

September 2008 West Wind

West Side Church of God

August 21, 2008

F. Y. I.

Another brick order will be placed soon. **Engraved bricks in memory or in honor of your loved one to be placed in our Heritage Plaza** are \$20 each.

Please see Keith Carr for an order form by August 31st.

Our West Side **Co-Ed Volleyball league** is forming. If you are 15 years old and older and want to play on our team, please sign up on the sheet by the choir room. Games will be played in the Family Life Center on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. from September 11 to November 20.

THANK YOU for your generous donations for the Food Pantry. We have helped over 50 households so far this year.

Stewardship of your Time & Talents ~ Is God calling you to service at West Side? There is a list of some possibilities for you to consider on the bulletin board by Bartlett Hall.

Operation Christmas Child Complete details are in the brochure on the display table by the choir room. Help spread God's love to a world in need by being part of this fun and special Christmas project.

If you have gently used coats (clean and in good condition, children & adult sizes) that you'd like to donate, please bring them to the box in the foyer. The Kansas Firefighters Museum is co-sponsoring a Coat Drive for the community again this winter. Over 700 coats were given away last year. See Bill Owens for more information.

**Sunday
School
Social**

Everyone is Invited!

September 7th

9:30-10:20 am

Family Life Center Hosted by Koinonia

Congratulations to Pastor Forest! He received his 5 Year Award at the State Church of God Convention earlier this month.

The state recognizes pastors who have served at the same church for 5, 10, 15, 20, or 25 years.



Living with Peace

Living with peace in our lives is a hard thing to maintain. In our world, we have many things that can make us upset. The onslaught of media tells us everyday of just how much distress, destruction, and disaster which devastates our world. The government wants more taxes, one politician has cheated on his wife and another has stolen some money. Someone was shot and killed; and another person was robbed. Then, there are the messages that target us as individuals. Such as, we don't do enough to save the environment; and we are not good enough unless we buy this product.

Also, it always seems like we are being graded. If you are in school you have schoolwork that tells you how good or bad you are doing. If you have a job, your performance says how good or bad you are doing. When grades or evaluations are "good," then there is a sigh of relief that we made it—at least for now. Sometimes, the pressure of being our own worst critic is almost more intense than the grades or evaluations.

Then there is church. Like it or not, church has a message that tells us just how good and/or how bad we are. We have to do more, live right, give more, go to church more, pray more, have perfect kids, and the list goes on and on. That can be enormous pressure. All of these messages rob us of a precious gift that God gives us—peace. Being able to rest. When I see a baby sleeping I am envious. What I would give to be able to rest with all kinds of commotion going on around me; and to be able to have my limbs be limp from total relaxing. But doesn't God promise us peace? And if He does, why don't I have it? How do I get it?

The Bible tells us that God is the God of peace (Romans. 15:33), peace is even given as a blessing (1 Thessalonians 3:16), and Jesus tells a woman after she is healed to go in peace (Luke 8:48). As I think about the meaning of these verses, I get the sense that God wants us to have peace in our lives. He wants for us to have rest for our minds. Yet, the media tells us that happiness is achieved by being perfect, by having everything we want (and not necessarily what we need), and by having enough money and then some. But the reality is we are not perfect. We don't have all we need or want; and we never have enough money. But God is in stark contrast to this. God Himself is our peace.

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Life has a letter grade for us and we all think we know what our grade is. God, however, is not concerned with our grade or even giving us one. He wants us to know that He is in control and no matter how much life brings against us, we can still have peace. We can make the riskiest move and know that God will take care of us. There will be times when our bodies will fail us, when money will be short, when the job will be tough, and life will absolutely demand too much from us. But God's peace is always there for us.

Philippians 4:6-7 gives us a clue as to how we receive the gift of peace: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* It is prayer. It is giving our restless lives to God; and recognizing that He is willing to do something about it. It is understanding that God has not condemned us (Romans 5:1). It is believing that He will help us. God uses prayer to give us grace. When we tap into God's grace we will find that no matter how messed up things are around us and no matter how much we want to panic, we will find peace in our lives that we may not be able to logically explain. We will find a peace that the world cannot give us.

In Christ, Forest



Prayer is an end to isolation. It is living our daily life with someone. With Him who alone can deliver us from solitude. For He is the only One we can find in our own heart, the only One to whom we can tell everything that is in us. He is ever present. Intimately. Prayer makes us aware of His presence, which we might not realize if we did not pay attention.

Georges Lefebvre



Youth LOCK IN
September 12th 7 pm to 7 am

SYATP See You at the Pole
Wednesday, September 24th

7 am – at your School's Flag Pole

SYAfterTP at Central Christian Church 7:00-8:30 pm
CONNECT. 1 Samuel 3:10

SYC State Youth Convention
November 28-30 at the Best Western, Wichita