

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

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Vol. 100, No. 4

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April 2017

“He Who Sings Prays Twice”

How would worship change if we did not have music? What would the angels chant night-and-day without the sacred words: “Holy, Holy, Holy”? How could we express our deepest emotions to the Lord without the gift of verse? How could we fulfill our calling without Paul’s admonishment to encourage one another with “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs” (Eph. 5:19-21)? We all know that music is an essential part of our Christian life – in the past, now, and in the future. The words we sing – and our interjection of emotions into the songs – are important!

Saint Augustine was right when he wrote, “*Qui bene catat bis orat*” (translated: “He who sings prays twice”). Singing vibrates the cords of our hearts as words flow from the soul. Music helps unite worshippers with the larger Church and the Great Cloud of Witnesses before the Throne. Even Jesus Christ knew the importance of singing when following the Lord’s Supper, Jesus and his disciples “sung a hymn, then they went out to the Mount of Olives” to pray (Matt. 26:30). Music was a chore characteristic of Christ’s life on earth. We might even wonder, “Did Jesus hum or whistle while he worked, performed miracles, or spent quiet time with God?”

After the death and resurrection, the Apostles were confronted with a monumental challenge: *Do we continue to sing the familiar songs out of the Jewish Book of Psalms (i.e., the Psalter) or do we sing new songs about and to Jesus Christ since he is God?* Happily, biblical scholars agree, the Early Church did both: they sang the familiar songs while incorporating new songs into worship. We know this because one of the oldest Christian hymns in the New Testament is Philippians 2:6-11. This song shares the story of our Christ: his humility, suffering, obedience unto death, glorious resurrection, and exultation as Lord. Although we have lost the tune to this song, we have the words preserved by Paul in verse.

Most of the songs we know as a congregation – and prefer to sing – were written during the Revival Movements of Pietism (Germany) and Puritanism (England) in the 18th and 19th centuries. Songs like “*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*” by Elizabeth C. Clephane or Isaac Watts’ “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” were new to the Protestant Church, yet we’d all agree they were inspired by the Spirit after a long period of spiritual stagnation known as the Middle Ages. Christians grew exhausted with singing the same old songs, so God stirred the minds and spirits of believers when He “put a new song in our mouths” (Psalm 40:3), and invited His people to “sing to the Lord a new song” (Ps. 96:1). They didn’t replace the familiar songs like “All Creatures of our God and King” but added a new dimension of expression for our faith.

Today, the world-wide Church is experiencing a new musical awakening. We are witnessing a revival of the old Latin chants and songs, the inspiration of multicultural, multilingual, and multi-denominational music known as *Taize* (from Taize, France), and a cornucopia of contemporary music. Like our spiritual forbearers, we must ask: *Do we continue to sing the old songs or sing the news songs of faith?* Hopefully, we can answer: both!

Blessings,
Pastor Ivan

NEWS IN THE PEWS

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4TH JARED & AMY CRIPE

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1st Bev McCurdy
3rd Russ Hunter
3rd Nancy Cottril
4th Lynn Reeves
6th Jessa Greuter
11th Emily Hersh
25th Ernie Longstaff
26th Adelyn Cripe
29th Jan Mauck
30th Harry Carpenter



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 – “Philippians” with Pastor Ivan

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

CHRISTIAN ED - I want to introduce you to your Christian Education Committee. These members faithfully and generously give of their time and talents to further the educational mission of our church. They are Trena Ansell, Mark Calloway, Pat Carpenter, Nancy Cottril, Pastor Ivan, Rexanne Greuter, Fran Seymour-Hunter, Marty Rosa, Brice Smith and Colleen Smith. These people plan and work in the educational aspects of the Nursery, Sunday School, Children's Church, WWW, Kids' Bible Groups, Youth and Adult Education. We are also very grateful for the assistance of many other faithful workers in our educational ministry. Please visit with the members of the C.E. committee anytime with your questions and suggestions. Jesus said, “**Feed my Sheep.**” That's what we strive to be about.

Alice Payne, Christian Ed

LADIES NIGHT OUT -

Tuesday, April 4 @ 5:30 pm at Jose Pepper'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.



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MEN'S NIGHT OUT –

Tuesday, April 4 @ 6:00 pm at Steak and Shake. 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.



OUR CHURCH FINANCES - This is a general overview of our church finances through the end of February.

- Income for the first two months of the year is \$43,347.66. The expenses for January and February add to \$65,560.43. Our net income to date is: -\$22,212.77. It helps having the annual distribution from the Topeka Community Foundation investment to offset some of this expense.
- One of the biggest expenditures for February was our annual insurance with Brotherhood Mutual. It was \$7,617.00 which is \$117 more than what we budgeted and \$287 more than last year's bill.
- Another big expenditure paid in February was in Building Facility Maintenance. This expenditure was \$15,915.33 which included the boiler and roof repairs. At the end of 2016 we collected an additional \$12,103.17 for these repairs and an additional \$2,154 has come in this year for a total of \$14,257.17. **THANK YOU FOR MAKING THESE ADDITIONAL GIFTS!**
- In Building Facility Maintenance there is still the masonry work that needs to be completed and is not in our budget. Please consider making an additional gift this month to help offset this \$8,000+ expense.
- Two expenditures from memorials will be made soon. Vera Cochran's family is purchasing a planter to be placed by the bench in the garden area outside of the north door. They plan to change out the plants in the pot four times a year. There is \$525 in her memorial fund. Once those funds are depleted Vera's family plans to continue maintaining the planter. Also, a freezer was purchased for the kitchen. The memorial committee will be considering which memorial to recommend using for this expenditure.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

APRIL – AN IMPORTANT MONTH FOR TOPEKA JUMP

There are two very important meetings in April for Topeka JUMP (Justice Unity Ministry Project). The first one is on April 4 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at First Baptist Church. This is the Rally in preparation for the second important meeting. This is where all JUMP network members will learn the specifics of what will be asked of community leaders to promote justice in our city and county on April 25.

The West Side Baptist network members are: Pat Carreno, Esther and James Carrier, Nancy Cottril, Chuck Cozad, Ivan Greuter, Don Johnson, Kim Maggard, Tom and Jan Mansfield, Virginia Mansfield, Fran Hunter and Janet Nyfeler. All of these network members will be asking others at West Side to commit to attending a "Night of Justice" (The Nehemiah Assembly) on April 25. Please say "YES" to add your support to fighting for justice for the mentally ill, for our community families living in unaffordable and unsafe housing, and for having adequate transportation for all people working in Topeka.

We are asking the congregation to come out to a "Night of Justice". Don't worry about the details of the issue work. Let's leave that part up to God and remember to do our part. Remember, God can do it all by himself, but he has invited us to be a part of the mission. We are a people called out for something. Right now...that something is justice!

If details about the issue work is important to you and you are not yet a network member, please ask one of the network members listed above that has attended the Rally on April 4. The details should all be presented at the Rally, and we are happy to give you those details.

The Night of Justice on April 25 will be held at Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Street. It begins at 7:00 pm. It is the goal of Topeka JUMP to have 1,000 or more people attend this assembly. Let's try to car pool as much as we can. I have asked James Carrier to drive the van that night to help out with transportation, so please let James, Tom Mansfield or me know if you would like a ride to the Cathedral.

Let's all get on board to develop a *Culture of Justice* in Topeka.

~ Janet Nyfeler, JUMP Team Leader

CPR & FIRST AID - We will be having a CPR and First Aid training on Sunday May, 7th from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm in Holmer Hall, and on Wednesday May, 10th at 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. If you are interested in this training a sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the office. **The mission committee ask everyone going on the mission trip to Murrow to have the training.**

Missions, Don Johnson

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, April 15 @ Cracker Barrel at 9:00 am for anyone the age of 55 or older for more information call John Swain at 785-273-2434.



Senior Adult Event

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.

April 3 — Deadline for Senior Adult

Retreat Registration - If you haven't yet, register today for the Senior Adult Retreat being held Apr. 26-27 at Cross Wind Conference Center. Registration forms are available on the Region website <https://abccr.org/> Along with other senior adults from across the Region, you will experience inspiring messages from Rev. Stephen Jones, a variety of interesting workshops, fun and fellowship.

April 8 — Groundbreaking at Bethel Neighborhood Center - The Bethel Neighborhood Center is grateful to the churches, businesses, foundations, public, and private donors who came together and actually surpassed its capital campaign goal by raising a grand total of \$2,275,114 million dollars. A special groundbreaking ceremony will be held at Bethel on Saturday, April 8, at 11 a.m. at 14 S. 7th in Kansas City, Kansas.

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

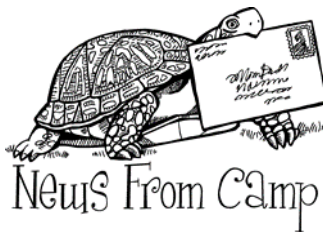
- **4TEN** will offer leadership skills training for youth entering 10-12th grades during the fall of 2017.

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

HEARTLAND TRAVELING DAY CAMP –

West Side Baptist and Potwin Presbyterian Churches are once again partnering to host Heartland Traveling Day Camp. It will be held June 19 thru 23 at West Side Baptist. Children who have completed grades Kindergarten through 6th grade may attend. There is **no cost**, but a registration form must be completed by May 31st. Parents may register their child at: <http://www.heartlandcamps.org> or call the church office at (785) 233-4241 for more information. If you are able to help, please fill out the volunteer registration form at <http://www.heartlandcamps.org>. We would love to have you be a part of this wonderful experience!

~ Alice Payne, Christian Ed



EASTER SERVICES –

Everyone is invited to participate in our **ecumenical (nondenominational) worship services sponsored by Central Congregational, Potwin Presbyterian, West Side Baptist, and Westside Christian Church during Holy Week:**



- **MAUNDY THURSDAY April 13** – an “Agape Feast” at Potwin Presbyterian Church at 6:30 am OR the Traditional Worship Service at Westside Christian Church at 7:00 pm.
- **GOOD FRIDAY April 14** – A joint service at West Side Christian Church at 7:00 pm. We will have a united choir. See Janet Nyfeler for the music.
- **EASTER SUNRISE** – A Communion Service at Ward Meade/Old Prairie Town at 7:00 am sponsored by West Side Baptist Church.
- **EASTER BREAKFAST** – West Side Baptist Church at 8:00 am

Please let the Church Office know if you plan to attend any of these events. If you plan to attend the Maundy Thursday at Potwin, please let the office know they need a head count so they have plenty of food.

MISSION TRIP TO MURROW INDIAN CHILDREN’S HOME –

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. **Please sign up by May 10, 2017.**



Thank you for your generosity we have received \$995.00 for the America for Christ Offering will continue taken in April.

Missions, Don Johnson