

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

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September 2016

“What Are You Talking About?”

Words from our pastor: My first trip to the Starbucks coffee shop was an embarrassing moment for me. Granted, it was my first trip but not my last. I told the waitress, “I would like a cup of coffee.” She looked at me with a smile knowing this



must be my first time. “A what?” the Barista asked me. “A cup of coffee,” I replied. “How big of cup of coffee do you want to buy?” she asked with a crooked smile, as she probably thought “this guy is an idiot.” “A small cup,” I said with a smile. “Do you want skim or whole milk, or soy?” she asked. “Soy,” I said. “Any flavors?” *Flavors?* “Yes,” I said cheerfully because I didn’t know a flavor was ever an option, “white chocolate

mocha.” “Okay,” she replied, as she handed me a menu for beginners, “next time, try ordering like this: “a tall, soy, white chocolate mocha, please.” “Ah!” I said. Starbucks uses its own vocabulary. If I wanted to be a Starbucks patron, then I needed to learn the lingo. Knowing the language not only makes ordering faster but it also gives me the feeling that I belong – I am one of the millions of insiders who enjoy Starbucks.

Churches have their own vocabulary, too. A recent article in The Christian Century magazine, *Faith in Translation: The Gospel as a Second Language*, reminded me of this fact. Trey Hall wrote “a fast-growing number of people do not have a religious first language.” “And,” Hall writes, “many churches don’t seem eager to connect with them” (Jun 09, 2016). As Christians, we are accustomed to using words the wider community seldom hears, like: “sin,” “grace,” “gospel,” “fellowship” or “fellowship hall,” “justification by faith,” “sanctuary,” “tithing,” etc. First time guests and new believers are quickly confused and embarrassed when they don’t know these code-words. As a church, it’s important for us to be mindful of the barriers we create with our “insider language.” The Paul told us, “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity,” Col. 4:5 (NIV). We don’t have to stop using *Christian* words, but we do need to use them wisely to promote clear communications.

Blessings (or “May God smile on you today),

Pastor Ivan

Gospel = God's Love Story about You

NEWS IN THE PEW

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMENS MINISTRIES (ABWM) - MAKE A

DIFFERENCE - At every RED LIGHT, pray that the Red Light Districts around

American Baptist

Women's
MINISTRIES

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/>



TREASURER'S REPORT

- This is a general overview of our church finances through the end of July.

- We are at 58.3% of the budget year.
- For July, our income to date is: \$144,910.07 or 55.17% of our budget. This is up \$19,219.35 over last month.
- Our expenses to date are: \$155,394.87 or 59.16% of our budget. This is up \$19,774.14 over last month. This is a little more than \$2,000 over budget.
- We have spent \$10,484.80 more than receipts since the first of the year. Each month we are spending more than we are receiving. To help with cash flow, I transferred \$5,000 from the Wells Fargo investments in

June and borrowed from the Capital Campaign \$5,000 in July. I borrowed \$2,500 from the Capital Campaign in August to help pay taxes and payroll. I also withdrew \$1,228.33 from the Wells Fargo Ruby Edward's investment fund in June (closed account) to checking account for expenses for the youth to attend the Quest Youth Leadership program in Green Lake, Wisconsin. Depending on income in August and early September I may need to transfer more from the Wells Fargo investment fund to help with cash flow. When I do, I will probably transfer enough to pay back the \$7,500 borrowed from the capital campaign.

- The checking account at the end of July was \$1,727.99.
Second quarter report on our Wells Fargo investments:
- West Side General Account – \$50,286.11. \$5,000 was withdrawn in June. We started the year with \$52,540.07.
- Howard Edman Bequest – \$178,127.86. We started the year with \$169,077.59.
- Ruby Edward's Fund – Account closed. Transferred \$1,228.33 in fund to checking account in June.

Let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



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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 smile.amazon.com.

BIBLE STUDY (WEDNESDAY

MORNINGS) - Pastor Ivan is teaching a free, in-depth study of the **Book of Romans on Wednesdays at 10:30 am** in Holmer Hall (Parlor). Everyone is welcome. No exams or quizzes, but you can ask questions! No prior knowledge of the Bible needed to join this group. Join us!

BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY

AFTERNOON) – **TONIGHT** is the last session for the Experiencing God bible study on **Sunday at 4:00 pm in Holmer Hall**. There will be no Bible Study on September 4 (Labor Day Weekend) or September 11 (NE Area Meeting). **Pastor will begin a new study of the Book of Daniel on September 18 at 4:00 pm in Holmer Hall.**

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY – The Church Family extends their sympathy and support to Bev, Anne, and John McCurdy at the passing of Chaplain Gil McCurdy on August 12, 2016.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE – The Outreach Committee will be hosting a **Community Garage Sale on Saturday, October 22 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** A table may be reserved by calling the Church Office at (785) 233-4241. Spaces are free but a free-will donation

would be appreciated. The Youth Group will be hosting a Fundraiser Table of bake sale / food items. The Church will not accept donations of batteries, electronics, tires, hazardous waste, chemicals, or other bulky items. See Mark Calloway for more details.

DILLON AND AMAZON SMILE - West Side now enrolled in Dillon's Community

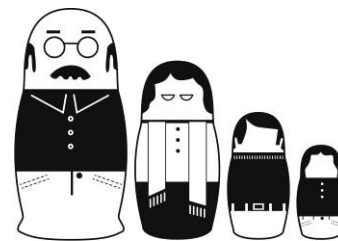
Rewards and Amazon Smile



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

GRANDPARENT SUNDAY – Bring your



BRING YOUR GRANDKIDS

grandchildren (or a picture of your grandchildren) to worship on Sunday, Sept. 11 for National Grandparent Day. We will honor all grandparents with a special celebration!

LABOR DAY – The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day. The Office will reopen Tuesday at 8:00 am.



LADIES NIGHT OUT

- Tuesday, September 6 @ 5:30 pm at HuHot on Wanamaker Rd next to Dick's Sporting Goods. 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, September 6 @ 6:00 pm at Freddy's. 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.



NEWSLETTER - Articles and updates for the newsletter are due on **Wednesday, September 21 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.



NORTHEAST AREA

BAPTIST CHURCHES - The annual meeting for the Northeast Area Baptist Association will be held at West Side

Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka, KS., on **Sunday, September 11, 2016**. This time together will include something for the entire family. **Registration (no cost) will start at 2:30 P.M. with refreshments and the program will begin at 3:00 P.M and dinner at 5:00 pm. This is a fundraiser and a free will offering will be taken.** The Rev. Nathan Marsh, Associate Executive Minister, will be the guest speaker.

Separate programming will be offered for the following age groups: Nursery Care (Newborn-K), Children (grades 1-6), and Youth (grades 7-12). In order to provide the nursery, children and youth leaders with preparation numbers and for the youth to know approximate food amounts, we need advance registrations. Please contact me at 913-727-2232, 913-689-8460 or Pchiles@kc.rr.com no later than Monday, September 5.

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

PACK THE BACKPACKS - Again this year, the Outreach Ministry will collect



SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

school supplies and purchase backpacks for kids at Meadows

School. We will have a list of items in need on the bulletin board outside the office. We also will be collecting mittens and gloves as well. Place your donations on or under the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary. See Mark Calloway for details.

RIDE TO CHURCH - If you need transportation to / from a worship service or another church-related activity, please



call the Church **Rides Available** Office at (785) 233-4241 during office hours (Tuesday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Volunteers are needed to ride along with our driver to pick-up children for Church. Contact the Office with questions, or if you would like to volunteer.

SERMONS ON-LINE – The Technology Committee is recording and uploading the Sunday sermon to YouTube to help people grow in their faith and for spiritual edification. You can watch these messages anytime at <https://goo.gl/AAbGYG> or click on the link from the Church's website: www.wsbctopeka.org.

WOMEN'S PROJECT –

The American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) is collecting financial donations for this year's **Project** (annual fundraising program for missions). The combined goal for all American Baptist Women in Arkansas, Kansas, and Oklahoma is \$30,000.00. West Side has received \$455.00 to date for Project.



The **International Project** seeks to raise \$15,000 to **build a dorm to house 100 children** in Wangjing, in Manipur, North East India into a residential school. The purpose is to house and feed 100 orphans and local children, many who come from illiterate

families that survive by farming. The project will be managed by Rev. PH. Dhaneswor Singh, Executive Secretary of the Meitei Baptist Association.

The **National Project** seeks to raise \$15,000 in support of Camp Christy's desire to upgrade the kitchen facilities at the camp. Camp Christy has a comprehensive plan, Revive Camp Christy, to upgrade the facilities. Any monies received in excess of the goal will go to Camp Christy.

For additional information about ABWM or Project, contact Rogene Moody (WSBC ABWM President) or the Central Region Project Associate, Naomi Teubner at 620-872-2731 or music3t@hotmail.com. Please use the ABWM Project envelope or mark your donation (memo line): "ABWM Project."

WWW KID'S BIBLE CLUB – Register your child or children now for the mid-week kid's Bible club – WWW (Wonderful West Side Wednesdays). The Fall session will start on **Wednesday, September 14 at 5:30 p.m.** The doors will open at 5:10 pm. **Supper will be served at 5:30 to 5:50 pm in the Fellowship Hall (cafeteria).** Programming will be offered for children of all ages. A Bible Study will be led by Jim Goodnow in Holmer Hall for adults. See Colleen Smith, Coordinator for Christian Education, for more details.

WWW HOODIES – The Church will order new Hoodies or T-Shirts for WWW (Wonderful West Side Wednesdays) in September. **Adults may purchase a Hoodie (size small to extra-large) for \$20.00 each, or a T-Shirt for \$6.00 each (size small to extra-large).** The manufacture charges an additional charge of \$1.50 per X size beginning with 2X. **Call the Church Office at**

(785) 233-4241 or fill-out the Hoodie Order Form. Payment is appreciated at the time of order. Mark checks payable to West Side Baptist Church with "Hoodie" on the memo line.

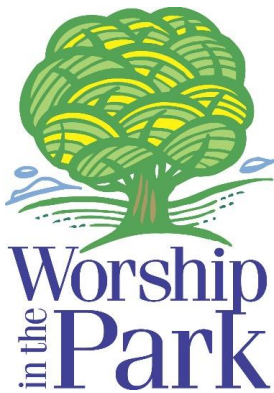
WORSHIP IN THE PARK

The annual, ecumenical worship service in Gage Park will be held on **Sunday, September 18 at 10:00 am this year.** We will have Coffee and Donuts available beginning at 9:00 am. The churches – Central Congregational 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 they are to learn, Janet will be holding rehearsals together throughout the summer. The next rehearsal will be **Wednesday, August 31 at 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the WSBC Sanctuary.**

Lynda will be ordering the donuts for the "Coffee Hour" and fried chicken for our lunch after the ecumenical worship service. To help her know how much to order, would you please make a reservation on the attendance pad or call the church office by September 6. You may call her at (785) 233-4241.

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, September 10 @ Cracker Barrel at 9:00 am for anyone the age of 55 or older for



more information call John Swain at 785-273-2434.



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,

AMOS BOOK OF THE MONTH -

Amos! All Month! OK, I guess.

My feeling when I started reading Amos. Then I picked up "The Message" and I became intrigued starting with his introduction to Amos. Just a few of his phrases and sentences:

"More people are exploited and abused in the cause of religion than in any other way. Religion is the most dangerous source known to humankind." When a person or group "is convinced that God is either ordering or sanctioning a cause . . . the . . . religion fueled hate, killing, and oppression is staggering but then are the biblical prophets. "Prophets sniff out injustice, especially injustice that is dressed up in religious garb... they listen to God. Among these prophets, Amos towers as defender of the downtrodden poor and accuser of the powerful who use God's name to legitimize their sin." Peterson says... we absolutely must keep company with these biblical prophets."

Then Peterson does a remarkable thing to be sure we don't miss the point Amos is making. He gives headings to the chapters and sometimes sections of chapter. A few examples:

Chapter. 1 – "Swallowing the Same Old Lies"; Chapter. 3 – "The Lion Roared"; Chapter. 4 – "You Never Got Hungry for

God"; Chapter. 6 – "You've Made a Shambles of Justice"; Chapter. 9 – "Blessings Like Wine Pouring Off the Mountains".

Remember when you kept asking your Mother "Why, why, why". And she finally said, "Because I said so." Peterson ends Amos with "God, your God, says so."

The reading of Amos in "The Message" gave me a feeling of Wow! But even more Amos started speaking to me, giving me much to think about and making me ask questions I would rather not ask about the here and now.

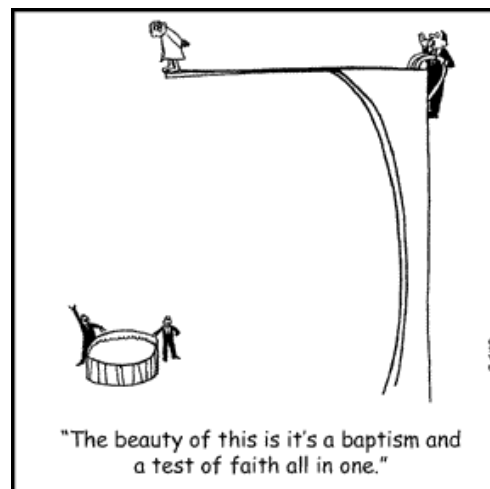
As you read Amos (I suggest you read it aloud) see what it says to you, where it leads your thoughts, what questions won't leave you alone.

~ Almira Collier, Worship

James Russell Lowell

Truth forever on the scaffold,
wrong forever on the throne,
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and
behind the dim unknown standeth God
within the shadow,
keeping watch above his own.

Submitted by Virginia Mansfield



Bible Word Search:

CALLED TO BE MERCIFUL

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

BRETHREN
COURAGE
COMPASSION
ENEMIES
FORGIVENESS
JUDGMENT
LOVE
MERCY
PATIENCE
RECONCILIATION

REVENGE
SALVATION
SINNERS
TRANSGRESSIONS
TRESPASSES

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