



SERVAN

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

A Monthly News Publication For Members And Friends

Your Vision Of God Determines The Quality Of Your Life

By Rev. Ralph Kieneker



A good image of God leads to a good life. A poor image of God leads to a wasted life. An incomplete image of God leads to an incomplete life. No image of God leads to no life. The biblical principle is simple. You reflect what you worship, which means you ultimately become like what you worship.

When you worship Jesus, you become like Jesus. When you worship the only wise God, you become wise. When you worship the living God, you live forever and ever. When you worship something other than God, the same principle applies.

Psalm 115 provides a graphic picture:

Their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak; eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but they cannot hear; noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but cannot feel; feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

If you worship money, you will become expendable. If you worship the esteem of men, you will only receive the esteem of men. If you worship earthly pleasure, you will only get earthly pleasure. If you only worship the god of the present world, you will only get the present world.

One of the main tasks for Christians is to grow into a true knowledge of the living God. God wants us to love Him for Who

He is, not for Who He isn't. He wants us to become like Him, not unlike Him. God desires us to enjoy the fullness of Him, not the half-ness of Him. The Christian life is rightly seen as the on-going process of smashing our false images of God against the truth of God revealed in Jesus and recorded in the Bible.

Every day offers the opportunity of growing in our knowledge of God. There are, however, times in life that especially lend themselves to focusing our attention and worship upon Jesus Christ, our God and Savior. As we head into a new year, I would invite you to spend time reflecting on Jesus in your life.

What does His cross mean in your life? What does it mean to live for Jesus? Where do you need Him more in your life?

Spend time reflecting on your knowledge of Jesus. How much of your knowledge of Jesus is shaped by God's word? What was he passionate about? What was his purpose and motive in life? If he was really God, why did He stay up on that Cross? Why did He willingly die?

Spend time reflecting on how you are responding to Jesus. How is your purpose and motivation in life becoming like His? How are they different? Are you following Him daily, weekly, occasionally, whole-heartedly, or half-heartedly? Do you love Jesus?

(cont. pg. 11)

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New Sermon Series: Jan. 8-Feb. 12

David

Getting Life Right

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
Jan. 8	Chosen	1 Samuel 16:1-13
Jan. 15	Faithful	1 Samuel 17:1-11
Jan. 22	Transparent	Psalms 139
Jan. 29	Alive	2 Samuel 6:12-23
Feb. 5	Broken	2 Samuel 11-12
Feb. 12	Triumphant	2 Samuel 22



Jan. 4, 6:30 pm, WS North Sanctuary. For the purpose of voting on: Sale of WS Activity Center, and Dissolution of Rev. Faye Serene's call.

Jan. 25-Annual Meeting, 5:15 pm dinner and fellowship, 6:00 pm meeting (both in WS North). For the purpose of approving new Elders and Deacons and Presentation of the 2012 Budget.

Discovering A Pathway For Life In Christ

REGISTER for Discovery 2012

Two Options: Jan. 17-19 or Jan. 19-21

Register with
Kay Johnston at
509.627.1406 or
dankayjo@frontier.com

**REGISTRATION
Extended
Through
Mon., Jan. 9!**

Questions?

Contact
Dan Wodrich
509.946.4656

Celebration/Thank You - Sun., Jan. 8

By The Worship Committee

Join us in officially welcoming Patrick Smith and his family as our new Worship Director at the receptions following each service on Jan. 8 - cake and refreshments will be provided.

We will also be acknowledging Brad Goecke for stepping in so faithfully as our Interim Worship Director for the past three years. Please bring your cards of appreciation for Brad either to the Church Office or you may bring them the morning of Jan. 8. Thank you, Brad, for a job well-done for the Lord and for us!



Senior Adult Ministry

FOF-Folks Over Fifty

potluck Fri., Jan. 6, 5:45 pm, WS North Narthex. It's our annual White Elephant gift exchange—a gaily wrapped item of dubious value, but highly desirable (bring one or more presents)!

Also bring your own table service and a main dish, salad, or dessert.

Person To Person lunch Mon., Jan. 2, 16, and 30, 12:00 pm, WS North Narthex. Call 946.4656 if you need a ride.

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., Jan. 11, 11:30 am, Sterlings Restaurant (Richland).

Pick up your Christmas cards!

Remember to check the church Christmas card box in WS North Narthex for greetings from church friends - Sun., Jan. 8, is the last time to collect your mail.

CHRISTMAS CARDS



Women's Ministry

Knitters' Group. Wed., Jan. 4, 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 Kafe, for fellowship, fun, prayer, laughter, and enlightenment. Come discover the golden nuggets God has for you! Child-care provided.

Sarah Circle. Wed., Jan. 11, 11:30 am, WS North Narthex. Please join us for fun, fellowship, and food! Our program will be a presentation by the head of World Relief in the Tri-Cities.

Miriam Circle Lunch Bunch. Tues., Jan. 17, 12:00 pm, Sterlings Restaurant (Richland). Questions? Contact Patty Eastham (627.4248).



Send-Off For Rev. Faye

Celebrate our dear Pastor Faye Serene's seven years of service at West Side Church on Sun., Jan. 22, 12:30 pm, WS North. Bring a hearty dish to share; dessert will be provided.

Consider scrapbooking an 8.5x11 page of memories (written and/or photographed) of how Faye has touched your life. Or send the photos and written memories/ blessings to Annette Barnes (annettelbarnes@gmail.com or 1634 Forest



Ave., Richland, WA 99354) by Jan. 15. Also available will be postcards to share your best wishes, sentiments, or memories - pick one up at the Welcome Stations or at her send-off party!

CFM



UPCOMING EVENTS

DON'T MISS OUT

Tues., Jan. 3-Play Group (WS North)

Enjoy a morning full of fellowship, crafts (Popsicle Stick Puzzle), and free play with parents and other young children. .

Sun., Jan. 8-Sunday School Resumes (WS North)

Remember to think 9:30 am for drop-off; final pick-up is 11:00 am.

Sun., Jan. 15-Souper Bowl of Caring Service Project Starts

Bring in canned foods to donate to those in need in our community. Kids are competing against the youth to see who can bring the most cans in again this year! Final Sunday for cans is Feb. 5: Super Bowl Sunday!

Tues., Jan. 24-Parent Enrichment (WS North)

Come hear Pastor Faye Serene share on Emotion Coaching. Childcare available. Note: We are meeting the 4th Tuesday this month due to the Imago Christi Discovery (Jan. 17-21).

Thurs., Jan. 26-Women's Alpha Begins (WS South)

Moms: do you want to discover more about the Christian faith? Join us for Women's Alpha on Thursday mornings (childcare available).

Wed., Feb. 1-Wednesdays @ West Side Resumes

Join us for dinner at 5:15 pm; classes start at 6:00 pm. Classes available for children, youth, and adults.

Notes For Parents - Children's Sunday School By Colleen Strachan

After a break for the holidays, Sunday School resumes on Jan 8. Elementary children in Promised Land will learn the Life of David and the fruits of the Spirit, and Rainbow Kids will learn about the life of Jesus. Remember to think 9:30 as your drop-off time; rooms for preschoolers and activity centers in the Fellowship Hall for elementary are open from 9:30-9:45 am in order to give you plenty of time to drop off your children and get to worship or your adult Sunday School class. Dismissal for all children is from 10:50-11:00 am to allow parents who worship at the 9:45 service time to come over from West Side South.

Tackle Hunger!



Mark Your Calendar for VBS 2012: June 25-29, 2012

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

Interested in joining the core planning team? Contact Heather Smith (946.4656 or hsmith@westside1.org).



A People Of The Book - Bibles For Our Youth

By Rev. Stuart Strachan

"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105 (New Living Translation)

Something new and exciting is going to happen in the lives of our middle school and high school families in the next few months as we will be presenting Bibles to students in each of our grades 6th-12th. But before I share the details of those events, please allow me to share the process that we undertook to get to where we are today.

A few months ago, Erica and I began a teaching series for both high school and middle school students on the topic of spiritual disciplines. The hope was to talk about some very basic ways in which we can grow in our faith in Jesus Christ. Two of the four talks focused in on the idea of being *in* the Scriptures on a regular basis, one as part of having a regular devotional time, and the second for studying the Word of God, in order to understand the larger narrative of God's creating, redeeming, and sustaining work in the world. As I prepared these lessons, I couldn't help but think about the number of students who either offhandedly remarked on how they didn't own a Bible, or all they had was the Children's Bible they were given in 3rd grade. In the past when this has happened, I have just gone out and purchased Bibles for those students. But as this series developed, I began to wonder if there was a better way of putting the scriptures in students' hands and ultimately their hearts. I began to wonder if we could develop a strategy that would promote an environment where students loved, cared, and most importantly, read their Bibles! What I am speaking of is creating a culture where students become what Christians have been for centuries: "a people of the book". What would that look like? These were the kinds of questions I began to consider.

I also began to think about our practice of handing out Bibles at graduation, which has definitely been a great blessing to many of our students in the past. But I began to ask the question, wouldn't

it make sense for us to get these Bibles in students' hands while we still have a strong influence in their lives, rather than right before we send them out into the world? Through this discernment, I became convinced that we need to get Bibles into students' hands now, rather than later. It seemed to me that now is the time to shape their habits, to get them into the habit of regular scripture study, regular devotions.

One of the convictions I developed, specifically when I prepared my talk on studying Scripture, was that students need a Bible that is both easily accessible (easy to understand) and has notes that help them with confusing sections of the Bible. When I was in high school, I owned an NIV study Bible; and while I loved that Bible, I have to be honest, I found the study notes to be completely irrelevant to my questions, the questions that arose during my reading of the text. My intern, Erica Cox, referred me to the New Living Translation (NLT) Study Bible. I have found this, even as an ordained pastor, to be very helpful, in both its translation as well as the study notes. I've spent hours in each translation, and definitely recommend the NLT Study Bible as a faithful translation of God's Word.

With all that said, we will have an orientation meeting with parents in January, where the Bibles will be distributed. From there, we will invite parents and students to engage in a Faith at Home event (more details to come) which will include dropping off their Bible at Parable Christian Book Store to be stamped with their names. We will then collect each of the Bibles and present the Bibles to the students in Sunday morning worship over a few weeks in February.

Dates and details will come henceforth, but, needless to say, we are very excited for how God will use these Bibles to shape our students' lives, hoping that God's indelible stamp will become ever more evident as they continue to grow in faith.

In Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Stu



January

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

New Year's Day Worship: 1
One Service Only
10:00am-WSS
NO Sunday School



Person to Person 12:00pm **2**
 -WSN
 Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS

Pure Desire 6:00am-WSN **3**
 Tutoring 7:30am-WSS
 Play Group 9:15am-WSN
 Property Mtg 5:15pm-WSN
 Small Group 5:30pm-WSN
 ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSS
 Worship Mtg 7:00pm-WSN

Knitters' Group 1:00pm-WSS **4**
 Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN/WSS
Congregational Mtg 6:30pm
-WSN
 Deacons
 7:00pm-WSN



Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat
 Tutoring 7:30am
 Morning Glory 9
 HS Drop-In 3:00
 Pure Desire 4:30
 Adult Choir 7:00
 Worship Team 7

Worship: **8**
 CS & Children's Church
 8:15am-WSS*
 CS & Sunday School 9:45am
 -WSS*
 TS 11:00am-WSN*
***Welcome Celebration**
following each service
 Youth Worship Team 4:30pm
 Fuel (HS) 6:30pm-WSS

Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS **9**


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

Sarah Circle 11:30am-WSN **11**
 Sarah Squares 11:30am
 -Sterlings Restaurant
 Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN/WSS

Early Birds Bible
 Tutoring 7:30am
 Morning Glory 9
 Fellowship Mtg
 HS Drop-In 3:00
 Pure Desire 4:30
 CFM Mtg 6:30pr
 Missions Council
 Adult Choir 7:00
 Worship Team 7

Worship: **15**
 CS & Children's Church
 8:15am-WSS
 CS & Sunday School 9:45am
 -WSS
 TS 11:00am-WSN
 Youth Worship Team 4:30pm
 Fuel (HS) 6:30pm-WSS

Church Office-CLOSED 16
 Person to Person 12:00pm
 -WSN
 Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Pure Desire 6:00am-WSN **17**
 Tutoring 7:30am-WSS
 Miriam Circle 12:00pm
 Small Group 5:30pm-WSN
 ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSS
 Property Mtg 7:00pm-WSN

Discovery-Option 1:
8:30am-5:30pm-WSN

Tool Time 3:00pm **18**
 -WSN/WSS

Early Birds Bible S
 Tutoring 7:30am-
 HS Drop-In 3:00p
 Pure Desire 4:30p
 Adult Choir 7:00p
 Worship Team 7

Discovery-Optio
6:00-10:00pm

Worship: **22**
 CS & Children's Church
 8:15am-WSS
 CS & Sunday School 9:45am
 -WSS
 TS 11:00am-WSN
Rev. Faye Pollock 12:30pm
 Youth Worship Team 4:30pm
 Fuel (HS) 6:30pm-WSS

Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS **23**



Missions Team leaves for Mali!
Pray for them (through Feb. 3).

Pure Desire 6:00am-WSN **24**
 Tutoring 7:30am-WSS
 Parent Enrichment 9:15am
 Adult Bible Study 10:30am
 -WSN
 Small Group 5:30pm-WSN
 ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSS
 Session Mtg 6:30pm-WSN

Tool Time 3:00pm **25**

Annual Congregational Mtg:
5:15pm-Dinner (WSN)
6:00pm-Meeting

Early Birds Bible S
 Tutoring 7:30am
 Morning Glory 9
 Women's Alpha
 Fellowship Mtg 1
 HS Drop-In 3:00p
 Pure Desire 4:30p
 Missions Prayer 6
 Adult Choir 7:00
 Worship Team 7

Worship: **29**
 CS & Children's Church
 8:15am-WSS
 CS & Sunday School 9:45am
 -WSS
 TS 11:00am-WSN
 Training 12:30pm-WSN
 Youth Worship Team 4:30pm
 Fuel (HS) 6:30pm-WSS

Person to Person 12:00pm **30**
 -WSN
 Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS

Pure Desire 6:00am-WSN **31**
 Tutoring 7:30am-WSS
 Adult Bible Study 10:30am
 -WSN
 Small Group 5:30pm-WSN
 ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSS



Annual C
 5:15 pm - Join u
 6:00 pm - Atten
 thing

WEST SIDE church

day Friday Saturday

Study ts' -WSS :00am-WSN om-WSN pm-WSS pm-WSN :00pm-WSS	5 Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN FOF-Folks Over Fifty 5:45pm -WSN  EPIPHANY	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS Training 9:00am-WSN 7
Study -WSS :00am-WSN 1:15pm-WSN om-WSN pm-WSS m-WSN l 6:30pm-WSN pm-WSN :00pm-WSS	Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN 13	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS 14
Study -WSS m-WSN om-WSN om-WSN :00pm-WSS on 2: -WSN	Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN Feb SERVANT Newsletter Deadline-5:00pm WSN 20	21 8:30am-5:30pm-WSN
Study -WSS :00am-WSN 9:15am-WSS :15pm-WSN om-WSN om-WSN 5:30pm-WSN pm-WSN :00pm-WSS	Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN 27	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS 28 Cub Scout Pinewood Derby 10:00am-WSN 

Congregational Meeting - Jan. 25

as for dinner and fellowship before the meeting,
 nd the annual congregational meeting to hear all the wonderful
 gs that we have done at West Side in 2011.

Discovering A Pathway For Life In Christ

REGISTER for Discovery 2012

Two Options: Jan. 17-19 or Jan. 19-21

Register with
 Kay Johnston at
 509.627.1406 or
 dankayjo@frontier.com



Questions?
 Contact
 Dan Wodrich
 509.946.4656

Jan Term 2012 Begins Jan. 8

*"Loving our Neighbors:
 Other World Religions and World Views"*

Sunday Morning Adult Discipleship,
 9:45-10:45 am, WS South Upper Room

Date	Guest Speaker	World Religion/View: Topic
Jan. 8	Scott Johnson	Mormon/Latter-Day Saints: Becoming a Loving, Truth- Bearing Witness of Jesus to our LDS Neighbors
Jan. 15	Shane Bennett	Islam: With Love and Respect, Inviting All Muslim Peoples to Follow Jesus

Children & Youth classes will also resume on Jan. 8



Don't forget to help us
"TACKLE HUNGER"
 and bring your
 canned donations in
 by Souper Bowl
 Sunday, Feb. 5!

Wednesdays @ West Side Begins Feb. 1

Mid-week discipleship for the whole family.
 Intergenerational
 ministry with a meal
 at 5:15 pm and
 classes for all ages
 at 6:00 pm.

Complete details
 coming soon!!



Finishing The Lodge - Thanks From Ingalls Creek

The recent response to the "Ingalls Creek \$40,000 Matching Fund" resulted in receipt of \$29,200 from West Side Church. With additional gifts received, this will assure the completion of the Lodge at Ingalls Creek. Founders Alan and Anna Waltar, retreat center director Mary Robinson, and the Board of Directors together give thanks for this extraordinary support from West Side. Appreciation is given for the many prayers, the countless hours of labor, donations of funds, materials and furnishings. [Additional funds above those matched will bring us closer to a fully functional kitchen.] We are confident God will provide the resources to finish the Lodge.



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[Additional funds above those matched will bring us closer to a fully functional

kitchen.] We are confident God will provide the resources to finish the Lodge.

The apartment project adopted by Cashmere Presbyterian Church is coming along nicely. Kitchen cabinets were recently installed



by West Side member Marty Evans and laminate is on order for the counter tops. In November, Steve and Sandra Critchlow and Alan Waltar helped to complete the "new" water well installation which yielded over 100 gal/min. Other volunteers are working under the supervision of Larry Miller from the Cashmere church. All of this is helping to reach the goal of completing the Lodge by May 31. Watch for the dedication/completion/celebration announcement in 2012!

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The West Side Church Deacons thank you all for your support of the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets as well as Christmas presents. Your generosity allowed food boxes to be delivered to 45 families both at Thanksgiving and Christmas with a variety of foods and over 140 Christmas gifts to children in these families. The generosity of West Side Church is evident to all of these families and your contribution has made a large impact to our community. Thank you so much from all of the West Side Deacons!

Thanks. Lisa Brouwer painted our church logo and mission statement on the walls in both buildings in December. Did you notice? She also does murals, faux painting, and illustrates several publications - you can reach Lisa at 509.391.0364.

Deacon Beacon

Domestic Violence Services. In an average week, 10 families will stay at the Domestic Violence Services (DVS) shelter in the Tri-Cities. The large home in a confidential location is a refuge for women and children in need of a safe place to escape the violence in their homes. An anonymous victim described the blessing of the shelter this way, "He was hitting me and hitting me. I didn't know what to do. I took the baby and ran out the door - It was winter, and I was barefoot with no coat. I just ran to the nearest gas station and asked them to call police. We ended up at the shelter. It was tough but they were kind to us there. They

gave us everything we needed - food, clothes, shoes, and went to court with me. It was the first time I felt safe in a long time."

DVS is one of the agencies the West Side Deacon fund supports. Through your generosity, DVS is able to help victims of violence

and oppression in our community. DVS advocates are available 24 hours (509.582.9841) to assist anyone who has questions or concerns about domestic violence.



Pray For Our Mali Vision Trip Team: Jan. 23-Feb. 3

Prayers for our team:

- For safe travel to Mali and safe ground transportation to and from the field daily.
- For good health for all the team.
- For continued relationship building while meeting with World Vision staff, government and village officials, villagers, and our sponsored children.
- For us to be able to see the physical and discern the spiritual transformations taking place.
- For our team to leave the “fragrance” of God everywhere we go.
- For spiritual bonding as a team, and the ability to hear God’s heart for Mali.



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

Through a combination of child sponsorship and fundraising for special projects, West Side supports the Malian World Vision staff in its work of bringing clean water, schools, clinics, micro-finance, cooperative gardens, and improved food security to villages in the Beledougou area. Recognizing that relationships are the key to success in any program of this kind, West Side sends a team to Mali every other year to build friendships with Malian staff, government officials, village chiefs and elders, and to visit sponsored children and their families. Over 180 children are sponsored by West Siders in Mali.



Delivering Your Love in Packages

Vision Trip team to carry gifts to your sponsored child

Staff at World Vision Mali headquarters in Bamako await your letters, photos & gifts. Stuff a manilla envelope, add your child’s name with ID # & drop it by the office by Jan 8th. Got luggage to recycle? Donate it for carrying packets & use in Mali.

Pick up a Letter, Photo & Gift Ideas brochure on the children’s photo board outside the office

You Have An Epic Role To Play!
Get threaded into the biggest story of all time.



Jan. 17-May 8, 2012
Tuesday Evenings 6:15-9:15 pm
Central Church
(1124 Stevens Dr, Richland)

Questions: Dave Shupe, Coordinator, midcolumbiaperspectives@charter.net
\$100 scholarships available from Missions Council to West Side Church members

Pastor John Piper:

“Perspectives has been essential in mobilizing hundreds of lay people in our church to be World Christians.”

Perspectives Student:

“Every believer should take this course. It is imperative in order to understand the whole of scripture and the why of our presence on earth!”

Alpha at West Side

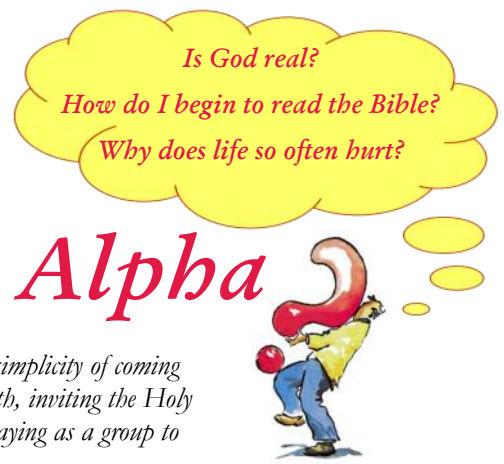
By Ken Geelhood

We had our final Alpha meeting of the fall quarter on Dec. 6, 2011. The Alpha team and the guests had such a great time that we thought we would share more about Alpha with you. Many people wonder what exactly Alpha is. Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. The Alpha course meets once a week for 10 weeks and includes an amazing weekend getaway. At each session, people enjoy great food, laughter, and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere where no question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile...questions like: Is there a God? Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going?

The food alone is a reason to come to Alpha! We have a fantastic kitchen crew with years of experience preparing food for Alpha groups. Dishes like grilled salmon, spiral ham, and chicken tacos are fixtures on the menu. With the recent addition of the professional kitchen at West Side North, the kitchen team has gotten to flex their culinary muscles. This fall we had freshly baked desserts on several occasions! After dinner, the guests watch a video by Nicky Gumbel discussing various topics such as "Who is Jesus?", "How does God guide us?", and "Why and how do I pray?". Following the video, guests break into small groups to discuss the topic of the video or any other topic on the guests' minds. Every question is welcome at Alpha!

Last fall was an amazing time for Alpha. Several people prayed to become Christians! The response from the guests was fantastic: *"Before I started the course I was a non-Christian. Now I am a Christian in work. Alpha removed the barriers and fears to asking the Lord to come into my heart";* *"Before I started Alpha I was semi-interested in the Christian faith. Now I am very interested. I think and believe this course is*

moving me to a way that I've wanted for a long time."; *"I particularly liked the emphasis on simplicity of coming to God in faith, inviting the Holy Spirit and praying as a group to invite Him."*



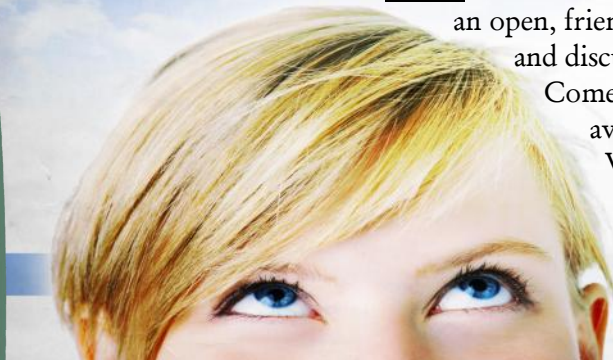
Women's Morning Alpha will begin Thurs., Jan. 26. Evening Alpha will be starting again on Tues., Mar. 6. Perhaps you know someone with whom you would like to share your faith or who is interested in learning more about Christianity. Alpha would be a great course for that person! You may attend the class with your friend, or send your friend alone. Either way, your friend will quickly make friends with the Alpha team and the other guests! Maybe your friend isn't sure about committing to a 10-week program. No problem! The first week is an introduction and discusses the feelings that some may have that Christianity is boring, irrelevant, or untrue. If your friend decides the course sounds interesting, they may sign up that week. If they decide it's not for them, at least they got a great meal!

To learn more about Alpha at West Side contact Karel Coppock (946.4656 or kcoppock@westside1.org) or Ken Geelhood (371.0614 or kgeelhood@gmail.com). For Women's Morning Alpha contact Julie Coppock (943.5565). To learn more about Alpha, visit www.alphausa.org or Alphasewa.org.

Alpha - An opportunity to explore the meaning of life.

- How can I be sure God is there?
- What is the meaning of life?
- What happens when we die?
- What relevance does Jesus have for our lives?

Ladies: Come ask your questions and find answers as you explore faith in an open, friendly environment. A tasty brunch is followed by a talk and discussion groups on Thursday mornings for 12 weeks. Come and join us! Feel free to invite a friend!! Childcare available. Women's Alpha begins Thurs., Jan. 26, 9:15 am, WS South Upper Rm. For more information, contact Julie Coppock (943.5565) or Tamara Brown (627.5277).



Coming Soon ... Women's Alpha!

Clerk of Session Report - Fall 2011

By Ken Swinth

The months seem to have flown by, but Session continues to be busy attending to the business of the church. In the past couple of months, we have had five special Session meetings (nine for the year) in addition to the regular monthly Session meetings. Several of the meetings dealt with the rental (to Trinity Church) and sale of the West Side Activity Center. You will have an opportunity to act on the sale at the upcoming Jan. 4 Congregational meeting. In addition, the special meetings also allowed us to meet with new members and welcome them into our church, and to approve the hiring of Patrick Smith as our new Worship Director per the recommendations of the Worship Director Search Committee.

The rental and sale of the West Side Activity Center has also been an important topic at the regular Session meetings. We have been pleased to see that our budget has done well, and we will not use up our reserves as originally anticipated as well. We have also been concerned over the changes in the national Presbyterian church. We sent representatives to a meeting of the Fellowship group this summer; and, after their report we are sending representatives to a meeting in January during which a constitution for the Fellowship group will be considered. The Fellowship group is a group breaking away from the main body of the national Presbyterian church and information has been presented to the congregation at separate meetings and in previous issues of the SERVANT. Session also sent representatives to the local Presbytery meeting where changes in the national church were also a topic of concern.

The "Hello Mali" event in October was a successful fundraiser, and the Missions Council is planning to have this event every other year with a smaller event or prayer focus on alternate years. Another subject of

discussion has been providing more focus on fundraising events and information provided in the narthex(s). The focus is to improve the presentation of information and not have a confusion of both information and requests for funds. The amount of activity is a result of the depth and breadth of the involvement of our church family in works that make a difference. A timeline of the fundraising events was put together and discussed at Session as part of the ongoing process.

Aaron Monheim felt a call to Pastoral Ministry and was put into the Inquiry process under the care of Session. Ryan Donahoe entered this process earlier. The Library has seen several changes in conjunction with the "Refresh project" and the development of the new kitchen. The efforts of the Library Committee in bringing the facility up-to-date are highly appreciated, and Session sent a letter of appreciation to the committee. Several transfers of funds were made to ensure that building costs were charged to the proper accounts. An account was established for funds provided to support Tyler and Rochelle Holm's trip to Malawi. Another account is being established for Chris Smith's "disinfector."

We had a short presentation on foster care through the Catholic Family and Child Services. There is a real need for this care in our area, and the congregation will be hearing more about it soon. Glenda Schlahta reported that the Marcus Whitman tutoring program has been very successful, and we are receiving inquiries from other interested parties on how to establish a program. Again you will hear more about this later. There were many other routine matters recorded by Session such as service of communion, deaths, weddings, baptisms, etc

Your Vision Of God Determines The Quality Of Your Life - cont.

I make this challenge for one simple reason: Your vision of God determines the quality of your life. God wants you to experience all the fullness of life. He has given us Jesus so we might draw close to Him and worship Him as He really is. Jesus will dispel all our false images of God. If you take up this challenge, I wager you will be surprised this one amazing reality—Jesus is always much more and much less than we expect. He is challenging and compassionate, fierce and friendly, merciful

and demanding. He is like no one else you will ever meet. But, most importantly, he makes all the difference in the world. Because when you worship the One who is Life itself, you will live forever in all the fullness of life. I hope you experience the risen Lord Jesus more and more in your life this coming year.

Blessings in Christ, Ralph





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