



West Side Window

Volume 30 Issue 1

January 2, 2022



What Can I Do in the Coming Year?

Many times Christians feel as though there is nothing they can do to positively assist in the work of the church. This, of course, is a huge mistake. There is something for everyone to do. Let us suggest these things that EVERY member of the local congregation can do that will help our collective service for the Lord: **1. Your can read your Bible every day.** There are few things that can compare to regular Bible reading when it comes to strengthening the soul and maintaining focus on spiritual priorities. What are you waiting for? Make the commitment right NOW to read your Bible this year. **2. You can attend the services faithfully.** We all push ourselves to do certain things. We'll go to real extremes to attend family gatherings, keep a doctor's appointment, go to a ballgame, have a regular time at the beauty shop, etc. Unfortunately, some are not nearly so determined to attend worship services and Bible studies. If you can get out for other things, why can't you get out for services? Think! You can really help by simply being present. **3. You can pray fervently.** Do you consistently spend time in prayer every day? Pray for the church, for the elders, for those who are weak, for our work in reaching the lost, etc. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). **4.** You can invite a neighbor, co-worker, or family member to attend the services with you. You might be surprised how many would be willing to come with you if you simply invited them. **5. You can set a good example.** Don't forget that others are watching everything you do, everything you say, everywhere you go. If you let down, even once, they will notice it, and your influence will be damaged. Be conscious of your impact by way of your example. **6. You can be positive and enthusiastic.** Too many are "doom and gloom" Christians, always looking for negative things to complain about. Look up! Be thankful for what you have and excited about what you can do for God's glory.

- by Greg Gwin

If you are visiting with us today, we welcome you and hope you have been enriched by what you have heard and seen here. If you wish to wear a mask, please do so. You will find masks, communion packets and contribution baskets at each double door. Visitor cards can be found on each aisle. If you have questions or concerns, the Elders would be glad to meet with you.

At West Side

- Tuesday, January 4th, Men's Class at 6
- Wednesday Bible Study at 7p each week
- And this month, West Side is honored to host the 5th Sunday Singing on January 30th at 6:00p.

Please join us in praising the Lord in song.

Services

**Sunday Morning
Class, 9:30a**

Worship: 10:30a
(Also
livestreamed)

**No Sunday
Evening Service**

**Wednesday Bible
Study, 7p**

Preacher

Michael Gors

Elders

Michael Gors

Gary Reynolds

Todd Stults

Deacons

Don Allison
Fellowship

Jim Clark
Visitation

Lowell Huffman
Media



Love. Grow. Serve.

Methods

The denominational world uses many methods to bring about growth of a congregation. Here are some such worldly methods: “Come as you are” method. This means that you won’t have to give up sin and sinfulness. You can continue in adultery, still drink and swear, and you can keep your own moral standards. “Have fun” method. Youth parties and games comprise a great deal of the total work of the congregation. Gymnasiums, social halls, kitchens and other such facilities are built. Banquet tables, sports equipment and uniforms, etc., are major church expenditures. “Believe as you please” method. This requires no conviction. It allows you to take your choice: Was Jesus God’s Son, or just an exceptionally good man? Is baptism immersion, or sprinkling? Is Jesus coming again, or not? Is there really a heaven and hell? Take your choice— believe as you please. Naturally, by such processes many unlearned people (those who don’t know what the Bible actually teaches) and many unstable ones (those who don’t care what the Bible teaches) are led into such churches. Rapid growth is seen. — On the other hand, notice some scriptural methods that are designed to make a congregation grow: “Practice what you preach” method. Preach the truth, the whole and unadulterated truth, and then live it out in the lives of the people who make up the congregation (see Rom. 2:21-24). “Let your light shine” method. The power of influence from lives of devoted Christians will attract others. Doing good to all men (Gal. 6:10) and keeping oneself unspotted from the world (Jas. 1:27) makes a Christian useful and fruitful in bringing others to Christ. “Be awake” method. Enthusiasm is contagious. Some people have just enough religion to make them miserable. The real Christian will be zealous and devoted (Rev. 3:19). His life will radiate with love for God and man. His influence will bring others to Christ through the gospel

--by Leslie Diestelkamp

Leaders in Worship

January 2, 2022

Announcements: Gary Reynolds

Song Leader: Lowell Huffman

Opening Prayer: Bill Smith

Scripture: Case Reynolds

Lord's Table: Don Allison

Sermon: Mike Gors

Closing Prayer: Jay Kellow

Sound Room: Jacob Clark

Bible Study, January 5th

Song Leader: Gary Reynolds

Devo: Mike Gors

Prayer: Todd Stults

Happy Day!

Gavin Burch--Jan. 3

Rick Cox--Jan 11

Debbie Perry--Jan 11

Charlene Huffman--Jan 14

Andy Daunhauer--Jan 16

Joe Odle--Jan 27

Pat Lee--Jan 30

Jack Qualkenbush--Jan 31

In Need of Prayer

Alex Odle & his fiancée

April Stinson, Cancer. Friend of Genny

Cliff Nicks, Recuperating from heart surgery

Cory Cross, Cousin of Kendal

Damon Summers

David Sharp, Stage four cancer, Betty Kellow's brother.

Estes & Betty Gregory, House fire

Henry Robinson, Surgery, requesting prayer

Joey Harper, Covid

Joyce Colvin, Heart issues

Kay Walls, Broken Hip. Residing at Morrison Woods in Muncie for Rehab

Kendall Clark, Blood clot in leg

Lisa Harmon, Terminal breast Cancer. Wife of Brian's friend

Marty Gors

Norma Haffner, Recuperating from broken hip. Now residing at Bethel Point. Prognosis is hopeful that she will return home. Slight improvement in overall well being.

Rex Harper, Slow progress. Remains hospitalized at IUBMH for Covid//pneumonia.

News of Estes and Betty Gregory

Estes was released from the hospital this past Friday. Betty was released shortly after the fire with no lasting injuries. Estes was treated for smoke inhalation and was on a ventilator for a while. They are both living with their daughter, Renee Huffman, for the time being. They would appreciate prayers and cards:

Estes and Betty Gregory

C/O Renee Huffman

317 Cambray Drive

Muncie, IN 47304

What Might Have Been

How painful is the thought expressed by one of the great poets, John Greenleaf Whittier: "For of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these: 'It might have been!'" Many a person has thrown away his life in drug addiction, (including alcohol). Numerous are those who have thrown away their marriages by becoming involved with others. Parents have often lost their children by neglecting them, or even granting them excessive freedom. Many are those who have thrown away a good name by some ungodly behavior. Do you not suppose that a vast majority of these later in life have shed tears of bitter remorse as they have thought of "what might have been"? It is too late, however, for all has been lost. This bitter lament is found also in the Bible. It was expressed by the "weeping prophet," Jeremiah (8:20) as he sadly exclaimed, "THE HARVEST IS PAST, THE SUMMER IS ENDED, AND WE ARE NOT SAVED." God had given His people ample time to repent and turn from their idolatrous, immoral ways. They had not shown any inclination to respond appropriately to His offers of mercy. When God was no longer willing to tolerate their wickedness, the Babylonian captivity became His means of teaching them a 70-year lesson. No doubt there were times in Babylon when they mourned and wept over "what might have been" if they had only listened to the voices of the prophets who had warned them. Such lessons ought not to fall on deaf ears today. That individual who has stopped serving the Lord faithfully will one day realize what he has given up. It may be too late then to do anything about it. My dear wayward brother or sister, before the "harvest is past" and the "summer is ended," you ought to take advantage of a merciful God's offer of pardon by repentance, confession and prayer. Better that, by far, than to stand condemned in the judgment and have to think of "what might have been." That individual, too, who has never obeyed the gospel should ponder seriously what hell is like (according to God's word) and submit himself to the rule of Christ in faith, repentance, confession and baptism before it is too late to do so. Far better this than to be separated eternally from God and think of "what might have been." by Barney Keith

I Will Take Sickness from the Midst of You

The Almighty told Israel, "*So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you*" (Exodus 23:25). Although the Old Testament has been done away with, having been replaced by the New Covenant, it remains true that in serving God, the likelihood of contracting certain ailments is significantly reduced. Those who abide by the divine prohibition against sexual immorality (I Thessalonians 4:3-4), choosing to limit intercourse to marriage (Hebrews 13:4), will almost certainly be spared from sexually transmitted diseases, such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, genital herpes, syphilis, and HIV.

Christians refrain from the illicit use of drugs because such is illegal (Romans 13:1-2), addictive (Romans 6:16), and specifically forbidden (Galatians 5:19-21) – inasmuch as the word translated "sorcery" is the Greek word for "pharmacy" because drugs were used in the deceptive efforts of ancient sorcery. By abstaining from drugs, diseases like hepatitis and AIDS can be avoided.

The major health risks of alcoholism include liver disease, heart disease, certain cancers, pancreatitis, and nervous system disorders. By taking seriously what God has said about drunkenness (Proverbs 20:1; Romans 13:13; Ephesians 5:18), such risks can be greatly diminished.

by Bryan Matthew Dockens