

Stop Dating The Church

by Steve Higginbotham

I recently read a book by Joshua Harris by the above title. In this book Harris affirmed that there are many people who “date” the church, but who are unwilling to fall in love with and be committed to the church. And you know, I think he’s right. How many people do you know who are “believers” but they’re not “belongers.” They believe in Jesus, but don’t want to be tied down. They “date” the church, but want to remain independent and free of commitment and responsibility.

Friends, instead of seeing the church for all its flaws and foibles, why not see it as the wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:9-11), and the beautiful bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-32). Committing to the church doesn’t tie one down, rather it anchors one through the storms of life. And it’s flaws? It’s flaws provide us with an opportunity to love, serve, practice patience, and grow more like our Savior.

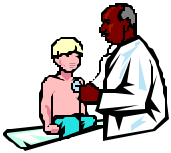
Listen friends, don’t allow yourself to use the excuse that the church is too messed up to commit to it. Jesus is the only one who has the right to disown or give up on the church, but he never has and never will.

Therefore, let me leave you with this challenge. Many people are fond of saying that we need to develop a heart for the poor or a heart for the lost, and these are good desires. But may I challenge you to also develop a heart for the church? Get involved. Get committed. Take on responsibility. Invest yourself. After all, if Jesus loves the church, shouldn’t we?

From MercEmail May 21, 2009

Sick

Continue to remember in prayer: **Mar-guerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Lyn Anderson, Martha Keith, Miriam Majors, Betty Jenkins, WJ Wood, Jonnie Charles, Buddy Martin, Jo Ann Paul, Tim Darr**



- **Jim Dorsett** is at the Raleigh Court Rehabilitation Center.
- **Michele Nikkel** will have a procedure on June 8 in Charlottesville.
- **Velma Vaughn, Collin Gregory's** sister, is in LGH, Room 522.
- **Fred Hill** had surgery on Friday at RMH.
- **Peggy Paxton** had surgery on May 29.

Sympathy is extended to Mitchell Floyd in the death of his son, Wayne who passed away on Thursday.

Happy Birthday this week to:



Myrtle Peverall—5/31

Shree Lowe—6/3

Charlene Guard—6/5 (according to Danny her age has a 5 and a 0 in it)

Happy Anniversary this week to:
Charmaine & Randy Bush - 6/6



MAY ITEMS FOR THE STAF-



FORDS: Hormel Real Bacon Bits, assorted Ziplocs. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

*Remember the container that is going to Tanzania this summer. We are collecting items for the Stafford and Farigi Paul families until June 14th. If you need another shopping list, see Jeanny.

WOW

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, June 9, at 10:30.

Also the Group will be going to Harbor Inn on June 14 after morning services. Sign up so they can save you a seat!!

Upcoming Events:

Be making your plans now to join us for an all team picnic on July 4. More details to come.



Teens



Meeting today for all teens and parents of teens at 4:30 in the auditorium

May Events

Young Men Conduct Services—5/31
Last day for RSVP to the Banquet—5/31

The teens will be doing **odd jobs** this summer. If you have a project the teens could do for you please let Luke know!

Horizon's, CTS and Bus Forms are located in the foyer. Get yours sent in today!! Give Bus Forms to Mike Durham.

I am thrilled to be serving as your youth intern this summer! The youth here at West Side have always been blessed to have a strong and caring eldership and congregation to support them in every way and I know this summer will be no different. We have much to do and many to help. I am looking forward to an uplifting summer of serving, growing and fellowshiping with one another! Thank you again for this amazing opportunity and I look forward to continuing the wonderful work going on here at West Side.

Your youth intern,
Luke Guard

*Jack & Lori Cook will be hosting an
Open House in honor of
Amanda's Graduation
on June 6 from 11- 6.*

Summer Quarter Teachers: Bonnie Mellon, Marsha Cooke, Rebecca Durham, Judy Durham, Melissa Rogers, Jennifer Lapante, and Adam House for the primary ages. Eric Earnhart will finish the first year of the New Testament Class in the auditorium and Luke Guard will have all the teens in the Fellowship Hall. New this summer will be our College Age Class in the large classroom with various speakers and teachers. This class starts today with Danny Guard.

June 2009

What Was More Important to You?

Announcements Fred Altizer
Song Leader (AM) Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)
6/7 Richard Simms
6/14 Jerry Anderson
6/21 Danny Guard
6/28 Wayne Dixon

Preside at Communion Tom Richardson
Serve Table Adam House David Brown
Tom Rogers Sam Valentine

Closing Prayer
6/7 Roger Mays
6/14 Barry White
6/21 Greg Edwards
6/28 Jim Cooke

Song Leader (PM) Jason Oldham
Opening Prayer (PM)
6/7 Mitch Jearls
6/14 AC Janney
6/21 Glenn Hartman
6/28 George Mellon

Scripture Reader Nathan Pelfrey
Closing Prayer (PM)
6/7 Josh Whitlow
6/14 Don Pettit
6/21 Mike Durham
6/28 Eric Earnhart

Serve Table (PM)
Garrett & Bradford Durham

Song Leader (Wed) Bob Garby
Prayer (Wed)
6/3 Fred Altizer
6/10 Charlie Gwaltney
6/17 Gene Benefield
6/24 Jim Cooke

Open/Close Bldg Greeters Danny Guard
Bush/ Gilpin

Nursery Attend Hazel McFalls Lisa Valentine
Ushers Norris Gearhart Curtis Oakes
Handouts Jim Harrington Bob Martin
Cameron Brown Paul Mays

Alternates Lyn Shrader
Prepare communion Peggy Paxton Mitzi Pettit
Cards & Pencils Caroline & Jimmy Harrington

Last weeks attendance 5/20&24/09

Bible Class—155 Worship Service—202
Sunday Eve.—148 Wednesday Eve.—158
Contribution—\$5138

Our gospel meeting ended on a high note Wednesday night. Wade Webster did an outstanding job in preaching the gospel at each service. The singing was really good. The prayers were fervent. The fellowship was sweet. But, there are some members of West Side who did not attend and support this effort. I certainly understand that there are some who, because of health issues, absolutely could not make it. I know that if your health had been better you would have been here. However, there are many who could have been here but were not. Let me pose the question to you- What was more important to you than this effort?

We are all familiar with two passages that have a great bearing on this subject. Matthew 6:33 states: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." This passage teaches us unequivocally that we are to put God's kingdom first in our lives. Can you honestly say you did that in regards to our gospel meeting this past week? The second very familiar verse is Hebrews 10:25. It reads: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." This passage teaches us that we should not be engaged in "forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." That hits not only at our failure to attend, but the attitude that caused our failure. If you were absent last week, ask yourself the reason why.

If you failed to attend the services of our gospel meeting, what was more important to you? If you chose sports, school activities, homework, television, some leisure activity, yard work or anything else that was not absolutely essential and prevented your being present, you felt that something was more important than worshipping God and gathering with His people. Your actions (or perhaps inaction) reveal that to be the case. Please give this matter serious thought. If you chose the world and its activities over those of God, your choice said to your family members, to others and to God that those things were more important to you.

-Eddy

May 31, 2009

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