



This Issue:

Wed. @ West Side.....2
Women's Ministry.....3
Men's Ministry.....3
Senior Adults.....3
Spring Cleanup.....3
New Sermon Series.....4
Children & Family.....4
Youth & Family.....5
Calendar.....6-7
Missions In Mali.....8
Deacons.....8
Adult Christian Growth.....9
Alpha Courses.....10
Welcome New Members.....10
World Relief Tri-Cities.....11

SERVAN

"Loving God, Loving People, Serving The World In The Name Of Jesus"

A Monthly News Publication For Members And Friends

A Prayer

By Ralph, one of your pastors

If you weren't able to attend our annual congregational meeting (Jan. 25), I think it was the best one I've been to since coming to West Side. Sharing a meal together before the meeting was, I'm sure, part of it. The fact that we were able to call Heather Smith to be an Associate Pastor was a huge part of it. Even the fact that the meeting moved along at a quick pace didn't hurt either. But the biggest part, in my estimation, was that we have so much to be thankful for. A lot of lives are being touched by God, people are coming to faith, people are growing in faith, many of the ministries of the church are thriving, and I have never before been a part of a church where so many people live out their faith through actual service to the Kingdom of God. I have shared this when I go to national gatherings of Presbyterians; I'm almost embarrassed by sharing the riches of what we are doing when so many others are truly struggling to survive.

That is not to say that there isn't still a lot of work to do—a lot of ministries that could be healthier, a lot of people who are going unnoticed or feeling isolated, a lot of us who need to step up more in living our lives for Jesus, and buildings that still need Refreshing. But this sort of messiness is the reality of being a church that is on the move to follow Jesus.

As we look forward to the coming year, we have some big decisions on the horizon. We will have to measure our desire

for our facilities to be Refreshed and reinvigorated for the ministry we feel called to do with our willingness to actually fund the project. We will be challenged to become even more outward focused in small but significant ways so that guests can feel like they belong with us as part of Christ's church. We will also continue the process of discerning the Lord's will for us in response to the national changes that are taking place in our denomination.

But as we look to the horizon, our God sits on the throne over all these things. The word I want to share with you as we head into this new year is the call to pray for our church. More than anything else, let us seek His will and His way.

Loving Father, let Your Wind blow. Send Your Holy Spirit with power to lead and guide us in following Jesus. Let Your Wind blow with Your creation power over our hearts, that our hearts would be changed more and more into the likeness of Jesus. Let Your Breath bring healing to our spirits, to our souls, and to our bodies—that we might know You even more—freely giving our hearts back to You.

Teach us to live responsively to Your movements. Guard against straining against Your Wind or trying to generate our own wind. Keep us in step with You that we would move where You call us to move and rest when You call us to rest. Let us find peace and joy in abiding in Your will and Your way.

(cont. pg. 11)



Wednesdays @ West Side - Mid-Week Discipleship

Join us this winter for 9 weeks of fellowship and discipleship for the whole family. This intergenerational ministry resumes Wed., Feb. 1-Mar. 28. Come for a meal between 5:15-6:00 pm and stay for a class. Or just come for a class from 6:00-7:30 pm. As a whole church, we will celebrate **Ash Wednesday** with a special worship service Feb. 22.

Meal: 5:15-6:00 pm

The food lines are open 5:15-5:55 pm. At 5:45 we will come together for a brief story and prayer before being dismissed for our classes.

Suggested food donation: Winter session paid in advance - Family \$75, Adult (12 yr and up) \$20, Child (4-11 yrs old) \$12. At the door - Family \$10 (max.), Adults \$3, Child \$2. All children 3 and under are free.

To help us gauge how much food to cook, please turn in a Registration Form (available in the Church Office and at the Welcome Stations in both buildings).

Classes: 6:00-7:30 pm

Children & Youth Growth Opportunities

Infants - 3 year olds - Kingdom Care:

Where: WSN Butterfly & Infant/Toddler rooms

Kingdom Care is a safe and loving place for our youngest children. Those who are able will engage in play, hear a Bible Story, worship, and do a simple activity each evening.

4 year olds - 1st Grade Class:

Where: WSN Sonshine Room

This class will engage in hands-on activities, worship, explore God's Bible Stories, memorize God's Word, have time to play together, and have intentional fellowship activities.

2nd - 5th Grade Class:

Where: WSN Fellowship Hall

This class will play games together, explore new worship skills, dig into God's Word, be challenged to memorize God's Word each week, and engage in intentional fellowship activities.

Mid-High - BASIC:

Where: WSS Basement

BASIC is a high-energy time for middle school students to enjoy fellowship during games, worship, topical talks and small group breakout sessions to explore the Word of God. Mid-high will be dis-

missed at 5:50 pm from the meal and will conclude at 7:45 pm, just 15 minutes after the adult and children sessions.



High School:

High School students have several opportunities for discipleship and fellowship throughout the week: Sunday night youth group (Fuel - 6:30 pm), Thursday afternoon drop in time (DIBS - 3:00 pm), and weekly small group meetings.

Adult Christian Growth Opportunities

Financial Peace University: Faith@Home

Where: WSN Room 2-4

Facilitator: Gary Bush Registrar: Cindy Kieneker

Cost: \$100 per person/family includes workbook (scholarship assistance available)

Help you eliminate debt, save for the future, and give like never before. A 13-week (Feb. 1-May 9 excluding Feb. 22 & Apr. 1) video curriculum by financial expert Dave Ramsey will incorporate small-group discussion to encourage accountability and discipleship. Contact Gary Bush (539.8905) or Cindy Kieneker (628.9973).

Revelation: Bible Study - continued

Where: WSN Sanctuary

Facilitator: Rev. Ralph Kieneker

Whether you are relatively new to faith and Scripture or a seasoned veteran, this study of the last book of the Bible - the Revelation of Jesus Christ given to and recorded by John - will be a good place to gain not only a deeper understanding of the Revelation, but also all of Scripture. *Continuation of the fall Revelation: Bible Study class; prior participation is not a prerequisite.*

Spiritual Formation: Going Deeper - Beneficial Practices for Spiritual Growth

Where: WSN Room 18-20

Facilitators: Rev. Dan Wodrich and Dr. Melanie Saint James

As followers, Jesus invites us to take "next steps" in faith. Beneficial practices will be introduced such as Spiritual reading of Scripture and Christian classics, abiding prayer, Ignatian Exercises, Sabbath-keeping, and communal discernment of call. *Familiarity with the book Mansions of the Heart is beneficial, but not a prerequisite.*

Women's Ministry

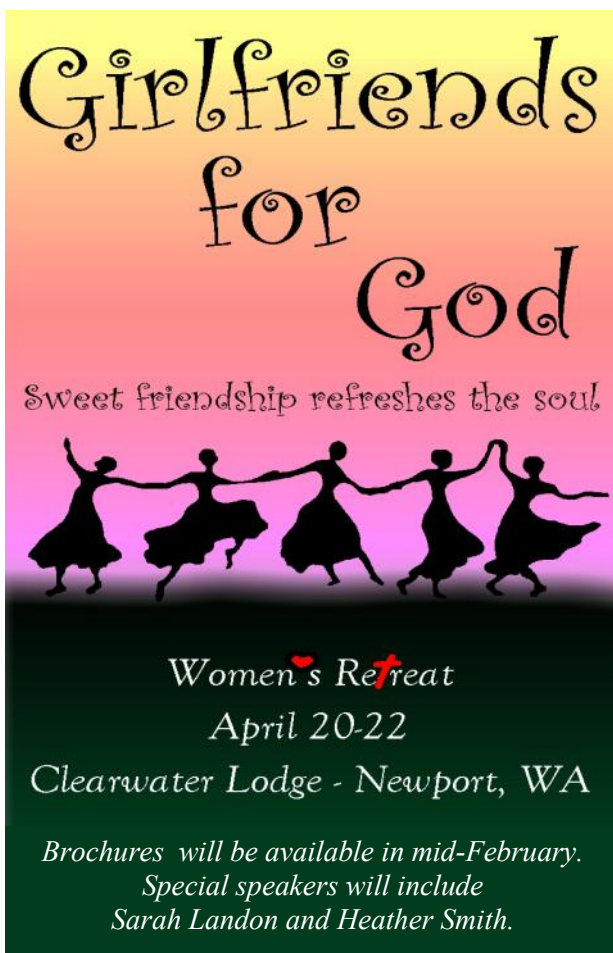
Knitters' Group Wed., Feb. 1, 1:00 pm, WS South Upper Room. All are invited to join and share their projects.

Morning Glory. Join us Thursday mornings, 9:00-11:00 am, WS North Koinonia Cafe, for fellowship, fun, prayer, laughter, and enlightenment. Come discover the golden nuggets God has for you! Child-care provided.

Sarah Circle Lunch Wed., Feb. 8, 11:30 am, WS North Narthex. Please join us for fun, fellowship, and food! Our speaker Yvonne von Stein Gardiner, author of Silent Tears of the Children, will present a story of survival during WWII. We will also take donations for Tri-Cities World Relief.

Ladies' Craft and Fellowship Days Fri., Feb. 10, 3:00-10:00 pm, and Sat., Feb. 11, 9:00 am-9:00 pm, both days in WS South Upper Room. Women of all ages are invited to bring a craft in process or bring something you need help with. For more information, contact Jodi Hassell (628.1820).

Miriam Circle Lunch Bunch Tues., Feb. 21, 12:00 pm, Sterlings Restaurant (Richland). Questions? Contact Patty Eastham (627.4248).



**Girlfriends
for
God**

Sweet friendship refreshes the soul

Women's Retreat
April 20-22
Clearwater Lodge - Newport, WA

*Brochures will be available in mid-February.
Special speakers will include
Sarah Landon and Heather Smith.*

Men's Ministry

Men's Breakfast Bible Study. Saturday mornings, 7:30 am, WS South Upper Room, for breakfast, fellowship, and a Bible study.

Sarah Squares, spouses of Sarah Circle ladies, will meet for lunch on Wed., Feb. 8, 11:30 am, Sterlings Restaurant (Richland).

Senior Adult Ministry

FOF-Folks Over Fifty potluck Fri., Feb. 3, 5:45 pm, WS North Narthex. Please bring your own table service and a main dish, salad, or dessert. Ken and Joan Swinth will tell of their trip on the waterways of Russia.

Person To Person lunch Mon., Feb. 13 and 27, 12:00 pm, WS North Narthex. Call 946.4656 if you need a ride.



Mark Your Calendars: Mar. 30-31

Support the Spring Cleanup of West Side Church!
We are putting plans together to do a spring cleanup on Fri. and Sat., Mar. 30-31. More details will be provided as we approach the date.

Want to help? Contact Dave VanLeuven (627.7264 or dvanleuven@charter.net).

New Sermon Series: Feb. 19-Apr. 8

Jesus

What He Did & Why He Matters

Feb. 19 - Message: God is King (Luke 4:14-21)

Feb. 26 - Conflict : A New Kind of Revolution (Mark 3:20-35)

Mar. 4 - Show and Tell: The Purpose of Miracles (Mark 2)

Mar. 11 - Kingdom Stories: The Purpose of Parables (Matt. 13:1-23)

Mar. 18 - Tension: Kingdom Present/Kingdom Future (Matt. 11:1-15)

Mar. 25 - Fulfillment: The Climax of the Old Testament (Isaiah 53)

Apr. 1 - Purpose: Why did the Messiah have to Die? (John 12:20-36)

Apr. 8 - Resurrection: Return of the King (Rev. 5)



Mark Your Calendar!

VBS 2012 - June 25-29

*This summer
we will travel to Babylon
where Daniel
will be our teacher!*



CFM



UPCOMING
EVENTS

DON'T MISS OUT

Wed., Feb. 1-Wednesdays@West Side Resumes (WS North)

Join us for dinner at 5:15 pm and classes at 6:00 pm. Childcare available.

Tues., Feb. 7-Play Group (WS North)

Enjoy fellowship and play with your child and other parents as we make Valentines Day arts and crafts!

**Wed., Feb. 8-Sun. Feb. 12-Souper Bowl of Caring
Mission Project closing Dates**

Make sure to bring in your final food donations for our Souper Bowl of Caring!

Sun., Feb. 19-Souper Bowl Wrap-Up for Children and Youth

Come and see who won the competition: children or youth? Who will receive the grand surprise?!

Tues., Feb. 21-Parent Enrichment (WS North)

Join us as we hear from licensed therapist Patricia Curtis as she shares about "Handling Disobedience God's Way." Childcare available.

Wed., Feb. 22-Ash Wednesday Service

Come for a simple supper and worship as a whole church. We will follow the Wednesdays@West Side schedule with dinner at 5:15 pm and worship at 6:00 pm. Childcare available.

Sun., Feb. 26-Promised Land Carnival Day

To culminate our Life of David and Fruits of the Spirit Unit, we will celebrate together with a carnival. Not to be missed!

What A Blessing! - Bibles For Our Youth

By Rev. Stuart Strachan

One of the exciting new projects we have begun at West Side has been to re-think our Bible policy within youth ministry. Last month I described a bit of that process, and I wanted to update you on what has already been a rewarding experience. A few weeks ago, we met with parents and handed out approximately 70 Bibles (not all at one time) to our students. We asked the parents to have a "faith-talk" with their students as well, perhaps as a part of dropping off the Bibles to have their names stamped. In the past few weeks I've heard numerous comments about Bibles being dropped off and watched kids peruse their contents, but the most encouraging news is hearing stories of the students reading their Bibles at home. As we continue to consider ways of resourcing "Faith at Home", we are encouraged that God is at work in this project. I would like to share an excerpt from one parent's experience at doing just that:

This morning, I woke up, walked upstairs to my kitchen and saw a most beautiful sight...my 13 year old son sitting

at the table, with a cup of coffee, reading John 1 from the Bible he received recently at West Side!

Last night, we reviewed Stuart's "guide for discussion paper" over cocoa and decaf mochas at Hastings. What a blessing!!! The goals decided to set were shorter term than a year long, but related to the project. We picked the following: 1-Read one chapter each day, 2-Read in the same place and at the same time, and 3-Write down any thoughts or questions you have while reading. Baby steps. :)



It seems to me that the LORD is definitely at work here in this project!!!

Thank you Stuart and Erica for following His leading to guide us in this direction.

I hope that our experience is a little encouragement to each of you, and it would be such an encouragement to hear some of your stories too.

The Lord surely is at work. We look forward to hearing more about how God is at work in our students' lives, reading God's Word, and applying it to their lives.

In Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Stu

Special Youth Events This Month



High School

Feb. 5 - Super Bowl Party: Hang out for food and fellowship, whether you like football or not, at 3:30 pm at Stu & Colleen's.

Feb. 8 - Begin@Barracudas: Try something new! Head to Barracuda Coffee Co (2171 Van Giesen) at 6:30 am, grab a drink, and join us for a short Bible study and some quality fellowship before school. Start your day with Christ!



All MS/HS: Feb. 12 - Souper Bowl of Caring: Bring your canned food donations to Sunday School, Fuel, or BASIC by the Feb. 12 deadline!



Feb. 12 - New Bible Presentations: You will be presented your personalized Bible during worship service.

Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday: Join us for a service observing the beginning of Lent as we consider the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus at 6:00 pm in WS North Sanctuary.



All MS/HS Girls: Feb. 17 - All-Girls Night: Let's get together and have a good time in the WS South Basement! HS come at 6:00 pm to chat about how we can connect with the younger gals. MS come at 6:30 pm. Everyone bring your game ideas, nail polish, hair accessories, and a snack to share! Stay until 10:00 pm or come for just part of the time.

February

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Wednesdays @ West Side - Begins Feb. 1



5:15 pm - Join us for a meal and fellowship.

6:00 pm - Classes for all ages follow the meal.
(see complete details pg. 2).



Knitters' Group 1:00pm-WSS **1**
Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN/WSS

Wednesdays @ West Side:
5:15pm-Dinner (WSN)
6:00pm-Classes (WSN/WSS)

Deacons 7:00pm-WSN

Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat
Tutoring 7:30am
Morning Glory 9
Women's Alpha
HS DIBS 3:00pm-
Pure Desire 4:30
Adult Choir 7:00
Worship Team 7

Worship: **5**
CS & Children's Church
8:15am-WSS
CS & Sunday School 9:45am
-WSS
TS 11:15am-WSN
HS Super Bowl Party 3:00pm
- Strachan's
Youth Worship Team 4:30pm

Life After Loss 2:00pm-WSN **6**
Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS

Pure Desire 6:00am-WSN **7**
Tutoring 7:30am-WSS
Play Group 9:15am-WSN
Adult Bible Study 10:30am
-WSN
Property Mtg 5:15pm-WSN
Small Group 5:30pm-WSN
ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSS
Worship Mtg 7:00pm-WSN

Begin (HS) 6:30am **8**
- Barracuda Coffee Co.
Sarah Circle 11:30am-WSN
Sarah Squares 11:30am
-Sterlings Restaurant
Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN/WSS

Wednesdays @ West Side:
5:15pm-Dinner (WSN)
6:00pm-Classes (WSN/WSS)

Early Birds Bible
Tutoring 7:30am
Morning Glory 9
Women's Alpha
Fellowship Mtg
HS DIBS 3:00pm-
Pure Desire 4:30
Missions Council
Adult Choir 7:00
Worship Team 7

Worship: **12**
CS & Children's Church
8:15am-WSS
CS & Sunday School 9:45am
-WSS
TS 11:15am-WSN
Youth Worship Team 4:30pm
Fuel (HS) 6:30pm-WSS

Person to Person 12:00pm **13**
-WSN
Life After Loss 2:00pm-WSN
Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS

 **14**
Pure Desire 6:00am-WSN
Tutoring 7:30am-WSS
Adult Bible Study 10:30am
Small Group 5:30pm-WSN
ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSS
Youth Mtg 6:30pm-WSN

Begin (HS) 6:30am **15**
- Barracuda Coffee Co.
Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN/WSS

Wednesdays @ West Side:
5:15pm-Dinner (WSN)
6:00pm-Classes (WSN/WSS)

Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat
Tutoring 7:30am
Morning Glory 9
Women's Alpha
HS DIBS 3:00pm-
Pure Desire 4:30
Adult Choir 7:00
Worship Team 7

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY: **19**
CS & Children's Church
8:15am-WSS
CS & Sunday School 9:45am
-WSS
TS 11:15am-WSN
Youth Worship Team 4:30pm
Fuel (HS) 6:30pm-WSS

Church Office-CLOSED **20**
Life After Loss 2:00pm-WSN
Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS



Pure Desire 6:00am-WSN **21**
Tutoring 7:30am-WSS
Parent Enrichment 9:15am
Adult Bible Study 10:30am
Miriam Circle 12:00pm
Small Group 5:30pm-WSN
Alpha Training 6:30pm-WSN
ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSS
Property Mtg 7:00pm-WSN

Begin (HS) 6:30am **22**
- Barracuda Coffee Co.
Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN/WSS



Ash Wednesday Celebration:
5:15pm-Dinner (WSN)
6:00pm-Worship (WSN)

Early Birds Bible
Tutoring 7:30am
Morning Glory 9
Women's Alpha
Fellowship Mtg
HS DIBS 3:00pm-
Pure Desire 4:30
Missions Prayer 6
Adult Choir 7:00
Worship Team 7

Worship: **26**
CS & Children's Church
8:15am-WSS
CS & Sunday School 9:45am
-WSS
TS 11:15am-WSN
Youth Worship Team 4:30pm
Fuel (HS) 6:30pm-WSS

Person to Person 12:00pm **27**
-WSN
Life After Loss 2:00pm-WSN
Cub Scout Blue & Gold
Banquet 6:00pm-WSN

Pure Desire 6:00am-WSN **28**
Tutoring 7:30am-WSS
Adult Bible Study 10:30am
-WSN
Small Group 5:30pm-WSN
Alpha Training 6:30pm-WSN
ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSS
Session Mtg 6:30pm-WSN

Begin (HS) 6:30am **29**
- Barracuda Coffee Co.
Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN/WSS

Wednesdays @ West Side:
5:15pm-Dinner (WSN)
6:00pm-Classes (WSN/WSS)

Ash W

Kick off the meal at 5: at 6:00 pm us for the e

WEST SIDE church

Monday **Friday** **Saturday**

Study Men's -WSS 7:00am-WSN 9:15am-WSS -WSN 10:00pm-WSS 10:00pm-WSS	2	Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN FOF-Folks Over Fifty 5:45pm -WSN	3	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS Girl Scouts 10:00am-WSN	4
Study -WSS 7:00am-WSN 9:15am-WSS 11:15pm-WSN -WSN 10:00pm-WSS 11:30pm-WSN 10:00pm-WSS	9	Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN  Ladies' Craft & Fellowship Days-WSS 3:00-10:00pm	10	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS Alpha Training 8:00am-WSN Girl Scouts 10:00am-WSN	11
Study Men's -WSS 7:00am-WSN 9:15am-WSS -WSN 10:00pm-WSS 10:00pm-WSS	16	Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN MS/HS All Girls' Night 6:30pm -WSS	17	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS Girl Scouts 10:00am-WSN	18
Study -WSS 7:00am-WSN 9:15am-WSS 11:15pm-WSN -WSN 10:00pm-WSS 11:30pm-WSN 10:00pm-WSS	23	Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN	24	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS Girl Scouts 10:00am-WSN	25

Wednesday - Feb. 22

the season of Lent with a simple
 5 pm, and then gather for an all-church worship service
 . All Wednesdays @ West Side classes and BASIC will join
 evening. Childcare available.



Beginning Wed., Feb. 1

IMAGINE YOURSELF DEBT FREE



Contact Gary Bush (539.8905) or Cindy Kieneker (628.9973)

Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace UNIVERSITY

Alpha is coming! *Is there more to life?*


Come and discover it at the Alpha Course!
Introductory Meal: Mar. 6, 6:00 pm, WS North Sanctuary.

Contact Karel Coppock (946.4656 or kcoppock@westside1.org).



Alpha


the marriage course



... a great opportunity to invest in the future of your relationship

Introductory Dinner
Mar. 6, 6 pm, WS North

Contact Larry & Katie Rigbsby 551.7796





PRAYER for our TEAM

A vitally important support from WS *senders* at home!

Please pray for our WS members while in Mali & as they return to:

- Take medications daily
- Have health, safety, sound sleep
- Be flexible, selfless, humble
- Hear & heed God's call
- Deepen relationships with children, WV staff, each other
- Grow in passion to serve
- Show God's love thru actions
- Communicate what they learn
- Draw closer to the Lord



Front (L-R): Karen Barton, Rozalind Rodgers, Suzanne Lindberg, Jeanne Hultgren
 Back (L-R): Dave Shupe, Erica Cox, Karel Coppock, Pete Rogalsky
 Not Pictured: Ruth Nottingham (World Vision Church Partnership Advocate)

Deacon Beacon

Good Samaritan Ministries. Good Samaritan Ministries (GSM) is a local, national, and international nondenominational Christian ministry which reaches out in compassion to those who are in crisis in the community. The Richland GSM office was established in 1998. GSM has no paid staff, and expenses are met through donations and fund raising. GSM provides mental health services to individuals, couples, single adults, children, and groups through trained volunteer staff. These services are provided without charge to anyone regardless of ethnic background, religious, sexual, or political preference or ability to make a donation. For more information about Good Samaritan Ministries, contact Andy Minister (783.7123).

Note: Good Samaritan Ministries is having a "Heart to Heart" Dessert Social & Silent Auction on Sat., Feb. 4, 6:00-9:30 pm, at Calvary Chapel Church (10611 Clearwater Ave., Kennewick). For more information on this event, please call 946.3539.

Deacon's Special Need. The West Side Church Deacons have supported two children from World Vision for many years and, with budget constraints, are looking for potential adopting donors to accept the two children that are supported from the Deacon's Funds. The two children are Deepak Laxman Poojari (World Vision ID/Pledge #170182-6114) from India and Doussou Diarra (World Vision ID/Pledge #174540-3137) from Mali.

Thank you from the West Side Church Deacons!

Grace Clinic. On any given day in the Tri-Cities, people of all ages will go without vital health care services such as a pregnant mother unable to get prenatal care or an elderly man who can't get into a doctor because he has no insurance. Fortunately, there are organizations like Grace Clinic whose mission is to "ensure healthy families and to share Christ's love through practical acts of compassion by providing free healthcare services to those in need..."



Through the generous support of churches like West Side, Grace Clinic provides free healthcare to hundreds of people throughout the Tri-Cities each year. With continued uncertain economic times, organizations like Grace Clinic will see demand continue to rise. For more information on how you can help, including volunteer opportunities, call 735.2000, or visit gracecliniconline.org.



Everyone Has A Next Step

By Rev. Dan Wodrich

There's a "next step" for you to take...

- if you've got questions about God and the meaning of life,
- if you're seeking help with your marriage or finances,
- if you're struggling with a sexual addiction,
- if you've been in the church for years and want to grow as a follower of Jesus.

West Side Church is a community in which everyone has a "next step" to take. This winter, we are offering a variety of "next step" adult Christian Growth and discipleship activities and courses for you to participate in. Ask the Lord to clarify the next step He is inviting you to take. A brochure of all adult activities and courses is available at the Welcome Stations in both narthexes, and on the web at www.westside1.org/grow.

A great first step for anyone is participation in the Alpha Course. Alpha provides a practical introduction to the Christian faith. Participants come together for 12 weeks, sharing great meals, hearing stimulating talks via DVD, and exchanging thoughts in open and frank discussion. Alpha is a warm and welcoming place for people wrestling with questions of faith to begin to find answers. It is a great way to meet people. For some, Alpha has served as a wonderful entry into the Church. For others, Alpha has served to revitalize their faith. A women's Alpha began Thurs., Jan. 26. An evening Alpha for all begins Tues., Mar. 6, with an introductory meal. Contact Karel or Julie Coppock.

A great next step is to join a Life Group. Life Groups provide an opportunity for believers to grow and mature in community with a small group of other Jesus' followers — getting to know and be known, to discover the truth of Scripture, and to practice living it out with one another — as the Spirit works to deepen your love for God and for others. Life Groups are normally comprised of 8-12 people who meet weekly for a couple hours of fellowship, Bible-based study, and prayer. Many Life Groups utilize study questions which are directly related to our Sunday sermons. Contact Dan Wodrich or Steve Schlahta.

The Marriage Course and Financial Peace Univer-

sity (FPU) are good next steps if you're seeking enrichment of your marriage and/or practical guidance with finances. These classes — which will be held Tuesday and Wednesday evenings this winter, respectively, — are intended to help folks in their everyday living of "Faith@Home." Contact Larry and Katie Rigsby regarding the Marriage Course. Contact Gary Bush or Cindy Kieneker about FPU.

Bible Study and Fellowship with others is a great combination and beneficial next step for many. There are a variety of Bible studies during the week for you to consider. On Sunday mornings, an in-depth study of **I&II Samuel** will be led by Gene Carbaugh, Will Shaw, and Jim Morris. On Tuesday mornings, Pastor Ralph teaches the **Gospel of Mark** and on Wednesday evenings the book of **Revelation** written by John. There is an "Early Bird" Bible study on Thursday mornings led by Rev. Bob Schmitt. Many women are experiencing great blessing through the Morning Glory Bible study on Thursdays. Men gather for breakfast, Bible study, and prayer on Saturday mornings, led by Pastor Dan and Steve Schlahta.



Pure Desire "For Men Only" groups meet weekly to provide fellowship and healing for those struggling with sexual behaviors that are harmful to social, family, and spiritual well-being. If this is an issue for you, don't battle alone. Come experience grace, forgiveness, hope, encouragement, and healing in the company of friends. Contact Ron Severtsen or Dave Marsh.

Many are finding that the study of church history provides context and understanding for living as God intends in the world today. Reflection on the culture, issues, and pressures faced by the saints who have walked before us gives us wisdom and encouragement to walk "next steps" together in faith today. On Sunday mornings this winter, Rev. Karel Coppock will teach on **The Medieval Church: Early Christianity from 400 AD to the Reformation.**

Finally, if you're desiring to grow deeper in your personal relationship and "conversation" with the Lord — take the next step of joining the Sunday morning **Women of the Word** class on "Soul-Stirring Conversations with God," or participate in the **Going Deeper: Beneficial Practices for Spiritual Growth** course being offered Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, led by Pastor Dan and Dr. Melanie Saint James.

Alpha Is Coming! The Marriage Course Is Coming!

By Ken Geelhood

The start of the next Alpha Course is only a few weeks away! The Alpha team will be praying for people whose names you wrote down Sunday and whom you would like to know Jesus. We will be praying that some of these will be open to an invitation to the Alpha Course at West Side.

Many people wonder how to invite a friend to the Alpha Course. Though it's not always simple, here's a suggestion that might help. Perhaps you've

been talking to a friend, and the subject of weekend activities comes up and you mention church. "Oh" says your friend, "I haven't been to church in years. I used to go as a kid, but I've drifted away; I'd feel completely out of place there.

Besides, I don't know what about God and Jesus." "Have

thought about going on an course?" you respond. "It's a place for people who don't have a habit of church and

I believe you ever Alpha perfect really aren't sure about faith. We call it 'dinner and a movie.' People get to know each other around dinner, there's a talk from a DVD, and then groups come together to talk about what they've heard. We've found people really enjoy it. We have an introductory dinner coming up on **Tues., Mar. 6 at 6:00 pm**. Why don't you think about coming? We could go together; and if you like what you hear, you can sign up for the course. It's ten weeks. Otherwise, not." If your friend decides to attend, you can offer to join them in a group or if they'd

prefer, they can take it by themselves. Whatever they're most comfortable with.

This spring we will actually be offering two options on Tuesday nights, both starting at 6:00 pm. **The Alpha Course** is great for someone who has questions about faith. In the Alpha Course, guests are encouraged to ask and discuss any questions they have. Running parallel to this, on the same evening, with the same good food, we are offering a **Marriage Course** that was developed by the British team who developed Alpha. This course is perfect for married couples, engaged couples, or couples who have been living together. Anyone who would like to strengthen their marriage or long-term relationship is invited to come. There is one evening session on spirituality, but non-believers can profitably take this course. It is also highly recommended by the folks who run Marriage Encounter weekends. For many it could be a conduit to the Alpha Course next fall.

Both courses run from 6:00-8:30 pm and include a meal and childcare. If you or a friend is interested in either course, please contact one of the people below to register. Registration ahead of time is strongly recommended for the Marriage Course and would be helpful for the Alpha course as well. If you're simply thinking it over, please to come to the introductory meal on Mar. 6. Courses start the following week, Mar. 13.

To learn more about Alpha at West Side Church or to register for a course contact Karel Coppock (946.4656 or kcoppock@westside1.org) or Ken Geelhood (371.0614 or kgeelhood@gmail.com). To learn more about Alpha, visit www.alphausa.org or www.alphasewa.org.

Who is Jesus?

Why and how do I pray?

Is there more to life?

Alpha



New Members!

We welcomed new members during worship on Sun., Jan. 29:

Welcome



Elmer & Jan Bailey



Tim & Amy Bays



Pete Jackson

An Evening Of Music To Benefit Refugee Housing

By World Relief Tri-Cities

This article features our own Susan Bengtson and her family:

Sometimes a little creativity is what it takes to meet a present need. Richland High School senior Susan Bengtson saw the need for help with refugee housing, heard about World Relief's new Match Grant Program, and came up with a creative way to bring together members of the community in support of local refugees.

On the evening of Aug. 18, 2011, Susan, her family, and several friends held the World Relief Refugee Benefit Concert at First United Methodist Church in Kennewick. The evening included performances on string instruments by Susan, her sister Ellen, several other local musicians, and a folk singer-songwriter on tour from New Orleans, with a wide range of styles from classical guitar to the Beach Boys.

"I wanted the concert to be entertaining, but also to relate to refugees," says Susan. The opening song of the concert was *Spiegel im Spiegel* by Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, who experienced persecution under the Soviets and eventually left his home country for a period of time in order to continue composing music. Other songs throughout the evening's performance were written with themes related to refugees, as well.

Interspersed throughout the music were testimonies by refugees and interpreters from World Relief, representing the situation leading refugees to flee from countries such as Iraq, Somalia, and Burma. Seng Mun, a student at Kennewick High School, related how World Relief helped her family with an apartment and English classes when they arrived in the Tri-Cities. The family was forced suddenly to leave their home country of Burma and spent three years waiting in Malaysia before resettlement to the U.S. Susan Bengtson was at the Pasco Airport to greet Seng Mun's family when they arrived, and

the two girls have become best friends over the last 13 months.

The Bengtsons have been volunteers at World Relief for the past couple of years, mentoring newly arrived families and helping to furnish their apartments. Susan herself has taught English as a Second Language to refugees since she was in middle school, and her experiences mentoring new arrivals are what led her to the idea of a benefit concert to raise money for refugee housing.

"The families show us their monthly budgets," says Susan, "and the main chunk of it goes towards rent. Their entertainment budget is zero. Their clothing budget is zero. They keep their heat turned off in the winter so they can afford to pay rent."

Because music is such an important part of Susan's life, putting together the Refugee Benefit Concert was a natural way for her to raise money for the refugee housing fund. She talked to musicians she had performed with in the past, to friends of friends, and to other World Relief volunteers, and she put together the ensemble for the concert. "Everything just fell into place for this group," she says.

Susan's fundraising effort is even more exciting because of World Relief's new Match Grant Program. In this program of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the funds raised for housing needs at the benefit concert are tripled. Recent budget cuts have led to decreased state support, making fundraising of this type a necessity for World Relief for the first time. Susan hopes the Refugee Benefit Concert will become an annual event and is eager to see others in the community come up with creative ways to show welcome and support for refugees in the Tri-Cities.

A Prayer - cont.

Let Your Wind blow to fill us with courage and faith. Let not complacency or comfort mark our spirits, but instill Your passion for righteousness—for goodness, for justice, for peace, for purity, and for mercy—into our spirits. Move us to become a people of courageous faith, people who are willing to face the evil in our world in Your Name and in Your power.

Let Your Wind blow to draw us together in unity and peace. Blow down our walls of hostility and prejudice. Move us to repentance and reconciliation. Fill us with love and compassion, humility and grace. Let our minds

be completely shaped by Your Truth, by Your Word. Let us not be satisfied with partial-truths, easy formulas, or human wisdom. Instead, push us to learn, to grow, to understand what it means to have the mind of Christ and to live into the mystery of faith where we hold in tension all the Truth You have revealed.

Let Your Wind blow over us, that we might be caught in the stream of Your love, so that we together, in all things might glorify your Name, the strong Name of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessings in Christ, Ralph





615 Wright Avenue
Richland, WA 99352
509.946.4656

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RICHLAND, WA
PERMIT NO. 172

Wednesdays @ West Side - Begins Feb. 1



Join us this winter for 9 weeks of fellowship and discipleship for the whole family.

This intergenerational ministry resumes Wed., Feb. 1, and will conclude Wed., Mar. 28. Join us between 5:15-6:00 pm for a meal and stay for a class. Or just come for a class from 6:00-7:30 pm.

As a whole church, we will celebrate Ash Wednesday together with a special worship service Feb. 22. We will have dinner at 5:15 pm followed by worship at 6:00 pm. Childcare will be available.

Want to receive our newsletter via email?
Contact us at info@westside1.org or call the Church Office.

West Side Staff

Rev. Ralph Kieneker ::
Lead Pastor
Rev. Dan Wodrich ::
Assoc. Pastor
Rev. Faye Serene ::
Assoc. Pastor
Rev. Stuart Strachan :: *Assoc. Pastor—Youth & Family Ministries*
Rev. Karel Coppock ::
Alpha Ministries, Presbytery
John Lipp :: *Lay Minister—Pastoral Care*
Heather Smith :: *Director-CFM Ministries*
Colleen Strachan :: *Assistant to the Director-CFM Ministries*
Erica Cox :: *Intern-Youth Ministry*
Patrick Smith :: *Director-Worship Ministry*
Brenda Welsch :: *Director-Adult Choir*
Sharon Isaacson :: *Financial Specialist*
Diane Pratt :: *Financial Assistant*
Pat Cassidy :: *Administrative Assistant*
Wendy Puz :: *Administrative Assistant*
Colette Root :: *General Ministry*
Kiet & Ngan Dang :: *Custodians*

West Side Church
615 Wright Ave, Richland, WA 99352
509.946.4656 www.westside1.org