30—9:00 PM

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**NINE GOOD MINUTES @ 5:49**

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**OUR BARNABUS FAMILY OF FOCUS IS  
JEREMY AND JESSICA WHITE**

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### **Extra change for Children**

**Potter Children's Home Gleaner Cans due December 4.**  
Extra cans are available on the foyer table.  
Any questions, see Jerry

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### **Potters Home for Christmas**

Team leaders have been given names of mothers and children we will be helping. Please see your team leaders and be a part of our efforts to help them have a wonderful holiday.

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### **Holiday Helpers December 10 -10am-3pm.**

Kim Brown will be offering a holiday helpers session for **children 11 and under.** It will provide much needed shopping/holiday prep for parents. Questions or volunteers please call **Kim Brown, 343-3173.**  
See details on the YOUTH bulletin board.  
**If you plan to bring your child you must sign-up so adequate food can be ordered.**

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**Mary Halling** will move into her new home on Dec. 3 (303 Bowman St). To celebrate with her the purchase of her first home, we will be giving her an old time “**pounding**”. Please put dry or canned pantry items in the box in the foyer. We plan to present the box on **Dec 4th (her birthday).**



### **Team 1 Holiday Get together**

Time: December 9 6:00 PM  
Place: Laplante's home  
Food: Bring Appetizers and holiday food  
Also bring: \$5.00 gift for gift exchange

## TNT –Barnabus Family of Focus

The next TNT meeting will be Dec 6. Our current FOF (Family of Focus) is Jeremy and Jessica White. Here are some ways you can help support our FOF: make dinner, phone call, joy basket, invite to lunch, visit, send card/note, sit with during service, give a hug, email. Plan to meet at 6:00 pm for dinner and then stay to help.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT WEST SIDE

December 4– Primary Teachers' Meeting-Fellowship Hall

December 10-Holiday Helpers (for children 11 & under)

December 31– Congregational Singing to welcome 2012

### AREA EVENTS:

- ◇ **GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAIN MARRIAGE RETREAT**  
February 15-18, 2012. "A Match Made in Heaven" Pigeon Forge  
Holiday Inn Conference Center. \*\* 2 tracks \*\*
- ◇ **CENTRAL (HARRISONBURG) Gospel Meeting -March 24**
- ◇ **DALE RIDGE Ladies Day –April 28 - Speaker: Celine Sparks**

### Licking the Blade

Paul Harvey tells how an Eskimo kills a wolf. He coats his knife with blood and lets it freeze. Then he adds another coat of blood and then another. As each coat freezes he adds another smear of blood until the blade is hidden deep within a substantial thickness of frozen blood. Then he buries the knife - blade up - in the frozen tundra. The wolf catches the scent of fresh blood and begins to lick it. He licks it more and more feverishly until the blade is bare. Then he keeps on licking harder and harder. Because of the cold he never notices the pain of the blade till he bleeds to death, swallowing his own life.

This is the way the devil works on us. He gives us a taste of sin, knowing we will crave more. We go deeper and deeper in satisfying our desires. We never notice the blade inside till it is too late. Only when we are dying do we realize we have swallowed our own life in sin. [Author Unknown].

#### Continue in Prayer

Ruth & Glenn Hartman, Sr.

Sandra Speir

Corey Ryan

Jerry and Jennifer Ogden

Mason & Cole Anderson

"Doc" Long

Glenn & Audrey Gabbard

Dale Janosik

Ryan Kendrick

Keith Ann (Kay) Widener

Mary Ellen Crowe

Jessica White

Chad Coleman

Kerry Cesoro

Betty Garby

Jerry Wood

Tammy Blankenship

Betty Buckner

W. J. Wood

Dan Bowman

Louise Wimmer

## Senior Servants

Lynn Anderson Norma Biller  
Betty Buckner **Jim Dorsett**  
Margaret Kratz Miriam Majors  
Jo Musgrove Evelyn Scott  
Elsie Smith Ruth Stanton  
**Evelyn White WJ Wood**  
Grace Myers Al Furrow  
**Willard Campbell**



- ⇒ Dan Colwell went to the VAMC Wed. night. He is now recovering at home.
- ⇒ Jean McCracken, Jeanny Gilpin's mom, will have surgery on Dec 6.
- ⇒ Samantha Bahl (21), a friend of Katelyn Brown's fiancée, lost her 2+ year battle with cancer. She was put into a coma and life support was removed. Please remember this family in prayers.

#### Continue in Prayer

Euline Gilpin

Anne Richerdson

Anne Johnson

Barbara Whitt

Naola McCormick

Steve Wright

Kathleen Soliday

Kevin Barnard

William Spicer

Mickie Janney

Danny White

Lawrence Rochelle Walker

Daryl Curd

Paul Cromer

David Wilcox

Danny Edmunds

**Monthly Servants** December 2011  
**Announcements:** Mike Durham  
**Song Leader (AM):** Charlie Gwaltney  
**Opening Prayer (AM)**  
 12/4/2011 Danny Guard  
 12/11/2011 Gene Benefield  
 12/18/2011 Charlie Maness  
 12/25/2011 Charlie Gwaltney  
**Preside at Communion:** Danny Guard  
**Serve Table** Herman Lowe  
 Bob Martin  
 Barry White  
 Bradford Durham  
**Closing Prayer (AM):**  
 12/4/2011 John Black  
 12/11/2011 Fred Altizer  
 12/18/2001 Wes White  
 12/25/2011 Tom Rogers  
**Song Leader (PM):** Josh Whitlow  
**Opening Prayer (PM)**  
 12/4/2011 Marc Laplante  
 12/11/2011 Paul Mays  
 12/18/2011 Ron White  
 12/25/2011 Jeff Durham  
**Scripture Reader:** Dylan Tyler  
**Closing Prayer (PM)**  
 12/4/2011 Noah Laplante  
 12/11/2011 Mitch Jearls  
 12/18/2011 David Brown  
 12/25/2011 Jeff Durham  
**Serve Table (PM)** Jeremy White  
 Sam Valentine  
**Song Leader (Wed):** Jeff Durham  
**Prayer (Wed)**  
 12/7/2011 A. C. Janney  
 12/14/2011 Glenn Hartman  
 12/21/2011 Ed Mickens  
 12/28/2011 Jeff Guilliams  
**Open/Close Bldg:** Jerry Anderson  
 Pettits, Myrtle  
**Greeters:**  
 Peverall, Jearls  
 Amanda Brown,  
**Nursery Attend:** Mary Halling  
 Curtis Oakes,  
**Ushers:** Squeaky Valentine  
 Garrett Laplante,  
**Handouts:** Jimmy Harrington  
**Prepare communion:** Cha Guard, Hazel  
 McFalls  
**Baptismal Garments** Dorothy Mays  
**Cards/Pencils** Caroline Harrington  
 McKenzie Doss  
**Last week's attendance** 11/20/11 & 11/23/11  
**Bible Class-124** **Worship Service-145**  
**Sunday PM-115** **Wednesday PM-132**  
**Contribution- \$ 3,644**  
**November 27, 2011** **Number 3201**

## Enough to Hold Your House Together?

Some time ago I was talking with a friend who is a professional builder by trade. We were talking about the church and he made an interesting observation. He said he had done some calculations and determined that it takes about 15,000 nails (16d) to build the average house. He had also calculated the amount of time one would spend in Bible class and worship if he attended every service all his life. The percentage of time spent would be about 1.12%. If one uses that percentage and attempts to build a house with that many nails, he would only have 168 nails with which to work. Would anyone dare think that 168 nails would be sufficient to hold a house together? Certainly not! Likewise, spending only 1.12% of one's time engaged in spiritual matters is not enough to hold a life together. Spending only 1.12% of our time together as couples is not enough to hold a marriage together. Spending only 1.12% of our time with our growing children is not enough time to hold a family together.

When Jesus stated, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God" (Mt. 6:33), would anyone think He meant a mere 1.12% of one's time? How could we possibly think such? And yet, some fail to give the Lord even that much of their time. The prophet asked, "Will a man rob God?" (Mal. 3:8). Many had done so in Malachi's day; and many do so today. We rob Him when we fail to give or our means, our abilities and our time.

If applied to schooling, 1.12% would be the equivalent of a first-grade education. The Bible requires us to "study to show [ourselves] approved unto God" (II Tim. 2:15); to be ready to answer those who would ask questions of us (I Pet. 3:15); and, to grow to the point that we can teach others (Heb. 5:12-14). Would a "first-grade education" in the Bible allow us to accomplish any of these objectives? Not any more than 168 nails could hold a house together. Brethren, think on these things.

-Eddy

The Preacher's Column

