

FEBRUARY 2016

West Side Baptist Church

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“Perichoresis Anyone? The Dance of the Divine Trinity”

Words from your pastor: Baptists are not known for their ability or willingness to dance – a carryover from our Puritan ancestors and the Holiness Movement. It appears we have two-left-feet, or two-right-feet, depending on which direction you lean. Yet, *Dancing with the Divine* is an essential part of a healthy Christian spirituality, and vital to being a missional church.



The Church Fathers (church leaders during the first centuries of Christianity), and many contemporary leaders today, understood the movement of our Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) was not static (stiff and fixed) but dynamic (generative and interactive). Men like Gregory of Nazianzus used the Greek word *perichoresis* to describe this internal movement between Jesus Christ’s human and divine natures, and later the rotation of the three persons of the Trinity with one another. In essence, God dances within the Divine Self – and with Creation – with perfect tempo and tenor. Christians are to discern the movement of God, and then join the *dance of the Divine Trinity*; always allowing God to take the lead.

Life miraculously and mysteriously falls-into-place when God’s people move in step with the Triune God. For instance, the Lord confirmed His desire for our family to move to West Side by selling our house in Quincy, moving us to Topeka, and helping us to close on a new house all within three days (Jan. 23-25). Only the Lord could orchestrate this perfect timing according to His purpose.



My heart’s desire as your new pastor is not to *take the lead* of the church with authoritative behavior or demeanor. Instead, I want to simply invite the People of God to join our missional God in this Divine Dance by putting on your dancing shoes, by opening your ears to the beat of God’s word, and by tuning your spirit to the Spirit of God. We will learn to move in rhythm together with the Holy Spirit, and thereby keep in-step with the will of God. Then, we will move in the *perichoresis* of God’s perfect rhythm and rotation. Perichoresis anyone?

Blessings,
Pastor Ivan



Reception for Our Pastor and Family - We are planning a cover-dish lunch on Sunday, February 21 after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall (cafeteria) to give members of the church an opportunity to welcome Pastor Ivan and family to Topeka.

Installation Service for Dr. Greuter

The Installation service for Dr. Greuter has been scheduled for March 6th at 2:00 pm at West Side Baptist Church. Please mark your calendars for this event in March.

Baby Closet

During Christmas, personal care bags were made and given to families that visited the Baby Closet in December. We did ask for donations from our church. These bags included soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, band aids, razors, and kleenexes. We were able to give out 42 bags. The families were so thankful to receive these items. My heart goes out to all that donated to this project. What wonderful caring people we have at West Side Baptist Church. Thank you.

During the year 2015, we served 469 families with a total of 805 children. These totals have increase each year since 2012 when the Baby Closet was opened. Thank you to the members that continue to support this outreach mission.

~ Pat Carreno, Baby Closet

Church Calendar

The Council has put together the full year's calendar of events that we are aware of at this time. If you have access online, you will always have the information as close as your computer, smart phone, or tablet. This calendar will be kept current so updates can be made at any time. After checking this calendar out and you see an event not listed, please let Lynda know so she can get the event on the calendar.

~ Brice Smith, Moderator

2015 Year-End Treasurer's Report

By now you have looked through the church's 2015 annual report and found the year-end finance reports and the 2016 approved budget. Each month the finance reports are posted on the bulletin board and I will continue to provide you a general overview of our church income and expenses in an article in the newsletter. If you have any questions about the year-end reports or our monthly finances, please feel free to ask.

I believe we have a financially healthy church. With some money in investments, separate accounts for capital campaign funds and the benevolent fund, we had \$6,013.69 in our checking account to carry into 2016. Just like in your personal finances it is important that we have more income than expenses and that was true for 2015. The total income for 2015 was \$222,948.99. The total expenses for 2015 were \$205,796.53. The net operating income for the year was \$17,152.46.

For 2015 we had \$1,240 given in memorials. Those gifts were in memory of Don Manley, Harold and Judy Calloway, Ed Olsen, Maurice Goslin and Maggie Chapman. The memorials used at the end of 2015 to help pay for redecorating the pastor's office were in memory of Vern Allbert, Larry Brooks, Dorothy Woodin, Fred Ansell, Alberta Oslund, Lila Paslay, Millie Austermler and Laberta Paslay.

There were no gifts in 2015 made to the capital campaign. That fund's money market was valued at \$61,056.95 and the checking account portion was \$14,518.74 totaling \$75,575.69 in the capital campaign accounts. The money used out of the checking account was \$1,237 for the annual maintenance and service inspection of the elevator and \$259.70 for the food expenses of our missions work at Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City.

\$2,827.42 was collected in the benevolent fund (new name is Agape fund). \$4,177.41 was spent and the balance in that checking account at the end of 2015 was \$2,226.76.

We had \$2,450.00 donated (including a grant) to the baby closet in 2015 and \$2,021.52 was spent. There was a year-end balance of \$1,292.41 which is carried over into 2016.

Because of having good cash flow throughout the year, no money from our three Wells Fargo investment accounts was transferred into the checking account. We ended the year with the three accounts valuing \$222,845.99.

Our investment account balance at the Topeka Community Foundation (TCF) is \$153,980.33. We received in January 2015 our annual distribution from this fund of \$7,840 and paid \$1,165.37 or 1.5% for TCF to manage this fund.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

January Council of Ministries Update

This was our first Council of Ministries meeting as adopted by our new constitution. We went over our normal reporting for each of the coordinators of each ministry. Along with our normal updates we covered several things that were going to be coming up on the calendar. We planned several dates that included a reception for Pastor Rhodes and Linda (Jan 24), a reception for the church to welcome Pastor Greuter and family (Feb 21), and the Council dedication Sunday (Jan 17). One other priority that we talked about was finding a person to take the open position on the Council of Ministries (Coordinator of Membership/Fellowship). If asked, please prayerfully consider serving. We also changed the date of the February Council of Ministries from February 9th, to February 16th. Announcements will be made in church and through the newsletter of all the upcoming dates.

~ Brice Smith, Moderator

WWW

Session two of Wonderful West Side Wednesdays is rapidly coming to a close. We have spent the last eight weeks learning about the life of Jesus. We will celebrate the end of session two with a movie/game night on February 17. Session three will begin on February 24 and will continue through May 4. We will be studying the parables of Jesus. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm and at 6:00 pm we gather in the sanctuary for singing and a short devotional. Then classes move to their rooms for more Bible stories, journal time and crafts. Jim Goodnow is leading an adult Bible study in Holmer Hall. The evening concludes around 7:00 pm. There is always room for more, so please consider joining us!

~ Colleen Smith, Christian Ed



Mission Trip to Bethel Neighborhood Center

This year we are continuing our mission trips to Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, KS. Bethel is one of our American Baptist programs which works with immigrants and refugees in Kansas City. Many are Burmese, Nepali, Bhutanese and Hispanic families. Each Friday they have a community meal and worship service. Several years ago we volunteered our church to be the Fifth Friday church – providing the meal and worship service throughout the year when there was a fifth Friday.

On Friday, January 29th, Harry and Pat Carpenter, Jim Goodnow, Don Johnson, Marti Rosa and Nancy Lindberg served dinner to and ate with about 35 residents. Our meal has become quite the favorite. It is baked chicken with special Indian spices, rice, bread and fruit. And, of course, they love vanilla ice cream so we had plenty of that with vanilla wafers.



All left-overs are sent home with the families. Thanks to Almira Collier, Lynda Cokeley and Pat Carpenter for preparing the meal for us to take.

Following the community meal, Don Johnson provided the message. It's quite a treat to hear Don and how he works/doesn't work with the student interpreter. His message is always inspiring and appreciated.

The remaining trips will be April 29, July 29, September 30 and December 30. Anyone in our congregation is welcome to join us – either in preparing the meal or traveling to Kansas City to help serve.

Our congregation has committed \$100 a month/\$1,200 in 2016 for the Bethel Neighborhood Centers' building project. We announced our support at the dinner and the residents applauded. Our gift will have an even greater impact because each gift right now is being matched by the Mabee Foundation.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



BIBLE BOOK FOR THE MONTH – JONAH

Remember all the pictures from Sunday School showing Jonah and the whale. Maybe the story was a little scary to you; maybe you wondered how he survived the whale's belly; how did it feel to be "spewed" up on the beach.

Jonah, one of the twelve prophets! But where is his prophecy? Is this not an historical book centering on the story of Jonah rather than his prophecy?

The world today, as the world then, "seems to be filled to overflowing with violence, hatred, and corruption. Reading, hearing, and perhaps even experiencing these tragedies . . . we may even find ourselves wishing for vengeance by any means upon the violent perpetrators. Surely they are beyond redemption! But suppose that in the midst of such thoughts, God told you to take the gospel to the worst of these offenders – how would you respond?" (The Life Application Bible)

Eugene H. Peterson, in the Message, says this about Jonah:

"Everybody knows about Jonah . . . Jonah has entered our folklore. There is a playful aspect to his story, a kind of slapstick clumsiness about Jonah as he bumbles his way along, trying, but always unsuccessfully, to avoid God."

"But the playfulness is not frivolous. This is deadly serious. While we are smiling or laughing at Jonah, we drop the guard with which we are trying to keep God at a comfortable distance, and suddenly we find ourselves caught in the purposes and commands of God. All of us."

"Stories, in contrast to abstract statements of truth, tease us into becoming participants in what is being said. We find ourselves involved in the action. We may start out as spectators or critics, but if the story is good (and biblical stories are very good!) we find ourselves no longer just listening to but inhabiting the story."

" . . . Jonah is not a hero too high and mighty for us to identify with—he doesn't do anything great. Instead of being held up as an ideal to admire, we find Jonah as a companion in our ineptness. Here is someone on our level. Even when Jonah does it right (like preaching finally in Nineveh) he does it wrong (by getting angry at God). But the whole time, God is working within and around Jonah's very ineptness and accomplishing his purposes in him."

Peter C. Craigie, in Twelve Prophets (The Daily Study Bible Series), says, "Every aspect of the story is so different from the conventional prophetic narratives. . . The role of the great fish and the plight of the belly-aching Jonah raise not so much the issue of miracle as they do of course humor. (We can almost sense the hilarity in the audience as the hairy prophet is swallowed—and is later coughed up reeking of fish.)"

And what about all those questions with which this marvelous story ends?

As you read Jonah, see the full picture of God's love and compassion; realize that no one is beyond redemption; and know God's love and compassion encompasses you.

~ Almira Collier, Worship

**WHEN YOU ALREADY
STARTED EATING**



**AND SOMEONE SAYS
"LETS PRAY"**

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 204

Rev.9:3-11

K	S	S	Y	B	A	S	G	S	H	R	N	H	E	L
I	S	E	A	L	S	R	C	A	G	O	E	P	U	S
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Trumpet Plagues 3

ABYSS	ABADDON
AGONY	APOLLYON
ANGEL	CHARIOTS
BATTLE	CROWNS
DEATH	HEBREW
EARTH	HORSES
ELUDE	HUMAN
FACES	LOCUSTS
GOD	PEOPLE
GOLD	PLANT
GRASS	POWER
GREEK	PREPARED
HAIR	RUSHING
HARM	SMOKE
HEADS	SOUND
KING	STINGS
LIONS	STRIKES
SEAL	SUFFERED
TAILS	TORMENT
TEETH	TORTURE
	SCORPIONS

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a
Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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