

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

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January 2017

“This Year is Going to Be Different!”

Words from your pastor: How many New Year’s resolutions have you made in your lifetime? How many of your resolutions have you kept for more than thirty days? Statistics show that over half of Americans will make a New Year’s resolution in 2017 but only 8% will achieve their goals despite the proclamation: *this year is going to be different*. Why don’t more Americans keep their promises to change? First, we often make plans to change in the New Year because we’re motivated by guilt, frustration, and fatigue which are not good motivators. Second, seldom do we calculate the *sustained energy* required to make lasting changes in ourselves, our churches, or our country. And finally, let’s face it: bad habits are hard to break as good habits are to create.

The solution is simple: **Don’t** make a New Year’s resolution, or join a small group to offer you encouragement and support! We all know soliciting support from others will help us persevere during challenges to achieve our goals. Mutual encouragement is essential for the long road. This is why the Apostle Paul wrote, “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing” (1 Thess. 5:11).

One way we will help people achieve their goal of financial independence in the New Years is by offering: **Financial Peace University** (FPU). In nine easy-to-follow lessons, participants will learn how to “take control of their money.” When it comes to managing money, this class will teach you how to:

- **Become Debt Free** by paying off your credit cards, car loans, mortgage, and student loans.
- **Prepare for the Future** by saving for financial emergencies and confidently plan for retirement.
- **Get on a Plan Together** by creating a budget that works for you AND your spouse.

Join us for Financial Peace University starting Saturday, January 14 at 10:00 am in Holmer Hall. Register online at <https://www.daveramsey.com> or call the church office.

Make a New Year’s Resolution you can keep:
Join Financial Peace University!

New Year’s blessings,
Pastor Ivan



NEWS IN THE PEWS

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.

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.



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.

NEWSLETTER - Articles and updates for the newsletter are due on **Wednesday, January 18 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.



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, January



3 @ 5:30 pm at Chick Fil' A. 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 Group

MEN'S NIGHT OUT – Tuesday, January 3 @ 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.

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.

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.



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.



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, January 14 @

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

HARVEST



FOR THE NEEDY!

DECEMBER COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES

UPDATE - This is a review of the Council of Ministries meeting that was held on December 13. We reviewed the Treasurer's report and the Minutes for the month of previous month. We went over our normal reporting for each of the coordinators of each ministry. The coordinators of each ministry went over their program area to see about any cuts that could be made to the 2017 budget. This will be reviewed at the Annual meeting in January. The council coordinators were to look at their calendars and make sure we have all events scheduled going into 2017.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO

SERVE - For the last 4 years I have served as Moderator of West Side Baptist Church. I want to thank you for allowing me to serve in this position. I have personally grown in this position and I thank God for giving me the energy to work through all that has happened in the past 4 years. I'm taking a break from the Council but I am not resting. I will be concentrating on the Technology, and Pastoral Relations committees in the next year. Through God's will, we are



doing good things at West Side Baptist Church and I know that Pat Carpenter will do a great job as Moderator. Please keep those who will be serving on the Council as we go into 2017.

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.



Thank You



To my church family,

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas bonus. I love this church family and it makes me happy to plan good music to glorify God.

In love and harmony, Janet

THANK YOU – The LORD has blessed us with wonderful friends at West Side! Thank you for the gracious gifts of candy, cookies, desserts, puzzles, restaurant and store gift cards, cards and monetary surprises. We thank the Lord every time we remember you in our prayers. God bless you on the birthday of Jesus our Messiah and in the New Year! Ivan, Rexanne, Jessa, Macy, and David Greuter

Blessings,
Ivan



Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. It is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely Ernie Longstaff



Thank you everyone for the wonderful Christmas Gift. I hope all of you had a nice Christmas and have a good New Year. I am looking forward to working with each and everyone of you in 2017.

Lynda Cokeley

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER OR TIE SUNDAY – The Sunday after Christmas is usually a low attendance day - so let's have some fun! We all have one: an ugly Christmas sweater or tie which we bought or received as a gift. Wear it! Dress in an ugly sweater, horrid tie, or outrageous Christmas outfit on **Sunday, January 1 at 10:30 a.m.** We can all share the holiday stories when we received these unique gifts.



Missions Committee

Jesus has called on all of us to “Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you”. (Matthew 28: 19 – 20)

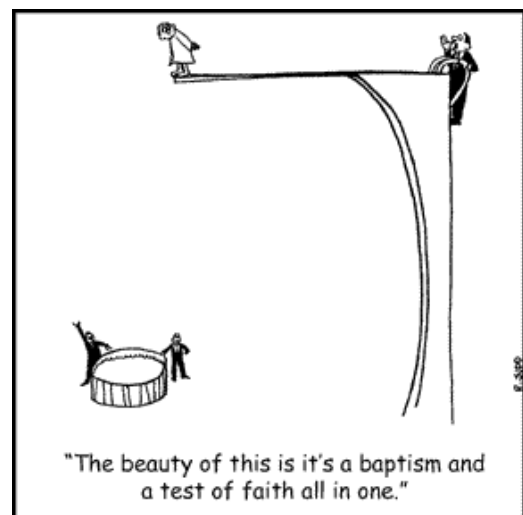


We here at West Side Baptist need to plan our mission's outreach for 2017. The mission's committee will meet on January 15, 2017 at 2:30pm in Holmer Hall. We will be planning the programming for the year. Some of the topics we will be look at:

- Mission trip to Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee
- Mission trip to Cross Wind conference center, Hesston, Kan.
- Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City
- Pick a Missionary to support
- Campbells Soup labels & box tops for Murrow Indian Children's Home

The mission's committee will meet on the third Sunday of each month at 2:30 pm in Holmer hall.

Don Johnson





A Little Learning by Alexander Pope

A little learning is a dangerous thing;
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring:
There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
And drinking largely sobers us again.
Fired at first sight with what the Muse imparts,
In fearless youth we tempt the heights of Arts;
While from the bounded level of our mind
Short views we take, nor see the lengths behind,
But, more advanced, behold with strange surprise
New distant scenes of endless science rise!
So pleased at first the towering Alps we try,
Mount o'er the vales, and seem to tread the sky;
The eternal snows appear already past,
And the first clouds and mountains seem the last;
But those attained, we tremble to survey
The growing labours of the lengthened way;
The increasing prospect tires our wandering eyes,
Hill peep o'er hills, and Alps on Alps arise!

