



# AUGUST 2011

West Side Church of God  
July 15, 2011

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Want to be a part of an exciting new team that helps our new members get fully connected at West Side? See the next page for Pastor Forest's message about this. Beyond Greeting team

members will be trained and will have specific ways to help new people feel comfortable with us to help draw them into the full life of the church. **Actually, we want EVERYONE to be aware of reaching out and really getting to know our new members, so please continue to watch for ways you can be a part of this!**

**Adult Volunteer Needed in the Nursery on July 31**  
Please call the office.



**Quarterly Information Meeting**  
August 10 - 7 pm

You are Invited & Encouraged to Participate  
**We Need You!**

## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

In June, we helped 19 households (44 people)

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- You may donate any amount of money that you want and it will be used to purchase food for the sacks.
- You may bring non-perishable food to the pantry. Shopping lists are on the Food Pantry door and at the Welcome Center.
- You can help when the food pantry is open on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Call the office to volunteer.
- You may offer your prayer support for this ministry.

Together, we are helping our neighbors and community!

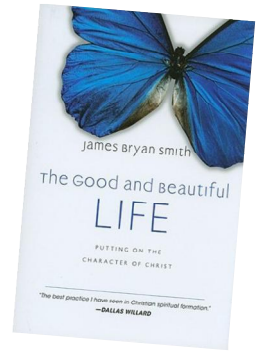
## Friendship Club



Bring your favorite potluck dish to share for a great time of good friends, good food and good fun.

## The Good & Beautiful Life: Putting on the Character of Christ by James Bryan Smith

Following the Sermon on the Mount, this follow-up to The Good & Beautiful God guides us to look behind our character flaws and to replace our false beliefs with Jesus' narratives about life in the kingdom of God.



church-wide book study this fall  
everyone is invited & encouraged to join this study!

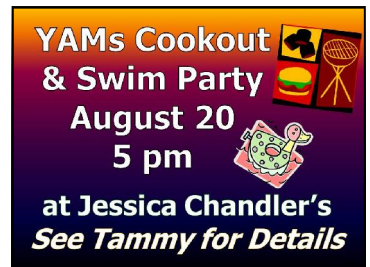
Your choice of Classes:  
Cornerstone, Koinonia, Pathfinders

Sign-up for books at the Welcome Center  
August 14 is the last day to order a book

Books are \$15 each\*

\*Please see Pastor Forest if you have any questions.

Listen & Watch for more announcements about how this book can impact us at West Side Church of God!



Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way.

Native American proverb



## F. Y. I.

We will participate in Operation Christmas Child again this fall by collecting gift-filled shoe boxes for children in need around the globe. Informational brochures are at the Welcome Center so you can start watching sales and collecting items for the children. There is a \$7 shipping & handling fee for each shoebox. Watch for more details.

FREE at the Welcome Center: Unto Him I Sing cassette tape Carol McDonald music ministry

Mark Your Calendar: Annual Meeting - November 16



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West Side Church of God

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Rev. Forest Cornwell, Pastor

From the Pastor

## Beyond Greeting

The most important thing people are searching for in their lives is God. Many times they do not realize it is God they are searching for, but they recognize they are missing something and they need to fill that void. People are seeking significance. They look for it in many things such as success, people, material possessions, recognition, and vanity. But these things do not bring lasting satisfaction--these always leave people needing more. I was watching a TV show about hoarding recently. One man hoarded wrist watches. This man had many watches that were each worth thousands of dollars. Whenever he felt down, he would go shopping. The cameras followed the man to a mall as he was looking for something to make himself feel better. Within a few minutes of getting to the mall, the man found a watch and bought it for \$4,000. For him, it was exhilarating; but by the time he made it home, all the excitement had faded. What is this man searching for? Is it something to fulfill the deep need in his life? As Christians, we have found that only Christ can give us peace and put our souls at rest (John 10:10). Only He can satisfy.

I heard a story of a man who attempted suicide; and said that while he was recovering from his wounds, he was in such despair that he cried out to God for help. A few days later, someone brought him a Bible. He opened it up and found Christ. He says that Jesus gave his soul rest and peace, and that he has never looked back. Today this man is an evangelist and tells many people about Jesus.

So what are people looking for? Jesus. Where can they find him? The Bible, His people, and the Church. If this is the case, then we, as Christians, must go beyond greeting. It is essential that we go beyond the casual pleasantries and really get to know people. When people come to church, they are looking for God and friends. The church is a place to find both. If they are going to accept God, then God's people have to become a friend to those who are seeking Him. This gives us the opportunity to reach people for Christ. At West Side, we do not have to look very far because God has blessed us with visitors who are coming regularly to our church. We also have people in our families and living right next door to us. I think the key to helping people find God in their lives is to take the time to get to know them. This is why we are creating our new team called Beyond Greeting. We want to go beyond greeting and get to know people to show them that we care about them, and to show them that God cares about them. So my encouragement to West Side is to get involved with this ministry. Let's work together to help people find Christ. Our next meeting is Tuesday, July 26 at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

In Christ, Pastor Forest

Your love compels me, Lord  
to be what You would be

Your love compels me, Lord  
To give as You would give, To speak as You would speak  
To live as You would live, Your love compels me Lord  
To see as You would see, To serve as You would serve  
To be what You would be