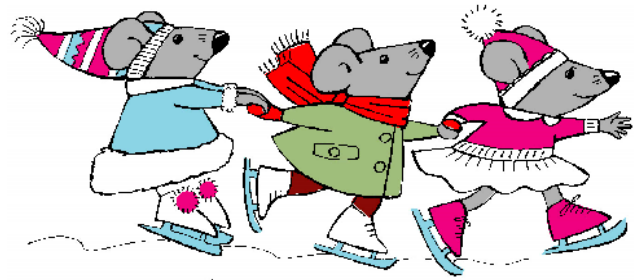


West Side Baptist Church 2011

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www.wsbctopeka.org
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January



From the Desk of our Pastor:

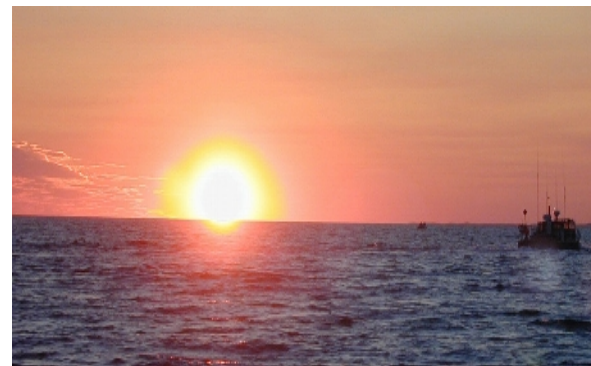
“Grace is the gift unearned, the wonderful unexpected present, the blessing undeserved. It is sunshine in a place where there is usually only darkness. It is the bursting presence of love at a time when we have the right only to expect condemnation or emptiness and aloneness.” – Robert Farrar Capon

I love this description of grace. Capon starts by saying that it is an unearned gift, an unexpected present and an undeserved blessing. We have just gone through the Christmas season where we have spent much time, energy, and money buying gifts. I am reminded of an individual I once worked with who railed against people – and especially parents – spending too much money on too many presents for no good reason. While there may be some truth in what he was saying, I often thought to myself that in the giving of unearned, unexpected and underserved gifts one has the opportunity of showing and teaching generosity and grace. God’s grace is the hallmark of the gospel and we ought never to

forget that we are the recipients of this grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Capon goes on to say that grace is sunshine in a place where there is usually only darkness. Living in Kansas we all can connect to this. Late Fall into early Winter give way to days with less and less sunshine. Many days we see heavy gray skies and after a while it can start to feel dark both on the outside and the inside. But then, just when you start to feel a little blah, that beautiful blue Kansas sky is ablaze with the bright sun and even though the day may be short, it has put a spring in your step and a smile on your face. What a wonderful way to describe God’s grace, sunshine in the darkness.

Finally he says that it is the bursting presence of love when we have the right only to expect



condemnation, emptiness and aloneness. Condemnation, emptiness, and aloneness can strike anyone without a moment’s notice. When it happens it can leave you reeling and wondering what you did exactly to deserve this. It is the attack of the powers of darkness wanting to pull you down through sometimes the most unexpected people and circumstances. Yet, as January comes around, and we are faced with a new year we are reminded that in Christ everything – even us – is in the process of being

made new. This grace-filled promise is the bursting presence of love.

In 2012, I pray that you may be found rejoicing in the grace of God, and that this grace will sustain you throughout the New Year.

In closing I just want to say thank you to you all. I have been the recipient of your grace and generosity this past Christmas season. Thank you for the generous love gift as well as the many cards, gifts, and goodies individuals graciously gave. You were truly examples of God's generous grace. Thank you for the sunshine you spread into my life and for being "the bursting presence of love!" Happy New Year!

~ Pastor Kip Mickelson

Announcement about Announcements

In an attempt to limit the number of announcements during our worship service on Sunday mornings, if you have anything that needs to be communicated to the church, we can display them prior to the service on the screen. If you have an announcement that you would like to have displayed, you can contact Brice (bsmith23@cox.net or call 274-9060) or the church office by the Friday prior to the Sunday service with the details you want on the announcement slide.

~ Brice Smith



Annual Report

Annual Reports are due Monday, January 16th. You may email them to the office at office@wsbctopeka.org or just send them into the office.

LIBRARY CORNER A LOOK AT CHURCH IN 2012

A fun way to start the new year would be to spend some time with T. Wyatt Watkins, or his book Gospel, Grits, and Grace (1999, Judson Press). The sub-title is an apt description, "Encouraging the Holy in the Ridiculous, Sublime, and Unexpected". It is the story of a young pastor in his first parish as he comes of age and renews his faith. The author looks at the days of place, plot and people to illuminate something of the extraordinary and the transcendent, which are everywhere if we are vigilant enough to see.

We are introduced to the interesting characters that make up this congregation and they become our friends because they are so much like us, somewhat frail yet faithful in very ordinary circumstances touched by an extraordinary God. Each brief chapter begins with a scriptural quote that is exemplified by the story of that chapter. Seeing these ancient passages gives new breath, and in this way brings them alive and refreshes the old texts as we recognize them continuing to be living out in our day.

As you get acquainted with these new friends you may recognize many of your old church friends. We already know Bert, Harriet, Russ, Harold, Billy, Marie and many others because we see them every Sunday. They attend a country church and we attend a city church, yet our buildings have some of the same characteristics, hidden histories and forgotten rooms. Our programs and concerns are the same and even our actual history is strikingly similar. The stories in this book will give you a new, fun way to look at church and to recognize these souls and experiences in West Side Baptist Church. They will cause you to want a deeper reflection on our own story and history, give you a fuller understanding of pastoral ministry, and delight you with a higher appreciation of the heavenly, holy, and redeemed in God's grace.

To read this book, find it on the display shelf in the library, sign and date the check-out pad, enjoy the book and return it so others might have a look at it in this new year.

~ Fred Ansell

Our annual church business meeting will be on Sunday, January 22nd. The meeting will be held in conjunction with a dinner after the morning worship service. Everyone is welcome to stay for the dinner and meeting. A slide show presentation of 2011 will be shown. Reports by all the diaconate board members will be given. Plan to attend this meeting to join with us as we praise God for the blessings he has given us in 2011, and be part of the discussion of what we can do for His glory as a congregation in 2012. Watch for details about the dinner on our website, Facebook or in one of the weekly bulletins.



An Honor to Serve

It has been an honor and privilege to serve West Side Baptist Church as Moderator for the past seven years. As I look back, there have been many milestones along with a few stumbling blocks that we have had as a congregation. I'll be writing my annual report with many of these for our annual meeting on January 22nd, but I thought I'd mention several of the milestones in this newsletter article.

Our most recent milestone is the calling of our new pastor. After more than a year search, Pastor Kip Mickelson was called to be our pastor. What a blessing he is to our congregation and will continue to be in the years ahead. We must keep on praying for him as he leads, challenges and supports our church family.

Another is the very successful 3-year Capital Campaign - "Strengthening our Foundation for Ministry". As a result of the campaign that so many members of our congregation participated in, we raised nearly \$425,000 for such projects as an elevator, building renovations, technology for the sanctuary, landscaping, parking lot repairs, and much, much more. There is a portion of the campaign dollars that has been set aside for a missions project and monies available to maintain the elevator for many years to come. Some members of our congregation are choosing to continue to contribute to that fund and we thank them for that. What an accomplishment this campaign has been for our congregation!

There are other milestones that I will write for my report in January but let me say now that I have had such good people to work with on the diaconate over the years. I started as moderator with Clarence Payne as the vice-moderator/deacon of personnel. Then Fred Ansell was elected into that position and has served for several years. Both men provided me advice, direction, and good support. I depended on them and because of them my work was easier and more enjoyable. I thank them for their dedication

Mark the date!

February 5, 2012 is the date for a Super Bowl Party. We will be renting a large screen TV to watch the game in Homer Hall. The party will begin at 5:00 p.m. Please feel free to invite a friend to share the evening watching the game. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board so we know how many to plan on. Chili and buffalo wings will be provided. You are asked to bring your favorite snack. You may bring your favorite chair to watch the game. Board games will be provided, or you may bring your favorite game. We will have volunteers to supervise the children.

~The Outreach Committee



Souper Bowl Sunday



and friendship. Also, I have had two great pastors to work beside. Rev. Campbell and now Pastor Kip have inspired me, challenged me and provided me the opportunities to make a difference for West Side Baptist. To them I express my great appreciation and am thankful for the working relationship I had with them.

I have mixed emotions about no longer serving the church as the Moderator. It has been a rewarding experience for me. I wish Brice Smith well as he provides leadership this coming year and know that you will support him as you did me. Thank you!

~ Nancy Lindberg



Thanks to everyone for the donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats for Mittens for Meadow. This was our gift to the community this Christmas. We decorated one of the trees in the sanctuary with mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats and it was beautiful. Lynda Cokeley, Judy Longstaff packed them up, and Pastor Kip delivered them to Meadows School. The staff was so grateful, and will be handing them to the children in need of these items during the winter. Thanks to everyone for the message of joy and love we sent to these children during this Christmas season.

~ The Outreach Committee.

Dear West Side Family,

We want to thank all of you for your love and friendship as well as the gifts from the Sunday School class, the choir and the Congregation. They were much appreciated.

~ Jan & Doug Mauck

Thank you for the goodies and cards and love gift. I really feel honored to be a part of West Side Baptist Church. God Bless each and everyone of you and I am looking forward to seeing more of you all in 2012.

~ Lynda Cokeley

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift.

~ Ernie Longstaff

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards, calls visits, prayers, and concerns. It is a blessing to have such a wonderful church family.

~ Mina Adams

1608 SW 37th St. #G3

Topeka, KS 66611

785-266-1959

West Side Baptist Church Family,

Judy Longstaff delivered a Christmas basket with goodies and a beautiful poinsettia last week. Thank you so much. I really appreciate this and I am enjoying every bit of it.

~ Maggie Chapman

What a nice surprise! Thank you church family for the basket of goodies and the beautiful poinsettia. Also thanks to Molly Morris for delivering them.

~ Barbara Edds

Thank you so much for the mittens, hats and scarves. Many students at Meadows will benefit from your generosity.

~ Deb Hess, Counselor
Meadows Elementary

Merry Christmas! Thank you for remembering the homeless this Christmas season. Your contributions make a difference!

~ Topeka Rescue Mission

Thank you for your generous donations throughout the year. Your funds provide much needed support to our hundreds of clients. Breakthrough house could not survive without the wonderful community and faith-based support we receive.

~Danielle Tipton

Breakthrough House Staff and Board



Thank you for helping me out during the Christmas season. I really appreciate it.

~ Shirley Wright

This was my first time to ask for a chance to be adopted for Christmas. I want to take the time to say a heart felt thanks for all the lovely gifts for myself and my pets. May God bless all of you and keep you safe and happy all year as well as healthy.

~ God Bless Virginia Kidwell

Thanks
for Your
Kindness



All Strength Comes From God

It is so refreshing to know that we can rest in the strength and comfort that God will provide when facing troubles of many kinds. Let Him have the glory and show himself strong. Listen to this Bible verse: 2Chronicles 16:9 *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.*” God wants to show Himself strong on your behalf. Surrender to Him today and let the peace that He gives you take over. We cannot fully [serve God](#) without full surrender to his Strength.

Christian Quote About Strength

“Those who serve God must serve Him in His own way, and in His strength, or He will never accept their service. That which man doth, unaided by divine strength, God can never own. The mere fruits of the earth He casteth away; He will only reap that corn, the seed of which was sown from heaven, watered by grace, and ripened by the sun of divine love. God will empty out all that thou hast before He will put His own into thee; He will first clean out thy granaries before He will fill them with the finest of the wheat. The river of God is full of water; but not one drop of it flows from earthly springs. God will have no strength used in His battles but the strength which He Himself imparts. Are you mourning over your own weakness? Take courage, for there must be a consciousness of weakness before the Lord will give thee victory. Your emptiness is but the preparation for your being filled, and your casting down is but the making ready for your lifting up.” – Charles Spurgeon

Matthew 6:33
But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.



Share God's Word