



# West Side Window

Volume 29, Issue 32

August 22, 2021

## Hear Ye, Hear Ye

*Beginning this month, there will be an area-wide singing held in the Lord's congregations on 5th Sundays. West Side, Towne Acres, Columbus Ave. and Portland will participate. The singing commences at 6p and Towne Acres will host the first gathering. Mark your calendars and get ready to offer praise to the lord, to fellowship and renew long time friendships, all in brotherly love.*

## Welcome

It is our wish to teach and live the gospel of Christ. Our aim is to follow the example of the New Testament church in word and deed, wanting to add nothing nor take anything away from scripture. If you have any questions or concerns concerning anything you have seen or heard here today, the Elders will be glad to speak with you. If you wish to wear a mask while here, please feel free to do so. Communion packets, contribution baskets and masks are placed at both double doors. Visitor cards are available in each seating row. We hope to have the pleasure of seeing you again.

## He Who Complains Volunteers

Pity the poor souls who see it as their God-given duty to nit-pick and find fault with anything and everything at church! You see my personal philosophy about such behavior in this article's title. Could we improve? Most assuredly! Rolling up your sleeves will bring positive change more effectively than pointing fingers. Isaac Watts (1674-1749) complained to his father about the dull, lifeless songs in their Sunday assembly. His father challenged him: "Well, then, young man, why don't you give us something better to sing?" He did! For the next two years Watts wrote a new song each week for their Sunday service. We still use dozens of his songs such as "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" and "Joy To The World." In Acts 6 the Hellenists (Jews from Greek-speaking areas) in the church complained that their widows were being neglected by the Hebrew brethren in the daily distribution. Was their grievance legitimate? Evidently so, for the apostles developed a plan to remedy it. "Seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business" (Acts 6:3). Observe the names of the chosen men in verse 5. Every one of them is a Greek name! Whether any or all of them had personally lodged the complaint we know not. But the church wisely selected them to make certain the need was met. And it worked! Everyone was happy, a potential split was averted, and the gospel continued to spread. Finding something to be unhappy about is easy. Voicing your frustration takes little effort. But climbing out of your chair and working to effect needed change requires shifting from critic to volunteer. Which is more helpful? Which are you?

Joe Slater

## Services

Sunday Morning Class  
9:30a

Worship: 10:30a  
(Also live-streamed)

**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

## Those Whom

## We Support

### INDIA

Bible Correspondence  
Course/ Bibles

## Leaders in Worship

August 22, 2021

Announcements: Gary Reynolds

Song Leader: Don Allison

Opening Prayer: Jimmy Clark

Scripture: Bill Winemiller, *1 Cor 15: 1-4*

Lord's Table: Todd Stults

Sermon: Mike Gors

*"The Gospel is for All"*

Closing Prayer: Richard Messer

Sound Room: Lowell Huffman

## Bible Study, August 25th

*Song Leader: Gary Reynolds*

*Devo: Case Reynolds*

*Prayer: Bill Winemiller*

Remember  
Calls and Cards  
to Our Shut-ins

**Anna Funk**--Morrison  
Woods

**Carl Gilstrap**--Albany  
Health Care

**Howard Latta**--  
Elmcroft Assisted liv-  
ing



**Today and  
Coming  
Up**

**—August 22, One-day gospel meeting at Summit City COC with  
Dimitri McFadden. See flyer**

**—August 24, Men's Class at West Side, 6p**

**—August 29th, 5th Sunday singing at Towne Acres, 6p**

**—August 28, Ladies Day at Coldwater Church of Christ in MI. See  
flyer**

**—September 16th, Senior Saints at West Side**

**—September 18, Goshen Church of Christ Ladies Day. Please RSVP.  
See flyer**

**—September 25, 27th Annual Lectureship at Lincolnway COC in Co-  
lumbia City, IN. Flyer on board # 1**

**—September 25, Ladies' Inspirational Day at East Allen County COC  
in New Haven IN. Flyer posted**

## Trophy for Sale

One day last summer, I was on my way to lunch when I drove by a house that was having a rummage sale. Even though I did not stop for the sale, I could not help but notice the display closest to the street—what caught my eye was a table filled with old trophies that were now for sale on someone's driveway. I had to wonder why anyone would be interested in purchasing a used trophy. What could they possibly do with it? The trophies for sale probably had the name of the recipient engraved on them, along with a brief description of their meritorious actions. Who would want to put someone else's trophy on their mantle? Later, I began to wonder why the seller wanted to get rid of their old trophies in the first place. I am sure that at one time those trophies held a lot of value, or at least some emotional attachment. Trophies usually signify some accomplishment—they serve to remind us of some success in our business or personal life. Maybe a bowling trophy loses its luster when one stops bowling. That trophy from a winning high school football season might not seem as important thirty years later when your own children are in college. What we value today might wind up in the trash or on a table at a rummage sale tomorrow. The truth of the matter is that there is nothing in this life we can carry with us into the next. The trinkets and knick-knacks we treasure here on earth will be of no value in eternity. This being so, it makes one wonder why we spend so much time acquiring earthly possessions, but so little time preparing for the life which is to come. Suppose you gained all that this world has to offer—what would you really have? A handful of tinsel? Jesus told His disciples: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24–26).

--David Padfield (Zion, IL)

## Happy Day

**Lela Proctor--  
August 23**

**Jane Clark—August 30**



## Please Pray for

**April Stinson, Cancer.** Friend of Genny

**Casey Robinson and His Family**

**Clare Vannatter,** Richard's sister in WV

**Cliff Nicks,** Home after heart surgery

**Gordon and Brenda Huffman** in Crossville, TN

**Don and Nancy Ellis,** Bill's sister, Nancy, and her husband

**Family of Lola Harrell,** Sister, Roberta

**Jim Smith,** Our sympathy is extended to Jim, whose sister-in-law, Carolyn Mendenhall, passed away after a recent illness

**Marty Gors**

**Nick Hummel,** Cancer

**Ron Monroe,** Passed away. Son of long time members of West Side, Gene and Twila Monroe, now deceased. Mr. Monroe attended West Side as a young man

**Susan Cloninger,** Susan is scheduled for an MRI on September 21. She appreciates the many prayers on her behalf

**Skylar Murphy and Owens Family**

**Tom Davis,** Lung cancer

**Wanda Reed**

## Life is a Highway

Life is a highway

On which the years go by...

Sometimes the road is level, sometimes the hills are high...

But as we travel onward

To a future that is unknown,

We can make each mile we travel

A heavenly stepping stone.

Unknown



# Things That Can Cripple a Church

Gary Hutchens, Omaha, NE

What do you expect from the church? Most people have some image in their minds as to what they want the church to be and do. But everyone needs to understand that their personal actions and inaction have a great deal of impact upon the strength, vitality, effectiveness and growth of the church. With that in mind, what are some things that can cripple a church?

*Absenteeism* can cripple a church. Being together when the church gathers to worship is imperative to developing personal spiritual maturity and to being able to encourage the spiritual growth of your fellow members (**Heb. 10:23-25**). When you purposely miss services, you will naturally get weaker. Your absence tends to discourage your brothers and sisters in Christ who are present. As your spiritual effectiveness suffers, the overall effectiveness of the church suffers.

*Unfaithfulness* can cripple a church. When members of the church are unfaithful, the church's influence with the world is potentially weakened (**Phlp. 2:15-16**). Such unfaithfulness can also have a detrimental effect on weaker Christians within the church (**1 Cor. 8:12**).

*Worldliness* within the lives of Christians can cripple a church (**1 Jn. 2:15**). A worldly lifestyle is counterproductive to developing spiritual strength.

*Indifference* can cripple a church. Apathy, an uncaring attitude will keep a congregation from doing the works that it needs to do as the church and can ultimately lead to its demise (**Rev. 3:15-16**).

*Neglect* can cripple a church. We need to be acutely aware of our special identity as the Lord's body and be on guard to never neglect our blessings, or responsibilities, pertaining to that identity (**Heb. 2:3**). Such realization should motivate us to actively serve God.

*Doctrinal compromise* can cripple a church. Our distinctiveness is inseparably tied to our stand on what is right. It makes an eternal difference what we believe and teach and practice. We must always and unashamedly stand on, and for, the truth of God's word (**1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 4:1-4**).

*Contention and gossip* can cripple a church (**1 Cor. 1:10-11**). Of course, gossip is often the stimulus for contention (**Ps. 64:1-4**). Words have potential power, both for good and evil (**Jas. 3:5**). The world should see the love of Christ exhibited between Christians (**Jn. 13:34-35**).

*Ignorance of God's word* can cripple a church (**Acts 17:30**). When the members of a congregation don't know what the Bible teaches, the opportunity for error to enter in and take hold is greater (**Acts 20:28-30**).

*A tendency on the part of the member to be hot and cold* can cripple a church. The church needs to be persistent and continual in its teaching, work and service. It needs to be dedicated to being the church and not slip back into complacency and worldliness (**2 Pet. 2:20-22**).

As a Christian you need to be aware that your strength will strengthen the church, and your weakness can cripple it.

