



Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

July 17th, 2022

This Old Guitar

by Tim Tripp

If you have ever been in my office, you might have noticed an old guitar sitting on a stand beside my desk. People often comment on it. Some even pick it up and tune it and play it a while. I love to hear people play it. When they ask how long I've been playing, my answer is always, "not yet."

The guitar has been sitting in my office for years now and I even have a book on my desk that is a beginning players book. Still, I rarely pick it up and strum even a few chords. I sometimes imagine myself one day sitting in my office and playing and singing to songs I love. I can picture family gatherings where grandpa pulls out the old guitar and entertains the grandkids with renditions of 80's songs and worship tunes. I can even imagine one day playing at a coffee bar while customers talk quietly over their drinks and clap politely when a song is done.

None of that, however, will be a reality unless I pick up the guitar and start learning to play. I tell myself I will do it when my schedule lightens up and I have more time but I've been telling myself that for a long time and it hasn't happened yet. If anything, my schedule just gets busier. If I do it, it will be because I intentionally made it a priority and put a time on my calendar to make it happen. I can have a guitar and have had a learning book in my office for years but if I never pick them up and do the work of learning, it will just be a decoration in the office. It looks good but it is useless.

Discipleship is like that too. Discipleship requires transformation into the image of Jesus. It is a continual process powered by the Holy Spirit and blessed by God himself. What we add to that is a willingness to change and intentionally doing things that move us in the direction of Jesus. We can have books on how to be a disciple, we can keep a Bible on our nightstands and we can listen to podcasts on transforming into the image of Jesus but until we intentionally start making those little changes in our lives, those things are mere decorations there too.

None of us like the work of change. We can imagine the great benefits that come with it and know that it will be to our good but doing it is another thing. Like diets and debt reduction plans, we start out filled with passion and great hopes but end up finding it is just easier to leave things the way they are.

Let me encourage you today as you are reading this to begin making a plan to change your life and make you more like Jesus. Find a friend to walk through this with you. Both of you discuss changes that you want to make to be more Christ-like, more spiritual, more evangelistic and more disciple-making focused. Work together on it. Pray for each other and watch your spiritual life take off. I know you can do it. If you can't find a spiritual friend or mentor, talk to me. I'll either find you one or do it myself. This is too important to let it fall by the wayside.

I guess I should take my own advice and get on with playing the guitar. I need a partner. Anyone want to give me lessons?

Last Week

Class - n/a
Worship - n/a
Wednesday Night
Bible Study - 54

Giving: \$ 16,522
Weekly Budget: \$13,380
YTD Giving: \$ 339,577
YTD Budget: \$ 374,651

Prayer Requests

Rex Chambers will have a follow up appointment in LR to determine if he is a candidate for open heart surgery, after several blockages were discovered during his recent heart cath procedure. Please continue to pray for his medical team to come up with the best solution possible.

George Reed is home following an emergency heart cath procedure Thursday. Several blockages were found, and he is not a candidate for open heart surgery. His condition will be treated with medication at this time. Please pray for the medications to be effective in helping to reverse this condition.

Scott May is home following recent gall bladder removal surgery. Please continue to keep him in your prayers for a full and rapid recovery.

Brenda Holmes received a good report from her recent visit to Mayo Clinic, and no surgery was required. She is home safely and will not need to return for another year.

Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to Sharon Dodge and Loretta Magby in the recent loss of their Aunt Rachel. Please pray for comfort and peace that passes understanding during their time of loss.

Continue to remember:

Norman Shay, father of Cindy Jones, in Hospice care
Tami Robinson

Guest Speaker

Wednesday night, July 20th, we will meet in the Auditorium at 6:30 for special lesson from guest speaker Spencer Furby, on the topic of "The Church in a Post Pandemic World". Please join us!

Guest Leader

Next Sunday, July 24th, Kenny Collins will be here to lead us in Worship once again! Come join us for an uplifting time of praise and worship you won't want to miss.

Renew Volunteers

If you have not had a chance to fill out a volunteer participation card for Renew College Ministry, and you would like to be involved, Grayson will be available Sunday with cards for your convenience. Please fill out a card and place in the basket provided on the Renew table in the lobby.



What a great week of learning and fun at Vacation Bible School!! Thanks so much to Vandy Moore for all of her hard work and planning! Many adults and teenagers worked very hard to make this week a success. It truly takes a village to raise a child and at West Side we have many people that care about the spiritual growth of our kids. We are truly blessed!!

This week in Little Kids Worship we find Daniel's faith being tested again. The story of the Lions den is one of the most well known Old Testament stories but one of the most meaningful. Daniel will be there Sunday...and maybe even some lions!!

Our next Summer Sunday Night Picnic in the Park is July 24th at 5pm – Pavilion 8 at Old Post Park.

Burgers and Hot Dogs will be provided – bring sides, desserts and canned drinks and come join us!

ATTENTION LADIES:
Something old
mixed with
something new
coming to West Side this August.

heartfelt
Ministries

Building Meaningful Friendships in the Home
See information booth in church foyer

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