

I Want Everyone to Know Whose Side I'm On

For more years than most can remember, Chauncy Metcalf, was a faithful member of the Lord's church in a small town in southern Illinois. He was well-known and respected. In his later years, he had a number of physical difficulties. Most obvious, even to a casual observer, was a debilitating form of arthritis. He also suffered from poor eyesight, was extremely hard of hearing, and as he would tell all, his brakes did not work very well.

Chauncy had great difficulty getting up from a chair. He had difficulty taking his first few steps, and once he started moving he had great difficulty stopping. He relied on others to assist him in and out of chairs, up and down steps, and in and out of buildings, etc. Interestingly, he seldom ever missed a meeting of the church. Additionally, Chauncy was very tender-hearted and often wept during the singing, following a prayer, and during the Lord's Supper. He always insisted that his were tears of joy. He was a great encourager, and spoke kindly to all, especially to the young. Despite his many infirmities, he and his dear wife were a joy to visit with, and many came to their home, and delighted in their company.

On an unusually cold winter morning, at the close of the assembly, Chauncy waited respectfully while the vast majority made their way by him and out of the place of assembly. He then began to make his way toward the back wall and the door. In typical fashion, he lumbered in his awkward gate toward the back wall, picking up momentum as he moved down the center aisle. On this day, as he moved unsteadily down that aisle, a man backed out into the aisle, into Chauncy's path, and Chauncy, being unable to stop, bumped him.

This man, who was known for his short temper, responded very angrily. He followed Chauncy to the back wall, near the exit, and began to berate him. He practically shouted at Chauncy, "Old man, you are nearly blind, nearly deaf, you can't sit, can't stand, and you can't get around without running into people! Why do you even bother to come to church?"

Chauncy readily apologized for having offended the man. Then with tears rolling down his face, he very kindly said, "Brother John, I can't do much and I ain't worth much, but I love the Lord, and I love the church, and I come, even when I don't feel like it, because... I want everyone to know whose side I'm on. Brother John, I'm sorry I bumped into you. I'll try to not let it happen again."

Now, brother John was one of those who counted worship an elective, an unimportant event, and considered any excuse for non-attendance to be a good one. Interestingly, he soon let it be known that he felt Brother Metcalf was trying to sit in judgment of him, in what he had said.

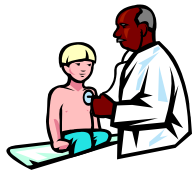
A few months later, Chauncy died suddenly. The folks there cherish fond memories of that gentle brother, who wanted others to know whose side he was on. Well, almost all of them. - Ronald D. Bryant

West Side Brethren—In your last day... Yea in that day called judgment, would you rather be a Chauncy or a John?

Continue to remember in prayer:

Sick

Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Martha Keith, WJ Wood, Al Furrow, Lyn Anderson, Marguerite Charles, Jo Musgrove, Isabelle Simmons, Sandra Wood, Carol & Vernon Daniels



- Walter Jenkins continues at LGH in the CCU.
- Jo Hartman is waiting on test results.

Happy Birthday this week to:

Grace Earhart—12/21
 Marguerite Charles—12/23
 Sandra Neighbors—12/25
 Lori Cook—12/27



Happy Anniversary this week to:

Susan & Donnie Mountcastle—12/20
 Jerry & Bonnie Wood—12/20



Military

Jay



Martin—Afghanistan

DECEMBER ITEMS FOR THE

STAFFORDS: Poppy Seeds and Instant Swiss Mocha sugar free coffee. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



Jeff & Tammy Reed and family have placed their membership with the Christiansburg congregation. We wish them all the best!

Upcoming Events:

Thanks to all those who stayed around last week for the Holiday Party!



Teens

December Dates

December 20—Cookie Exchange

December 31—New Years Devo



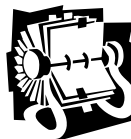
The Mock Bible Bowl is Feb. 13th. at 9am. It's for ALL youth to pre-test their Bible Bowl knowledge before the actual Bible Bowl on March 6th. Youth & Parents should reserve this date on their calendars now! Breakfast items will be available.

WOW

The next regular meeting will be on January 12 at 10:30.

Thanks to all who provided for the WOW Holiday Gifts. Also we appreciate the very generous gift we received from the WOW members. - Don & Mitzi

Eddy & Jeanny no longer use a house phone - Removed due to internet privacy policy— contact the office for information.



January and February Calendars

All events for the months of January and February need to be in the office by December 23. You can place these events in the box on the media door or email me at office@westsidecofc-salem.com.



For Your Information

PICTURE UPDATES

Picture Board updates and new pictures will be taken after morning services on January 3rd. See Jim Harrington if this date is not good and schedule another time.

NEW MEMBERS DINNER

The New Members Dinner is Jan. 16th at 5:45. It's for ALL to welcome our 2009 newly baptized and relocating members to West Side. PLEASE RESERVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

EDUCATION APPRECIATION BANQUET

The Education Appreciation Banquet is Feb. 6th at 5:45. It's for ALL teachers, education workers and helpers and their spouses or special friends. PLEASE RESERVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

SPRING LADIES CLASS

There is a sign up sheet for all ladies interested in attending a Ladies Class during the Spring Quarter.

BULLETIN

The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24 & 25. Please have all announcements into the office on Wednesday morning!

TRAVEL

Hope everyone has safe travels over this Christmas holiday season!

2010 Upcoming Events

(subject to change)

Fifth Annual Southwest Virginia Lectureships—May 9-14, 2010 @Pulaski Church of Christ

From The Elders...

The elders solicit your input in suggesting the names of men who could possibly serve as elders and deacons at West Side. The sermons for December 13 and December 20 will center on the qualifications for these men and their wives as given in the New Testament. Forms are available in the foyer for your convenience. Please submit these names to one of the elders. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this matter.

Weekly Reminders

Prayer list:

Marguerite Charles

Lyn Anderson

Martha Keith

Miriam Majors

Betty Jenkins

WJ Wood

Margaret Kratz

Jim Dorsett

E.V. Wimmer

Charlie Puckett

Jo Musgrove

Al Furrow

David McFalls

Michelle Earnhart

Isabelle Simmons

Ed Argabright

Sandra Wood

Vernon & Carol Daniels

Sarah Cook

Jo Hartman

Holiday travelers



This week's

Emphasis: Evangelism

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“Exceptions” to the Rule (3)

Announcements	Paul Mays
Song Leader (AM)	Charlie Gwaltney
Opening Prayer (AM)	
12/6	Bobby Martin
12/13	Eric Earnhart
12/20	Jim Harrington
12/27	Fred Altizer

Preside at Communion	David Brown
Serve Table	Josh Whitlow John Black Mitch Jearls Norris Gearhart

Closing Prayer	
12/6	Tom Rogers
12/13	Barry White
12/20	Glenn Gabbard
12/27	Herb Baker

Song Leader (PM)	Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (PM)	
12/6	Charlie Gwaltney
12/13	Collin Gregory
12/20	Luke Guard
12/27	Kirk Gilpin

Scripture Reader	Jimmy Harrington
Closing Prayer (PM)	
12/6	Glen Hartman
12/13	Jim Bush
12/20	Nathan Pelfrey
12/27	Jeremy White

Serve Table (PM)	Sam Valentine Ben Munsey
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Song Leader (Wed)	Eric Earnhart
Prayer (Wed)	
12/2	Bob Garby
12/9	David Brown
12/16	Jerry Anderson
12/23	Greg Edwards
12/30	Mark Brooks

Open/Close Bldg	Jerry Anderson
Greeters	R. White/Bakers

Nursery Attend	Kim Brown Melissa Oldham
Ushers	Bob Garby Curtis Oakes
Handouts	Mitch & Chandler Jearls Marc & Noah Laplante

Prepare communion	Jeanny Gilpin Bonnie Wood
Cards & Pencils	Austin Whitlow

Last weeks attendance 12/13&16/09

Bible Class— 129	Worship Service—133
Sunday Eve.— 124	Wednesday Eve.—145
Contribution—\$4854	

We continue our look at the word “except,” a most important word found in 72 verses in the King James Version. It provides an out for an individual or individuals in order that they might not suffer the consequences stated in the main portion of the statement. We continue in our look at some of these instances from the Old Testament.

When Esther was chosen to be Ahasuerus’ queen, little did she know the responsibility that would be thrust upon her. Because of his hatred for Mordecai (Esther’s older cousin- Esther 2:5-7), Haman devised a plan to exterminate all the Jews (Esther 3:1-6). The plan was authorized by the king and set into motion (Esther 3:7-15). When Mordecai heard of the law that had been established and the devastating consequences to his people he was greatly distressed. He informed Esther of the decree and that it would mean the annihilation of her people. He then impressed upon her the need for her to go in unto the king and appeal to him about this matter (Esther 4:1-11). Revealing the law of the land regarding such an intrusion into the king’s presence, Esther stated: “All the king’s servants, and the people of the king’s provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death.” However, there was an exception to this rule, as she stated, “except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days” (Esther 4:11). Notice that any who entered the king’s presence uninvited (including the queen) would be executed, with one notable exception- if the king held out his scepter to them. This, of course, he did when Esther finally came before him (Esther 5:1, 2). The exception to the stated rule saved her from death.

(To be continued.)

-Eddy