



Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

July 3rd, 2022

God's Echo

by Tim Tripp

Have you ever looked at a parent and a child and thought that their likeness was striking? My youngest daughter looks a lot like her mother. My kids all have little features that bear likeness to me, but Lizzy looks so much like my wife it is uncanny. Even more striking is the way my wife resembles her mom. When you see the two of them together there can be little doubt that they share genetic material. They have had perfect strangers walk up to them as they sat together and exclaim, "You two must be related!" My wife is like her mom in many ways besides physical resemblance. They both share a passion for cooking, they love anything Italian, they are both drawn to a good book and they share an abysmal sense of direction. They are both centered on spiritual things and have a faith that often surpasses my own. My mother-in-law just beams when something my wife does works out well, almost as if she had a little something to do with it...and in fact she did.

In the book of Second Corinthians, chapter four, the apostle Paul reminded his readers that Jesus was the image of God as well. In verse four of that chapter, he said, *"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."* Jesus could have been described as the 'mirror image' of God; not speaking of his physical appearance but his essence, his spirit, his heart and his passion. Jesus who was in every way God in the flesh, bore the exact image of God on earth so that we could see God in action as a man.

The great apostle continued in verse six of chapter four in 2 Corinthians where he took his point further with his audience saying, *"for God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."* Then he continued in verse seven saying, *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."*

Not only did Christ bear the image of God to the world, but we, those who are disciples of Christ, bear HIS image to the world as well! We do so imperfectly (as in the metaphor of the fragile, broken clay pots) but that only shows that the image we bear is not from us, but from God. Can you imagine walking through the streets of town and having people exclaim, "Hey the way you live reminds me a lot of what I have read about Jesus," Or "The way you helped that person reminded me of Jesus," Or "When that person criticized you, you just smiled and blessed them anyway. That seems like something Jesus would have done."

This image is not one to be taken lightly. The responsibility of bearing the image of Christ is enormous and requires that we attend each moment seeking to bring Him glory and honor in how we live our lives. When they see us and hear us, they should be seeing and hearing him. In a very real way, we are His echo. God loves it when His children resemble Him and bear His image into the world. When we do something well the Father beams; almost as if He had something to do with it...and in fact, He did.

Last Week

Class - 131

Worship - 282

Wednesday Night

Bible Study - 31

Giving: \$ 12,006

Weekly Budget: \$13,380

YTD Giving: \$ 307,913

YTD Budget: \$ 347,890

Prayer Requests

David May, brother of Charles May, had a tracheostomy procedure last week. Please pray for desired results and that this procedure can be reversed in the future.

Tami Robinson has a CT scan recently, and will be meeting with her doctor for the report this week. Please continue to pray for good results and complete healing.

Jerri Tabor will be having shoulder surgery in mid-July. Please pray for successful surgery and full recovery with lessened pain which will allow improvement to her overall mobility.

Cameron Craig, former co-worker and friend of Bob and Lynda Clark, is having serious heart issues and is facing heart transplant surgery. Please pray that he is able to have procedures to sustain his health to the point a transplant is attainable.

Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to Stephanie Dunning and family in the loss of her father, Steve Osborn, on Wednesday. Please keep this family in your prayers as they endure another significant loss.

Continue to remember:

Norman Shay, father of Cindy Jones, in Hospice care

Baby Shower

Join us for a Baby Shower in honor of Dillon and Sarah Rabb on Sunday July 10th from 2-4pm in the Rock.

Sophia Jane is due to arrive in August, and the Rabbs are registered at Amazon and Babylist.com

<https://www.babylist.com/baby-rabb-2>

Our summer meal program to feed the homeless is in need of Little Debbie snack cakes and fruit cups. Please leave donations in the MNFTM box located in the main hallway.



Summer is in full swing and VBS is right around the corner! Get your kids signed up and contact Vandy Moore if you have any questions.

This week in Little Kids Worship we will meet one of our Old Testament favorites, Daniel. We will learn that even at a young age Daniel made some difficult decisions and chose to obey God. Join us to learn about Daniel and how following God's will gives us guidance to make good choices even in hard situations.

Congratulations to Jack Ruple who made the decision, while at camp, to put on Christ in Baptism! Way to go, Jack! Welcome to the family!

**Don't forget the VBS work day next Saturday, July 9th, in the Main Building from 2-4pm!
Anyone who would like to help is welcome!**



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