

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

1008 SW 4th Street, Topeka, KS 66606 | Phone: (785) 233-4241

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

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October 2016

“Walk in the Footsteps of the Faith”

Words from your pastor: There is a delightful walking trail along the Shunga stream near our house on 29th street. This worn path wanders in and out of the underbrush as it carefully curves with the contour of the creek. The canopy provides a comfortable shade for children, disc golfers, and searching squirrels. If you sit calmly and quietly, the birds and wind make an incredible symphony of sounds. It is a relaxing place to daydream, to reflect, and to take a romantic stroll.

Last Tuesday, I noticed the cool evening and shorter days of sunshine, which mark the advent of Autumn, have caused some of the leaves to shed their verdant vestments for deeper shades of amber, orange and brown. The yellow leaves reminded me of Robert Frost’s poem, “The Road Not Taken”:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

When a couple of the leaves brushed against my face as they dropped to the walking path below, I thought to myself: “Oh no! It’s fall.” Friday night football games (and marching band performances) have reinforced the fact that summer is gone.

As we come to the festival of All Saints Day (Nov. 1), let me remind you the Christian faith is a journey the church universal takes together. We do not have to blaze new trails but “walk in the footsteps of the faith” forged by our forefathers and foremothers (Romans 4:12). I am thankful for these pioneers and trailblazers for their willingness to choose the divergent *path less traveled by*.

IT'S COMING...
NOVEMBER 20



Blessings,
Pastor Ivan

NEWS IN THE PEW

COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES UPDATE -

This is a review of the Council of Ministries meeting that was held on September 13. We reviewed the Treasurer's report from July and August and the Minutes for the month of July meeting. The Council did not meet in August. The coordinators went over their reports. Preparation has begun with the budget for 2017. After good discussion, the Council agreed to pray on where God is leading us and the budgets that were submitted for discussion. The next meeting is Tuesday, October 11 at 6:00 pm.

~ Brice Smith, Moderator

OUR CHURCH FINANCES - This is a general overview of our church finances through the end of August:

- We are at 66.6% of the budget year.
 - For August, our income to date is: \$165,512.71 or 63.02% of our budget. This is only \$9,574.45 under what was budgeted.
 - Our expenses to date are: \$174,101.94 or 66.29% of our budget. This is \$985.22 under what was budgeted. This is the first time since the first of the year that we are under budget with our expenses.
 - We have spent \$8,589.23 more than receipts since the first of the year.
 - The checking account at the end of August was \$4,970.56. This includes a \$7,500 loan from the capital campaign account to assist with cash flow and by borrowing from the capital campaign it allows us not to withdraw from our investments at this time.
- Our investment accounts at Wells Fargo for the first two quarters (six months) of 2016 have been doing well. We are up a total of \$10,075.90.
 - Account, #5113, has \$178,127.86 which is up in value \$9,050.27.
 - Account, #8720, has \$50,286.11. This account started the year at \$52,540.07. On June 17th we withdrew \$5,000 for checking account cash flow. The interest on this account for the first six months is \$2,746.04. Therefore, the fund balance is \$50,286.11 or an increase of \$2,253.96.
 - The Ruby Edwards Fund was closed several months ago to pay for the youth to attend Quest. It had a beginning balance of \$1,228.33.

Let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

WORKING IN THE MISSION FIELD -

In one of my meetings I have with the Pastor we spoke about one of the missions we have here at West Side Baptist Church. Those of you who volunteer on Wednesday for the WWW program we do during the school year, you know exactly what I'm talking about. After hearing Pastor Ivan's message on September 25, titled "Rich Man, Poor Man: What's the Point?", we have a great opportunity to show the love of Christ to our neighbors. We feed them literally and spiritually. We also have a great mission that helps right here in Topeka through the Baby Closet. I encourage you if you aren't

volunteering for either, to find you a place. Talk with Colleen or Pat C. if you are interested in working in either of these mission fields right here at home!

~ 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

UPDATED 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.

ANNUAL GATHERING - The 2016 Annual Gathering of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region will take place on Oct. 14-15 at Cross Wind Conference Center in Hesston, Kan. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Sooji Whitten Ford, Executive Minister for American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky. The missionary speaker will be Kristy Engel, Global Consultant for International Ministries. Registrations are in the office.

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.**

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.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

- Tuesday, October 4
@ 5:30 pm at Henry
T's Bar and 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, October 4 @ 5:30 pm at Henry T's Bar and 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.



NEWSLETTER – Articles and updates for the newsletter are due on **Wednesday, October 19 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.

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.

RIDE TO CHURCH - If you need transportation to / from a worship service or another church-related activity, please call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 during **Rides Available** 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 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.

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, October 8 @ Cracker Barrel at 9:00 am for anyone the age of 55 or older for more information call John Swain at 785-273-2434.



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





World Mission Offering – October! Celebrate New Life in Christ “on Earth as in Heaven”

(Matthew 6:10, NABRE)

A great and surprising spiritual awakening is happening in Baptist churches in Cuba right now!

Since 1990, the number of churches in Cuba has grown by 450%. The number of baptisms has risen by over 500%. And the number of prayer groups and total church memberships have climbed in equally high numbers.

After decades of harsh restrictions, “the church of God has risen from the ashes,” says a retired Cuban church leader who witnessed the remarkable change firsthand. “In God’s time, the hearts of so many people have been opened up to the goodness of the gospel.”

The good news is that our church’s support of the World Mission Offering (WMO) is helping to fuel the growth of the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention through financial and global worker support and through International Ministries (IM)-sponsored pastor conferences.

The better news is that there is a lot that we can learn from Cuba’s spiritual revival. For example:

Youth ministry is thriving through camping and sports ministries, concerts and youth rallies in the streets of Cuba’s cities and towns.

Spirit-filled outreach is yielding abundant fruit through evangelistic campaigns, undergirded with fervent prayer and fasting.

Discipleship is spreading through numerous house churches and cell groups of prayer.

A new generation of leaders is growing through faithful teaching at seminaries and lay training centers.

(continued on next page)

Responding to God's Call Worldwide

And perhaps the best news of all is that Cuba's spiritual awakening is but one of many thriving ministries run by IM partners and more than 1,800 long- and short-term global workers in more than 70 countries around the world.

IM's vision is "on earth as in heaven," which reminds us of God's invitation to participate in his work in the world.

And that's just what IM is doing—through your support of the WMO—by *praying, equipping, serving, proclaiming, teaching, inviting, healing and encouraging* in the name of Jesus.

Your gifts to the WMO help to raise up, place and send new global servants and volunteers to reach and touch lives for Jesus around the world. They also help to fill gaps for those workers who haven't yet reached their support goals, enabling crucial ministries to continue.

Your gifts help support IM's more than 240 global partners who are actively sharing God's message of hope, love and healing with a lost and hurting world.

Your gifts help recruit and train new global workers, open up new global mission fields, respond to global disasters with relief and development funds through One Great Hour of Sharing and much more.

The 2016 World Mission Offering will be received during worship in the month of October.

PLEASE HELP! Baptists in Cuba and the Dominican Republic have requested our help with scholarships and supplies for youth camps and gatherings. With an overall 10% increase in undesignated gifts to the World Mission Offering (WMO), we can respond to that call.

Whether God is calling you to GO as a short- or long-term global servant or to GIVE financial support, let us join together to touch as many lives as possible in more than 70 countries around the globe.

Give generously *and expectantly* to the WMO as, together, we help people everywhere come to Christ, grow in their relationships with God and change their worlds through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Is God is calling you to learn more about how you or your church can volunteer with Baptist partners in Cuba? Please contact mary.weaver@internationalministries.org for general information or angela.sudermann@internationalministries.org for volunteer information.

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED