

APRIL 2016

THE WITNESS

SHARE JESUS
WITH A FRIEND

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

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“Building Bridges of Hope”

Words from your pastor: My first church loved Bill Gaither songs. They were enamored with Southern Gospel Music; however, I must confess my lack of appreciation for his music. The congregation would sing, *Because He Lives*, every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Bible study if left to their own devices. I’m certain every hymnal in the sanctuary fell open to the page. The song inspired hope in God’s help, appreciation for Christ’s sacrifice, and resilience in the face of trials. It was sung each Easter as the closing song.

The meaning of this song changed for me from an overused anthem to a personal song of praise the first Easter service after Jessamine was born. The congregation stood to sing, “*Because He Lives!*” Then, the Holy Spirit inspired to change one word in the second stanza:

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,

And feel the pride and joy ~~he~~ *she* brings;

But greater still the calm assurance:

This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

God showed his insurmountable power to redeem by raising Jesus Christ from the dead. The Resurrection can fill us with hope when we realize that no matter what trials, temptations, or tortures we face, God can and will save us. We do not know what the future holds or when disaster will strike like the bombings in Paris, and now in Brussels. However, we do not lose hope, as the Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 4:8-12: *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.*

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 *hope*? Are we ready to encourage others with the calm assurance that we can face uncertain days because Jesus lives?

Blessings,
Pastor Ivan



NEWS IN THE PEWS



TREASURER'S REPORT - This is a general overview of our church finances through the end of February. With two months of expenses and income, we have started the year in a positive

way with a modest cash carry-over from 2015.

For the first two months of the year we spent \$1,312.70 more than what we brought in. For the first two months we should be about 16.7% of our budget. Our income is \$46,858.72 or 17.8%. Our expenses are \$48,171.42 or 18.3% of the budget.

In February, we received the annual distribution from the Topeka Community Foundation. This year that amount was \$7,676.00. We received another \$130 for the new carpet in the sanctuary and nursery which totals \$260 for the year.

The significant expense this month was our annual insurance payment of \$7,330 to Brotherhood Mutual. It was good that we had the Topeka Community Foundation check to balance this expense. Also, the first salary and benefits for our new pastor were paid in February. We had the final payment for interim housing for Dr. Rhodes. The Rhodes stayed at the Ramada Inn and

the bill was paid with our church credit card. The payment in February was for January housing.

We have \$6,142.37 in the checking account at the end of February which is \$787 less than last month. Depending on our offerings this month we will probably need to transfer about \$10,000 from our investments over the next month or two to maintain good cash flow.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



COUNCIL MINISTRIES UPDATE -This is a review of the Council of Ministries meeting that was held on March 8. We reviewed the Treasurer's report as well as the minutes from the February 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. West Side Baptist was contacted by Mr. Phil Chiles who is the Moderator of the American Baptist Churches of the Northeast Area asking if West Side Baptist would be interested in hosting their annual meeting on September 11, 2016. Council agreed to host their annual meeting. Brice will contact Mr. Chiles and let him know.



West Side Baptist has been set up on the Amazon.com's charitable program and is in the process of getting set up with Dillon's charitable program. Council agreed to have a separate account where electronic deposits will be made. More details will be coming to the congregation on how to use these programs.

It was also agreed by the Council to designate the last Sunday of the month for new member "Right hand of Fellowship". The Council also agreed on dates for Business meetings throughout the year for 2016. The dates are May 22, July 31, October 30, and November 30. Additional meetings can be scheduled and will be announced as early as possible so the church membership will know well in advance. New procedures for how the Agape Fund will be administered need to be done. Brice passed out a framework that was used in Pastor Ivan's prior church and the Council was asked to be prepared in April Council meeting to discuss this item.

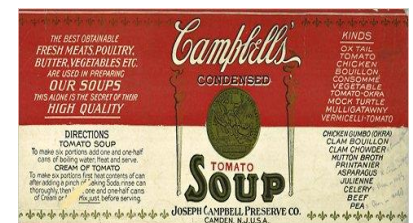
~ Brice Smith, Moderator

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

DIRECTORY INFORMATION - If you have a change to information like your address, phone number, or if we don't have an anniversary or birthday, please contact Lynda in the church office. She is the keeper of this information and to keep it current, please call or email the Church Office with the updated information.

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

SENIORS'

BREAKFAST

XYZer's BREAKFAST – Saturday April 9 @ Cracker Barrel at 9:00 am for anyone over the age of 55 and older for more information call John Swain at 785-273-2434.

Ladies Night Out



Tuesday, April 5 @ 5:30 pm AJ's Pizzeria 1930 NW West Street just West of 470 between 17th and 21st 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, April 5 @ 6:00 p.m. in Planet Sub, 2130 SW Wanamaker Rd #120, Topeka, KS 66614, 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.).

HOSPITAL – Patient privacy / confidentiality is not only the right thing to do for your protection, **IT IS THE LAW.** The



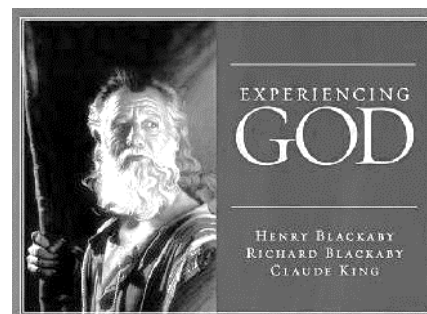
HOSPITAL

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.

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.

NEWSLETTER – Articles and updates for the newsletter are due on **Wednesday, April 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.



Pleaser Register at:

<http://www.internationalministries.org>

July 4 – 9, 2016

Green Lake Conference Center
Green Lake, Wisconsin

ABCCR SENIOR ADULT RETREAT — APRIL 15-16, 2015

Cross Wind Conference Center, Hesston, Kansas Registration Deadline is THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015 *** \$10 PER INDIVIDUAL LATE FEE ASSESSED IF POSTMARKED AFTER MARCH 28 *** Cancellation Policy: A full refund will be given if cancelled by Thursday, April 2, 2015 After April 2, a \$10 fee per individual will be non-refundable. You can find a registration form in the office on Lynda's desk.

CAMP REGISTRATION –The Ministry of Christian Education wants to help you send your child to church camp this summer at our denominational camp: Cross Wind Conference



Center, 8036 N. Hoover Rd., in Hesston, KS 67062. You can find valuable information about Cross Wind Conference Center – including the

packing list, employment, and important health form – at www.crosswind.ws. The Ministry of Christian Education will pay 50% of the camp registration fee for each student to attend one camp in 2016 from West Side Baptist Church who register on or before Friday, April 15, 2016. Please give your registration forms to the Church Office.

**NEW SUNDAY
SCHOOL CLASS –**

Pastor will begin a new Adult Sunday School class

– **FOUNDATIONS:
11 CORE TRUTHS
OF THE CHRISTIAN**

FAITH - next Sunday, April 3 at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (cafeteria).

Join this twelve-week class to learn the essential truths of the Christian faith and how these truths are to live out – in your relationships, your character, and your work. Class: Free!

ZECHARIAH - Zechariah teamed up with Hagai to get the people of God moving to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. The self-identity as the people of God was in ruins. The task was to get the people out of their self-preoccupation and working together. He, in the words of Eugene Peterson, “reinvigorated their imaginations with his visions and messages.”

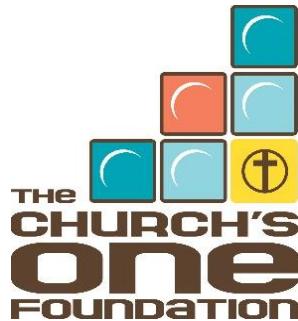
Zechariah is divided into sections: Chapters 1 -6 are his visions; Chapters 7-8 are his sermons; Chapter 10 speaks of the coming of the King; chapters 10-11 of the coming of

redemption; Chapter 12 of the coming of God; Chapter 13 of the coming of hope; Chapter 14 of the coming of the “day of the Lord”. Peter C. Craigie, in *Twelve Prophets* says, “Zechariah and his contemporaries were engaged in the physical work of building, but what he could see, more than the others, was the significance of their physical activity on God’s larger spiritual plans for his people.”

Zechariah addresses issues that have continued to trouble mankind through time. Must evil always seem to triumph over good? Is God really almighty? Will the world ever get better? Is there hope? Zechariah answers them from the perspective of faith in God and hope in God’s future.

Today, we do not usually try to explain something through visions as Zechariah does in the first chapters. So, how about reading a vision, then closing your eyes and envisioning that vision, and then being still to hear what thoughts the Holy Spirit puts in your mind. Peterson closes his comments on Zechariah with these words.

“Zechariah’s enigmatic visions working at multiple levels, and his poetically charged messages are at work still, like time capsules in the lives of God’s people, continuing to release insight and hope and clarity for the people whom God is using to work out his purposes in a world that has no language for God and the purposes of God.” ~ Almira



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EVENING
DOORS
FEAR
PEACE
HANDS
SIDE
BREATHED
FORGIVE
THOMAS
HOLES
NAILS
FINGER



Bible Wordsearch



The Vineyard
Workers

Wordsearch 175

Matt.20:1-16

K G S I X T H M O R N I N G D
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DENARIUS OTHERS
EARLY OWNER
ELEVENTH PAY
ENVIOUS RECEIVED
EQUAL RIGHT
EVENING SIXTH
EXPECTED STANDING
FOREMAN STILL
GENEROUS TOLD
GRUMBLE UNFAIR
HEAVEN VINEYARD
HIRE WAGES
WORKERS

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

MORE PUZZLES AT:

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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