

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

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March 2017

“Are You Serious about Your Spiritual Life?”

Words from your pastor: Are you serious about your spiritual life? Are you a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ? Are you dedicated to personal growth and spiritual maturity? These are the questions of Lent – the forty-day religious journey from Ash Wednesday (the ritual marking the start of a season for repentance) through Holy Saturday (a day of fasting prior to Easter). The Lenten season is a time when many Christians intentionally start or renew a spiritual discipline or practice to show they’re earnestly devoted to following Jesus Christ and his life of sacrificial service. The aim is to set aside time with God for personal reflection on the life, death, burial, and resurrection of our Messiah to help prepare us for the joyful celebration of the Easter Resurrection.

Thomas Merton, O.C.S.O., an American Catholic mystic and Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani, Kentucky, once wrote, *“A life is either all spiritual or not spiritual at all. No man can serve two masters. Your life is shaped by the end you live for. You are made in the image of what you desire.”* Lent is the season to ask: What is my ultimate desire? Am I on the right path? How can I shape my daily life to reach heaven’s goal?

Many Christians return to the spiritual-disciplines of our past:

- Fasting – abstaining from a food or physical pleasure as an act of self-control/denial
- Moderation – bringing life, rest, and work back into a healthier balance
- Prayer – rededicating oneself to the daily ritual of morning and evening prayers
- Sacrifice – giving up something of importance to spend time with God



Lent begins

As we approach the Holy Season of the Resurrection, join me as we rededicate ourselves to being serious about discipleship and spiritual disciplines! Join me on our Lenten journey: *Seriously!*

Spiritual blessings,
Pastor Ivan

PASTOR ON VACATION – Pastor will be on vacation the week of March 20 thru March 26. He plans to enjoy some private family time while Rexanne and the kids are enjoying Spring Break from public school. Jan Mauck has secured a guest preacher to fill the pulpit on Sunday, March 26. Contact the Church Office in case of an emergency.

NEWS IN THE PEWS

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

8TH Bill & Marie Merrifield
26TH Bob & Jill Roesler

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2nd Brian Hunter
3rd Laura Carrier
3rd Jill Roesler
4th Aaron Hunter
8th Nathan Poe
12th Caroline Carrier
12th Don Johnson
15th Judy Ginest
16th Rexanne Greuter
20th Tera Triggs
21st Shelby Hersh
22nd Janice Kirby
22nd Trena Ansell
29th Kate Olsen



OUR CHURCH FINANCES -

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



- We start 2017 with our first month's income of \$26,930.06. This includes our annual distribution or \$7,589.00 from our investment at the Topeka Community Foundation. The expenses for January were \$21,103.62. Our net income for the month was \$5,826.45.
- Our checking account at the end of January was \$29,182.71. Out of this cash, we have \$12,026.17 that came in during November and December earmarked for the roof and boiler repairs. In January we had an additional \$1,974.00 come in for a total of \$14,000.17. 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 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 have almost 60% of what is needed. We will continue to collect for these expenses throughout 2017.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

A CHRISTIAN ED INVITATION TO YOU -

This invitation is for everyone, but especially **YOU!** Sunday School is at 9:15 am and there are classes for everyone. Pre-K through 1st grade, 2nd through 5th grade; and 6th grade through High School. Adults have two choices - Don Johnson is teaching a study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth (upstairs, south room), or Doug & Jan Mauck are leading a video study of Bible Archaeology (Holmer Hall).



Please accept our invitation to be a part of Sunday School. Scripture has a way of reaching the depths of our heart and providing spiritual warmth. Winter isn't over and we all can warm up our lives....heart, soul and mind...by participating in Sunday School. We would love for **YOU** to join us! See Pastor Ivan or Alice Payne for more information on Christian Education opportunities.

Alice Payne, Christian Ed

ROOF REPAIRS

UPDATE - With the milder weather work is progressing on waterproofing of the



deteriorated masonry at the roof level of our building. It is happening in stages as weather and contractor schedules allow. This repair work addresses the most immediate moisture problems of our building. At some point we will

likely need to remove the deteriorated parapets on the two towers for safety and maintenance reasons. Expect more expense. This work is expensive but necessary. Any questions on this work can be directed to me.

Tom Mansfield, Administration

MISSION - The mission committee is planning a mission trip to Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, OK. June 5th – 8th. If you



are interested in going and have not already signed up, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board outside the office.

We will be traveling to Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City on Friday March 31, 2017. We bring a meal and lead the worship service. Anyone wanting to go need to be at church at 4:00PM.

America for Christ Offering will be taken in 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 cultivate 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.

WAY TO SUPPORT OUR SPECIAL INTEREST MISSIONARIES (SIM) –

Keep Informed: www.abhms.org and

www.internationalministries.org **Read:** Blogs and newsletters (subscribe if no internet)

Write: They love mail, especially the children!! Remember birthdays & holidays.

Pray: Consider adding them to your personal & your church prayer list .

Projects: Familiarize yourself with their individual projects .

Promote: Keep their names & projects visible to your church, print and post blogs or newsletters and include updates on your website

Gifts: Check to see what is allowed through customs before sending a gift.

Financial: Support your SIMS through your local church designate for mission offerings.

Visit: Plan a mission trip to a mission field & visit a SIM.

Invite: Ask an SIM to visit your local church or group when stateside.

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.



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!

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, March 7 @ 5:30 pm at Herman's. 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, March 7 @ 6:00 pm at Annie'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.

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, for

June 5th – 8th, 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., March 22 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 a <https://goo.gl/AAbGYG> or click on the link from the Church's website:

www.wsbctopeka.org.



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, March 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.



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 refreshment 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.

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. **The full cost for the retreat and lodging is \$95.00 per person.** *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.

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.

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!

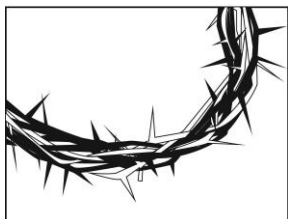


COME ALONG!

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

- **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.



Lilies & Flowers for Easter

I (We) would like to order flowers as indicated below to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter:

Quantity:

- _____ 6 inch Lily (4+ blooms) — \$ 8.80
 _____ 6 inch Lily (6+ blooms) — \$ 9.70
 _____ 8 inch Lily (2 plants per pot 7-10+blooms) — \$ 19.50

These prices are with foil, delivered to the church.

Other Plants Available

- _____ Rieger Begonia — \$ 11.25
 _____ Kalanchoes — \$ 12.50
 _____ Hyacinth — \$ 9.50
 _____ Tulips — \$ 9.50
 _____ Azalea — \$ 17.50
 _____ Daffodil — \$ 9.00
 _____ Mum — \$ 10.25

Your Name

Please make checks payable to West Side Baptist Church.

Return your order and payment to Janet Nyfeler or Lynda in the office by no later than March 26. Orders after Mar. 26 may cost more or be unavailable.

My plant(s) purchased is/are in memory or honor of:
