

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

1008 SW 4th Street, Topeka, KS 66606 | Phone: (785) 233-4241

Email: office@wsbctopeka.org | Website: www.wsbctopeka.org

Vol. 100, No. 6

Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Yelp](#)!

June 2017

“We are Here Because We Care!”

Paul's letters remind us that as members of the church, we are so closely connected that we can think of ourselves as parts of one body. The New Testament constantly refers to followers of Jesus, not as Christians, but as a family — brothers and sisters. We live this out when someone is ill, mourning, or facing a crisis. We show up. We are there for our loved ones in need. We show that love in tangible ways, with casseroles and cards, with hugs and spoken words of prayer. These acts let our brothers and sisters in Christ know that we are present with them. They know they are not alone because we are beside them. When someone we love suffers — all our truest words and most loving actions simply declare: “I am here.”



The Bible tells us that we are like God in this respect. When one of God's beloved children suffers, God declares, “I am here.” God hears the cries of the poor and oppressed (Exodus 3:9, Psalm 10:17, 69:33), is near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18), and is near to all who call God's name (Psalm 145:18). The promise that God will be with us is a constant refrain from Genesis to Revelation.

When we see the latest tragedy on the news, we might ask, “Where are you, God?” But we already know the answer: God is here in the midst of those who are hurting. God is with us, Immanuel!

When Jesus tells the parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-40), he reveals to us a mystery. God is most tangibly present in the world where people hunger, thirst, lack adequate clothing, need shelter, and are sick or imprisoned. Christ claims as family members people who suffer. Christ is so present in them that when we feed the hungry, care for the sick, welcome the stranger — we feed and care for...and welcome Jesus Christ, as if he were physically present.

This command to love one another applies not just to your fellow Christians but anyone in need, anywhere in the world. All people are our sisters, our brothers, our children, our family because all people belong to the family of God. Their needs might seem different than the person we worship with on Sunday but our tangible gifts declare the same message: “I am here.” By reaching out to those who suffer from natural disasters, war, or systemic poverty, we let them know that they are not forgotten. Even when the need seems far from here, by acting together as the body of Christ, we are able to be there for these members of Christ's family.

We show God's children love with gifts of rice and oil. We are present by providing well pumps for clean water, seeds for sustainable agriculture, and teachers to build skills and share knowledge for self-sustaining work. Through medical kits, school supplies, temporary shelters, and safe housing we show up: “We are here!” This is why our world relief and development offering - the One Great Hour of Sharing - is so important. Whenever we send our money, where ever we sent our missionaries, whenever we respond to natural and human-made disaster through compassion and care, we declare: “We are here!” In Bangladesh, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Ohio, Myanmar, Micarague, New York, Philippines, Rhode Island, Thailand, Togo, Vermont, West Virginia, and everywhere there is an emergency. In the midst of suffering, where is God? God is here. Where are you? When you give to OGHS, you say, “We are here because we care!”



One Great Hour
OF SHARING

Pastor Ivan

NEWS IN THE PEWS

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

9TH ERNIE & JUDY LONGSTAFF
21ST BRICE & COLLEEN SMITH

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4th Esther Carrier
13th Jared Cripe
15th Amy Cripe
16th Cole Clay
19th Karen Kirby
19th Becky Poe
22nd Larry Dell

LADIES NIGHT OUT

-Tuesday, June 6 @ 5:30 pm Red Robin. 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, June 6 @ 6:00 pm at Old Chicago. 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.



XYZer's BREAK-FAST

Join a group of Seniors who enjoy having fun and making real friend-



ships. The "Extra Years of Zest" small group will meet on Saturday, June 10 @ Cracker Barrel at 9:00 am for anyone the age of 55 or older for more information call John Swain at 785-273-2434.

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

Need a Ride?



(Tuesday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) 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.

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES—

The Hear the Call weekend retreat is a high intensity three-day experience hosted by International Ministries (IM) for anyone considering a call to global mission. In the past six years, dozens of people have participated and 11 so far have gone on to global mission service. The retreat will be held on August 18-20, 2017, at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin. Registration is now open.

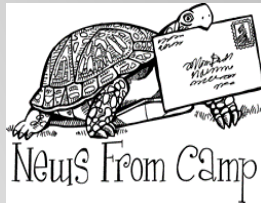
Registration for the event is \$80. Housing is \$255 for couples and \$127.50 for single individuals. Meals for the entire weekend are \$93.25 per person (plus tax). Limited scholarship assistance may be available; those who are interested may contact Jim Bell at jim.bell@internationalministries.org for information. Registration ends on August 1, 2017.

**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.heartland.campintouch.com> or call the church office at (785) 233-4241 for more information.

This is a truly wonderful opportunity for children to experience camp without leaving home. Crafts, games, songs and Bible time is all a part of this week. Lunch and a snack are provided daily. If you know of a parent who is looking for a summer activity for their child, please share this information with him/her. There are limited spots so get signed up now! Volunteers are also needed during this week to assist the counselors with groups of children, as well as help with crafts and meal preparation. We also provide the counselors with meals each evening. If you would like to provide a meal or take them out for dinner, please contact Alice Payne. If you are able to help, please fill out the volunteer registration at: <http://www.heartland.campintouch.com>. We would love to have you be a part of this wonderful experience!

Alice Payne, Christian Ed



**Our Church
Finances –**

April 2017 Report



This is a general overview of our church finances through the first four months of 2017.

Income through April is \$84,907.15 or 32.23% of the budget. The expenses for the same months total \$104,294.19 or 39.59%. Our net income to date is: -\$19,387.04. Our budget is over-expended due to the boiler and roof repairs during the first quarter of the year.

The money in the checking account at the end of April was \$5,796.84 with several outstanding bills including the masonry repairs to be paid. (UPDATE: In order to have a good cash flow, \$6,000 was withdrawn on May 12th from our Wells Fargo investments. This is the first withdrawal of the year.)

An additional \$125 came in during the month of April to offset the \$15,915.33 expenses for the boiler and roof repairs. The money raised for these repairs approved by the council but not budgeted is \$14,512.17. We have not received the invoice for the masonry work that is being done. (UPDATE: The first masonry Invoice for \$3,000 was paid on May 16, 2017 and more work is being done.) Additional gifts for these projects are still needed and would be appreciated.

Let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks.

Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

Mission News



MISSIONS- The mission committee will be going on a mission trip to Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, OK. June 5 thru 8, 2017.

We will be traveling to Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City on Friday, June 30, 2017. We take a meal and lead the worship service. Anyone wanting to go needs to be at the church by 4:00PM.

Thank you for \$1,123.41 received for the America for Christ Offering toward our goal of \$1,500.00.

Do you know that the American Baptist International Ministries was formed to help Baptists in the United States work together in one sacred effort to make disciples of all nations. Organized in 1814, it is the oldest Baptist international mission agency in North America and the second oldest in the world, following the Baptist Missionary Society formed 1792 in England.

DOORSTEP'S 50th ANNIVERSARY— Friday, June 9, 2017 Doorstep will be celebrating 50 years at **THE GREAT OVERLAND STATION**. Doors open at 6:00 pm the events starts at 7:00 pm ends at 10:00 pm. Refreshments - Cash bar available. Silent Auction items and all proceeds benefit Doorstep. Tickets on sale \$25.00 per person they are available at Seabrook Apple Market or Doorstep office. (357-5341)



SHEPHERD'S CENTER OFFERS - four "Adventures in Learning!" sessions per year in 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.

Happy Father's Day!

"The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him." -- Psalm 103:13 (NLT)

