



DECEMBER 2011

West Side Church of God
November 30, 2011

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November Governing Board Meeting Highlights

- The Governing Board is discussing ways to meet the spiritual needs of the people in our community.
- We will host the State Church of God annual Convention on August 2 & 3, 2012, in our facilities.
- Copies of the full minutes are at the Welcome Center.
- The next Governing Board meeting is December 13 at 1:00 pm in the Koinonia classroom. This meeting is open for any current member of West Side to attend. If you cannot attend the meeting and you have a concern or item for the board, please see a board member: Steve Smith, Doug Angell, Mary Faulkner, Bill Owens, or John A. Wendinger



Is there someone you can bring with you to church this Advent season?

Experience God's Christmas Presence

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16



The Ladies' Silver Tea
Monday, December 5
6:00 pm ~ Bartlett Hall
Bring finger foods to share and a \$5 gift for the gift exchange if you'd like to participate.

If you bring a child, please bring a children's gift so that every child who comes gets a gift.

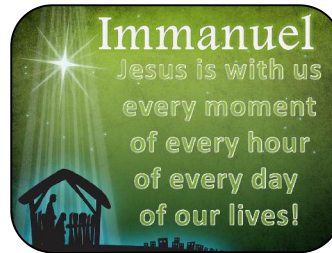


All Men & Boys are Invited to the annual Advent Gathering
Thursday, December 8
6:00 pm

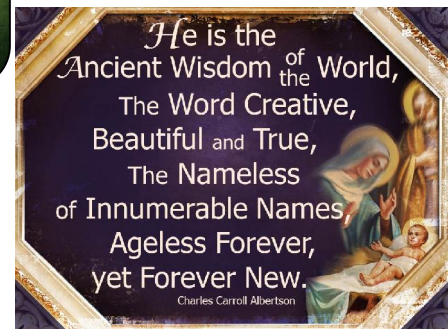
Bishop's Restaurant-4200 W Kellogg

Dinner is \$9.65 (includes drink & tax)

Bring a \$10 gift if you'd like to play the gift game



Immanuel
Jesus is with us every moment of every hour of every day of our lives!



He is the Ancient Wisdom of the World, The Word Creative, Beautiful and True, The Nameless of Innumerable Names, Ageless Forever, yet Forever New.

Charles Carroll Albertson



Let's Experience the Real Meaning of Christmas Together!

Christmas Candlelight Service

Wed., December 21
7:00 pm

Everyone is Invited!



May the miracle of that first Christmas renew your heart with joy

Highlights from the Annual Meeting Held Nov. 16, 2011

Three members agreed to run for two open positions on the Governing Board. Mary Faulkner will serve a three-year term and Clark Winn will serve a one-year term. We thank Doug Angell for serving a three-year term. Bill Owens, Steve Smith, and John A. Wendinger remain on the board.

2011 Finances update was presented. Both the General Budget and BFC giving are down. Year-to-date information is posted on the bulletin board outside the choir room.

Members approved the 2011 budget that was increased from \$129,989 in 2010 to \$132,225 in 2011. The budget is an estimate and can be amended to adjust to changing financial conditions.

After discussion, members agreed to sell the red van and place the proceeds into a fund for the future.

Members discussed the wooden Nativity pieces stored in the garage and the possibility of giving them to another church. They agreed to start discussing this with the larger church body so everyone can be thinking about this before the next Quarterly Information Meeting.

Members discussed how we can meet the spiritual needs of people in our neighborhood.

Pastor Forest reviewed his goals for 2011 & set his 2012 goals.

Copies of the full minutes are at the Welcome Center.

If you would like to make a donation to Christ's Birthday Offering, an offering will be collected on December 25. There are informational brochures about this Women of the Church of God project at the Welcome Center.



Making ROOM

"She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because

there was no room

for them in the inn."

Luke 2:7 niv



Christ's Birthday Observance 2011

From the Pastor

Robbery is a Crime

I was reading an article about a man who went into Sears to pay back money he had stolen in the late 1940's. The man had stolen \$20 to \$30 from the cash register. Seventy years later, he handed the manager an envelope with a note and a \$100 bill. What was it that caused him to make amends for something he had done? Hopefully, it was that he came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior, but the article says it was his conscience which had bothered him all these years, and now he felt that it was time to make it right. Maybe the holiday season nudged him in that direction.

What about us? How many of us are robbed of joy in this season because of all that is associated with the holiday season? Christmas is a time to rejoice at the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Yet, there are so many things that rob us of our joy. Some of those things are the busyness, the unspoken rules like being forced to buy a gift for someone just because we think we should or we have to, or something in our lives (like money or loneliness) that is dragging us down. There are many things that drag us down, and all of them can rob us of the joy of Christmas. Christmas is to be a celebration, not an obligation.



I saw a TV show featuring a mother who was planning a birthday party for her young daughter about the age of five or six. The cost of the party was over \$10,000. As the party was starting, the young girl was to the point of tears because she did not want to have to do everything that her mom was planning. All she wanted was to play with her friends and have the attention of her mom who was talking to other adults. The birthday party took away from the celebration of the birthday and the person.

Unfortunately for us, the party planning can cause us to miss the party. What makes Christmas so special is Jesus. If we want to have the joy of Christmas, we will have to push back those things that rob us of our joy. This Christmas, it may be that we have to slow down and enjoy those we are with. Maybe our expectations of ourselves and others need to change. Maybe we have something in our lives that we need to take care of like the man who returned the money he had stolen from Sears so that he could have a clear conscience. We need to focus on whatever it is that will help us celebrate Jesus this Christmas. If it is mending a broken relationship, or just saying "I'm sorry" to someone for cross words spoken, then do that. If there is just not enough money to buy gifts, it is okay. We have to remember that the *preparation* for the celebration can *ruin* the celebration; and we do not want to ruin the celebration. The reason for the season is Jesus. The season is a time for joy. In Luke 2:10, an angel announced to a group of shepherds about the birth of Jesus. The angel says, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." This season don't get robbed, because it truly is a crime to miss the Joy of the Lord. May you be blessed with joy this Christmas season.

In Christ, Pastor Forest

News You Can Use

Thank you for participating in the **Operation Christmas Child** gift filled-shoebboxes for children in need; we had 11 boxes.

The **Last Day for 2011 Giving is December 27**. To make other arrangements, please call the office (264-8133).

There are forms at the Welcome Center for **2012 Offering Envelope preferences** if you did not already complete one, or need help, you can call the office (264-8133). 2012 offering envelopes will be available December 11 in the west foyer.

There is a **Lost & Found Box** at the Welcome Center with these things: men's watch (found by the sink in Bartlett), silver hoop earring, sunglasses & clip, other jewelry, bookmarks, and more.

Food Pantry Update: Thank you for support! We helped about 18 households in October and about 25 in November.