

Jesus Crucified

"But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness" (1 Corinthians 1:23).

Can you think of anything that proves more of the greatness of divine compassion than the humiliating, humbling, submissive, and loving death of the perfect Son of God upon the cross?

It's not easy for prideful people to take much notice to the humbling message of the cross of Jesus. From a selfish motive, there's nothing to boast of when you come to the foot of the cross of Calvary looking for cleansing from sin and direction in life. I mean, think about it: "self-made" people don't need anybody to help them, and certainly nobody can tell them anything which they would consider to be of any value.

Paul directs his language to both the Jew and the Gentile. To the Jew with a conscience and good heart, the law of Moses and the prophets contained the message that he is a sinner and desperately needs a Savior. That's a message he needs to hear. He can't save himself, and his law doesn't contain a proper sacrifice (cf. Heb. 10:4). All the Law could do was foretell of the One who was to come (cf. Isa. 53; Psa. 2; 110).

And if the Gentile would be equally honest with himself with the same kind of conscience, he would know that he also sins. No man-made religion can deal with his inner awareness of the need for cleansing of moral wrong (cf. Rom. 2:14, 15). But to people (Jew or Gentile) who will admit sin and the need of forgiveness, the cross of Christ is a glorious thing. But to the rest of mankind, it is a disgusting thing and so much foolishness. What about you?

When Christ is preached, how does it affect you?

—Howell Ferguson



Happy Birthday this week:

December 25— Sandra Neighbors

Dec 27— Lori Cook

December 29— Kay Anderson

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

Kay has posted a print-out of the current directory on the bulletin board. Please go by and put a check on your entry if it is correct. If incorrect, please add corrections. We hope to have a new directory for everyone in January. Thank you.

JANUARY ITEMS
FOR THE STAFFORDS
DRY ERASE MARKERS, PECANS

Addresses for cards:

West Side Youth

December 31— Devotional/Pizza/Game Night

—Fellowship Hall 6:30—9:00 PM

NINE GOOD MINUTES @ 5:49



Parents: Remind your child to say the 66 books of the Bible to one of our elders.



Nathan Anderson
received his **masters degree in industrial and systems engineering** from the University of Alabama in Huntsville on December 9, 2011

Congratulations to Leah Durham
for making the Dean's List at
Radford University for the Fall semester.

Ryan and Jessica Vaden were baptized on Wednesday night, December 21, by Eddy Gilpin. This wonderful young couple has been studying with Brother E. V. Wimmer. Please add them to your directory:
Ryan and Jessica Vaden

Dedication to Clarence DeLoach

The 2012 FHU Annual Bible Lectureship and lectureship book is dedicated to the life and work of **Clarence DeLoach**. Brother DeLoach became a gospel preacher at the age of fifteen and has completed more than sixty years in local work. He has conducted more than six hundred gospels meetings, including West Side.

Freed-Hardeman Lectureship

Will be held February 5-10.
For information go to www.fhu.edu/lectureship

TNT –Barnabus Family of Focus

The next TNT meeting will be Jan 3. Our current FOF is

David & Hazel McFalls Here are some ways you can help support our POF: 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

January 21– New Members Appreciation Dinner

March 3—Bible Bowl & Biddy Bible Bowl

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) Ladies Day -March 24**

◇ **DALE RIDGE Ladies Day –April 28 - Speaker: Celine Sparks**

Sympathy



We extend sympathy to **Patsy Boyd** and her family in the loss of her brother, **Jack Bishop**. Memorial service planned for January.

Condolences are also extended to Mrs. Essie Long in the death of "Doc Long" who passed away Thursday.

We welcome a new sister in Christ, **Lyndsey Jones**, friend of Justin Maio, who visited West Side in December during holiday break from FHU.

WELCOME

Prayer List Continued

Ruth & Glenn Hartman, Sr.	Jean McCracken
Sandra Speir	Cameron Starnes
Corey Ryan	Warner Williams
Jerry and Jennifer Ogden	Shirley Phillips
Dale Janosik	Ed Argabright
Keith Ann (Kay) Widener	Buddy Martin
Jessica White	Jackie Cantley
Lori Stump	Virgil Peverall
Mason & Cole Anderson	Kathleen Soliday

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	



- ⇒ **Darlene Mellon Anukpui** completed her 12 hour surgery on Wednesday. Please send cars to :
- ⇒ Remember Bob Martin's brother, **A. W. Martin** who will have surgery Jan 9th to remove a kidney.
- ⇒ **Dan Bowman** update: Duke Medical Hospital has determined that his cancer is in the tissues. They feel it is treatable and he will have one more treatment of Chemo, then continue with other treatments. Please continue to pray for him and his family.

Continue in Prayer

Anne Johnson
Barbara Whitt
Naola McCormick
Kevin Barnard
Danny Edmunds
Melissa Yeager
Terri White
Betty Garby
Dan Bowman

Helping Out

There is a basket in the foyer for breakfast and snack items for the children of Dan Bowman.

Announcements: Jerry Anderson

15 Years of Holidays Together

1/9

Song Leader (AM): Paul Mays

Opening Prayer (AM)

1/1 Roger Mays
 1/8 Jerry Anderson
 1/15 Charlie Gwaltney
 1/22 Wayne Dixon
 1/29 Jonathan Beavers

Preside at Communion: Mike Durham

Serve Table

A. C. Janney; Josh Whitlow
 Tom Richardson; Ethan Rogers

Closing Prayer (AM):

1/1 Mark Brooks
 1/8 Barry White
 1/15 Jim Cooke
 1/22 Don Petit
 1/29 Danny Guard

Song Leader (PM): Tom Rogers

Opening Prayer (PM)

1/1 John Black
 1/8 Marc Laplante
 1/15 Jim Harrington
 1/22 Squeaky Valentine
 1/29 Bob Garby

Scripture Reader: Jimmy Harrington

Closing Prayer (PM)

1/1 Jeff Guilliams
 1/8 Glenn Hartman
 1/15 Gene Benefield
 1/22 Herman Lowe
 1/29 Glenn Gabbard

Serve Table (PM)

Dylan Tyler; Bradford Durham

Song Leader (Wed): Josh Whitlow

Prayer (Wed)

1/4 Greg Edwards
 1/11 Jim Bush
 1/18 Ron White
 1/25 David Brown

Open/Close Bldg: Mike Durham

Greeters: Jearls, Whites (Barry & Gloria)

Nursery Attend: Jo Hartman
 Sarah Cook

Ushers: Curtis Oakes, Herman Lowe

Handouts: Dylan Tyler; Connor Jearls,
 Andrew Gibson

Prepare communion: Sandra Altizer
 Jackie Dixon

Baptismal Garments: Gloria White

Cards/Pencils: Austin & Emmalynn Whitlow

Last week's attendance 12/18/11 & 12/21/11

Bible Class— 143 Worship Service—169
 Sunday PM— 137 Wednesday PM— 136
 Contribution— \$ 4341

December 25, 2011 Number 3205

This holiday season marks the 15th that we have been together. It finds many changes from that first Christmas and New Year's fifteen years ago. Many have passed from the scenes of this life into the eternal realm. Others have moved to various locations throughout the country. Babies have been born, some of whom have already almost reached adulthood. Some have grown from childhood into adults and have moved on with their own lives elsewhere (our own two sons among them). Many have been added to the fold through gospel obedience. Some have come our way from other faithful congregations. Sadly, some have left the ranks of the faithful and have left their first love. Indeed, many changes have occurred in the makeup of West Side in this decade and a half. However, some things haven't changed at all.

Nelson Gabbard

West Side is still a faithful group. Through the efforts of good elders, godly preachers, working deacons and lots of faithful folk, the Old Paths have been held to firmly through the years. That hasn't changed in the least in the past 15 years. West Side still stands where it did on doctrinal matters, never veering to the right hand or left from "thus saith the Lord." Sadly, that cannot be said of every congregation.

West Side is still a friendly group. Friendliness characterized this congregation from the first time we stood in your midst. Through the years I have noticed how members of this church have treated those who enter these doors. It is always the same- with friendliness and welcoming words.

West Side is still a focused group. Paul had a special bond with the Philippians. To them he stated, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil. 1:3-5). "From the first day until now," the focus of West Side has been the salvation of souls. That continues to this good day, and I am thankful for your "fellowship in the gospel" throughout these years. May God continue to bless us with opportunities to spread the borders of His kingdom, and give us the wisdom to see those opportunities.

Jeanny and I wish each of you all the best for this our 15th holiday season together. And, may the New Year bring us all even greater blessings and opportunities of service.