



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
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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

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West Side Quality

It is 2:12 am and I woke up after several hours of rest. I can't get back to sleep because I keep thinking about something I saw recently. I need to write this down so I can sleep again.

I was finishing up a trail hike at Green Hill Park on Saturday, November 26. I saw Miles Quesenberry's classic red truck go down the park road. I was near the end of my hike. I jumped in my vehicle and went up the road to say hello to Miles. He was already parked and I could see him walking up ahead by the ball parks.

What he was doing may surprise you, but it didn't me. As he walked along he would go through the trash cans by the fields. I knew he was doing what he has been doing for years; looking for aluminum cans that have been thrown away so they can be recycled.

He doesn't do it for the small amount of money they bring, but because it is the right thing to do. It is hard to estimate the hundreds/thousands of cans that did not go into the Salem landfill because of Miles.

A couple days later I turned up Millwood Dr. There was a little lady walking down the road. She was carrying a small plastic bag. She had a latex glove on one hand. She gets her exercise walking and at the same time uses the gloved hand to gather trash along the street and put it into the plastic bag.

As I pulled up beside her, I realized it was Audrey Gabbard. I rolled down the window to express my appreciation for what she was doing.

These two senior citizens exemplify the quality of people who are part of the family of West Side church of Christ. They will get no headlines. They will not be hailed as heroes by the media. What they do is validate the “workers” part of W.O.W. (West Side's Older Workers).

May we all be willing to put on our “gloves”, get our own “plastic bag” and go out into the community. The best thing we could do for our community is to tell them of the Kingdom. PWG (plant, water, God)
2:51 A.M. There. Now I can go back to bed.

Jerry “Coach A”

From the Elders' Desk



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

Sunday

Bible classes for all ages
Worship Services

9:30AM
10:30AM

Wednesday

Midweek Bible Study 7:00PM



Happy Birthday this week:

December 4 Mary Halling

Anniversaries

Roger & Dorothy Mays Dec. 8

Myrtle & Virgil Peverall Dec. 8

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.

WOW

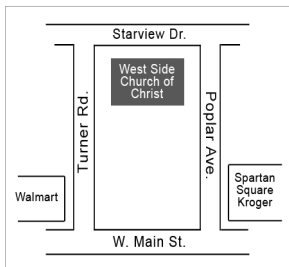
The WOW group is sponsoring a **Dec 31 Congregational Singing** to welcome the new year. Come and bring your favorite finger food or snack and enjoy fellowship, singing, and fun to welcome in 2012. Time 9:00-12:00

Please sign up on the WOW Bulletin Board.

Thanks to Jeremy White

for creating a simple map to use for our NewMover Evangelism Postcards.

This will replace the current one being used and should make it easier for our new movers to find our new moving location in Salem to find our building.



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

DECEMBER ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS

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

Wednesday Fellowship on Dec. 7 at 5:45

West Side Youth

December 18—Bible Study—Teen Center

December 31— Devotional/Pizza/Game Night

—Fellowship Hall 6:30—9:00 PM

NINE GOOD MINUTES @ 5:49

OUR BARNABUS FAMILY OF FOCUS IS JEREMY AND JESSICA WHITE

DOE TODAY 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

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.

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**, See details on the YOUTH bulletin board.

If you plan to bring your child you must sign-up so adequate food can be ordered

Diane Tucker is coming to town!

December 16, 5:30-8:00

Abuelo's at Valley View Mall

All ladies are invited for dinner, appetizer or just to chat.

Please RSVP to Michele Nikkel by Dec 16

EDP MEETING TODAY 4:00 IN THE LARGE CLASSROOM

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

(Girls bring a girl gift. Boys bring a boy gift).

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 20– Ladies dinner with Diane Tucker at Abuelos

December 31– Congregational Singing to welcome 2012

January 21– New Members Appreciation Dinner

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

The Old Watch by Tom Wacaster

It has been a few years since the old watch quit working. That old Timex watch succumbed to the ravages of time and age. Contrary to popular belief, even the watch that "takes a licking and keep on ticking" finally gave up the ghost. I came across that old watch sometime back, and wondered why I had discarded it for a new one. It did not take me long to remember why I put that which was nigh unto vanishing away into an old box in my closet in exchange for a new one at the local super market. I could not rely upon the Timex. The problem was not that it never ran. It ran great - when it ran. But for some reason when the long hand approached the 2, it would stick. It never stuck in the same place either. Sometimes it was around the 10; at other times around the 11, or just shy of the 12. Sometimes it would stick for just a second or two; more often than not, however, it stuck for several minutes at a time. So over the course of just a few hours the watch would be so far off time that it was, for all practical purposes, useless.

I've known a lot of brethren that are like that old watch. Every congregation has their fair share of unreliable members. Oh, they run great when the hand is on the down side of 12. But when it become an uphill struggle to reach the high mark, they would get stuck, bogged down on first one thing and then another. When all is said and done, such brethren simply cannot be relied upon. Webster defines "reliable" as, "to rest with confidence, as when we are satisfied of the veracity, integrity, or ability of persons, or of the certainty of facts or of evidence; to trust with, on, or upon" The Bible puts it this way: "Who shall sojourn in thy tabernacle? He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not" (Psalms 15:4). Once a promise is made, even if circumstances should turn out to be not as ideal as we had anticipated, we are obligated to follow through on our commitment. Even if it means our own "hurt!" While we may not be shocked at the lack of dependability of those who are not members of the Lord's body, we are taken aback at the increasing number of Christians who make promises, but fail to fulfill them. Where his that once-faithful soul who swore allegiance to his or her Master but no longer attends faithfully? What has happened to that would-be Bible class teacher who once said, "I'll teach," only to be among the growing number who cannot be depended upon to be present for class, much less to teach? Where are those men who signed up to serve on the table, knowing full well that you can't depend upon them to be there when it comes time for them to serve. All too often talent cards lay stacked in the church office, or entered into a computer. But when it comes time to pull names for service, like the nine ungrateful lepers, duty to one's Lord and Master has been relegated to the back burner, and trustworthiness has once again fallen upon hard times.

I threw that watch away that day. It was of no value to me whatsoever. On the judgement day, those who failed to follow through on their word will, like that old watch, be discarded by the Owner and Master of all mankind.

Continue in Prayer

Ruth & Glenn Hartman,
Sr.

Sandra Speir

Corey Ryan

Jerry and Jennifer Ogden

Dale Janosik

Keith Ann (Kay) Widener

Mary Ellen Crowe

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



- ⇒ Kathleen Soliday, Sandy Garby's mom in ICU.
- ⇒ Jean McCracken, Jeanny Gilpin's mom, will have surgery on Dec 6.
- ⇒ Anna Richardson, Dan Colwell's sister, is back in RMH . It appears her cancer has spread to her kidneys.
- ⇒ Dan Bowman is at home but still very sick from the chemo treatments.

Anne Johnson

Barbara Whitt

Naola McCormick

Kevin Barnard

Mickie Janney

Danny Edmunds

Family of Samantha Bahl

Melissa Yeager

Terri White

A.W. Martin

William McClint

Betty Garby

W. J. Wood

Vita Whitt

Jessica White

Lori Stump

Mason & Cole Anderson

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

12/18/2011 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

Greeters: Pettits, Jearls

Myrtle Peverall,

Nursery Attend: Amanda Brown

Mary Halling

Ushers: Curtis Oakes,

Squeaky Valentine

Handouts: Garrett Laplante

Jimmy Harrington

Prepare communion: Cha Guard

Hazel McFalls

Baptismal Garments: Dorothy Mays

Cards/Pencils: Caroline Harrington

McKenzie Doss

Last week's attendance 11/27/11 & 11/30/11

Bible Class- 142 Worship Service-164

Sunday PM- 131 Wednesday PM-135

Contribution- \$ 5875

December 4, 2011 Number 3202

Oh, But to the Contrary...

It should be no wonder that Jeremiah is the favorite Old Testament book of many. Jeremiah encapsulates what God expects of His servants. He was willing to suffer for God's Cause, and refused to compromise in any fashion. Jeremiah lived during the time of the Babylonian Captivity. He prophesied about its approach, saw it come to pass, and bewailed the city's demise (cf. Lamentations).

Jeremiah 37 records the occasion when the Egyptians came up to assist Judah against the threat of the Babylonians. Jeremiah was told to prophesy that the Egyptians would return to their own land, offer no assistance to Judah, and the Babylonians (Chaldeans) would conquer Jerusalem (Jer. 37:1-10). At first, the Babylonians fled for fear of the Egyptian army (Jer. 37:11). (They would later return and capture Jerusalem, just as Jeremiah had said- Jer. 39). When a man named Irijah saw Jeremiah, he accused him of treason, saying he had fallen away to the Babylonians (Jer. 37:13). Jeremiah denied this, but to no avail. Irijah took him to the princes of Judah, who beat him and cast him into prison. Later, the king (Zedekiah) called for Jeremiah and asked about Babylon. Jeremiah told him the Babylonians would overthrow his kingdom (Jer. 37:17). Jeremiah requested that he not be committed back to the dungeon prison. He was allowed to stay in the prison court and to be fed with bread and water (Jer. 37:20, 21).

When the princes heard of the further preaching of Jeremiah concerning Judah's overthrow by the Babylonians, they appealed to Zedekiah to have him executed (Jer. 38:1-4). Among other things they said of him, they stated, "...for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt" (Jer. 38:4b). However, to the contrary, Jeremiah was speaking the truth to them, telling them that they had to submit to the Babylonians and not fight against them, if they hoped to be saved physically (Jer. 38:2, 3). He was speaking the truth; they were saying it was a lie.

Paul asked those of Galatia, "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Gal. 4:16). The truth is spoken to no man's hurt, but rather in order to help him. The truth is what every person needs. For the most part, those of Jeremiah's day refused to heed the truth; and because of their continual denial of the inevitable, they were destroyed. Their claim that Jeremiah sought the hurt of the people and not their welfare was the opposite of what the situation really was. To the contrary, Jeremiah sought their welfare, not by telling them what they wanted to hear, but by telling them what they needed to hear.

