**HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN TODAY!**

**GOOD NEWS!** God loves and yearns to redeem all people. The Bible clearly outlines the way to become a follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** - Admit to God you are a sinner (you have done things that were wrong). Apologize and turn away from your sins towards God (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD -** Believe that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross and rose from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD –** Make a spiritual commitment to be a follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Savior (Rescuer and Redeemer) and Lord (Ultimate Leader). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO JESUS -** Tell your family and friends about your new faith in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly announce your decision to be a Christian.

**HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH!**

**COME FORWARD** – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, accepting Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church may request and be accepted into the membership of this church. Upon request to the Pastor, Moderator or at a meeting of the membership, a person may be received by affirmation of the membership based on:

1. **Believer’s Baptism**
2. **Letter of transfer** or recommendation from a previous Christian church and prior baptism; or a
3. **Satisfactory statement of Christian faith** and prior baptism

Members shall strive to be faithful to Christian principles as set forth in scripture and support the mission of the church through attendance, prayer, service and monetary giving. The *first step* to become a memberis to *come forward* during the singing of the last hymn so you can share your decision with the congregation.

**West Side Baptist Church**

**NEWS IN THE PEWS**

1008 SW Fourth Street │ Topeka, KS 66606

Phone: (785) 233-4241 │ office@wsbctopeka.org

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

**Sunday, DECEMBER 11, 2016**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP –** I am so happy you choose to worship with us this morning at West Side Baptist Church. You will hopefully discover very quickly this is a small, loving church in a big city. ***If you are looking for a place to belong, make real friendships, and get involved - then West Side is for you!*** Please speak with me after the worship service if you would like to learn more about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, need personal prayer, or want to request a pastoral visit! You can find more information about West Side Baptist Church at [www.wsbctopeka.org](http://www.wsbctopeka.org). Blessings,

Pastor Ivan

**ANGEL TREE** – Help decorate the Christmas Tree in Holmer Hall with angel ornaments in memory of loved ones (yes, although our loved ones do not become angels in heaven). Please label your angel ornament so you can retrieve it after the Advent / Christmas season. Thank you!

**NO BIBLE STUDY TONIGHT –** There will be no Bible Study this afternoon at 4:00 pm. Enjoy the Vespers Concert at Washburn University!

**CAROLING** – A small group of volunteers will be “caroling” Brewster Place on Sunday, December 18 at 1:30 pm after a brief lunch (Dutch treat). See Janet for more details.

**RETIREMENT RECEPTION** – North Topeka Baptist Church will host a retirement reception in honor of the Rev. Ed O’Rear (pastor from 2004 to 2016) on Sunday, Dec. 11, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the church fellowship hall. Refreshments will be served.

**AMAZONSMILE -** Shop on 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.

**BABY CLOSET CHRISTMAS BASKETS** – The Baby Closet volunteers 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

**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.

**CHRISTMAS INSTRUMENTS –** Polish your brass instrument and join the band!The Music Ministry is **recruiting brass players to perform one song on Christmas morning: "We Wish You a Merry Christmas;” and stringed instrument players to perform two songs on Epiphany Sunday (January 8): "Good King Wenceslas" and "We Three Kings."** See Janet Nyfeler for the simple music.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE –** Join us on Saturday, **December 24 for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 7:00 PM.** We will read familiar Scripture passages and sing some of your favorite Christmas songs. No nursery care will be available on Christmas Eve as our workers will be worshipping with their families.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**

 9:15 am Sunday school

 10:30 am Worship (S)

 3:00 – 5:00 pm Retirement Reception for

Rev. Ed O’Rear at North Topeka Baptist

 4:00 pm NO Bible Study

**Monday, DECEMBER 12**

 9:00 – 11:00 am Baby Closet Ministry

 6:00 pm Capital City Men’s Chorus (FH)

 6:45 pm Christian Ed Meeting (HH)

 **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13**

3:30 pm Worship Committee meeting (HH)

 6:00 pm Council of Ministries meeting (HH)

 **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14**

 10:30 am Bible Study (HH)

 4:00 – 5:30 pm Free Fruits & Vegetables (HH)

 5:00 - 7:00 pm Baby Closet Ministry

 5:30 – 6:00 pm Dinner (FH)

 6:00 pm WWW Kids Bible Club

 7:00 pm Choir Practice (S)

**Thursday, December 15**

 1:00 – 3:00 pm Baby Closet

  **FRIDAY, december 16 Pastors Day Off**

 **Saturday, december 17**

 10:00 am Ordination Council for Amy Bassett at

 North Topeka Baptist Church

**In our Thoughts and Prayers**

Mark Arnold (husband of Betty & Alice & Clarence Payne brother-in-law)

\*Jane Baker – Healing for health concerns

Albert Carpenter – Healing for health issues (Harry and Pat’s son)

Bradley Carpenter – Healing for liver (Harry and Pat’s grandson)

Harry and Pat Carpenter – Healing for health concerns

Pat Carreno – Healing for health concerns

Esther Carrier– Healing for health concerns and surgery

Central Congregational Church – God’s guidance during transition period, leadership

Marsha Chelson – Hospice care (Susan Carpenter's mother)

\*June Cunningham – Healing for health concerns

Jessica Fultz – Personal issues

Lonnie Greuter – Healing for colon cancer and surgery (Pastor’s brother)

Ronald Greuter – Healing for colon cancer and surgery (Pastor’s brother)

Russ Hunter – Healing for health issues (Fran’s husband)

\*Alice Kieffer – Healing for health concerns

Karen Kirby – Healing for health concerns

\*Reginald Kirby – Healing for health concerns

\*Etta Landis – Healing for health concerns

Anne MacDonald – Help and healing (Heidi Hunt’s granddaughter)

**Nadine Manley – Healing for knee replacement at Stormont Vail (12/6)**

\*Madeleine Martinson – Healing for health concerns

Rev. Wayne Mason’s wife – Alzheimer’s and hospice care

Nancy May – Healing for health concerns

Molly Morris – Healing and help for sister, brother-in-law, and niece in Co

Grant Nyfeler – (Janet Nyfeler’s son)

Sonny Payne – Healing for health concerns (Clarence Payne’s brother)

Becky Poe – Healing for health issues

Brian Roach Sr. – Healing for cancer (Kate Olsen’s son)

Bob Roesler – Interim Minister at First Baptist Church of Ottawa, Kansas

Jill Roesler – Healing for health concerns

**Jeff Runyan – Healing for surgery at Stormont Vail (12/8)**

Hazel Smith-Tindall – Healing for health concerns

Paul Snickles – Healing for health concerns

Adriana White – Healing for personal issues

 *\*Homebound*

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE –** We will worship on **Christmas Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary.** There will be no nursery care or Children’s Church on Christmas Day.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** – Give generously to the **2016 Christmas Offering** to help reach our **goal of $25,000.00** to repair the Boiler System (estimated $7,900) and leaking Roof (estimated $16,400). A special Christmas letter was mailed to the church family along with a Christmas offering envelope. Please use the Christmas Offering envelope or mark your gifts “repairs.”

**DOORSTEP** – This week is Doorstep’s last big push for donations. We are getting toys in, which we are excited and grateful for! We also really need clothing! We are not getting a lot of donations of clothing for youth, men and women. As you remind people this week about Doorstep’s needs, please help us also push clothing donations.

* **Youth, boys and girls, sizes 6 – 16**:  We need new, winter clothing for all sizes, jeans, sweats, outfits, pajamas.
* **Men:**  Boxer briefs (all sizes), sweats (tops/bottoms), long sleeved shirts, all sizes.
* **Women:**  Sweats (tops/bottoms), pajamas, underwear (all sizes). Everyone receives clothing and that equates to over 800 people!

Thank you for all of your help!

Lisa Cain, Executive Director of Doorstep, Inc.

**EVANGELISM CONFERENCE –** Don’t miss out on the **Mission and Evangelism Event - “Beyond the Walls: Showing Jesus’ Love to the World” – on Friday, January 20 and Saturday, January 21, 2017 at the Cross - Wind Conference Center** in Hesston, Kansas. Registration form are due to the Central Region Office by January 1.

**FREE BREAD, EGGS, FRUITS, & VEGETABLES** - West Side Baptist Church provides a limited amount of free bread, eggs, 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.**  All food is available at no cost.

**Ordination Council –** The Northeast Area Churches will host an Ordination Council for Amy Beckett on **Saturday, December 17 at 10:00 am in the North Topeka Baptist Church**, 123 N.W. Gordon, Topeka, Ks. A layperson is needed to represent West Side Baptist Church. Please pick up a copy of Amy’s ordination paper in the Church Office before the Council meeting.

**RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING (RMMO) –** West Side will receive its annual for **retired ministers and missionaries** during the month of December. The roots of RMMO go back to the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches.

In 1977, American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this appreciation of God’s service. This year our theme is Faith through Gratitude. Through our faith in God, and our gratitude for the salvific actions of Jesus Christ we are called to be faithful servants of the gospel and to live out the ministry of Jesus in word and deed. The gratitude that we have for Jesus’ gift to us is the seed from which springs the gratitude that manifests toward the people of God. The offering supports those who have dedicated their lives to God’s service by providing emergency assistance in times of need and a thank you check at the end of each year. We hope you will join us in honoring God’s committed servants.

**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.) or call **James Carrier, Bus Driver at (785) 214-9580**. Volunteers are needed to ride along with our driver to pick-up / drop off children on Wednesdays and Sundays. Contact Mark Calloway 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 or click on the link from the Church’s website: [www.wsbctopeka.org](http://www.wsbctopeka.org).

**WWW KID’S BIBLE CLUB** – The mid-week kid’s Bible club – WWW (Wonderful West Side Wednesdays opens the doors 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. **In DECEMBER:** We will have WWW on December the 7th and 14th (Program). We will NOT have WWW on Dec. 21 and the 28 or Jan. 4. 2017. We will begin our New Year of WWW on Jan. 11, 2017. Top of Form

Bottom of Form

**YOUTH HUNGER WORKSHOP** – Harvesters in Topeka will host a one-day Hunger Worship for youth on **Friday, December 30 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm**. This workshop will educate our young adults about hunger in our community, Harvester’s mission, and action steps youth can take to help alleviate hunger. The workshop is free, and Harvesters will provide a free lunch. See Pastor to register for this event. Service credit hours available.

**Church Staff & Leaders**

Senior Minister . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter

Moderator . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Brice Smith

Acolytes (December) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Pat Carpenter and Lonna Hersh

Choir Director and Organist . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Janet Nyfeler

Custodian . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Ernie Longstaff

Evangelism Counselor (December) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Hilda Lundgren

Greeters . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Jim Lagerberg and Judy Longstaff

Nursery Workers . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . LaTondra Herrington & Martha Moss

Office Administrator . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Lynda Cokeley

Pianist . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Jan Mauck

Ushers . . . . . . . . Mark Calloway, Chuck Cozad, Bruno Sprenks, Steve May

**TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION -** We are still in the process of receiving donations of new items for this year’s Christmas season. 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, men’s underwear (sizes 30-36), 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 **INFANT AND TODDLER:** Shirts, tops, jeans, winter clothing (Newborn – 4), onesies and diapers sizes 3 – 6, pull-ups all sizes **MISCELLANEOUS GIFT ITEMS NEEDED:** Bath gift sets, cologne gift sets, twin XL blankets, F, Q & K sheet sets, pots and pans, small appliances, coffee makers, toasters, 4-5 qt. crock pots, small adult gifts, bath towels, cooking utensils, tool sets, wallets, shaving bags, teen gifts, men’s gifts, hair brushes, mini flashlights, chapstick, sports team logo items (Hats, duffle bags, etc.), art sets, sports balls, nice razors, any teen gifts, gift certificates for local stores, make-up items, assorted gift baskets

We start gift distribution on Dec. 9th and will continue through Dec. 25th.  It would be helpful to receive Christmas gift donations by December 8th. This allows time for us to get the gift area set-up. However, we will gladly receive donations beyond this date as well. We ask that, for Christmas, gifts be new items and unwrapped. Our signup for the Christmas Shop has ended but if you know someone in need that is not getting any help from another organization you can have them call our Distribution Center at 785-357-4285 and we will be glad to talk with them about their situation and assist as possible.

**Please bring donations to: Distribution Center,** 401 NW Norris: Monday – Friday 8:00AM – 3:30PM, Saturday 8:00AM – Noon

**TOPEKA JUMP NEWS -** Our congregation has a Justice Ministry that connects us with faith communities across Shawnee County so that we can live out God’s call for us to “do justice.” It is TOPEKA JUMP which stands for Justice Unity Ministry Project.

In 2013-2014, JUMP identified a specific issue in the field of education and after much research called together over 1,000 people in the community for a public meeting (Nehemiah Action Assembly) to challenge Dr. Julie Ford, USD 501 superintendent, to champion the expansion of services for at-risk children in our elementary schools. At that time, there were 5,000 elementary school students facing challenges such as hunger, physical and mental health issues, negligent parents, and abuse, and USD 501 was only reaching 1 out of 8 of those students with their current intervention program. Originally, Dr. Ford said, “no” claiming she did not have the money. JUMP members continued to meet with Dr. Ford and the school board pressing the need to address this injustice and the district DID find the money to add “Community In Schools” program into an additional four elementary schools and now more than 1,000 more students are being served. JUMP now considers this campaign a victory, so we will do maintenance only on this project.

In 2014-2015, we found that people with mental illness are overburdened by crisis. Evidence suggest that employment services are a cornerstone for recovery. We pushed the Shawnee County Commission to restore $100,000 in budget cuts to mental health services for the 2016 fiscal year. Now we are bringing together stakeholders to draw up a county-wide plan for making evidence based Supported Employment more accessible to people with mental illness whether they have insurance or not. We still have designated JUMP network members who are working to make this project a victory.

For the 2015-2016 project, the area is Safe, Affordable Housing. We found that more than 7,000 low income families have housing problems such as high rent and utilities, living with pests, and exposure to lead, etc. We urged Mayor Larry Wolgast to convene a task force that would develop a plan to address Topeka’s housing needs through an Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This fund would a dedicate a revenue source of $2 million dollars annually to address the needs of at least 300 families annually. Many meetings with the mayor and City Council have taken place since our Nehemiah Action Assembly on May 5, 2016. Just like Moses, with help from God, had to persist so hard with Pharaoh to free the people of Israel, working with these politicians is proving to be a difficult task. The task force has met a few times and we believe eventually a plan of implementation of the trust fund will happen, but we will continue to spend lots of time on this project over the next few years.

We had a research kick-off meeting on December 3rd for the 2016-2017 project year. In addition to continuing with mental health and safe, affordable housing, we will be tackling justice in the area of transportation. The specific issue is in process of being decided upon, so as soon as that is known you will be updated in The News in the Pews and the church newsletter.

In February 2017, we will have a network member meeting at the church. If you are not yet a JUMP network member and would like to hear more about becoming one, you are most welcome to attend. Date and time will be announced later. You may also ask Janet Nyfeler any questions at any time about what’s happening with JUMP.

Janet Nyfeler, Justice Team Leader for WSBC

**Something to make you smile during the holidays:**

The other day a fellow asked the pastor, "Can I smoke and still get to heaven?" Pastor replied "Sure, and if you smoke, you might get there a lot sooner."

As it was coming up to Christmas a young boy is praying upstairs while his mother sits by him and his dad and grandma are downstairs. He prays "Lord I pray for a train set, a remote control car, and A NEW BICYCLE!!! "You don't have to shout dear", says the mother "God's not deaf." "I know" said the little boy, "but grandma is."

