

West Side Baptist Church 2011

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Note from Pastor Kip.....

He bowed the heavens, and came down; thick darkness was under his feet. He rode on a cherub, and flew; he came swiftly upon the wings of the wind. He made darkness his covering around him, his canopy thick clouds dark with water. Psalm 18:9-11

It was really quite a night. There were no stars or moon. There was only thick darkness. Then came the wind, the water, the thunder and the lightening, and then not only was it dark outside but everything became strangely dark inside as well, for days....

It is interesting to think about how much I take for granted. I was reminded of it as I dealt with no electricity for two days, no TV, no internet, no hot water, no opening the refrigerator door and looking for nothing in particular. On the second day I thought that I would heat up some water on the stove to kind-of, sort-of clean up, but then

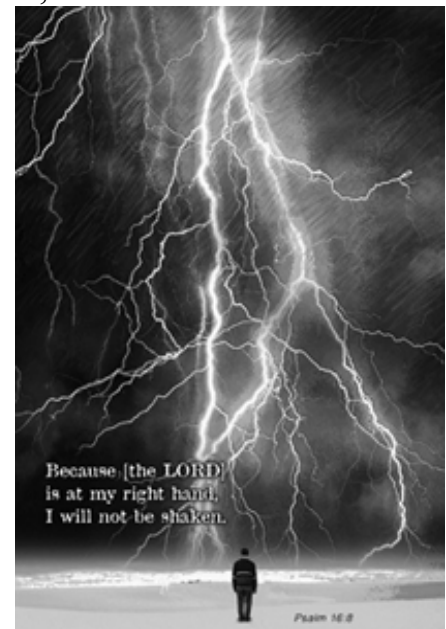
“Oh yeah! Bad idea.” So I lugged out my camping stove and found a little propane left in a half-used container, and had just enough to heat up some water before the flame went out.

As I sat in the darkness one of the evenings with the light of a candle, I was reminded of how hard it is sometimes to find God in the midst of storms. In the passage above the psalmist saw it right away. For me, what I thought about first had everything to do with me, what I can't do, what I don't have, will I blow away?

It is true with the storms we sometimes face in our own lives. When the doctor has bad news, when the one we love leaves, when we face rejection, when we are faced with the darkness of the worst that life can throw at us, God can sometimes seem to be not hearing, not listening, not seeing. Our natural tendency is to turn our eyes inside and wonder with the psalmist “how long O God? Will you be silent forever?”

But, after the initial shock of the storm, if we look, if we seek with all our hearts, we will find

God there, even in the storm. It may seem only like a small flicker of light, but there, in the darkness, we will see the light of his love. The light from my small candle – just a little flame – was able to push back the darkness, and I was



reminded again of Jesus' promise: "I will be with you always, even until the end of the age."

Later on in Psalm 18:28, we hear these words: "It is you who lights my lamp: the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness." Yes! There in the storm, of all places, God showed up. God still does the same thing for us today when we face our own storms. He doesn't just show up afterwards, but there in the midst of the storm, God's light is still shining, and nothing, not the wind, or the rain, can extinguish his light.

On this side of the storm I am thankful for being reminded of his constant guiding light, I hope you are as well, and I pray that it will not take another storm to remember that God can always light up any darkness and any storm we may be going through. Just a thought...



Installation Service for Pastor Kip - All friends and members of West Side are welcome!

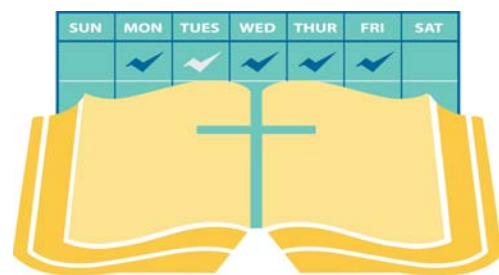
The installation service for our new pastor, Rev. Kip Mickelson, will be held on Sunday, September 11th at 4:00 p.m. An installation service is important for our pastor and our congregation. It is a way of passing the mantle to our new pastor and for us to get behind him to say that we are going to follow his leadership. It is also a time for the pastor to say to us that he is willing to lead us. This will be a time of rejoicing, a time of celebrating, and a time for starting fresh with our new pastor. Invitations have been made to personal friends of Pastor Kip's as well as pastors of the churches in the neighborhood and the ABCCR. This is our invitation to you. We hope you will plan to join us.

Bible Study

This time of year, when everyone is going back to school, we are reminded of the importance of education. It is just as important in our spiritual lives and our faith journeys.

As your pastor, growing the church is not only a matter of

numbers, but first and foremost it is about helping people have a deeper understanding of the scriptures and a deeper relationship with the Lord. To that end on Wednesday, September 14, there will be two opportunities for us to do just that. For those who can come in the morning, there will be a Bible study at 10:30 am. I'll have some coffee on and maybe even a snack of some sort. For those who have to work, there will also be a study on Wednesday evenings starting at 6:30 pm. The two studies will focus on different books of the Bible, so if you want to come to both, feel free!



Wednesday Bible Studies

Striding For Seniors

5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk

Saturday, October 15, 2011

Rice Community Center - 432 SE

Norwood St., Topeka

Check In - 7:30a.m.

Race Time - 8:00a.m.

\$25.00 Entry - Sign up at www.Active.com (Online Registration Powered by Active.com)

Prizes and Awards will be directly after the race

Proceeds benefit:

East Topeka Senior Center Programs

Transportation

Meals Activities

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVING SHAWNEE COUNTY SENIORS



Worship in the Park

On Sunday, September 18th we will be sharing the morning worship service with Central Congregational Church in the Big Shelter House next to the zoo at Gage Park. Beginning at 9:45 am there



Sunday in the Park September 18

will be coffee, lemonade and donuts that we hope to share with people who may be in the park that morning. The theme of the day will be "Unity". There will be organized activities for young people and a supervised area for small children to congregate in the shelter house. Pastor Kip and Pastor Sherry Triggs will be co-leading the service. The two church choirs are uniting to provide music. There will be sound equipment there so everyone will be able to hear. Following the service there will be a potluck dinner. The churches will provide fried chicken, drinks and table service. Please bring a side dish to share. If you are able, bring a little more than you and your family would eat, so we can be optimistic about inviting folks in from the outside. The shelter house is quite large, so let's FILL IT UP like never before!! Please call the church office to indicate if you will be there and if you will be bringing guests if you don't attend Sunday morning worship regularly. If you attend church regularly, you may indicate your plan to attend on the attendance pew pad. We will need an estimated count so we can purchase the correct amount of chicken.



HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!

~ Janet Nyfeler



Outreach

For our fall Outreach Mission to the community, West Side Baptist Church delivered back packs with supplies for the children at Meadows Elementary School. These were delivered on August 2 by Pastor Mickelson, Colleen Smith, and Pat Carreno. The supplies included markers, crayons, pencils, notebooks, glue sticks, Kleenex, pencil boxes, disinfect wipes and jell. The staff at Meadows were thrilled to receive these items for children who may not have been able to purchase them. This community relations activity provided West Side Baptist an opportunity to support Meadows School as they began the new year.



~ Pat Carreno

Come Pray Together

Each month the board of the American Baptists of the Central Region asks us to pray together for a specific request. For September, they are asking that we remember especially students and teachers, at all levels, as they start a new school year. Will you join us?



**REQUESTS
FOR
PRAYER**

Baby Closet

Plans for the Baby Closet at West Side Baptist Church are coming together. The shelves in the room will be painted, and some of the baby clothes have been sorted and put on shelves. We are working on a referral form to refer mom's to our Baby Closet. We are accepting donations of gently used or new clothing, baby furniture, diapers, and formula. We need helpers to sort the clothes. If you would like to volunteer, please see Pat Carreno. More information will be coming.



Our New Scholarship Student

The Mary Gates Atkinson Scholarship Fund was established to assist consecrated American Baptist women and men to further their education in preparation for the ministry God calls them to. Each year one or two students attending Bacone College, Ottawa University or Central Baptist Theological Seminary receive scholarships. They are also assigned to local Baptist church women's groups who mentor and support them through small gifts, cards, notes and in other appropriate ways.

Our women's group has been given the privilege of ministering to Susan Zamen of Rogers, Arkansas this school year. Susan, who is a senior at Bacone College, says she "has placed her future in God's hands, to let God show her as she goes. (She) used to plan but those plans never worked out so she is trusting in God's timing."

Susan is majoring in Christian Ministry. She has helped out in homeless shelters, food pantries and children's church serving "where needed" in her church, especially enjoying leading worship where she "feels God even thru her fear of leading."

Susan's hobbies are singing, reading, painting and beading. Her family includes her mother and step-dad, her father and step-mother, and her two brothers David and Chris (her twin).

All of you are invited to join in adding Susan to your prayer list, sending her a card on special occasions, dropping her a note of encouragement or in any other way God leads you to support and encourage Susan as she prepares for service, with a servant's heart, wherever God leads her.

Susan Zamen
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Come Let Us Read Together

Come join the American Baptist women of the Central Region as they read the book of Amos in September. Each month the women of our region are given a book of the Bible to read and we are inviting everyone in our church to join us.



Amos protests that he was neither a prophet or a prophet's son. So who was he, where was he from and where did he take the message God gave to him? Read Amos to find out!

Amos perceived the nation God sent him to as a country which, on the surface, was economically and militarily strong. However, knowing the true health of a society must be assessed by its moral pulse, Amos saw a very different picture which prompted the words of divine judgment found throughout this book.

Peter C. Craige has said about this gloomy work, that the real gloom "lies not in the proclamation of judgment, but rather in the social evils that invited, indeed demanded, such judgment. Justice is not only essential to the proper functioning of human society, but it is also required of God.

The social evils in Israel were compounded by the hypocritical veneer of religion which the perpetrators of social injustice sought to veil their acts....in Amos we find not only a critique of social injustice, but a scathing assault on formal religion that has lost its heart and become little more than a shell of hypocrisy."

Does Amos speak to us?

