



From the Minister's Desk



## Some Things That Baptism Does Not Do

Through water baptism one gets into the Christ and into His death (Romans 6:3). Via scriptural baptism one gets into the body or church of the Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). Scriptural baptism results in one's sins being washed away (Acts 22:16). These are all wonderful Bible truths that point out great changes in a person's life and relationships. It is tragic that many in the religious world do not recognize these truths.

While the Bible plainly speaks of the necessity of water baptism and the blessings that result from it, it is also true that there are some things that baptism does not do. Let's look at a few of these. Baptism does not:

- Remove financial debts. If one has borrowed money in order to buy a house and each month is required to pay the bank or some financial institution a certain sum of money, for that person to be baptized does not remove his/her obligation to make those monthly payments.

- Remove the consequence of some sins. The man who gets drunk, drives a car, has a wreck, and loses a daughter in the accident will be without that child as long as he lives on this earth. He may later obey the gospel by being baptized, but the consequence of his drunkenness (the loss of his daughter) is not changed by his baptism.

- Erase other people's memory of one's past life. Scriptural baptism results in sins being remitted (Acts 2:38), but other people will still remember the past life, good or bad, of the one baptized. The baptized person will have to live with this reality.

- Give a person the right to go back into sin. When one obeys the gospel from the heart, he/she is made free from sin (Romans 6:17-18). Baptism, however, is not a stamp of approval for returning to and living in sin. Baptism takes care of past sins, but does nothing to remove future transgressions. Away with the idea that says as members of the church we can plead, "But I've been baptized, so I have the freedom to do as I please."

- Make a person a member of a denominational group. It is possible for one to become a member of a denomination, and it is the case that some denominations require a "baptism" for such membership. However, scriptural baptism puts one into the Lord's church and nowhere else (1 Corinthians 12:13). The Lord adds the saved to His church and nothing else (Acts 2:47).

- Automatically change a person's heart. It is the change in heart or desire to please the Lord that should lead one to baptism! Many that have been immersed have failed to live faithfully to their Lord after baptism. Why? Their lives never changed because their hearts never changed. Baptism must be preceded by repentance (Acts 2:38).

- Automatically remove barriers between the one baptized and other people. While the newly baptized person ought to strive to be at peace with all men (Romans 12:18), the fact remains that those who were antagonistic to him/her before baptism just might retain such antagonism after baptism.

Automatically make one ready to teach a Bible class. It is often the case that folks come up out of the water "on fire." That is wonderful, and God forbid that we should do or say anything to dampen their zeal. Yet, it is also true that zeal must be based on knowledge (Romans 10:1-3), and those that are given the responsibility of teaching need to be those that have first proven themselves, both in their knowledge (Hebrews 5:12-14) and in their lifestyle (Titus 2:7).

Not for a minute would we consider trying to minimize the significance of being baptized. At the same time, though, we must keep in mind the purpose and results of baptism, realizing that there are a number of things that baptism does not and cannot do. -- copied

WEST END ACTIVITIES & INFO

### Ring in the New Year at West End

West End's New Year's Eve Program will be held on Thursday, December 31 starting at 8:45 p.m. Spencer Iverson and Orpheus Heyward are coordinating the festivities. The theme is "Oscar Night at West End" where "Oscar Awards" will be presented in several categories. Nomination forms and more details will be available soon. This is a black tie (optional) event full of surprises so plan to ring in the New Year in West End Style!

YOUTH AND SINGLES

Reminder that there is **Drama Team practice TODAY** from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Only those individuals that were at the last practice are required to attend. See Carmen Williams or David Bishop with any questions.

**West End's Star Students Update** – Congratulations to the following West End youth for attaining superior grades as shown on their progress reports/report cards: Brianna Smith, Tiana Smith, Jalen Smith, Lauren Langford, Erin Langford, Kayla Harris (a published author), Gabrielle Glover, Victoria Glover (Rising Star), John McCarthy, Chancellor Massey, Dezsion Harrold, Tyria Horton, Gordon Glover, Nakeem Middleton, Destiny Kollock, Langston Hines, Deneshia Walton, Stasha Martin, Alkita Jackson, Jesse Roberts, Leslee Crawford, Charles Crawford, Elizabeth Kind, Taylor Thornton and Joy Mitchell. These students will be recognized at our New Year's Eve Program. Report cards received starting today, will be applicable for our January 2010 recognition. See David Bishop with any questions.

**Math Tutoring** - West End offers free math tutoring on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. You must first sign up your child in order to participate. Also offered will be assisting in preparing for the GHS GT for those in grades 10-12. Parents wishing to take advantage of this tutoring should contact David Bishop (dbishop@thewestender.com or 678-643-7306). Participants are required to have their textbooks, lessons, or study guides from their math classes in order to get tutored. Please communicate your participating beforehand – *don't show up this Wednesday without signing up.*

AREA EVENTS & INFO

The State of Georgia offers energy bill assistance during the winter months for eligible persons meeting specific income requirements. Call 1-800-869-1150 for more details.

### PRAYER LIST

If you have a desire for prayer, or know someone who does, please forward your request to dhmor30331@yahoo.com, or call Doris Morgan at 404-346-1372. You can also contact Esther Brown at 404-696-3941, Angela Dillard (midnite626@yahoo.com), Nettie Fanning at 404-696-9104, or Tonya Sykes at 678-469-9105 (tmsykes2003@yahoo.com). In order to avoid duplication, names that are currently listed on the Sick and Shut-In list will not be added to the Prayer List.

Schawanna Collier  
Shavonda Clark  
Octavis Royals and Family  
Marilyn Gassaway

### December Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays and Anniversaries – The monthly birthday and anniversary list is located on West End's web site. Click the December Birthdays and Anniversaries link on the home page. Additionally, we have many new members. If you want your name listed, please send an email to dbishop@thewestender.com.

## Ladies Bible Class Today @ 4:30 pm

and every third Sunday in the auditorium.

## January Friends & Family Day Date Change

Attention all West Enders, invite your friends and family to hear a message of New Beginnings for the New Year on Sunday, January 3 at our Friends and Family Day. This is an opportunity to share spiritual and physical food with those you love most. Refreshments will be served after the 10:45 a.m. service.

### Baptisms

12/6 **Fredrick Chesson** (Atlanta)  
12/7 **Veronica Koonce** (Atlanta)

### Placed Membership

12/6 **Brandy Mobley** (Atlanta)  
12/6 **Yarden Mclver** (Atlanta)

### New Addresses

**Columbus & Vera Norris**  
6971 Bonnes Blvd.  
Austell, GA 30168  
770-726-9144

### Sara Harris

1503 Temple Ave. #102  
College Park, Ga. 30337  
404-254-3166, Cell: 770-862-2235

### HOUSEKEEPING

Please refrain from eating and drinking in the sanctuary. Thank you.

### SICK & SHUT-IN

To be included or to have someone included or removed from this listing please contact Gayron Johnson at the church office.

**Lula T. Latham** is in Crawford Long Hospital in ICU 3108; **Bonita Favors** will home for a prolonged time recovering from surgery; 2628 Downing Park Dr., SE; Conyers, GA 30094. **Opal Chase. Joyce Mapp** – Northeast Atlanta Health & Rehabilitation Center, 1500 S. Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Atl., GA 30319; 404-252-2002. **Junette Tibbs**, UniHealth Post Acute Care – Brookhaven, 3535 Ashton Woods Dr., NE., Room 225, Atl., GA 30319; 770-451-0236. **Ossie Porter** (mother of Bill Moore) – A.G. Rhodes Homes, 350 Boulevard, SE., A Wing, Room 102, Atl., GA 30312. **Charlie Mae Gibbs** – 24 Paul St., Newnan, GA 30263. **Annie McArthur** is home recuperating. 751 Fairburn Rd., SW #2212, Atl., GA 30331. 404-699-2939. **John White** – Reliable Health & Rehabilitation, 3301 Lakewood Ave., Room 115, Atl., GA 30310; 404-406-7427. **Jessie Davis** – Buckhead Health & Rehabilitation, 54 Peachtree Park Dr., NE, Room 407, Atl., GA 30309. **Carrie Lawson** – 450 Fairburn Rd, SW, #14, Atl., GA 30331. 404-696-2548. **Barbara Edgerton** – 2469 Baywood Dr., S, Atl., GA 30315; 404-438-6659. **Elizabeth Perkins** – 2748 Donald Lee Hollowell Pkwy., Apt. 121, Atl., GA 30318. 404-792-9115. **Elnora Bethel** – 3700 Potomac Dr., East Point, GA 30344. **Daneka Vickers**, daughter of Mack and Sandra Freeman. **Anrenea Johnson**.

### BEREAVEMENTS

**Annie Glaze**, the aunt of **Vanessa Grogan**, was funeralized last week.

The West End family mourns the recent loss of **Willie Mae Marrow**.

**Eric and Lisa Jamison** mourn the loss of Eric's grandfather early last week. The family has traveled to New York for the funeral. Condolences to the Jamison's at 2297 Dodson Dr., East Point, GA 30344; 404-964-1978.

Please pray for and contact others mentioned today that have also recently experience the death of a loved one.