

WESTPORT

CHRISTIAN

CHURCH

Friend Day

May 22, 2005

Come join us for a great day of worship! We want to share with you our Best Friend, Jesus.

There will be a pitch in after the morning worship service to give us time to visit together.

WESTPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WESTPORT WITNESS

www.westportchristianchurch.com

May, 2005

Mike's Message...

Last month we started looking at worship. This month I would like to ask, who is worship for? Is it for people? People coming together singing songs and getting all warm and fuzzy inside? Is it for God? Everyone coming together not speaking, sitting silently in prayer, singing a couple of songs and leaving? I feel that worship is both! Let me explain.

If coming together each week is just to get the warm fuzzies, then this is dangerous ground! The first thing that comes to my mind is, "What is your foundation built upon?" What happens when those warm fuzzies are gone? Also, getting your fix on warm fuzzies will only lead to finding new ways to get the warm fuzzies! I mean it's kind of like getting a drug fix, you need more and more to keep you at that level. Now, some of you may be thinking, "You don't understand preacher. I want to leave church all high and lifted up." I must ask again, "What are you going to stand on when the fuzzies are gone?" Not only that but soon the focus turns to what's in it for me? "I didn't feel the fuzzies today so this church must be dead!" Do you know how many times I have heard that from people since I have been a Christian? More than I would like tell you. This is dangerous because it could also lead to humanism. Do you understand where I am going with this?

Now let's look at the other side. Should worship be a time that we come in, sit down and not speak to each other? A time when we pray in silence, mediate, maybe sing one or two songs together and leave? What is the danger here? Well, the first thing that comes to my mind is if we don't connect with people, then soon we will be the only one there sitting quietly. I think there is a real danger here, as well, of becoming self focused, cold and insensitive to the needs of others. That is why I feel worship must be both.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with sitting there quietly in prayer and mediation. There is nothing wrong with leaving a worship service with warm fuzzies. As a matter of fact the Scriptures speak to both. *Ps 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God. (NKJV)*

continued inside..

What Ron thinks...

When I went to school for the first time, I had no idea how to read, do any sort of math, did not know any science or how to structure a sentence or a number of other things. I was required to go to school every day and, if I didn't, there had to be reasons given to my parents, teachers and principle. Also, if I didn't, then I would never learn what I needed to know for adult life. If I couldn't read then how would I read a map when on a trip? If I couldn't do sums, then how would I know I hadn't been cheated when I get change back or how much to pay in the first place? If I didn't know any science, then how would I know how to cook food or heat the water for coffee?

Later I went to college and all responsibility was on me. I had to make the decision to go to class or not. I had to decide what studies to take and what degree to work toward. I had to decide if I wanted to study or not. If I didn't make the right decision then I might be kicked out and not get a degree, then work a low paying job for the rest of my life. I know what I am talking about.

Church is a bit like school. You must go to learn the fundamentals about God. You must be familiar with the Bible to understand what God requires to pass this life so you may go to the next life without fire all around you. You must have a habit of going to church for group support and encouragement. You must go to help me, or any number of people, to run the race. You must go to support our pastor. Your not going to church will affect many people, one way or the other. Your family (kids, grandkids and spouse) will be very influenced by your attendance or non-attendance of church very much. Their future will depend on your present.

I have been the worst offender of all. I have missed a lot of services cause I have felt tired or not felt well. Sometimes because I am lazy. Some misses were for valid reasons. What if you prepare a meal and no one comes to eat it? What happens when the "jobs" don't come in and you worry about layoff? What if you give a gift and no one says thank you? What if you plant and water and fertilize your garden and nothing grows?

We need me at the services. We need you at the services just as much as we need the Preacher at the services. Why don't you join us on a regular basis?

You are loved and you are wanted and you are missed when you aren't there. There is no paper record kept here on earth but there may be a record elsewhere.

Thanks for letting me write to myself...I needed to see it on paper. Have a good month...See you at the services?

Ron

Calling all Youth!

Have you ever wanted to be a Secret Agent or a Spy? I remember as a child growing up and playing with my friends, sometimes acting like I was James Bond. I would act as if I had all kinds of gadgets and weapons. I would hide out in my barn and radio back and forth between my friends and me. We would hunt down bad guys and always save the world. I just knew this "training" would come in handy later on in life when I would go to work for the CIA.

As most can see, that did not happen, but that is the same in the Spiritual world. We need to train to defeat our enemy, and we need to use all the weapons that God has given us to use (prayer, the Bible, other Christians, Sunday School, Christian music, Youth Group, etc.) We need to be S.P.I.E.S. for Jesus. Serving Proudly In Every Situation.

This month's question will be a little easier than last month since we did not have a winner.

What city were the two SPIES of Israel sent to spy out? Where is this found?

You can start answering after Sunday School on May 1st.

Remember May 20th is our next R.P.M. We will have the praise group from Christ Way Christian. This time we will be having a Coffeehouse with refreshments and games. We need you to step out and invite all your friends (and some of your enemies.)

Mike's message continued...

Remember when Elijah was looking for God and God came to him in a gentle breeze? I think so many times we miss being in the presence of God because we think it must be loud, fast, and exciting. God is saying, *Be still, and know that I am God.* On the other hand in Psalms we read, *Lift up your hands in the sanctuary.* (Ps 134:2) We are told to shout to the Lord. *"Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy."* (Ps 33:3) I don't know how a person can play skillfully with a shout of joy and not have the warm fuzzies.

So, worship is for both God and man. We gather together to worship our God, the One who provides for us the way of salvation. We bow before Him with adoration and praise. Being still so that we can know He is God. We gather together to lift up our brothers and sisters in Christ to edify, encourage, love and support each other. *1 Thess 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. (NASU) Col 3:16-17 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. (NASU)*

So, when we come together to worship, may we worship **Him** with ALL of **our** heart strengthening one another for the Day is drawing near.
Love to ALL,
Mike

Ladies for the Lord,

Ladies, can you believe it is SPRING? Time to get out the garden catalogues and plan your spring planting. Get out the cultivator and rake. Clean out the flower beds and prepare to pull weeds! Beautiful flower gardens take planning and work.

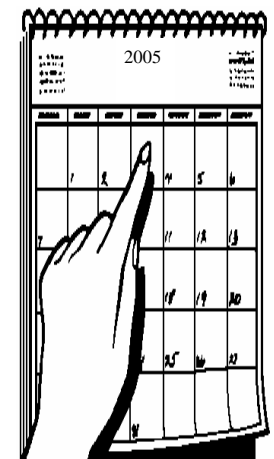
So it is in our lives. We need to clean out, pull up, and plant. We are God's flower garden and He will help us to choose what should be kept, discarded or added. Isn't it wonderful that we have such a Master Gardener in charge of our lives?

Friend Day is coming later this month. Invite a friend to come with you that Sunday. Introduce your friend to the Best Friend in the world. Plan to stay and eat with us. It's so much fun to chat with friends while enjoying scrumptious food.

Remember your secret sister!!

UP COMING EVENTS

3rd Women's Meeting-Norma's	7:00
5th National Day of Prayer-Church	7:00
8th Mother's Day	
12th Board Meeting	
20th RPM Coffeehouse-Concert	6:45-?
22nd FRIEND DAY/ ALL Church Pitch-In	
22nd Morning Breeze	2:30
23rd Hour of POWER	7:00
29th Morning Breeze	2:30
30th Memorial Day	



Westport Christian Church
 Biblical Ed class 9:30
 Worship 10:30
 Sunday night & Youth Group 6:00
 Wednesday night 7:00

May 2005

Make
 everyday
 Count for
 Jesus!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Women's meeting	4 Bible Study 7:00	5 National Day of Prayer Community Service here 7:00	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11 Bible Study 7:00	12 Board Meeting 6:00	13	14
15	16	17	18 Bible Study 7:00	19	20 R.P.M. Youth Concert/ Coffee House 6:45-?	21
Mike on Vacation						
22 **FRIEND DAY!! PITCH-IN Morning Breeze 2:30	23 Hour of POWER 7:00	24	25 Bible Study 7:00	26	27	28
29 Morning Breeze 2:30	30 <u>Memorial Day</u>	31	Friend Day will be a great opportunity to invite someone that you have been waiting to invite. We will have our Pitch-In that day as well. Encourage them to stay and fellowship, or perhaps you may take them out to lunch. Let us set out goal for 100 in attendance!!			

BIRTHDAYS
6th Wilma Cathey
7th Amanda Arbuckle
12th Kyle Peele
21st Chris Bartlett
Mike Hardebeck
23rd Bob Hermann
25th Mary Ortman
ANNIVERSARY
1st Danny & Joyce
Sebastian