



JANUARY 2012

West Side Church of God
December 23, 2011

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F. Y. I.

If you use **GoodSearch** (www.goodsearch.com) as your internet search engine, you can help us earn about penny for each search you make. We just received a \$71.81 check for Oct 2010-Sep 2011.

There are forms at the Welcome Center for **2012 Offering Envelopes** if you would like them. Please call the office (264-8133) if you have any questions.



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

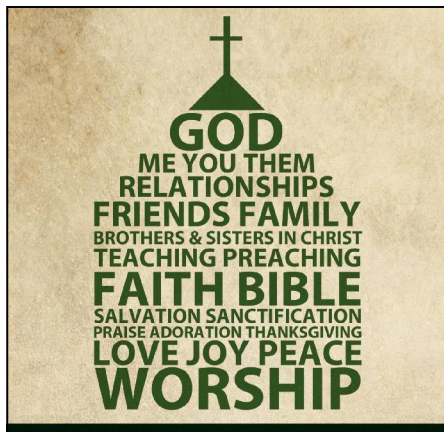
Thank you for your help!

In October, we helped about 16 households and in November, we helped about 24 households.

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.

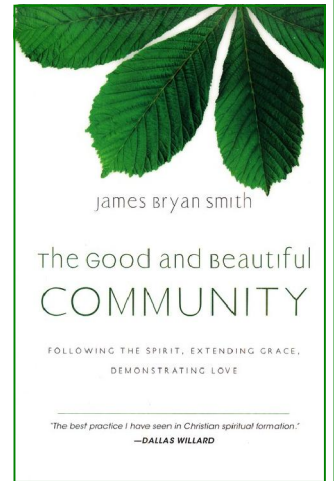
Together, we are helping our neighbors and community!



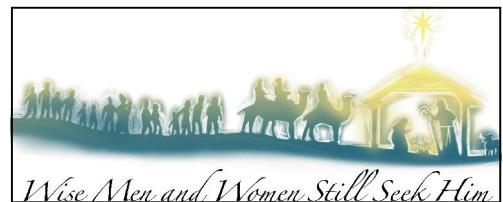
The Good & Beautiful Community: Following the Spirit, Extending Grace, Demonstrating Love

church-wide book study starts February 12

In this third book in the Apprentice Series, James Bryan Smith helps us know how to live in relationship with others as apprentices of Jesus. "Apprentices of Jesus are not part-time do-gooders," he writes. "They live in continuous contact with the kingdom of God, and are constantly men and women in whom Christ dwells. They do not sometimes tell the truth, sometimes live sacrificially or sometimes forgive. There are myriad opportunities for us to impact the world in which we live." Yet many times we've gotten it wrong, tending to emphasize personal faith over social justice or vice versa. In these pages Jim Smith shows us how to bring spiritual formation and community engagement together, and then once again offers spiritual practices that root new, true narratives about God and the world in our souls. His insight and humility as a fellow learner with us will lead us to live in authentic ways as a good & beautiful community of Christ-followers, shining the light of the Spirit into every relationship.



A sign-up sheet for book orders is at the Welcome Center. January 15 is the last day to place an order for books, which are \$15 each



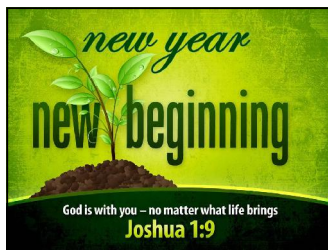
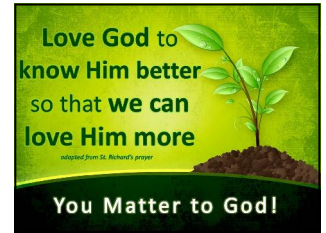
♦ December Governing Board Meeting Highlights ♦

- ♦ The board thanked Doug Angell for his faithful service on the Governing Board these past three years. Doug will continue to serve on the Leadership Team.
- ♦ 2012 Quarterly Information Meetings are February 15, May 16, and August 15. The Annual Meeting is November 14. All meetings are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
- ♦ Copies of the full minutes are at the Welcome Center.
- ♦ The next Governing Board meeting is January 17 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

A New Year, A New Beginning

Some years are better than others. When the tough ones are over, we are glad they are over, and we hope that the new year will be better. Sometimes, to make it better, we have to remain healthy or employed, but there are times that we just need to make a change and work through the transitional period by making the necessary adjustments which will help our lives get better. What I have found is that businesses and organizations also want to have better years. As I think about West Side, I want 2012 to be better—and for that to happen, some things need to be different.



It is not that we had a bad year, but we want the years to get better and better, don't we? What we currently do is not bad, but there are some things we need to do differently. What will it take for this year to be better? How can we make our church a better place for worship? How can we reach new people for Christ? I think it starts with creating a culture of change—a willingness to say, "Whatever it is that we need to do to make worship more meaningful and draw people to Christ, then I am on board." This is a challenge for all of us, because change moves us out of our comfort zones. The transitional period after making a change

will seem easy for some and difficult for others. The good news about doing things differently is that it challenges us—it causes us to focus our attention on what can be better for each person's relationship with God, and better for our church. The challenge helps us to grow in our relationship with Christ, and causes us to rely more on God. You see, when we get comfortable, it may seem that God is not as necessary; but when we are challenged, it causes us to rely on Him more.

So, what is the best way for us to be a part of change? The best way is to have a good and positive attitude toward the changes to be made. This is done when we talk with each other and when we are intentional about encouraging our leaders. Our leaders need to know that you are with them. Many times it is difficult for those in leadership to make decisions if they feel that people are not behind them. I know this about the leaders of our church—they have the very best interest of West Side at heart. They want to make West Side a place that honors God and reaches people, while honoring the people of West Side. Let's be encouragers to each other, and especially to the leadership. We will find West Side getting better and better when we do this. May God's many blessings be upon you this year. *In Christ, Pastor Forest*



Opportunities for Fellowship...

Women's Prayer Breakfast
9:00 am Tuesday
January 10
Village Inn ~ S. Meridian
All Women are Welcome

Friendship Club
10:30 am
Friday
January 13
in the FLC
Program & Potluck Lunch

Evening of Fellowship
Everyone is Invited
Saturday, January 21
6 - 10 pm
Bartlett Hall