

# Inside

# West Side

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## Inside West Side

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Send ideas, comments or content to  
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## Another step in the journey

by Dr. Robert Paul

Dear Friends,

When I became Senior Pastor of West Side Church in 1985, little did I imagine that this ministry would extend to twenty years! Suzi and I were rather in awe of the opportunity—and responsibility—God had given us. It soon became clear how truly good He was to give us such a wonderful, loving and creative congregation of friends.



Now we stand at another point in our journey, and again we are in awe of what God has done—both the opportunity and the responsibilities that lie ahead with Medical Ambassadors International. If the Lord thinks we are ready for this new adventure, then it has everything to do with the growth in our faith that West Side has made possible. We have absolutely loved serving the West Side congregation. You are not replaceable in our hearts and we are counting on our friendship and fellowship in Christ to continue.

Why would I leave a ministry as a pastor in order to become a mission executive? We thought deeply about this question as we prayed about the decision. The answer has two key parts.

The first is that I will continue to be a pastor although in somewhat different form. Medical Ambassadors has a staff in Modesto of nearly 100, counting paid staff and volunteers, and another 250 around the world in sixty-five countries. All of these are members of the 'flock' I will serve. I will preach frequently in churches around the country, and teach at places like Regent College as those opportunities come. I also expect to do quite a bit of writing—for MAI newsletters, and also for professional journals. Maybe there will be a book or two as well. Medical Ambassadors has a fine team of administrative leaders, which gives me freedom to focus in ways that make good use of my particular gifts.

The second is that God planted the seeds of interest in world mission in our hearts a long time ago, and they have grown through the years. Mission-related work with West Side, with Alongside Ministries, and with the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies have all contributed. The summer Suzi

see **Bob**, pg 2

**Bob**, cont. from pg 1

and I met each other, on the 1970 Seeker Cruise, we studied a book by Bob Pierce, the Founder of World Vision, titled *Let My Heart Be Broken*. It challenged us to open our hearts to the suffering that afflicts a large portion of the human family. We have prayed for ways to help to those in great need and it seems that God is answering that prayer—and in a way we never imagined!

At a practical level, I will conclude my ministry as pastor of West Side at the end of July. August will be a transitional month—we'll move, get settled, and take some time to visit family before I start the new job September 1<sup>st</sup>. We will likely make a trip to Asia, Africa or Latin America soon thereafter, and the MAI staff is already scheduling preaching assignments for me. In October we will go through a CHE (Community Health Evangelism) training seminar (in Colorado), to get an in-depth look at how MAI works in communities around the world. There will be much to learn, to see, and to share.

Thank you for all the love and support you have always given us. We count on your prayers for the future as well.

*Bob Paul*



## Bodily functions... Church-body, that is

by Rev. Faye Serene

**H**ow does our West Side Christian body operate and why should we care? When things are running smoothly we may not even be aware of how things work. But with Bob leaving we will soon be entering an interim period. No one is expecting huge bumps, but the more we all know about how our system functions, the more likely it is that we will continue to function without a hitch.

Having aligned ourselves with the PC(USA), some things (like having a Session) are mandatory, but beyond that every church responds a bit differently to the worship, educational, fellowship, care, outreach and mission needs and desires of their congregation.

It all starts with the elders on Session, who through the years have crafted and re-crafted what is in place today. Each committee or ministry is made up of members of the church, including at least one Session member. Each is responsible for making decisions regarding their particular functions.

Some committees are finding that additional 'cross-talk' is needed. Just last month the CFM, Youth, Adult Education, and Connections committees met together to work through some issues, raise possibilities and find ways to support each other.

Session is made up of elders who serve on these various committees. It deals with broader issues that affect the whole church body. The beauty of the Presbyterian system, as well as the strength of this church, is that the authority lies within the body, not in one person.

Bob has given much to this church, and we will sorely miss the gifts, talents and wisdom he brings, but the church will continue, and has every potential to grow stronger if we continue to embrace our belief in the priesthood of all believers, the calling of each believer to ministry. Each of us must do our part; the body works only as each of us fulfill our part.

If you have a question or concern regarding a specific area, see the chart and speak directly with those involved. Better yet, ask how you can help; don't wait to be asked! If we as Christ's body at West Side continue to share our gifts and talents, offer a helping hand, support each other, and keep our eyes on Jesus as we walk this interim path together, it will surely be a time of strengthening, new discoveries and growth.

Whether ministerial or functional in nature, whether a committee or the whole session, our aim is to discover how best we can proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior through our work. Ready for the adventure?

Now you are  
the body of  
Christ, and  
each one of  
you is a part  
of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27



# Elder class of 2007



The elders elected at the January 2005 annual meeting have now had four months to adjust to their new areas of responsibility. Most come onto a committee with another elder who has previous experience, but some have a “baptism by fire” and have to learn by doing. Please keep them in your prayers.

New elders this year are: (at right, top picture) Kathy Kern, Laurel Avila, Brad Barton, Diane Pratt, Mike McElroy and Dave Marsh; (bottom picture) Mike Hassell, Debbie Pappas, and Rick Pratt.



## West Side Session

Moderator	Bob Paul	<i>Senior Pastor or designee</i>	
Committee	Elder	Function	Related Staff
Clerk	Dave Larkin	<i>responsible for minutes of meetings, procedural issues, and administrative functions related to Session business</i>	
Staff	Roger Knight	<i>interfaces with staff; deals with personnel and salary issues</i>	
Finance	Kathy Kern	<i>works with financial staff; monitors and reports on financial matters to Session, recommends actions related to budget</i>	Judy Wagenblast Sharon Isaacson
Gifts and Memorials (sub-committee of Finance)		<i>works with donors and financial staff to choose and implement memorial gifts to the church</i>	
Facilities	Russ Jones Dave Marsh	<i>responsible for care and maintenance of all church property</i>	
Celebrations	David Erickson Brad Barton	<i>responsible for worship services and all related aspects, e.g. music, ushers, sound</i>	Sarah Franco
Children & Family Ministries	Sue Hinkle Peter Bengtson	<i>focuses on nurture, education and fellowship for children birth through grade 5 and their families</i>	Dan Wodrich
Youth	Rick Pratt Mike Hassell	<i>concerned with spiritual growth and fellowship for youth in grades 6-12</i>	CJ Olson, Michelle Jones
Trainees	Ryan Hoff Debbie Pappas	<i>selects and supports summer Trainees</i>	CJ Olson, Dan Wodrich
Adult Ministries	Will Shaw Sandra Critchlow Diane Pratt	<i>oversees adult education, women's and men's ministries, and health advocate ministry</i>	Faye Serene
Missions	Jeanne Hultgrenn Mike McElroy Bob Leggett	<i>supports and encourages missions and missionaries throughout the world</i>	Dave & Becky Shupe
Connections	Laurel Avila Rick Donahoe	<i>seeks to connect visitors and members with each other and appropriate programs; oversees communications, small groups, coffee/fellowship, Block Party, etc</i>	Maja Shaw, Faye Serene
Nominating	currently undesignated	<i>nominates members for elder and deacon positions</i>	

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# Bridging the gap

by David G. Lambertson, Central Washington Presbytery Executive

Several years ago West Side Church introduced me to the spiritual practice of “God Sightings”. To participate in this exercise one needs to be attuned to God’s agenda so that we can see God at work in and around us. During this past month I witnessed God at work within the West Side Church. Several weeks ago Bob Paul called me and spoke of his call to Medical Ambassadors International. Tucked into our conversation was Bob’s sadness in leaving and his joy of a new call. I was able to see God working in and through Bob. My mind raced through significant places where Bob lead West Side in expanding their ministry. I commend Bob for his leadership as Pastor at West Side Church.

As Bob leaves in August, there will be several opportunities to sight God’s work at West Side. The transition journey between Pastors is a bridging event or “an in between time”. During this period your session will seek permission from the Committee on Ministry to employ an interim pastor. An interim pastor is a specialized minister who will lead the congregation through several steps to prepare for the arrival of a new Pastor. The biblical model for interim pastors is John the Baptist. John gathered the people of God, preparing them to be right with God in preparation for the coming of Jesus. Your interim pastor will not only bring stability during this period, but also will lead the session

in articulating your mission. The interim pastor is appointed for one year term (renewable) and cannot be the next installed pastor.

During the interim time the Committee on Ministry seeks to help the congregation to discern the future mission of West Side. This is commonly referred to as a mission study. Hopefully, staff, session and congregation will participate in this study. The final act of

the mission study is to look at the pastor position and reflect upon the gifts needed for

your next installed pastor in order to lead you

in God’s mission. Often the study pauses to celebrate sightings of God at work in your church.

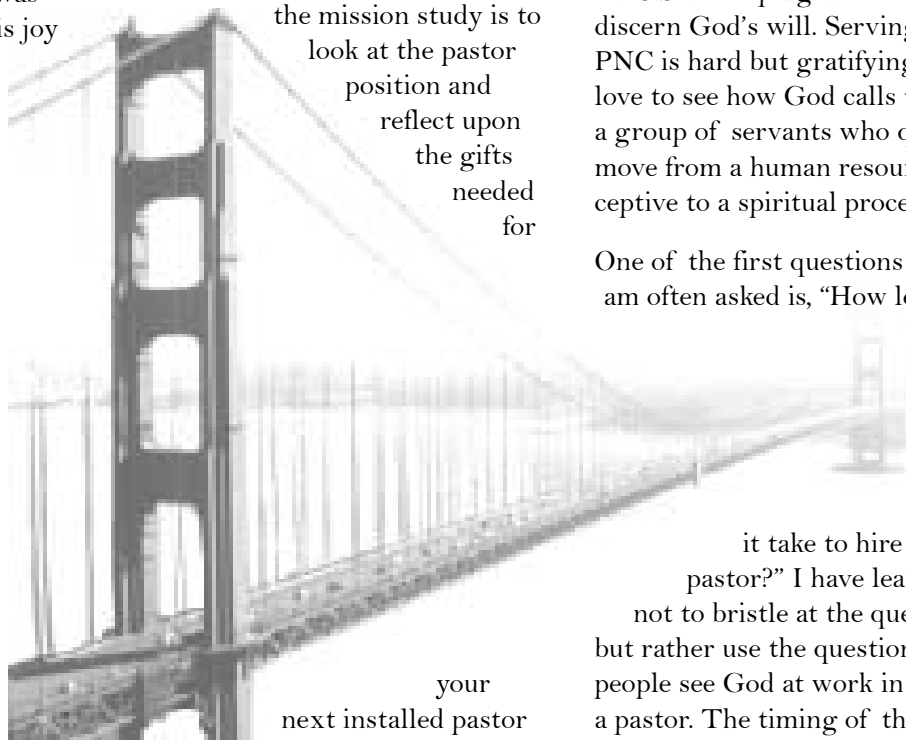
In the near future your session will request formal permission form a “Pastor Nominating Committee” (PNC), elected by the congregation to search on their behalf . The PNC will use your mission study, reflections from your staff, session

and its committees, and thoughts from your interim to articulate your church information and begin a search for a new pastor. The work of the PNC begins with a spiritual process of asking for God’s help in naming your next pastor. When the PNC presents a candidate to the congregation, the congregants shall vote to ask Presbytery to approve the pastor elect. Personally, I find great satisfaction in watching PNC’S developing their ability to discern God’s will. Serving on a PNC is hard but gratifying work. I love to see how God calls together a group of servants who quickly move from a human resource perceptive to a spiritual process.

One of the first questions that I am often asked is, “How long will

it take to hire a new pastor?” I have learned not to bristle at the question, but rather use the question to help people see God at work in **calling** a pastor. The timing of the process often takes up to 18 months.

I challenge you to see this process as God being at work in and through you. This transition time is not the time for waiting to see who the next shepherd will be, nor is it a time to step back from ministry. This is God’s time. Attune yourself to God and see that God is at work.



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# Transition: What happened when the Pastor left?

By Beverley Raffety and Carolyn Slippem

*Transition* is defined by Webster as a *passage from one state, stage or place to another; change; a movement, development, or evolution*. Certainly not a static, unproductive or uninteresting time!

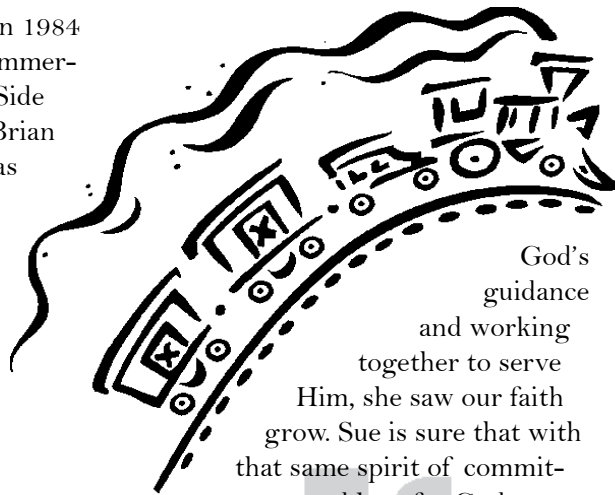
The bare facts are these. In 1984 our former pastor, John Zimmerman, departed from West Side Church. Associate Pastor Brian Grassley moved up to act as Head of Staff and Senior Pastor. A Pastor Nominating Committee was selected and went to work to identify a new senior pastor. Bob Paul was called to West Side Church in 1986.

Adding flesh to bare facts makes a much more interesting and compelling story as recalled by Pauline Fowler, Ken Gasper, Sue Hinkle, Bob Jackson, and Bob and Judy Tibbatts.

Pauline remembers how God had blessed us with a talented and creative staff and a congregation who “rolled up their sleeves and carried on in a wonderful way.”

Ken saw the “Holy Spirit as the overseer, ordaining and guiding the congregation and Brian. The Spirit used that time to prepare us to be receptive to a new pastor with a new personality and leadership style. Brian was also prepared for the next stage of his ministry.” God is the ultimate multi-tasker.

Sue, Coordinator of Christian Education at the time, saw John’s leaving as a bit “scary”. However, she soon learned that “the church did not depend on that one man.” As all of the committed people of West Side concentrated on seeking



God’s guidance and working together to serve Him, she saw our faith grow. Sue is sure that with that same spirit of commitment to and love for God, we will continue to experience God’s guidance, support and encouragement during this transition.

Bob Jackson recalls the particulars of the Pastor Nominating Committee, which will be the behind-the-scenes work force in calling our new pastor. It is important that the match of pastor and church be a good one for both sides—like a good marriage. This particular PNC met at least weekly for about 18 to 20 months—nearly a hundred meetings in total. About a third of that time was spent in creating a Church Information Form to describe our church, who we are and where we discern that God wants us to go. The other two thirds of those 100 meetings were spent in screening Personal Information Forms from prospective pastors, detailed discussions about candidates of interest, drafting letters and interview questions, and making trips to hear a pastor preach in his own setting. It obviously is a very labor

intensive effort, but Bob remembers the friendships that developed within the committee and the fact that they came together to speak with one voice.

Bob and Judy Tibbatts remind us that the church didn’t fall apart. People did not leave. The church did not become divisive. Rather, we were confident, united and anticipatory. New members joined us. People who had sat back, stepped forward and accepted leadership rolls. With Faye, C. J., Dan, Karel, and John we can and will do it again.

Those who have been through this before have these recommendations. Pray for the selection of the members of the PNC and for the whole committee as they deliberate. Share your vision of our future with someone on that committee. Use this time to grow in your Christian walk to be ready for whatever God will be calling us to become or do. Pray for our church, staff and lay leaders daily. Pray for the pastor and his/her family who will be called to West Side. And be patient.

Bob Paul will be missed. He has served us well with his leadership and Bible teaching. He leaves us in good stead. God is calling him to an exciting new opportunity. We can be sure that God is also calling us to a new and equally exciting opportunity. Let us be ready and eager.

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# Equipping the saints for ministry

by Dr. Robert Paul

West Side Church is a congregation with an exceptionally active lay ministry and very strong lay leadership. At the same time, West Side historically has always invested the largest proportion of its annual budget in Staff. Is this a contradiction? On the contrary, I believe that the two go hand in hand. A strong, capable staff makes it possible to sustain a strong, active ministry of the laity because staff members are connectors, encouragers, and supports for the whole body.

In traditional usage, the word 'laity' referred to the 'members' of a church as opposed to the 'clergy'. Clergy were called ministers because they *did* the ministry. That is, they performed the traditional religious functions. Members, by analogy, did...what? The clergy/laity distinction often produced churches where most members were passive recipients and observers of a few 'professionals' who performed 'the ministry'.

The Bible calls the church a body with many members, on the analogy of arms and legs, eyes and

ears, etc. Members of that kind are not passive—they are parts that are essential for the body to move, to work, to celebrate, and so to live with health and vitality. The Bible speaks of pastors and teachers (not 'clergy') whose role is to 'equip' the saints—that is, *all the members*—for the work of ministry. It differentiates one kind of ministry from another, not on the basis of clergy/laity, but on the basis of different gifts, all of them given by the one Spirit so that the whole body works together well.

We have an excellent staff of very gifted—and *differently gifted*—people. They complement each other and share a beautiful and harmonious working relationship with each other. We also have a congregation with hundreds of very gifted people who give leadership to the church's programs and ministries with energy, creativity, and love. When a Senior Pastor of twenty years departs, it is a significant event—but vital ministry in a church does not depend on the pastor alone, or any one person for that matter.

The things that make for vitality include these: lots of prayer, lots of love, lots of freedom to try things, to learn from them, and to keep trying; lots of worship, lots of music, lots of reaching out to people around us; lots of giving, lots of caring, lots of saying thank you.

The *fruit* of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control—is the oil that allows the *gifts* of the Spirit to be used to their full. When all the gifts are given in service to the Lord, by all the members, then 'the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work' (Ephesians 4:16).

This coming interim, between our current pastor and the person who God is preparing to bring to us, is a time for the whole body—staff and lay leadership—to work together in the Spirit as one. As Jesus said, 'I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit' (John 15:16).



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## Summer Trainees arrive soon

by Debbie Pappas

The Trainee Committee is excited to announce the members of the 2005 Trainee team. There are 14 college-aged students who have accepted the invitation to come and interact with the children, teens, and college-age students in our congregation and neighborhood.

Several of the Trainees are returning for a second year. They include **Alex Nelson, John Campbell, Laura Ellefson, Paul Carbaugh, and Megan Acedo.**

Names that many will recognize as students who have attended West Side and are now back for the summer are **Rachel Mellinger, Kim Miller, and Kristen Black.**

**Julie Solbrack, Rebecca Datin, Angela Bees, Tiffany Heath, Nathan Dowd, and Kyle Bailey** will be the new faces that we will enjoy getting to know over the summer.

Please help us welcome these new Trainees on Sunday, June 12, their first Sunday here at West Side.

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## Family Room

### Welcome to

Caleb Morrison born March 24 in Redmond, WA to Tom and Shelly Sehmel. Granparents are George and Edna Sehmel and great grandmother is Betty Morrison.

Sable Marie born April 20 to Sky and Dayl Holmes. Grandmother is Melody Holmes.

### In Memoriam

Dorral West entered eternal life April 14, 2005.

### Happy Birthday

Betty Morrison celebrated 99 years on May 4, 2005.

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## New Deacons at work



The Deacon class of 2007 is already serving our congregation ably. They are Annette Barnes (top), and (left to right): Leo Fifield, Jim Weber, Jessie Atteridge, Kathy Weber, and David Atteridge.

## West Side Church

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Coming June 20-24 is **Royal Quest for the Kingdom**, this year’s Vacation Bible School. Sue Hinkle and her crew are hard at work preparing a special time for our 1st - 5th graders. It will be held at West Side North from 8:30 am to noon each day.

### 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