

NOV  
2010



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[www.westside1.org](http://www.westside1.org)

## Next Steps Together

By Rev. Ralph Kieneker



Following Christ is a journey with many steps. As long as we live or until Jesus returns, the journey remains unfinished. (I also believe this journey is only a foretaste of the real journey that begins in the life to come—but talking about that will have to wait.) The journey we are on this side of eternity is not an isolated pursuit. Each of us must own our steps, but at the same time we are called to make this journey together—to lend a hand when needed, as well as be willing to lean on others when help is provided.

This month we are going to be focusing our attention on our next steps in following Jesus. Through sermons and Life Groups, we are asking everyone to take seriously the call of *Going Deeper* in our relationship with Jesus by encouraging one another to take the next step God is calling us to make. Pastor Dan will be sharing more about this in his article.

As we talk about taking next steps in the journey of following Christ, each step we take represents change. Growing up in Christ is always a process of change. However unsettling or difficult, changes are part of God's plan for us. This doesn't mean all change is part of God's plan, but it does mean being open to change should be the norm.

Right now, there is a lot of change happening and being considered in our life together at West Side. I don't know how you feel about it, but there are times when I ask, "Lord, really, this too?" Let me just give you a brief list of some of the significant changes that have already been approved:

- Implement a congregational plan of discipleship
- Change Sunday morning worship schedule

- Work towards greater integration in Sermons, Life Groups, Youth and Children's Ministries
- Request approval to sell West Side Activity Center and 606 Wright
- Remodel Kitchen/Koinonia Kafé area
- Hire a Worship Director
- Improve communication – e.g., Logo, Bulletins, Newsletters, and e-mails

Then there are the possible changes that could be approved in the near future:

- Refresh the Buildings
- Purchase property

The hope and desire of the church leadership is that each of these changes is a faithful response to God's call to follow Him. But taking steps means it is possible to leave people behind. Change has the real possibility of fracturing our fellowship. But this danger is not one we can avoid by refusing to change. Change as a faithful response to God's call always means increased spiritual vitality. In the face of change we should seek the Lord's will together and embrace unity—as Paul describes it—having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

So as we find our church family in a time of many changes, I want to suggest some ways we should strive to move forward together:

- Unity of goal: We are seeking to do the Lord's will, however difficult.
- Participate in the process of discernment: Some decisions will be made through congregational meetings—make an effort to attend these meetings so you can prayerfully share your thoughts and voice.

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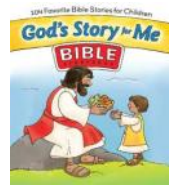
# Bibles For Our Children

By Heather Smith

When a child is baptized or dedicated at West Side we promise that we will “guide and nurture” each child “by word and deed, with love and prayer.”

One of the tangible ways in which we can do this is to stand alongside our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parents and children as they receive their Bibles, which they will do on Sun., Nov. 21.

In light of where God is guiding CFM, towards *Faith At Home: Equipping Parents for Spiritual Nurture in the Home*, we desire to partner with parents in giving a Bible to their children. So on the prior Sun., Nov. 14, we will have a *Special Sunday School Faith At Home Event for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Families*. This will occur during the elementary Sunday School hour. As families, they will play together and learn about



the importance of God's Word, and the parents will have time to prayerfully write a personal message in their child's Bible and pick out a life verse for their child.

Since it is never too early to dig into God's Word, we are giving a Bible Storybook to our 3 and 4 year old children. We will have a special ceremony planned for our young children and their parents on Nov. 21 during their Sunday School class. They too will learn about the importance of reading God's Word regularly, and the parents can write a brief note in their child's Bible.

Please be in prayer for all of our children and young families that they would continue to fall in love with God's Word and live in light of its truth.

## Operation Christmas Child

By Becky Minister & Heather Smith

Oksana Nelson grew up in a Russian orphanage. She had nothing to call her own, was hopeless, and could not see a future until she was given a shoebox from Operation Christmas Child. The box gave her the first things she could call her own. And when she came upon a picture of the family that packed the box she was filled with hope because someone cared for her. Oksana was later adopted by a family in the U.S. and volunteers with Samaritan's Purse. She now sees how her future can be dedicated to serving children and sharing the love of Jesus with them. She declares that a “box is not just a box.” And at West Side, we have the opportunity to bless children like Oksana through packing a shoebox.

We will be collecting filled shoeboxes Nov. 14 - 21. This year Samaritan's Purse needs even more boxes to bring hope and joy to the children of Haiti. And there is now a 10-lesson Bible study in 28 languages that accompanies the shoeboxes. Children who graduate from the program receive a diploma and a Bible. In addition, if you make your shoebox donation on-line, you will be able to track your box.

All you need to do is fill a shoebox with school supplies, hygiene items, and toys. Pick up a brochure at the Welcome Station or look for fliers in the bulletin for more details. Please share the love of God by touching the life of a child.

### How do I pack a shoebox?

1. Grab a shoebox.



2. Choose a **BOY** or **GIRL**.

3. Fill the box with gifts.



4. Include your \$7 donation.

5. Return your box to the narthex by Sun., Nov. 21.



## Senior Adult Ministry

Person To Person lunch on Mon, Nov. 1, 15 & 29, 12:00 pm, WS Activity Center. Call Sheila Phillips (727.5431) if you need a ride.

FOF (Fabulous Folks Over Fifty) on Fri., Nov. 5, 5:45 pm, WS South Upper Room. Gary and Chris Troyer (CUP) will be presenting about their trip to India for Rotary International's goal to eradicate polio. Come and be informed and bring your table service and main dish, salad, or dessert. If possible, bring a dish from the previous cookbook or the newest one (don't have one - check at the church office or the Welcome Station in WSN). Questions - contact George and Edna Sehmel (943.9044).

## Men's Ministry

Men's Equipping Conference on Sat., Nov. 6, 8:30 am-4:45 pm, Bethel Church (Richland). Registration ends Oct. 31 - if you haven't registered in the narthex on Sunday, contact Bob Tibbatts (946.9905 or [ngaire3@frontier.com](mailto:ngaire3@frontier.com)) ASAP! We will meet for breakfast at 7:30 am, Nov. 6, WS South Upper Room before carpooling to the Iron Sharpens Iron Conference. All men (ages 13 and older) are welcome to attend.

Sarah Squares, spouses of Sarah Circle ladies, will meet for lunch on Wed., Nov. 17, 11:30 am, Sterlings Restaurant (Richland).



## Women's Ministry

Festival of Tables. Celebrate the start of the holiday season at the Festival of Tables: "Fear Not! Good Tidings," Sat., Dec. 4, West Side Activity Center. This favorite Christmas event for many West Side women is one you don't want to miss! This year our speaker will be Rev. Kay Browleit, Shoreline Presbyterian Church. Kay grew up at West Side and has served in a variety of ministries for 25 years. Our own "Festival Singers" and the Evans family will bring seasons greetings through song. We have a dynamic group of women serving to bring us an exciting event: Kayla Pratt (chair), Diane Pratt, Sarah Landon, Debbie Mellinger, Susan Birney, Faye Serene and Sandra Critchlow. Tickets are \$10 per person and will go on sale beginning Sun. Nov. 7, between services. If you are interested in hosting a table, we still have a few spaces available. Questions? Contact Sandra Critchlow (967.5060) or Sarah Landon (628.8786).



Sarah Circle. Wed., Nov. 17, 11:30 am, Old Country Buffet. Come share memories: pictures, mementos, and stories. Bring your Operation Christmas Child shoebox and we will deliver it to be shipped.

## Tree of Thanks

Tree of Thanks. Give God thanks and find out what others are thankful for! Coming soon - there will be a Tree of Thanks in each narthex and a set of "praying hands" in the Sunday bulletins. You can add to the Tree of Thanks by writing on both sides of the praying hands something which you are especially thankful for right now!

Morning Glory. Join us on Thursdays, 9:00-11:00 am, WS North Room 2-4, for fellowship, prayer, laughter, and enlightenment. Need childcare - contact Faye Serene (946.4656).

Knitter's Group. Wed., Nov. 3, 1:00 pm, WS South Upper Room. Anyone is invited to join and share their projects with others

## Helping Hands

The Deacons on occasion hear of parishioners who need a helping hand or are willing to help other parishioners.

If you would like to be a "helping hand," please fill out the information below and place in the offering plate or return to the church office.

Helping Hands

I CAN help with:

- Transport
- Meals
- Housework
- Yard Work
- Resumes/Email
- Child Care
- Grocery Shopping

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Deacons' Helping Hands

Be a "helping hand" to those in need at West Side. Fill out a Helping Hands form available at the Welcome Stations or contact deacon Susan Birney (628.3501).

# How “Sticky” Is Our Youth Ministry?

By Rev. Stuart Strachan

One of the big buzzwords these days in youth ministry is “sticky” or ministry that “sticks.” It’s kind of a funny word, but what it is trying to get at are the practices and ministries that involve students that actually stick...

meaning that students actually take something away from Sunday school or a small group or a conversation with a youth leader.

So what does stick? Advertisers have known for years that in order for a person to remember an ad they must see it an average of 3 times before they actually retain the message. Not that we should constantly take our cues in the church from the advertising world, but maybe they are on to something. Maybe it takes hearing the same message a couple of different times, or at least in a couple different ways, for the message to stick. Our hope here at West Side Church is that the gospel would “stick” with our students...but in order for that to happen, we need your help. We need you as parents, as leaders, as volunteers, to invest your time in our students so that the message doesn’t get left on the “porch,” as they enter into the rest of their lives.

One of the easiest ways for the message to stick is to help create integrated social lives for our students. What I am talking about is a world in which youth programs are not completely different from the rest of our students’ lives. What I am talking about is a place where parents engage their students in conversations about faith at home. What we

don’t walk is a bipolar reality for our students, where youth group is completely different from their school or home experience. As parents, it might be near impossible to change the social scene in your students’ high school, but you can definitely affect the way they experience life at home. The sociologist Christian Smith (whose work was the focus of

our recent Faith at Home event) comments after extensive research, “those teenagers for whom religious faith and practice are important tend to have religious lives constructed relationally and institutionally to intersect and overlap with other important aspects of their lives” (Soul Searching, 28). In other words, teenagers who care about their faith live in a world where their social experiences encourage, rather than discourage, their faith. My encouragement to you is to create a space in your homes where faith can be lived out, where deep conversations about God and life can take place. Because trust me, if they don’t happen in your homes, they will happen somewhere. And remember, you don’t have to be an expert! That kid in biology class talking about the fact that evolution proves God doesn’t exist: he’s not an expert either! If we are going to provide the kind of ministry that “sticks” with a student, we need to have courage and trust that God will use us, no matter what.

God bless, Rev. Stu



## Reach Out - Be A Classroom Volunteer

Marcus Whitman Elementary School is again in need of volunteers in their classrooms, mostly to help with reading. But they also need help with their afterschool Homework Club and to play games with kids and build relationships during recess.

If you are interested, please contact Phyllis Strickler (943.2444) and watch for sign-ups in the narthex on Sunday mornings. It’s a great opportunity to serve and bring a little of God’s love to kids who really need it!



## McIntosh Memorial Library

### November Focus - Audio Books

Audio books and radio theater are great for commuting and road trips, and we also enjoy listening at home while cooking, crafting and relaxing. This month, our new titles include old classics (*A Christmas Carol* and *Pilgrim's Progress*) and new titles by Eugene Peterson, Nancy Ortberg, Joshua Harris and others. In addition to audio books, we have new fiction titles and the newest DVD from VeggieTales.

#### Library News



### The Library Is Moving

In the next few weeks, the library will be moving in order to make space for the new kitchen. We'll be announcing our new location soon, so plan to come see us and see what's new.

We welcome your library comments and suggestions. Please talk to Pam Cadd or Susan Carbaugh, or email [Library@WestSide1.org](mailto:Library@WestSide1.org).

## Harvest Meal Celebration

With the help of our generous agricultural community, Fields of Grace provided nearly 175,000 individual servings this year to those in need. Celebrate God's blessings with us at our second annual Harvest Meal Celebration:

- ▲ Event is **Sat., Nov. 13, 6:00-8:00 pm**, Cathedral of Joy (1153 Gage Blvd., Richland).
- ▲ The meal will be a **potluck. Bring a dish that includes one or more of the types of produce** that we harvested this year: apples, cherries, apricots, plums, potatoes, corn, green beans, prunes, peppers (sweet and hot).
- ▲ The program will include a **review of the year and plans for 2011**. We'll also honor our **top agricultural donors and the Carpool Challenge winners**.

Seating is limited to 100—if you plan to attend, please RSVP at [www.fields-of-grace.com](http://www.fields-of-grace.com) and click on “2010 Harvest Meal Celebration” under “Upcoming Events.” Or call Sue at 628.1063.



As we wind down another year of gleaning, we are truly grateful to all the volunteers who make this possible. Thank you!

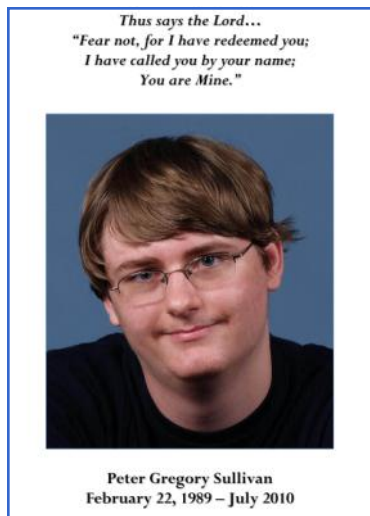
## To Our West Side Family:

We want to express our deepest thanks to you, our family here in the Tri-Cities, for the incredible and overwhelming love and care you have provided to us during this time of loss of our son Peter.

Through you, the truest sense of family has been evinced to us - both in the everyday physical sense, and in the spiritual and eternal sense of the family of God. You have made the memorial service for Peter on Oct. 2 a testimony to the love of God incarnate, which radiates from West Side and affects many lives for Christ.

We continue to experience the blessing and enabling from Christ's body here, as talented friends are helping us with their skills to create two DVD's from Oct. 2.

When done with the process, we would like to make them available to you: “Celebrating the Life of Peter in Pictures” contains the 10 minute slideshow and a second, longer slideshow set of more pictures of Peter's life with music; the second DVD “Peter Sullivan Memorial Service” has a video of the whole service and also a shortened version of the service with just the talks from family/friends and the message. If this is something you would like to have, please leave your name with Wendy or Pat in the church office (946.4656) with your specific order and where we can mail or deliver them to.



Thanks again.  
With Love, Terry, Nancy, and Brandon

# November

## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

|  |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|
|   | <p>Person to Person 12:00pm -WSAC <b>1</b><br/>A/V Training 6:30pm-WSS</p> | <p>Adult Bible Study <b>2</b><br/>10:30am-WSN<br/>Alpha 6:15pm -WSS<br/>ESL/Citizenship Classes 6:30pm-WSN<br/>College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'<br/>Worship Committee 7:00pm -WSN</p>   | <p>Knitters Group 1:00pm -WSS <b>3</b><br/>Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN<br/>Youth Worship 4:00pm-WSS<br/>BASIC (MS) 6:30pm-WSS<br/>Deacons 7:00pm-WSN</p>  | <p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat<br/>Morning Glory 9<br/>Women's Alpha -WSN<br/>Adult Choir 7:00<br/>Worship Team 7<br/></p>                                       |
| <p>Worship: <b>7</b><br/>CS &amp; Children's Church 8:15am-WSS<br/>CS &amp; Sunday School 9:45am-WSS<br/>TS 11:15am-WSN<br/>Youth Worship 4:30pm-WSS<br/>Christmas Practice 6:00pm-WSN<br/>Fuel (HS) 7:00pm-WSS</p>  | <p><b>8</b></p>  | <p>Adult Bible Study <b>9</b><br/>10:30am-WSN<br/>Alpha 6:15pm -WSS<br/>ESL/Citizenship Classes 6:30pm-WSN<br/>College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'<br/> <b>Preschool Clean-up Night -WSN</b></p> | <p>Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN <b>10</b><br/>Youth Worship 4:00pm-WSS<br/>BASIC (MS) 6:30pm-WSS</p>   | <p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat<br/>Morning Glory 9<br/>Women's Alpha -WSN<br/>Missions Council<br/>Adult Choir 7:00<br/>Worship Team 7<br/> <b>Veteran</b></p> |
| <p>Worship: <b>14</b><br/>CS &amp; Children's Church 8:15am-WSS<br/>CS &amp; Sunday School 9:45am-WSS<br/>TS 11:15am-WSN<br/>Youth Worship 4:30pm-WSS<br/>Christmas Practice 6:00pm-WSN<br/>Fuel (HS) 7:00pm-WSS</p> | <p>Person to Person 12:00pm -WSAC <b>15</b></p>                            | <p>Adult Bible Study <b>16</b><br/>10:30am-WSN<br/>Alpha 6:15pm -WSS<br/>ESL/Citizenship Thanksgiving Dinner 6:30pm-WSAC<br/>College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'</p>   | <p>Sarah Circle 11:30am -Old Country Buffet <b>17</b><br/>Sarah Squares 11:30am<br/>Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN<br/>Youth Worship 4:00pm-WSS<br/>BASIC (MS) 6:30pm-WSS<br/> <b>Faith At Home Event-WSN</b></p> | <p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat<br/>Morning Glory 9<br/>Women's Alpha -WSN<br/>Missions Prayer 6<br/>Adult Choir 7:00<br/>Worship Team 7</p>   |
| <p>Worship: <b>21</b><br/>CS &amp; Children's Church 8:15am-WSS<br/>CS &amp; Sunday School 9:45am-WSS<br/>TS 11:15am-WSN<br/>Youth Worship 4:30pm-WSS<br/>Christmas Practice 6:00pm-WSN<br/>Fuel (HS) 7:00pm-WSS</p> | <p><b>22</b></p>   | <p>Adult Bible Study <b>23</b><br/>10:30am-WSN<br/>College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'</p>   | <p><b>24</b></p>   | <p><b>Church Office C</b><br/><br/><b>Thanksgiving Din</b><br/>-WSAC<br/><br/></p>   |
| <p>Worship: <b>28</b><br/>CS &amp; Children's Church 8:15am-WSS<br/>CS &amp; Sunday School 9:45am-WSS<br/>TS 11:15am-WSN<br/></p> | <p>Person to Person 12:00pm -WSAC <b>29</b></p>                            | <p>Adult Bible Study <b>30</b><br/>10:30am-WSN<br/>Alpha 6:15pm -WSS<br/>ESL/Citizenship Classes 6:30pm-WSN<br/>Session 6:30pm-WSN<br/>College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'</p>   | <p> <b>Faith At Home</b><br/><b>Wed., Nov. 17,</b><br/>Come for the evening<br/>consider what the next<br/>may be for your family's spiritual practice<br/>We will primarily focus on Advent.</p>       |   |



# Dancing With The Star: Christian Growth & Discipleship

By Rev. Dan Wodrich



One of my first ventures in both leadership and dancing took place in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I organized a male boycott of square dancing at my school. I didn't think dancing was a legitimate form of "P.E." for us guys – certainly palling in comparison to manly activities: football, basketball, softball, etc. So, I rallied my fellow "men" to exercise our freedom by refusing to dance.

Our teacher had a different view which resulted in our loss of freedom. For the next two weeks, my male classmates and I spent our recesses writing the following sentence 500 times, *"I promise to participate in all physical education activities, including acrobatics, badminton, checkers, dancing...to z."* Then our teacher gave us another chance to square dance, which we chose to do. And though my pride kept me from admitting it, it was actually pretty fun, despite the "girl germs."

Now I'm not a very good dancer (my wife and daughters would concur!), but I'm learning. And the most important dance I'm learning in life is the one with Christ – that is, with God Himself and with other people. I think the toughest thing for me to learn is I'm not leading this dance, He is. He calls me to follow as He is leading. Jesus Christ is the living picture of what a truly human dancer looks like, filled with the Spirit of God. He created us to share in His life-dance with His Father and our Father – and as we do so with Him, we discover the dancing to be far better than we could have asked for or imagined!

A first step He leads us in deals with our tendency to face away from Him, to try to "lead" or even dance "solo" by ourselves. Instead, He steps toward us and calls us to "turn around" to face Him, to let Him lead the dancing, to risk trusting that He knows better than we how to really dance.

A second step is only learned as we directly face Christ – that our Heavenly Father knows and loves us personally, by name. Further, His love for us is unconditional and forgiving – not based on anything we do or don't do – that He loves us and wants us to be sharing in the dance of His life and love – even as we're awkward and clumsy and stepping on his feet.

Another step is "closing our eyes and learning to listen to the sound of His voice" as He leads us in the dancing. We practice this by spending time listening to Him in Scripture together with others.

Another step involves "talking" with Him while we're dancing. Jesus shows us that truly human dancing with God involves both listening to His voice and responding by telling Him what is on our hearts and

minds, asking for help and provision for ourselves and others, thanking and praising Him personally. This "talking" with God dancing – both listening to His words and responding in words – is praying.

Yet another step involves learning generosity and service toward others. We learn to "bow" to others by watching and experiencing Jesus "bowing" to us – thinking not of Himself but of others; generously and graciously stepping toward us, not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for us. These dance steps involve freely, generously, and joyfully sharing with others what He is first giving us – Himself, ourselves, our time, our talents and possessions – for the sake of others. Though it seems counter-intuitive to us, the dance of love and life that Christ is leading us into is matured not by grasping and hanging onto that which He is giving us – but rather by freely receiving and freely giving to others, to bless and benefit them!

And finally, Christ's way of dancing is more like a square dance. Christ is the "caller" and we find ourselves dancing with Him and with one another, by His Spirit, as the body of Christ together. He leads us as we *"bow to our partner; and then bow to our corner."* He interweaves and integrates our dancing into a beautifully-choreographed dance of interpersonal life and love shared with and among us. And as His Spirit grows and matures us in dancing as members of His body together, others see the dancing and hear the music and say, "That looks good and sounds right. The way you're dancing together seems different than the kind of empty line-dancing the world is engaged in."

On Sun., Nov. 28, we will be celebrating together the start of our Christian new year: the Advent season. Between now and then, I want to encourage you to reflect on the dance steps the Lord has been sharing with you and those He is calling you to practice with Him and others in the days ahead. As we dance with Him and one another, there are basic steps that we return to day after day, and there are also new and fresh steps to look forward to dancing with Him and others.

*Since we live by the Spirit of Christ, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Now there's a reality show to participate in, "Dancing with the Star." Wanna dance? "Let's all join hands as we circle the ring, stop where you are, give your partner a swing..."*

With you, in the joy of Christ's dancing Amen. Dan





## The Nations At Our Doorstep: “Bridges and Barriers in International Outreach”

The world has opened up to us in amazing ways, but our encounters are not always easy. We may be unsure of what to say or how to act, particularly when it comes to sharing our faith. People may have a different world view than our own or even a different religion. Today, more than ever, we need wisdom in knowing how to interact with and love the people we meet. Whether we travel or not, we're finding nations at our very doorstep. And very often, what they cherish as cultural and family values are continents away from our own.

**Fri., Nov. 19**, Sylvia Ramquist, Director of International Ministry (Westminster Chapel, Bellevue), will speak at West Side about the “**Bridges and Barriers**” we may encounter in reaching out to people of other cultures. Sylvia and her husband were missionaries in Japan for 20 years before they returned to Westminster Chapel and their ministry to countless internationals in the Redmond/Bellevue area and a partnership with their former church in Hokkaido that has born abundant fruit.

The Missions Committee has invited her to share what she has learned regarding cross-cultural ministry. Sylvia has a contagious enthusiasm and love for Christ. She also has a knowledge of what it takes to step through cultural divides. We encourage you to come for an evening of learning and interaction **Fri., Nov. 19**, 6:30-9:00 pm, **WS North Sanctuary (no registration required)**.

The following day, **Sat., Nov. 20**, Sylvia will be giving a separate seminar on **Alpha for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) from 9:00 am-3:30 pm, WS South Upper Room**. This is specifically designed for people who might be interested in working with foreign nationals using the Alpha course. Lunch will be provided so register in advance with Karel Coppock (946.4656 or [kcoppock@westside1.org](mailto:kcoppock@westside1.org)).

Please keep these two events in your prayers. May God use this time with Sylvia Ramquist to open doors to new ministries and make us better



### Next Steps Together - cont. from pg.

Also, as church leaders share and invite feedback, tell us what you think and why.

- **Submission to leaders:** Some decisions will be made by the Session. A lot of meetings and voting can wear people out as well as deeply fracture the fellowship. In our way of following Christ, we place our trust in God working through a representative body of the membership to discern and decide, in most matters, His direction and will. I believe our Session does a wonderful job of seeking to listen to the Lord's will and prayerfully makes decisions based on Biblical teaching, the Spirit's guidance, and a love for our church family. Sometimes you may not always agree with a specific decision. This is a place where God grows us in trust and humility. Human leaders will not always discern correctly God's will. At the same time, they have given their time and energy to make an informed decision to help serve the whole church.
- **Patience:** Our plan is to include and inform; we want the whole church family to have conviction that we are striving to do His will together. Some of the changes we are proposing have a lot of

parts, and we are trying to bring forward the information in such a way that it is coherent and comprehensive. We don't want to surprise you or slip something by you. If you are wondering what's happening, just ask. If it seems like something is taking a long time; it probably is. If you want to help, let us know.

- **Prayer:** We want God's will to be done. We think the most important thing happening is Christ being formed in and through us. Prayer is the greatest way any of us can participate in encouraging God's will to be done.

I know change can be difficult. It can also be very good. I love worshipping in all three services, greeting, praying, and praising God together. It has been great to see the number of children on Sunday morning has doubled from last year! It's awesome to have Stu onboard as our Pastor of Youth and Family ministries. I am so glad that the sermon notes and Life Group lessons are helping many people engage in the sermons in a more meaningful way. I am excited to see the leaks in our roof get fixed. And there is nothing better than seeing people come alive to Jesus. These types of changes make it all worth it.

Blessings in Christ, Ralph

# Thanksgiving Baskets

The chill in the air that we've been experiencing on recent mornings is a reminder that the holiday season is not far away. Once again, the deacons will be representing you in reaching people in need with food for their holiday dinners. We look forward to your contributions and participation in preparing and delivering food baskets that will brighten their holidays.

For Thanksgiving, we will be collaborating with The Salvation Army, as we did the last two years, in providing Thanksgiving baskets to elderly, house-bound people throughout the Tri-Cities. West Side Church will provide all of the turkeys for the baskets. The Salvation Army will be adding these to the non-perishable supplies so that our church members can deliver them to homes before Thanksgiving.

So beginning immediately, we welcome your offerings of turkeys for the forty or more households. You can place your check (with "turkeys" on the memo line) in the offering plate or at the

church office. If you purchase a frozen turkey, call Chuck Elderkin (375.1684) or John Lipp (539.4659) so they can pick it up and store it until delivery.



Also check your calendar to see if you can help deliver Thanksgiving baskets on Sun., Nov. 21, WS North Narthex. We will be delivering baskets after each worship service.

Requests for Thanksgiving baskets for families in our neighborhood who have been hit by the current economic downturn will be met this year with non-perishable food items in addition to our turkey collections. So instead of putting our collection boxes out in early December for your canned and packaged food items for the Christmas baskets, you will see them in the narthexes on Nov. 7. This will allow us to fill Thanksgiving baskets for these local families as well.

**YOU CAN BE A PARTNER with AMY SCHAMMERT AS SHE SERVES WITH WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS in ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

John is currently working abroad in the greatest nations and he is looking for the Lord's love. Can you help him reach the people of the world? Help him reach the people of the world by supporting his ministry. Help him reach the people of the world by supporting his ministry. Help him reach the people of the world by supporting his ministry.

**WILL YOU BE A PARTNER WITH AMY?**  
You can partner with Amy through prayer and monthly financial gifts.

Contact Amy at 304.647.3473  
www.wycliffebible.org

# Thanksgiving Offering

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we reflect on the goodness of God and declare His wonders through prayer and financial giving. The Missions Council designates a missionary for the Thanksgiving offering every year. This is an opportunity to bless one of our missionaries who is seeking to "make His name known" with a

special financial gift.

This year we are helping our own Amy Schammert, who has responded to the Lord's call to join Wycliffe Bible Translators in Orlando, Florida. Lives are transformed by the truth of God's Word, which is at the heart of Bible translation. How will you be involved in seeing lives changed?

Amy's ministry is funded by one-time gifts as well as regular, monthly giving from individuals and churches. However, she can't begin her role with Wycliffe until she has commitments for the remaining 39% of her ministry budget. Would you prayerfully consider becoming a regular part

of Amy's team as she seeks to follow His call? You can help support Amy's ministry by putting your donation in one of the special Thanksgiving Offering envelopes available on Sunday mornings (put "Thanksgiving Offering" on the memo line of your check).

# Thanksgiving Dinner

Would the holiday be more enjoyable if you shared the meal with your West Side family? John & Harriet Lipp invite you to dinner on **November 25**, Thurs., Nov. 25, 1:00 pm, WS Activity Center. RSVP by Nov. 24 - we will call you about what to bring and your share of the turkey cost. Fill out a form available at the Welcome Stations or call John or Harriet (375.5776).

Would the holiday be more enjoyable if you shared the meal with your West Side family?

John & Harriet Lipp would like to invite you to dinner at 1:00 pm at the WS Activity Center. You will be called about what to bring and your share of the turkey cost. Reservations should be in by Thurs., Nov. 23 - call John or Harriet (375.5776).

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
No. in family \_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_  
Ages of children \_\_\_\_\_

I would help with:  
 Advance set-up and decoration  
 Cleanup

# Clerk Of Session Report - October 2010

By Ken Swinth

The October session meeting was opened in prayer and scripture reading. We divided into small groups and shared how God has worked in our lives and with His timing. It is always a blessing to be reminded how God is faithful to His people.

After dispensing with some of the routine items (records of communion served, of marriages, of transfers, budget status, etc.), we turned to the action items and committee reports. First on the agenda was consideration of a maintenance contract for the Church's computers. We have 11 computers and a server which have been maintained by members as an additional task to their other duties. By entering into a contract we will have consistent and timely service without a significant change in cost. Session approved a contract with elevate.net. The company serves other churches in the area and various businesses.

Considerable time was spent on discussion of the Refresh project and the kitchen move to WSN. Committee members presented information on the plans and discussed the changes contemplated by the architect. Proposed changes would modify the entrances of both buildings (WSN & WSS) and they will be connected by a path to help integrate the facilities. Plantings will be used to assist the integration. Several changes will be made to the rooms and hallways in the WSN facility to improve functionality. There are still elements to work out such as the library, but the architect has done a commendable job of listening to the needs of the staff, preschool and various committees to integrate the many activities into WSN. During discussion it was noted that the children's Sunday school numbers have

almost doubled from last fall and that there appears to be a consistency in growth.

Efforts have already started at getting a cost estimate. The concern remains about being required to bring the whole facility up to current code requirements. The goal is to complete further adjustments to the plan, get a cost estimate, and develop plans suitable to present to the Congregation by mid-November.

Work on the kitchen is moving forward independent of the Refresh project as planned. Plans are pretty solid and appears it may be possible to complete the work by 1/15/11. Since the sale of West Side Activity Center (WSAC) is moving faster than originally expected, it is important that this transition be completed soon.

Discussion focused on presentation of the sale of WSAC to the Congregation. Although we have had several parties express interest, we have only had one offer to date. The offer from a Bible College is of great interest since their goals are similar to the original vision for the Center, "to form a bridge into the community and invest in the next generation." Motions were made and passed (after discussion and consideration) to have an informational meeting on 11/7 and a three-part meeting for the Congregation on 11/14.

Under other business we discussed the use of the Basswood property and the timing of the next session meeting. It was moved and passed to delay the meeting until the 30 due to Thanksgiving holiday. The meeting was closed in prayer at 10:10 pm.



- ◆ New opportunity to build deeper friendships with a few folks!
- ◆ Same group shares one meal per month in January, February, March & April.
- ◆ No program, topic, or study—just being together for fun conversation.
- ◆ We mix in newcomers, old timers, and folks from different worship services.
- ◆ Submit your sign-up form by Nov 10 in the narthex "Bread Baskets" or the church office.
- ◆ If you have *not* received an informational letter and sign-up form, contact the office right away (946.4656) or download a copy at [www.westside1.org](http://www.westside1.org) and click on "Connect."
- ◆ Questions? Email coordinator Kelly Rauh at [kellyrauh@gmail.com](mailto:kellyrauh@gmail.com).



615 Wright Avenue  
Richland, WA 99352  
509.946.4656

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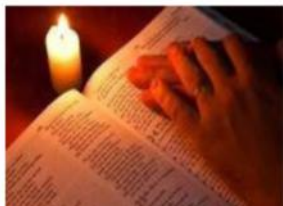
Parents have the primary influence over their children's faith. At West Side, we desire to come alongside you, **the parents**, so join us...



**Wed., November 17**  
Come for the evening as we consider what the next steps may be for your family's spiritual practices. We will primarily focus on Advent.



**Wed., December 15**  
Come out for a night of fellowship and caroling during the holiday season.



## Fall Faith At Home Events

Save the Dates:

November 17

December 15

More Information to Come

### 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*  
Sheila Phillips :: *Ministry Assoc.- Pastoral Care*  
Heather Smith :: *Director-Children & Family Ministries*  
Colleen Strachan :: *Ministry Assoc.- Children & Family Ministries*  
Brenda Welsch :: *Director-Adult Choir*  
Brad Goecke :: *Interim Leader- Worship Team*  
Sharon Isaacson :: *Financial Specialist*  
Diane Pratt :: *Financial Assistant*  
Pat Cassidy :: *Administrative Assistant*  
Wendy Puz :: *Administrative Assistant*  
Colette Root :: *General Ministry*  
Kiet & Ngan Dang :: *Custodians*  
Izudin Porobic :: *WSAC Custodian*

*Want to receive our newsletter via email?  
Contact us at [info@westside1.org](mailto:info@westside1.org) or call the Church Office.*

**West Side Church**  
615 Wright Ave, Richland, WA 99352  
509.946.4656 [www.westside1.org](http://www.westside1.org)