

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

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December 2016

“Where is the Glögg? Why is there a Pickle?”

Words from your pastor: “Dad,” Jessa said. “Let’s start a new tradition this year. Let’s hang a pickle on the Christmas tree. Whoever finds it on Christmas morning will get \$5.00.” These were shocking words to me! “A *new* tradition?” I thought. “Change? Why would we change Christmas?” Isn’t the goal of Christmas to repeat last year’s performance or at least out do it? Isn’t Christmas all about reliving your childhood or living vicariously through little ones? The pickle was never part of my family’s traditions – nor a German tradition if you do your research. I don’t know where she got this crazy idea, but I wondered, “Is she just trying to get five bucks from me?”



All families enjoy a variety of traditions during the holiday (holy day) season: English pudding, holiday crackers (firecrackers), candles, evergreens, wreaths, yule logs, etc. These traditions reflect our cultural heritages and our religious values. When traditions are forgotten, or are missing, we may ask: Where is the *glögg* (that Swedish spicy mulled wine with blanched almonds and raisins)? And, what happened to the *pepparkakor* (ginger snaps)? The challenge of each Christmas is finding ways to honor our past as we move into God’s future – the coming Kingdom.

I encourage you to ponder anew the ways our many traditions can be researched, reimagined, and renewed to keep the focus on the true meaning of Christmas: Jesus Christ came and he promised to come again. Hang a pickle on the tree, drink some festive eggnog, do whatever helps you remember: the greatest gift of all came on Christmas, Jesus Christ. He will come again!

Christmas blessings,
Pastor Ivan

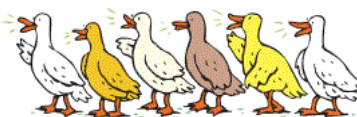
PS. You are invited to our Christmas Open House Cookie Party on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at 2211 SW 33rd St. (near corner of 33rd and MacVicar). Our family will bake hundreds of cookies to share with our guests. You do not need to bring cookies or gifts. Come for this joyful time of holiday favorites.





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

- We are at 83.3% of the budget year.
- For October, our income to date is: \$202,806.61 or 77.21% of our budget. Last month we were at \$182,293.42 or 69.4% of our budget.
- Our expenses to date are: \$217,905.74 or 82.96% of our budget. Last month we were at \$197,847.32 or 75.33% of our budget.
- We have spent \$15,099.13 more than receipts. It was \$15,553.90 more than receipts at the end of September. Comparing the two months, we actually had \$454.77 more in receipts than expenditures during October.
- The checking account at the end of October was \$3,400.25. In early October we paid \$2,500 of our \$7,500 loan from the capital campaign account to assist us with cash flow. By borrowing from the capital campaign it allows us to not withdraw from our investments at this time. We will need to determine when the remaining \$5,000 is paid either from regular offerings and/or our investments.



- At the all church business meeting the end of October, it was decided to spend an estimated \$16,400 on the much needed roof repairs. The motion approved was that this repair be paid for in two ways:

- Gifts from individuals who choose to give more than their tithe. This is similar to the way we paid for the carpet in the sanctuary and the van. Anyone can make their gifts over the next six months for the roof repairs.
- The remainder of the roof repair will be paid out of the capital campaign money market account.

Let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

November Council of Ministries Update - This is a review of the Council of Ministries meeting that was held on November 8. We reviewed the Treasurer's report and the Minutes for the previous month. We went over our normal reporting for the coordinators of each ministry. Pat reported the Nominating Committee has been busy and she presented the Council with names that was shared with the congregation on Sunday, November 20. We spent time reviewing the proposed budget for 2017. We have a lot of things coming up relating to WWW, Thanksgiving, Stewardship, and the Advent Season.

NEWS IN THE PEWS

BABY CLOSET CHRISTMAS BASKETS –

The Baby Closet would like to collect personal care items to give away at Christmas. Items that can be used: Combs, Conditioner (Hair), Deodorant, Detergent, Fingernail Clippers, Kleenexes, Lotions (Body and Hand), Shampoo, Soap, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and other personal care items. Bring your donations to the Church Office any time before Christmas.

~Pat Carreno



BREAD, FRUITS, & VEGETABLES - West Side Baptist Church has partnered with Harvesters Community Food Network to provide a limited amount of **free bread, fruits, potatoes, and vegetables** to individuals and families in the Ward Meade Neighborhood on **Wednesdays from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm, or while supplies last.** Bring a photo ID. Families will need to provide the name of household or family name and the number of adults, children, and seniors (65+ years) living in the household. All food is available at no cost. Call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 with questions; no reservations.

CAMPBELLS SOUP LABELS & BOX TOPS –

We are still collecting the UPC codes from soup labels and all box tops for **Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, OK.**



Murrow is saving one million UPC's for a van for the children's needs. Thank you to all our faithful congregation for your continuing support. The box to collect the UPC codes and Box Tops is still outside the Church Office.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – The Worship Committee meets the **second Tuesday** of each month at **3:30 pm** in Holmer Hall. See Almira Collier, Coordinator, for details.

BIBLE STUDY (WEDNESDAY

MORNINGS) - Pastor Ivan is teaching an 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.



BIBLE STUDY

(SUNDAY AFTERNOON) – Pastor Ivan leads a free Bible study of the **Book of Daniel on Sundays at 4:00 pm** in Holmer Hall.

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

– The Christian Education leaders meet on the **second Monday of the month at 6:45 pm in Holmer Hall** (Parlor). Join the ongoing conversation about these exciting areas of Christian Education: (1) Children's Ministry, (2) Youth Ministry, and (3) Adult Discipleship. See Colleen Smith, Coordinator, for agendas and details.

DILLONS COMMUNITY REWARDS -

West Side Baptist Church (#63996) is now enrolled in the **Dillon Community Rewards program**. If you shop at Dillon for your groceries or prescriptions, you can select West Side Baptist Church to receive a small donation from Dillon based on the dollars you spend. **WSBC has received a total of \$79.35 in donations in 2016. See Brice for help with signing up.**

GLOBAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Is

God is calling you to learn more about how you or your church can volunteer with Baptist partners in Cuba?



Teach English in Hungary? Volunteer as a short-term missionary by contacting Mary Weaver for general information about mission opportunities or Angela Sudermann for volunteer information at 1-800-ABC-3-USA.

LADIES NIGHT OUT -Tuesday,



December 6 @ 5:30 pm at Red Lobster. 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*. Carpooling is encouraged. Please contact Trena for directions, questions, or to make a reservation.



Men's Group

MEN'S NIGHT OUT – Tuesday, December 6 @ 6:00 pm at Chick-fi-a. 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, December 21st 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.

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 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.

The schedule for WWW in December is- We will have WWW on December the 7th and 14th. We will not have WWW on December 21st and the 28th or January 4, 2017. We will begin our new year of WWW on January 11th.

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.



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, December 10th @ Cracker Barrel at 9:00 am for anyone the age of 55 or older for more information call John Swain at 785-273-2434.

Through God, we impact our world - God is blessing West Side Baptist Church in many ways. Through God, we can accomplish big things and impact our world by being a light to our neighborhood. Everything we accomplish we give God the glory! This is being done through WWW and our partnership with Harvesters by giving away food each Wednesday. Through the Baby Closet people from many parts of Topeka are benefiting. We will soon be looking at our touchpoints for 2016 and I think we'll see additional growth in many aspects of our church life that will include our spiritual life (Church, Sunday School, and Bible Study), our mission work, and camping opportunities just to name a few. I'm excited to see what God has planned for us in 2017 and beyond!

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.



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](http://www.wsbctopeka.org).

TWO SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TREES

MITTEN TREE - We are carrying on our tradition of a Mitten Tree in the Sanctuary. So please bring mittens, scarves, and hats to hang on the tree starting November 27. **ANGEL TREE** - This year we will have a special tree, an angel tree, in Holmer Hall. Remember a loved one by bringing an angel ornament and hanging it on this special tree.



CHRISTMAS EVE

SERVICE - Come, as we celebrate Christmas Eve together as the family of God. Our worship together will start at 7:00 p.m. We will light candles as we meditate on the coming of the wondrous light into the world.



CHRISTMAS SERVICE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 At 10:30 am

This year we will come together to celebrate the birthday of our Savior, the light of the world, the Prince of Peace who brought hope into our world. Please come join together as the family of God for this special Sunday worship. “O Come All Ye Faithful, Joyful and triumphant”



CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST/BUSINESS MEETING

Our Christmas breakfast will be Sunday, December 4 starting at 8:45 a.m. We will not have Sunday School since there will be a Business Meeting to discuss and adopt the budget for 2017 and to elect the officers, Council Members, Pastoral Relations Committee members and Nominating Committee members. Please come to enjoy a time of eating and fellowshiping together; and then be a part of this important business meeting.



JOB – THE BIBLE BOOK OF THE MONTH

Job is one of the wisdom books. Those books that draw attention to



dealing with human experience as the arena in which God is present even though we may not be aware of Him at that moment.

Eugene H. Peterson has some interesting things to say about Job. Here are a few of them.

“Job suffered. He asked ‘Why?’. He asked ‘Why me?’ He refused to take silence for an answer. He refused to take clichés for an answer. He refused to let God off the hook . . . Job did not take his suffering quietly or piously” Job went directly to God and “there he protested his suffering, protested mightily.”

Is it suffering that troubles us or is it what we see as underserved suffering? Do we sometimes feel we have done the best we can do but as we reach out for the reward we get hit from the blind side?

“Job says boldly what some of us are too timid to say. He makes poetry out of what in many of us is a tangle of confused whimpers. He shouts out to God what a lot of us mutter behind our sleeves. He refuses to take the role of a victim.”

Then there are Job’s friends. The book of Job is “our primary biblical protest

against religion that has been reduced to explanations or ‘answers.’ Many of the answers that Job ‘s so-called friends give him are technically true. But it is the ‘technical’ part that ruins them. They are answers without personal relationship, intellect without intimacy. . .Job rages against this secularized wisdom that has lost touch with the living realities of God.”

We all suffer in life and sometimes it seems unfairly. Do we have the courage of Job to approach God directly and honestly. Sometimes we may be in the role of Job’s friends. How do we play that role? What does Job have to say about how we should play this role?

I suggest you read Job in the translation of your choice. Then I suggest, if possible, you read all what Eugene H. Peterson has to say about Job and his friends and His transliteration of Job.

ABHMS publishes special online edition of ‘The Christian Citizen’ in response to social unrest —

In response to heightened tension, divisiveness, polarization, terrorism and violence across the United States, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) continues to encourage dialogue and promote healing by publishing “[Healing Our Land](#),” a special online issue of its acclaimed print magazine, The Christian Citizen.

In this collection of thought-provoking and action-inspiring essays and quotations, a diverse group of national leaders, including American Baptists, examines a range of

subjects—from brutality toward African Americans, Native Americans, the LGBTQ community and police to pragmatic approaches for dealing with trauma and grief.

“This year has brought historic unrest across the United States—from New York City to Chicago, Falcon Heights to Baton Rouge, Cleveland to Dallas, Orlando to Ferguson, and Baltimore to Milwaukee,” says ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray. “The hour has come when the Christian community must reckon urgently with Christ’s call to us to be peacemakers. The pursuit of mutual understanding, reconciliation, justice and peace requires a special quality of moral discourse that is informed by faith in God, hope and unconditional love for others.”

American Baptist are encouraged to read the collection on ABHMS’ website at www.abhms.org > [The Christian Citizen](#), and then engage in discussion in their churches and by posting comments on ABHMS’ “Creating a Groundswell for [Racial Justice](#)” group on Facebook.



For additional information about the ways in which ABHMS remains committed to social justice and healing communities, please visit www.abhms.org and click “[Ministries](#).”

American Baptist Home Mission Societies ministers as the caring heart and serving hands of Jesus Christ across the United States and Puerto Rico through a multitude of initiatives that focus on leadership, discipleship and healing communities.

Christmas 2016 Needs List – Topeka Rescue Mission

We have already begun making plans for Christmas-season activities at the Topeka Rescue Mission and are ready to begin receiving donations of new items. Below is a list of what we currently need for both our guest and community Christmas distributions. **WOMEN/TEEN GIRLS:**

Jeans, shirts or hoodies (Jr. 0 – 17, Misses 2 – 18, Plus 2 – 5x), briefs (especially sizes 5 – 8) and socks

MEN/TEEN BOYS: Jeans (size 30 -50 and especially sizes 30-38), shirts, hoodies, socks, boxers, stocking caps and gloves, plus size clothing (2 – 5X) and sports team logo items **BOYS AND**

GIRLS: Educational gifts, jeans, shirts, hoodies (5 – 20), boxers and socks

INFANT AND TODDLER: Shirts, tops, jeans, winter clothing (Newborn – 4), boys & girls underwear, onesies and diapers sizes 3 – 6 **MISCELLANEOUS**

GIFT ITEMS NEEDED: Bath gift sets, cologne gift sets, twin XL blankets, F, Q & K sheet sets, pots and pans, coffee makers, small appliances, toasters, 4-5 qt. crock pots, small adult gifts, radio/CD players, bath towels, cooking utensils, tool sets, wallets, shaving bags, teen gifts, men's gifts, hair brushes, hygiene sets, mini flashlights, chapstick, sports team logo items (hats, duffle bags, etc.), art sets,



nice razors, gift certificates for local stores

2016 Doorstep Christmas Wish List Doorstep is adopting 250 Households for Christmas and we need your help with donations!

Toys - Puzzles 100-500 pcs, Back Packs, Color Books/Crayons, School Supplies, Toys for Ages 2-12, No Stuffed Animals Please, Girls Jewelry, Games -

All Ages, Baby Dolls, Balls - Football, Soccer, Basketball, Teenage Girls Gifts **Men's** - Boxer Briefs S – XL,

Flashlights, Tool Sets, Small Radios, Aftershave & Socks, Watches, Playing

Cards, Jeans & Sweats, **Household**

Gifts, Quilts, Blankets & Sheet Sets (Full/Queen/King), Dish Sets, Toasters,

Hand Mixers, Glass Sets, Pots/Pans, Etc. **(Boys&Girls)**

Jeans Sizes 6- 16, Clothing Sizes 2T-16, Socks & Underwear

Women & Teens Larger Sized Bras, Underwear S-XL, Cosmetics, Jewelry & Socks, Jeans,

Sweats & PJ's, Teen Sized Clothing **Health Kit Items** Towels, Washcloths,

Combs, Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste/brushes,

Shampoo, Razors

If you can volunteer, call the Doorstep office, 357-5341.

Bring Donations to Doorstep at 10th & Buchanan Mon – Fri from 8am - 3pm or to your Congregation for Delivery to Doorstep.

"...For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father [of Eternity], Prince of Peace..." - [Isaiah 9: 6](#) (AMP)



"...For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father [of Eternity], Prince of Peace..." - [Isaiah 9: 6](#)



Merry Christmas



UWELKNIWTSIFSI
 RATSKFMERRYNA
 YKGMASHOLLYD
 LPADDHOLIDAYD
 LESMCKSXRIBB
 OELFFSSAMTSIR
 JNFGINGERBREAD
 RUDSTOCKINGAD
 ZBSAKWIREINDE
 PETNZFDRACIMH
 ZDHTVLEGEFABO
 FNGACARWENVNB
 MWIKIKQPRESENT
 QMLKWEBOTVZW
 ENACYDNACUEOX

CHRISTMAS
 SANTA
 HOLIDAY
 TREE
 ORNAMENT
 PRESENTS
 HOLLY
 SNOWFLAKE
 RIBBON
 CANDY
 GINGERBREAD
 CARD
 JOLLY
 MERRY
 ELF
 TOYS
 CANDYCANE
 STAR
 STOCKING
 LIGHTS
 TWINKLE
 REINDEER