All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

(II Corinthians 5:18-20)

Somehow in the business (for lack of a better word) before, during and after Hurricane Isabel our RECONCILIATION MISSION OFFERING has gotten lost in the shuffle. This is not good!

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is committed to ending prejudice of all types, especially within the Body of Christ. In Galatians 3:26-28 we read these words: "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Let us have a vision for the church to be a place "where brothers and sisters of all races, languages, and cultures will grow towards God's glorious realm; were all have a place at the table and none shall be turned away."

Funds received through the RECONCILIATION MISSION OFFERING go towards eliminating the causes of prejudice in North America. Approximately one-half of the funds will be used by regions to support local reconciliation efforts, while the other half is administered by the General Reconciliation Committee to support multi-regional and ecumenical programs.

Lately we have been talking about practicing what we preach. Remember the sermon “The Proof is in the Pudding?” West Side Christian Church has a goal of $900 for our RECONCILIATION MISSION OFFERING. Let us give generously and practice what we preach!

Love in Christ, Jane

Jane and Roy Cherry will be attending as delegates from West Side.
MARY’S WELLNESS CORNER

October is Healthy Lung Month. I encourage all of you, young and old, to make an appointment to receive your flu shot. Some of you may already have a respiratory condition such as asthma or emphysema. A flu shot is almost a must for you unless your doctor advised otherwise.

Another important way to keep your lungs healthy is to avoid smoking and second-hand smoke. Every chance you have, go outside and breathe in the fresh air that God has provided for all of us. When God created man, He breathed into man the breath of life. We are the caretakers of that life!

Mary Peris, Parish Nurse

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Margie Robinson
3 Idlewood Ave.
Portsmouth, Va. 23704
Phone: 399-4288
Margie joined West Side in August, 2003 and we welcome her into the West Side family.

LECTIONARY TEXT

Nov. 2: Ruth 1: 1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9: 11-14; Mark 12: 28-34

Nov. 9: Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark 12: 38-44

Nov. 16: I Samuel 1: 4-20; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10: 11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13: 1-8

Nov. 23: II Samuel 23: 1-7; Psalm 132: 1-12, (13-18); Revelation 1: 4b-8; John 18: 33-37


ADDRESS CHANGE
Joyce and Thomas Thornton
1 Crawford Pkwy, #1401
Portsmouth, Va. 23704

ARTICLES FOR THE DECEMBER, 2003 NEWSLETTER WILL BE DUE NOVEMBER 16!

NOTE FROM THE GATHERING AREA TASK FORCE

FALL FESTIVAL
NOVEMBER 1, 2003
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
The project is moving more slowly than hoped for, but should be finished by the end of October. The finished product will be well worth the wait!

CWF NEWS
NOVEMBER SERVICE PROJECT:
BLANKETS

After our recent hurricane experience, we are thankful that it is over. Well, for some of us. Many people still do not have electricity or a home that they are able to return to.

Church World Service reported as of 9/24 material aid shipments in our area valued at $26,500. This aid included 750 Health Kits, 750 Clean-up kits and 750 Blankets – that were forwarded to aid families in Norfolk and Va. Beach. Also, 100 School Kits were sent.

Through our generous support we can make a difference when a disaster occurs. These items need to be replaced quickly so CWS can be ready to help where needed. Remember Blanket Sunday in November and give generously.

Rebekah Group had 7 present. Offering was $51.00. They read 16 books, 6 Daily Devotions, 5 Regional Papers, 2 teaching, 1 leading, 2 crafts/cooking, and made 25 calls.

Lydia Group offering was $51.00. They read 5 books, 2 Regional Papers, 5 Daily Devotions, 1 Disciple Magazine, 1 Va. Christian, 1 leader and 2 teaching magazines. They made a total of 50 calls, visits, and cards.

Sarah Group met at the church on September 4 with 4 members present. Offering was $39.00.

OTHERS ON OUR PRAYER LIST:  Patsy Pearce; Kenneth Nelson; John Riddick, Jr.; Norman Dickens; Oleta Cook; Sid Price; Melanie Grace Hatfield (niece of Kathy Williams).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER
2  Dave McCrickard
5  Hervy Gray, Sr.
7  Bob Nutting
8  Garland Cook
12  Mary Peris
14  Emily Nutting
15  Kristen Brown, Courtney Brown
16  Mary Bond
19  Joe Antonucci
23  David Kays
24  Ruth Blackman
26  Masil Jones
27  Tom Larson
28  Dee Ann Acors
31  Benjamin Jarvis

SOUP AND SALAD LUNCH
AND
“TALENTS FOR MISSIONS”

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
(after worship)

*Please bring all items to be set up (priced) on Saturday or early Sunday morning.
*Several types of soup and salad will be served.
*Bring your talents and appetites!

ALL CHURCH PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED!
(Sponsored by CWF)

FALL FESTIVAL AT EMILY GREEN SHORES –November 1
At 10:00 a.m.
(re-scheduled)

OUR SHUT-INS:  Hazel Jarvis, Sentara, Greenwood; Leona Brodie, The Heritage, 515 S. Warley, Florence, SC 29501; Mary Mingis, 4107 Heritage Rd., Richmond, 23227; Ruth Blackman, 1 Bon Secours Way, Cedar Pt. #241, (P); Hervy Gray, Sr., 111 Kansas Ave; Martha Gray, Maryview Care Center, (S); Sandy Cotton, Sentara Nursing Center, 4201 Greenwood Dr., (P); Sylvia Dickens, Autumn Care, 3610 Winchester Dr., (P)
SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR AFTER MIDNIGHT ON OCTOBER 25

“It’s not what we eat, but what we digest that makes us strong;
Not what we gain, but what we save that makes us rich;
Not what we read, but what we remember that makes us learned;
Not what we preach or pray, but what we practice and believe that makes us Christians!”

“THANKS!”
A great big THANK YOU to all who helped clean up around the church following hurricane Isabel!

MUSIC CLUB OF PORTSMOUTH
Will meet at the church on October 22. Coffee at 10:00 a.m. and a program at 10:30 featuring the “Cantilena Strings.” West Side members are always invited to attend.

RACISM: IT’S TOO BIG TO FIX ALONE
So let’s do it together! Disciples have made a commitment to nurture reconciliation by weeding out racism within our church and our society. Reconciliation Mission is committed to helping the church eliminate the primary causes of racism. Give generously to the RECONCILIATION MISSION OFFERING that will be received October 5 and 12, 2003.

30th ANNUAL DISTRICT VIII ASSEMBLY
The Assembly will be held at Grafton Christian Church, 109 Brick Church Road, Yorktown, on Sunday, November 2, 2003. The theme is “Roadmap to the Future.” Guest speaker is Dr. Richard Harrison, Jr., Senior Minister, Seventh St. Christian, Richmond. Registration is $10.00 which includes dinner. Program begins at 3:00 p.m.
Needless to say, there was some apprehension as to how or if our small committee could garner enough help and support for a successful yard sale. Came the day – the smiling 6 - 6:30 a.m. faces that came with “Let’s Go” bodies and attitudes erased all fears. I knew then all would go well.

Many, many thanks to all who participated in any way. My most humble thanks to those who came at 6 a.m. and hung in with us until the last meal was served and the kitchen cleaned!!!

Your efforts and hard work netted the church to date $1,966.55 ($1,219.50 yard sales plus $747.05 food sales).

Now, with summer in the exit wings and fall about to take stage, it is time for West Sider’s to get out of our summer doldrums and gear up to be an active participative member in the programs of the church. To get us started and into “first gear,” our September 17th Fellowship Dinner will be a prepared meal of lasagna, salad, garlic bread, dessert and tea or coffee. Nothing to prepare, nothing to bring, just come at 6:30 p.m. and enjoy! Don’t care for lasagna? Let us know. We may be able to offer a substitute.

To be able to prepare amply and not waste, there will be sign-up slips in the bulletins prior to the 17th.

If you have not already, mark your calendar now for WEST SIDE’S ANNUAL PICNIC. Date is September 28, 2003. Time is 4:00 p.m. Invite someone, a family member, a friend, and especially a WSCC member that may have been absent for a while. Bring your favorite picnic fixin’s, lawn chairs, and lawn games. Come and enjoy the fellowship and fun! In case of rain we will just move inside and still have a great time.

Mary Cornwell, Membership

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PRE-SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

This year we have 4 classes and extended day! Stop by and say hello to the children and welcome our wonderful staff back. It is so good to hear the sound of children in the building once again.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
August 10-14, 2003

“SCUBA”
Super Cool Underwater Bible Adventures