

# WEST<sup>+</sup>CHURCH CHURCH of CHRIST

*Reaching Up, Reaching Out,  
Reaching In*

... put on the new self, created to be like  
God in true righteousness and holiness!

Ephesians 4:24

[www.heartlight.org](http://www.heartlight.org)

**January 1, 2012**

**Schedule of Assemblies:**

Sunday 9:30 a.m. – Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Assembly  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – Bible Study

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## SUNDAY, January 1, 2012

Welcome to Westchurch! It's our pleasure to welcome you to join us in worship on this first Sunday of the New Year. If gathering with God's family on the Lord's Day has not been a part of your pattern of life, we hope that today's experience will encourage you to make it so.

<p><b>FOR THE RECORD</b></p> <p>Week of December 25, 2011</p> <p>Worship Attendance.....54</p> <p>Bible Study ..... NC</p> <p>Wednesday Evening.....18</p> <p>Contribution .....\$1,143</p> <p>Building Fund Balance.....\$12,768</p>	<p><b>TANGI FOOD PANTRY</b></p> <p><b>FOOD OF THE MONTH</b></p> <p><b>JANUARY 2012</b></p> <p><b>RICE</b></p>
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### GEMS FROM JIM

I don't know about you, but New Year's day is one of my favorite holidays. I often think of it as "do over" day. Remember when you were a kid playing games and if you made a mistake or had a bad shot you would ask for a "do over". Life doesn't always come with "do-overs", but in a very real sense, Christianity does. When God forgives our sins through the blood of Jesus, He wipes our slate clean and gives us another chance.

As we end one year and begin another one, a brand new one, we get a "do over". Today we embark on a new experience, 2012. As a church, we are also setting sail for a new journey with new opportunities to fulfill God's will for us. I hope and pray that we do not waste this "do over". Let's take advantage of what God gives us and make the best of 2012.

We have the opportunity to begin this year being challenged, educated and encouraged to make the best of 2012. Wednesday and Thursday evening, right here at Westchurch, Steve Diggs will be sharing with us lessons on being "Retooled and Refueled". In these two evenings, Steve will give us the tools and the motivation to make the best of this new year. **YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!!!** Be here Wednesday and Thursday at 6:30.

## Happened...Happening...Gonna Happen...

**Koinonia Teams**—The team leaders for the Koinonia last week and are excited to get started with this new endeavor. Expect a phone call or contact from one of the leaders in the next week or so to let you know which team you are on and what the plans for starting will be. If you are not contacted by January 1, let Jim know.

**Wednesday Night Meal**—This Wednesday, January 4, we will be having our regular meal together. Because of the seminar, we are unsure of how many to plan on. Therefore, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you plan on coming for the meal, please sign the list. As usual, there will be a basket put out and we suggest a donation of \$3.00 per person to help defray the cost. The menu will be lasagna, salad and desert.

**Need For Assistance**—JoAnne Gipson, wife of Bill Gipson, is in desperate need of eye surgery to save her vision. The surgery is usually \$13,000 per eye, but they have the opportunity to have it done for \$2,000 per eye. If anyone would like to assist financially with this, please give contribution to one of the elders or to Bill directly. Time is of the essence.

**Wednesday Evening Meals**—There is a sign up sheet for preparing Wednesday Evening Meals for 2012. Sign up quick to get your desired month. The next meal will be on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 beginning at 5:45 before our seminar.

**Westchurch Church of Christ Presents:  
January 4-5, 2012, 6:30—9:00 P.M.**

## ***ReTooled & ReFueled*** **Essential Christian Life Skills Seminar**

**Steve Diggs presents this Bible-based seminar featuring  
5 powerful sessions to help you *Stop Running On Empty*:**

- How to Re-Define Success God's Way
- Effective Conflict Resolution
- The Art of Mentoring
- 7 Keys to a Worry-Free Money Life
- Brand YOU: Being "Heard" By Those Who Count
- Have a Marriage that Lasts...and Kids Who Don't!
- Go from Success to Significance
- Heal Broken Relationships
- Grow Closer to God—and One Another

## THE FUTILITY OF RESOLUTIONS

—Tim Archer—

Christmas has passed, and the New Year is right around the corner. Have you made any resolutions yet? Researchers from the University of Scranton found that 40 to 45% of American adults make resolutions each year. They also found that only 75% of those resolutions made it past the first week and only 46% past the first 6 months.

Someone said, "A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other." Oscar Wilde, known for being less than fond of moral reform, stated, "Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account."

How have you fared with your resolutions in other years? Been able to overcome your bad habits from the past?

It wasn't easy for the apostle Paul either. He wrote to Christians in Rome: "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing" ([Romans 7:19](#)). In the same letter, he said, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" ([Romans 7:24](#)).

How well I know that cry! I have felt that struggle of wanting to do good, but doing evil instead. I think most of us, if we're honest, can confess the same thing.

The Bible talks about our "flesh," the very human part of us. Our biological self, with its drives and urges, is a powerful force that leads us to live according to the standards of this world, not God's standard. For people like Paul, who want to do right, our flesh becomes a "body of death." Paul also wrote, "For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do" ([Galatians 5:17](#)).

You can't change. That is, you can't really change yourself. You might be able to modify your behavior, but you can't really change who you are.

However, God can change you. He can make you what you want to be, what you ought to be. In that letter to the Galatians, Paul also wrote, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh" ([Galatians 5:16](#)). To the Romans, he said, "For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live" ([Romans 8:13](#)).

Only through the power of God's Holy Spirit can we be changed, can we be made into the people we want to be. We can't do it on our own. We can't do it through positive thinking nor force of will. Only with God's help can we be what we want to be.

And that help is there for the asking. As Paul said, "Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" ([Romans 7:24–25](#)).