

# The West Side Epistle

A Weekly Publication of the  
West Side Church of Christ  
540-389-9139

The  
Elders'  
Corner

## A Lively Church?

By Brian Jarrett

How do you gauge the strength and activity of a congregation? How can you tell if you are loveless like

Ephesus (Rev. 2:4), faithful like Smyrna (Rev. 2:10), compromising like Pergamos (Rev. 2:14,15), dead like Sardis (Rev. 3:1), steadfast like Philadelphia (Rev. 3:8), and/or lukewarm like Laodicea (Rev. 3:16)? Obviously, the Lord had perfect knowledge of those seven first century churches in Asia Minor. Our estimation of our congregation (or others) is subjective to a degree. We may feel we are on-track, while the Lord knows that we're off-track; or we may feel like we're weak, when the Lord knows we're doing the best we can.

Without trying to pat ourselves on the back too much, or resting on our laurels, we need to appreciate the many who lend their talents to the work of the church. Those who teach, preach, lead in public worship, or serve as elders and deacons are but a few of our involved individuals. We have nursery keepers, van drivers, building openers and closers, food committee members, contribution and attendance counters, greeters, and those who are responsible for these being assigned.

We have those who, on their own, write notes of encouragement to others, visit our sick and shut-in, call those who need a lift, teach the lost and seek to restore the erring. A lively church depends on me.

- The elders

## What Have You Been Singing Lately? (6)

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Singing is a command of God (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). As an avenue of worship to God, it is regulated by God (Jn. 4:24). It is to be done without the accompaniment of mechanical instruments of any type (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16, 17; Rev. 22:18, 19). It is to come from the heart and express sentiments that are in accordance with God's revealed Word (I Cor. 14:15). Also, since singing is a manner of teaching (Col. 3:16), it must be truthful in the ideas it expresses. These matters being true we should ask ourselves about the truthfulness of the songs we sing- not only in the words themselves, but also in our own lives. What have you been singing lately? Are you living true to those words?

Have you sung the song "*My Name is in the Book of Life*" lately? Its words are these:

"My name is in the Book of Life, O bless the name of Jesus!

I rise above all doubt and strife, and read my title clear.

My name once stood with sinners lost, and bore a painful record;

But by His blood the Savior cross'd, and placed it on His roll.

Yet inward trouble often cast, a shadow o'er my title;

But now with full salvation blest, Praise God! It's ever clear.

While others climb thro' worldly strife, to carve a name of honor,

High up in heaven's Book of Life, my name is written there.

I know my name is there (is there); I know my name is written there." - continued

## Teens

January dates to remember:

Jan. 14—Teen Bible Study

Jan. 28—Movie afternoon

Winter Area Devotionals:

February 3—Christiansburg 6-7:30

March 10—Lake Drive 6-7:30

Dates for Teens:

February 17, 2007 Mock Bible Bowl

March 3, 2007 Southwest Virginia Bible Bowl

June 17-23, 2007 VCC

July 1-6, 2007 Horizons Senior Week

July 8-13, 2007 Horizons Junior Week

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### Construction Update

If you look at last weeks insert of the calendar, it looks like the kitchen will be getting a work out. There are several pot luck and cooking/eating events going on soon. Be aware there may be some kinks that need to be worked out yet.

The front of the building is almost finished—just need a railing placed by the sidewalk. It should be in next week. We have new drainage and sidewalk so you no longer will trip over the broken part at the corner of the building.

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### What have you been singing lately? - continued

In all honesty, could you sing this song? Do you know (because of the grace and love of God, the sacrifice of Christ, and your faithful obedience to His Will) that your name is indeed “written there?” Only those whose names are written therein shall inherit heaven (Rev. 21:27). Has your name ever been “written there?” If not, you need to obey the gospel. Has your name been “written there,” but is now “blotted out” (Rev. 3:5; 22:19)? You need to return to your Lord. What have you been singing lately? - Eddy

## West Side's Older Workers

The WOW meeting will be Tuesday, January 9 at 10:30. Plan on helping to collate the 2007 Plan of Works booklets.

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### Team Events

New Team events are starting today!!! Check here every week for activities your team will be doing!

Team 1 - Tom Duff

Next Sunday, 1/14, after evening services we will be having a dessert fellowship. Drinks will be provided, bring a dessert and get to know our new team.

Team 2 - Bob Garby

Team 3 - David Brown

Team 4 - Tom Rogers

Will be having a get-to-know-you pot luck today after morning services.

TEAM LEADERS: This section will be in the bulletin every week. E-mail any events to the office before Friday 8 AM.

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### IRS Requirement

Effective January 1, 2007, the IRS will begin requiring a receipt for any charitable donations given in cash that you wish to claim as a deduction on your tax return. If you currently give your contributions in the form of a check, your cancelled check will suffice as a receipt. If you currently place cash in the plate and still wish to claim the money as a deduction (or even wish to claim the standard deduction) you will have to obtain receipts from the church to provide to the IRS. In order for the office to be able to keep track of the funds and provide receipts, all cash donations need to be placed in an envelope with your name on it before being put in the collection plate.



### Welcome our newest Sister in Christ.

Cindy Nicholas was baptized on New Years Day. She has been coming for some time and is friends with Jim & Marsha Cooke. She will be on Team 1.

## SICK

**Marquerite Charles** had a successful procedure last week and will be having her second procedure on Jan. 16.

**C.E. Mannon**, minister at Laurel Hills, is home and improving.

Martha Keplinger, mother of **Mitzi Pettit**, had knee surgery and is recovering at a nursing home.

Bessie Gilpin, **Eddy's** grandmother, has improved and has been moved to a hospice care facility.

Kate Furrow, **Marguerite's** sister-in-law, will be having breast cancer surgery on Jan. 11.

Remember the following in prayers: **Teresa White, Larry Phillips, Dan Hudgins, E.V. & Effie Wimmer, Buddy Martin.**

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**Sympathy is extended to the Paul Saunders family in the passing of his mother on Jan. 1.**

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*Happy Birthday this week to:*

*Miles Quesenberry—1/7*

*Erin Simms—1/7*

*Oliver Majors—1/8*

*Mariam Majors—1/9*

*Paul Mays—1/10*

*Glenna Richardson -1/11*

**MILITARY: Ty Stricklin** at 29 Palms Marine Base, **Jonathan Simpson, John Shannon** and **Gabriel Hayes** who are in Iraq. **Jonathan Chumley**, Kosovo.

## First 100 Days

### Pop Quiz

From last week's readings of Luke 1-6, name the chapter in which each of these matters appears:

- 1) Disciples told to be fishers of men \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Birth of John the Baptist \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Twelve apostles chosen \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Genealogy of Jesus through Joseph \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Jesus tempted by Satan \_\_\_\_\_

## POT LUCK TODAY

Team 4 Get-to-Know-You Dinner this afternoon after morning services.

## FELLOWSHIP MEAL FOR THE STRICKLINS

There will be a fellowship meal tonight after evening services in honor of Allison Stricklin (JoAnn's new daughter-in-law). Bring a drink and a dish and stay around to wish her well. This is a gift card shower (Walmart, JC Penneys, or Sears only) since they will be stationed in California.

## WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Wednesday Fellowship Meal, 1/10 at 5:45 pm. Menu: Lasagna, salad, rolls and dessert. Sign up and pay your \$5 to an elder **TODAY!**

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

There will be a Men's Fellowship Breakfast at Famous Anthony's on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 8 AM.

## HOUSE 2 HOUSE LABELING

The H2H labeling will be on January 14 at 4 pm.

## PLANS FOR MARRIAGE RETREAT BEGIN

There will be a meeting on Sunday, January 14 at 5:00 in the auditorium for everyone who would like to contribute in any way to the Marriage Retreat hosted by West Side on April 27 & 28. This will be used as an outreach to the community and many, many things will need to be done ahead of time. Decorations, tables, nametags, books, planning snacks and a meal, as well as many other things will need to be done. We especially need your help if you are not married, but would like to help make this a success. Please come to the planning session or let Jeanny know if you can't come but would like to help.

## NEW MEMBERS DINNER

At long last, there will be a New Members Dinner on January 20, 2007 at 5:45. Menu and sign up sheet will be posted on the board.

## LADIES NIGHT OUT

We still have openings for hostesses in January, February and April. If you're interested sign up on the board or contact Jo Ann.

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS:** Pepperoni and Crystal Light (assorted fruit flavors). Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!!



**January 2007****Announcements** Danny Guard**Song Leader (AM)** Eric Earnhart**Opening Prayer (AM)**

1/7 Mike Durham

1/14 Gary Sartain

1/21 Jim Bush

1/28 Luke Guard

**Preside at Communion** Jeff Durham**Serve Table**

T. Rogers J. Black

G. Durham M. Brooks

**Closing Prayer**

1/7 Grat Tucker

1/14 Walter Jenkins

1/21 Glen Hartman

1/28 Jim Cooke

**Song Leader (PM)** Adam House**Opening Prayer (PM)**

1/7 Greg Edwards

1/14 Charles Gwaltney

1/21 Charles Maness

1/28 Collin Gregory

**Scripture Reader**

Ethan Rogers

**Closing Prayer (PM)**

1/7 Gene Benefield

1/14 Richard Simms

1/21 Jerry Anderson

1/28 Squeaky Valentine

**Serve Table (PM)** J. Harrington A.C. Janney**Song Leader (Wed)** Tom Richardson**Prayer (Wed)**

1/3 Tom Duff

1/10 Fred Altizer

1/17 David Brown

1/24 Glen Gabbard

1/31 Mitch Jearls

**Door Man** David Brown**Greeters** Neighbors Argabrights**Nursery Attend** K. Anderson A. Brown**Ushers** Bob Garby Roger Mays**Handouts** Mike & Bradford Durham

Tom &amp; Preston Duff

**Alternates** L. Shrader D. Brown**Prepare comm.** G. Myers M. Wood**Last weeks attendance** 12/31/2006 & 1/3/2007

Bible Class—155 Worship Service—186

Eve. Worship—149 Wed. Service—137

Contribution—\$8793