

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

Email: office@wsbctopeka.org | Website: www.wsbctopeka.org

JULY 2016

Words from our pastor: The Word Mission Conference has been an important part of our family's history. Rexanne and I remember our first World Mission Conference at Green Lake, Wisc.: the mind blowing experience of meeting missionaries first-hand, the hospitality offered to numerous international guest, the Spirit-moving testimonies of God's work around the world, the international music festival, the children's workshops, the international market, the food, the fun, and more. I can recall the first time we took Jessa in a stroller to the World Mission Conference. We were the "young couple with the baby" (sweet memories). We were all infected with God's passion for mission!



It is a great joy to have the World Mission Conference return to our denominational Conference Center / American Baptist Assembly grounds this July 2-9 after more than ten years. We are expecting a few changes this year as dramatic changes seem to take place in a relatively brief period of time. We know there will be more than twenty missionary families present, new missionaries commissioned, and wonderful music and message. However, we know the major change will be the message: *Christians are no longer expected to send only their money to professional missionaries – we're all now expected to "go!" as agents and objects of God's mission.* Mission is not something God has called us to do in foreign fields. *God is now calling the church to work next door, across the street, in our neighborhood, AND around the world.*

The Church now understands that our God is a *missional God*! God is on the move all over the earth with a purpose: **to draw all people to himself in Jesus Christ**. We know God accomplished this task when the Father sent Jesus Christ. Now, we know that Jesus has sent his Church into the world to continue God's work, as Jesus said in John 20:21: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." "Being sent" or "going" to our...



NEWS IN THE PEW

neighbors, our city, our country, and the world is the primary purpose of God's church in the new millennium. This is a dramatic change from our view of missions in the early part of the twentieth century.

Today, Christians do not want to just "give to missions," but they want to "go do missions." Thom Rainer, a professional Baptist church leader, tells us in his blog, "Seven Ways Church Outreach Has Changed in 15 Years," that previous generations, "invested significant resources in attracting people to their worship services or to some big event. More resources are now being expended on members going into the community. Hands-on ministry and small group connections are becoming a more normative approach to reaching people today." The old model of "watching" and "waiting" for people to come to church no longer works in our new millennium.

The Good News of Jesus now competes with countless other "religions" and "messages" in our plurality culture. So the church must adapt its approach to this new world. Hopefully, this year's World Mission Conference will remind us of everything we enjoyed in the past, yet also move us boldly forward into God's mission in the new millennium. "Go!"

Blessings,
Pastor Ivan

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMENS MINISTRIES (ABWM) - MAKE A DIFFERENCE -

At every RED LIGHT, pray that the Red Light Districts around the world will shut down. At every STOP SIGN pray for a stop to the trafficking of human beings. Every time you drink a cup of COFFEE or TEA pray for organizations around the world that offer hot drinks and encouraging words to the women. When you see CHILDREN PLAYING pray for trafficking and exploited children to be set free.

ABW MINISTRIES/ABC/USA
<http://www.abwministries.org/>



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE

– There will be a Christian Education meeting to organize the 2016-2017 WWW (Wonderful Wednesdays at West Side) program year on **Thursday, July 28 at 6:00 pm in Homer Hall (Parlor)**. We will discuss curriculum, the schedule, and other ideas to improve this Children's program. All WWW volunteers are welcome!

~ Colleen Smith, Christian Education

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.

DILLON AND AMAZON SMILE - West Side now enrolled in Dillon's Community Rewards and Amazon Smile



Look for dates soon for assistance in signing up with Dillon's Community Rewards and Amazon Smile. You can now designate West Side Baptist Church for these charitable programs and we will have sign up days after church where we can help you get it set up.

GREEN TABLE CLOTH – Why do we have a green tablecloth on the Communion Table?



ALTAR GUILD

A tablecloth or "parament" (from Late Latin paramentum, adornment, parare, to prepare, equip) is a term used by ancient writers to describe the table clothes and pulpit scarves Western churches have used to differentiate liturgical seasons since the fourth century. These colors express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons of the liturgical year.

Violet is the ancient royal color and therefore a symbol of the sovereignty of Christ, and also associated with repentance from sin. **White and Gold** symbolize the brightness of day. **Black** is the traditional color of mourning in some cultures. **Red** evokes the color of blood, and therefore is the color of martyrs and of Christ's death on the Cross. Red also symbolizes fire, and therefore is the color of the Holy Spirit. **Green** is the color of growth.

Mainline churches have the freedom to use any combination of colors (or no particular colors) as seems best to them. The use of traditional colors, however, connects us to the wider Body of Christ and provides worship planners with visual aids that mark the transition from one season to another. Colors can be used in altar and pulpit decorations, vestments, banners and tapestries.

HOSPITAL – Patient privacy / confidentiality is not only the right thing



HOSPITAL 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.

FINANCE REPORT - This is a general overview of our church finances through the end of May. We are at 41.7% of the budget year. Our income to date is: \$106,477.79 or 40.5% of our budget which is up \$24,035 from last month. This is a significant increase in giving in a one-month period! It hasn't been that high in one month since June 2015 except for February when we received the annual lump sum payment from the Topeka Community Foundation investment (Hill and Woodin bequests).

Our expenses to date are: \$110,051.08 or 41.9% of our budget. This is up \$20,950 from last month. Even though we have had more income, we have also had more expenditures. We have spent \$3,573.99 more since the first of the year than our receipts.

The capital campaign has paid the last of the expenses from the redecorating and furnishing of the Pastor's office. I hope you take a moment to stop in to say hello to the Pastor and check out the new look in the Pastor's study!

I have requested the remaining sum of \$1,228.33 from the Ruby Edward's investment fund at Wells Fargo that will help pay for the youth to attend the Quest Youth Leadership program in Green Lake, Wisconsin. I have also requested \$5,000 from our undesignated funds at Wells Fargo to

repay the remaining amount loaned earlier this year from the capital campaign.

We have \$3,737.12 in the checking account at the end of May.

I'm pleased to report that Judy Longstaff has volunteered to serve on the Memorials Committee with Molly Morris, Alice Payne and myself. Thanks to all three women for agreeing to serve. We will be meeting in July or August to review the new memorials that have been received since our last meeting and to review any requests for memorial expenditures.

Let me know if you have any questions on our church finances. Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

May Council of Ministries Update -

This is a review of the Council of Ministries meeting that was held on June 14. We reviewed the Treasurer's report and the Minutes for the month of May. We went over our normal reporting for each of the coordinators of each ministry. West Side Baptist Church will be hosting the NE Area Annual Meeting on September 11. The Youth will be given the opportunity to help with preparing and serving dinner as a fundraiser. Heartland Day Camp is going on the week we met and things were going well. Also, a special meeting will be held on June 26 to get a vote on West Side Baptist Church being a distribution site for Harvesters. The Council agreed to use resources

available through Ottawa University as we go through our Visioning process. This will be done at no cost to the church. There was also discussion on security cameras but no action was taken at this time.

~ Brice Smith, Moderator

HEARTLAND DAY CAMP - "For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear, I will help you." Isaiah 43:1 Courageous faith was the focus for twenty -nine campers during Heartland Day Camp. West Side Baptist and Potwin Presbyterian hosted these campers and four counselors June 13 - 17. Some of the activities during the week included morning watch (Bible story time), crafts, water time, archery, games, story time and of course, lots of singing.

Our afternoons concluded with a recap of the Bible story led by Pastor Ivan and Pastor Sue Ann. Our mission project for the week was called "Kids for Kids." The campers worked to raise money to purchase a goat for the children of Northeast India. They did an amazing job and raised enough dollars to purchase four goats! We also took a mini field trip to Ward Meade Park to ride the horses that were brought from Heartland Camp in Parkville, Missouri.

It was with great joy and excitement that one of our campers shared his decision to follow Christ. We look forward to his baptism.

Of course none of this could have happened without our faithful volunteers. A big thank you to: Lonna Hersh, Tom and Jan Mansfield, Don Johnson, Becky Poe, Ernie and Judy Longstaff, Mark Calloway and Selena

Jaimez Pastor Ivan and others from Potwin for their dedication and patience throughout the week. Molly and Don Morris, Ernie and Judy Longstaff, Ivan and Rexanne Greuter, Tara Triggs and Potwin Presbyterian provided dinner for the counselors during the week. We also want to extend thanks to our great junior counselors Shelby Hersh, Sage Poe, Reanna Campbell and Caitlyn Charity from Potwin for their assistance in the kitchen and with the campers.

If you were unable to help during the week there is still an opportunity to show your support. The horses cost an extra \$500.00 that was not in our budget. If you would like to give a few dollars, that would be greatly appreciated. We have already received \$ 147.00 so thanks to those who have already donated.

Thanks so much for all of your prayers and support!

~ Colleen Smith, Christian Education

LADIES NIGHT OUT -



Tuesday, July 5
@ 5:30 pm at
Pizagels. 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, July 5
@ 6:00 pm at Cook's American Grill.



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.

MISSION COMMITTEE – Are you interested in God's work in Topeka and Around the World? Join Pastor Ivan for a Mission Meeting on



the **Third Tuesday of July (July 19) at 6:00 p.m. in Homer Hall (Parlor).** Everyone is invited!

NEWSLETTER – Articles and updates for the newsletter are due on **Wednesday, July 20 at 12:00 noon.** Send articles, news, testimonials, poetry, etc. to Lynda Cokeley (office@wsbctopeka.org). The calendar and newsletter will be released on the last Sunday of each month.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE – The Outreach and Evangelism Committee will meet on the fourth **Tuesday, July 26 at 6:00 p.m. in Homer Hall (Parlor).** See Mark Calloway, Coordinator, for agenda and details.

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.).



Seniors' Breakfast

XYZer's BREAKFAST – Join a group of Seniors who enjoy having fun and making real friendships. The "Extra Years of Zest" small group will meet on Saturday, July 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.

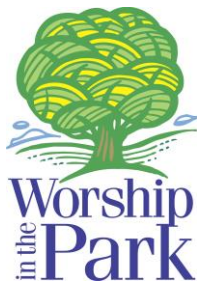
SURVEYS – Thank you to the numerous individuals who have completed the **Core Values Survey** and the **Serving as the Hands & Feet of Christ form**. This invaluable information will be used by the Church Council and Nominating Committee to recruit volunteers and leaders to guide Christ's Church into the future. Remember:

- God has Gifted Every Person for Service
- Every One has a Place to Serve
- Serve in the Place Which Matches Your Passions!

Extra surveys may be picked up in the Church Office, or complete the surveys on-line by contacting the Pastor.

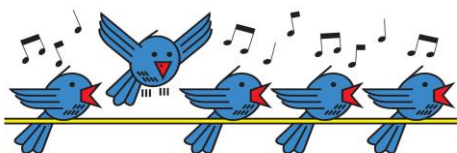
WORSHIP IN THE PARK

– The annual, ecumenical worship service in Gage Park will be on Sunday, September 18 this year.



The churches – Central Congregational Church, Gage Park Baptist Church, Potwin Presbyterian, and West Side Christian Church - are joining their choirs to provide special music throughout the service. Due to the number of songs there are to learn, we will be rehearsing together throughout the summer. We are hopeful that choir members from all the churches will be able to attend many of the rehearsals shown below. Location for the rehearsals will be determined by a meeting with the choir directors on May 31. The first rehearsal will be held at West Side Baptist Church.

- Sat, July 16: 1:30 – 3:30 pm
- Wed, July 27: 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Wed, August 24: 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Sat, August 27: 1:30 – 3:30 pm
- Wed, August 31: 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Wed, September 7: 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- Wed, September 14: 7:00 – 8:30
- Sat, September 17: 1:30 – 3:30



A VISIT DAN AND SARAH CHETTI -

Our American Baptist Missionaries in Lebanon will be coming to West Side Baptist Church for a special visit on Thursday, August 4. The Chettis were the first International Ministries missionaries commissioned in the Arab world. They have been serving in Lebanon for over a decade—and have continued to serve through the Israel-Hezbollah fighting and the “Arab Spring” and “Arab Winter.” They believe these are moments of great challenge, yet opportune times in the Arab world.

Dan is an Adjunct Professor at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Beirut—an institution preparing leaders for ministry primarily across nine countries in the Middle East and North Africa. He teaches history of Christianity and historical theology. In addition, he is a member of the Faculty Council, a mentor to students, and he does research and writing on contemporary a strategic ministry concept called “Arab World Initiative.”

Sarah worked as the librarian at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, reviving and reorganizing it after the long Lebanese Civil War. She expanded

the holdings, classifying and computerizing the entire library. She then trained and turned over the management of the library to a Lebanese lady.

For the last few years, Sarah has been pioneering a ministry among foreign migrant women working as maids in Lebanon. There are 300,000 foreign maids laboring in Lebanon, a small nation with a population of just three million. Sarah ministers with the help of three other ladies. She visits and ministers at two other prisons, including one in Tripoli. She now runs an integrated Centre for Domestic Workers—Insaaf: Justice and Compassion of Jesus—at Hadath Baptist Church, Beirut. In cooperation with other organizations, Sarah advocates for the rights of the maids, fighting injustice and human trafficking.

Dan and Sarah are very active members of the International Church in Beirut, a vibrant congregation with over thirty nationalities. Dan is a member of the Ministry Leadership Team; he preaches and coordinates home groups and mission outreach. The Chettis host one of the home groups once a week and Dan hosts a men's prayer breakfast twice a month.

Watch the bulletin for more details about Dan and Sarah Chetti's upcoming visit to West Side Baptist Church in August.



**Bible
Book of
the
Month –
James**

There was a very hard fight to get James included in the New Testament.

Even Luther would gladly have banished it from the New Testament. However, it was included in the Vulgate. There has also been concern over who wrote the book. Many “James” have been included in the discussions. Perhaps the most prevalent is that it was James, the brother of Jesus, or someone who used his name, not an uncommon practice of the time.

James is probably best understood as a sermon. Rather than a theological work, it is a sermon calling people to virtue. James uses imperatives commanding people to right action (James has approximately 60 imperatives). James also uses rhetorical questions, personifies sins and graces, uses pictures and figures from everyday life, and uses examples of famous men and women. At times he speaks with sternness and harshness. Goodspeed writes of James, “The work has been compared to a chain, each link related to the one before and the one after it. Others have compared its contents to beads on a string. And, perhaps, James is not so much a chain of thoughts or beads as it is a handful of pearls dropped into the hearer's mind.”

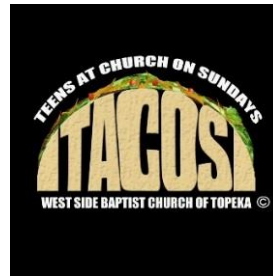
Often people outside the church accuse the church and Christians of saying one thing but acting in another. James speaks, with well chosen words,

to this conflict. "What good is it my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works." (2.14) His theme is that genuine faith will inevitably produce good works. He outlines some general characteristics of the Christian life, challenges Christians to act in certain ways, and addresses certain specific issues, issues still with us today. One author said, "This epistle could be considered a how-to book on Christian living. Confrontation, challenge, and commitment await you in its pages. Read James and become a doer of the word."

Key Verse: "But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you faith." (2.18) Or as Peterson puts it, "You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together like hand and glove."

~ Almira Collier, Worship

YOUTH GROUP NAME – T.A.C.O.S. –



The Youth Group has chosen a new name: **T.A.C.O.S.** which stands for "**Teens at Church on Sundays.**" Mark

Calloway has helped the T.A.C.O.S. Youth Group design a new logo. New T-shirts will be ordered, soon. Watch for more news from these young leaders.

ABCUSA 2017 BIENNIAL – Save the Date! Go with the Greuter family to the American Baptist Churches Biennial

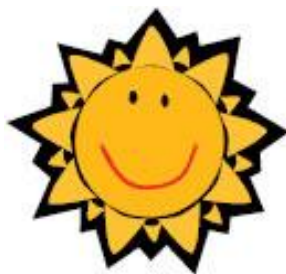


Mission Summit in Portland, Oregon, next year - June 30 to July 2, 2017. A number of exciting events occur before and after the official Mission Summit dates - so plan to come for the full event! www.americanbaptists2017.com



WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE – Pastor Ivan and his family will be attending the **World Mission Conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin the week of Saturday, July 2 thru Saturday, July 9.** WSBC will have a guest preacher on Sunday, July 3. In the event of an emergency, please call the Church Office or Pastor's cellphone.





WELCOME SUMMER

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

AUGUST
BEACH
BIKES
CAMPING
CARNIVAL
COOKOUTS
FIREFLIES
FIREWORKS
FISHING
FLIPFLOPS

FUN
HULA HOOPS
ICE CREAM
JULY
JUMPROPE
JUNE
MOVIES
PARADES
PARTIES
PICNICS
POOL

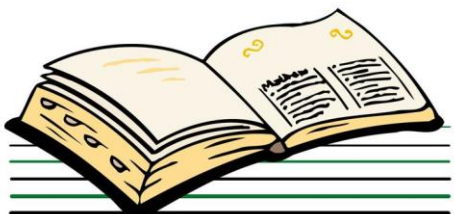
POPSICLES
ROLLERCOASTER
SANDALS
SPLASH
SPRINKLER
SNOWCONES
SUNGLASSES
SUNSCREEN
SWIMMING
THEME PARK
VACATION

THE WITNESS NEWSLETTER
WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
1008 SW 4TH ST
TOPEKA, KS 66606-1199
www.wsbctopeka.org

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

SUMMER SERMON SERIES - *A LIFE WORTH LIVING!*

July 3	Pastor at Conference	Guest Speaker
July 10	Galatians 3:26-4:7	"Sons and Daughters of God: Inheritors"
July 17	Galatians 5:1-15	"The Only Thing that Matters!"
July 24	Galatians 5:16-26	"Live by the Holy Spirit"
July 31	Galatians 6:1-10	"Doing Good to All"
August 7	Galatians 6:11-18	"The End is the Beginning: A New Creation"



SUMMER SERMON SERIES
A LIFE WORTH LIVING!