

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

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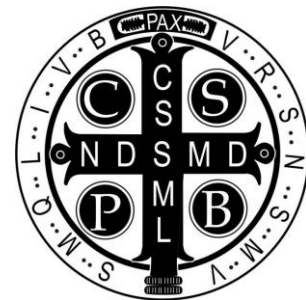
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February 2017

“The Work of God...Morning and Evening”

Words from your pastor: Thank you to our leaders and members for allowing me to join the *Benedictine Spirituality Immersion* class at Conception Abbey first week of January with Dr. Molly T. Marshall. As students, we joined the Benedictine monks in their daily prayer exercises which their fifth-century founder, St. Benedict of Nursia, called “The Work of God.” We recited the Psalms and scriptures, mediated on scripture (*lectio Divina*), offered intercessory prayers five times a day, and kept silence. One might wonder, “what could a Baptist learn from hanging out with Roman Catholic monks?” A lot!



First and foremost, the time reminded me that God created us to be *spiritual* persons. Everyone needs time to focus (and refocus) their lives on the spiritual practices which help nurture their life in Christ. Over time, clergy – as well as laity – are prone to fall into the sin the desert fathers and mothers called *acedia* or *accidie* – the “devil of the noonday sun.” Simply put, it is spiritual boredom. Our daily routines cause us to grow indifferent to religious matters, to focus on tasks which are not important, and slip into destructive patterns of behavior. A spiritual retreat gave me time and space to refocus on Christ.

Second, a retreat helped me recalibrate my priorities at work. St. Benedict wrote a book of precepts (Rules) which would guide the monks living in community. Most of the rules are practical guidelines for admitting new monks, administrative tasks, community discipline, and daily tasks. Some of the rules are spiritual guideposts, such as rule 72:11: “Prefer nothing whatever to Christ.” Benedict told his students the most important task for Christians is scripture reading and intercessory prayer, which he called “The Work of God.” Our chores and daily labors support our primary work: prayer! The monks were to place a high priority on their prayer times (“The Daily Office”). All other tasks – including eating and sleeping – were secondary to the primary work: adoration and intercession. The Protestant Reformation in England shortened the expectations for working Christians to “Morning and Evening.”

Finally, the retreat reminded me of the universality of Christ’s Church. Christians can and should learn with and from one another. Ecumenism - our shared encounters and common work – is important. As the church, we can pray for and with one another for the transformation of the world. If you get a chance next year, consider joining Dr. Marshall at Conception Abbey!

Spiritual blessings,
Pastor Ivan

NEWS IN THE PEWS



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING will be taken in February and March. The America for Christ (AFC) 2017 theme is **"Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities"** based on TEXT IN Luke 4:18-19. This Scripture inspires and encourages us to partner with American Baptist Churches USA in answering God's call to live out the Christian faith in transforming individuals, congregations and communities; to develop networks and programs committed to nurturing Christ-centered leaders; and to promote witness and evangelism as well as discipleship and social justice.

Your gift to the AFC Offering helps American Baptist Home Mission Societies, in partnership with individuals, congregations, and other organizations, to cultivating dynamic Christian leaders who are culturally and spiritually competent, in touch with their churches and communities, and passionate about ministry and helping people. Highly developed Christ-honoring leaders are called to advance the mission of peace, hope and love in their churches and communities with resilience, faithfulness and proficiency.

Our goal for the AFC Offering is \$1,500.00. Please use the envelope for AFC Offering or mark your gifts "AFC."

Thank you for giving generously!
Don Johnson, Chair of Missions

BIBLE STUDIES – Do you want to grow in your knowledge of the Bible? Do you want to have a closer relationship with God? Do you want to meet new friends like you? Join a small group Bible study at West Side Baptist Church to learn God's word and be transformed by the Spirit:

- Sundays at 9:15 am – "Biblical Archeology" with Doug Mauck
- Sundays at 9:15 am – "Explore the Bible" with Don Johnson
- Sundays at 4:00 pm – "The Book of Isaiah" with Pastor Ivan
- Wednesdays at 10:30 am – "Ephesians" with Pastor Ivan

Bible studies are free and open to the public. A free Bible available to participants.

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 but **NO** Box Tops for Education 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 is still outside the Church Office.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE –

The Christian Education leaders meet on the **Third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 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 Alice Payne, Coordinator, for agendas and details.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – Thank you for giving generously to the **2016 Christmas Offering**. We have **received \$12,026.17** to help reach our **goal of \$25,000.00** to repair the Boiler System (estimated \$7,900) and leaking Roof (estimated \$16,400).

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.



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 to sign up!**

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY – Did you know that 76% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck? Or that 64% of

Dave Ramsey's

Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY

Americans can't cover a \$1,000 emergency? This doesn't have to be true for you! All you need is a practical plan for your money—and Financial Peace University IS that plan! In nine easy-to-follow lessons, you'll learn how to get out of debt, create a budget, make wise spending decisions, save for the future, and so much more! **You're invited to Financial Peace University class at West Side Baptist Church starting Saturday, January 28 at 10:00 am in Holmer Hall. Register at <https://www.daveramsey.com>.**

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, February 7th @ 5:30 pm at Palette at 2134 SW Westport Dr. 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, February 7
@ 5:30 pm at
Palette. 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.



MISSION TRIP TO MURROW INDIAN CHILDREN'S HOME – The Ministry of Missions would like to plan a work trip to Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma, sometime in March or June, so we need to know who will be interested in going. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. The mission trip will include time to make friends as you complete assigned physical work projects – see Mission bulletin board for a list of possible projects. See Don Johnson for details or to volunteer.

NEWSLETTER – Articles and updates for the newsletter are due on **Wed., February 15 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 MEETING – The Ministry of Outreach and Evangelism will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday's at 7:15 pm in Holmer Hall. The Committee is planning several important events for the church and neighborhood, including bingo nights, community garage sales, Easter Egg Hunt, movie nights, Trunk or Treat, and other opportunities to Know Your Neighbors. See Mark Calloway, Coordinator, for details.

PIPE WORKSHOP - The
Topeka Chapter of the
American Guild of
Organists presents: **"An Introduction to the King of Instruments: The Pipe Organ"** for all ages on
Sunday, February 12 at 2:00 to 3:30 pm at
First Presbyterian Church, 8th & Harrison
Streets, Topeka, KS. Cost: **FREE!** Call
(785) 233-9601 to reserve your seat today!
Although a reservation is not required, it will
assist us in planning.



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.



SHEPHERD'S CENTER OFFERS - four
"Adventures in Learning!" sessions per year
in February, April, August and October from
9:00-11:30 am on the Fridays that
month. Classes are 50 minutes long with
the first beginning at 9:00 o'clock.
Participants may choose from four different
classes being offered in each time slot.

At 9:50 refreshments are provided
compliments of our community partners
where you'll have an opportunity to interact

with other members, community partners, and join with the Director in recognizing birthdays and anniversaries.



Senior Adult Event

At 10:40, the second class begins. The cost is \$30.00 per quarterly session (pays for all four Fridays). So, for \$30.00, a person chooses eight educational classes, along with fellowship time and refreshments. Now that's a BARGAIN!

Class choices are offered in health, religion, news & current events, people & places, community, the arts, library wisdom, and potpourri (classes that may not fit one of the regular categories) or a "back by popular demand" speaker. Our speakers include college professors, physicians, clergy, business professionals, authors, artists, lawyers, and other devoted individuals who graciously give of their time and talent in support of the Shepherd's Center mission. If you would like to be considered as a speaker for a class program, please send information with your proposal to SCT, 4101 SW 15th ST, Topeka, 66604. For more information, you may call 785-249-3258.

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT — Join American Baptist Senior Adults from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas during the **Senior Adult Retreat** on

Wednesday, April 26 and Thursday,

April 27 at Cross Wind Conference Center, Hesston, Kansas. The theme: "Reflections" 2 Corinthians 3:18. *Registration deadline is Monday, April 3, 2017.* Cost: \$10 per person, late fee assessed if postmarked after April 3. Cancellation Policy: A full refund will be given if cancelled by Thursday, April 6, 2017. After April 6, a \$25.00 fee per individual will be non-refundable. You can find a registration form in the Office.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – Bring cans of soup, boxes of unopened crackers, and loose change to support the youth group's food collection campaign on **Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017**. The youth group will collect donations to help alleviate hunger in the Topeka Area. All donations will be given to a local charity. **The Souper Bowl of Caring** is a national youth-lead



SUPER BOWL BASH

are hungry and those in need.

tacklehunger.org

campaign using the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who

SUPER BOWL WATCH PARTY AND CHILI FEED - You are invited to attend the Super Bowl Watch Party and Chili Feed at West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka, KS on **Super Bowl Sunday, February 5 at 4:00 pm** in Holmer Hall. It's great fun and it's free. We do ask if you can please bring a potluck snack item or dessert to share. Please R.S.V.P. to the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 before Friday, February 3. We hope to see you there.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE - The Technology Committee is under the Coordinator of Administration and has been busy doing upgrades over the past several months at West Side Baptist Church. This article is to update you on the details of these upgrades. We have set up wireless access points around the church that you can use if you have a Bible on your iPad,



Kindle, or other electronic reader. There are access points located in the Youth Room, the sanctuary, and Holmer Hall. If you are attending a Bible study in Holmer Hall, look for wsbguest-2. In the sanctuary, you can look for wsb-guest. If you are in the lower level, look for wsb youth room. You can connect to all these networks by using the password posted around the church. If you are on the second floor and needing wireless access, you should be able to see wsbguest-2. A projector has been installed in Holmer Hall that has connections for laptop computers and other electronic devices for meetings and for Sunday School. This also opens possibilities of connecting to ABC missionaries in the field, attending ABC and ABCCR events remotely if the option is available, and other possibilities that you may have. If you have questions, please contact Brice.

2016 TREASURER'S REPORT -



Our total income for 2016 was \$288,313.24 which included \$36,148 from our investments - \$30,000 for operating expenses, \$4,920 memorials, and \$1,228.38 from the Ruby Edwards fund used for youth expenditures. Our total expenses for the year were \$263,893.25. Our Net Operating Income was \$24,419.99 with \$3,910.03 Net Income after Other Income and Expenses.

Our checking account at the end of December was \$23,316.07. Out of this cash, we have \$12,026.17 that came in during November and December earmarked for the roof and boiler repairs. 2017 roof repairs are estimated at \$16,400 and boiler repairs/replacement at \$7,900. It was approved at the October 2016 church business meeting that we should ask people to give in addition to their tithe to these needed repairs and what was not raised would be paid out of the capital campaign

money market account. We are about halfway to our goal.

Several times throughout the year we borrowed from our capital campaign to help with cash flow in our checking account. All of that money has been returned to the capital campaign account.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

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.



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 Alice Payne, Coordinator for Christian Education, for more details.

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!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS – Supper is prepared weekly for children and adults at no cost but a free-will donation is appreciated. Please make a reservation on the Pew Pad or call the Church Office before 12:00 noon on Wednesday, so volunteers can prepare enough food. Menu (subject to change):

- **February 1** – Chicken Strips, macaroni and cheese, fruit, vegetables, and dessert
- **February 8** – Meatloaf, potatoes, fruit, vegetables, and dessert
- **February 15** – Chicken fajitas, Mexican rice, fruit, vegetables, and dessert
- **February 22** – BBQ pork, coleslaw, fruit, vegetables, and dessert

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, February 11 @ Cracker Barrel at 9:00 am for anyone the age of 55 or older for more information call John Swain at 785-273-2434.



YOUTH (ABY) OPPORTUNITIES – The ABC of the Central Region (ABCCR) is offering new and exciting Christ-centered Youth Opportunities in 2017:

- **Junior High Jamboree** (for students in grades 6-8) is being held Jan. 27-29 at Cross Wind Conference Center, Hesston, Kan.
- **Winter Jam** - the Region will host an overnight event on Friday, March 31, in Wichita. For details, contact Region

Staff Minister, Julie Robinson.

- **4TEN** will offer leadership skills training for youth entering 10-12th grades during the fall of 2017.

Youth wanting to attending these events should speak with Alice Payne, Chair of Christian Education, or Mark Calloway, Sunday School teacher.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

BIRTHDAY LIST – Happy birthday to the follow people who are celebrating their birthdays:

February 04
February 08

Ophelia Hammond
David Greuter
Nadine Manley
Macy Greuter
Reanna Campbell
Sue Ann Seel
Markayla Calloway
Matthew Smith
Tony Carreno
Colleen Smith

February 11
February 14
February 18
February 23
February 25
February 26
February 29

Contact the Church Office for addresses, corrections, and to submit your information.

REMEMBER TO SEND VALENTINES to our SHUT INS –

Contact the Church Office for a current list of homebound members. The Church Council maintains the list of homebound members who receive weekly mailings, the Secret Place



devotionals, and regular pastoral visits.