November 2008 West Wind
West Side Church of God
October 30, 2008

Holiday Season DRAMAS are being planned for Thanksgiving and Christmas time. Please see Carrie or Tracie if you would like to participate.

Trucks & Driver Volunteers are needed for the important youth fund raiser of delivering Feist phonebooks. Please see Pastor Forest if you can help out on any of the delivery days: November 8, 10, 11, 15, 22.

STATE YOUTH CONVENTION

Youth & Parents: SYC is November 28-30 at the Best Western Airport Inn in Wichita. Registration due by November 7th. Cost is $125 (registration, hotel, meals). After November 7th, there is a $10 late fee and there is no guarantee of getting a SYC t-shirt. *If you want to go, be sure you work the Feist deliveries fundraiser.*

Sponsors Needed for SYC

(Adult Male & Adult Female) Please see Pastor Forest for more information. *There is no cost for sponsors.*

F. Y. I.

The **Wednesday Night Women's Group** will be studying Stormie Omartian's The Power of a Praying Woman. Please see Rosemary Moser for more information.

Ladies' **SILVER TEA** is Monday, December 1st.

This month at FRIENDSHIP CLUB
Sing Along & Men's Chorus
Men: Please meet in the choir room at 10:15

The Contemplative Life

Our lives are busy. Not only are they busy but they are loud. The other day as I was sitting quietly, I noticed a ringing in my ear that I had never noticed before. Since then I listen for it and it has been there ever since. Makes me wonder how long it has been there. Even now as I write this it has become noticeable. The reason I could not hear it is because I have not become quiet enough to pay any attention. There are many things that are loud in our lives that distract us from what is going on inside of us. These distractions can be the TV, radio, and everything around us like co-workers, cars passing by, horns sounding, and the phone ringing. Things can get so loud that we never hear what is going on within us. As busy and loud as we are, do we need quiet time? Do we need to stop and find out what is going on inside of us? Do we need to be quiet to hear what God is saying to us? Even if we do not think we need to slow down and listen to what is happening within us, at least quiet time can be a beneficial time. Can it not?

Jesus took much time to be by himself. He may have done this to recharge his batteries, to take a break from people, or both. But we do know He went to pray. And by looking at the time when Jesus went to pray, we find that He probably did not always do the talking. In Mark 6:31 Jesus tells the disciples to "come away to a lonely place and rest awhile." Jesus tells them this as they get back from preaching and casting out demons. They are so excited about what had happened that they begin to tell Jesus all about it. Jesus recognized their need for rest and told them to come to a lonely place, where they cannot be disturbed, and rest. They needed a time to reflect on what happened as they were gone. It gave them time to recognize how God was working in their lives. It also helped them to see themselves in the light of God's working in them and through them. Jesus recognized the importance of time to be alone (Matthew 4:1, 14:13, 14:23, 17:1-8, 26:36-46, Mark 6:31, Luke 5:12-16, 6:12, John 6:15).

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What Jesus did and taught His disciples to do is contemplative prayer. While we think prayer is talking to God, it is actually much more than that. It is actually listening to God. It is finding out what God is saying to us. It is recognizing what is going on inside of us. It is expressing to God our gratitude for His guiding us. Two of the greatest things that we can discover by listening to God are **who** God is and **where** God is working in our lives. Discovering how God is shaping our lives gives us encouragement and hope for the future.

This week take some time with the Bible to sit and be quiet. Ask God for the grace to show you how He is working in your life. Take a few minutes to be quiet and then read the Bible. Imagine yourself in the story if the verses are a story. End your quiet time with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). Here are some Bible verses to guide you each day.

Day 1: Luke 11:1-13	Day 2: Psalm 63
Day 3: Romans 8:31-39	Day 4: Luke 19:1-10
Day 5: John 12:1-8	Day 6: John 1:1-18

In Christ,

More than 7.5 million children experienced the joy of Christmas in 2007 as Samaritan's Purse distributed gift-filled shoeboxes in some 100 countries. You can get involved in the excitement of Operation Christmas Child this year by praying for this ministry and by packing a shoebox with toys, school supplies, or hygiene items for a girl or boy. The brochure on the display table by the choir room will give you all the details. A donation of $7 per box is needed for shipping and evangelistic outreach costs (checks made out to West Side-marked shoe box). Shoebox Collection is through November 9th.

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 by November 9th.** The Kansas Firefighters Museum is co-sponsoring a Coat Drive for the community; over 700 coats were given away last year. See Bill Owens for more information.