

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

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“Building Bridges of Trust”

Words from your pastor: Trust is the asset of all relationships. We trust people, then we become new friends, business partners, and even newlyweds. Trust is essential to healthy, holistic relationships of all spheres of life – emotional, physical, and spiritual. Our relationships cannot survive without this vital asset of confidence and assurance in others.

This is why the Biblical writers admonished God’s people to “trust in the Lord.” The Covenant between God and the People of God rests upon our willingness to remain confident in God’s integrity, certain of his strength, confident in his abilities, and steadfast in the surety that God would care for us, provide for us, and rescue us if we “trusted” in him. Our relationship of faith is rooted in our assent to trust in God. This may be why King Solomon told his children, *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to God, and the Lord will make your paths straight.* We are happiest when we can trust God and his godliness.



My life-story testifies to the fact that trust is the cornerstone of all relationships – including the Church. There was very little trust in my family of origin. Personal experiences reinforced the fact that members of my family could not – and should not – be trusted. However, when I started attending a local church, I discovered something important: “I learned to trust the People of God, then I learned to trust their God.” The people showed me time and again that I could be confident in the kindness, certain of their compassionate care, and clear of this moral and spiritual integrity. The church embodied for me the vision of their God!

As we try to fulfill God’s mission at West Side – *building bridges for God’s glory* – let me ask an important question: **What kind of “bridges” are we building with our neighbors?** Are we building bridges of trust? Can our neighborhood be certain that they will receive kindness in words, compassion in action, honesty with love, and integrity rooted radical hospitality? We cannot build bridges of friendship and faith with our neighbors until they can learn to trust us!

Blessings,
Pastor Ivan



NEWS IN THE PEWS

February Council of Ministries Update

This is a review of the Council of Ministries meeting that was held on February 16. We reviewed the Treasurer's report as well as the minutes from the January meeting. We went over our normal reporting for each of the coordinators of each ministry. All coordinators are encouraged to write newsletter articles on what is happening in their ministry positions. Changes are happening both with the WSBC Facebook page as well as the WSBC web site. All the coordinators were encouraged to schedule time to meet with Pastor Ivan. Some have already scheduled these and those who haven't will be scheduling time with the Pastor. Plans for Pastor Ivan's Installation Service are moving forward for March 6th. It was also suggested by Pastor Ivan and Brice about getting a picture of the congregation on the steps outside the back of the sanctuary and it was suggested that we schedule this right after worship on Sunday, March 6th.

~ Brice Smith, Moderator

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. The calendar is located on our web site wsbctopeka.org.

~ Brice Smith, Moderator

Church Family Photograph – The Church is not a building but the people of God throughout all ages. Therefore, West Side Baptist Church will take a "Family Photograph" on the front stairs of our "meeting house" on Sunday, March 6 at 11:30 a.m. All of our families and friends are invited!!! Spread the news! Wear your best clothes and bring a smile!

~ Brice Smith, Moderator

Installation Service for Dr. Greuter –

West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW. 4th St., will install its twenty-fifth pastor, the Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, during a special service on Sunday, March 6 at 2:00 pm in the church. Rev. Greuter accepted the call of West Side Baptist Church starting February 1, 2016. The Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall, President of Central Baptist Theological Seminary, will deliver a special message during the installation service at the church. Other distinguished guests will include the Rev. Dr. John Williams, Executive Minister of



Installation

the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region, as well as other distinguished community and denominational leaders. Area clergy and citizens of Topeka are invited to this public event. A reception will follow the afternoon service. This service is free, and open-to-the-public.

American Baptist

Women's MINISTRIES

ABW (American Baptist Women's Ministries) – "Blessing from Dan and I from Beirut, Lebanon"

I thank you on behalf of the Prison ministry Team for the funds your Region raised towards the purchase of a vehicle for the Prison Ministry and the INSAAF Center.

I have not yet purchased the vehicle due to a couple of reasons. The main reason being, Lebanon is now filled up to the gills with Syrian and Iraqi Refugees. We now have almost 1.8 million Syrian and Iraqi refugees. The roads are overcrowded and parking is virtually impossible near the INSAAF Center. This is the most crowded part of Beirut. But here where the Center is now located in Dora, the rents are cheaper and this is where all the Migrant workers and refugees tend to congregate. The location is great for our Ministry but parking is a hassle. We are also trying to negotiate a parking space

and as soon as we have the green light we will go ahead and purchase the vehicle.

Jane, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your sacrificial giving towards the purchase of the vehicle. Please convey our thanks to the members of the ABW Women and the Churches who raised these funds for the vehicle.

Thank you. God Bless you and may you have a wonderful 2016

In His Service
Sarah
Chetti



Our Congregation was generous in your support of our ABWM PROJECT last year. The \$18,000 Sarah and Dan Chetti received from our ABC/CR Region is for the purchase of a van to travel among three women's prisons to provide materials these women need, the Maids of Lebanon. Sarah Chetti spreads the good news of Jesus Christ to these women so badly in need of comfort.

~ Rogene Moody, President ABWM

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 26 at 9:30am for kids 5th grade and below. We will have egg

hunt, Bible story, snacks and small gifts for those who stay for all the fun. We might even have other surprises. There will be a drawing for a special Easter Basket for adults who sign up. Be here promptly-don't risk missing the egg hunt.

~ Tom Mansfield, Stewardship

CAMPBELLS SOUP LABELS – We continue to mail UPC codes from soup labels to Murrow Indian Children's Center in Muskogee, OK. Murrow is saving one million UPC's for a van for the children's needs. Thank you to all of our faithful congregation for your continuing support. The box to collect the UPC codes is still outside the church office.

The Missions Committee
~ Marianne Spano

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2016

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING (AFC) - Dear West Side Members and Friends,

God's desire for all who know Him is for us to become more like Christ. We become more like Christ by first growing in our knowledge of Him. It stands to reason that we cannot grow to be like someone we don't know. The deeper our knowledge of Christ, the deeper our understanding of Him, and the more like

Him we become. Among other reasons, we are to know and



understand Christ so that we will be secure in the faith. The **America for Christ Offering 2016** theme "*Discipleship: Becoming More Like Christ*" reminds us that, as American Baptists, we embody the love of our Lord in word and deed.

The natural consequence of knowing and obeying God is that He becomes greater and greater, while we become less and

less, as we yield control of our lives to Him. Just as John the Baptist knew that "He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30), so the Christian grows to reflect more of Christ. Luke sums it up best when he describes what Jesus told His disciples: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it" (Luke 9:23-24).

The **America for Christ Offering 2016** reminds us that service is a way of life for Christ's church. Extending the hope, love and compassion of our Lord to our neighbors and communities is a powerful demonstration that we have been transformed. We are reinvigorated by this year's theme to come alongside people as they journey through life. I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year's **America for Christ Offering 2016** and in doing so, help us to



reach our goal as a church in support of home mission.

As the Chair of Missions, I am excited about the **AFC Offering** theme of “coming alongside people as we journey through life.” I know you understand this concept more than others. The Baby Closet and WWW are two powerful examples of how we practice this principle. With this understanding so much a part of our DNA I know you will give to your ability in support of the **AFC Offering** so others might have the courage to “come alongside people” in their neighborhoods. We will be receiving this offering throughout March. May God Bless You in your giving.

Your Mission Ministry
~ Bob Roesler

HOSPITAL – Patient privacy / confidentiality is not only the right thing to do for your protection, **IT IS THE LAW.** The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) that was passed by Congress in 1996 does not allow the hospital to share your information with the church or pastor. If you are admitted as a patient to a hospital or care center, please **call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 or Pastor’s home phone at (785) 267-0936** to let us know you have been admitted to the hospital. This is the best way to insure you receive a pastoral visit.



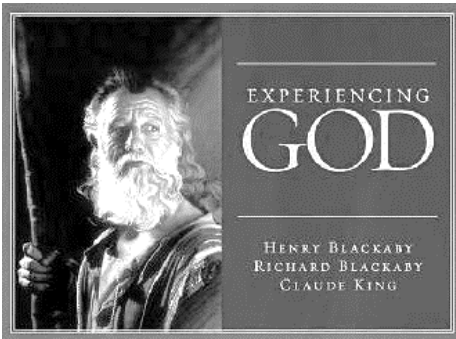
HOSPITAL



LADIES NIGHT OUT – Tuesday, March 1 @ Freddy’s Frozen Custard & Steakburgers. 1050 SW Wanamaker Rd, Topeka, Kansas 66604. Take a Night Off from cooking to connect with other Christian women during Ladies Night Out - a monthly gathering of women who encourage each other in their faith. All women attending West Side Baptist Church are welcome. Please invite friends. Dinner is *Dutch Treat*. Car-pooling is encouraged. Please contact Trena for directions, questions, or to make a reservation.

MEN’S NIGHT OUT – Tuesday, March 1 @ Freddy’s Frozen Custard & Steakburgers. 1050 SW Wanamaker Rd, Topeka, Kansas 66604. Join some familiar faces - and discover new friends - at the Men's Night Out, a monthly gathering of men to enjoy a meal at a local restaurant (Dutch Treat) and enjoy Christian fellowship.

RIDE TO CHURCH - If you are in need of transportation to/from a worship service or another church-related activity, please call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 during office hours (Tuesday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).



**SUNDAY
EVENING
BIBLE
STUDY** –
Sign Up for
the new
Sunday

Afternoon (4:00 p.m.) Bible Study
"Experiencing God" by Henry Blackaby
starting March 13, 2016. This intense
study will help you discover and do the
will of God. Purchase a workbook at
LifeWay Christian bookstore at 2121 SW
Fairlawn Plaze, or order a workbook
through the church office (Suggested
donation: \$15.00 ea). See Pastor for
concerns or questions.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE
STUDY** – Wednesdays @ 10:30 am Join
this in-depth study of the Book of Mark.
The lessons are taught Lectio Continuum
(In the early church a pattern of reading
an entire book or entire books of the Bible
and expounding passages of Scripture in
an ongoing way). No exams or quizzes,
but you can ask questions! No prior
knowledge of the Bible needed to join this
ecumenical group.

AMAZONSMILE - Shop on AmazonSmile
(<https://smile.amazon.com>) Select "West
Side Baptist Church Topeka Kansas" as
your charity of choice, and Amazon
donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible
AmazonSmile purchases to the church.
Support West Side Baptist Church by

starting your shopping at
<https://smile.amazon.com>.



NEWSLETTER – Articles
and updates for the newsletter are due on
**Wednesday, February 24 at 12:00
noon.** Send articles, news, testimonials,
poetry, etc. to Lynda Cokeley
(office@wsbctopeka.org). The newsletter
and calendar will be released on the last
Sunday of each month.

WHAT IS THAT FUNNY OBJECT? –
This QR Code (abbreviated from Quick
Response Code) is a type of matrix
barcode (or two-dimensional barcode)
which helps smart phone users navigates
quickly to a webpage. Open the QR
Scanner in any iPhone or Android device
to scan this QR. It will take you to the
church's webpage.



There was a preacher who fell in the
ocean and he couldn't swim. When a
boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you
need help, sir?" The preacher calmly said
"No, God will save me." A little later,
another boat came by and a fisherman
asked, "Hey, do you need help?" The
preacher replied again, "No God will save
me." Eventually the preacher drowned &
went to heaven. The preacher asked
God, "Why didn't you save me?" God
replied, "Fool, I sent you two boats!



Easter Story

Word Search

S C B M N E J E S U S C H R I S T
K A A P O D V G V A R E J O I C E
J R V M S P R A Y E R W C B V F S
Y N O I X I F I C U R C T R M L E
L A P C O I E B Q O X B B N O O L
I R E S U R R E C T I O N R E S T
T R E P P U S T S A L Y E M B L S
S H L U P V Y T K V F D M T E K O
O C A R N E P A X R E S I H M R P
C R M E P E N L D M A N A O I E A
E U B I K G A A P I J R R R R V V
T H X C H Y N T N H R S M N A O X
N C N C A M I E O C T F Y S C S J
E K E R K O S E W N E I D A L S U
P U T O N I R N W R P Y A O E A D
L E Z W R W M D R Q I T Y F O P A
B S M N D I S C I P L E S C X G S

APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
CAVE
CHURCH
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
FAITH
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
JUDAS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER
LENT
MARY
MIRACLE
PASSOVER
PENANCE
PENTECOST

PRAYER
REDEMPTION
REJOICE
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SAVIOR
SON
THORNS
TOMB

