

For more information about connecting to a small group, contact Kira Mulvany, Director of Involvement, KiraM@wschurch.org. If you have a question about your existing group, please contact Andrew Fitzgibbon, Director of Small Groups & Men's Ministry.

First Place 4 Health will begin Monday, January 11, E205, 7:00pm and meet weekly for 13 weeks. This Christ-centered weight loss program focuses on all aspects of healthy living: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. For new attendees the cost of the class is approximately \$100, for returning members the cost is \$15. For more information or to register, contact Brenda Reavis at 725-9744 or breavis@fwieng.com.

MISSIONS

Missions Fair will be held Sunday, January 10, 9:30am in the cafeteria, to celebrate the 2009 mission trips and announce upcoming trips in 2010. There will be display tables (staffed until 11:00am) featuring 2009 trips, as well as tables with information concerning planned trips for 2010, with an opportunity to get information and start the application process to participate. Be sure to visit the Missions Fair in the cafeteria on January 10, 9:30-11:00am!

Dominican Republic Mission Trip is April 5-10. Approximate cost (including food) is \$950 or less. The trip will include assisting with a construction project for a new church plant in the La Romana area (laying the foundation), as well as conducting a 3-day VBS in La Romana. To sign up, contact Gary Winkleman at garyw@wschurch.org or (217) 793-2800.

STATISTICS

December 20, 2009 AM Worship – 2195 (2102 avg)
Offering – \$116,006.04 (\$82,007.54 avg)

Christmas Eve Attendance - 2037

To All A Good Night Offering - \$70,000.00+

December 27, 2009 AM Worship – 1505 (2090 avg)
Offering – \$113,820.00 (\$82,619.32 avg)

January 3, 2010 AM Worship – 2085
Offering – \$62,731.82

The **2010 MINISTRY FINANCING PLAN** received 99% affirmation. Thank you for your participation and support of West Side Christian Church in 2010.

New Members: December 20 & 27, 2009; January 3, 2010

By Baptism: Gary Ellis; Emily Grigsby; Sandy Perez; Trevor Rector; Jacob Richardson; Joe Richardson

By Transfer: Janet Camp; Jeff Kerr; Trish Graves

COMMUNITY CARE

Toiletry Saturday: Our next Toiletry Saturday will be held January 23 at 10:00am, on the 3rd floor of the church. If you would like to help fill bags with toiletry items, contact Michelle Davis at michelled@wschurch.org or call 793-2800 by Thursday, January 21.

Broken Promise, our divorce recovery ministry for children (ages 4 years up to 8th grade) and their parent, begins Tuesday, February 2, and will meet weekly from 6:45-8:00pm for 13 weeks. To register, please call the church office at 793-2800 or email Faith at brokenpromise@wschurch.org.

Divorce Care Ministry is a 13-week support group to help individuals recover from the pain of separation and divorce. A new 13-week session will start Thursday, January 14. For information or to register, please call the church office at 793-2800.

Growing Through Grief is a time of learning and growing together in a Christian environment which encourages caring and sharing to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. The spring ten-week session will start on February 9. Sessions will be held on Tuesday nights from 7-9pm in Conference Room West. For more information, contact the church office at 793-2800.

THIS 'N THAT

Thank you so much to the anonymous angel(s) who gave me the marvelous Christmas gift. You are a true blessing to me.
—Ruth Basony

Special thanks to those who shared "Christmas goodies" with the church staff during the holidays; they were enjoyed and appreciated by all!

Church Library Memorial: We have received a donation for the church library in memory of Wilma Scalf, from the U & I Adult Bible Fellowship, of which she was a member for many years.

2010 Springfield Right to Life Signature Ad is a campaign we support every year. Provide us your signature so that we are able to join churches around the community is stating our position on LIFE. The ad will be published in the SJ-R on Monday, January 25. A \$5 donation will be collected when you sign up at the concourse counter on Sunday, January 10.

Planned Parenthood is bringing RU-486, the abortion pill, to the Capitol City. Join Springfield Right to Life on Friday, January 22, 2010 for an all-day prayer vigil (9:45am – 4:45pm) outside of Planned Parenthood, located at 1000 E. Washington Street, to take a stand for the UNBORN. To sign up for a 30-minute prayer shift, contact Mary at lepanto.effect@yahoo.com or call Springfield Right to Life at 523-2700.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ WEST SIDE

A Bi-monthly Publication of West Side Christian Church

January 6, 2010

Message Series: COMPASS

Some of God's commands are paradoxical (the first will be last; the last will be first). However, much of the Bible's teaching is straightforward and intuitive. In fact, life is largely predictable, according to many biblical teachings. That's not to say that accidents don't happen, or that bad things don't happen to good people – but in most cases, bad things happen to people who expose themselves to negative consequences via their choices and priorities. That's why it's important to choose a direction in life that will produce the results we want.

During the Compass sermon series, we want to offer a challenge to **memorize a Bible verse each week**. If you'd like to receive a weekly text message of the passage, sign up online at www.wschurch.org/text.

January 10 – How a Compass Works

January 17 – Beyond Forgiveness

January 24 – Staying on Course

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Elementary youth groups will resume Sunday, January 17, 4:30-5:30pm, in the following locations: Kindergarten, E103/E105; 1st-3rd grades, Cafeteria/Gym; 4th-5th grades, CH 1 & 2.

VELOCITY (Jr. High): Velocity is our Jr. High event that meets each Sunday for worship, games and interactive teaching at 9:30 in E200. V-Groups are on a break for the holidays but will resume meeting on Wednesday, January 13. Ski Trip signup deadline was last Sunday but we MAY still have space. Contact ChrisS@wschurch.org ASAP if you're interested in going. The cost is \$75 and the trip is on January 16. For more info, visit www.WestSideVelocity.org.

FUSION (High School): Fusion meets Sundays at 9:30am in E204. Fuse Groups meet Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, in homes around town. We will kick off for our spring semester on January 13 with a game night, meet at WS Gym; this is a great time to join up and get connected. If you haven't signed up to be a part of this ministry contact joshhr@wschurch.org. For any other information: WestSideFusion.org.

A-I-M ~ ADULTS IN MINISTRY 60

Prayer Breakfast: On January 16, 9:00-10:30am in Centennial Hall, AIM 60+ will gather for a continental breakfast, spend time in prayer about our ministry year; be challenged to serve, and get a picture of what is being planned for 2010. Please call the church office at 793-2800 to sign up.

Shut-in Ministry: Please consider how you can encourage those of our church family who are not able to get out to our worship services or monthly fellowship meetings. Are you willing to make a telephone call, send a card, make a visit? At our prayer breakfast on January 16, we will begin recruiting servants to help in this way.

AIM2GO is the name for our AIM 60+ mission endeavors. Our goal is to be involved in three mission efforts. We are seeking to create opportunities for every age and ability level. Join us January 21, 6:30pm, in the All Purpose Room to find out how you can serve locally or possibly overseas in fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18).

Charlie's "Angels" will meet Thursday, January 28, 9:30am for coffee, 10:00am for the program, and 11:30 am for lunch. Tickets are \$6.00 and will be available to purchase on January 17 and 24 in the ABF classes or at the church office (by Monday, January 25, 4:00pm).

Make 2010 the year to get involved! In addition to the activities listed above, there are several opportunities on Sunday for you to study God's Word and fellowship.

- 8:00am - Homebuilders meet in CHI (John Henderson currently teaching)
- 9:30am - U&I class meets in the AP room (co-taught by Bill Taylor & Don Yutzy)
- 9:30am - Beau Knots meet in CH2 (taught by Charlie Duggins)
- 9:30am - TNT meets in the Gym (Steve Battles currently teaching)
- 9:30am - TruthSeekers meet in CHI (taught by John Petter; Larry Lewis is currently teaching a series on prayer)

FINANCIAL CLASS AVAILABLE

Financial Peace University begins Sunday, January 10, at 5:00pm. It's not too late to sign up. Details and online registration are also available on our website www.wschurch.org and the cost is \$99. If you have additional questions, e-mail joeoetel@teaminfocus.com or call 793-2800.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

2nd Sunday Lunch is a new monthly event for 2010. West Side Young Adults are gathering for lunch immediately after the 11:00 service on Sunday, January 10. No need to cook, just go

to room CHI and enjoy a meal while meeting other West Side young adults.

GROW! The next GROW! is Friday, January 16, 6:40pm, at the home of John & Becky Minick (2043 Briarcliff Drive). GROW! is a monthly opportunity for young adults to grow deeper in their faith. This is a unique time to gather in an interactive environment that is bigger than a small group and more intimate than a Sunday Service. The lesson and discussion time will be informal and enjoyable. We have made some changes for 2010; come check it out.

SINGLES MINISTRY

Volleyball: Join us for volleyball on Friday, January 15, in the gym. There will be no volleyball January 8, 22 or 29.

St. Louis City Museum, January 16: This is a museum for all ages. Wear sneakers or closed-toe, closed-heel shoes and full-length pants or jeans. Cost is \$5/person, which will be collected just before entering in the museum. Sign up in Singles ABF. Meet at Toronto Road (old Hardee's) at 9:00am to carpool to St. Louis.

Inner City Mission: Singles will be cooking a meal for Inner City Mission on Monday, January 18. Meet at West Side (CH kitchen) at 2:00pm to cook the meal, which we will transfer to ICM and eat with them at 5:30pm. Sign-up to bring ingredients, help cook, help transport, and enjoy the meal with the residents.

City Basketball Tournament (or movie): Meet for dinner on January 23 at 5:30pm at Fulgenzi's (Peoria Road and Sangamon Avenue), then either head off to the Convention Center to watch basketball or join another group going to Showplace 8.

Singles Wisconsin Ski Trip will be February 26-28. Sign-ups will start in January. A \$50 deposit is required by February 7.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Well: A New Women's Ministry Gathering for Moms: Join us for a new Women's Ministry gathering for mothers with children, birth – high school. The Well is a place for moms to connect with other moms, be refreshed by God's Word, and thrive on their spiritual journey. The Well gathers once a month on Thursday evenings, and kicks off Thursday, January 14, 7 – 9pm, AP Room. Our first session will feature engaging teaching from Titus 2 by Cindy Lash and Martha Cook, followed by energizing discussion with fellow moms. Stop by the concourse counter THIS SUNDAY, January 10, to learn more or to RSVP. You may also RSVP to TheWell@wschurch.org, or 793-2800.

Aerobics for Women: Ladies, join us for aerobics on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30pm in E205. Bring a water

bottle, floor mat or towel. Some hand weights are available. For more information, visit www.wschurch.org/aerobics.

Alive With Christ will resume the week of January 25. Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed: A Study of David is a 6-week, interactive, in-depth Bible study by Priscilla Shirer; Beth Moore, and Kay Arthur. The workbook is \$13, due at the first session. Groups will meet on Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm or Tuesdays, 9:00-11:00am. To register, call 793-2800. Childcare is provided; indicate childcare needs when you register.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Father-Daughter Winter Wonderland Banquet: Guys, mark your calendars for the evening of Friday, January 22. You won't want to miss the Father-Daughter Winter Wonderland Banquet. Seize the opportunity to spend some intentional time with your daughter(s), have some fun and make some memories on this daddy-daughter date. This event is for all dads and their daughters ages 3-83 to enjoy a catered meal and share some time together. Purchase your ticket at the designated concourse counter on Sunday, January 10 and 17, or stop by or call the church office at 793-2800. Cost of this event is \$10 per family.

For those of you men who don't have any daughters – don't feel left out. We'll need people to serve in a variety of areas that night to make this a fantastic event for the daughters. If you're interested in serving, contact Fitz at Fitz@wschurch.org or 793-2800.

Third Thursday Breakfast: We'll be hosting a Men's Breakfast and Bible Study Fellowship the third Thursday of every month in 2010. The first of these is coming up on January 21, at 6:15am in Centennial Hall. Come enjoy some early morning camaraderie, encouragement from the Word, and good food. Sign up at the concourse counter on Sunday, January 10 and 17.

SMALL GROUPS

Get Connected! Small Group Sign-Ups, January 10 & 17

We were not created to live our lives or our faith on our own. At West Side, we think it's important for people to find a small, caring community to explore the intersection of faith and daily life. Life is messy and there are no perfect communities. However, the benefits outweigh the risks. We value groups where people can both connect with others and grow in their faith. Small groups make our large church feel like a small family and can serve as a lifeline as we travel through life together.

If you would like to join one of the new small groups launching in January, come to the concourse counters on Sunday, January 10 or Sunday, January 17. Members of our small group team will be there ready to help you connect.