

FOR THE RECORD

Week of March 19th, 2017

Bible Study.....	206
Sunday Worship.....	343
Share Groups.....	28
Wednesday.....	167
Weekly Giving.....	\$16,286
Weekly Budget.....	\$17,306
Year-to-Date Giving.....	\$201,637
Year-to-Date Budget.....	\$207,672

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

March 26

Lisa Reed & Sue Ann Jernigan

April 2

Tara Hyde-Young & Carol Lee

MARCH COMMUNION PREP

Linda McMickle

GREETERS

March 26

Terry Bonds.....West
Bill & Susan Lewis.....East
Larry & Linda Harrell.....North

April 2

Shannon & Kim Walters.....North
Steve & Donna Frick.....West
Terry & Shannon Bailey.....East

COMMUNION

March 26

Table 1: Michael Grant, James Cole, Don Helm, Craig Davis, Josh Harrell

Table 2: David Davenport, Rex Chambers, Brandon Grice, Kenny Freeman, Tom Doan

Kids for Christ

Kids for Christ is for ages 2 – 2nd grade, in rooms #17-20 during the sermon time.

March

Word / Scripture of the Month

Ready/ 1 Peter 3:15

Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you have.

March 26

2 Year Olds: Christina Brooks

3-4 Year Olds: Sarah Janelle

K-2nd Grade: Christina Betterton

Puppets: Brian Tindell

April 2

2 Year Olds: Jill Bonds

3-4 Year Olds: Charli Horton

K-2nd Grade: Jessica Davis

Puppets: Lads to Leaders Team

March Helpers

Lorelei Harris, Reagan Mitchell, Chiane Nesbitt

Raising Arrows

Children's Ministry Grades K-5. Teachers beginning **March 29, 2017** are...

Noah's Arcade

Dale & Christina Brooks

Museum

Alex & Lauren Pipkin

Creator's Canvas

Brent & April Ruple

Holy Word Studios

Lee & Andrea Henson

A SMOKING FIRE POT WITH A BLAZING TORCH

March 26, 2017

by Tim Tripp

What would it be like to be in the literal or physical presence of God? It has happened on several occasions and then was recorded in scripture for us to read. In Biblical testimony, his presence takes different forms to fit the circumstance of His appearing. We have one of those appearances in Genesis chapter fifteen. Here we find God and Abram engaged in a conversation about heirs. God told Abram how he will be blessed and Abram complained that God's blessings will mean little since he had no children to leave it to after his passing. God assured him that he will have a son, an heir to whom all of God's abundant blessings would be passed.

God instructed Abram to bring a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a pigeon. The animals were brought, and the larger animals were cut in two with the halves of the carcasses arranged on opposite slopes so that their blood would run together and pool in the valley. In those days, it was a solemn vow or promise that was made in this fashion. The one making the vow or promise would remove his sandals and walk through the blood allowing some of it to stain the hem of his robe. The symbolism was to say, "May it happen to me as it has to these animals if I fail to keep my side of the promise."

Abram was told that "for certain" his descendants would suffer in slavery for a time but would come back and possess the land. Then, after dark, a "smoking fire pot" and a "blazing torch" moved between the pieces of animals. God himself showed up to take the vow to assure Abram that what He had promised will come to pass.

In the Old Testament, God's presence often takes the form of fire. Fire was a far more valuable commodity in the days before flint kits and matches. It was vital to a community that lived in tents and needed fire for warmth, protection, cooking, and light. Fire, when controlled, was a huge asset and without it, life was far more difficult and dangerous. In fire, God's presence represented light and protection for Abram, and His promise to Abram was secured as he passed through the carcasses as such.

Isn't it interesting that when the presence of God as the Holy Spirit came in Acts 2, it settled on the apostles as tongues of fire? That fire within His people now continues to remind us that his promises are sure and that we continue to live out His narrative of presence.

STARTING POINT

Welcome to West Side! Are you interested in learning more about us? Be sure to visit the Starting Point room in the back of the auditorium after each Sunday service.

YOUTH MINISTRY

WSYM Midweek: On Wednesdays at 5:30 we meet for pizza (\$3) and hang time followed by Bible study at 6:30.

Young Christians Weekend: Silver Dollar City. April 1-2.

Spring Sing at Harding - April 15

Senior Sunday - May 7

RAISING ARROWS

We are gearing up for the summer program of our little arrows and we need your help. Just for the summer, the K-5th grade classes will be combined. The rotation classes will end May 21st and pick back up August 16th. We're looking for teachers and class helpers to sign up for one or two classes this summer. If you can be a class teacher or a helper, please contact April Ruple at 501-920-2026, Christina Brooks at 479-692-9510, or Andrea Henson at 479-886-2606. Thank you for your help!

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

Anyone interested in attending the Baja mission trip is invited to attend an informational meeting Monday, the 27th, at 6:30 PM in the Family Center following MNFTM. Please see Tim Tripp with questions.

CONDOLENCES

We would like to extend our condolences to the family of Orla Lee Golay. He passed away Tuesday, March 21, 2017. Please continue to pray for his family during this time.

HARRISON/APPLE WEDDING SHOWER

We would like to invite you to join us at a wedding shower for Melissa Apple and Corey Harrison on Sunday, April 2nd, from 1:00-3:00 in the Rock. They are registered at Target, Wal-Mart, Bed, Bath and Beyond, and Millyn's.

SHEPHERD SELECTION PROCESS

We would like to encourage everyone to prayerfully consider participating in the shepherd selection process. The forms to provide the name(s) of those you feel are called to serve are included in the bulletin packet. Extra forms are in the foyer on the table to the left of the ramp.

SHARE GROUP INFORMATION

On Sunday, April 2nd, we will have another training and time of vision sharing for next year's share group leaders. This meeting is open to both current share group leaders and anyone interested in leading a share group in the future. We will meet in the Family Center Classroom at 2:00 pm. Please contact Josh Clem if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

MNFTM

Don't forget to check out the lists of supplies needed for the two MNFTM projects. One is for supplies to take on the Guatemala trip (box in the foyer under round table.) The other is to collect supplies for foster families to give and use for the kids that come into their home (labeled boxes in foyer under long table.) Thanks for your help on this!

DIOS LE BENDIGA (GOD BLESS YOU)

BY ARIS ORTIZ

God's family.

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born from God." John 1:12-13

After obeying the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a person is obeying God the Father, and in Him we all are one. Those in China or in Australia, India or El Salvador: We have a common Father and common family. We are God's family. And here at West Side, we are an international family: from the USA, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. We all speak a same language: a language of love, a language of salvation, a language of eternity. We are getting ready to move to Eternity, and when we have that time of fellowship with one another, that time of encouragement to each other, those moments together... all that is a taste of what will be forever in eternity! We will all be in the same place for ever and ever...

Church: "get right church and lets go home..."

PRAYER LIST

Nursing Homes

Madge Alverson (Atkins #311), Mirl Helms (Stella Manor #221), Imogene Taylor (Brookdale #211), Wayne Nordin (Brookdale #219), Glennette Price (Stella Manor #305), Elizabeth Wyatt (Legacy Heights #43).

Cancer Patients

Gladys Norwood, Helen Stephens, Mary Grice, Mary King, Tiffany Lutrell, Carla Ford, Jeri Shay, Doug Hart, Jerry Thompson, Julie Session, Ruby Kite, Sherilyn Russell, Kelly Owens, Don Martin, Lavada Gordon, Ray Fullerton, Amy Baker, Delba Parrish, Kirk Benson, Bob Baker, Ali Winters, Debbie Gann, Hobart Summers, Debra Leaming, Lorri Petty, Joyce Gage, Ruth Kelley, Steven Watson, Linda Elkins, Hazel Anderson, Johnetta Hunter, Dianne Skipper, Suzanne Gatewood, Kim Kersh, Richie Schilling, Greg Standridge, Ella Allison, Rex Roberts, Eura Mae Loyd, Maddie Allen

Military

Dale Nelson, Justin Dollins, Steven Renfrow, Nicholas Randel, James Cole, Jr., Micah Hunter, Steven Cawyer, Charles Pitney, Joseph Roberds

Additional

Aris Ortiz, Jr., Patsy Parnell, Nora Smith, Jeremiah Martinez, Matt Francis, Loren Hurst

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit an announcement for the bulletin, please contact the office using the email: info@westsidear.org.

To reach Britney directly, email britney@westsidear.org.