

Summer 2008 Review

It was the best of times, it was the best of times... how else could I open a written review of this past summer at the West Side Church of Christ? From day one of working at this congregation of the Lord's people, I knew that I would finish my time with good memories of the experience. Looking back on my summer internship, I see clearly that God knew in His heart all along the friendships that would be made, the relationships that would be strengthened, and the overall love that I would experience this summer at West Side. I thank God for His goodness in providing me with such a loving congregation to serve with.

Our work began on the Lord's Day, June the first. With great enthusiasm, the church welcomed me back to West Side after some thirteen-year break from when my father preached behind West Side's pulpit. In that morning's front page bulletin article, The Elders encouraged everyone to do three things, 1) Pray for the youth program, 2) Commit to attending every youth event possible, and 3) Encourage the youth to invite their friends. I am proud to say that after looking back on this summer's work, West Side did very well at putting into action all three of the Elder's suggestions.

Concerning prayer for the youth, I know I can say for a fact that I have never been prayed for (at least publicly) as much as I have been in the church service here at West Side. I say that lightly heartily, but in all seriousness, the Christians here really know how to petition God for their young people. I know without a doubt that these prayers were the foundation for the great summer we all experienced.

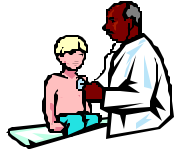
In the area of attendance West Side was all present and accounted for. I was extremely pleased with the turnout for each youth event. From Bible studies at the Teen Center to floating down the James River, the young people at West Side truly enjoy one another's company and consider the fellowship of the saints, whether in the pew or on an inner tube, an important part of their lives. The Bible tells us to go unto "all the world" and teach the gospel (Mark 16:16). We know that for most of us, "all the world" starts in our own backyard. I was encouraged by those young people of our congregation who invited their friends, significant others, and extended family members to attend worship service and be apart of the planned youth activities. I am also proud of each and every young person who works daily to be a Christian example to their friends and family in hopes of one day bringing their loved one into the fold of safety. I pray we each learn from their example of living as Christ to the world.

We had an extremely busy summer to say the least, but it is always good to be busy about doing the Lord's will. This article is only a short review of some of the events that we took part in this summer. We, of course, will never forget Virginia Christian Camp, Vacation Bible School, Horizons, and the list goes on and on.

The devotionals at the Teen Center were focused on coming to know Christ through the book of Mark. We read scripture that discussed Christ dealings with the Pharisees (a people who many times stand as mirrors to our very own lifestyles) and we read parables of Christ and considered their earthly as well as heavenly application. At the Teen Center we also took time to play games (like Imaginif), laugh and enjoy the close-knit fellowship of being not only friends but also brothers and sisters through Christ.

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Sick Mandy Tyler is finally at home!!



Bobby Paxton had gall bladder surgery on Thursday.

Shirley Baker is at LGH.

Jeanny Gilpin is doing better after a trip to the ER last week.

Eric Earnhart's sister, Kim, had surgery on Friday to remove cysts.

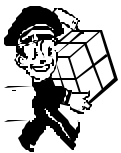
Continue to remember in prayer: **Marguerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Betty Jenkins, Lynn & Mary Anderson, Crawford & Martha Keith, Oliver & Mariam Majors.**



Happy Birthday this week to:

Rebecca Durham—8/3
Sandra Altizer—8/4
Joe Brown—8/4
Tammy Reed—8/7

Happy Anniversary this week to:
Fred & Sandra Altizer—8/6
Glenn & Jo Hartman—8/10



AUGUST ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Flavorings (almond, butter, lemon) and slivered almonds. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

MILITARY

Kyle Nester—in Iraq
Erich Felps—in Iraq
Chris Coleman—in Iraq



Continued from page 1 -

One of the highlights for me personally was the time I got to spend with the guys in our youth group. The theme of the summer's Guys Night was, *Being a Man of God*. Our first adventure was camping out in the Guard's backyard. The time was filled with playing football with Luke as the all time QB and Tanner as the somehow all time receiver, cooking weenies and marshmallows over the fire, telling stories of God's nature, and studying the sacred text until the late hours of the night. I will not quickly forget my memories of that night of brotherhood. Our next Guys Night we again slept under the stars in the Roger's backyard. Ethan brought to us a powerful lesson from God's word and we again shared in the love of brotherhood only found as son's of God. Our last Guy's night for the summer we choose to use as a night of service. Being a man of God means being a servant and thus we choose to serve and honor the girls in our group with a night of appreciation. Dinner Is Served was a night focused on appreciation of the girl's Christ like attitudes and their resemblance to the woman described in Proverbs chapter thirty-one. With the help of Jo Ann Edwards the guys prepared a fancy meal and dining room atmosphere to show the girls our love for them as our sisters in Christ. Thank you guys for the love and camaraderie we shared not only each Guys Night, but everyday this summer.

Who could ever forget the Twin River Tubing Trip? West Side teens and a few signed up from the Dale Ridge congregation took on the James River in green inner tubes, bringing about an experience to remember. After floating down the river for a mile and a half we pulled out on the bank to enjoy a home-catered meal by Jo Ann. Then after lunch we took to the river again. The young people set a great example of responsibility and courtesy and I know Twin Rivers Outfitters respected us for our behavior on the river. What a great trip!

Cosmic bowling was nothing short of totally awesome. It is always a good thing for Christians to come together and enjoy good quality fun together like bowling in the dark with strobe lights and disco balls. Just like with river tubing, the best thing was that we were together showing the world that we are a group determined to spend time together enjoying life in both spiritual and physical activities.

As I am writing this article it is Thursday night and the lock-in planned for Friday night has not yet come and gone. Based on all our previous other engagements I can only expect this last get together to be as encouraging and enjoyable as the past.

I am so glad to say that I was affiliated with the West Side Church of Christ youth group for at least this one summer. I will continue to keep you all in my prayers as I trust you will do the same for me. I want to thank the Elders for their zeal for God and their passion for the youth - thank you for being Christ like shepherds. I want to also thank all the parents and friends of the youth who put in the time and positive attitudes to make things happen for the youth. And last but not least I would like to thank the youth. You are all warriors for the cause of Christ and my forever friends, sisters and brothers. Continue in your commitment to God and each other and never forget how much I love you.

As always,
Your servant in Christ,
Trae Bailey

The elders gladly forfeited their column this week for Trae Bailey.

F Y I For Your Information

COLLEGE SEND OFF

Our College Send Off will be tonight after evening services. Make plans now to stick around, have some cake and wish them well!!

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Fellowship will be on August 6 at 5:45. Menu will be spaghetti. Sign up on the board by tonight and pay your \$5 at the door!!

IN-HOUSE SUMMER SERIES

Be here this Wednesday night to hear Jim Cooke and Tom Richardson as our special guest speakers!

Here's a list of other speakers for this summer: Eric Earnhart, Don Pettit, Jeff Durham and Mark Brooks.

Make your plans now to be here to encourage these men!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The monthly Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, August 9 at 8 AM at Famous Anthony's.

EDP MEETING

The EDP Meeting will be on August 10 at 4:00 in the fellowship room.

FALL PRIMARY TEACHERS

All lesson plans, activities and etc. from last fall need to be e-mailed to Tom Richardson or Danny Guard by August 31. Give all visuals to Tom.



Help Wanted: The Oldham family is in need of baby sitters next week while they paint their home. If you can help please see them today!!

Team 1 (Simms) will be having a get together at Jim & Rosemary Bush's on Saturday, August 16 at 4 PM. Save the Date!! Sign Up sheet is located on the board!
Everyone is invited! -



Teens



Don't forget to join us tonight and send off our college kids!!

Summer Youth Devos

August 7—Radford

August 9—Lake Drive (12-2)

All Devos are at 7-8:30 unless noted otherwise.

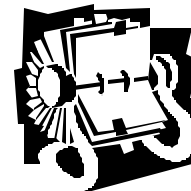
WOW

The WOW GROUP will meet on TUESDAY, August 12, at 10:30 AM.

Please sign up on the WOW board for the video Auto-biographies being done by Richard Simms.

New Address:

Curtis Oakes
Removed per Privacy Policy



I will be on vacation next week and Mickie Janney will be filling in so send all announcements to her at
office@westsidecofc-salem.com

August 2008

Eleven Years Together

Announcements Mike Durham
Song Leader (AM) Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)
8/3 Barry White
8/10 Jim Bush
8/17 Herb Baker
8/24 John Black
8/31 Josh Whitlow
Preside at Communion Don Pettit
Serve Table Bob Martin AC Janney
Glen Hartman Bradford Durham

Closing Prayer
8/3 Grat Tucker
8/10 David Brown
8/17 Jim Cooke
8/24 Wayne Dixon
8/31 Ethan Rogers
Song Leader (PM) David Brown

Opening Prayer (PM)
8/3 Jim Harrington
8/10 Danny Guard
8/17 Roger Mays
8/24 Greg Edwards
8/31 Jerry Anderson
Scripture Reader Sam Valentine

Closing Prayer (PM)
8/3 Shawn Simms
8/10 Eric Earnhart
8/17 Bob Garby
8/24 Charlie Maness
8/31 Jason Oldham

Serve Table (PM)
Mark Brooks Glenn Gabbard

Song Leader (Wed) Josh Whitlow

Prayer (Wed)
8/6 Tom Richardson
8/13 Greg Edwards
8/20 Fred Altizer
8/27 Squeaky Valentine

Open/Close Bldg Jim Harrington
Greeters White Gearhart
Nursery Attend S. Neighbors M. Pettit
Ushers Richard Simms Curtis Oakes
Handouts Roger Mays Mitch Jearls
Sam Valentine Cameron Brown
Alternates Lyn Shrader

Prepare communion
Jeanny Gilpin Pat Gwaltney
Cards & Pencils
Jimmy Harrington & Dylan Tyler

Last weeks attendance 7/27&30/08

Bible Class—129 Worship Service—159
Sunday Eve.—141 Wednesday Eve.—168
Contribution—\$5524

Number 2931
August 3, 2008

This week marks the eleventh year of our being together. On August 8, 1997, the Gilpins officially began our work with West Side. Our family has “grown up” here. The two boys we brought with us (ages 13 and 9) are now adults and living on their own in different states. The young married couple (about to celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary) which began their work here has now passed their 25th.

Not only have there been changes in our family, but also in all of yours. Sadly, there have been deaths. Many stalwart and long-time members of this congregation have made that journey down the valley. We continue to miss them. Sadder still, some have departed from the faith. Others have moved away for various reasons. Many of your children, also, have grown up and launched out on their own. On a positive note, some have been converted to Christ and become very active for the Cause here. Others have moved here from other places and fill vital roles. There have been many changes in our spiritual family over the past eleven years.

This time period has also seen changes in the physical plant of West Side as well. We have added some land and the teen center. We have added on to the building and made changes within the building. We have upgraded and refurbished and made the facilities more accommodative.

Although there have been many changes in many areas through these years, the one thing that has remained constant is our love and stand for truth. Changes will take place in people and places, but truth remains the same. The old adage “if it is true it is not new; and if it is new it is not true” certainly has merit. The consistent message of truth will stand the test of time. Thank you, West Side, for your consistent stand for truth and your love for its proclamation.

Jeanny and I thank you for allowing us the privilege of serving with you for these eleven years. You have treated us like family. What more could we ask? It is our prayer that we will have many more years together, enjoy many more positive changes and assist each other through the inevitable negative ones. After all, that’s what families do. Thank you, dear brethren, for supporting us, loving us and allowing us the privilege of being a part of this family. We love you all.

With admiration and appreciation,

-The Gilpins