

West Side Baptist Church 2011

1008 SW Fourth Street
Topeka KS 66606
Phone 785-233-4241 Fax 785-233-1988
www.wsbctopeka.org
e-mail office@wsbctopeka.org



Note from Pastor Kip.....

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Colossians 3:14-15

Some time ago I was over to a friend's house. He was the single father of a little girl whose name was JuliAnn. When they met me at the door the little girl was dressed in plaid shorts and a polka dot shirt. "Wow!" I said, "You look very colorful." "Thank you" she politely replied. After a while, she disappeared and when she entered the room again she was dressed in jeans and a bright pink T shirt. "You look very comfortable and, well, bright!" I said. Her dad just winked at her. "Thank you" she replied again. The next time we saw her she came parading into the room with a big blanket wrapped around her and a towel on her head sort of like a turban. "How glamorous!" I said. "What's that?" she asked. "Well, you look like a movie star." "Thank you," she happily replied. Again she disappeared and her dad and I couldn't wait to see what she would clothe herself with next. For her last and final scene, and probably because it was getting a little late, she came into the room simply wearing red, fuzzy footie pajamas

with the words on the back that simply said: "HUG ME." It was my cue to go, but before I left, with her permission I gave her a hug and told her how much I enjoyed the fashion show. To my amazement and surprise, she gave me a kiss on the cheek and said yet again, "Thank you!" I left that evening feeling an overwhelming sense of the peace of Christ, bound up and given through the innocent love of little JuliAnn. It reminded me of this scripture above and since then I have been unable to read it without thinking about her.

I guess what made it so memorable is that each time we complimented her on her exquisite outfits she would beam with pride and say those two little, big words: Thank You! It was her thankfulness which clothed her with a loveliness which far exceeded her apparel.

I don't think that Paul had the same image in his head that I do of JuliAnn when he wrote these words, but he certainly captured the essence of the evening that I remember so well. He talked about clothing ourselves with love, being in harmony, letting the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, and being thankful. It is as if one leads to another. Love leads to perfect harmony, harmony leads to peace, and peace leads to being thankful.

Thanksgiving is a time of expressing our love to the Lord for all his many gifts. Among those gifts is the way that he has made it possible for us to clothe ourselves with love. May each "thank you" you say and remember be an expression of returning back the love which he has given. It won't take dressing up in plaid shorts and a polka dot shirt, a blanket and turban, or even fuzzy red footie pajamas. But like JuliAnn, a simple smile and the heart felt words "thank you" is all it takes.

Happy Thanksgiving to my West Side Baptist Church family.

~Pastor Kip



LIBRARY CORNER

SATAN

Who is the devil and why did he make me do it? These are a couple questions that have plagued us throughout human history. Making sense out of evil is part of humanity's endless quest to discover the meaning of life. Satan, or the devil, actually appears very rarely in the Bible. So where does he come from? A fascinating little book in the West Side Baptist Church Library gives us some answers. T. J. Wray and Gregory Mobley thoroughly explore the origins of our beliefs about this underworld figure in The Birth of Satan (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).

In order to look into the beginnings of the concept of Satan the authors first must look at the origins of the Hebrew scriptures and the influences of other cultures, traditions and religions on the development of those writings. They also take a look at the writings between the testaments and the letters of Paul, the Gospels and, of course, Revelation. Even though this is a small book with a narrow focus this overview gives a concise picture of the development of our holy scriptures and offers insights into the way our faith has developed over about five millenia. It also clearly shows the different points of views of the Gospel writers and what they were trying to accomplish.

The authors trace the attempts of human beings to answer some of the most difficult questions about life, especially with a monotheistic God. Different explanations, such as dualism and foreign influences when the Hebrews were in exile, are explored. A concept of Satan, or something like this being, seems to be necessary to understand the world in which we live and the God we serve. The picture of the Devil as we know this spirit is filled out in the final book of our Bible. This portrayal and his abode has been added to over the years. The continuing development of Satan is followed up to the present age. However, the full grown Devil is not explored because there is just too much literature now available. Yet, the necessity and subsequent "birth" of Satan is a very interesting read, especially just following Halloween.

This journey to find and to try to understand the Devil is engrossing and humorous. It even gives us insight into some of our contemporary literature, movies, art and even television programs. There is

a chapter on why we need Satan and why we would miss him if he were gone. This book will help you understand the Biblical depiction of the Arch-enemy and push you to explore your own connection with and need for a Satan character. The age old question of why evil exists is not answered, but our knowledge of how we have tried to cope with the elusive concern historically is enlightening. The thought provoking content of this slim volume should force you to discover how you view evil and Satan in ways you may never have contemplated before.

To read this book find it on the display shelf in the church library, sign the check-out pad, enjoy the book and return it so others may also explore this issue.

~ Fred Ansell



Thank you so very much to the church and the choir for the beautiful flowers I received during knee surgery. I really appreciated the visits, calls and cards from all of you. I feel so blessed to be a part of the WSBC Family. Love to you all.

~ Janet Nyfeler

Thank you so much for all the cards, calls, visits, prayers, and your concern during my knee surgery. It is such a blessing to have a wonderful church family. May God bless each one of you. Hope to see you all soon again.

~ Mina Adams



The Christmas season is fast approaching, and our Christmas project this year will be Mittens for Meadow. This is a way to help the children at Meadows School. Beginning November 13, there will be a Christmas tree in the sanctuary to hang our

gifts on. We are asking for donations of mittens, scarves, hats, and gloves for the children in need of these items. They do not need to be wrapped. We will place them on the tree. For questions please phone Pat Carreno at 286-2054.

~ Outreach Committee

The holiday season is rapidly approaching and the 2011 Christmas Bureau is asking for private adopters. This year we are asking Sunday school classes or perhaps two or three families together to adopt a family. November 22 is the goal to have the applicants screened and ready to be adopted. There is information on the bulletin board. Please see Pat Carreno for questions.



~ Outreach Committee

ADVENT BOOK ARTICLES NEEDED

Christmas Eve

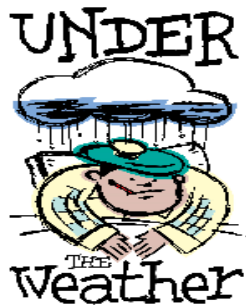


We continue to need devotions for our annual advent book. If you would like to write something or have a favorite Christmas season devotion that you would like to share, please submit it to the church office by the end of October. Advent is a special time in our church and

the advent devotional book is something we look forward to each year.



Tips on protecting yourself from getting sick this year



Influenza viruses, commonly referred to as the flu, cause highly contagious respiratory illnesses with symptoms that range from mild discomfort to severe illness. Young children, the elderly, and those with health complications are especially at risk when it comes to complications related to the flu. This season, keep yourself and your family healthy by lowering the risk of coming down with the flu.

Consider the Flu Vaccine

The CDC recommends that everyone over the age of 6 months receives a flu vaccine. High-risk individuals, such as teachers and health care workers, are especially advised to get vaccinated. The vaccine comes in the form of a quick injection or a nasal spray and is widely available during the flu season. Ask your health provider which vaccine is right for you and your family, and what the possible side effects may be.

Be Smart About Germs

You can lower your flu risk simply by preventing the spread of germs. While it's more difficult to enforce preventative measures with young children, begin teaching good hand washing techniques as early as you can. Cough and sneeze into your elbow or into a tissue, throw tissues away when they're used, and wash hands frequently. Keep travel bottles of hand sanitizer around for times when you can't wash with soap and water.

Stay At Home If You're Sick

Don't be a hero. Familiarize yourself with flu symptoms such as fever, chills, sore throat, headache, fatigue and body aches. If you've got flu symptoms, stay at home. The CDC recommends staying home for at least 24 hours after a fever. This goes for your school-aged kids as well. Leave the house if you need to get medical attention, but otherwise, be good to yourself and get plenty of sleep and fluids.

Practice Healthy Habits

Adopt a healthy lifestyle and good habits as part of your daily routine. This means regular exercise, eating well, and getting enough sleep at night. Stay on top of stress and other factors that can influence your immune system and increase your likelihood of getting sick. Schedule routine checkups with your health care provider and ask for personalized advice on staying healthy year-round.