

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

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NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

What if you could follow a plan for your money that you KNEW worked? With Dave Ramsey's class **Financial Peace University**, you CAN take control of your money, get out of debt, and create a plan for your future.

If you're interested in learning more about the class, message me! Because we're offering it at West Side Baptist Church just for you starting Monday, January 22 at 6:30 pm. The class meets once a week. Register online: <https://fpu.com/1052556>

Child-care available.

“
You will either learn to manage money or the lack of it will always manage you.

— DAVE RAMSEY

Thom S. Rainer, a church consultant and blogger, publishes an annual list of *Critical Trends for Churches* in the New Year. Over the years, Rainer has researched the rise, decline, and closure of churches in the USA. He has discovered many patterns of success. He is strikingly prophetic with his observations, including his list for 2018:

- People are listening to more audio for learning purposes than ever before.
- The boomer retirement crisis is two-fold: a lot are about to retire, but some will hang on too long.
- The retail bust could be big for churches looking for space.
- If you are not learning, you are not leading.
- Too many churches overbuilt their worship space

You can read his full list at: <http://thomrainer.com/2017/12/ten-critical-trends-churches-2018>

What I consider *good news* is his observation: ***The Rise of the Neighborhood Church***. “Every church should be a church for its neighborhood,” Rainer writes. Churches are successful when they connect with the people living next door or within walking distance. Sadly, too many congregations have become homogeneous in an effort to grow bigger; marketing programs and services to persons who look and think alike. Rainer tells us, “Churches that were once at the center of life in a neighborhood have declined and died. But we see them experiencing a renewal and revival both through acquisitions and re-plants.”

In 2018, I hope West Side continues to focus its work in the neighborhood. God has planted us here for a reason. What can we do to bring hope to the Ward-Meade area?

New Year's blessings,

Pastor Ivan

January Birthdays

3rd Ethan Sturgeon
9th Marie Merrifield
12th Jillian Campbell
16th Stella Maggard
18th David Martin



January Anniversaries

1st Wayne & Nancy Cottril



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, January 13 @ HyVee at 9:00 am for anyone the age of 55 or older.



Fun for Seniors

BREAKFAST ON SUNDAYS – Register your attendance on the pew pads at the end of each pew. Sign-up if you plan to attend the free breakfasts on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall starting at 8:30 am. All ages are welcome to eat for free.



LADIES NIGHT

OUT - Tuesday, @ 5:30 pm Paisano'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, @ 6:00 pm at Schlotzsky's at 2019 SW Gage. 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.

MID-WINTER MISSIONS CONFERENCE – Register TODAY for the **ABCCR Mid-Winter Mission & Evangelism Conference** “Pathways to New Life” on January 19-20, 2018, at Cross Wind Conference Center, Hesston, Kan. The event will kick off

with a soup and salad bar at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and close with lunch at noon on Saturday. Keynote speaker, Dr. Jeff Johnson, (left) helps congregations get excited about sharing their faith. Missionary Karen Smith will join the group via Skype to talk about the ministry of the New Life Center in Thailand. **Cost: \$25.00 registration (before Jan. 1).** See Mark Callo-way or Pastor for more information.





WWW CELEBRATION - Such a fun time was had by all on December 13th as WWW celebrated Christmas with

supper and a pageant. Pastor Ivan wrote and narrated a fun retelling of the Christmas Story. It required the audience to participate, as the actors, since the poor narrator couldn't find the ones he had planned on. The children loved participating and everyone got the chance to come forward, slip on a costume, and be involved. Thanks to our talented Pastor for all he does for us and to Marty Rosa for making so many costumes! It's hard to imagine, but we actually have children attending WWW who are unfamiliar with the Christmas Story. They may forever picture Trinity as the disheveled young Mary and Tom Mansfield as the stoic mature Joseph with Peyton as his donkey...but that's ok...because it **is** the greatest story ever told, and we hope they'll remember it now. WWW starts again on January 10. Come join us for supper, fellowship, and Bible study. It's for all ages. It truly is Wonderful West Side Wednesdays!

Alice Payne, Coordinator of Christian Ed.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE - 4:00 pm We will sing contemporary songs, and Pastor will share a study from the Bible. Come in comfortable, casual clothes. No Worship on December 31 - Happy New Year!

FRUIT & VEGETABLE FOOD PANTRY - Free bread, fruits, and vegetables on **Wednesdays from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm** or while supplies last at West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka. Program eligibility: Households in Topeka area (zip code 66601-66619). ID required: a piece of US Mail with client's name and current address for identification. One household per address. All food is available no cost.

PANTRY CLOSED: Wednesday, December 27 (The week of Christmas/New Year's)

OUR CHURCH FINANCES -This is a general overview of our church finances through the first eleven months of the year. We are at 91.7% of our budget year.

Income to date is \$244,329.26 or 92.76%. Expenses to date total \$258,616.51 or 98.18%. The difference between income and expenses is -\$14,287.25.

On December 1st we had \$8,397.46 in our checking account which includes \$3,491.31 in the Youth Fund. We also have \$2,074.28 in our Benevolent Fund and \$62,011.77 in our Capital Campaign checking and money market accounts. As part of our investment account at Wells Fargo we have \$7,972.33 in memorial funds.

In October we transferred \$12,000 from our investments for a total of \$28,000 for the year which is what we budgeted to use. It was based on our plan to use the interest off the investments to help fund our 2017 budget year. Our interest through October on the Wells Fargo investments is approximately \$28,433.71 so we have not used any of the investment principle this year.

An additional \$319.00 has come in for the additional money needed for building repairs. Our total raised to date is: \$15,996.17. Our repairs not budgeted total \$18,915.33. This was for boiler, roof and masonry repairs. Additional gifts for these projects are still needed. We will record these additional gifts through to the end of the year. Thanks.

Our 2018 budget was approved at the December breakfast meeting. The budget is a 3.4% increase over the 2017 budget. To balance the expenditures expected, the budget plans for us to use \$28,000 of projected interest off of investments and an estimated \$11,214 of the investment principle.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Jesus called all of us to “Go, then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you”. (Matthew 28: 19 – 20)

We here at West Side Baptist need to plan our missions outreach for 2018. The missions committee will meet on January 21, 2018 at 2:30pm in Holmer Hall. We will be planning the programs for the year. Some of the topics we will be looking at are:

- ♦ Mission trip to Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee
- ♦ Mission trip to Cross Wind conference center, Hesston, Kan.
- ♦ Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City
- ♦ Pick a Missionary to support

We have received \$645.00 for the Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering toward our goal of 1,500.00. Thank you for the continuing support.

The missions committee will meet on the third Sunday of each month at 2:30pm in Holmer hall through 2018.

Don Johnson, Missions



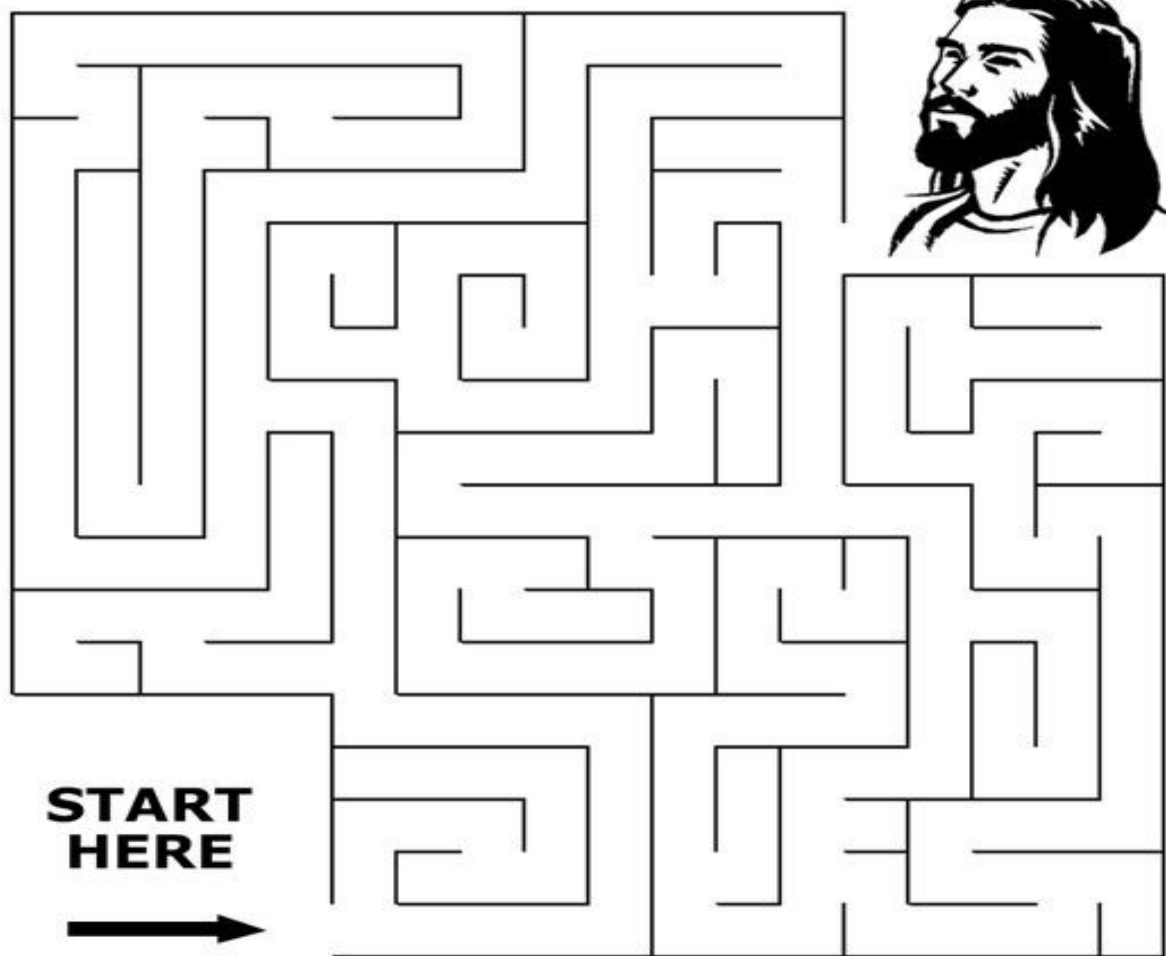
DOORSTEP The Doorstep staff and volunteers would like to thank everyone who donated to Doorstep during the holiday season, and throughout 2017. Doorstep adopted 261 households with 824 individuals from the Christmas Bureau this past December. Because of your generosity, and the Topeka community, we were able to provide food and gifts to our neighbors in need.

Along with the start of a new year also comes the cold weather and high utility bills. Please remember your neighbors who are struggling to pay those high bills when looking for a place to donate. Doorstep offers utility assistance to individuals and families throughout the year as funds are available.

Souper Bowl Sunday is February 4th! Just around the corner! On this weekend we ask our member congregations to collect soup and crackers to help restock our food pantry. A can of soup can be a meal, and in the past, with a successful collection, we have had soup and crackers to last us into the summer months! Please remember Doorstep when you go grocery shopping, and pick up a few items for your neighbors in need.

Also, mark your calendars for the 15th Annual Operation Soup Line! This year it will be on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 from 11am – 2pm!

Doorstep is open Monday – Friday, 8am – 3pm for donations. We are located at 1119 SW 10th Street (10th & Buchanan). We ask that you do not leave donations outside our building when we are not here. They often become a parking lot mess. Thank you!



**START
HERE**



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RIVER
ISAIAH
MESSENGER
WILDERNESS
BAPTISM
REPENTANCE
CAMELSKIN
LOCUSTS
HONEY
STRAP
SANDALS
SPIRIT