

## For the Record...

Bible Study: 181	Weekly Giving: \$ 21,968
Sunday Worship: 407	Weekly Budget: 16,237
Sunday Evening: dnm	YTD Giving: \$ 754,309
Wednesday: dnm	YTD Budget: \$ 828,087

## Our Ministers

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## Our Shepherds

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## Our Staff

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Jenifer Hurt  
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## For our visitors:

If you have any questions, if you want to get involved with our church, or if you just want to meet some of our leaders, please stop by the Starting Point kiosk in the lobby. We'd love to meet you and answer your questions. Thank you for worshipping with us today!

*West Side Church of Christ*  
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## Our Deacons

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## Intentional Growth

by Tim Tripp

Last year I put in a little raised garden bed. I fertilized the soil and mixed it all together then I bought several little plants and planted them in the rich dark mixture. I watered them and continued to nourish them. I really tried to make it an ideal environment for their health and growth. My goal was for them to bloom and produce fruit or in this case for them to produce tomatoes and peppers for my family to consume and that they did. The tomatoes did pretty well. The peppers not so much.

What do you suppose would have happened if, after all the work and expense I went to in order to create a perfect environment for plants to thrive, one or more of them had just stayed that small plant? What if they had merely stretched out their leaves and enjoyed the sun. What if they expanded their root system to soak in the rich nutrients I placed there for them and enjoyed the rain and the water I gave them but never grew? You know what would happen. I would have grasped their stem and ripped them out roots and all so that the nutrients they consumed could be shared by the plants that are producing.

In John 15, the apostle gave us Jesus' agricultural metaphor that applies the gardening example to his followers. He says, "He (God) cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful," (v. 2). In this passage Jesus explains the metaphor by saying that he is the vine and they (his disciples) are the branches. He made it clear that God expects the branches to bear fruit. What is the "fruit" his disciples are expected to bear? A godly character? Being transformed into the image of Christ? Making disciples for Jesus? Yes, yes, and yes.

As with my tomato plants, it requires growth to bear fruit. So, given Jesus' statement about the importance of bearing fruit, doesn't it seem crucial that each of us attend to spiritual growth? Spiritual growth is not a church program. It is not something that just happens naturally. It is not something that comes by only attending church services. Growth is something we do intentionally. It is something that requires commitment, a plan and regular effort to carry out.

The best plan I know includes spending daily time in God's presence and allowing him to transform you. It involves quiet time, Bible study, and prayer. Fasting and worship can also be included. All those things place you in God's presence. As he transforms you, growth will occur and fruit is the natural result of growth. Along with growth in your relationship with God, you will be motivated to acts of service, participation in ministry and to making disciples. When each of us becomes a mature disciple of Jesus, the kingdom grows and the church is blessed.

What if each of us made a commitment to spiritual growth in the coming year? Can you imagine the difference that would make in our church, our community and our world? Will this year lead to your spiritual growth? Are you willing to exchange just "doing church" in favor of being a disciple of Jesus dedicated to taking his kingdom to the world? This may be the year where you grow in your faith and bear more fruit for the Kingdom than ever before.

DIOS LE BENDIGA! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

Lord,  
please keep ALL of my West Side Family safe, healthy and enjoying those special moments of getting together at this time of the year!  
Bless all of us with your presence, protection and love in this new year!!!  
In Jesus Name....Amen.

Sunday,  
Dec. 29, 2019

This week's helpers:

Nursery:

- Lisa Reed  
- Judy Holman

KFC: Will NOT meet today.

2 year olds:

Grace & Emma

3 & 4 year olds:

Jessica Davis

K - 2nd grade:

Tiffany Clem

Puppets:

Hlxson Family

Greeters:

North:

Thom & Tami Robinson

East:

Kenny Freeman

West:

Mark Bryant

Communion:

Table 1:

-Zach Dailey, Donnie Baker, Lonnie Abbott, Rick Butler, David Davenport

Table 2:

-Larry Duvall, Dale Brooks, Rocky Clancy, Danny Davis, Brady Bunch

Sign up for WS emails at westsidear.org/subscribe

To give: Text 84321 or go to westsidear.org/give



Children's Ministry Grades K - 5 Meets Sunday at 9 AM and Wednesday at 6:30 PM.



Teaching Team Leaders:  
Holy Word Studios: Lee and Andrea Henson  
Noah's Arcade: Dale and Christina Brooks  
Museum: Brent and April Ruple  
Creator's Canvas: Hensons



Happy New Year!

UPNEXT

>January 1 Happy New Year 2020 - No Class

Be on the look out for some random hangouts during this week

>January 26 WSYM - Information Session, Potluck Lunch in the Family Center

>January 29 WSYM-Family Meal and Worship night

>February 28 - Mar 1 CHRISteens

Hey College Students!

We hope you have a great Christmas Break and look forward to seeing you in 2020!!

**Gulf Coast Getaway**, a christian conference for college students is coming up **Jan. 17th -20th.**

Cost is \$160

For more info on how to register visit

[ccscatu.org/gcg](http://ccscatu.org/gcg)

Want to receive text updates?

Text@ccscatu to 81010

## Adult Bible Classes

Sunday Morning Adult Classes:

Room 2: Tripp Rotation | Spiritual Formation  
Room3: Clem Rotation | Sermon on the Mount  
FC Classroom: Janelle Rotation | Minor Prophets  
Rock: Clements Rotation | The Mission of Jesus

Wednesday Night Adult Class(es):

Room 3: A Life of Covenant

FC Classroom: A Joyful Journey Ladies Class

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

***Kids For Christ WILL meet today!!***

### Prime Timers

Prime Timers will meet Tuesday Jan.7th at 5:30 in the Family Center. Bring side dishes and desserts.

### Volunteer Needs / Service Opportunities for 2020

The New Year is coming quickly and we are making new schedules. If you have previously volunteered in one of the following ways, your name will remain in rotation unless you ask to be removed.

If you are currently not volunteering, or have an interest, please consider helping us provide the best West Side experience for everyone, by volunteering in one of these areas:

**Starting Point**

**Prayer Room**

**Nursery**

**Bible class teachers / helpers (Toddlers & Preschool)**

For more information about these areas of service and what each requires, please contact Jenifer Hurt.

[jenifer@westsidear.org](mailto:jenifer@westsidear.org)

## Gathering Times

SUNDAY

9:00 AM Bible Class

9:00 AM Clase en Español

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Adoración

5:00 PM

Share Groups/ various times and locations

WEDNESDAY

6:30 PM

6:30 PM Clase en Español

7:00 Midweek @ CCSC

## Family Illness and Recovery

David May, brother of Charles May, has metastatic esophageal cancer. Please keep David and the rest of the May family in your prayers as they support him during this time.

Mirl Helms is back at Stella Manor (room 204) recovering from surgery and a broken femur. Please keep her in your prayers for a full recovery.

Truman Hill continues to battle ongoing health concerns, and is unable to leave the house at this time. Please keep Truman and Jan in your prayers as they face daily trials with illness.

Jim Bob Humphrey has been treated for infection in his leg. Please continue to pray for healing for Jim Bob and for strength and endurance for both Jim Bob and Betty during this recovery process.

Richard Humphreys has developed ulcers on his foot and will be consulting a wound specialist concerning treatment. Please continue to keep Richard in your prayers for strength and healing.

Dee Lin Jones, father of Calvin & Rocky Jones & Tami Robinson, is doing well following open heart surgery. Please pray for a complete and rapid recovery.

Pat Kee is doing well following hip replacement surgery. Please keep her in your prayers for a full and rapid recovery.

Clay Reed is currently having intense chemotherapy for precautionary measures. Please keep Clay in your prayers for strength during these next several weeks of treatment.

Joe Russell is at St. Mary's Rehab following a recent heart attack and receiving a pacemaker and defibrillator. Please continue to pray for Joe in his recovery.

Ross Spurlock, brother of Mike Spurlock, has metastatic melanoma. He is scheduled for a PET scan on 12/27. Please keep Ross and his family as well as the doctors that are treating him in your prayers.

**Happy New Year !!**

## RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

West Side Church of Christ has partnered with Paul Senn of River Valley Christian Counseling to provide high quality, affordable, Christian counseling to the River Valley. Hourly fees are based on the client's income and services will be provided regardless of the income/insurance situation of the client.

If you would like more information, please contact Paul Senn at

479-219-3019 or [rvccounseling@gmail.com](mailto:rvccounseling@gmail.com).

You may also visit [www.westsidear.org/rvcc](http://www.westsidear.org/rvcc) for more information.

### Monday Night For The Master

As this year draws to an end and most of us are focused on holiday fun and family let's be mindful also of the needs around us that continue during these times.

Our MNFTM meal program feeds the homeless and provides snacks for the dialysis clinic all year long in addition to providing a meal each week for our own.

Currently our pantry is depleted and we need to restock for the new year. Please consider helping us in our efforts to continue blessing others by providing the needed items listed below. Or, if you prefer making a monetary donation for the purpose of restocking the pantry, this would help ensure that our pantry items are always fresh.

A little help goes a long way!

Thank you in advance for your support, and for being the hands and feet of Jesus!

### Ongoing needed items are:

Fruit cups

Individual unsweetened applesauce

Cans of Tuna packed in water (not oil)

Ritz crackers (short stacks)

Little Debbie snacks- any kind

## A Look Ahead...

MNFTM will not meet on Monday Monday Dec. 30th.

There will be no classes on Wednesday January 1st.

Celebrate Recovery will have a New Year's Eve party on Dec. 31st 7pm-midnight in the Family Center. There will be a regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 2nd.

The office will be closed Wednesday Jan.1st.