

WESTPORT WITNESS

www.westportchristianchurch.com

February, 2009

February 21st

At 6:00

New Members Appreciation

Banquet

This is a great opportunity to come
and get to know our newest members.

For more information, please see the
preacher or one of the elders.

Mike's Message...

For the last few weeks, I have been doing some reading about the culture we live in. The number of people who confess to be 'Christian' is still high, but are they? Can a person claim to be one thing, yet not be? Now, I know there are many people who say we are not to judge, but is that right? What does the scripture say? First of all, the scripture does clearly state we are not to judge the world for it is already condemned. John 3:16-17.

Many people read what Jesus said in Matthew 7 verse 1 and they stop reading. What is Jesus trying to tell us? He is talking about hypocritical living! For the measure **you** use is the same measure which will be used against **you**.

We live in a time period where people do not want to be responsible for their actions. Not too long ago a man shot his brother to death in Chicago. When he went before the judge, the judge asked him why he killed his brother. His answer was because his brother ate the last twinkie. If that wasn't enough, he went on to place blame on his dead brother by saying, if he hadn't taken it, he wouldn't have shot him!

Today there is very little difference between the way people in the world act and think and the way people in the church act and think. The Greek word used in the scripture for 'Church' means, "the called out ones." We are to be called out of the world to be different. We take a different road than the one the world takes. We are to be holy as God is holy. Many churches have turned to entertaining people to get people in their doors. They leave God and the Bible out because it might be offensive to someone. We have forgotten that it is not about us, but about HIM!

Some churches are doing away with Sunday School because that is too much to ask people to do. There are others who still have it, but they don't teach from the Bible or use material that challenges a person to evaluate their life. *Continued inside. . .*

Mike's Message continued...

... We are changing our web site and on it, instead of Sunday School, it will be called Biblical education or Bible school. If the preacher and the Elders stand for what is right, then there is a possibility the congregation will not grow as large and fast like many other churches have today. (Preacher, Elders and parents must realize the importance of holding on to the principles found in the Bible more than they do about entertaining and big numbers.) Parents must realize the importance of having their children in the Bible and that Bible-based church activities are far more valuable than some school and sporting activities. After all, we are dealing with things that have eternal consequences.

We are standing at a crossroads of decisions as individuals, as a country and as a church. Which road will we take? Jesus talks about two paths. One leads to life, the other to destruction. (Matthew 7:13-14)

I have a poem written by Melodee Marshall in which she titles "Two Roads."

*There is a road that is easy to walk;
it's downhill all the way.
But for the easiness of this walk
later you have to pay.
Along this road are dazzling lights
and things that will surely please.
And if you take this wonderful road,
you will have a life of ease.
BUT there is another road you can take,
and this one is hard and long.
There is much dust and huge gray stones
And places where you can go wrong.
The first is a path of loneliness trod,
through its treasures allure you its way.
But if you take that second, rough road,
Christ will be there with you all the way.*

As we stand at the crossroads, may I encourage all of you to take the road that may not seem flashy and popular. The road less traveled which leads to life.

Growing together,
Mike

Elders Express:

Over the course of the last couple of months, we have gone over the essential steps to becoming a Christian. As stated last month, we are going to talk about the very next and most important step: Living the remainder of your life as Christ wants us to or Christian Living. What happens after that emotional day when we surrendered our life to Jesus?

What happens once we return to our jobs, go back around family and begin living day to day as "*new creatures in Christ*" as Paul informed us that we now are? For some reason many people immediately begin to struggle as they fail to understand that they have a responsibility to not remain as "new babes" in Christ. We need to grow into mature responsible Christians who can engage and lead people to Christ with even their lifestyles. People should be able to see Jesus within us by the way we live.

Paul addresses the importance of maturity when he is addressing the church at Corinth. Paul was dealing with immaturity of the church members and makes a direct statement to them about maturity in 1 Corinthians 14: 20, "*Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.*" In Hebrews, Paul writes in Chapter 5 verses 11-14: "*Concerning him (Jesus) we have much to say and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though, by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil*". In Hebrews 6:1A Paul continues on with: "*Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity.....*"

Paul wanted us to know that we should not be immature in our thinking, but always be engaged in growing to mature individuals in Christ and able to handle the word of God. (2 Timothy 2:15) It is not enough to just become Christians. We have been commanded to grow and mature in our Lord and Savior Jesus.

Jesus himself teaches us that we are to grow and mature. We can see this in Matthew's account of Jesus' life when he instructed his disciples to go forth and reach the lost. In Matthew Chapter 10:25 we see that Jesus expects his disciples to become not above our teacher, but suggests that it is enough for us to become as our teacher. "*It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master*". Jesus has an expectation that we will continue to become increasingly mature as we live out our lives.

So what can we say about the trials and struggles we go through as we begin to learn and grow in Christ. James informs us that the trials are a testing of our faith to make us perfect, complete lacking in nothing. (James Chapter 1) We need to persevere and make every effort to truly become more Christ-Like every day as we mature in our faith. See you next month.

Westport Christian Church

Bible classes 9:30

Worship 10:30

Sunday night & Youth Group 6:00

Wednesday night 7:00

February

Birthdays
1st Ronda Bartlett
6th Garrett Sebastian Dianah Papantonio
8th Donnie Sageser
12th Trista Garrity
16th Jonathon Richards
18th John Riggs
20th Mertie Saylor
26th Sharon Pugh
27th Charlene Cooley
28th Danielle Townsend
Anniversaries
1st Mike & Jenny Hardebeck
14th John & Cindy Richards

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Family Sunday	2 Encouraging Others 6:30 Board Meeting 6:30	3 Women's meeting 7:00 at church	4 Bible Study 7:00	5	6	7
8 Ministry Outreach Skybird Manor 3:00	9 Encouraging Others 6:30	10	11 Bible Study 7:00	12	13	14 Valentines Day
15 ALL Church Pitch-In Following worship	16 Encouraging Others 6:30	17 WCC God's Men 6:00	18 Bible Study 7:00	19	20	21 New Members Banquet 6:00
22 Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze 2:30	23 Encouraging Others 6:30	24 SCIMCF at Jonesville Christian Church	25 Bible Study 7:00	26	27	28

Dear Ladies,

Happy Valentines Day!

Isn't it fun to think of love and all the ways to show it? Hearts, valentines, flowers. . . !

In His word, God tells us about some people He wants us to love-check it out.

Matthew 22:37, Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayers and intelligence.

Love others as well as you love yourself.

Matthew 5:44, Love your enemies.

Titus 2:4, Love your husbands and children.

1 Peter 2:17, Love your spiritual family.

Some of these people are easy to love but what about the others?
How can we love them all?

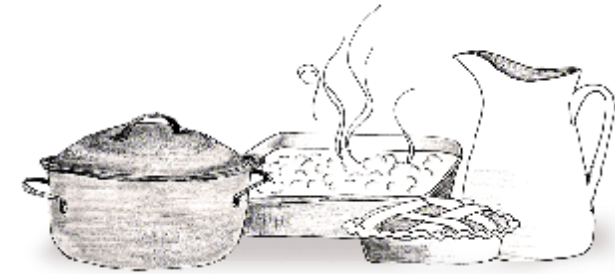
Through the power of the Holy Spirit we can. God's love grows in us when we are connected to Him through Christ.

Stay connected to Jesus and show His love to all those around you!

See you Sunday—I'll save you a seat!

Donni

What's Cook'in



Taco Soup

- 1 lb. Extra lean ground beef
 - 3 cans (15 ½ oz. each) mild chili beans, undrained
 - 1 can (14 ½ oz.) whole tomatoes, undrained
 - 1 can (14 ½ oz.) corn, undrained
 - 1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce
 - 1 pkg. (1 ¼ oz.) Taco Bell Home Originals Taco Seasoning Mix
 - 1 ½ cups water
 - 1 ½ cups Kraft 2% Milk Shredded Cheddar Cheese
 - 1 onion chopped
- Brown beef with onions in large saucepan; drain.
Add all remaining ingredients except cheese; stir, breaking up tomatoes. Bring to boil. Simmer on medium-low heat 5 min., stirring occasionally.
Serve topped with cheese.
- Enjoy