

The Witness

JANUARY 2020
VOL 106 #1

THE END OF CHRISTMAS

Pastor's Corner - How many times have you thought to yourself, "When can I take down these decorations?" or said out loud: "I'm ready for things to get back to normal"? Advent/Christmas can be an unwelcome interruption to our "regular" lives. The holidays disrupt our routines and require us to pause (if we will) and consider how the Incarnation (God coming to dwell with us) is an *interruption* to the "normal" ways of human life.

One thing the past couple of years have taught me is: *there is no normal*. Every day is a new change (especially finding new grey hairs). We are forced to perpetually adapt to a "new normal." Age, health, kids/grandkids, school, politics, terrorism, the economy, etc. are all making enormous impacts upon us and our world. Yet, Paul wrote, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). God is love, and that does not change! How does God's presence in Christ change us, if at all?

A very good poem I like to read after I put my holiday décor away was composed by our American Baptist, African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader, Howard Thurman, entitled, "The Work of Christmas":



When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.†

This poem reminds me: don't let anyone fool you, Christmas does not end when we de-decorate and dispose of our trees! The rest of our year must ask: What difference does *Emmanuel* make?

New Year blessings,
Pastor Ivan

†Howard, Thurman, "The Work of Christmas" in *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*, taken from <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/now-the-work-of-christmas-begins>. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Prepare for Worship by
reading these texts:

- ♦ Jan. 5 - Epiphany
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12
- ♦ Jan. 12 - Baptism
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 34-43
Matthew 3:13-17
- ♦ Jan. 19 - Epiphany #2
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42
- ♦ Jan. 26 - Epiphany #3
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

JAN. SERMON SERIES
"Who Is He?"
The Promised Child
in the Prophets



HAM & BEAN SOUP LUNCHEON - Help de-decorate the Church after worship on Epiphany Sunday, January 5. Stay for a simple soup luncheon of **ham and beans with cornbread and honey**. Free will offering for the Youth.

OUR CHURCH FINANCES – November 2019 Report

- We are at 91.7 % of our budget year.
- The income for November was \$21,902.15 and to date totals \$254,988.49 or 95.21% of the year. The total from the Wells Fargo investments this year is \$25,000. Out of this \$25,000 was \$11,050 budgeted interest and the remainder from principle. We also received this year \$7,885 from our Topeka Community Foundation investment. That payment was made in January. It is based on 5% of the 20-quarter rolling average of our investment from the Hill and Wooden estate gifts.
- Our expenses for November totaled \$19,275.28 and to date totals \$263,579.41 or 98.42%. The major reason the expenses are so great to date are the major building repairs that started last year. The new long-range capital campaign committee will be holding its first meeting after the first of the year to discuss plans for 2020 and beyond so we can handle future major repairs for our church facility.
- Our net income for the year is \$-7,629.58 compared to \$-11,107.74 last month. Our checking account at the end of November was \$10,313.02. This includes \$4,087.87 – Youth Fund, \$1,000 – Outreach grant, \$1,415.32 – Baby Closet grant, \$3,775 – Major Building Repairs gifts, \$500 – WWW grant and \$100 – Capital Funds Campaign.



The 2020 Proposed Budget was approved at the Sunday, December 8th breakfast meeting. A change was to add \$300 to the ABWM line making it \$500. This line item will now include the dues for ABWM as well as the annual offering.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

AGAPE BENEVOLENCE FUND

– We receive a benevolence offering for persons in need the **first Sunday of each month after the Lord's Supper**. These funds are shared with members and neighborhood. Please see the Pastor, Church Office, or the Moderator to complete an Application for Assistance.



CHRISTIAN ED NEWS The first semester of WWW concluded on Dec 11 with a dinner and Christmas Pageant. The children were delighted with your gifts of ornaments and decorations. Thank you for your love and support. The second semester begins January 8 @ 5:30 with dinner and classes. Everyone, of all ages, is welcome to attend. Also beginning soon is our Church Camp Scholarship Program. Watch for details in the next few weeks. Alice Payne



FOOD PANTRY - The Free Fruit & Vegetable Food Pantry is open most Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. Call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 for more information. **BRING a government-issued PHOTO ID and a piece US Mail with the client's NAME and CURRENT ADDRESS as proof-of-residency every visit.**

November Pantry Report - 918 Individuals (452 adults, 372 children, and 94 seniors) in 241 families were able to receive free bread, fruits, vegetables, and other items (total 6,480 pounds) from the Fruit & Vegetable Food Pantry in November 2019. The Food Pantry will be open on Wednesdays in January from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. The Pantry will be CLOSED on January 1 for the winter holiday. Equal Opportunity. *All food is available at no cost. **We need empty egg cartons and REUSABLE BAGS. Please bring them to the Office.**

A STORY FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Have you ever played the party game "Telephone"? You know, where one person starts a message which is whispered to another and another until the end...and then the last person reveals what was said? It usually ends up completely nonsensical. Well, we had our own little version.....A few months ago, we asked Nancy Cottril if she would be willing to make phone call reminders to our WWW families. Nancy has been faithfully calling this semester to remind or invite children to our weekly program. One family, with 3 children that attend, had been absent for a couple of weeks. We were also coming off Thanksgiving break, so Nancy gave them a reminder call. That Wednesday here they were. Two of the boys are in Nancy Lindberg's and my class of 4th and 5th graders. They were very excited. They said they had a call from Nancy. The message they got was that we were watching WWE this week in class. (WWE happens to be professional wrestling.) First we straightened out the confusion of more than one Nancy, and then attempted to tell them we were not watching WWE. I explained that I was sure she had said, "Please come to WWW." Looking at their faces, I felt like someone who had just burst their balloons. When it was time for saying grace at our table before dinner, one of these boys volunteered. He thanked God for the food and for all of us. Then he asked God to bless "that Nancy" who had called them. It warmed my heart, and as I relayed the story to Nancy Cottril, I told her she had been prayed for, and thank goodness, we didn't have to wrestle that night! We love Nancy and all the volunteers and children that make our Wonderful West Side Wednesdays really wonderful!

~ Alice Payne



OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM -

Get involved! Consider joining the Outreach and Evangelism Committee. We need people to plan, organize and run the many activities we do. Would you like to be in charge of the Easter Egg hunt, or parking lot sale, a movie or game night? Or would you be willing to help? Do you have a new idea for a new activity that will attract people to our church? If interested please plan on coming to our January meeting Tuesday 28th at 6:00 pm or contact Jack Janway for information.



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



1st Wayne & Nancy Cottril
1st Mark & Betty Arnold

HOSPITAL & EMERGENCIES – If you or a loved one go to the hospital for an emergency or surgery, **the hospital staff and chaplains' office will NOT contact the Church Office or the Pastor. You or a family member must call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 or Pastor's home at (785) 267-0936.** The pastor is willing to visit the hospital and pray before surgeries. Pastor will not be able to visit when his children or he is sick.



Sick & Hospitalized

ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY CARDS - Pastor sends lots of cards each month. If you have not received an anniversary or birthday card, then please call the Office with your date. Please donate anniversary and birthday cards to the Church.



Doorstep January, 2020

The Doorstep staff and volunteers would like to thank everyone who donated to Doorstep during the holiday season, and throughout 2019. Because of your generosity, and the Topeka community, we were able to provide food and gifts to our neighbors in need this past Christmas.

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 2nd! 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 17th Annual Operation Soup Line! This year it will be on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 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!

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION

24,000 Meals Per Month:

TRM Ministries Food Services is responsible for the planning, preparing and serving on average 24,000 meals per month in our dining room 7 days a week. The food served consists primarily of food donations from the community. Because of the generosity of the friends of TRM, this is accomplished for a cost of only 14 cents per meal.

Anyone who is hungry is welcome to eat at TRM.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided Monday through Friday for free to anyone in need. Two meals are served on the weekends and holidays. There are no criteria to receive a meal from the Mission.

TRM Ministries relies on donations of food from individuals, churches, businesses and other partnering agencies to meet the daily food needs of our guests. Our most pressing food needs are updated monthly on our website. [View the Monthly Needs List.](#) Thank you for your support. Because of your generous and loyal support, and your donations of money, food and time, every \$5 donated serves a fresh meal to 35 people.

Food Items:

Critical Food Bag Items:

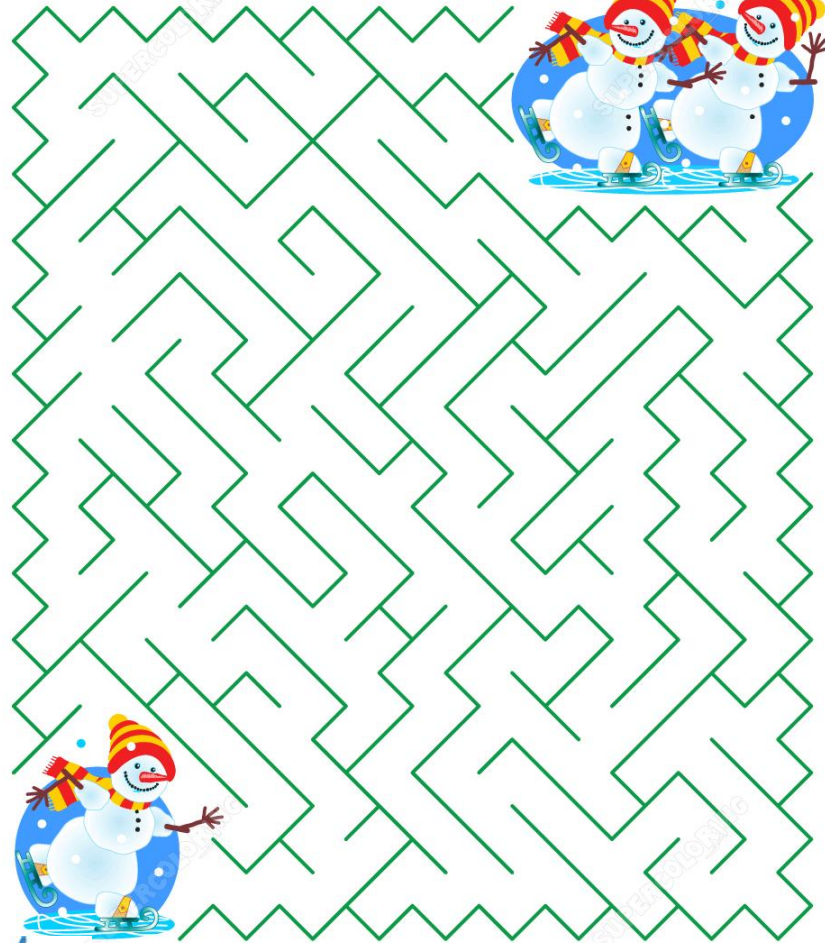
- Jelly
- Canned Fruit
- Ravioli
- Soup
- Pork & Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Tuna / Chicken



JANUARY

COLD
FROZEN
GLOVES
ICICLES
IGLOO
MITTENS
NEW YEAR
PENGUIN

RESOLUTION
RUNNY NOSE
SCARF
SHOVEL
SKIING
SLEDDING
SNOWBALLS
SNOWFLAKES



S C S O L D F P G L O V E S R
K N G N E Z L E V O H S O R E
I L O E E O V N E S I E C I S
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U R U N N Y N O S E T O N I O
I G L O O E S N Y N U N R C N
S A C R G N I D D E L S F I S

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Winter Word Search

s	a	c	e	g	f	r	o	s	t
c	o	l	d	g	l	o	v	e	s
h	b	d	f	i	g	l	o	o	n
r	a	g	h	i	k	s	m	p	q
i	s	t	u	w	i	n	t	e	r
s	t	v	y	x	a	o	b	s	c
t	c	d	g	o	i	w	g	c	r
m	k	a	f	h	p	m	j	a	d
a	e	m	r	n	s	a	o	r	e
s	n	o	w	f	f	n	t	f	n

cold winter snowman frost scarf hat igloo Christmas gloves snow



January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WED. AM BIBLE STUDY The GOSPEL of MATTHEW			1 CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 1 pm Baby Closet	3	4 ABCCR 4TEN YOUTH @ Ottawa Uni.
5 9:15 am Sun. School 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Ham & Beans Lunch	6 9 am Baby Closet	7 5:30 pm Ladies Night Out @ Spin Pizza 5:30 pm Men's Night Out @ Hog Wild 6 pm Men's Chorus	8 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Food Pantry 5 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW Kids Bible Club 7 pm Choir	9 1 pm Baby Closet	10	11
12 9:15 am Sun. School 10:30 am Worship	13 9 am Baby Closet	14 6 pm Council Meeting 6 pm Men's Chorus	15 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7 pm Choir	16 1 pm Baby Closet Deadline for Annual Reports	17 5 pm Midwinter Mission Conference Cross Wind Hesston, Ks	18 8 am-12 pm Midwinter Mission Conference Cross Wind Hesston, Ks
19 9:15 am Sun. School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Mission Com.	20 CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Day 9 am Baby Closet	21 5:30 pm Christian Ed Meeting 6 pm Men's Chorus	22 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7 pm Choir	23 1 pm Baby Closet	24	25
26 9:15 am Sun. School 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Annual Mtg	27 9 am Baby Closet 6 pm DAR Daughters American Revolution	28 6 pm Outreach & Evangelism Meeting 6 pm Men's Chorus	29 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7 pm Choir	30 1 pm Baby Closet 6:30 pm NIA	31	

West Side Baptist Church
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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

The Witness is published monthly *free of charge* at 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka Kansas, 66606. Submission deadlines is the third Tuesday of each month to office@wsbctopeka.org. The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister. Lynda Cokeley, Secretary and Editor, reserves the right to edit submissions for content and publication spacing. Send address corrections and subscription requests to West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka, KS 66606. Phone: (785) 233-4241. Fax: (785) 233-1988 Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm , Tuesday – Friday.

RIDE TO CHURCH - If you or your children would like a ride to/from a worship **call Harry Carpenter, Bus Driver at (785) 608-3937 [no text messages] on Saturday.** The van leaves at 8:15 AM on Sunday mornings for Sunday School. Volunteers are needed to ride along with our driver to transport children on Sundays and Wednesdays. See Harry Carpenter for more information or to volunteer.

WORSHIP LEADERS: JANUARY

Acolytes – Jessa Greuter and Tera Triggs

Communion Servers in Service – See Brice Smith, Coordinator for Worship

Communion Homebound Ministers - See Pastor Ivan to Sign-Up

Scripture Readers – See Brice Smith, Coordinator for Worship

Technology Team – Tom Mansfield, Brice Smith, and Bruno Sprengs

Ushers – See Brice Smith, Coordinator for Worship