

Supper & Study

We will be starting a "Supper & Study" the first Wednesday this month. We will have a meal at 6:15 with Bible study beginning at 7:00.

Start making plans now to join us for some wonderful food for the body and soul.

If you have any questions, see Mike.

New Members Banquet Saturday, 30, at 6:00

If have become a member since our last banquet, this one is for YOU!

If you are a new member, all you are required to bring is an appetite.

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some wonderful food and learn a little about each other.

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, January 31, at 6:00, we will have a congregational meeting. The elders wish to share with ALL of you some plans and vision from our leadership retreat. Everyone is encouraged to attend to hear some of the exciting plans for the future of Westport Christian Church.

WESTPORT WITNESS

www.westportchristianchurch.com

January, 2010

Mike's Message... Happy New Year! I would like to encourage you all not only to see this as a new year, but a new opportunity to serve the Lord. I am really excited about the coming year for several reasons; allow me to share with you just a few.

First of all, we will be celebrating our 160th anniversary. What an accomplishment--160 faithful years of serving our Lord in Westport and the surrounding area. The leadership will be asking for your help to plan and organize some special events throughout the year, so please let us know if you can help.

Secondly, we have a great group of men who are willing to serve the Lord. I would like to ask that you all pray for your elders as they strive to follow the Lord's leading. On January 15-16, the elders and I will be going on our first leadership retreat. Please be in prayer for this retreat that we may develop our vision for the new year and lay down plans for the next three years.

Be in prayer for our deacons and trustee's. They will be working together to maintain our current building and property as well as be instrumental in planning for our future.

Thirdly, we are going to be trying several different things throughout the new year. We are certain many of them will work and is needed for future growth. Some may not work as well, so we must be willing to throw it aside and try something different. Therefore, we would like to ask you all to be patience with us and willing to try different things. Remember, we must be willing to change the methods to reach people with the love of Christ, but we must NEVER change the message!

Continued inside. . .

Mike's Message continued. . . These are just a few of the things that I am excited about for 2010. So, what does the new year hold for Westport Christian Church? I don't know, but I want to share with you some things I do know. 2010 brings new opportunities to serve. As we grow, we need more servants. In case you didn't know this, we need volunteers to help clean the church. We have gotten a lot of wonderful comments on how nice our building looks. I share with everyone how we have a group of people who take turns clean the church to prepare it for worship and other events. So, you may want to consider being part of this.

We will also have opportunities to serve in community outreach. We need to continue to be an externally--focused church. We must always be thinking about ways to impact our community for the cause of Christ. As we continue to grow, we will need additional workers to help impact our community even more for Christ.

More volunteers will be needed to help with the children. This means help with outing, classes, VBS as well as other program we have done in the past as well as new ones.

So many wonderful and exciting things lay in front of us for the new year, so let all of us focus on, *"Bringing them in for 2010!"*
Growing together,
Mike

Elders' Express January
"Life After Death?"

Where do we go when we die? Do we go to Heaven, Hell or Nowhere at all? Does the Bible teach us about an afterlife beyond this world? If we were to die tomorrow would we just cease to exist or continue on into an afterlife? If we go into an afterlife, is it Heaven or Hell? What does the Bible teach us? Where we go when we die does not depend upon what we believe, but rather what the Bible teaches us as absolute truth. Since the Bible is the complete revealed word of God (2 Timothy 3:16) we only need to again seek scripture for our answers.

In the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 25, we see Jesus informing us of a day of judgment in which we will all be separated according to our deeds. Those who have followed Jesus and kept His commandments will be allowed into an everlasting rest, while those who have not will enter into everlasting fire where they will weep and gnash at their teeth. Jesus clearly is teaching that there is to be both a Heaven and Hell after we have been judged by Him from the throne. So, if there is going to be a Heaven and Hell to go to after the judgment, where do we go to immediately when we die?

There are some who believe that once we die, we become extinct. We simply go into dust and do not exist anymore until the Day of Judgment. Once Jesus comes back, we sort of become re-created again in some way in order to meet Jesus in the air. This theory has no Biblical base and therefore is false.

Some believe that once we die, we simply go to sleep. Those who propose this suggest that since Acts 13:36 and 1 Kings 2:10 account King David as being asleep in death, that when we die, we simply sleep until the Day of Judgment. The problem with this theory is that there are also scripture passages that give clear accounts of us being in a spiritual conscious state upon death. In 1 Samuel 28:15 we see King Saul clearly talking to the prophet Samuel while in a spiritual conscious state post death. Samuel is seen in his bodily form and clearly is conscious. Another example of people being in a conscious state is recorded in Matthew 17:3 when Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus on the Mount and began talking with Him in front of the Disciples. In summary, we can safely suggest that when the Bible talks of falling to sleep in death, it is figurative and suggest a physical state where we look asleep rather than are actually being asleep.

A third theory is that we are instantly resurrected into Heaven or Hell upon death. This clearly is not the case since Matthew 25 records a Day of Judgment before going into Heaven or Hell. 1 Thessalonians 4:15 says that those who have died will go at the same time as those being caught up in the air to meet Jesus. We will all go to judgment and then Heaven or Hell. At this point we have established that there is a Heaven and Hell. We have also established that after death we will be in spirit and yet in a conscious state awaiting judgment. So what is this Intermediate state called? This clearly depends upon if we died in Christ or died without Christ.

If we die in Christ, the Bible teaches that we are in Paradise with the Lord Jesus Himself. In Luke 23:43 we see Jesus on the cross informing the thief that today he would be with Him in Paradise. In 2 Corinthians 5:8 we see that Paul says to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. If we die without Christ the Bible teaches us of yet a second place we could go before the judgment, Hades. In Luke Chapter 16 we see the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man and Lazarus have both died. The rich man is in a place of torment while Lazarus is in Paradise. Both can see one another with a great divide between the two places. The rich man is in torment while Lazarus is clearly in a place of comfort and rest. This account clearly shows two distinct places that we could go after death before the final judgment. So the final question is left up to you.

WHERE WILL YOU BE AFTER DEATH? PARADISE OR HADES? Which judgment will you face unto death? Are you ready?

John

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Family Sunday Worship at 6:00	4	5 Encouraging Others 10:00 Women's business meeting 7:00	6 Supper & Study We will eat at 6:15 with study at 7:00	7	8	9
10 Ministry Outreach Skybird Manor 3:00 Worship at 6:00	11	12 Encouraging Others 10:00 God's Men 6:15	13 Supper & Study We will eat at 6:15 with study at 7:00	14 Women Celebrating Christ Bible Study 7:00	15	16 Leadership Retreat Please pray for your leaders dur- ing their retreat.
17 ALL Church Pitch-In following worship. Worship at 6:00	18	19 Encouraging Others 10:00	20 Supper & Study We will eat at 6:15 with study at 7:00	21	22	23
24 Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze 2:30 Worship at 6:00	25	26 Encouraging Others 10:00	27 Supper & Study We will eat at 6:15 with study at 7:00	28 Women Celebrating Christ Bible Study 7:00	29	30 **New Members** Banquet 6:00 See below for details
31 Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze 2:30 **Congregational meeting 6:00			Our new members banquet is for all new members since our last banquet. All of the older members will provide a wonderful meal. After the meal we will have an opportunity for fellowship and a chance to get to know each member of the family better. Plan now to attend.			

Birthdays
 2nd Norma Garrett
 9th Tanna Garrity
 10th Carla Richards
 Michael Arnold
 17th Kyle Alumbaugh
 21st Donna Speer
 28th Danielle Townsend
 31st Vickie Ritchey

Anniversaries
 6th Steve & Pat
 Black
 8th Don & Vickie

Dear Sisters,

Welcome to the New Year, ladies! I hope your Christmas time was filled with Jesus, family, and love.

I watched a Christmas DVD with TV episodes from different shows through the years and what an eye-opener it was! Friends, family, and faith were big themes in the early years of television. In more recent shows, though, the themes changed to friends and silliness. I know the newer shows were supposed to be funny, but I found it rather sad. The world simply doesn't have our hope or cause for celebration, anymore.

The Women Celebrating Christ Bible Study is Start this year with a better understanding of what God teaches us about our relationships. Come and see with us how your friendships can encourage and strengthen friends through Christ.

As we move into this new year, let's make sure that we keep Jesus, family, and love in our hearts. We don't have to live in darkness, because we can live in the light of God's Son!

Blessings

How we learn

Learners retain:

20% of what they read

20% of what they hear

30% of what they see

50% of what they see and hear

90% of what they see, hear and do.

Jesus knew the importance of his followers' hearing, seeing and doing his teaching. "Why," he asked, "do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say." (Luke 6:46)

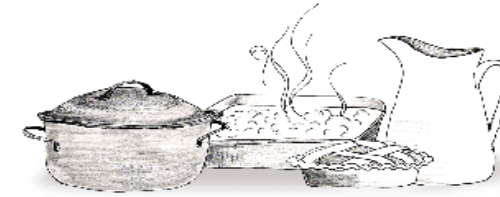
Was the kid right?

The Sunday school teacher asked her class this question: "Why is it good at times to get away from everyone and have some quiet moments?"

A lad named David promptly replied, "So our conscience can bother us."

—Mrs. R.M. Nies, Wahpeton, North Dakota

What's Cook'in



Pumpkin-Spice Bar

4 eggs

1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

1 cup raisins

2 cups sugar

2 cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon ground cloves

Cream Cheese Frosting

1 package (3 ounces) cream cheese, softened

1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix cream cheese, butter and vanilla in medium bowl. Gradually beat in powdered sugar with spoon until smooth and spreadable.

1/3 cup butter softened

2 cups powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease jelly roll pan, 15 1/2 X 10 1/2 X 1 inch. Mix eggs, sugar, oil and pumpkin in large bowl with spoon. Stir in flour, baking powder, cinnamon, baking soda, salt, ginger and cloves. Stir in raisins.

Spread batter in pan. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely. Frost with Cream Cheese frosting. Sprinkle with nuts. Cut into 8 rows by 6 rows. Store covered in refrigerator.

Enjoy!