



THE WEST WIND

A publication of St. James West United Methodist Church

FEBRUARY 2018

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 2



Gene Backes, Pastor

I wonder

Do you ever just sit and think? Sometimes it is easier to just sit but at times we all become free thinkers. Sometimes we just allow our minds to wander. King Solomon allowed his mind to wander, for we read in Proverbs 30:18-19, "There are three things which are too wonderful for me, four which I do not understand: The way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a serpent on a rock, the way of a ship in the middle of the sea, and the way of a man with a maid." (New American Standard Bible). Solomon, the wisest man ever, was incapable of understanding. It seems that when Solomon had time away from building the temple and his seven hundred wives that he liked to engage in what I call free thinking.

You and I do the same thing. At times we just allow our mind to ponder whatever it would like. The other day I engaged in some free thinking and my mind somehow drifted to Abraham. Revered as Father Abraham, known as the father of Isaac, grandfather of Jacob, his descendents more numerous than the sands of the seashore. God blessed Abraham, Hebrews 11:8 says that, "By faith Abraham, when he was called..." And in Genesis 12 we read the beginning of the story of Abraham, how God chose him to be the father of many and that all the families of the earth would be blessed in him. But I wonder...why? Why Abraham? Why did God choose Abraham? Genesis does not answer these questions. Why did God decide to bless Abraham? Why did God pick him? Genesis 6 tell us that Noah was a righteous man, blameless, and that he walked with God. Okay, makes sense why Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. But for some reason the Bible is silent with God's reasoning with Abraham. Abraham certainly proved himself worthy of God's blessing after he received the blessing. But the Bible is silent on *why* God chose him.

I wonder. Sometimes we are left without an answer, and that too is okay. God is God, and we are not. Isaiah 55 states that God's thinking is on a much higher level than ours. But still I wonder. By the way, do you ever wonder why God has chosen to bless you? I don't know why God has chosen to bless me, but I sure am thankful. **Blessings, Gene**

A story from our brother in Christ: *Kurt Buck*

This job with Ryder is full of surprises. All through October, I was working "overseas." Not only did I cross Pigeon Creek daily, I went to Kentucky!

Seriously, I did see some beautiful countryside. My route took me east of Lexington, over hills, "hollers," streams, cliffs, and a great view around every curve.

I had over an hour to fill each day at Mt. Sterling, so I used that time to write St. James articles. A lady there, Rose, became my volunteer proofreader. She also told me a little local history. The area two counties over to the east had a settlement that included some mineral springs.

These springs had medicinal value, so people traveled great distances to soak in them. As Kentucky got organized and became a state, that area became Bath County. Now there's an unusual start, for sure.

Most people around Mt. Sterling have gardens. Rose told me that many locals know a great cane patch. Cane is like bamboo, but grows in our climate. It is a tradition to harvest the cane sticks to use in gardens for vining plants, especially peas. Over the years, this practice has gotten so familiar, that Rose's actual legal address is on Peastick Road.

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FEBRUARY Birthdays

- 1
Shirley Becker, Sydney Lamble
- 3
Karter Stewart
- 4
Grant Dimmett, Linda Geis
- 6
Nellie Groves
- 10
Kristen Heineman, Kathy Peckenpaugh, Matthew Pressley, Scott Wilson
- 11
Jennifer Bailey, Mary Helm
- 12
Pat Nance
- 13
Kim Head, Lloyd Pressley, Linda Temme
- 14
Renee Leach, Rylan West
- 16
Kim Leach, Jennifer Peckenpaugh, Leslie Schmitt, Shirley Smith, Hudson West, Carrie Wilhite
- 19
Donna Hall, Sherry Hume, Rick Wytouak
- 20
Katie Pipken
- 21
Lana Easton, Richard Gibson, Marian Kissel
- 23
David O'Neil, Craig Shooobridge
- 25
Ashley Williams
- 26
Karen Flener, Braden Gates, Shelly Kremer
- 27
Patty Tolliver
- 28
Brandon Ladley

FEBRUARY Worship Volunteers

February 4

9:00 a.m. Greeters
Darrell & Melodie Roedel

9:00 a.m. Ushers
Fred & Margaret Schnarr

10:30 a.m. Greeters
Gregg Utley, Pat Nance

10:30 a.m. Ushers
*Don & Nellie Groves,
Pappy Mabee, Chris Stewart*

Card Angel
Lou Effinger

February 11

Donut Hosts
Virgil & Bonnie Toone

9:00 a.m. Greeters
Bob & Cathy Willis

9:00 a.m. Ushers
Darrell & Melodie Roedel

10:30 a.m. Greeters
Mike & Jacki Roehr

10:30 a.m. Ushers
*Gary & Lou Effinger,
Pat Nance, Mike Bass*

Card Angel
Congregation

February 18

9:00 a.m. Greeters
Ron Hall

9:00 a.m. Ushers
Debi Doninger, Ron Hall

10:30 a.m. Greeters
Judy Lantaff, Ashley Williams

10:30 a.m. Ushers
*Mike & Diana Effinger,
TBD*

Card Angel
Martha Hollencamp

February 25

9:00 a.m. Greeters
Debi Doninger

9:00 a.m. Ushers
Bruce & Missy Bakes

10:30 a.m. Greeters
Virgil & Bonnie Toone

10:30 a.m. Ushers
*Gary & Debi Doninger,
Larry & Carol Peckenpaugh*

Card Angel
Carol Peckenpaugh

A story from our brother in Christ: *Kurt Buck (continued)*

Rose herself is an interesting character. She is a young gal about my age. She's the youngest of four (one brother, two sisters). She's never been married; she lost her fiancé to illness. As tough as that was, she didn't quit. Her siblings have kids and grandkids. Rose gets to be the favorite aunt, and stays very involved in their lives.

As her brother was ill and dying two years ago, his sons had a "falling out." They were housemates and somehow one tossed out the other. Rose invited the one with no home to live with her. Because of his frail condition, news of this was kept

from Rose's brother. When she finally explained the situation, he said something surprising. Rather than draw battle lines any deeper, he said, "Son, just stick with Rose. She won't steer you wrong." His faith in her was not misplaced. She and her nephew are doing just fine.

Do you remember in 1 Corinthians 7:8 Paul says, "Now to the unmarried, it is good for them to stay unmarried." When you are married, you are not as free to help in a situation like this. Seems like Rose has done this, and embraced her role. Good for her! **-Kurt**

Church Chicks *save the dates*

- **February 18th:** Bridal shower for Kelly Little, 12:00 p.m. in the CFC. A pitch-in salad luncheon will be served, bring your favorite salad to share, plus a copy of the recipe for Kelly's kitchen! Kelly and her

fiancé Richard Hodge are registered at Bed, Bath, & Beyond.

- **May 20th:** Church Chicks 'n' Chocolate annual luncheon/dessert tasting.

Blessings & more

Birth

Talon Edward McCoy: 01/09/18, 6 lbs., 14 oz., 21" in length. Proud parents are Kameron & Chloe McCoy, grandparents are Patrick & Kathi Goen.

Staff Anniversary

Courtney Giesman: 02/09/18. Nursery (9 years)

In Memoriam

Ruth Milburn: 01/22/18. Ruth is the mother of Jennifer Greathouse.

Words of thanks & praise

"Many thanks to my St. James West family for all the cards and well wishes during my illness. Also to Carol and Elsie for the delicious cookies, and Pastor Gene for the encouraging visits. But beware! I will return in the not-too-far future (I hope)."

-Love & hugs, Martha Hollencamp

"I would like to thank the wonderful people at St. James West for all the prayers the last few months. I am now in recovery from the second surgery. Prayers for continued recovery will, of course, be appreciated! Thanks again!"

-Bettye Hendrickson

St. James West *By the Numbers*

Apportionment

(January-December 2017)

Conference.....\$19,464.00

District \$2,324.00

General Fund

(Year-to-date weekly average)

2016\$4,189.00

2017.....\$3,905.00

% Change -6.8%

Comparative Stewardship

Weekly Average	December 2016	December 2017	% Change
Worship Attendance	196	243	+24%
General Fund	\$5,602.00	\$4,004.00	-28.5%

FEBRUARY 2018

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Praise & Worship
 Adult Small Groups (AMEN Group 9:15 a.m.)
 10:30 a.m. Praise & Worship
 Lifeguard Ministry (Preschool-5th grade), Adult Small Groups

Mondays:

6:00-6:45 p.m. Mondays With God meal
 6:30-8:00 p.m. Student Ministry (6th-12th grade)
 7:00 p.m. Mondays With God Bible Study
 Lifeguard Ministry (Kindergarten-5th grade)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:30-11:30a PS/MMO 4-9p CFC Reserved 7-8p Bible study (ADR)	2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Youth Revival Weekend</div>	3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Youth Revival Weekend</div>
4 Communion 12-5p Crusaders' Class Party <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Youth Revival Weekend</div>	5 Communion 6-6:45p Mondays With God meal (CFC) 6:30-8p Student Ministry (CFC 2nd floor) 7-8p Mondays With God Bible Study 7-9p AA Mtg. (FH)	6 5:30a Men's Group 8:30-11:30a PS/MMO 6:30-9p CFC Reserved	7 8:30-11:30a PS/MMO 3-5p Reitz Cheer (CFC) 6-7:30p Church Chicks Mtg. (CFC)	8 8:30-11:30a PS/MMO 4-9p CFC Reserved 6-8p Cub Scouts (FH) 7-8p Bible study (ADR)	9	10 8-9:30a United Caring Shelters breakfast volunteers 11:30a-2:30p CFC Reserved 3p-12a CFC Reserved
11 Donuts/Fellowship	12 6-6:45p Mondays With God meal (CFC) 6:30-8p Student Ministry (CFC 2nd floor) 7-8p Mondays With God Bible Study 7-9p AA Mtg. (FH)	13 5:30a Men's Group 8:30-11:30a PS/MMO 6:30-8p Administrative Council Mtg. (CFC)	14 Ash Wednesday 8:30-11:30a PS/MMO 3-5p Reitz Cheer (CFC) 7p Ash Wednesday service 7-8:30p Neighborhood Watch Mtg. (CFC)	15 8:30-11:30a PS/MMO 7-8p Bible study (ADR)	16 2-10p CFC Reserved March 2018 West Wind article deadline	17 7:30a Men's Lenten Breakfast (Salem UMC) 10a-5p CFC Reserved
18 Food Pantry Donations 12-3p Church Chicks Bridal Shower: Kelly Little	19 Presidents Day 6-6:45p Mondays With God meal (CFC) 6:30-8p Student Ministry (CFC 2nd floor) 7-8p Mondays With God Bible Study 7-9p AA Mtg. (FH)	20 5:30a Men's Group 8:30-11:30a PS/MMO Preschool/MMO Hacienda give-back	21 8:30-11:30a PS/MMO	22 8:30-11:30a PS/MMO 6-8p Cub Scouts (FH) 7-8p Bible study (ADR)	23	24 7:30a Men's Lenten Breakfast (Simpson UMC) 11a-6p CFC Reserved
25	26 6-6:45p Mondays With God meal (CFC) 6:30-8p Student Ministry (CFC 2nd floor) 7-8p Mondays With God Bible Study 7-9p AA Mtg. (FH)	27 5:30a Men's Group 8:30-11:30a PS/MMO	28 8:30-11:30a PS/MMO	Key: ADR—Alpha Domus Room CFC—Christian Family Center FH—Fellowship Hall MMO—Mother's Morning Out PS—Preschool		



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February 2018

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www.stjameswest.com

HACIENDA GIVE-BACK FEBRUARY 20TH

Present this coupon and Hacienda will "give back" 20% of the price of your lunch or dinner (dine-in or carryout) to the Preschool/Mother's Morning Out programs. Hacienda gift cards can be pre-purchased on Sunday, February 18th before and after services and the same give-back applies. Gift cards will be delivered on Sunday, February 25th.



Group: St. James Preschool & MMO
Date: February 20, 2018
Location: 5440 Pearl Dr.

You must receive this token from your organization prior to your event. Distribution of this token on Hacienda property will disqualify the organization from receiving any proceeds.

Don't have time to eat out? Pick up a Hacienda gift card Or Fiesta-to-go order. They count towards the fundraiser.

Restaurant Phone Number 812-422-2055

GIFT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
TO MAKE PAYMENT FOR YOUR PURCHASE WITH THIS TOKEN.

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