



FEBRUARY 2012

West Side Church of God
January 27, 2012

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New for Young Adults
commUNITY group
starts February 12 * 6-7:30 pm
Dinner, Child Care & Hot Topic Discussion Provided

we will meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays in the youth 2 room in the basement - use north door please contact Tammy (650-5656) for info

F. Y. I.

There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center if you would like to volunteer to be our representative in the Family Life Center during Voting Day on February 28.

We don't want to miss any graduates this year. Please let us know if you are graduating from high school, college, or trade school.

We are looking forward to making a new picture directory for the church—watch for details.



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

*Thank you for your help!
In December, we helped about 20 households, which totals to be about 78 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!

If you would like to purchase an Engraved Brick in honor or in memory of someone for the Heritage Plaza, an order will be placed soon. Engraved bricks are \$20 each. Please see Keith.

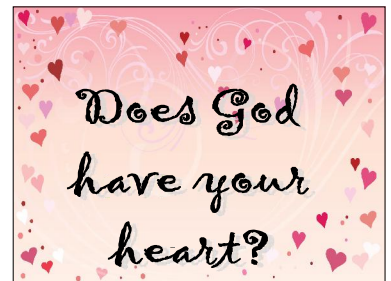
Order forms are at the Welcome Center or call the office (264-8133)

The New Creation Reality

But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the **GLORY** of the Lord, are being **TRANSFORMED** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the **SPIRIT** of the Lord.

Quarterly Information Meeting
February 15 - 7 pm

You are Invited & Encouraged to Participate
We Need You!



Allison Lucht, our New Tribes missionary, says that her wrist is recovering well. She continues therapy and asks for our prayers for full range of motion. Allison asks for our prayer support for her flock in Mexico: Linda, Beto, Maria & Chico and their children, Leti & Monse and their children, Queen, and Maribel. Allison asks for our prayers as she prepares doctrinal lessons about the Christian life.

Dear friends, we celebrate the Lord's enabling you to complete your commitment to us as your Living Link this past year 2011. It is our prayer that you will continue with us into this new year 2012 until the end. We will not be able to do well without you. Thank you for standing with us. Sherman & Kay Critser

Be sure to see the missions cabinet for new letters from our Children of Promise, Neil and Arnel. If you would enjoy writing to them, there are forms and information to help you write them in the office.

Please keep our World Impact missionaries, Andy & Lisa Entz and their daughter & son-in-law, Tina & Daren, in your prayers as they minister to the urban poor in Wichita. They would like our prayer support for a new property manager.

MISSIONS EMPHASIS SUNDAY * February 26



♦ January Governing Board Meeting Highlights ♦

- ♦ The board welcomed Clark Winn as he begins this year of service on the Governing Board
- ♦ Copies of the full minutes are at the Welcome Center.
- ♦ The next Governing Board meeting is February 21 at 5:30 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, Mary Faulkner, Bill Owens, John A. Wendinger, or Clark Winn.

From the Pastor

Moving Forward

When the people of Israel left Egypt, they were going to the Promise Land—a place described as flowing with milk and honey. They were leaving a land that was difficult, oppressive, and abusive. So leaving that place for a place that they would call their own and which supplied all their needs was not a hard decision. In their minds, they could picture a place that would make life good for them. And that had to be exciting. That vision, though, took some time to be fully realized. While Israel was on their way to their homeland, they found the wilderness to be very difficult. As a result, they complained, worshiped a god of their creation, and wanted to go back to Egypt. The vision of the new land had become blurred by their hardships. Because of this, they wandered into the wilderness 40 years. Most of them never saw their dreams fully realized. (Numbers 11 and Exodus 3:1-18)

What about the vision that God has for us? Think of it as two-fold. First, God has promised eternity with Him in heaven, and we will realize that in the future. Second, God has promised that eternity starts right now. While heaven is a place we will go to, life with Christ begins right now. This life we attain now is a life of freedom from death to life—a life that is free to live, to have joy, peace, and happiness. It is a life where people come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Where broken marriages are healed, where addicts find release from the enslavement of substance abuse, where single moms find support as they raise their children. The great thing is that God has ordained the church to bring healing to a broken world.



If we want West Side to be this kind of place, then there are some things we are going to have to do differently. We have to ask the questions: "How can we bring people to Christ?" "What can we do to attract people to church?" and "What can we do to keep those who are coming from leaving?" These are tough questions with no simple answers—but, they are questions that we need to answer if the vision of who God wants us to be is to be realized. What a great opportunity for us to realize a fresh new vision—to see what it is that God wants to give us. If we do this, we will be on our way

to realizing God's plans for us. Keep praying and start answering the questions which will take us to where God wants us to go. May God continue to bless you.

In Christ, Pastor Forest



Opportunities for Fellowship...

Friendship Club
Program & Potluck Lunch
Friday, February 10
10:30 am

Men's Breakfast
All Men are Welcome
7 am Wednesdays
Diane's @ 31st & Seneca
945 W. 31st St. So (dutch treat)

Women's Prayer Breakfast
9:00 am Tuesday
February 14
Village Inn ~ S. Meridian
All Women are Welcome (Dutch Treat)

Everyone is Invited
Evening of Fellowship
Saturday, February 18
Fun & Games 6 - 10 pm
Bartlett Hall
Come & Go