



JULY 2011

West Side Church of God
June 23, 2011

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Kathie Winn's 90th Birthday on June 28
 You are invited to a **Surprise Birthday Party** for Kathie on **Sunday, July 3 at 2:00 pm** in the Dining Room at the Derby Health & Rehab, 731 Klein, Derby, KS 67037
Cake & Ice Cream and Fun Activities for the Kids

Friendship Club

Country Western Picnic

Friday, July 8

10:30 am



Howdy, Partner!
 Saddle up & slap on your country western duds & bring your favorite picnic food to a rootin' tootin' picnic with good friends and good ol' fun. Hot Dogs & Hamburgers will be provided.



West Side's Heritage Weekend was truly a great time of fun, fellowship, and food. The fun will continue throughout the summer – you are invited to take a look all around the building for memory walk signs which will remind us of our past and inspire us to look to the future!

Thanks to all who loaned photographs for the archival project. It is not too late to dig through your closets for your own West Side photos! We will continue to build our digital archives during the summer and beyond.

If you would like to have a copy of the photos that have been scanned to date, pick one up near the Welcome Center, or contact the office. If you were unable to attend the weekend activities, video recordings can be borrowed from the church office.



*You are cordially invited to celebrate the wedding of Stefanie Hannah Snell and Gregory Alan Harris, Jr. Saturday July Sixteenth, Two Thousand Eleven, Four O'clock West Side Church of God
 Wedding Registry at Bed Bath & Beyond*



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

In May, we helped 22 households (72 people)
 In June, we helped 17 households (39 people)

If you would like to donate (any amount) to help re-stock our Food Pantry, you may mark your offering envelope with "Food Pantry." If you would like to bring non-perishable food, shopping lists are on the Food Pantry door and at the Welcome Center. Together, we are helping our neighbors and community! Thank you!

Everyone is Invited
Evening of Fellowship
 Saturday, July 9
 Bartlett Hall 6 - 10 pm
 Come & Go

YAMs Cookout
 July 9
 6 pm
 at Michael Winn's

Are you a young adult or know a young adult?
 Please see Tammy Cornwell for more information about the Young Adult Ministries.

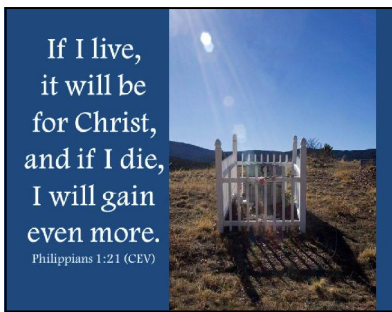
We Need Your HELP!
 for the youth concessions stand fund-raiser held at our FLC on July 22-24.

Calling all Bakers: Your donations of cookies or brownies will be appreciated. If you can wrap or bag them into single portions to sell easily that will also be helpful. Please bring them to the church by noon on Friday, July 22.

Adult Volunteers will be needed to help at the FLC with the concessions stand during that weekend. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

We can't thank you enough for all of your help!

Let's pray for our youth attending summer camp July 25-29: Michael Chandler, Serena Cisneroz, Clint Harris & Matt Harris, their sponsor, Jessica Chandler, and the van drivers.



If I live,
 it will be for Christ,
 and if I die,
 I will gain even more.
 Philippians 1:21 (CEV)

Maybe you saw this on the Announcements slideshow on June 19? It is a picture that my dad took when I went to visit him in April. We went to New Mexico for him to take photographs. He took this picture at the Elizabethtown cemetery—when we looked at it later on a big computer screen, we were surprised to

see the sun ray shining down on the gravestone. It was a nice moment—a serendipity because of our increased awareness that no matter what, God is in control.

Do you have pictures of landscapes, nature, etc., that you could share which would inspire and encourage us? Please get them to me and feel free to give me a scripture verse. Thank you for your help. Alison

♦ June Governing Board Meeting Highlights ♦

- ♦ The Governing Board welcomed Mary Faulkner, who will serve Carrie Jurich's term through the end of the year.
- ♦ Copies of the full minutes are at the Welcome Center.
- ♦ The next Governing Board meeting is July 19 at 1:00 pm in the Koinonia classroom. This meeting is open for any current member of West Side to attend.



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West Side Church of God

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Rev. Forest Cornwall, Pastor

From the Pastor

Crossing Rivers

In the Old Testament, the people of Israel had to cross the Jordan River in order to enter Canaan, the Promised Land (Numbers 13-14, Joshua 3-4). God had long ago promised Abraham that He would give this land to his descendants (Genesis 17:8). After the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, they made their way to Canaan. When they reached the Jordan River, they sent spies into the land to see what was going on and to see what they needed to do in order to take possession of the land. When the spies came back, ten of them were afraid because the people were so big and numerous. Two of the spies came back excited and ready to go into the land. This was a critical moment for the nation of Israel. Would they trust God and go into the land, or would their fear keep them from attaining what God had promised? Unfortunately, the first time around, they listened to their fear.

Because they did not believe God, they wandered until all the people of that generation had died. God was going to use another group of Israelites. The new generation was confronted with the same dilemma. Would they cross the Jordan and take possession of Canaan or stay? This time they went into the land and took possession of God's promise.

This story has many lessons in it. The main lesson that I want us to look at is the one that is the most glaring—fear versus faith. The people of Israel had to decide if they would trust what they saw, or trust God. They saw large soldiers in fortified cities; and they saw weakness in themselves. This caused fear; and unfortunately, they failed in their first attempt to cross the Jordan. It was easier and more comfortable to stay where they were. What they needed was faith in God. God had already proven Himself to them. He delivered them from Egypt with power. He brought them through the wilderness, and provided for them all along the way. God had proven Himself trust-worthy, yet emotions trumped what they knew.

Sometimes people today can be just the same. We get life working for us; and although it could be better, we stay where we are because it is easier and more comfortable. Change is scary. What we need is the kind of faith that the Israelites had when they did cross the Jordan River. It is a faith that trusted that God would use them in their weakness and provide all they needed and more. It is a faith that sees the reality of what God **can** do rather than what people **cannot** do. The people who went into Canaan believed God would fulfill His promises. When they went into Canaan, their beliefs were confirmed because God was with them.

The good news is God is with us and for us (Romans 8:31). He wants us to reach our community for Jesus—to step out in faith and be a part of what He is doing. God is bringing new people to our church. What we need to do is create a welcoming atmosphere that will help them want to stay. We can do this by being a part of the new *Beyond Greeting Team* that seeks to help our new people feel comfortable, get connected and want to stay. We can do this by asking ourselves, “What can we do that will make us more inviting to new people?” I heard a pastor say that if wearing red robes would bring people to Christ, then everyone in the church would be wearing red robes. So, what can we be doing at West Side that will be helping people come to Christ? That is the question we must ask and answer. When the solution comes, we must put our fear aside and step out in faith. Let's be people of faith who take steps to reach people. May you be richly blessed as you take steps of faith and may God be blessed.

In Christ, Pastor Forest

