

## WESTPORT WITNESS

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

December, 2007

Christmas  
Eve Service  
7:00 PM

New Years  
Eve Service  
6-?

### Mike's Message...

Here we are; the last month of this year! I don't know about you, but this year seems to have gone by extremely fast. I know time is constant; it never changes; there are 60 seconds in a minute, and so on. Yet, I feel that I am not the only one that can say, "Where has it gone?" With Thanksgiving behind us, it will soon be Christmas, then New Years, then. . . I think you know what I mean.

We come upon a time of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. A time of the year that we can make a choice to either allow all the garbage of the world to take our joy away or to focus on what this time of the year really means. It's tough being a parent, especially this time of the year. We want our children to truly know and understand what Christmas is all about, but how?

Allow me to give you a suggestion? I feel that it is always important to be honest with your children. So, when they ask you about Santa Claus, you should tell them the truth. <sup>1</sup>*In A.D. 303, the Roman Emperor Diocletian ordered a brutal persecution of all Christians. Those suspected of following the Lord were ordered to sacrifice to pagan gods. Nicholas and thousands of others refused. Ministers, bishops, and lay people were dragged to prison. Savage tortures were unleashed on Christians all over the empire. Believers were fed to wild animals. Some were forced to fight gladiators for their lives while bloodthirsty crowds screamed for their death. Women suffered dehumanizing torment. Saints were beaten senseless, others set aflame while still alive. Yet persecution couldn't stamp out Christianity. Rather it spread.*

*Continued inside. . .*

Mike's Message continued...

Third Century leader Tertullian observed, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." Those who survived Diocletian's torture chambers were called "saints" or "confessors" by the people, because they didn't forsake their confession that Jesus Christ is Lord. Nicholas was one of these. Finally, after years of imprisonment, the iron doors swung open and Bishop Nicholas walked out, freed by decree of the new Emperor Constantine.

As he entered his city once more, his people flocked about him. "Nicholas! Confessor!" they shouted. "Saint Nicholas has come home." The bishop was beaten but not broken. He served Christ's people in Myra for another thirty years. Through the prayers of this tried and tested soldier of faith, many found salvation and healing. Nicholas participated in the famous Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. He died on December 6, about 343, a living legend, beloved by his whole city. St. Nick of yuletide fame still carries faint reminders of this ancient man of God.

The color of his outfit recollects the red of bishop's robes. "Making a list, checking it twice," probably recalls the old saint's lectures to children about good behavior. Gifts secretly brought on Christmas eve bring to mind his humble generosity to the three daughters. Yet if he were alive today, this saint would humbly deflect attention from himself. No fur-trimmed hat and coat, no reindeer and sleigh or North Pole workshop. As he did in life centuries ago, Bishop Nicholas would point people to his Master. "I am Nicholas, a sinner," the old saint would say. "Nicholas, servant of Christ Jesus."

Tell them the truth that even a man named Nicholas would want them to know about Jesus and the real reason for CHRISTmas!

Love to all,  
Mike

Ladies,

December is here already. Can you believe the year has gone by so quickly and the marathon between Thanksgiving and Christmas has begun?

Mary Beth Breckenridge had a list of tips in the Republic to help prevent holiday weariness. Here is a quick recap with some thoughts of my own.

\* First, take stock of your resources—time, energy, and money. Be realistic about your limits and don't drive yourself crazy.

\* Look at the big picture— What do you really value? Just because you've done it in years past doesn't mean you must continue. Do what you really want to do.

\* Make a schedule. Get your activities on a calendar. Write down the kids' activities and yours.—School concerts, caroling, Christmas parties, church services, etc...

\* Put it in writing. Don't add to the stress levels by forgetting. Make yourself a list and put it where you can find it— things you need to get at the store, holiday menus, your budget, etc.

\* Maintain *perspective*. *What is really important to make this a good Christmas?* The most important ingredient is Jesus. Without Him, Christmas would be just another day.

So, Get plenty of sleep and exercise. Keep your sense of humor. Focus on things eternal and enjoy this Christmas— celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus.

*Don't forget you secret sister!*



7th Kids Christmas	5-9
8th Men's Breakfast	7:30
8th Community Self-defense classes for women	4-6
9th Ministry Outreach Skybird Manor	3:00
11th Elder/Deacon meeting	6:00
11th Board Meeting	7:00
16th ALL Church Pitch-In following worship	
23rd Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze	2:30
24th Christmas eve service	7:00
30th Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze	2:30
31st New Years eve party	6-?

## CALLING ALL YOUTH

This is for all of **you**. On Friday December 7, we will have a night just for you. We will begin at 5:00 with some food and other goodies, after that, you will have a chance to shop for your moms and dads for Christmas. After everyone is done with their shopping, we will watch a movie and enjoy some snacks and perhaps play a game or two, so plan on being here to enjoy a night just for **YOU!**

Okay, this is for just the **ladies**. On Saturday December 8 from 4 till 6, we will be hosting a self-defense class to help you learn to protect yourself. With all the trouble we see on TV and hear on the news we want to do all we can to help protect you. Make plans now to be here. There is no age limit, but may I suggest nine years and older.

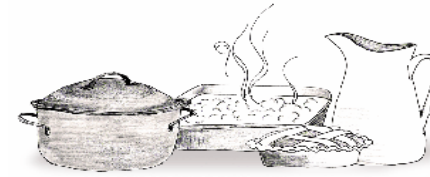
Can you believe it's almost Christmas! Then comes a new year! Have you thought about what you are planning on doing next year? As for Michael Cann, he has a lot to figure out for next year, what about you? Now, I know that your not all going off to college, but I think it is still important to be thinking about what you would like to do. For example, how many weeks of camp are you going to attend? Are you interested in going on a short missions trip? Are you getting a summer job?

Why am I bring all this up? As you go through life, it is extremely important to think about your choices and opportunities that are before you. Some choices that you will make could lead to a very satisfying life. Others choices, a life of struggles and hardships. As you get older you will discover there will always be decisions that you will always have to make.

The greatest decision that you could ever make is to have Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life. With that decision comes the commitment to stay connected to Christ and His church. I pray you make the right decisions.

*Merry Christmas*

## From The Kitchen



## Rocky Road Candy

### Ingredients

- 1 Bag Chocolate chips
- 1 Bag Butterscotch chips
- 1 Cup Peanut Butter
- 3 cups mini Marshmallows
- 1 Bag salted Planters peanuts

In a sauce pan, melt the chocolate chips, Butterscotch chips. Add peanut butter, and mix until smooth. Then add marshmallows and peanuts. Mix thoroughly, then spread out over wax paper. Allow to cool then, ENJOY!

Westport Christian Church

Biblical Ed class 9:30

Worship 10:30

Sunday night & Youth Group 6:00

Wednesday night 7:00

# December

<u>Birthdays</u>
11th Shelley Riggs
14th Cole Sabastian
19th Larry Rowe
<u>Anniversaries</u>
2nd Dan & Nina Richardson
16th Ron & Donni Buchanan
23rd John & Shelley Riggs
27th Kenny & Carolyn Blanton

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2 Family Sunday Congregational Meeting following worship	3	4 Women's meeting	5 Bible Study 7:00	6	7 **Kids Christmas** 5-9 Details above	8 Men's Breakfast 7:00 *Self-defense class* 4-6 <b>details below</b>
9 Ministry Outreach Skybird Manor 3:00	10	11 Elder/ Deacon 6:00 Board meeting 7:00	12 Prayer meeting 6:15 Bible Study 7:00	13	14	15
16 ALL Church Pitch-In Following worship	17	18	19 Bible Study 7:00	20	21	22
23 Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze 2:30	24 Christmas Eve service 7:00	25 <b>Christmas Day!!</b>	26 No Bible study	27	28	29
30 Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze 2:30	31 New Years Eve party. 6-?					