

From the Minister's Desk

Orpheus J. Heyward

Intense Spiritual Warfare Calls for Intense Trust in God

An on-duty Roman soldier was always dressed for battle, but he didn't employ his shield, helmet, and sword until the fighting started. However, we as Christians must be ready for battle at all times because our enemy is relentless. We can't afford to overlook a single piece of armor or to slip into complacency or neglect.

In that regard, Ephesians 6:16 says in effect, "Now that you've prepared for battle by girding your loins with truth, protecting your vital organs with the breastplate of righteousness, and securing your feet with the gospel of peace, don't forget to take up your shield."

Two types of shields were commonly used by Roman soldiers. One was a small, lightweight, round shield that was strapped to the soldier's left forearm and was used to parry blows during hand-to-hand combat. The other, which Paul refers to here, was a large shield measuring about four and a half feet high and two and a half feet wide. It was made of sturdy wood covered with metal and a thick layer of oil-treated leather. The metal deflected arrows, while the oily leather extinguished the fiery pitch with which arrows were commonly swabbed. That type of shield was ideal for full-body protection.

In the initial stages of a battle, the front-line soldiers knelt behind their large shields to protect themselves and to provide a defense barrier for the troops behind them who were firing offensive weapons. The goal was to inch their way forward as a human wall until they could engage the enemy in hand-to-hand combat.

As a believer, the shield that protects you is your faith in God. It will quench the fiery arrows of Satan who desires to exploit your weakness. Trust in God, His character, Power, and his Word. Having faith doesn't prevent Satan's attacks, but his assaults will be ineffective in separating you from God. Take up the shield of faith. You will need it in days to come.

Upcoming NACA Dates

Mark your calendars for the next NACA workshop at West End on June 6 and June 20 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. NACA assists at-risk homeowners restructure their mortgages to make it affordable over the long-term with their HomeSave program. Register at www.naca.com. Select Members, then NACA Workshops. If you are looking to purchase a home, NACA can also help with their HomePurchase program.

This events usually attracts **over 1,000 people**, so plan now to be on hand to welcome and help accomodate this great crowds so that they might be encourage to return to our worship services, bible studies and other West End events. See Carla Williams with any questions or to volunteer.

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.

C.W. Daniels
Betty Hayes
Shavonda Clark
Alonzo McWilliams
Octavis Royals & Family
George Odom
Georgette Royals
Patricia Turner
Nia Richardson

WEST END ACTIVITIES & INFO

The next **monthly men's breakfast** will be held next Saturday at the Cracker Barrel off of Jimmy Carter Blvd. (6175 McDonough Dr., Norcross, GA 30093). Invite and bring brothers - youth and adults. See Otis Smart (404-423-8503) with any questions.

YOUTH AND SINGLES

Drama Team/Youth Chorus Practice TODAY - The West End Youth Chorus and West End Drama Team will practice following 10:45 services today and for the next two Sundays in preparation for our upcoming Youth Gospel Meeting. Coordinators for the Drama Team are Carmen Williams and Brittany Houston. Coordinators for the Youth Chorus are Derronica Dukes, La Tanya Harris, and Brenda Bagby. Practice locations will be identified this afternoon. If you are interested in being a part of the Drama Team, you are welcome to participate. See David Bishop. All should report to Room 7 downstairs in the educational building for instructions. Lunch will be provided for participating youth only. **ALL YOUTH MUST PROVIDE \$6 EACH FOR LUNCH!**

West End's Youth In Action (YIA) youth ministry will be having its first **Pre-K through first grade outing to the Atlanta Zoo** on Saturday, June 13. In order to receive the discounted group rate, **PARENTS MUST** sign up on the sign up sheet in the education building by May 31. Payment will be due in advance of the trip. The time will be announced. Children must be accompanied by an adult chaperone. Please contact Natasha Hartry in person or via email at natashahartry@gmail.com for details or to volunteer.

AREA EVENTS

Register now for **Vacation Bible School Day Camp** at the **Hillcrest CofC** set for June 1-5 for grades Pre-K thru rising 9th graders. The hours are 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Before and after care provided. Please visit www.hillcrestcoc.net. To register click "2009 Vacation Bible School" at the top of the home page.



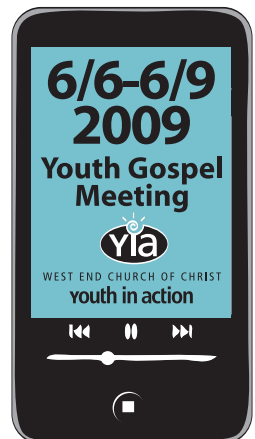
Youth Gospel Meeting

West End's Youth in Action (YIA) youth ministry is hosting a Metro Atlanta Area-Wide Youth Gospel Meeting at West End from Sunday, June 7 through Wednesday, June 10. **PICK UP FLYERS FROM THE FOYER and INVITE EVERYONE!** The guest speaker is Jimmie Whaley from the Park Street Church of Christ in Columbia, SC. The theme is "iChristian: Salvation Downloaded" (Acts 2). The meeting will kick off with an off-site youth picnic on Saturday, June 6 at the home of William and Gayron Johnson. The picnic is designed specifically for West End's youth and parents to meet guest speaker, Jimmie Whaley. This meeting will be specifically tailored for area youth and parents with workshops, panel discussions, activities for our young children, and of course, preaching designed to save souls and strengthen our Christian youth. Make plans now to be in attendance for this uniquely spiritual experience!

Your Help is Needed with the Picnic and Sunday Fellowship Meal

Parents and volunteers are needed to bring side dishes for our upcoming Youth Gospel Picnic at The Johnson's home June 6. Please sign up in the foyer starting today. See Brittany Houston with any questions.

Help is also needed with the Youth Gospel Meeting fellowship meal to be held June 7 following the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Please bring one of the following items: green beans, macaroni and cheese, ready-to-serve rolls, pound cake (sliced, any flavor), canned drinks (any flavor), bottled water, plastic ware, and napkins. Volunteers are needed for set up on Friday evening, June 5, at 7 p.m., to prep and serve food on Sunday, as well as clean-up afterwards. Contact Anitra Patrick at toanitra@yahoo.com to indicate your availability to volunteer. Let's support our youth and make this a great event! All food will be served in disposable containers for easy clean up.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MAY 31

Teachers' Meeting

All Education Ministry teachers and coordinators will meet Sunday, May 31 after 10:45 service. Please plan to remain for approximately 30 minutes to discuss updates, celebrations, and other pertinent information.

JUNE 27

Ladies Day Seminar



West End's Annual Ladies Day Seminar has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Lunch will be served immediately afterwards. Our theme is: "I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me." Sharon Hamilton will be our guest speaker. For further information, please contact Schyla Jackson at 404-286-1279.

Baptisms

5/17 - **Diane Elam** (East Point)
5/20 - **Aurora Hill** (Atlanta)

Placed Membership

5/17 - **Tabitha & Nims Harris**
(Duluth)

Address and contact information for all new members and new converts are available through your Zones and Zone Leaders. Visit the web site to view photos of all new converts.

Online Calendar

West End has implemented an online events calendar where West Enders can see upcoming events including dates, times, and location. Before scheduling an event, check this calendar first to avoid conflicts. To have an event added to the calendar, email Gayron Johnson at gjohnson@thewest-ender.com or call her at 404-753-6271 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. To view the calendar, click the calendar image on the home page of West End's web site.

SICK & SHUT-IN

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

Junette Tibbs is in Critical Care ICU at Grady Hospital. No visitors. Contact her son and caregiver, Johnnie Holmes, with offers of assistance and prayer at 404-629-6563. **Mozella Burton** has been released from the hospital and is recovering at home. 2426 Corner Shoals, Decatur, GA 30034, 404-212-7889. **Larry Timberlake** is in hospice care at 5401 Old National Hwy., #2108, College Park, GA. 30349; 404-914-1083. **Gunther Burnside. Ossie Porter** (mother of Bill Moore) – A.G. Rhodes Homes, 350 Boulevard, SE., A Wing, Room 102, Atl., GA 30312. **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. **Joyce Mapp** – 3371 Hyland Dr., Decatur, GA 30032. **Cressie Lawson** – 450 Fairburn Rd, SW, #14, Atl., GA 30331. 404-696-2548. **Annie Glaze** – A.G. Rhodes Home at Wesley Woods, Room 421, 1819 Clifton Rd., NE, Atl., GA 30329. **Barbara Edgerton** – 2469 Baywood Dr., S, Atl., GA 30315; 404-438-6659. **Tallulah Latham** – 320 Fairburn Rd., Apt. H-6, Atl., GA 30331. 404-505-1581. **Willie Mae Marrow** – 3060 Continental Colony Pkwy., Apt. 502, Atl., GA 30330. 404-344-9990. **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. **Annie McArthur** – 751 Fairburn Rd., SW #2212, Atl., GA 30331. 404-699-2939. **Anrenea Johnson**