

JANUARY 2016

West Side Baptist Church

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As We Start the New Year

The 10 commandments



A Sunday school teacher was teaching the Ten Commandments to her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" One little boy shouted, "Thou shall not kill."

Moving forward into the New Year

- **Stop** — the human heart cannot be fixed, it must be restored
- **Have compassion** – feel the human pain, including one's own pain
- **Admit** - that violence does not only affect others; violence is not distant
- **Confess** – admit fear, concern, vulnerability, and responsibility
- **Repent** – turn away from violence; seek the way of God's Peace.
- **Believe** – know that God's Peace is already, and that God's Peace is effective
- **Be faithful** – receive God's Peace, and live in Peace.
- **Use God given free will** – choose to stand in God's Name, and not be driven by circumstances

[2 Chronicles 7:14](#)

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

New Year

As we enter 2016 here at West Side Baptist Church, there is excitement about moving forward. Serving on the Pastoral Search Committee during 2015 was a blessing. With the help of the church membership we put together our profile that helped the candidates know who we are and what ministries we are involved with. In December we had our Candidate weekend on December 19-20 and as you all know by now, we called Pastor Ivan Greuter and he accepted the call. This brings even more excitement! He will start February 1st, 2016. I know that the church has appreciated all that Pastor Gordon and Linda have done this past year. They have been a blessing to us all. 2016 promises to be another busy year for West Side. As we approach everything we do, we should ask the question does this fit with our Vision and Purpose. The vision of West Side Baptist Church shall be that we commit ourselves to continual personal growth, reaching out to win and nurture others in the love of Jesus Christ. The purpose of West Side Baptist Church shall be that as the people of God, worshipping Him, inviting others to know Jesus Christ as Savior, growing in Christ, and ministering to all with love, we shall live in obedience to the will of God in every relationship. I'm excited to welcome the Greuter family to Topeka and to West Side Baptist Church. To close, let's continue to approach everything we do with a servant's heart. Keep West Side Baptist in your prayers and get excited! Amen!



~ Brice Smith, Moderator

More about Dr. Greuter

More about Dr. Greuter: A native of Nebraska, Ivan grew up on the Great Plains where he received his faith and call to the ministry at an early age. After graduating with a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Ottawa University in 1995, he earned the Master of Divinity in Pastoral Care and Counseling (1999) and the Master of Arts in Theological Studies (2002) degrees at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, Illinois. He was ordained to the ministry by the American Baptist Churches USA in 1999. Ivan graduated from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa with a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2014. His dissertation was: "Searching For God When You Have Lost Your Dogma: The Promise of New Life for an American Baptist Congregation by Increasing Passionate Spirituality through Devotional Consideration of the Doctrine of the Trinity and Natural Church Development." Dr. Greuter has previously served the First Baptist Church of Wood River, Illinois (1999-2006) before joining the staff at Central Baptist Church (2006-present). Ivan's wife, Rexanne, is a substitute teacher. They have three children: David is 9 years old, Macy is 12 years old, and Jessa is 14 years old.

Please give the Greuter's a warm, West Side welcome when they arrive! We are so blessed to have them coming to serve the Lord in this church and neighborhood. They are all delightful people who love Jesus and want others to know Him as well.

~ Jim Goodnow
Chair, West Side Baptist Search Committee

Our Church Finances

This is a general overview of our church finances through the end of November. The year-end review will be part of the annual report that will be distributed at our annual meeting later this month.

- At the end of November we were at 91.6 % of the budget year.
- Our income was \$204,863.09 or 75.9 % of what was budgeted. I'm pleased to report that we have already received \$7,630.25 more in offerings than what was budgeted for the entire year and have not had to use any of our investment dollars this year.
- We now have \$2,485 that has been donated specifically earmarked for the new carpet. The carpet bill was: \$6,631.99. The carpet was paid with the remainder taken out of the checking account. We continued to collect offerings designated for the carpet until the end of the year to offset the cost.
- Our expenses to date were \$187,945.47 or 69.63% of what was budgeted. Our lower expenses have been mainly due to our interim contract with ABCCR being much less than what we would have been paying for a full time pastor.
- When you compare income with expenses, we have \$16,917.62 more in income over receipts for the year to date. We continue to have good cash flow.
- We had \$14,806.46 in the checking account as of the end of November.
- The 2016 budget was approved at the December 6th breakfast business meeting. The final copy of the budget will be part of our annual report which will be available by our January business meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the annual report, please contact the church office.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

Missions Trip in January

Our next mission trip to the Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City will be on Friday, January 29th. Those who wish to help Pat Carpenter and Marty Rosa prepare the meal earlier that day should let them know to expect you. For anyone who would like to go with us, we will leave in the church van at 4:00 p.m. We should return about 8:00 p.m. If you'd like to know more about our mission work at Bethel, please contact Nancy Lindberg.

~ Nancy Lindberg. Treasurer

BIBLE BOOK FOR THE MONTH: MARK

As you read the beginning words of Mark in Peterson's "The Message" you can almost see and hear the town crier coming down the street swinging his lantern.

"Hear Ye! Hear Ye!" "The good news of Jesus Christ!-- The Message!—begins here"! What a single sentence introduction and Mark never digresses in this message to the world. In Peterson's words, "An event has taken place that radically changes the way we look at and experience the world, and he can't wait to tell us about it. There's an air of breathless excitement in nearly every sentence...The sooner we get the message, the better off we'll be, for the message is good, incredibly good: God is here, and He's on our side." N.T. Wright, an outstanding Biblical scholar says of Mark, "...Mark's gospel ...certainly has all the zip and punch of a quick, hasty story that's meant to grab you by the collar and make you face the truth about Jesus, about God, and about yourself."

William Barclay, an earlier Biblical scholar, gave the following characteristics of Mark's gospel. "Mark's aim was to give a picture of Jesus as he was. He never forgot the divine side of Jesus. To Mark, Jesus was not simply a man among men; he was God among men. No gospel gives such a human picture of Jesus. It is in Mark's gospel that we get a picture of a Jesus of like passions with us. One of the great characteristics of Mark is that over and over again he inserts the little vivid details into the narrative which are the hall-mark of an eye witness."

As you read this incredible book, notice how Mark stresses facts and actions rather than theory or topics. It is almost like he is stumbling over himself to give us the wonderful news, the world changing news. Mark stresses the miracles. Is he trying to focus us on the miraculous things this new person on the scene can do in and with our lives? Mark shows Jesus as a person of action and authority. How much Mark packs into this, the shortest of the Gospels.

The beginning of Mark reminds me of a theme for one of our fellow Central Region churches in Winfield. On their Newsletter are the bold words, "Go forth in Winfield and tell the Good News!"

Mark tells us that "God is here right now, and on our side, actively seeking to help us in the way we most need help—this qualifies as news...He doesn't want to waste a minute of these precious lives of ours ignorant of this most practical of all matters—that God is passionate to save us.

Let Mark carry you along in his enthusiasm to share the story of this amazing person called Jesus! Let Mark pull you into the good news!

~Almira Collier

Happy New Year

BEGINNING
FRIENDS
MIDNIGHT
TIME

CELEBRATIONS
GAMES
NEW
YEAR

EXPECTATIONS
HAPPY
PARADES
JOY

FAMILY
HOLIDAY
PARTIES

FOOD
HOPE
PLANS

FOOTBALL
JANUARY
RESOLUTIONS

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