

Our Welcome

We welcome all visiting with us today; we sincerely hope that you will be drawn to God through each other, and we hope too that you will worship with us at every opportunity you may have. If you would, please fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the collection plate as it is passed.

Sunday School – 9:00 AM

Song Leader	Steven McGhee
Scripture Reading	Matthew Partlow
Prayer	Steven McGhee

Sunday Morning Worship – 10:00 AM

Welcome	Dr. Jon Partlow
Opening Prayer	Lilburn Rager
Preside Lord's Supper	Larry Ross & Danny Bruce McGhee
Serve Lord's Supper	Josh Watkins & Tommy Moore
Sermon	Dr. Jon Partlow
Announcements	TBA
Closing Prayer	Michael Driver

Sunday Evening Worship – 5:30 PM

Song Leader	Jacky Moore
Opening Prayer	David Watkins

Wednesday Evening Bible Study – 7:00 PM

Song Leader	Jacky Moore
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THE WEST SIDE STORY

A BULLETIN FOR THE WEST SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

JANUARY 22, 2012



At the Political Crossroads by Jon Partlow

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body" (Phil. 3:20-21).

A few years ago, I was worshipping at a church during a charged national election. As the time for partaking of the Lord's Supper emerged, the one presiding over the Meal stood to offer words of encouragement to the church. They say "religion and politics don't mix;" no one told this person. As he addressed the church, wearing his choice of candidate pin on his sport coat, he said, "I don't want to make this moment political, but a vote for (candidate "A" [he named the candidate by name]) is a vote for Jesus." My jaw dropped. Gasps were heard throughout the church. How dare he blaspheme the Lord's Supper with politics! How dare he assume Jesus' political position and insert it into reflective moment of our salvation!

Oddly enough, the Lord's Supper has a political charge to it, though we've often glossed over it, and it looks nothing like the aforementioned situation. The Meal is celebrated in the context of Christ's death, which was political in and of itself. Romans crucified criminals who were viewed as a threat to the empire. Common criminals were punished, not crucified. Crucifixions were reserved for those whom Rome wanted to demonstrate their superior power. When Jesus was crucified, the charge laid against him was "King of (see "Politics" on next page)

Leadership

Elders

Billy McGhee ... 265-5413
Bobby Parmley ... 265-2739

Minister

Jon Partlow, D. Min.
270-871-0892 (cell)
preacherguy65@gmail.com

Deacons

Doug Boley ... 265-9870
DB McGhee ... 265-5690
Lilburn Rager ... 265-5766
Larry Ross ... 265-2612
David Watkins ... 265-2560

Music Minister

Rocky Rager ... 265-5736

Detention Center Minister

Jacky Moore ... 725-6787

Upcoming Events

Feb 11

West Side Valentines Dinner

TBA



Remember in Prayer . . . West Side Church extends its sympathy to the family of **T.D. Passmore**, (Nathaniel Passmore's grandfather who passed away, Nathaniel and family went to the funeral, January 21 in North Carolina) . . . **Glendolene Alder** (has been sick following her latest rounds of chemotherapy and radiation); **Doug Boley**; **Jane Camp** (is in Jenny Stuart, room 702, she is experiencing dementia); **Eva England** (undergoing further chemotherapy); **Pam Alder Morris** (broke her foot); **Billy McGhee** (returns to the doctor on the 26th); **Scot Murphy** (minister for the First Christian Church has mouth cancer); **Wendell Langham** (who preached Wilmon's funeral, has terminal throat cancer and he is being fed through a tube); **Carol Moberly** (continues to wear her backbrace); **Anndora Smyth** (home on a slow road to recovery); **Terri Humerd** (wife of Beverly Fowler's boss and is suffering from bone cancer); **Ruth Holland**; **Ronnie Grace** (Stacey Boley's uncle as leukemia); **Ernest Dill** (Lisa Porter's uncle, had a stroke and is in SKY); **Ruby Fisher** (will take medication for her thyroid); **Mary Weaver** (Sheila Miller's mother, recovering from a fall) and **Jerry Weaver** (step-father of Sheila Miller, is having problems with his knees); **John Andrew Rager** (Kim Rager's son, fighting an infection and cannot have surgery right now); **Ida Partlow** (Jon's mother is in Cambodia for mission work); **Amy Deason** (recovering from surgery); **Tony Deason** (will have his Thyroid removed on January 23 at Vanderbilt); **Tommy Moore** (recovering from his bone marrow test); **Chuck Miller** (had his prostate removed six weeks ago is taking chemotherapy); **Bobby Miller** (triglycerides dangerously high); **Lawrence Killebrew** (suffering from dementia); **Teddy Hutchinson** (diagnosed with cancer); **Virgil Sears** (fell and is in the hospital in Russellville).

2012 sign-up lists are posted on bulletin board for preparing communion, preparing grief baskets, changing the marquee sign, etc.

We have 7 seniors graduating. Gift boxes are placed on the

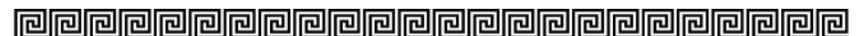


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(**"Politics" cont.**) the Jews" (Mt. 27:37), which was attached to the cross itself, and which "justified" his death to Rome. Such a charge tells us a couple of facts about his death. One, Jesus' death had a political bite to it for only political criminals were crucified. Secondly, Pilate would tell Rome that Jesus assumed a title for a Kingdom (Jn. 18:36) in competition with Rome. No other kingdom and no other king was tolerated, unless sanctioned by Rome. Thus, Jesus' self-proclaimed reign in his kingdom had to be stopped. Such was Rome's reasoning.

Paul and Peter faced similar fates. Even though both Apostles preached tolerance and obedience to Rome (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17), they nevertheless preached loyalty to another Lord and to another Kingdom. If Mark's gospel is a reflection of Peter's preaching (1 Pet. 1:13; Act. 12:12), then Peter certainly told and retold of his confession story (Mk. 8:27-30) that took place around a city named for Caesar. Paul, on the other hand, preached loyalty and citizenship to another kingdom as reflected in Philippians. As tradition claims, both apostles faced political deaths. Peter was crucified upside down (didn't feel worthy enough to die exactly like Christ), while Paul was beheaded after taking his case to Caesar; Roman citizens were exempt from crucifixions.

So when Jesus came preaching, "The Kingdom of God is near" (Mk. 1:15), his message became political; we're forced to choose between competing kingdoms. When we partake of the Supper, we're professing loyalty to a Kingdom in which our King was put to death for. When we sing songs of praise and pray to God, we're professing allegiance to a kingdom greater than the kingdom or nation we live in. A time will come when the kingdom of this world will force us to choose between them and the Kingdom. Remember, such a choice is not new; politics is religion. More importantly, remember that you've already chosen your loyalty. *solo gloria dei!*



Sermons for Today

AM: *Gone to the Dogs* (Luke 18:18-30)

PM: *A Walk through the Bible: Colossians*