

## A Word From the Publisher

I know everyone is in Hurricane preparedness mode at this point. Let's try to remember, there is no need to panic. Panic doesn't help anything. Yes, we should have already stocked up on supplies and if you haven't it's probably too late. Take a breath and look through your pantry and see what you have. Our favorite stocking item is peanut butter and we have lots. Don't forget canned soups, ravioli, tuna, canned chicken, etc. Most people have that in your pantry anyway. Let's not hoard our food as some really may not have anything. Be courteous of others and don't panic.

About a month ago, we began our 19th year of publishing the Westside Journal. It's really hard to believe. What an incredible journey this has been. As I have stated before, our paper is truly a 'God' thing. I really didn't have a clue about publishing a newspaper, much less a weekly paper. God placed so many people in my path to learn from. And trust me this has been a learning experience every week. Just when I think I have it all figured out something happens to change things. Have I said before that God has a great sense of humor? After all, He has entrusted me with this task...and that sometimes is overwhelming.

When publishing a weekly paper, there are so many factors that come into play that I never considered. Let's see, like a hurricane, holidays, illness, a pandemic, etc. We work on a pretty strict deadline. We have ad deadlines that can vary and print deadlines that are pretty much set in stone. Then we have postal deadlines also. At this point, I am used to the deadlines and work better with having them. But when surprises come up, both Jessie and I have learned to pull the load for the other. It is difficult but only with

God's help can we handle it. Oh yes, I've tried doing it on my own but then the Lord reminds me, "I'm here. Why are you struggling? Just ask for My help."

There are no words to thank the many advertisers that have been so faithful to our publication. Obviously, without them, we would not still be publishing. God has truly blessed our business to allow us to continue this work in our loved community. Trust me, if I didn't love this community it wouldn't be as fun as it is to come to work every day! Thank you again, to all our advertisers, and to you our readers that

support our advertisers and use them for your needs! You all make us what we (Westside Journal) are today!

Hurricanes, deadlines, schedules are all so important to keep us on track, however no matter how hard we try to stay in control we can fail. This is why we need to turn our control over to the Lord. Never forget that He is the maker and creator of All things. God is in control but we must allow Him to be. I have struggled many times to handle 'things' on my own. It's those times that God will shut me down and remind me who is in control and that it's not me! As we continue through these strange times in our world I can't stress enough that there is only one decision that is of utmost importance in our lives. That decision is to trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins (be sincere) and to come into your life and please save you! Jesus is the only answer and the only one that can give you strength and courage for each day. Won't you ask him in today?

Have a blessed week!

*Dawn S. West*

