

# THE WITNESS

## The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

1008 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Topeka, KS 66606 | Phone: (785) 233-4241  
Email: [office@wsbctopeka.org](mailto:office@wsbctopeka.org) | Website: [www.wsbctopeka.org](http://www.wsbctopeka.org)

Vol. 100, No. 7

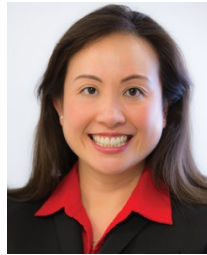
Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Yelp](#)!

July 2017

## “Making All Things New!”

We all know the old adage by Heraclitus: “The only thing that is constant is change.” Our denomination is experiencing significant changes in leadership and location. American Baptist Churches USA will gather for their Biennial Mission Summit on Thursday, June 29 thru Sunday, July 2 in Portland, Oregon. The National Convention promises to be energetic and exciting as we witness the installation of three new national leaders and hear news of relocation:

**Rev. Sharon Koh - Executive Director of International Ministries (IM)** will speak on the theme “Connected to Christ” on Friday evening, June 30. A Los Angeles native and an ABCUSA pastor, Koh from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. with a M.Div. and a M.A.T., and served as a Mission Pastor for over a decade. Her passion is facilitating God’s mission around the world, and she cares deeply about missionaries and their families. Her hobbies include global travel, photography and enjoying the people and food of other cultures.



**Dr. Jeffrey Haggray - Executive Director of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS)** and Judson Press will speak on the theme “Connected to Each Other” on Saturday evening, July 1. Dr.

Haggray serves as Executive Director of American Baptist Home Mission Societies, has twenty years of experience pastoring American Baptist congregations, along with close to a decade leading a region of American Baptist Churches USA, which provides Haggray with a broad perspective about ministry at the national level. At the heart of Dr. Haggray’s ministry lies his passion for developing and implementing creative strategies that express God’s love and God’s concern for all people. That passion drives his leadership at American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), as he works with national and regional American Baptist-related organizations—along with other diverse partners—to provide a clear vision of mission, cultivate relationships and develop resources for transformational ministry with congregations, communities and regions across the United States and Puerto Rico.

The Sunday morning worship service will feature an invitation to **the Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer - the incoming General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA.** He will address

American Baptists as he enters this new leadership role. The theme of this service will be “Connected to the World.” There will hopefully be more information about the denomination’s decision to relocate to a modern building in the Philadelphia area. A recent press release stated: “Culminating a four-year, collaborative process that considered location issues related to offices of American Baptist Churches’ national partners, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has purchased a building within a half mile of the current Mission Center that ensures partners will continue, as well as enhance, their ministries into the coming decades of the 21st century. Required renovations to the newly purchased building—1075 First Avenue, King of Prussia— are expected to be completed within the first six months of 2018, followed by mission partners’ relocation into the new space.” Join me as we watch and wait for God’s spirit how promises to “make all things new” (Rev. 21:5).



Eschatological Blessings, Pastor Ivan



## From the Organist's Bench by Marjorie O'Konski, MM, MME, SPC

I am touched by the warm and gracious welcome extended to me by Pastor Ivan, Janet, Lynda, members of the Personnel Committee, and individuals from your faith community. It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve as your organist/accompanist. I will strive to provide music that is both uplifting and inspiring.



Each month, you will hear works from a wide variety of styles, time periods, and countries. There is a rich tradition of service music by the masters, as well as many well-written pieces by contemporary musicians. Please let me know if you have works that are dear to your heart, and I will do my best to incorporate them into the service.

Marjorie O'Konski holds Masters degrees in piano performance and in music therapy. She recently earned dual certification in Service Playing from the American Guild of Organists and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Listed in the 2007, 2008, and 2009 editions of *Who's Who*, Marjorie has taught at five colleges and universities; maintains an active piano/organ studio; and was music therapist for Lexington Park Care Facility. She has performed with orchestras, chamber ensembles, duo-piano colleagues; accompanied vocal and instrumental artists; and presented nationally and internationally on the subject of music therapy.

Marjorie has held organ positions in Topeka with the First Church of Christ, Scientist, and with the First Baptist

Church. She strives to provide an uplifting musical experience and looks forward to meeting members of the West Side Baptist faith community.

**WWW—** Plans are underway for our next session of Wonderful West Side Wednesdays, our kids' Bible Club, commonly referred to as WWW. The Christian Education Committee has been discussing schedule, classes, and curriculum. A fun new component will be a "Game Time" taught by Pastor Ivan. **All WWW teachers are invited to attend a meeting of the C.E. Committee on July 25 @ 5:30 PM.** We will have curriculum for you to examine and would like your input as we plan. If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful ministry, please contact me for more information.

Alice Payne, Chairman of Christian Education

**OUR CHURCH FINANCES – MAY 2017 REPORT—**This is a general overview of our church finances through the first five months of 2017. We have 41.67% of the year gone.

- Income to date is \$105,189.22 or 39.93 %. \$6,000 was transferred from our Wells Fargo investments in May. We "borrowed" another \$6,000 from our capital campaign account for cash flow at the end of May. Checks & envelopes offerings this month were below average of our previous four months of the year.
- Expenses to date total \$128,605.96 or 48.82 %. Our net income to date this year is: -\$23,416.74. In April it

was -\$19,387.04. Our budget is overspent mainly due to the larger maintenance and repair expenses of the roof and boiler.

- We had an additional \$135 given in May for the building repair expenses. These total \$14,647.17 of which \$12,103.17 was collected in 2016. We will have at least one more bill for the masonry work being completed. Additional gifts for these projects are still needed.
- The checking account balance at the end of May was \$3,106.15.
- Investments are doing well. Jim Lagerberg and I met with Chris McGee of Wells Fargo on May 5th to talk about our accounts. We decided to combine the two investment accounts into one since the funding strategy was the same. With Chris' recommendation we made a change from solely large cap investments to a more diversified portfolio.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

Treasurer



## 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](mailto:jim.bell@internationalministries.org) for information. Registration ends on August 1, 2017.

## 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.



## Senior Adult Event

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. For more information, you may call 785-249-3258.



## **DOORSTEP'S CHRISTMAS IN JULY**

Each year we adopt 250 households for Christmas. There will be 700+ individuals in these households and we need your help in providing gifts & necessities.

**Below are specific items we need this Christmas.**

### **Health Kit Items**

Towels (new) bath & hand, and washcloths, Combs, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste/brushes, Shampoo, Razors



### **Toys**

Games - All Ages  
Baby Dolls, Balls - Football, Soccer, Basketball  
Teen Girls Gifts - Make Up & Nail Kits  
Back Packs  
Color & Reading Books  
School Supplies  
Toys for Ages 2-12

## **CHRISTMAS IN JULY**

### **Household Gifts**

Quilts, Blankets & Sheet Sets (Full, Queen & King)  
Dish Sets, Toasters, Hand Mixers, Crockpots, Silverware, Glass/Cup Sets, Pots & Pans, Coffee Makers, Etc.



### **Adult Gifts**

Flashlights, Tool Sets, Small Radios, Watches, Aftershave, Playing Cards.  
Perfume, Body Wash & Lotion Sets, Jewelry, Etc.

*Please Bring Items To Worship Or Doorstep In July For Families Who Will Be Adopted This Christmas.*

**TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION**—If you are hungry, we want you to feel as if Jesus' hands and feet are serving you a meal. Anyone who is hungry is welcome to eat at TRM Ministries. We never charge for meals. We serve 3 meals a day Monday through Friday and 2 meals a day on Saturday and Sunday every week. Also, if you are hungry and you miss one of our meal times, you may always request a sack lunch from one of our front desk staff. If you need food at your home, we want to help you. Food Boxes are distributed to those in need in the community on Tuesdays and Thursdays at our distribution center at 401 NW Norris. Persons must bring a valid ID and can not have received assistance in the last 60 days, unless it is in the case of an extreme emergency, then 30 days is the minimum. We strive to provide tasty and healthy food boxes and the amount of the food goes up as family size or number in household increases. Food distribution hours are from 9am to 3pm. We also have a list at the front desk of the Distribution Center of all the other food banks, food pantries, and food distributions in the area. Please request this list anytime it can help you.

## Our Community CAN

July 15-22, 2017

It takes all of us to feed our hungry neighbors. Our Community CAN is a community-wide food drive that unites everyone in the fight against summer hunger and promotes volunteer service and community engagement.

This year, Harvesters invites our partnering agencies to participate in this food drive. In the spirit of partnership and to emphasize the scope of our full network, Harvesters will provide bags for the food drive as well as customizable flyers. All food collected by your agency remains at your agency to distribute directly. Simply report the pounds received to Harvesters.

### **Agencies can support Our Community CAN in the following ways:**

- Request bags from Harvesters, which can be available for you at the time of your regular pick-up or delivery (please specify the date). Harvesters will also provide a customizable flyer for your bags.
- Hand out bags to your agency's supporters beginning Saturday, July 15.
- On Saturday, July 22\*, collect all the bags and report the poundage you received to Harvesters. Your agency keeps all the food donated.

