

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

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“The Turquoise Table: Know Your Neighbors”



Up the hill from our house, our neighbors have done the most interesting thing: they moved their patio table and chairs from their fenced backyard to the front of the house. Rexanne and I watched as the retired couple refinished the table and chairs, painted them, and secured them to the large maple tree. “What in the world are they doing?” we asked one another. “They must not have room to refinish them in their backyard” was our only answer. Then, the couple hung a sign: “*The Turquoise Table: A Place for Neighbors to Meet.*” The couple created a gathering-space at the Turquoise Table for tea and conversation.

This revolutionary act would have seemed “normal” a generation or two ago, but today it is noteworthy because the majority of Americans have lost contact with the people living next door. Recent polling data shows, “only about 20 percent of Americans spent time regularly with the people living next to them. A third said they’ve never interacted with their neighbors.”¹ This is alarming because the foundation of all communities is healthy relationship. The loss of being good neighbors has contributed to the deterioration of our towns, and supported the rise in crime and feelings of isolation/loneliness. How can Christians fulfill our master teacher’s command to “love your neighbor as yourself” if we do not know our neighbors (Matthew 22:36-40)?

The admonition to “love your neighbors” applies to congregations. Christians need to know their neighbors to be good neighbors! Some of the basic facts you should know about our Ward-Meade neighborhood (<http://www.city-data.com/neighborhood/Ward-Meade-Topeka-KS.html>):

- There are 2,160 men and women living in the Ward Meade Neighborhood
- The average age of our neighborhood is 39 (average age of the West Side Baptist 68)
- 98% of our neighbors speak English well (US average 80%)
- 92.8% of our neighbors were born in the United States (Topeka average 95%)
- 65.2% of our neighbors were born in Kansas (Topeka average 64.5%)
- 29.1% of our neighbors did not graduate high school (Topeka average 11.1%)
- 18.6% of households are single-mothers (Topeka average 12.5%)
- 36.4% of our neighbors live at or below the poverty line (US average 14.5%)

This information can help us develop partnerships to revitalize and reconnect to our neighborhood. The more we know our neighbors, and know about our neighbors, the easier it will be to fulfill the two greatest commandments: “love God” and “love our neighbors as ourselves!”

Neighborly blessings,

Pastor Ivan



Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

1 John 4:7

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

6th Dan Decker
15th Randall Carrier
16th Jim Goodnow
17th Wayne Cottril
19th Nelda Janway
19th Hazel Tindall—Smith
22nd Kim Maggard

ANNIVERSARIES

2nd Dick Jr. & Nancy May
14th Larry & Shirley Dell
24th Ivan & Rexanne Greuter
28th Harry & Pat Carpenter

**5:30 pm LADIES
NIGHT OUT**
Tuesday,
August 1 @ Panda Kitchen



**6:00 pm MEN'S NIGHT
OUT Tuesday, August 1
@ Chili's.**



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, August 12 @ HyVee at 9:00 am for anyone the age of 55 or older for more information call John Swain at 785-273-2434.



**TEEN
SUNDAY
SCHOOL—**
The Christian Education Committee is

pleased to announce the formation of a new Sunday School Class for our Pre-Teens beginning August 27, 2017 @ 9:15 a.m. This class will be for 4th-7th graders, taught by Fran Seymour-Hunter and Pat Carpenter. The kids have been asked to brainstorm ideas for a name and possible activities. We are excited to encourage and support this vital age group in their Christian journey and growth. If you know of any pre-teens that would benefit from this class, please invite them to join us. We'd love to have them.

Alice Payne, C.E. Committee Chair

WWW—Yee-Haw!

Please join us for our opening night with a Western Roundup for Wonderful West Side Wednesdays on August 30, 2017.

Supper will be served at 5:30 PM. Registration forms will be available to fill out that night for classes beginning the next week. Classes are available for Pre- Kindergarten through Adults. The focus for this night is to get acquainted and ready to begin another exciting season of WWW. There will be singing, games, and even a skit with a cowboy or two. So put on your boots and hats and join us. Y'all come now, hear?



OUR CHURCH'S

FINANCIAL REPORT

This is a general overview of our church finances through the six months 2017. With half the year ahead of us, I asked council members to take a look at their program area with an eye on what has been expended and what is left for the second half of the year. Now is the time to make any adjustments if possible.

Income to date is \$126,614.95 or 48.07 %. The June Balance Sheet includes the \$6,000 "borrowed" in May from our capital campaign account for cash flow. I haven't paid it back yet since we don't have any capital campaign bills to pay and our investments are doing well. June exceeded our average for checks & envelopes offerings which gives us additional cash in the checking account.

Expenses to date total \$148,716.05 or 56.46 %. Because of the additional income in June, our net income to date is: -\$22,101.10 compared to -\$23,416.74 last month. Remember, when you look at expenses compared to income, we budget knowing that we will need money from our investments. It's nice if we don't have to use it but it is there if we need it.

We had an additional \$560 come in for building repairs in June. This totals \$15,207.17 of which \$12,103.17 was collected for these projects in 2016. These gifts help pay the \$18,915.33 for the boiler, roof and masonry repairs. Additional gifts for these projects are still needed.

The checking account balance at the end of June was \$3,697.59.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

abccr NETWORK...

A Word From Our Executive Minister, Dr. John Williams

Friends,

On Saturday, I shared my retirement plans with the ABCCR Executive Committee and Board of Directors. My intention is to complete my service as Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region on December 31, 2017, and enter into retirement on January 1, 2018. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the incredible privilege and honor of serving Christ and the churches of the Central Region over these past years. The ministry we have shared together has been nothing short of amazing, and I have been truly blessed by our partnership, friendship and journey together.



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 / drop off children on Wednesdays and Sundays. Contact Mark Calloway if you would like to volunteer.

Need a Ride?



Back To School



HAND BELLS—Are you interested in learning to play bells or honing your bell-playing skills? A



fabulous workshop will be held at our sister facility, First Baptist Church, on August 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The clinician is Silver Woodbury, who has 30+ years of experience as a bell choir performer, director, and clinician.

A sign-up sheet is on the church office bulletin board. Come join the fun! I hope to see you there. Please let me know if you have any questions. My email address is mjokonski@hotmail.com.

Thank you so much for your kind words at the conclusion of services. I appreciate your encouragement and feedback. Thank you so much!

Listed below are the selections for this month's Prelude, Offertory, and Postlude.

August Music

8-13 Fugue in F Minor, Charles Burney
Special Music

Con Spirito (organ solo from a concerto),
Thomas Arne

8-20 Prelude in A Minor, Henry Purcell
Special Music: Mary Laura Barnett,
soprano; *Pie Jesu*, Andrew Lloyd Webber
Postlude on *Deo Gracias*, Edward

Broughton

8-27 Partita on *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*;
David Gawthrop
Hymn,

Caleb Simper
Postlude in
C Major, Felix
Mendelssohn
Communion:
Communion,
Eugène
Gigout



"Look, I didn't say I could sing.
I just said I could 'carry a tune.'"



Singer Search Ice Cream

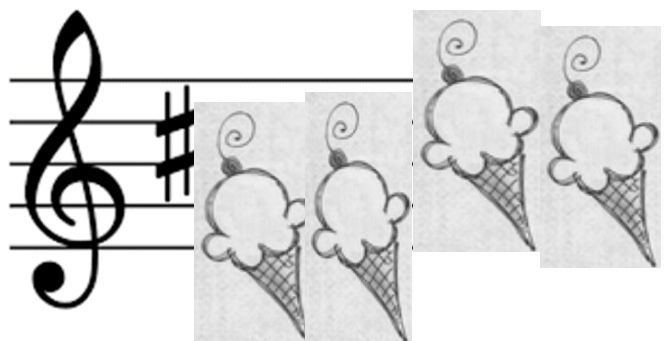
Social

August 23 at 6:30 pm

If you like to sing and are considering singing in the choir this year, you don't have to make dessert for your evening meal on August 23. Instead, come to an Ice Cream Social at the church, hosted by Janet Nyfeler. Come meet our new accompanist, Marjorie O'Konski. We'll enjoy dessert together and visit about the music we will sing this year and sing through a few songs. If you have heard a song that you like over the summer that you would like for the choir to sing, bring the information with you. Looking forward to making beautiful music to God's glory with all of you.



Add your voice



Special SUNDAY

WORSHIP IN THE PARK – The annual, ecumenical **worship service in Gage Park will be on Sunday, September 10** this year. This is a potluck luncheon. West Side Baptist Church will provide the Fried Chicken for the main dish. So please bring a favorite side dish or desert to share. This is always a fun and exciting time to get together so mark your calendars.



"The beauty of this is it's a baptism and a test of faith all in one."

Heartland Day Camp

What a blessing it was to have thirty-two excited children and many hard-working volunteers participate in Heartland Day Camp June 19-23 here at West Side Baptist Church. We once again joined together with Potwin Presbyterian to provide this wonderful experience for our neighborhood children. The theme for the week was "I Am", and throughout the week the children learned how they were created for a reason, loved by God and in need of a Savior. They also began to understand how they were gifted with a purpose and on a mission for God.

Some of the activities during the week included morning watch (Bible story time), crafts, water time, archery, games, story time and of course, lots of singing. Our afternoons concluded with a recap of the Bible story led by our three awesome Heartland Camp counselors.

Throughout the week the children contributed money and canned goods which we delivered on Friday to Harvesters. We were given a tour of the facility and learned about some of the wonderful ministries that make up Harvesters.

Thanks again to all our wonderful volunteers. West Side's Outreach and Christian Education ministries are thankful to be able to provide this week-long adventure to our children. See the following page:

WE ARE—on a mission. We are called to serve and share the Gospel. Serving with my whole self brings joy. I can live out this mission outside of camp.



We are all included in the Body of Christ. Christ is a community of people not a building. The church's mission is to spread the good news of Jesus and to serve others.



I AM created by God and loved by my Savior.



I AM—loved by God. I am loved completely. Nothing I do makes God love me more or less. God's love is powerful and changes lives.



I AM—created by God for a reason. God has a plan for my life.
My value comes from God

