

Inside

West Side

Issue Highlight this month:
Youth Ministry

Inside This Issue:

God, can you hear me now?	p. 1
Intern: Following His leading	p. 2
HS Deputation: A new vision	p. 3
Trainees: Praises & expectations	p. 4
Gifts & Memorials	p. 4
Pathfinder musical of "Olympic" proportions	p. 5
Welcome new members	p. 6
New website updates image	p. 7
Christmas offering blesses French church	p. 7
Family Room	p. 7

Inside West Side

is published quarterly by
West Side Church
615 Wright Ave, Richland, WA 99352
Tel: (509) 946-4656
Fax: (509) 946-8237
Editor: Maja Shaw

This newsletter is made possible with contributions of the West Side family. Send ideas, comments or content to mshaw@westside1.org or to the church office.



"God, can you hear me now?"

by CJ Olson

If you are like me, you try and spend I time each day seeking out God in prayer. I pray for my family, for the youth ministry program, and for the community of people that call West Side Church home.

I was talking with a student the other day about prayer. I stated the reason that I pray is because it is how I can communicate with the God who loves. Communication is important to any relationship especially our relationship with God. The student then asked me "What if God says "no" to your prayer or gives you an answer you don't want to hear?" What a question! It is often hard to live the Christian life knowing that God may not give you the answers you are looking for in your prayers. Jesus asked the cross be taken away and God said "No!" Jesus took this "no" and was still willing to do what was necessary to die for our sins. Jesus trusted God with his life and knew he had a plan.

We have talked in our youth group about how we must be willing to live our lives for God. How Jesus must be our example, the person who died for us, to get us back into a relationship with God. Jesus just asks us this simple question: "Are we willing to give over our entire life to God?" Every day we face new challenges and new opportunities that challenge our faith. Prayers answered other than how we want is one of those challenges. Are we willing to let God be in control? Garth Brooks wrote a popular song, which is still played today called "The River". Here is the chorus and a few of the lyrics.



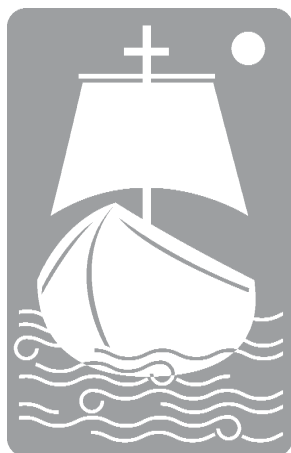
*I will sail my vessel
'Til the river runs dry
Like a bird upon the wind
These waters are my sky
I'll never reach my destination
If I never try
So I will sail my vessel
'Til the river runs dry*

*There's bound to be rough waters
And I know I'll take some falls
But with the good Lord as my captain
I can make it through them all...*

*Too many times we stand aside
And let the waters slip away
'Til what we put off 'til tomorrow
Has now become today
So don't you sit upon the shoreline
And say you're satisfied
Choose to chance the rapids
And dare to dance the tide*

This song puts it simply. Are we going to let God be the captain of the ship? Are we going to allow Him to speak to our hearts? Are we going to trust where He going to lead us? Or are we simply going to stand on the sidelines and let life pass us by? Proverbs 3:5,6 states, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight."*

That was my answer to this student's question. You see, I know that God loves us and has a plan for us. We need to trust that plan. I know and trust the plan God has for my life, for the life of my family and for the ministry I serve here at West Side. I encourage us all to trust God's plan and keep praying great things are going to happen.



Youth Intern: Following His leading

by Michelle Jones

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

These last few months I have asked myself, "How did I get here?" And the answer to that is, "Enormous amounts of prayer, faithfulness and trust!" I have been amazed by what God can do! Last summer, I was struggling with some health issues and was feeling attacked spiritually, emotionally and physically. I wasn't enjoying my job at Kennewick General Hospital as an OB/Surgical Technician nor was I even able to work the long hours that were required of me. I took a leave of absence and in the midst of it all, was invited to go to Oakland, California for the high school deputation trip. I wanted to immediately jump at the opportunity and say, "Yes!" but my fear was that I wouldn't be physically capable of such a demanding trip. I began to pray. I'd never been on a mission trip before and was unsure of my own capabilities. I was also limited physically and I thought, "God, if you want me on this trip, please make it possible for me to be able to participate, lead and function as needed." To my amazement, not only was I able to fulfill my duties and responsibilities, I was also asked to join the staff here at West Side Church as the Youth Administrative Assistant/Intern.

This fall has brought many new challenges. My position has stretched my abilities, my confidence, my *lack* of confidence and also my faith. I've been given responsibilities that I wouldn't have



dreamed possible a year ago and I am constantly thrown out of my comfort zone. I continue to learn at a rapid pace and am eager to put my strengths to use on a daily basis. I have begun to love and create new relationships with students, where I am continually being challenged intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. Through the youth groups, Bible studies, Sunday school and Young Life, I have met students from all walks of life. Each one I meet has a different impact on me. Most are church-going kids who love Jesus and *know* Him, yet, others have no idea who He even is. I have doubts every day about my own abilities to share with the lost, but, my faith, care, and love for these students has given me the heart and patience to continue to listen and nurture them, trusting that God will use me *in spite* of my fears.

Thank you all for your continued support, prayers and encouragement. I'm excited about all of the new things He has to teach me..... especially with your kids! They have been an absolute joy and blessing to me, CJ and our leaders.

High school deputation:

A new vision

by C J Olson

This year we are embarking on a new journey with our deputation projects. Our students will be split into two groups and traveling to different places. This marks a major shift in the way we are planning and carrying out our deputation ministry.



Previously, deputation trips have gone to foreign locations every other year, with closer-to-home locations in between. In wrestling with the challenges of preparing for these trips, and in seeking the best way to help our students' spiritual growth through these experiences, the Youth Committee decided to change the way deputation trips are organized. This year, instead of doing one or the other, we will be doing both. There will be two deputation groups: one going to Oakland, California composed of 8th-10th graders, and the other for 11th and 12th graders going to Costa Rica.

Each project offers challenges, but out-of-country trips, because of language barriers and distance traveled, tends to require greater spiritual preparation. Students who have had no prior experience with mission trips may not be as well equipped to handle this kind of experience. By giving younger students a chance to participate in a challenging, but not overwhelming, deputation experience, we hope that they will be better equipped to handle a foreign trip as 11th and 12th graders.

We have also worked hard at finding places which offer opportunities to be invited back. This gives students an opportunity to invest themselves in a place for two or three years and begin to see the fruits of their work for the



Lord. It gives us an opportunity to establish and build relationships with people and the community where they live. We believe that these relationships will extend far beyond the end of any project.

Please keep us in our prayers as we prepare for this exciting adventure this summer. If you have work projects for students that we can put into a job bank, please contact Michelle or C. J.

California, here we come!

Those who are currently in 8th, 9th and 10th grades will be going with Kim Cooper and C. J. Olson to Oakland, California and working with Fruitvale Presbyterian Church. The pastor, Monte McClain, was very pleased with the project we did last year in fixing up the nursery. He said it was a real jump-start for the congregation. Gary and Carolyn Yee, who hosted the group and provided us with our community service project at the Tilden school in Oakland, are also excited for our return. We will be taking on another community project, while the focus for the church will be on VBS and evangelism with their youth in and around the neighborhood. The group leaves July 30 and returns on August 7

¡Hola, amigos!

Students who are currently in 11th and 12th grades will be going to Costa Rica under the leadership of Dave and Becky Shupe. We have been invited by Oasis church in Cartago to participate with them in working in the rural village of Tucurique. Their youth pastor, Oscar Sanchez has worked with Dave and Becky as an interpreter during trips made to Costa Rica by West Side Church in the 90's. We will be working with the high school and college-age kids on several projects: VBS, evangelism, and updating the church building and kitchen. The group leaves on June 25 and returns on July 9.

Summer Trainees: Praises and expectations

by Maureen McQuerry

Each January the Trainee Committee holds their first meeting with a sense of expectation as we wonder what Trainees God will bring us this year. Perhaps we begin with even more excitement this year as requests for applications have been arriving since November!

Last year West Side hosted fourteen college students who brought their diverse backgrounds, interests, talents and hearts to share with our church community. It seems that our Trainee ministry is experiencing a surge of growth. We have had 13-14 trainees for the past three years. That means our congregation has had to lend support in many ways, financially, as prayer partners, caring coordinators and host families, and they have given graciously. As we thank you for last year's support it's fun to review a few highlights of summer 2004.

- Debra Heller teaching girls to make French pastries and eating corn on the cob for her first time!
- John Campbell slipping and sliding in 50 lbs of oatmeal with elementary kids.
- Caitlin McPherson hiding between the pews dressed as a lamb for the childrens' sermon and all the children "baa-ing" in response.
- Brennan McQuerry hosting a LAN (computer) party for 30 teenage boys.
- Keith Peterson's piano playing and Alex Nelson leading worship Trainee Sunday. Did you see Keith's new Mohawk hairstyle?
- Aaron Paul having to be "the grown-up" at mid high camp, getting the boys to quiet down, being stern, caring and loving it!

Another way to gauge the impact of the summer is to read the Trainee evaluation forms. The Trainee vision statement declares "The Trainee will be changed into a Christian leader and minister who brings glory and honor to God." The following are just a few comments from last summer's Trainees.

"My relationship with Jesus Christ is better than it ever has been before in my life."

"This summer I found that I am a capable leader."

"Yes, this summer has influenced my plans. I've verified that it is okay to not know exactly what is next, as long as I'm willing to serve the one who gives me life."

"It is amazing to be working toward the same plan that God is working toward. I really felt that I was doing God's will and work."

"I learned a can be a good leader to my peers."

And the Trainees unanimously listed Bob Schmitt's training on how to lead a Bible study as one of the most helpful sessions of the summer.

Please join the Trainee Committee as we begin to pray and plan for the Trainees God will send us this summer.

Gifts & memorials: Serving donors and honorees

by Carolyn Slippem

Jack McMaster was asked by a friend to help her see to completion a memorial for her husband at West Side Church. She knew what she wanted to see happen, but didn't know how to go about it. Jack discovered that there was no set procedure or any guidelines to make the process clear or easy. And needless to say, it was a stressful and emotional time for the newly widowed.



The memorial was accomplished but not without a lot of time going by and a certain amount of unnecessary trial and error. Jack did not want another person to have to face such frustration. With permission from Session he formed a committee composed of: Jack as Chair, Harvey Huisingsh, Barbara Kennedy, Carolyn Slippem, and Lois Timmons.

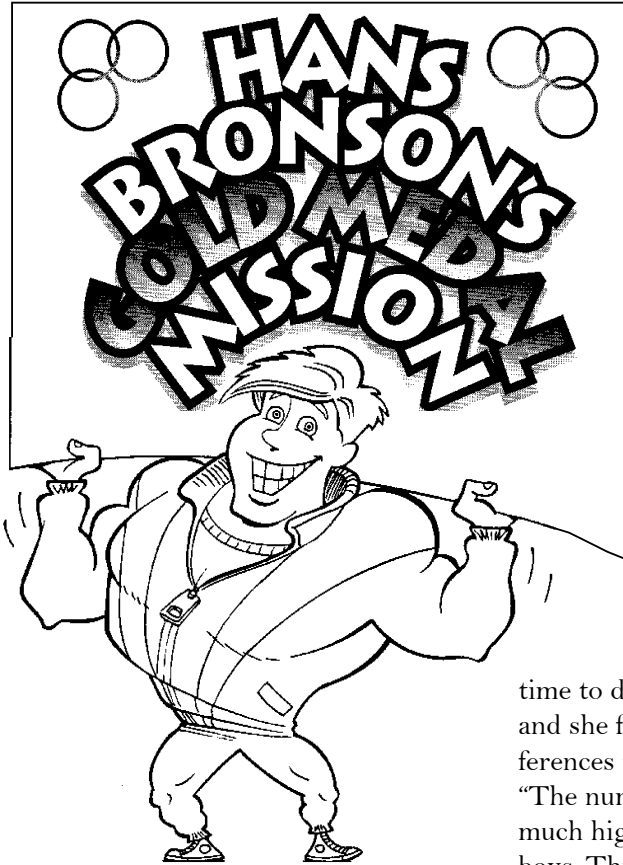
As a committee we are in the process of drawing up procedures for individual or families to make financial donations to West Side in memory of a deceased person or to honor a living individual. Committee members are prepared to act as helpers to aid in any way to accomplish a desired memorial. We believe that expediting the procedure will help bring peace and comfort to

Pathfinder kids present a musical "of Olympic proportions"

by Julie Gephart

Twenty-six third, fourth, and fifth grade Pathfinders will present the musical "Hans Bronson's Gold Medal Mission" Friday, March 18 at 2:30 at Alterra Retirement Community and Sunday, March 20 at West Side South at 3:30. Rehearsals for the musicals take place during the worship and music component of the midweek Pathfinders program. Alyson Reich is the director, Annette Barnes is music team leader, Faye Serene is choral assistant, and Jodi Hassell is lead "kid wrangler." Other helpers include Angela Seydel, Marion Dowell, Kristianne Rogalsky, and Debbie Anderson.

This is the third time this particular musical has been performed by West Side children. The first time was in 1996, and then again at vacation bible school 3 years ago. But Alyson has revised the story to make it even fresher and more direct. It's popular with kids and adults alike, with its Olympic theme and story about an Olympic hero, bodybuilder Hans Bronson. "The setting is an Olympic rally, at which



Hans is the guest speaker," says Alyson. "He admits he invited Jesus into his heart as a child, but never developed his faith. So the rest of the story is about Christian disci-

pline and how you have to build your faith as Olympic athletes have to build their bodies."

The colors of the Olympic rings are used to explain the story of Christ: red is the blood, black is sin, green is growth, blue is new life, and gold is heaven. Characters Gracie, Faith, and Hope walk through the colors to help Hans learn to grow as a Christian and have fullness in Christ.

This is Alyson's second time to direct a Pathfinders play, and she finds a number of differences this time from the last. "The number of 3rd graders is much higher, as is the number of boys. This puts a different twist on things, especially the choreography, as I've tried to keep it 'manly and cool.' But kids have so much energy and excitement, that it's just fun." The production will feature cheerleaders, ballet dancers, and a credible Arnold Schwarzenegger accent on the part of Dane Anderson as Hans. "This is a great opportunity for these kids to learn how to perform in front of others while presenting the message of Christ," affirms Alyson.

Gifts, cont. from pg 4

bereaved persons.

Currently we are asking committee chairs and staff members to identify and suggest projects/programs that could be possible memorial opportunities. This would not be an inclusive listing. You would be free to honor someone in any way you desired. The church will disburse the monies only for the purpose you have chosen and with your permission.

The committee is looking to create a permanent memorial plaque on which the names of all those memorialized or honored will be listed.

Our committee is new. Our procedures and ideas are not yet cast in stone. We would appreciate input from the congregation. Any of the above named

Welcome, new members

by Beverley Raffety and Maja Shaw

Jim and Robin Morris attended other churches in Richland, but felt most comfortable when they came to West Side.

They participated in a Lenten Bible study last year which they found so compatible and interesting that they are meeting with the same group again this year.



Lisa Niebuhr has attended West Side for about 4 years. The quality of child care her two young children received here were a major factor in her decision to make West Side her church home. She also enjoyed taking Alpha.



Ginni Costa is a first grade teacher in Pasco. She has been involved with the Worship Team, and with Richland Light Opera in her spare time. Although she has only attended West Side since last May, her grandparents, Bob and Ruth Barnes, were charter members.



Gregg Serene has been very involved at West Side since their arrival last August. He plays guitar with the Worship Team, attends two Bible studies, and participated in the men's retreat and a Habitat for Humanity project, as well as lending whatever support his wife Faye needs as Associate Pastor.

Julie Coppock has been a leader in Alpha, a childcare giver for Pathfinders, and involved in Women's Ministries, but feels that her most important mission is supporting her husband Karel in his service here at West Side as a Parish Associate.

Harvey (not shown) and **Christine Crowder** have been coming to West Side about a year and enjoy the preaching and Bible studies. Chris has enjoyed being in Sarah Circle. They will be moving to Walla Walla soon for a new job.



Patricia Terry was initially introduced to the church through Alpha. She especially enjoys the people here at West Side.

Eric Anderson attended Alpha here in the spring of 2003, and began attending with his family that fall. He has since helped with an Alpha course, and in his free time coaches a girls' soccer team.

New website pages update church's image

We have an updated website for West Side Church. Visit www.westside1.org to see our new, colorful pages. While the primary purpose of the website is outreach—to let the community know a little about who we are and what we offer—it is also useful for members. The church calendar, listing all of our events for the month, are accessible on the calendar link. If you forget the time or location of an event, you may check it there. Just remember, things can change, so be sure to double check with Pat Cassidy in the church office if you want to schedule an event. Many thanks go to Doug Teachout for maintaining the calendar.



A very big thank you goes to Sheryl Pagh who volunteered her services as a web designer to put together our web pages and make them function. It would not have been possible without her expertise. Sheryl was formerly a web designer at Battelle until she became a full-time mom. She keeps her web design skills sharp by offering her services to Christian organizations as a personal ministry. Thank you, Sheryl!

We are currently looking for 2-3 “techies” who would be willing to take on the job of overseeing and maintaining the website on a quarterly basis. If you are interested, or have any questions or suggestions for our website, please contact Maja Shaw at 627-7368.

Family Room

Welcome to

Paige Ryan born December 15 to Roy and Tammy Morrow.

Jessa Marie born December 15 to Jacob and Beth Morris in Spokane. Grandparents are Dave and Becky Shupe.

Gabriel Craig born December 27 to C.J. and Robin Olson.

MacKenzie Bea born January 29 to Christopher and Lori Goodsel. Lydia Dean born January 31 to Matt and Melissa Macduff. The grandparents are Bob and Dianne Macduff and greatgrandmother is Ethel Macduff.

In Memoriam

Isabelle Goddard entered eternal life in January. Her memorial service was held January 29 in Bellingham, Washington.

Christmas offering blesses French church

Over the last year West Side has been developing a deeper relationship with the Evangelical Free Church in Pau, France where Karel and Julie Coppock served for eight years. During the 2004 Advent Family Gathering families made Christmas ornaments with pictures of church members to send to France as tangible evidence of our love. They were delighted to receive them and be able to put faces to the support they have received from West Side. Our Christmas offering was also designated for the French church, to help them expand their ministry through the purchase and renovation of a new building and manse. The offering received (\$5600.00) was the largest Christmas offering West Side has raised. Together with other gifts received through January, we were able to send them a total gift of \$22,522.00. We received the following response via email from their pastor.



Pastor Bob, God bless you and your church for your help. It is very beautiful and we are very “reconnaissant”! For better, it’s necessary I write in French. [the following was in French, translated by Karel Coppock] An immense “thank you” for your support and help. This permits us to bring to completion the work we’ve started. May God bless you richly and encourage you as well in your ministry. Our thanks again from the bottom of our hearts to the West Side Church community and its leaders. This work is an extension of your own ministry. God is blessing us through you. We pray that you also may be blessed by us. Thank you!
Flavien Negrini, pastor

West Side Church

615 Wright Avenue
Richland, WA 99352
Tel: (509) 946-4656
Fax: (509) 946-8237

Return Service Requested

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

“. . . equipping God’s people for work in His service”



Middle school students “hang out” during Open Basement time on Wednesday afternoons. See other stories in this issue for more on current youth ministries and plans for the future.

Our staff

Dr. Robert Paul, Senior Pastor
Rev. Faye Serene, Associate Pastor
C.J. Olson, Director of Youth Ministries
Dan Wodrich, Children & Family
Ministries Director
John Lipp, Lay Minister for
Pastoral Care
Rev. Karel Coppock, Parish Associate
Rev. Lynn Jones, Parish Associate
Sarah Franco, Director, Music Ministries
Marsha Polk, Choir Director
Kim Cooper, Youth Life Partner
Judy Wagenblast, Financial Specialist
Sharon Isaacson, Financial Assistant
Pat Cassidy, Administrative Assistant
Sheila Phillips, Ministry Associate
Maja Shaw, Communication Specialist
Colette Root, General Ministry
Kiet & Ngan Dang, Custodians
Izudin Porobic, WSC Custodian