

March 2008 West Wind

West Side Church of God

February 22, 2008

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 5th at 7 pm

2007 Annual Reports & Election of Leaders

2007 Review in Pictures

CONTEST UPDATE

Thank you to all the casserole bakers and casserole tasters & voters who participated in the Hot Dish/Casserole contest! The winning recipe was "Huntington Chicken" made by Gwen Shaver. Janet Swearingin's "Chicken & Rice Bake" won 2nd prize.

If you are interested in seeing the Crown Uptown production of "Church Basement Ladies" with a group, please see Barbara Owens. (Showing 4/10 – 6/15)

FOOD PANTRY

If you would like to help re-stock our Food Pantry, you can: make a financial contribution (any amount will help with the purchase of food through the KS Food Bank/Aldi's) bring donations of non-perishable foods:

Canned: meat, fruit, vegetables, soup, beans, chili

Other: peanut butter, pancake mix & syrup



Easter Services

Sunday, March 23

Sunrise Service ~ 7 am

Breakfast ~ 8 – 9 am

Worship ~ 10:40 am

Grant, O Lord, that in your wounds I may find my safety, in your stripes my cure, in your pain my peace, in your cross my victory, in your resurrection my triumph, and a crown of righteousness in the glories of your eternal kingdom.

Jeremy Taylor, in The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers, compiled by DM Stewart



Every Good Gift & Every Perfect Gift Is From Above...

J a m e s 1 : 1 7

The Love of God
This Valentine's Day I hit it big. But not before striking out. While in Louisiana I picked up a card that was also a box. I put some Mardi Gras beads and a key chain in the box. It wasn't much, but it was the card that was impressive. It was cute and funny and I was sure it would be a big hit. But when Tammy received the card, her response was something more like, "What is it?" I realized that it was not as good as I thought it was. Time to redeem myself. So while at the grocery store I spotted some flowers. My thoughts are, "This is nice but she will not like them much." I purchase them, bring them home, and walk in the door and, voila! It is a hit! Tammy has a big smile on her face and a big hug for me. I knew I was the man. What a relief.

How many times have we not recognized the love God has for us because we expect it to be on our terms or in the way we want? I learned that just because I like something does not necessarily mean someone else will like it. That seems to happen at Christmas. Someone gives us a gift and they think it is great and we think, "What a waste." But the person giving it thought it would be something we would like. Many times we do not recognize that God's love is all around us and because we want it in a specific way, we just do not see it. Romans 5:6 tells us, "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly." The ultimate gift we are given is Christ. His love, forgiveness, and power are God's love for us. Jesus is God's love for us.

But wait, there is still more. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:25-34 that God will take care of our needs, and in Matthew 7:7-11 He says that we are to ask, seek, and knock and we will receive what we need and want. Will we get everything we want? No, but these verses tell us that God will give to his children. The Bible tells us the love of God comes to us in many ways.

So how can we recognize the love of God? I think it takes us taking time to stop and think. Think about how God was working in the things we did not like or where we did not expect it. Meditate on the Cross and how God brought forgiveness to us through it. Listen for the gentle presence of God reaching out to touch us. Through these times, the Love of God will become more real to us.

There is a story of a monk who announced he was doing a sermon on the love of God. With no lighting in the sanctuary, he lit a candle and took it to a crucifix. He illuminated the crown of thorns, the two wounded hands, and spear-pierced side. After this, he blew out the candle and left the chancel. There was nothing more to say.

In Christ, Pastor Forest



Secret Pal Party will be Monday, April 14th

Graduation Sunday is May 4th

Promotion Sunday is June 1st

International Youth Convention is July 14-17

Vacation Bible School is July 20 – 24

SUMMER CAMP DATES

Junior High ~ June 9–13 at Camp Webster

for 6th, 7th, 8th grade graduates

Junior ~ June 16–20 at Quaker Haven

for 3rd, 4th, 5th grade graduates

Senior High ~ June 23–27

at Fun in the Sun, Table Rock Lake, Missouri

**Watch for an Announcement about
Registration Deadlines & Camp Fees.**

F. Y. I.

Bob Fraysier has two burial plots at White Chapel Memorial Garden (1806 N. Oliver, Wichita) for sale. Current price per plot is \$3,620 (space \$1,195; vault \$695; marker \$850; open/close \$880). Bob is selling both plots for \$5,400. Leave a message on his answering machine 554-0173.



**BECAUSE I AM
FEARFULLY
WONDERFULLY
MADE**

Psalm 139:14