

## Nine Great Years Together

### Winners or Whiners?

The difference between winners and whiners is...

The whiner says, "I don't know, and I'm sure nobody wise knows either." The winner says, "Let's find out."

When a whiner makes a mistake, he says, "It wasn't my fault." When a winner makes a mistake, he says, "I'm responsible, and I'm going to see what can be done to set things right."

When a whiner makes a promise, he keeps it, if he doesn't change his mind. When a winner makes a commitment, he keeps it.

A whiner says, "That's not my department." A winner feels responsible for more than his job calls for.

A whiner says, "That's the way it's always been done. Why change?" A winner says, "There ought to be a better way to do it."

A whiner has only two speeds—hysterical and lethargic. A winner paces himself and rarely bites off more than he can chew.

A whiner says, "I'm not as bad as a lot of other people." A winner says, "I could be a lot better, and I'm going to improve."

*"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:12-14).

—Sydney Harris  
via "The Line Up", State Street c/c, Bristol, VA

*The elders believe that we have a vast majority of winners at West Side. If you think you want to move up to that specification and make it 100%, make the commitment to do so today. — the Elders*

Today marks another anniversary for our being together. It was nine years ago on this Sunday that we began our work with this congregation. Nine years have seen a lot of change for all of us as individuals, our family personally and the church as a whole. But, some things haven't changed, our love and appreciation for you being among them.

Both of our boys spent the major portion of their formative years here. Kyle was almost a teenager when we came. Ironically, Kirk was nine years old. Like so many of our youth, the past nine years have brought about their entry into the adult world. One of the reasons we chose West Side was because of the potential we saw for a vibrant and close youth group. We have never been more correct with any decision we have made. Thanks for all you have done for and been to them through the years.

You have provided Jeanny and me an atmosphere to grow as a couple as well. West Side is a family-oriented group. You quickly allowed us to become a part of the family, and we have always felt right at home.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to grow as a preacher. I have sought to study diligently and provide Scriptural, challenging and thought-and-action-provoking sermons. You have been so encouraging of my work these nine years. Your Bible knowledge has made teaching an enriching challenge and has caused me to dig deeper in anticipation of your thought-provoking insight. I feel I have grown as a Christian and as a preacher. I am grateful for your providing an environment for that to take place.

As we begin our tenth year together, we look forward to many more fond memories. We look forward to the challenges that will be before us and the opportunities for service together. We look forward to serving and serving with you for many more years to come. Thank you, West Side, for helping to make these nine years the greatest of our lives.

Eddy

## God Doesn't Want Service in "Spurts"; He Wants Faithfulness Over the Long Haul

I've known lots of Christians who are active in the church for short "spurts" but who "fizzle out" over the long haul. These folks may give every indication of being "on fire" for the Lord three, four or even six months at a time; but all of a sudden, "where are they"? Their "spiritual attention span" to what is really important seems to last but for a short while before inactivity and indifference sets in for a much longer duration. Hot and cold, hit and miss, on again-off again, describes them to the proverbial "T".

No one can honestly and sincerely read the New Testament and gain the idea that the Lord is pleased with "spurdy" service. Instead, the careful reader is impacted with the fact that God wants His people to be steady and faithful to Him all the time! Faithfulness over the long haul—that's what He wants! Let's allow the Bible to speak on this matter.

Jesus instructed us to, "*Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also...seek ye first the kingdom of God*" (Matthew 6:20-21, 33). Our Lord also said, "*He that endures to the end, the same shall be saved*" (Matthew 10:22; 24:13).

Christians are "stewards" of God, and it is required that "stewards be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2)! The Apostle Paul admonished God's people that they were to be diligent, not slothful, but "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11). He exhorted the early disciples, "*Look therefore carefully how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise; redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is*" (Ephesians 5:15-17). We should see ourselves as "servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart" (Ephesians 6:6), being "strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might," equipped as spiritual soldiers for the ongoing war with Satan in which we are engaged (Ephesians 6:10-17). Christians are to "work heartily unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:23), steadfastly, "always abounding" in His work (I Corinthians 15:58)! As Jesus, so should we be "busy in the Father's business" (Luke 2:49).

We, as Christians, are to be "doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). We are not to grow weary in well-doing, because we will reap only if we faint not. Thus, as "we have opportunity," we are to work good even as Jesus (Acts 10:38; Galatians 6:9-10). We must realize that we belong to God, and we are to glorify Him by being diligent in His service (I Corinthians 6:19-20; Titus 2:14; I Peter 2:9).

Because Paul knew down deep in his heart that he had served God faithfully, he could say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day..." (II Timothy 4:7-8). Jesus will someday say, "well done" to the "good and faithful servants" (Matthew 25:21, 23). Such will NOT be said to the spasmodic, on again-off again, hot and cold Christian. The Savior declared, "*...Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life*" (Revelation 2:10).

Brethren, let's be honest with ourselves. Are we the kind of Christians the Lord can count on? Are we constant, dependable and faithfully involved in His service on an ONGOING basis, over the long haul? Or, are we like so many—hot and cold, hit and miss, on again-off again? Spiritually, are we running on about three out of eight cylinders...just puttering along? "Spurdy" Christians will not make it to heaven!

Maxie B. Boren  
via "Waymarks", Brown Trail c/C, TX

## Excuses, Excuses

*"And they all with one consent began to make excuse"* (Luke 14:18).

I hear them all the time, but excuses are just attempts to justify our failure to take responsibility. One day we will stand before God with our excuse, and He will answer us something like this:

"I can't."—"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

"I haven't got time."—"Seek ye first the kingdom of God..." (Matthew 6:33).

"Someone else will do it."—"Here I am, send me" (Isaiah 6:8).

"It can't be done."—"With God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

"I'm too tired."—"They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31).

"I know I ought to, but..."—"To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

"I will some other time."—"Now is the acceptable time" (II Corinthians 6:2).

"I may fail."—"Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

"I don't like to."—"For even Christ pleased not himself" (Romans 15:3).

"Let them help themselves."—"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

via Morristown c/C "Messinger, TN



"If He has done so much for me, what can I do for Him? is the question which a Christian life should answer. He may ask little or much. He may demand heroic sacrifices, or He may require only punctual attention to daily and prosaic (*commonplace, dull*) duty. But He has a right to make any demands He will, and it should be a point of honor with every Christian to satisfy Him. It is this simple self-surrender, in a spirit of love for God and for the souls of men, which makes life strong and noble.

—Henry Parry Liddon

*"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"*—Colossians 3:23.

## SICK

(at home) **Dee House, Elsie Smith, Evelyn Scott** is now at home after a hospital stay for pneumonia. **Ken Upchurch's** surgery went well. He was moved into a room on Tuesday evening; a 5-day hospital stay was expected (home address: 101 N. 22nd AV, Hattiesburg, MS 39401). **Mr. Hamilton**, neighbor to John Black, has a blood clot and is in serious condition. **Billy Lee Hart**, Michelle Earnhart's uncle, is in serious condition; doctors suspect lung cancer, but he is too weak to undergo a biopsy; prognosis, 1-6 months. **Buddy Martin**, former West Sider, got a poor report from his latest CT scan; spleen is enlarged; lymphoma active; is seeing a new nutritionist. New CT scan in 3 months.

*Continue to remember:* **Mary & Lynn Anderson, Norma Biller, Betty Buckner, Willard Campbell, Marguerite Charles, Dotty Collins, Lourine Davis, Jim Dorsett, Paul Faw, Dolly Grantham, Collin & Luetta Gregory, Patti Gwaltney, Jo Hartman, Dan Hudgins, Elmer Hurt, A.C & Mickie Janney, Betty Jenkins, Martha Keith, Lisa Knott** (will have surgery on 8/16), **Margaret Kratz, Oliver & Miriam Majors, Sophia Mays, Donnie & Susan Mountcastle, Jo Musgrove, Grace Myers, Larry Phillips, Charlie Puckett, Murphy Scott, Annette Shrader, Laura Simms** (now has a "normal" shoe), **Peggy Simpkins, Ruth Stanton, Velma Vaughan, David Wertz, Evelyn White, Jessica White** 1700 Dave Buck RD, #14, Johnson City, TN 37601), **Veta Whitt, E.V. & Effie Wimmer, W.J. Wood**

**SYMPATHY:** We extend our love and sympathy to **Michelle Earnhart** and her family in the sudden death of her cousin Claggett Lee Hart, who was found dead on Wednesday.

**REJOICE! C.J. Crowder** was baptized into Christ at New Castle last week.

**MISSIONARIES:** the **Pearsons, the Staffords** and the TZ2000 team.

**MILITARY:** **Ty Stricklin, John Shannon and Gabriel Hayes** who are in Iraq.

**OTHER:** **Matthew Bumpus**, nephew of Beth Glass at Lake Drive, is a Marine missing in Iraq. On-going Bible studies; "Restore 2006"



## NEW ADDRESSES

**Levi & Essie Graves**, Lucy Corr Village, #119, 6800 Lucy Corr BLVD, Chesterfield, VA 23832, 804-706-5419; **Mark & Kathy Pearson**, 1005 E 10th ST, York, NE 68467; **Bryn Sartain**, 8716 Beacon Tree LN, #5, Richmond, VA 23294; **Wilma Cullum**, 2001 Ridge-wood DR, #120, Salem, 24153, 330-8090.

## NEW PHONE NUMBER

**Diane Tucker:** 815-2170; e-mail, d.tucker17@gmail.com

## TURN, TURN, TURN 2006

**"You Can't Always Have It Your Way" (Learning Contentment)** (Philippians 4:11; Luke 2:52) is the theme for our Ladies' Bible Study "Weekend" this year which will be held only on Saturday as we were unable to find a camp. **Celicia Grider** of Collierville, TN, will be the featured speaker on **Saturday, October 7**. Activities begin at 8:30am with a continental breakfast. There is no cost for this year's event. Registration forms are available on the table in the foyer. Registration deadline is September 27.

## THIS WEEK AT WEST SIDE

**Today:** Elders/Deacons/Preachers meeting, 4pm. Happy anniversary to **Fred & Sandra Altizer!**

**Monday:** Summer Youth Devotional, Radford, 7-8:30pm.

**Tuesday:** W.O.W. meeting, 10:30am

**Wednesday:** Fellowship meal, 5:45pm. Bible Study, Summer Series, **Skip Francis**, Suffolk, 7pm.

**Thursday:** Happy anniversary to **Glenn & Jo Hartman!**

**Saturday:** Men's fellowship breakfast, 8am, Famous Anthony's. Summer Youth Devotional, Lake Drive.

**Sunday, 8/13:** Happy birthday (35) to **Michelle Earnhart!**

## WEST SIDE, YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN!

*Thanks to everyone who participated on Sunday, July 30, in the special contribution for the Building Addition Fund. Because of your generosity, the contribution above our weekly budget amounted to almost \$7,300! Construction is due to begin very soon. Anyone who was unable to participate on that date is welcome to do so at any time; just see one of us. Again, we appreciate everyone for their assistance in helping to provide for the long-term needs of our members.*

—The Elders

## WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL

August 9, 5:45pm. Menu: spaghetti, salad, rolls & dessert. Sign up in the foyer and give an elder \$5 before Sunday, 8/6

## LAST CHANCE

This is your last chance to make sure the information about your family is correct for the pictorial directory. Please see **Michelle Earnhart** (ellenmearnhart@yahoo.com; 312-5139) if you still need to check your information. A lot of time and effort has gone into the making of this, and we'd hate to insert the wrong details.

## LADIES, MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Suffolk Ladies' Day, September 30, 9:00am-12:30pm. "Clean Out Your Closet" (II Corinthians 7:1). Speakers are **Kristen Burr** (Suffolk), **Nancy Jett** (Gloucester) and **Renee West** (Peninsula). Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:15am. RSVP to Carol Ficklen (757-539-9697; bio-teacher@myexcel.com) if planning to attend by Sunday, 9/17. There will be no child care.

## RECENT LOCAL VISITORS

**M/M Gene Campbell**, 210 Howard DR, Salem, 24153; 389-6862; **Jessie Williams**, 433 White Oak ST, #B1, Salem; **Nicole Rose**, 1309 Kings Arms DR, Salem, 389-0599 (new in community); **Samantha Milton**, 728 Palmer AV, Salem, 915-3165 (new in community); **Chelsea Arthur**, 7106 Newport RD, Catawba, 24070, 384-6965; **Troy Arthur**, 1362 E. Main ST, #13, Salem, 293-4506. Drop them a note, pay them a visit, give them a call. Let them know we're glad they came and hope they'll come again.

## TANZANIA TRIP—YOU CAN HELP

Items being collected for our guys to take in September: dry erase markers, ink pens, loose leaf notebook paper, ties (new/used) white t-shirts (new or clean, in good-repair ones), NKJV Bibles. Give to **Rebecca Durham**.

**Opportunities to Serve** **August 2006**  
**Announcements**.....Mike Durham  
**Reader (PM)**..... Ethan Rogers  
**Preside**..... David Brown  
**Serve**..... H. Baker, M. Brooks, J. Hawks, T. Richardson  
(PM) Danny & Luke Guard  
**Opening Prayer**  
8/6..... Don Pettit, (PM) Collin Gregory  
8/13..... Jeff Durham, (PM) Jerry Anderson  
8/20..... Danny Guard, (PM) Mike Durham  
8/27..... Squeaky Valentine, (PM) Fred Altizer  
**Closing Prayer**  
8/6..... Grat Tucker, (PM) Mitch Jearls  
8/13..... Andy Duran, (PM) Paul Mays  
8/20..... Greg Edwards, (PM) John Black  
8/27..... Charlie Gwaltney, (PM) Walter Jenkins  
**Greeters**..... McFalls, Neighbors  
**Open/Close Building**..... Don Pettit  
**Care of Communion**..... M. Earnhart, W. Martin; alt. H. Maness  
**Song Leaders**  
**Sunday**... (AM) E. Earnhart, (PM) P. Mays... (Wed.) D. Brown  
**Care of Baptismal Garments**..... Barbara Foley  
**Ushers**..... Glenn Hartman, Tom Rogers  
**Nursery**..... Marsha Cooke, (PM) Linda Maness  
**Alternates**..... Bob Garby, Gary Sartain  
**Handouts**..... Danny & Luke Guard, Tom & Weston Rogers

**OUR RECORD**.... 7/26, 30, 2006  
**Wednesday**..... 136  
**Sunday Bible Study**..... 129  
**Sunday Morning Worship**..... 176  
**Sunday Evening Worship**..... 139  
**Contribution**..... \$12,879.00  
**Volume XXVII, Number 32** **August 6, 2006**

### **The Power of Prayer**

A breath of prayer in the morning  
Means a day of blessings sure—  
A breath of prayer in the evening  
Means a night of rest secure.

A breath of prayer in our weakness  
Means a clasp of a mighty Hand.  
A breath of prayer when we're lonely  
Means Someone to understand.

A breath of prayer in rejoicing  
Gives joy and added delight.  
For they that remember God's Goodness  
Go singing far into the night.

There's never a year nor a season  
That prayer may not bless every hour,  
And never a soul need be helpless  
When linked to God's Infinite Power.

author unknown