

# WESTPORT WITNESS

[www.westportchristianchurch.com](http://www.westportchristianchurch.com)

August, 2008

# Hilltop

## Family Day

August 3rd.

Food and fun for the whole family.

# Men's Retreat

August 15th

Speaker; Robert Lowery.

B.B.Q. Chicken Supper

&

A Great Message!

### Mike's Message...

What a wonderful exciting time! As many of you know, Claire Elizabeth Arbuckle was born July 5<sup>th</sup>. This is our first grandchild. God has truly blessed our house with a wonderful family.

God has also been blessing us with a wonderful extended family, the church here in Westport. I am truly excited about what God is doing in and through this body of believers. Since the leaders made the decision to step out in faith, God has once again proved He will provide. Since the purchase of the new property, we have received \$1,000.00 to help with expenses toward the property. Now, if that's not enough to get you excited, let me share a couple more things with you. We have had people in our community (those who are not members here) volunteer to help us! Some have helped in hauling dirt. Many have stopped by to offer their assistance in many ways. That speaks volumes!

Now, with all the exciting things which are taking place I feel I must also sound a word of alarm. The alarm is this: conflict will come. Conflict is not a bad thing; it can be good. Change brings conflict. Part of conflict comes about because we all have to get out of our comfort zone. When that happens, the unknown or uncertainties bring about stress which only adds to the equation. With that in mind, however, let me once again say this is not a bad thing.

In the next few months, we are going to be changing our worship time as well as adding some new opportunities for you to learn, serve, and grow (and also to experience some conflicts.) So, please be patient with me and the leaders as we strive to follow after God's leading for His church. *Continued inside. . .*

*Mike's Message continued...*

Recently, I received an e-mail from a friend of mine about the growing decline of the Christian faith and the Church. In this article I read that many people have left their "Christian" faith behind to follow after something new and exciting. After reading that article, as well as many others, I was able to conclude that my speculations were correct, people don't know what they believe. It saddens me that many of these people once had proclaimed Jesus as their Lord.

The writer of Hebrews puts it this way. <sup>1</sup>*"Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, . . . For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned."*

I believe with ALL my heart that the Scripture in it's original form is without errors and is the true and living Word of God. I believe with ALL my heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, who died upon the cross for MY sins and He will return one day to judge the living and the dead. Because of my faith and trust in God, I must live my life daily for Him. I must, with the help of the Holy Spirit, fight off the sinful desires which I have--the evil thoughts which comes into my mind--and strive to be more like Jesus everyday. Because I believe He is returning, I must be prepared! Are you?

Growing together,

*Mike*

**Elder's Express:** Talking with people that are set on attempting to make their "mark" in this world can be very interesting. They live their lives trying to accomplish things that people on this earth will remember. They place their names on buildings assuming that the building will last forever. The problem with this is that one day the building will be taken down (if the world is here long enough) because nothing made of this earth lasts forever. After all, look at the Roman Empire or the Egyptian Empire. All the rulers who built great buildings so their names will be remembered are only thought of in passing or in history classes studying that time period. If we were to drive around the town and look at the grave sites, we might see large burial markers erected to ensure that even in death the person would always be remembered. After time, though, the markers become faded and no one comes to visit anymore. Why? It is because the world moves on and, over time, things are mostly forgotten.

Now we're not trying to suggest that there is anything wrong with wanting to make an impression on people, but sometimes we get ourselves so focused on making a lasting impression that we forget why we are really living. We become so focused on trying to make an impression that we forget about living the way God wants us to live. We don't realize that living as a Christian is the only way to make a true lasting mark on this world. So how can we live our life the way God intended us to?

People, including Christians have spent millions of dollars trying to fix themselves in order to live productive lives. People contact celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey in order to learn how to heal so they can learn how to live. Oprah takes them to a "spiritual awakening" that is false in nature and leads to an unfulfilling life. They are focused on the wrong problem and the wrong solution.

Jesus said in John 14:6 that "I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the father except through me." Who else do we need? Proverbs 3:5-6 says "Trust in the Lord always and lean not unto thy own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he will make thy paths straight." We need no one but Jesus to lead and guide our way.

<sup>1</sup>Hebrews 6:1-8 NASU

Westport Christian Church

Biblical Ed class 9:30

Worship 10:30

Sunday night & Youth Group 6:00

Wednesday night 7:00

# August

<p><b>Birthdays</b></p> <p>1st Cassie Weaver Mike Bartlett</p> <p>3rd Jill Sageser</p> <p>12th Keith Cooley</p> <p>14th Ethan Peele</p> <p>16th Destiny Loizer</p> <p>21st Donni Buchanan</p> <p>28th Steve Black</p>
<p><b>Anniversaries</b></p> <p>6th Larry &amp; Norma Rowe</p>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Family Sunday Back to School give away	4	5 Elders/Deacons 7:00 Women's meeting at	6  Bible Study 7:00	7	8  T.G.I.F 6:00-8:00	9 *Work day*
10 Ministry Outreach Skybird Manor 3:00	11	12 Board Meeting 7:00	13  Bible Study 7:00	14	15 Men's Retreat at Hilltop	16
17 All Church Pitch- In	18	19	20  Bible Study 7:00	21	22	23 <b>**House Demoli- tion**</b>
24 Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze 2:30	25	26	27  Bible Study 7:00	28	29	30
31 Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze 2:30						

*Ladies,*

Getting my day started so I accomplish what I want has always been a problem for me. I'm sure some of you are much better at doing it than I. A long time ago when the kids were young, I read about doing "minimum maintenance" every day. I've been doing this off and on since then. As soon as I get up, I spend 15 to 30 minutes clearing the clutter left from the day before, cleaning the bathrooms and emptying the wastebaskets going clockwise through the rooms. That way my house is presentable and I can go on to my schedule for the day. It makes me feel better and gets me moving. I'm ready to tackle my projects!

Jesus wants us to do "minimum maintenance" on our spiritual lives, too. We need to daily clean up the clutter and trash that the world leaves in our lives. This will allow us to stay closer to our Lord. Let's make it a habit.

See you Sunday!



## What's Cook'in



### Microwave Bread & Butter Pickles

2 cups sliced cucumbers	½ cup sugar
1 large onion	½ cup white vinegar
1 tsp salt	½ tsp celery seed
½ tsp mustard seed	¼ tsp tumeric

Mix and stir well together. Place in microwave and cook on high for four minutes. Stir well then cook for additional four minutes. Allow to set and cool to room temp. Store in refrigerator in a glass jar.

These pickles are supper easy to make and taste wonderful.

Enjoy!