

SEPT  
2010



## Going Deeper

By Rev. Ralph Kieneker

A little less than a year ago, we participated in the REVEAL survey. More than anything else, the survey revealed (sorry for the pun) the passion of our church to grow in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. For a pastor this of course is very exciting! The survey also revealed frustration that our programs and ministries are not adequately helping people to grow.

While it is a little disappointing to hear this type of feedback, it did not come as a surprise to the Session and pastoral staff. We had already been working on developing a strategy and plan for how to help every person in our congregation grow up in Christ together. This September we are going to begin sharing our ideas and implement these plans. Pastor Dan Wodrich has been leading a team of West Siders who have worked for over a year and a half on this task. (He will be giving a few

more specific details of the plan in his article.)

While plans and strategies are significant, these are not the goal. The goal is God. Christianity makes the audacious claim that in Jesus Christ we can know God intimately, personally, and powerfully as our Lord and Savior. Now having a relationship with God is

different from any other relationship. There are unique challenges. We can't see him. Rarely do people experience an audible voice. This relationship, more than any other, requires trust. God has

made Himself known. But He doesn't overwhelm us with His power and might. His Spirit gently comforts and transforms us. His Word speaks to us if we will listen. He humbly invites us to draw near to Him.

Yet the common question is "How?" How do we go deeper into this relationship with God?

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## New Worship Schedule - Begins Sept. 12, "Kick off Sunday"

8:15 am Contemporary Worship Service, WSS (with Children's Church)

9:45 am Contemporary Worship Service, WSS with Sunday School (all ages\*)

11:15 am Traditional Worship Service, WSN \*

*\*Watch for Christian Growth brochure available soon with descriptions of adult discipleship classes to be offered at 9:45 and 11:15 am.*



## Children's Church

By Heather Smith and Kim Tucker

Over the last several months we have been discussing how to make Sunday mornings more accessible for our young families and those we are called to invite into our flock. We recognize that our current worship structure makes it difficult for some of our families with young children; therefore, we felt led to create two new options for families.

First, starting Sept. 12, there will be a worship service at 9:45, during what is presently called the Sunday School hour. This will be an option for parents who want to attend worship while their children are in Sunday School. Presently families with children must make a 3 hour commitment to participate in both worship and Sunday School; we believe this service provides a simpler alternative. This is also a great option for newcomers.

Second, starting Sept. 12, kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will now have the option to attend Children's Church during our 8:15 worship service. Children's Church will not replace the whole worship service for children. Children will still

worship with their families and the larger body of Christ for the first part of the worship service and then be dismissed.

In CFM, Faith at Home is still a major focus which is what led us to the idea of helping our 4<sup>th</sup> graders transition back into corporate worship. Starting in the spring each year, 4<sup>th</sup> graders will have the opportunity to learn more about corporate worship, including instruction on the sacraments with their parents. We hope to make this a significant event in each child's life and even mark it with a special celebration so that these families look at being in worship together as a gift instead of a burden.

If you would like to join in the ministry of Children's Church, please contact Heather Smith. And if you feel that Children's Church would be a good place for your child to be on Sunday mornings, there are pre-registration forms on the Welcome Station in WSS.



## Kingdom Care - What's In A Name . . .

By Gail Dotson

West Siders will find the new name "Kingdom Care" replacing the "Childcare" ministry this fall as we begin our new service schedule. Our Kingdom Care providers do much more than just "childcare" and now our name reflects this intentional, loving ministry to West Side's youngest attendees. The Kingdom Care Committee (Heather Smith, Peggy Wheeler, Gail Dotson, Cindy Kieneker, Colleen Strachan, and Pat VanLeuven) have been brainstorming how to develop a more effective ministry on Sunday mornings with our West Side infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. An introspective review of our procedures and goals precipitated various changes.

The name Kingdom Care reflects our belief that it is important to enfold even our youngest children into a loving church family centered around a relationship with Jesus Christ. God offers an open invitation to each of us regardless of age or life experience to come spend time with Him, the Great High King! Our name change echoes this quality which we value in our adults and children alike.

This fall, each room will have an interactive Bible Story time, snacks, and free play. Every child, no matter what service they attend, will hear the Word of God presented in a manner they can relate to and enjoy.

As in the past, the caregivers continue to be a multi-generational group of men and women who have been trained to shepherd our tender (and vigorous) flock. Our desire is to build friendship between the children, between child and shepherd, as well as between the shepherds. This emphasis will encourage the formation of ministry teams better equipped to meet the needs of our youngsters each week. Special semi-annual training sessions have been designed to inform, excite, and unite each team of shepherds.

We need others to join this ministry. Volunteers are needed for each of the three services. And the Kingdom Care Committee is not a closed committee; if you feel called to serve on the committee or as a volunteer, please contact Heather Smith or Colleen Strachan at the church.

## Men's Ministry

Men's Fellowship Supper on Fri., Sept. 10, 6:00-9:00 pm, WS Activity Center. Enjoy a delicious Dutch Oven meal, fellowship, and hear the testimony of Yakima-native Dave Edler, former Mariners' Third Baseman and current church pastor. Contact Bob Tibbatts (946.9905 or [ngaire3@verizon.net](mailto:ngaire3@verizon.net)) to register by noon on Tues., Sept. 7.

*Dave Edler was born Aug. 5, 1956, in Sioux City, Iowa. He is a former Mayor of Yakima, Washington, and a current member of the Yakima City Council. Dave played Third Base for the Seattle Mariners from 1980-83. Dave is currently the Senior Pastor at Yakima Four-square Church.*



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

## Senior Adult Ministry

Person To Person lunch on Mondays, 12:00 pm, WS Activity Center, Sept. 13 and 27. Are you available to have lunch every other Monday? Join us for a delicious meal and fellowship. We are usually finished about 1:30 pm. A donation for the lunch is appreciated.

SAM (Senior Adult Ministry) lunch out on Mon., Sept. 20, 11:30 am, Rosy's Diner (404 Bradley Blvd. - Richland).

Call Sheila Phillips (727.5431) if you need a ride to either lunch.

FOF (Fabulous Folks Over Fifty) on Fri., Sept. 3, 5:45 pm, WS South Upper Room. Please bring a main dish, salad, or dessert and your table service. Contact George and Edna Sehmel (943.9044) for more information.

**Sept. 12**  
"Walking Together" Luke 5:27-32

**Sept. 19**  
"Abiding Together" John 15:1-14

**Sept. 26**  
"Life Together" Heb. 10:19-25

**Sermon Series: Growing Together**

## Women's Ministry

Morning Glory. Are you a woman who would love to be with other women who together dig into God's Word on a weekly basis? Starting Sept. 16, join us Thursday mornings, 9:00-11:00 am, WS North Fireside Room, for fellowship, fun, prayer, laughter, and enlightenment as we study three letters from Paul, I and II Timothy, and Titus. This will be led by a team of women, one of whom is Patty Wilburn who says, "I've personally found these letters to be rich in the MOST practical teaching ... I think they're a gold mine, myself!" Come discover the golden nuggets God has for you! If you need childcare, please contact Patty Wilburn (946.9725).

Sarah Circle. Gird your loins and get in step - our busy year begins Wed., Sept. 8, 11:30 am, WS South Upper Room. Come join us for delicious food, faith-enriching devotions, mission outreach programs, and good fellowship.

Upcoming Conferences this fall:

- Women of Faith - Sept. 17-18 (Spokane) or Oct. 8-9 (Portland); Fri. 10:00 am-3:30 pm and 7:00-9:30 pm and Sat. 9:00 am-4:00 pm (both locations). Registration of \$99 includes lodging and box lunch both days ([www.womenoffaith.com](http://www.womenoffaith.com)).
- Beth Moore - Oct. 29-30 (Spokane); Fri. 6:00-9:30 pm and Sat. 8:30 am-12:00 pm. Registration of \$60 includes lodging and all meals ([www.lifeway.com/livingproof](http://www.lifeway.com/livingproof)).

Planning on attending a conference? Contact Susan Birney ([susan.birney@gmail.com](mailto:susan.birney@gmail.com)) who can let you know if others have registered so you may coordinate travel plans with other attendees.



# New Look For Youth Programs

By Rev. Stuart Strachan

With all that is changing in the life of our congregation, it might be possible to overlook the changes occurring in our youth ministry programs at West Side. But change surely is coming, with the hope that our programs echo some of the same discipleship strategies that Dan and his group have been working on for some time. One of the stated goals has been to create a discipleship process that enables believers to grow. The youth committee and I have begun to shape our programs with that understanding. We recognize our students are often in different places of spiritual maturity, and it is our call to provide different opportunities that reach students where they are in their walk with Christ. With those reasons in mind, our high

school programs will be looking a bit different than they have in the past.

Starting Sun., Sept. 19 at 7:00 pm, high school will have "Fuel," a night of fellowship, worship, games and a talk, combined with an informal discussion time afterward. Our hope is this would be a place where our students feel comfortable inviting friends and enjoying each other's fellowship. We will meet in WSS Upper Room and enjoy drinks provided by Barracuda Coffee and desserts provided by families each week (yum!).

We also recognize our high school students need a time for more in-depth conversation and discipleship, and it is our belief this will happen best in the context of small groups called "THE LIFE Groups." These small groups of 8-12 will meet in homes of adult leaders from West Side on Wednesday nights starting Sept. 29. Right now, I am in the process of forming groups, and families of high schoolers will receive more information about signing up in mid-September.

Sunday School for high school and mid-high will still meet on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 am in the same rooms as last year starting on Sept. 12 (Kick off Sunday). High school will be learning about the history of the church, taught by myself and Matt Leggett. Mid-high will be going through the New Testament with a rotation of teachers including Pete Rogalsky, Craig Seal, Laurel Avila, and others.

For mid-high, BASIC will remain on Wednesday nights and change in smaller ways as we will be removing the meal portion and using a new curriculum (the same one we will use for Fuel, only with some modifiers based on adolescent development). In place of the meal, we will have desserts provided by families each week, with the hope that parents will stay, get to know each other, and provide an excellent snack for the students! The first BASIC is Wed., Sept. 22 at 6:30 pm.

One of the other goals for discipleship that both Dan and Heather have been developing over the past few years is the need for "Faith at Home," that is, equipping our parents to be the spiritual leaders that God has called them to be. With that in mind, we have chosen curriculum for BASIC, Fuel, and THE LIFE Groups that includes letters to parents to let you know what we have been discussing so that you as parents can then discuss with your kids what they have been learning. Another element to the partnership between the church and the home with respect to our students' faith development will be a monthly event based around educating and equipping parents regarding their students' faith. More information will follow, but we plan on having an event in October with the viewing of the documentary, "Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers," followed by a question and answer session with Dan, Heather, and myself.

Lots of change is in the air, and we are excited to serve our students in new ways this year! We trust that God will be with us, each step of the way.

In Christ, Rev. Stu



**Sunday School:** Sept. 12 @ 9:45 am  
**Fuel (High School):** Sun., Sept. 19, 7:00-8:30 pm  
**BASIC (Mid-High):** Wed., Sept. 22, 6:30-8:15 pm  
**THE LIFE Groups (High School):** Wed., Sept. 29, evening

## This is for YOUTH!

## Make A Difference

Join the Choir. Singing is a fun way to offer praise to God and bless your church family. Rehearsals begin Thurs., Sept. 9, 7:00-8:30 pm to prepare for singing during the Traditional service at 11:15 am on Sun., Sept. 19. Adults and teens are welcome - even if you can't make it to every Thursday evening rehearsal! Contact Brenda Welsch (554.4921 or bells4u@yahoo.com).

ESL/Citizenship Classes. ESL (English as a Second Language) and citizenship classes will begin our 14th year at West Side on Sept. 14 from 6:30-8:30 pm. This is an outreach of West Side and the Missions Council that is offered free to the Tri-Cities community. All of our teachers are volunteers and some have been with the program since its beginning. We offer ESL classes through spring and citizenship classes in both fall and spring; classes are held simultaneously so family members with different needs can come together to learn. We also provide free childcare for preschool and elementary students so parents can attend classes. We are always looking for new people to join our team: we have openings for two teachers, a childcare aide, and a snack host (all materials provided). All you need is a heart for others and a willingness to serve (prior teaching not a prerequisite; all training provided). Contact director Robin Morris (943.9942) to learn more about this outreach or to volunteer.

## McIntosh Memorial Library

### Library Notes



### Welcome to the library!

A library staff member is available on Sunday mornings to assist you, but the library is always open. Self checkout stations are available for your convenience. Come browse and see what's new!

### Reading Roadblock 2: "I can't finish a hard book like that."

Have you ever picked up a nonfiction book by a popular author and thought, "This looks interesting, but it's dense! I could never get through all this!"

Here's my secret method, which is NOT endorsed

## Alpha Ministry

Alpha is Coming! Come hear a talk and enjoy a great meal at the fall Alpha introductory dinner Tues., Sept. 21, 6:15 pm, WS South Upper Room. Who should come? Anyone wishing to explore the Christian Faith or strengthen their core beliefs - from unbelievers and doubters, to new Christians and believers in search of renewal. This may be an opportunity to bring a friend who's asking questions of meaning and of God! Call Karel Coppock (946.4656 or 943.5565) to reserve a place. Training for intercessors, leaders, helpers, book table, mc's, kitchen, and music people Tues., Sept. 7 and 14, 6:30 pm, WS South Upper Room.

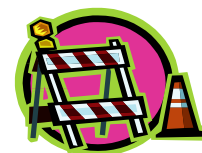
Alpha Kitchen Help Needed. Tuesday evenings, Sept. 21-Dec. 7. We need help in food preparation and clean-up. You can volunteer as few or as many evenings as you wish. Contact Sue Finch (539.4165 or suefinch@clearwire.net) or Margaret Richards (735.6057 or mlrichards@clearwire.net).

Pray for Alpha and for guests who might find the relationship with Christ they have been missing. Also pray for our Alpha Team's unity; for guests; for wisdom in forming groups (leaders, helpers, and guests); for the kitchen team; for follow-up to Alpha; and for an outpouring of God's Spirit on the entire course.

Alpha Lawn Signs. If you have a lawn sign from last year's campaign, "Is there more to life than this?" please put it out until October.



by English teachers and authors: You don't have to read the whole book! Read the first chapter to get a feel for the author's style and the book's message. Then skim through the book, reading parts of chapters or sections that seem most interesting. Jot down a few thoughts and make a note of the title and author, in case you decide to come back later for another look. You will probably gain some interesting thoughts or insights. Treat the library like a buffet table loaded with goodies. Check out some books and try the "sip and nibble" approach.



Comments/questions? Email [Library@westside1.org](mailto:Library@westside1.org)

# September

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thurs**

**KICK OFF SUNDAY - September 12!**

8:15 am Contemporary Worship Service-CS (Children's Church)  
 9:45 am Contemporary Worship Service-CS (Sunday School-all ages)  
 11:15 am Traditional Service-TS

**New Worship Schedule Begins!!**



Knitters Group 1:00pm **1**  
 -WSS  
 Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN  
 Deacons 7:00pm-WSN  
 Sullivan Prayer Vigil 7:00pm  
 -WSN

Worship Team 7:00pm

Worship: **5**  
 One Service Only 10:00am  
 -WSS  
 Potluck 11:30am-WSN  
 (following the service)

Church Office Closed **6**



Alpha Training 6:30pm -WSS **7**  
 Worship Committee 7:00pm  
 -WSN  
 Task Force 7:00pm-WSN  
 College/Young Career  
 Bible Study 7:30pm-Evans'



Sarah Circle 11:30am-WSS **8**  
 Sarah Squares 11:30am  
 -Sterlings Restaurant  
 Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN  
 MS/HS Parent Night 5:30pm  
 -WSS  
 Sullivan Prayer Vigil 7:00pm

THE LIFE Group L  
 Training 6:00 p  
 Missions Council  
 -WSN  
 Adult Choir 7:00  
 Worship Team 7:00

**Wild n'Rugged II-Ingalls Creek**

**West Side Preschool Orientation-W**

**KICK OFF SUNDAY! 12**  
 Worship:  
 CS & Children's Church  
 8:15 am-WSS  
 CS & Sunday School  
 9:45 am-WSS  
 TS 11:15am-WSN  
 Corporate Prayer 9:45am-WSN



Person to Person 12:00pm **13**  
 -WSAC

Adult Bible Study 10:30am **14**  
 -WSN  
 ESL/Citizenship Classes Begin  
 6:30pm-WSN  
 Alpha Training 6:30pm  
 -WSS  
 College/Young Career Bible  
 Study 7:30pm-Evans'

Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN **15**  
 Sullivan Prayer Vigil 7:00pm  
 -WSN

Morning Glory 9:00  
 -WSN  
 THE LIFE Group L  
 Training 6:00 p  
 Adult Choir 7:00  
 Worship Team 7:00

Worship: **19**  
 CS & Children's Church  
 8:15 am-WSS  
 CS & Sunday School  
 9:45 am-WSS  
 TS 11:15am-WSN  
 FUEL (HS) 7:00pm-WSS

SAM-Senior Adult Ministry **20**  
 Lunch 11:30am-Rosy's Diner

Adult Bible Study **21**  
 10:30am-WSN  
 Alpha Intro Dinner 6:15pm  
 -WSS  
 ESL/Citizenship Classes  
 6:30pm-WSN  
 College/Young Career Bible  
 Study 7:30pm-Evans'

Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN **22**  
 BASIC (MS) 6:30pm-WSS  
 Sullivan Prayer Vigil 7:00pm  
 -WSN

Early Birds Bible S  
 6:10am-Tibbat  
 Morning Glory 9:00  
 THE LIFE Group L  
 Training 6:00 p  
 Missions Prayer 6  
 Adult Choir 7:00  
 Worship Team 7:00

Worship: **26**  
 CS & Children's Church  
 8:15 am-WSS  
 CS & Sunday School  
 9:45 am-WSS  
 TS 11:15am-WSN  
 FUEL (HS) 7:00pm-WSS

Person to Person 12:00pm **27**  
 -WSAC

Adult Bible Study **28**  
 10:30am-WSN  
 Alpha 6:15pm -WSS  
 Session 6:30pm-WSN  
 ESL/Citizenship Classes  
 6:30pm-WSN  
 College/Young Career Bible  
 Study 7:30pm-Evans'

Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN **29**  
 BASIC (MS) 6:30pm-WSS  
 Sullivan Prayer Vigil 7:00pm  
 -WSN  
 THE LIFE Groups (HS)

Early Birds Bible S  
 6:10am-Tibbat  
 Morning Glory 9:00  
 Adult Choir 7:00  
 Worship Team 7:00



# “Follow Me!” - Christian Growth and Discipleship

By Rev. Dan Wodrich



In last month’s newsletter, I spoke of our Un-changing God changing and transforming us as He *makes all things new*. In this article, I want to give you a glimpse into the ways we sense our Lord calling our Church family to *follow Him* with regard to Christian growth and discipleship.

As further backdrop for this article, I want to remind you that our 2009 Session set apart the newly-formed Christian Growth Committee (CGC) to propose an intentional approach to discipleship that our church can recognize and share in together. Over the past year and a half, the CGC spent a lot of time talking, reading, listening, and praying together about this assignment. On August 24, 2010, the CGC presented its initial proposal to our 2010 Session and they affirmed it. I want to introduce and highlight for you here some key components and “pictures” of the approach. You can anticipate hearing more about it during a 3-week sermon series beginning September 12, entitled, *“Growing Together.”*

## Definition of Discipleship

The Session approved the following definition of discipleship for us to share...

***“...intentionally helping one another grow toward maturity in Christ, in obedience to God, by the power of the Holy Spirit.”***

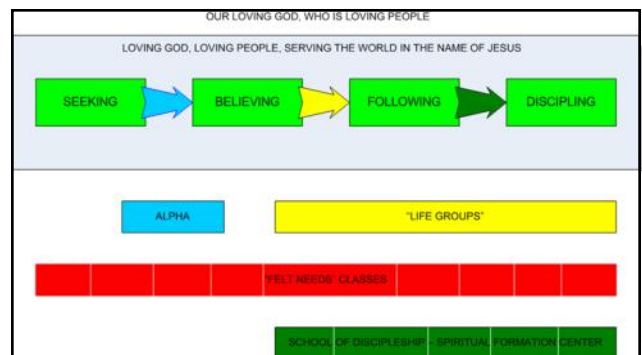
There is an intentionality, a purposefulness in Jesus’ call to us to *“Follow me!”* His call is particular to each of us “by name” – but it is not only to us individually. He calls us, *together*, to follow Him. In that sense, there is no such thing as an “individual Christian” – for we are born again by the Spirit into a communal life together – the Body of Christ comprised of many co-members.

Following Jesus is a response of obedience and submission to Him as Lord and God. Our response is enabled and empowered by the presence and activity of His Holy Spirit in us. Apart from Him, we cannot recognize Jesus as Lord and God, nor can we appropriately respond to and follow Him.

Finally, the aim of the Spirit’s work is to grow us up to maturity in Christ, together. This is about the body of Christ being formed and filled by the Spirit in such a way that the fullness of God in Christ is being made manifest in us and through us – not only for our own sake, but for the sake of the world, and for the glory of His Name.

## Steps to Walk in Following Jesus

The Session approved the diagram below as descriptive of steps that Jesus calls us to walk in following Him...



In the testimony of Scripture, we can discern these “steps” of SEEKING, BELIEVING, FOLLOWING, and DISCIPLING in the lives of Jesus’ disciples, as they responded to His call. The arrows in the diagram depict the growth and movement that takes place as Jesus leads us and works in us by His Spirit across time. All of these “steps” are aimed at growing us up together in Christlikeness. That is, in response to His love revealed in Christ, God’s aim is to grow us up in Christ’s own love for God the Father, and in His unselfish, sacrificial love – expressed in service to and for the world.

The colored “bars” on the diagram – located below the “steps” – are the intentional discipleship and Christian growth activities we are and/or will utilize to *“help one another grow...”* and walk from one step to the next. For example, the **ALPHA** ministry is purposefully aimed at helping those SEEKING to take the next step of BELIEVING. The **LIFE GROUPS** ministry is a freshly-named form and enhancement of our existing small group ministry, aimed at helping those who are BELIEVING to walk forward in FOLLOWING Jesus in the way we live, in the context of a personal, small group community. Finally, the **Felt Needs Classes** (e.g., 10 Great Dates, Faith@Home parenting, Financial Peace University, etc.) and the

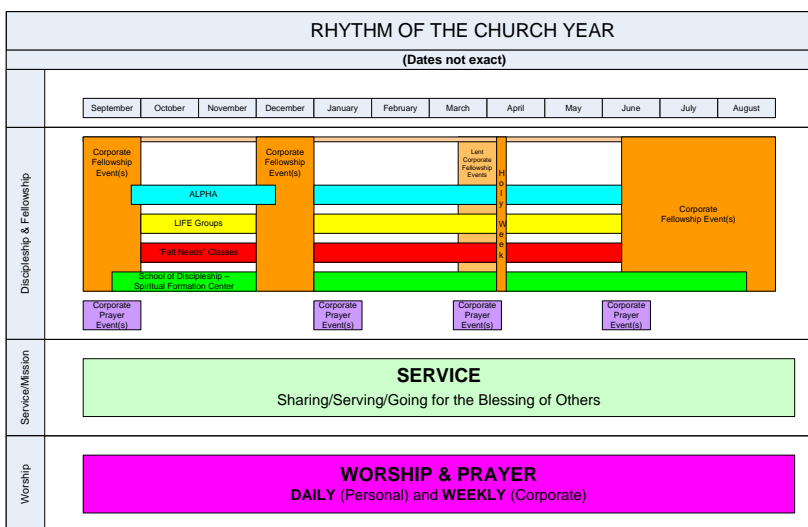
**“School of Discipleship – Spiritual Formation**

**Center”** (e.g., Sunday morning classes, Bible Studies, retreats, seminars, Library/Resource Center, etc.) are and will be intentionally planned by the CGC, pastoral staff, and ministry leaders to further aid in the “growth to maturity” and movement all along the path our Lord is calling us to walk – as He disciples us and shares with us His discipling of others.

**“Rhythm” of the Church Year**

Finally, the Session approved the following “picture” of a “rhythm” to the year for our church family to walk in. We think such a rhythm is important for an intentional, integrated, and healthy approach to Christian growth and discipleship, together...

The diagram’s bottom section and base is the God-given daily (personal) and weekly (corporate) “rhythm” of WORSHIP and encounter with the Living Word. The middle section depicts the year-round, other-centered SERVICE and mission activities we engage in for the blessing of others. The top section addresses a corporate rhythm of DISCIPLESHIP & FELLOWSHIP activities and ministries. The Body of Christ needs time and space to “breathe” in its yearly rhythm – times to engage in study, ministry, and corporate prayer and times to withdraw for rest, reflection, and fellowship. We hope this shared vision of “rhythm” will help us better coordinate and integrate our various ministry plans with each other in mind, for the benefit of the Body and its members.



I hope and pray you are encouraged by this glimpse of the discipleship and Christian growth approach and framework. There is much yet to be done to flesh-out and implement this approach together in the days ahead. May our Lord Jesus continue to lead our church family on the path He would have us walk. As the Spirit enables us to follow Jesus, may it be unto us, according to His Word. To Him be the glory.

Amen. Dan

**Going Deeper - cont. from pg. 1**

Even people who devoted their lives to this don't feel like experts. We don't master a relationship with God, rather we find ourselves drawn into a relationship with our Master. But there are common pathways that have been trod by God's people; they are not magical or even flashy. Prayer, Bible reading, time apart with God, time together with God, serving, and giving are some of the well-worn ways of going deeper.

One of the lessons learned from REVEAL is the significance of these personal spiritual practices for developing a personal relationship with Jesus. A deep and meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ is “fundamentally the result of a strong commitment to a growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ.” Everything in my life and ex-

perience says this is true. The wonderful thing about these personal spiritual practices is that you can start now, wherever you are in your relationship with God. All of us can go deeper, and part of the wonder is that no matter how deep we go, we will never plumb the depths of this relationship with God. It truly is an adventure.

And so, I want to invite us all go deeper. The sermons and small group lessons this fall will be focused on equipping us with some of the tools to develop these personal spiritual practices. But in the end it really is up to each of us to say yes to God and start living our lives with Him.

Blessings in Christ, Ralph



## Back To School?

Help us build a school for our Mali Area Development Project

By Tyler Holm

It is that time of year again, the summer heat is beginning to let up, the stores are advertising jeans, crayons and book bags; yes - it is "Back to school time." Parents and children are excited and a little overwhelmed, clothes and supplies to buy, reading lists to finish, and the concerns of a new school year. Will my child get right back up on grade level? How will they relate to their teacher? Will there be any books at school this year? Will the rains leaking through the thatched roof be severe this year again?

We all worry about our kids and recognize the importance education will make for their future, but the worries for our kids going back to school in the Tri-Cities and our kids in Mali can be very different. We can, and should, give thanks to God that our children here are so blessed, but God has given us these blessings not just for our own benefit. As God has blessed Abram so that others in turn would be blessed through him (Genesis 12), God has blessed us with the commandment that we would not hoard these blessings but share them joyfully. Consider this passage from the Message paraphrase of Isaiah 58:6-10,

*"This is the kind of fast day I'm after; to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.' If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins, If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight."*



We do not seek to aid those in Mali just to receive God's favor, but the disparity we see requires our action. Consider schools visited by our West Side Vision Teams these last two years. Classrooms held 100 students or more; when not one more student could be fit in, rather than adding a portable classroom, a shelter was built with sticks and twigs. Students would sit two or three to a desk. Yet teachers are not paid enough to live off their salaries alone so when they must work in the fields, classes would be canceled.

The West Side Missions Council believes we are called to make a difference with these students. After prayer together we have committed to raise funds for a school in Mali. We have set aside \$10,000 from our budget and ask the congregation to match these funds with additional giving to this important project. That sounds like a lot of money, but consider even a small school might have 400 students so our goal is just \$25 per child for the school. As you are looking at those \$25 pair of jeans in this back-to-school season, might this be a teaching moment with your child?

From Sept. 1-Nov. 1, we will be communicating how this project is progressing, but as you prepare your own child or watch children in your neighborhood returning to school please pray and listen to see if God is calling you to participate in giving for this project for our Mali children.

# Clerk Of Session Report - August 2010

By Ken Swinth

The meeting was opened in prayer and scripture reading. We saw expenses exceed income for the first time this year. This was not unexpected; it is projected we will use a sizeable portion of the reserve by the end of the year. After discussion we voted to move forward with a three-service schedule with Contemporary services at 8:15 and 9:45 followed by a Traditional service at 11:15. This scheduling seemed to be most appropriate when considering the scheduling of all the activities including those between services. There will be Children's Church during the 8:15 service.

The Worship Director Search Committee is making an offer to Kevin King who visited the church Aug. 6-9. Several members of the committee met with session and gave their impressions of Kevin which were all positive. Kevin is classically-trained, but has a passion and knowledge for contemporary music. Based on the resumé and glowing recommendations of the committee, session voted in favor of making an offer to Kevin. We now will wait until he makes his decision. We all pray his decision is favorable.

For over a year the Christian Growth Committee (CGC) has been discerning a strategy for discipleship. They held special meetings with session to present and discuss the proposed approach. At its August meeting, the session approved all four motions of the CGC, with only minor modification to one motion. The motions included a definition of discipleship, a 4-step discipleship process, and an integrated "rhythm" for our church year. It was recognized that the discipleship strategy and the associ-

ated implementation plans are a work-in-progress. The strategy will be shared with the congregation through sermons in September, and is also addressed in a separate Christian Growth and Discipleship article in this newsletter.

The Fellowship Committee noted that the series of planned get-acquainted potlucks (dinner for eight) are moving forward. There will be time for four rounds of potlucks during the year, and this should be a great way to meet others in the congregation.

There were several other items of routine business. We are now waiting for the sale of the property to be taken up by Presbytery so that we can move forward. Two parties have heard of our interest in selling the WS Activity Center and are very interested. This is a real blessing since initially we thought due to its specialized nature it might take 1-2 years to sell the property. Repairs have been made on the old kitchen at WSN and we are upgrading the fluorescent fixtures under a city program which will result in better lighting and a cost saving (notice the lights are brighter in the fellowship hall!). An architect will be visiting WSN, looking at the "refresh" ideas and their implementation. Others are reviewing the "old" WS 2000 plans. We were all uplifted by an encouraging note (with enclosed donation) received from the parents of one of our 2010 Summer Trainees, recognizing and affirming the value and benefit of this ministry of our church. In 2011, we will mark the 50th anniversary of our Trainee Ministry and leadership for a special reunion celebration next summer is being sought.

Big thanks to all!!! My breast cancer surgery had the desired results and I have been recovering very nicely. Our family thanks you all for the love and prayers through my illness. Your care and prayers helped every step of the way. Praise God!  
- Brenda Welsch (Kline, Alden, Braeden)

## The Bulletin Board

Thanks to Tool Time, Room 33 (WS North) has been refurbished and is ready for fall. Thanks to everyone that participated in this project: George Booth, Chris Smith, Fred Reich, George Jacobson, Jim Lacey, Jim Britton, Kiet Dang, Lane Bray, Tom Abrams, and Sue Kimmel.

Thanks to our West Side Preschool for the new sod in the courtyard. This really helps our Sunday School time for our children as well as our preschoolers.



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***One Service Only - Sept. 5***  
***10:00 am - West Side South***  
***NO Sunday School (adults & children)***  
***Join us for a Potluck in West Side North after worship!***

*Want to receive our newsletter via email?  
Contact us at [info@westside1.org](mailto: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  
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 Asst.  
Wendy Puz :: Administrative Asst.  
Colette Root :: General Ministry  
Kiet & Ngan Dang :: Custodians  
Izudin Porobic :: WSAC Custodian

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