



Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

June 5, 2022

Living Stones in a Spiritual House

by Tim Tripp

I have never built a house from the ground up. I have however helped with smaller storage type buildings and experienced raising a small structure from the ground up. I have seen a builder take some plans and begin to create what has been drawn on the plans. Every time I saw the beginning of a building, the builder did not start by building up. He started by digging down.

If you want a structure to stand for a long time, you must start with a foundation. Foundations begin with a trench; the depth of which varies depending on the size of what is being built on it. Then concrete is poured into the trench and leveled. Once dried, the first blocks or boards are attached to it. The foundation sets the parameters of the building and gives it support and level. A poor foundation cannot be easily overcome. When it fails, the building is doomed.

In 1 Peter 2:4-10, the author represented the relationship between Jesus and his followers as being like that of a house under construction. He said that God has already laid the foundation or the cornerstone upon which all else will be built. That is Jesus. The followers of Christ then are "living stones" being built into a "spiritual house." The stones follow the layout of the foundation and bring the house shape, dimensions and support in order to carry out the purpose of the structure. The purpose of the spiritual house, Peter said, is to bring a holy priesthood together and offer spiritual sacrifices together to God. These "living stones," are the lives of the followers of Jesus given to the mission of this spiritual house. Peter gives the mission in verse nine saying that as a royal priesthood and a holy nation, the followers of Jesus are to *"declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."* For followers of Jesus, their lives are totally given for the honor and glory of God.

I think a lot of Christians do not want to be built into that house. I think they would like to be a stone that lays near the house. Maybe they look like the stones in the house; they have the same shape, same texture and the same coloring but they hang loose. Being built into the house is an "all in" commitment that causes the stone to lose its identity as an individual and redefines it as part of a greater whole with a greater purpose, that of praising God. That is all well and good they think, but they would rather keep their options open.

In a world that is growing more and more secular, the fence that some are riding is getting thinner and thinner. Soon it will be so thin and so sharp that it will cut them in half. In the past, Christians have largely gotten away unnoticed for riding the fence between the world and the church. The day is coming closer when that will no longer be possible. They will have to make a choice and the church should prepare for the fact that most fence riders when pushed for a choice, they will choose the world. It's been more about them than about God for a long time.

True Jesus followers will be eager to leave worldliness behind and take their place in the spiritual house, offering the sacrifice of praise to our God and our savior. In doing so they find that their created purpose was always to be a holy people coming together as God's earthly temple for God's glory.

Last Week

Class - 119	Giving: \$8,122
Worship - 271	Weekly Budget: \$13,380
Wednesday Night	YTD Giving:\$ 261,037
Bible Study - 56	YTD Budget:\$ 294,368

Prayer Requests

Tami Robinson is doing well following a recent hospitalization for complications caused by her immunotherapy treatment. Please continue to keep her in your prayers for complete healing.

We extend our sympathy to Tiffany and Ricky Dye in the loss of their unborn child last week. Tiffany is the daughter of Don & Linda Loudon & Zach's sister. Please keep the Dye and Loudon families in your prayers during this difficult time.

Christie Reed is scheduled for a hysterectomy on June 10th. Prayers for a simple surgery and rapid recovery are appreciated.

Picnic in the Park Tonight!!

We will meet at 5pm in Pavilion # 8 at Old Post Park.

Hamburgers and Hotdogs will be provided. Please bring sides, desserts and drinks for a crowd!

Other Picnic dates are July 24th and Aug 28th

Newcomers Potluck

Next Sunday June 12th we will host a newcomers/visitors potluck in the Family Center following morning worship service, to get to know the new faces of West Side. This will be an old fashioned style potluck, so bring plenty of food to share! Make an effort to invite some new acquaintances to join us in a time of fellowship. See you there!

Baby Shower

We will have a baby boy shower in honor of Rebekah Spradlin in the Rock on Sunday June 26th at 2 pm. Alex and Rebekah are expecting their first child in July, and are registered on Amazon.



Welcome to Kids Corner!

An informative section where you can find information about our children's programs and activities!

Summer is coming and our children's programs are getting ready! Mark your calendars and plan on being involved.

- Sign up now for VBS, July 11-15. Any Questions contact Vandy Moore.
- Little Kids Worship for ages 3-K will begin this Sunday, June 5th. When the children are dismissed, parents are asked to bring their children to the KFC room. Nursery/ Cradle Roll class and Little Kids Worship will have parents sign in all children as they are being dropped off. Parents are asked to pick up children after the sermon before the Elder closing.

Kids Giving

- We will resume our Kids Giving this Sunday as children are dismissed for Little Kids Worship. Children of all ages are encouraged to bring their money to the front and put it in our new contribution boxes. A special thank you to the Schmitt's for making these new boxes for us!! This time of giving is a great way to include our children in the public worship service.
- Our focus in LKW this week is family. We will be reviewing the story of Jacob and Esau with a surprise visitor!!! Parents, we will also be focusing on learning the books of the NT in June and July so practice at home if you can. Don't forget about the cookout Sunday evening- this will be a great time of fellowship for families and kids of all ages.

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