

All Church Praise Service



Sunday January 25th at 6:00
Come and share!

WESTPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WESTPORT WITNESS

www.westportchristianchurch.com

January, 2009

Mike's Message...

With the beginning of a new year, what does God have in store for Westport Christian Church? None of us knows for sure what He has in store, but I will tell you, whatever it is, is going to be great. How do I know that? Well, let's take a look at some of the things that took place last year. Last year we had six baptisms, 15 transfers! We all watched in amazement as God used us in a mighty way to impact our community. We had many opportunities to witness for the cause of Christ. With God's leading and blessing, we were able to purchase some much needed property for parking and future growth. Not only did we purchase the property, we were able to remove the house. It was through that project many people in the community formed a new opinion of what our congregation stands for.

We have been able to work with others to be part of a "Good News Club" which is the largest in the United States. Through our efforts to be externally focused, we have been able to touch the lives of many teens through 'Christ Driven Teens.' We began a new ministry to those who have lost a spouse (called, 'Encouraging Others.') Our trial run of after school tutoring' was such a success we could hardly keep up with the demand. Our congregation is becoming very well known for being a caring, loving, and giving congregation, not just in Decatur County, but others as well. I feel that it is safe to say, we are truly making an impact for the kingdom.

So again, what does God have in store for Westport Christian Church in 2009? Well, I feel it is safe to say, much of the same. The leadership has been working hard in planning events and activities for the new year in which God will be glorified. We have added to our motto. *Continued inside. . .*

Mike's Message continued...

We began with, 'Reaching Others With the Love of Christ.' Last year we added, 'Impacting Our Community, One Person at A Time.' This year we want to focus on 'Everyone Reach One.' If everyone in our congregation could reach one person for the cause of Christ, 85 new souls would be saved. Allow that to sink in for a moment. Eighty-five people who would come to know Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Notice that I didn't say 85 more people in our congregation, but 85 more for God's kingdom. Some of you may be thinking, don't we want people coming and joining us? Well, the answer is yes, but our focus must be on the kingdom, not the local building. I know that if we remain true to our cause, then God will bless us. If we are so caught up in growing this congregation, then our focus is off. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians it is God who causes the increase. In the book of Acts we read, "And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:47 NASU)

You and I must do everything in our power to reach out to others, but it is only God who adds people to the church. You and I must live such a life that others take notice and desire to be part of something that's bigger than ourself. Yes, God does cause the increase but He is waiting on each of us to do our part. So, are you up to the challenge? Are you ready to be part of something bigger than yourself? Are you willing to follow our goal for the new year in 'Everyone Reach One?' You see, we need to be letting the Kingdom shine in '09.'

Growing together,

Mike

Elders Express:

What does it take to be saved? Last month we addressed the fourth step towards salvation and that is: Confessing. This month we will address the fifth step in reaching salvation: Baptism.

In Acts 2 Peter stood up and addressed the Jewish people who were gathered on the Day of Pentecost and he informed them that the Jesus they crucified was the Son of God. When the people realized this, they asked Peter what they must do to be saved. Peter says in Acts 2:38 *"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* (NASU)

Romans Chapter 6 verse 4 addresses the concept of what Baptism should be. *"Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."*

The original form of Baptism as addressed in the New Testament Scripture was by being totally immersed. The Greek word for this was "Baptizo" which is generally translated as to immerse. It is the act of being buried, dying to our old self and being risen as a new creature in Christ.

The fact that Baptism is essential and saves us is referenced in 1 Peter 3:21 *"Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,"*... It is important for us to realize that once we completed the other steps it is essential for us to follow through to the waters of baptism. Once we have completed this process we are "new creatures" in Christ. Paul addresses this in 2 Corinthians 5:17.

At this point it is important to note that many people think that once they have accomplished this and by definition are saved, they believed that they do not have to do anything else. But in order to achieve eternal salvation we must accomplish the final step: Christian living. We will address this next month.

Westport Christian Church

Biblical Ed class 9:30

Worship 10:30

Sunday night & Youth Group 6:00

Wednesday night 7:00

January

Birthdays
2nd Norman Garrett
9th Tanna Garrity
10th Michael Arnold
17th Kyle Alumbaugh
28th Nathan Peele
31st Vickie Ritchey
Anniversaries
4th Deric & Teresa Garris
8th Don & Vickie Ritchey
8th Steve & Pat Black

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
**All church praise service is an opportunity for everyone who desire to share in song, reading or testimony. Start preparing now to share what God would desire.*				1	2	3
4 Family Sunday CDT Alert Methodist	5 Encouraging Others 6:30 **Board Meeting	6 Women's Meeting at church 7:00	7 Bible Study 7:00	8	9	10
11 Ministry Outreach Skybird Manor	12 Encouraging Others 6:30	13	14 Bible Study 7:00	15	16	17 Basement reserved
18 ALL Church Pitch-In	19 Encouraging Others 6:30	20 WCC God's Men	21 Bible Study 7:00	22	23	24
25 Ministry Out- reach Morning Breeze **ALL Church	26 Encouraging Others 6:30	27 SCIMCF Ogilville Church of Christ	28 Bible Study 7:00	29	30	31

New Opportunity to Serve! "Everyone Reach One!"

One of the goals of the leadership, everyone is involved in serving. We are starting off this year with several new ministry opportunities to serve our Lord by serving others. Please prayerfully consider how you can help increase God's kingdom here in our community.

Physical operations ministry; This ministry is broken down unto four areas.

1. The maintenance of the building itself.
2. Grounds
3. Supplies
4. Cleaning

Mike Hardebeck has agreed to oversee this ministry. So, if this is for you, please sign up or see Mike.

Welcome Ministry; This ministry is to welcome our guest as they attend for the first time. This ministry will be responsible for directing our guest to Sunday Schools classes, informing them of the layout of the building, as well as getting information from them so we may be able to help them with their needs.

John and Shelley Riggs will be overseeing this ministry.

Other ministries that will be starting are;

- Missions
- Benevolence
- Community Outreach
- Evangelism
- Special Events

Many of these ministries will work together in making an impact in our community and the world for the cause of Christ.

Remember, Jesus came to serve, not to be served. What about you?

What's Cook'in



Hash Brown Casserole

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Package frozen hash browns | 1 package of diced ham |
| 1 regular can cream soup | 1 large carton sour cream |
| 2 cups shredded cheese | 1/3 cup to 1/2 cup melted butter |

Salt, pepper—any other seasonings can be added for your personal taste.

If you would like, you may substitute sausage for the ham.

Spray or grease a 9 X 13 pan. Add ingredients together and bake at 350 for 45 minutes.

Enjoy!