

# West Side Church of Christ CALLER



Inside this issue:

Dan 's Desk	2
David 's Pondering Pool	3
Lance 's Children 's Chat	4
Hymn Formation	5
Announcements	8
Prayer List	7
Military Addresses	5
Reflections	6
July Serving	9
Schedule	



## Good News Clues July 11-15



West Side Church of Christ  
1190 Stahlheber Rd  
Hamilton, Ohio  
9:00 AM- 12:30 PM



Call to Register (513) 863-7553

Fun! Games!  
Snacks! Crafts! Music!

Register On Line at:

[wscchamilton.org](http://wscchamilton.org)



**Church**

1190 Stahlheber Rd  
Hamilton, OH 45013

**Phone**

513-863-7553

**Fax**

513-863-7552

**Office Hours**

Monday-Friday

9:30— 2:30

**Church Staff**

Dan Knisley  
Senior Minister

Dan@wscchamilton.org

David Schneller  
Associate Minister of  
Teens and Worship

David@wscchamilton.org

Lance Whitehurst  
Minister to Children

Lance@wscchamilton.org

Ellen Sippel  
Secretary

Ellen@wscchamilton.org

**From Dan's Desk****Freedom Isn't Free**

Thomas Payne wrote in 1776, "What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly, it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a price upon its goods, and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated."

As we celebrate our nation's Declaration of Independence, we need to be reminded that freedom isn't free— there is a cost to freedom, and it is dear. Freedom is precious and the cost of its attainment is very high. The blood of thousands of American servicemen from Valley Forge to Baghdad in 2011 reminds us of freedom's cost.

But that's the problem. We keep forgetting that freedom isn't free. We who were born free and have never had to fight to stay free tend to take our sweet liberty for granted, or worse, we use it as an excuse for sinful behavior.

This is the situation in which we find ourselves as a nation. At best, we Americans take our freedom for granted, and at worst we use it to justify everything from abortion to homosexuality to pornography.

So as we celebrate this July 4th, we Americans need to be reminded of two things. First, we need to remember that freedom does not mean being able to do whatever one wants. That's not freedom, that's anarchy. Any nation that defines freedom as unrestrained indulgence cannot long survive. Freedom is not having permission to do whatever we want to do. Freedom is having the power to do what is right. Second, we need to remember that freedom has a high cost, and that if we want our children and grandchildren to live in a free land then we must also be willing to pay freedom's price.

Someone once said, "To be born free is a privilege. To die free is an awesome responsibility." Let's remember this July 4th the incredible privilege and awesome responsibility of this blessing of God we call freedom.

For Him,  
**Dan**

## From David's Pondering Pool...



### ..A Little Better Than You Found It

I have a confession to make: The trunk of my car has been an absolute mess.

It didn't get that way in just a day or two. The old set of books I was given, the oil I found on sale, the paper I meant to recycle, the clothes I meant to donate, the empty wrappers I meant to throw away, and the tools I used have accumulated and completely taken over what was once a useful space in the rear of my vehicle.

I tried a couple of weeks ago to take an afternoon and clean it out all at once. I opened up the back, took a look at the mess, became increasingly overwhelmed, and eventually thought "oh well, at least the front is clean." I closed the trunk, went back inside and read a book instead. Maybe you can relate.

I'm happy to report that although it's not completely spotless yet, my trunk is a lot better today than it was a couple of weeks ago, and it's all thanks to a new philosophy I call "A Little Better Than You Found It." Knowing that I wouldn't ever take the time to clean out my trunk all at once, I vowed to leave it "a little better than I found it" every time I got into it. Now when I unload groceries after going to the store, I grab a handful of trash that had been left in there from weeks ago and throw it away. When I put my backpack into the trunk as Stacey and I go to visit our families, I take a couple of tools and put them away in the garage. Slowly (but surely), my trunk is becoming free of the mess it once found itself in.

I was walking through the church the other day and came across a sign that said "Please leave this kitchen *like you found it*." Although I am proud to say that I always do my best to abide by that sign's request, sometimes people seem to have a hard time following it's simple direction. Don't believe me? Just ask the wonderful ladies who give it a good cleaning every few months. I think the problem with asking someone to "leave something *like they found it*" is that it's easy to take a glance and say "well, it's close enough to being *like I found it*." Over time, though, the clutter accumulates and becomes just as messy as the back of my car.

So then I started to wonder, "what if instead that sign read, 'Please leave this kitchen *a little better* than you found it'?" I imagine that if everyone started leaving it a little better than they found it, not only would all the dishes be put away, but eventually the drawers also would be completely organized, the refrigerators would be completely cleaned out, and the floors would sparkle and shine.

Are you starting to wonder what I'm getting at yet? Wonder no more. I want to encourage you to live by the "A Little Better Than You Found It" philosophy. I'm not just talking about keeping the church kitchen nice. I'm not talking about keeping your car clean. The whole point I'm getting at is not even really about house-keeping or cleanliness at all.

It's about your life. It's about our church. It's about the Kingdom of God. As I look to Scripture, I see a God who doesn't just leave us *like He found us*. Philippians 1:6 (NASB) says this: "... He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." If we're willing to let Him, God leaves us *a little better than He found us* each day. In Acts I see a church that left the world around it *a little better than they found it*. They shared generously with those in need, they preached the good news about Jesus, and lives were changed because they weren't okay with the status quo. They didn't step back and say "Well, it looks good enough to me." We as God's people are called to likewise leave the world around us a little better than we found it. And so I leave you with this encouragement: In your life, in your home, in our church, and in your community, don't just leave it *like you found it*. Make it your goal each day to leave it **a little better than you found it**.

# Children's Chat



I can't believe how fast this summer has gone already, in 3 weeks Vacation Bible School will be here. If you have not registered your child for VBS yet, it would benefit us and you greatly to pre-register your child. If you do not pre-register you will have to do it on Monday with the rest of the people that didn't pre-register. You may either come to the table outside the Worship Center and register or you may go to [www.wscchamilton.org](http://www.wscchamilton.org) and register on line. If you would like to help during VBS just stop by the table and sign up to help, even just for one morning you will be blessed. On Sunday July 17 the kids from VBS will be invited back and they will sing during the worship hour and we will have a slide show of VBS showing as well.

I am going to start something a little different this summer, I am going to have days called Wild Wacky Wednesday (WWW), where we get together and have a fun day either here at the church or on a field trip somewhere. Be looking for more information on the Children's Bulletin Board about these. The first WWW will be on July 20<sup>th</sup>, the Wednesday after VBS, we are going to be here at the church from 10:00-2:00pm. Come out and join in the fun, but be prepared to get wet. There will be no cost for this and lunch will be served. Be watching for an announcement on another WWW that will be taking place in August and this one we will travel off sight for.

On August 26-28 we will be having a Campout here at the church for families and anyone else interested in attending. Even if you are not a camper you can come out and enjoy the activities here at the church either during the day on Saturday or in the evening around the campfire. There are yellow booklets on the welcome center for you to pick up and will give you more information about this weekend. Come out and enjoy fun, food and fellowship with your church family.

## VBS Snack List



- Small Clear Cups
- Small Red Napkins
- Thin Red Ribbon
- Small Paper Plates
- Small Pretzels
- Crackers
- Candy

- Matzo or other Crackers
- Cheese slices
- Apples
- Various kind of Popcorn
- Hot dogs
- Crescent rolls for hotdogs
- Juice. Lots of juice



Attention all VBS helpers, both Teen or Adult- we are having an important meeting Sat. July 9. Light Breakfast will be served at 9 am & then the meeting is 9:30 am- 10:45 am.



VBS decorating is 10:45 am-4:30 PM on July 9. Come anytime during that time & help out. You don't have to commit to the entire time. Sun. July 10 we will finish decorating, starting around 2:00 pm & be done by 5 pm.

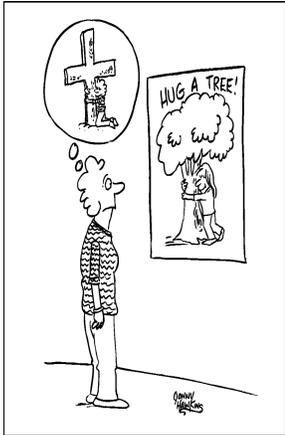


VBS shirts are for sale \$6.00, at the VBS registration table in the foyer. If you pre-order a shirt make sure you let the person know at the registration desk. You may write a check out to the church

**Support our Troops**

Chaplain Ben Dillon  
 c/o Dawn Dillon  
 10736 Darneal Dr.  
 Fountain, CO 80817

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"Ed here has some sort of problem with his membership on the visitation committee."



"It's my first day in the choir. Where's the lip-synch section?"



**Hymn Formation (c)**  
*by Sam Sippel*

Personal crises and a challenged faith resulted in one of the world's most beloved and popular hymns. George Bennard was born February 4, 1873 in Youngstown, Ohio and later moved to Iowa. Teen-age George became a Christian and aspired to become an evangelist. Unfortunately, his coal-miner father died, and 16 year-old George had to leave school and work to support his mother and four sisters. George continued his informal education of theology by reading and studying theological works. He also studied with ministers who encouraged the young man.

George moved to Illinois so he could marry his fiancée. The young couple joined the Salvation Army. There, George began his ministry and eventually became a brigade leader in the corps. Tragically, his young wife died. He left the Salvation Army and began his own ministry, travelling the U.S.A. and Canada. He often illustrated his sermons with original poems and songs.

Eventually, he remarried and settled in Reed City, Michigan. One night he began to contemplate John 3:16. He also began to reflect upon his own personal and spiritual struggles. Bennard later wrote, "I saw the Christ of the cross as if I were seeing John 3:16 leaving the printed page, take form, and act out the meaning of redemption." He added, "The words of the finished hymn were put into my heart in answer to my own need." ("Complete Book of Hymns" by the Petersons, p.138)

Unlike many classical hymns and songs, "The Old Rugged Cross" wasn't written in 15 minutes in finished form. Bennard wrote down the original hymn, but couldn't finish it. He set it aside and resumed his evangelistic travels. As he studied and preached, George continued to think about his new song. One night in Pokagon, Michigan God revealed the hymn's final form. Bennard debuted his new hymn at a revival on June 7, 1913. It received its first wide exposure at a Chicago Evangelistic Association conference.

The song came to the attention of Homer Rodeheaver, the song leader for legendary evangelist Billy Sunday. His Victor recording of "The Old Rugged Cross" became a best-seller in March 1921. The hymn became one of the most popular and recorded in history. It was listed as the most popular hymn in polls between 1925-1960.

Bennard died at age 85 on October 10, 1958 in his adopted hometown of Reed City, Michigan. He had written hundred of hymns but this one is his most famous.

*"So I'll cherish the old, rugged cross,  
 Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
 I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
 And exchange it someday for a crown."*

**Bible Trivia**

What Old Testament prophet was a bald-headed man?

II Kings 2:23  
 Elisha

Where did Cain go to live after he killed his brother Abel?

Genesis 4:16  
 Eden.  
 Land of Nod, east of

What was the name of the land inhabited by Esau and his descendants?

Genesis 32:3; 36:8  
 country of Edom.  
 Land of Seir in the

Which New Testament book was written to the owner of a run-away slave who had become a Christian?

Philemon vs. 16  
 Philemon.

When confronted about paying their temple tax, where did the Lord tell Peter to go to get the money to take care of this?

Matthew 17:24-26  
 in its mouth  
 lake. The money was  
 Catch a fish from the



Reflecting the light of God's  
love, hope, and comfort  
into the darkness of illness

~~~~~  
"My God turns my darkness into light." Psalm 18:28b NIV

# Liberty!

Stand fast therefore  
in the liberty by which Christ has made us free.  
Galatians 5:1 NKJ



### Reflections from a Card of Encouragement

We live in a country where freedom is a way of life. Too often we take it for granted, that is until a serious illness invades our lives. Simple everyday freedoms must be put aside as we undergo treatments and experience the limitations of illness. Illness need not, however, rob the freedom of our spirits.

Illness cannot quench the power of the liberating love of Christ for you. His love is with you to free you from fear over tomorrow, to free you from worry over your family, to free you from sadness over the losses illness has caused, to free you from anger over the unfairness of this illness. The liberating love of Christ is with you to free you to trust in his unfailing care over you, to depend on his strength, to follow his wisdom and guidance, to experience his peace that passes all understanding, to smile, to laugh, and to cry. The liberating love of Christ frees you to have courage and confidence for today, to have faith and hope for tomorrow.

*Dear God, I have lost the freedom to do many things since this illness invaded my life. Thank you for all the freedoms you give me because of your Son, Jesus. I will stand fast in your liberating love over me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



### Reflections from Ministry

"Liberty", according to Webster, includes the quality or state of being free, the power to do as one pleases, freedom from physical restraint, and the power of choice. Webster does not include in his definition freedom of the spirit as Paul describes in Galatians 5:1. When physical freedoms are limited by a serious illness like cancer, those with a freedom of spirit found in Jesus Christ flourish in spite of their limitations.

This describes Gail. Gail was once an active nurse and involved in activities at her church. Now she is confined to a wheelchair due to multiple sclerosis and has endured years of dialysis treatments. But what a beautiful free spirit! I met Gail about a year ago at the oncology clinic where she sees the doctor for a non-cancerous problem. She told me how much the cards have meant to her and that she has shared the messages with other patients at the dialysis unit. She laughed as she told the story of how her 10 year old granddaughter likes to read the cards in her Sunday school class.

For the past few months I have been making extra cards which her sister passes out at the dialysis clinic. Any cards left over are taken by Gail's granddaughter to her Sunday school class and given out for the children to take home. Gail's sister said that many of the children are brought by the church bus because their parents do not go to church. This is truly the liberating love of Christ at work touching lives!



*Encourage someone you know with a serious illness that they are not alone with a Bag of Hope and Cards of Encouragement. The Bag of Hope is made for either a man or woman and for any illness. These are available at no charge on the table next to the coffee area. Contact me or the church office if you would like one tailored to a specific illness or mailed.*



# Back To School Luau

## Back to School Luau

I know it's only the first of July-BUT- plans are being made for the Christian Family Center Mission's annual "Back to School" luau on Saturday, August 13th from 9 am to 1 pm.

The Christian Family Center Mission was established in 1997 in the North End Area of Hamilton. Although once a working class neighborhood, this area of

Hamilton is known for its crime, drug activity, and low income per capita.

When the Church of Christ and Christian Churches made the decision to jointly began a mission in the area, the decision was made to work with adults and children. Now there is an Adult Bible Study and Church Saturday Kids Club-Teen Girl Group and tutoring for children who need help with school work.

The "Back To School" luau started when a teacher from Madison School shared the sad story of children not having the needed supplies. At some point, students would have to wait for a pencil to do the assigned work. Not having book bags, she would keep plastic grocery bags for them to take home and bring back the assigned work.

10 years ago when the "Back To School" program started, 100 children received the needed book bag and supplies. In 2010 over 600 children went back to school with the needed supplies.

The supplies are donated by our supporting churches and this is our annual list of needed items for the book bags. We have been blessed with enough book bags therefore, no book bags are needed. The Mission request the following supplies:

- 100 boxes 24 count crayons
- 50 scissors
- 100 Elmer's Glue
- 250 folders with prongs and pockets--plain color only.
- 50 school boxes
- 50 packs colored pencils
- 150 dry erase markers- not packs but individual markers.
- 500 pencils

MONEY for supplies not donated

VOLUNTEERS--600 children and their families are a lot of people the make lunch, play games, and talk and encourage--so your help is needed.

Please have ALL SUPPLIES BACK TO CHURCH BY AUGUST 7. The luau is August 13th from 9 am to 1 pm.

Any questions please call me at 868-0315

Carrol Combs

Mrs. Alf, School Principal, said its important for all children to have the necessary supplies-- grades improve and self-esteem.

### REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

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**Barb Collins**  
**Callie & Floyd Grubb**  
**Tom Nutting**  
**Del Schanie**  
**Marie Sears**

All with health concerns

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sophie Bovenizer**  
**Bill Chamberlain**  
**Helen Dye**  
**Anna George**  
**Dolle Haven**  
**Earl Kieser**  
**Mae Lasley**  
**Dale Richter**  
**Mag Thacker**  
**Ruby Wyatt**  
homebound

\*\*\*\*\*

**Nina Blanton**  
**Tammy Wellingly**  
bereavement

\*\*\*\*\*

**Nick Arnold**  
**Kyle Thomas**  
**Tornado & Flood**  
**Victims**  
  
others





- Seniors on the Go– July 12 Kabutu on Colerain Ave.
- VBS July 11-15
- Needed: Helpers for home communion. Dates needed are July 31, September 11, October 23 and December 4th. Take all dates or just take one date! Call church office 863-7553

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Dear Family and Friends ,

Thank you very much for your prayers and support of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Our Hamilton, Ohio Great Strides walk on Saturday June 4 was a success!! Our theme this year "Blow Away Cystic Fibrosis" was over and beyond organizers' expectations. It seemed that we had about twice as many participants as last year, and more than double the amount of funds were raised by Saturday.

Team Amanda's Hope had about ten walkers, and Amanda kept up with everyone else this year, and was fine afterwards!! We really appreciate your help, on behalf of her, as well as her sister Emma and their parents ( our daughter Pam and husband Ryan) and their other grandparents, John and Sue Robins. (other family members and friends had previous commitment on that 95 degree hot day and could not walk with us this year. We know they were with us in spirit!!) We praise God for the (cooler) park path, too!! May God be with you and continue to bless you!!

Love, and in Christ,

Del & Winnie

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Dear Church Family,

With special thanks to Dan, Pete, and Bill Gabbard for prayers before Willard's surgery and to Pete for staying with the family until surgery was finished. All the prayers gave us strength and courage.

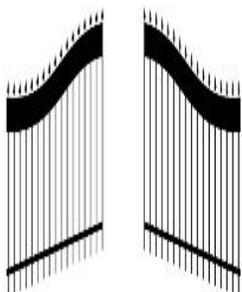
Thanks to all who visited during Willard's stay in the hospital and for everyone's prayers and cards.

Our church family helped us through a very difficult time. The love and concern showed to us during this time meant so very much to us.

In Christian Love,

Willard & Annette Adkins

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I walked through the gate of heaven,  
 The first person I saw  
 was the face of my Savior, Jesus Christ,  
 A lovin' face-  
 Jesus gathered my love ones up  
 that was saved by grace.  
 We walked to the Glory Land;  
 There golden lakes and silver sands.  
 Jesus said  
 "I AM the Creator of man,  
 This is where you will stand  
 To see all the souls in My hand".

Composed by Floyd Grubb  
 Sunday June 12, 2011  
 4:00 AM

**Sunday Serving Schedules for July**  
**Communion Preparation**  
**Searchers- Roger Richardson**

**July 3**

At the Table: Bill Gabbard, John Van Sickle  
Serving Communion: Willard Adkins, Ron Baker, Roy Barker, Bill Brunner, John Layman, John Cole, Darrell Collins, Ray Dalton  
Benediction: John Van Sickle  
Home Communion: Bud Haacke, Bill Sandlin  
Exit Greeters: Dave Combs (SD), Bill Arnold (BD)

**July 10**

At the Table: Bill Arnold, Dave Combs  
Serving Communion: Marc Gabbard, Ron Gann, Wayne Kieser, John Lowery, Bob Scaeffe, Louie Spaulding, Chris Thompson, Al Miller  
Benediction: Neil Geyer  
Home Communion: Ray Dalton, Neil Geyer  
Exit Greeters: Al Miller (SD), Mark Hinkle

**July 17**

At the Table: Al Miller, Frank Owens  
Serving Communion: Bill Gabbard, Bill Arnold, Dave Combs, Neil Geyer, Willard Adkins, Ron Baker, Roy Barker, John Layman  
Benediction: Frank Owens  
Home Communion: Frank Owens, Bud Haacke  
Exit Greeters: Neil Geyer, John Cole

**July 24**

At the Table: Bill Sandlin, Neil Geyer  
Serving Communion: John Cole, Darrell Collins, Ray Dalton, Frank Owens, Marc Gabbard, Bob Scaeffe, Wayne Kieser, Louie Spaulding  
Benediction: David Schneller  
Home Communion: Dan Knisley John Van Sickle  
Exit Greeters: Frank Owens (SD), Mike Thacker (BD)

**July 31**

At the Table: Bud Haacke, Wayne Kieser  
Serving Communion: Roger Richardson, Bobby Haynes, Louie Spaulding, Neil Geyer, Frank Owens, Mike Thacker, Willard Adkins, Bill Arnold, John Cole  
Benediction: Dan Knisley  
Home Communion: **Volunteer Needed**, Hinkle, Mark Hinkle  
Exit Greeters: Al Miller, Mark Hinkle



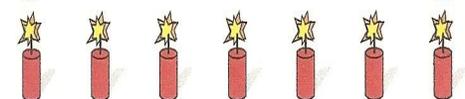
**BIRTHDAYS:**

- 1. Coree Brandenburg
- 2. Michael Van Sickle
- 3. Larry Baldwin
- 4. Claudia Brehm
- 6. Tony Rogers
- 13. Sam McCracken
- 14. Jennifer Dees
- 15. Frank Owens
- 17. Mark Hinkle
- 20. Kristin Haacke
- 22. Glenn Wyatt
- 24. Adlene Custer
- 24. Barbara Hinkle
- 26. Ellen Sippel
- 26. Jeff Brehm
- 27. Jeff Owens
- Lucille Simmons
- 29. Kayla Donnell
- Sheila Smith
- 31. Jennifer Swagler



**ANNIVERSARIES:**

- 1 Bobby & Sandy Haynes
- 8 David & Ashley Stone
- 15 Tom & Julie Perry
- 16 Bob & Janice Moore
- 18 Bryan & Sheryl Brunner
- Del & Winnie Schanie





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A Real Church...for real people

West Side Church of Christ  
1190 Stahlheber Rd.  
Hamilton, OH 45013

Phone: 513-863-7553  
Fax: 513-863-7552  
Email: office@wscchamilton.com

## EVENTS AT A GLANCE

|            |                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| July 3     | No Evening Service                  |
| July 4     | Church Office Closed                |
| July 5     | Staff meeting 10:30 am              |
| July 6     | Summer In The Son                   |
| July 8     | Spirit Song Festival @ Kings Island |
| July 9     | VBS Meeting & Decorating            |
| July 10    | VBS Decorating                      |
| July 11    | God's Girls                         |
| July 11-15 | VBS                                 |
| July 12    | Fun Bunch to Kabutu                 |
| July 13    | Summer In The Son                   |
| July 18    | Caller deadline                     |
| July 19    | Staff meeting 10:30 am              |
| July 19    | Leadership meeting 11:30 am         |
| July 20    | Summer In The Son                   |
| July 20    | Children's Wacky Wednesday          |
| July 27    | Summer In The Son                   |
| July 27    | Children's Wacky Wednesday          |

## Summer Services

### **Sunday:**

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Bible School    | 9:30 am  |
| Worship Service | 10:30 am |
| Evening Worship | 6:00 pm  |

### **Wednesday:**

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Evening Bible Study | 6:30 pm |
| Summer In The Son   | 6:30 pm |

