

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

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August 2016

“Committed to Sacrificial Service”

Words from our pastor: The World Mission Conference was an amazing five-day experience for our family in Green Lake, Wisconsin! If you have not visited the Green Lake Conference Center (aka American Baptist Assembly), then please put it on your bucket list! Each morning, afternoon, and evening, our American Baptist missionaries, International Ministries (IM) staff, and International Guests shared heart-felt stories about God’s work in the world, and the sacrifice Christians are making to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We heard testimonials about God’s work in Africa, Burma (Myanmar), Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Hungary, Mexico, North East India, Thailand, and more. We also participated in the installation service of the new Executive Director of IM, the Rev. Sharon T. Koh. Sharon served as the senior associate pastor of Mission and Community Life for Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles, California, prior to her call to lead our historic mission agency following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Reid S. Trulson at the end of August. The whole conference was amazing except when I threw my phone into the lake by accident.



We were also blessed to be able to reconnect with our friends – The Rev. Dr. Jon and Amanda Good. We have known one another for twenty years, and our kids have attended conferences together since they were born (see photos on Facebook). Jon and Amanda - along with their four children - have been endorsed as missionaries to the Baptist Union of Hungary. Amanda will assist with music education at one of the



forty-nine schools managed by Hungarian Baptist Aid (HBAid). She will also assist with discipleship ministries of the Baptist Church in Debrecen. Jon will assist the Baptist Church in Debrecen with its evangelistic outreach, church planting and church development ministries, and will assist in the training of Christian leaders through the Union’s seminary. Amanda and Jon will also work...

NEWS IN THE PEW

... with new church planting efforts.

I knew answering the Lord's call to ministry and missions required great sacrifices but I never imagined the major adjustments our missionaries had to make until I attended a workshop about entering missionary service.

To be foreign missionaries, the Six Goods, as they call themselves, had to resign from their full-time jobs, sell all of their belongings – including their cars, furniture, house, and the kid's toys. They had to commit to a six-year term of service during which the first two years would include traveling across the US to attend classes in cross cultural living, being an expatriate (an American living in a foreign country), learning the Hungarian language (which is not easy), self-defense and evacuation protocols (IM does not pay ransoms for kidnapped missionaries), maintaining their health and wellness outside the US medical system, as well as visit hundreds of churches and Christians to raise the required financial support they'll need for four years of service (in excess of \$400,000.00). After all of this is done, then they get to go into the mission field.

When I heard about the sacrifices of our missionaries, I wondered: How many Christ-followers do I know who

Carry the cross
and follow me.

Luke 14:27, NRSV



are committed to this level of service? Would my family be willing to “sell it

all” to carry the cross for the Lord? Could I say, “Yes, Lord, send me!” We all know following Christ comes with a cost. Are we committed to sacrificial service in the name of the Lord?

Please join my family as we prayerfully and financially support Jon and Amanda Good – and all of our American Baptist staff, missionaries, development workers, consultants!

Blessings,
Pastor Ivan

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMENS MINISTRIES (ABWM) - MAKE A DIFFERENCE - At every RED LIGHT,

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

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/>

COUNCIL MEETING - This is a review of the Council of Ministries meeting that was held on July 12. We reviewed the Treasurer's report and the Minutes for the month of June. 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.

~ 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

FINANCES FOR JUNE

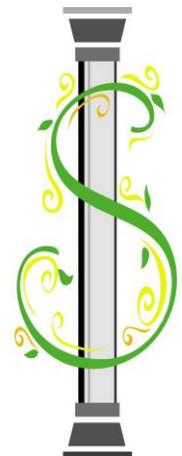
- We are half way through the year with this report so keep that in mind as you review the information below on our income and expenses.
- For June, our income to date was: \$125,690.72 or 47.9% of our budget. This is up \$19,212.93 over last month.
- Our expenses to date were: \$135,620.73 or 51.6% of our budget.

This is up \$25,569.65 over last month.

- For the first half of the year we spent \$9,929.97 more than what we received in income.
- The \$1,228.33 in the Ruby Edward's investment fund at Wells Fargo was withdrawn in June. The money was requested to help pay the expenses for the youth to attend the Quest Youth Leadership program in Green Lake, Wisconsin. That was all that was in the fund so it is now closed.
- I also withdrew \$5,000 from our undesignated funds at Wells Fargo to repay the outstanding loan from our church's capital campaign. In next month's report I'll review the second quarter for our remaining Wells Fargo investments.
- The checking account at the end of June shows a -\$1,421.49. Don't panic. We didn't have an overdraft. We held several checks until after the July 5th bank deposit from our July 3rd offering. We've had to do this several times and I may need to transfer more from our investments to help with cash flow. I'll keep you posted if I decide to do that.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg,
Treasurer



**FINANCE
REPORT**

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

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. If you need assistance with setting this up, contact Pastor Ivan or Brice.

UPDATES - 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.

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.

LADIES NIGHT OUT -



Tuesday, August 2
@ 5:30 pm at
El Dorado Mexican
Grill. 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, August 2 @ 5:30 pm at El Dorado Mexican



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.



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, August 13 @ 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.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE – The Outreach and Evangelism Committee will meet on every fourth **Tuesday of the month at 7:15 p.m. in Homer Hall (Parlor)**. See Mark Calloway, Coordinator, for agenda and details.

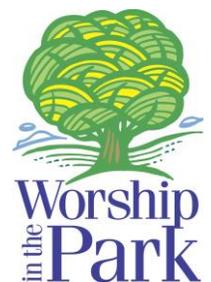
RIDE TO CHURCH- If you are in need of transportation to/from a worship service or another church-related activity, please call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 during office hours (Tuesday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

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

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

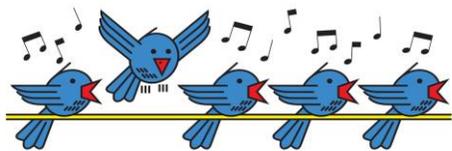
– The annual, ecumenical **worship service in Gage Park will be on Sunday, September 18** this year.

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.

- 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.

Meadows Ministry -

We are happy to announce a continued relationship with

Meadows Elementary School. We will again this year be collecting contributions to help support the needs of children being educated in our neighborhood. Together we can again come to aid of the less fortunate youth and share God's love.

We have four different ways that we will be supporting them. First, we are asking for donations to purchase backpacks that can be distributed to children that don't have one. Don Morris will be making a bulk purchase with an estimated cost of \$500 for 75



backpacks. If you can make a contribution towards these efforts it will be most helpful. Second, we will be collecting school supplies to send over in addition to the backpacks. We will place a list of the supplies needed on the bulletin board outside of the office. Third, we are also collecting new hats and gloves to help keep children warm in the winter months. There will be a tree in the sanctuary to hang them on. Finally, we will be hosting the first of two meals for the teachers during the parent teacher conferences. We have decided again to hire a catering company to supply the food.

We have done well in the past and hope this year will be just as successful. Thanks so much for being a part of this ministry.

~ Mark Calloway, Outreach

Garage Sale - On October 22nd we will be hosting our neighborhood garage sale. We have 20 tables that will be available on a first come first serve so please call the church office if you would like to reserve one. The rain date for this sale is October 29th. Setup for this event will be at 7:00 am and the sale will start at 8:00 am and end at 1:00 pm. Those who have a table will be responsible for removing all unsold items after the sale. We are asking that individuals make a donation to the church for the space if you can. We hope to see you there.

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.



Deuteronomy –Bible Book for August

Close your eyes for a moment and

imagine yourself an Israelite standing on

the bank of the Jordan anxiously

anticipating crossing over into the

promised land. Now Moses, eyesight

sharp as ever and still with a spring in

his step begins to preach. You can feel

the emotions all around you.

Deuteronomy is either the longest

sermon ever preached or more likely a

series of sermons. After he ends his

preaching, Moses will climb the mountain and die. In the words of Eugene Peterson (The Message),

“This sermon does what all sermons are intended to do: Take God’s words, written and spoken in the past, take the human experience, ancestral and personal, of the listening congregation, then reproduce the words and experiences as a single event right now, in this present moment. No word that

God has spoken is a mere literary artifact to be studied, no human experience is dead history merely to be regretted or admired. The continuous and insistent Mosaic repetitions of “today” and “this day” throughout these sermons keep attentions taut and responsive. The complete range of human experience is brought to life and salvation by the full revelation of God: Live this! Now!”

“(Moses) put the entire revelation of commandment and covenant into the present tense (chapters 12-28) then he raps it all up in a charge and a song and a blessing to launch them into today’s obedience and believing (chapters 29-34)

As you read, listen to Moses words and think about the God’s words to us as a congregation and the history of our fellowship.

~ Almira Collier, Worship

A worthy CAUSE

No One Dies Alone (NODA) Program a Volunteer Opportunity - The No One

Dies Alone (NODA) program is a nationally-recognized program that brings trained volunteers to the bedside to serve as a reassuring presence and support to patients who are actively dying and have no family or friends to be with them.

Currently, we are recruiting volunteers from the community to serve as NODA compassionate companions. In addition to the volunteer companion role, we are also recruiting for 6 – 8 volunteer telephone coordinators who will coordinate the schedule for volunteers to support the patient vigil once it has been activated.

Many hospitals across the nation have implemented the NODA program or a similar program since the first program began in 2001. Stormont Vail's program was developed by the NODA planning committee based on the experiences of other hospitals, including the Mayo Clinic. We are happy to be able to provide this meaningful service to our patients and encourage all who wish to volunteer to apply.

Community volunteers will complete the onboarding process for a new volunteer in addition to attending the mandatory NODA orientation session.

Orientation sessions are scheduled in October 2016 for individuals who complete the requirements to volunteer.

If you are interested in learning more about the program or applying for a volunteer companion or volunteer telephone coordinator position, please contact Beverly Rice, Director Volunteer Service, 785-354-6084 or email volunteerdept@stormontvail.org,

Back To School



School bells are ringing, loud and clear;

Vacation's over, school is here.

We hunt our pencils and our books,
And say goodbye to fields and brooks,

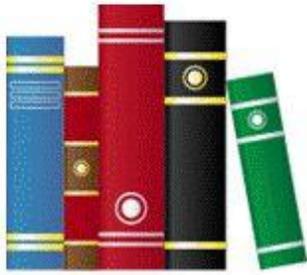
To carefree days of sunny hours,
To birds and butterflies and flowers.

But we are glad school has begun.

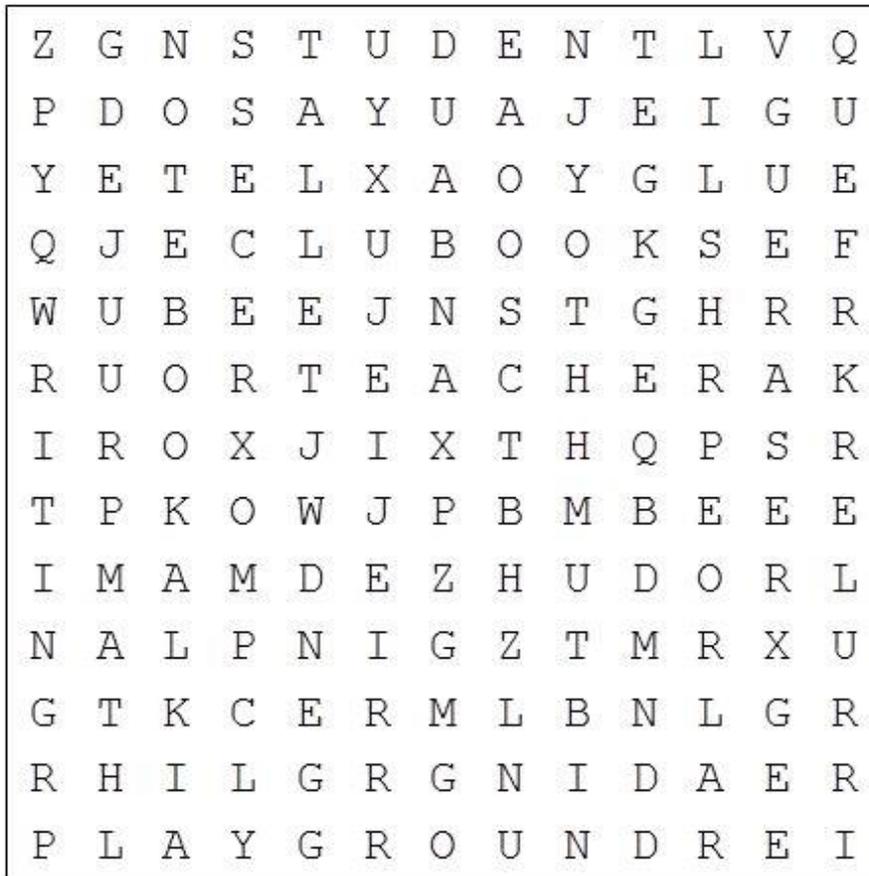
For work is always mixed with fun.

When autumn comes and the weather is
cool,

Nothing can take the place of school.



Back to School



BOOKS
DESK
ERASER
GLUE
LUNCHBOX
MATH

NOTEBOOK
PAPER
PENCIL
PLAYGROUND
READING
RECESS

RULER
STUDENT
TEACHER
WRITING



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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Mark 16:15-16

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."