

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

SUNDAYS IN MAY WORSHIP THE LORD

- ♦ **MAY 2 - EASTERTIDE 5**
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8
- ♦ **MAY 9 - EASTERTIDE 6**
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17
- ♦ **MAY 16 - ASCENSION**
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19
- ♦ **MAY 23 - PENTECOST**
Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
- ♦ **MAY 30 - TRINITY SUNDAY**
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

“Thy word is a lamp
unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.”
Psalm 119:105

PENTECOST: A PROMISE TO ALL NATIONS

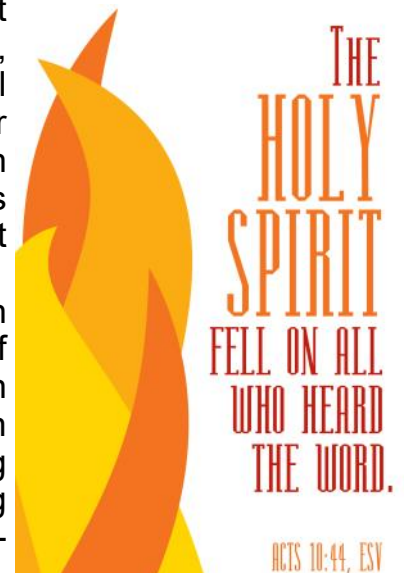
“Then afterward, I will pour out my spirit on all flesh.”
Joel 2:28

Pastor’s Corner - There is no end to the redeeming power of God when the Almighty One is on a mission to establish righteousness forever among the nations. God promised in the prophecy of Joel to *afterward pour the Spirit on all flesh* which eliminates the language limitations, cultural barriers, and human-made structures that separate and exclude people for the promise to *all nations*.

God made a promise that sons and daughters shall preach the Word with conviction. Old men would dream dreams of worlds seen only by the prophets. Young men would see visions of the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God! God the Father will pour out the Spirit even on male and female slaves – displaying that God’s people, captured by the Evil one in sin of depravity and destruction, will be freed. The only persons not named in this Pentecost prophecy are the “old women” who certainly would be included in God’s redeeming acts as Sarah was essential to God’s promise for Abraham.

God promises to bear witness to the Divine coming, for the cosmos will be filled with the Word of God through the indwelling Spirit before the “day of the Lord.” There will be no excuse for being caught unaware of God’s sovereignty, dominion and determination that all bow before the Lord our maker. This is why God will even plead through the mouth of babes for us to repent before the great day of the Lord.

The Pentecost stories in Scripture testify to the fulfillment of God’s promise of the Spirit. We can think of the louder Pentecost in Acts 2 with wild winds, flaming tongues, and prophetic preaching as a radical display of promise-





keeping. However, there are other times Jesus gave his spirit in a quieter Pentecost, such as John 20:22, and the generous inclusion of the Gentile (non-Jewish) believers in Acts 10-11.

As we plan to observe the life-giving power of the Church on Pentecost Sunday (May 23) and remember the Spirit's presence in and among us during the season of Pentecost—which lasts from Trinity Sunday (May 30) until Christ the King Sunday (November 21) - let us remember the gift of God is for *all people*. The Spirit of the Lord brings unity, peace, comfort, healing, help, and breaks down all barriers so there is “no distinction between Jew and Gentile; for the same Lord is Lord over all “ (Romans 10:12).

May the Church always work and bear witness to God's promise of international inclusion, radical redemption, and death-defying hope in the face of despair. **Come, Holy Spirit, Come! Amen**

Prayer: We hear you plead in the Scriptures,

We hear you call in the Word of preachers,

We hear you speak in father and mother,

Now help us hear You in the voice of our Sisters & Brothers.

In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Ivan+



CHILD DEDICATIONS - We will celebrate the dedication of children on Mother's Day and Father's Day. We all know, children are a gift from the Lord! We are called to love God and love others, including children, as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. For Baptists, raising a child “in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” is an important task and responsibility (2 Peter 3:18). One way to mark the start of this journey is for parents to commit themselves to Jesus Christ and to the teachings of the church; and for the church to commit itself to the parents and child. This commitment ceremony is called a Child Dedication.

What does the Bible teach about dedicating children?

The Old Testament contains several examples of parents dedicating their children to God. Since children were a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3), the Law required that every new parent had to present their child at a worship service to thank God for His generosity, love, and gift (Exodus 13:1-2).

When Jesus was born, his parents took him to the Temple and dedicated him (Luke 2:21-40). Jesus was blessed by the leaders, welcomed by the faithful and dedicated to the Lord's service. This was an important event in Jesus' lifetime.

As an adult, Jesus gathered children into his arms. He laid hands on them, prayed for them, and blessed them (Matthew 19:13-15). Jesus loved little children; and so, do we! Jesus used children as examples of God's kingdom workers. Therefore, Christians today continued the practice of dedicating children to the Lord.

What is the difference between a child dedication and an infant baptism or christening?

Some Christian churches practice infant baptism or christening. Baptists do not baptize or christen infants because the practice is not found in the Bible. The Scriptures teach that



only believers – persons who have personally professed faith on their own – are to be baptized. The Bible teaches that baptism is reserved only for those who can decide for themselves to follow Jesus Christ. When an older child, teen or adult makes the decision to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, and publicly shares this faith, is a person baptized. This is called “believers’ baptism.” West Side Baptist Church practices believers’ baptism by immersion as prescribed in the Bible (Matthew 3:13-17) and Church Covenant.

Historically, child dedications have been a vital part of the Baptist tradition. Children are important to God and to the church! Therefore, Baptists have practiced the service of child dedication to express their thanksgiving, love, and support for God’s gift. Countless Baptist churches continue to practice child dedications, today.

What is included in a Child dedication service? Child dedications are celebrated during any regular morning worship service. They are traditionally held during the infant’s first year of life. Services will include: Readings from Scripture, A promise or vow by the parents to raise their child with Christian values, to teach her or him the Bible, to respect God’s creation, to faithfully attend and support the church, and to live a Christian life. The congregation makes a promise to support the family in prayer, Bible study, teaching, service, and Christian love. A prayer of commitment and blessing for both the parents and the child.

Parents will want to invite family and friends to share in this special worship service. We traditionally give a small token of love during the service. If you would like someone special to hold your infant or wish to include your entire family on the platform, please speak to the pastor prior to the service.

A child may wear any appropriate clothing, including an heirloom gown, a dress, suit, or any other outfit. Parents and family are asked to dress accordingly.

To set a date for your child’s dedication, please contact the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 or speak with the minister. There are no fees for this service.

Dear WSBC Friends,



We apologize that we have not communicated with you before today. We will try to be brief in bringing you up to date with our move to Oklahoma City. Before I do we want to thank you for your faithfulness, prayerful and loving support. You are amazing. Your cards have been a real source of encouragement.

If there is anything to describe the past 19 months for all of us it would be expect to the unexpected. We moved here, settled in and were enjoying visiting our grandkids, Ben (10) and Emily (8). They live about 20 minutes from us, and we were getting used to seeing them on a regular basis. December 2019 Jill had a bad fall, and her right shoulder required shoulder replacement surgery. It has healed and is doing well. Thank you for those prayers.

December 14 of 2020 we had an ice storm. Bob slipped on the black ice and broke his right wrist. I had surgery on the 15th and all is well. I recovered really fast. It is good that I did because Jill had another fall in January 2021, this time injuring the right shoulder, requiring another shoulder replacement surgery. She is presently recovering and getting better every day.

Remember what happened a year ago? Covid-19. Wow, it has been a journey for all of us. We are sure you agree. 2020 was a “long” year with all the restrictions Covid placed on all of us. Even in difficult times there is often a joy to share. I met a new friend here in our apartment complex. He is an amazing singer, worship leader in the church he attends and a good friend. He and I created a Praise and Worship Service that met every Thursday. I learned how to play hymns on guitar as well as the Praise music. We gathered every week on Thursday afternoon for our own time of worship; it even included a sermon. It was like a new church start. We did that for much of 2020 until Covid stopped us from gathering. It was fun while it lasted. Waiting to see if we can start again.

Things are getting better. All of us in the family are fully vaccinated and spending more time together at Shannon’s house. We are bonding with our grandkids and watching them grow up. It is true that they grow up way to fast. It has been an adjustment for both of us, but we feel it was the right choice to move here. We miss all our Topeka friends. We wish you well and pray God continues to bless you as you have blessed us with your love and support.

In the bonds of His Spirit, Bob and Jill Roesler

FROM THE TREASURERS DESK - Our income for March was \$44,155.46. This total includes a Checks & Envelopes gift of stock that was sent to Wells Fargo. Our total income for the year to date is \$81,323.08. Our budget percentage of income through March is 56.37 %. Our budget year is 25.0 %.

Our expenses for March totals \$25,706.61, Our expenses total for the year is \$61,791.02 or 25.33 %.

The difference of income to expenses for the year is \$19,53206.

The first quarterly reports have been handed out or mailed. Please review your report and let me know if you have any questions.

Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION....

Our C.E. Committee met and discussed all the things we used to do....and all the things we'd like to do again. We decided a good starting place would be to bring back our popular Summer Sunday School Cinema. We would like to start on June 6 with breakfast treats at 9:00 and follow that with a movie segment and discussion before worship time at 10:30. We sincerely hope you will join us for this uplifting time of fellowship and learning. Watch for news soon of our chosen film.

The Committee also discussed how we might safely conduct an evening Vacation Bible School during the last week of July. Please watch for updates and prayerfully consider how you might be able to participate or help.

We praise God for our deliverance through this time of pandemic and for the development of the vaccines. We ask that you pray with us for God's guidance as we plan ways to safely gather for activities in the weeks ahead.



Alice Payne, Coordinator of Christian Education



AMERICAN BAPTIST BIENNIAL CONVENTION - Registration is now open for our denomination's **American Baptist Churches Biennial Mission Summit, meeting online Thursday, June 24 to Saturday, June 26, 2021. WSBC may send seven delegates. Speak with Pat Carpenter if you are interested in serving as a delegate.** The cost is \$100 per delegate or \$100 per family (2 persons). Visit www.americanbaptists2021.com for info or to register.

WORSHIP ONLINE – The Church is committed to the continual praise and worship of Almighty God in the Name of Jesus Christ. Church leaders and our clergy hold services regularly in the Sanctuary in compliance with all published federal, state, and local government health orders. Services are broadcast LIVE (as internet is available) and RECORDED. WATCH at:

- Facebook LIVE – <https://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka>
- YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/WSBC>



Mission Moments - Global Servant Spotlight

Mylinda Baits - MYLINDA is a pastoral artist and trainer. Serving as a global consultant for Training Through Restorative Arts, she partners with international Ministries colleagues, national church leadership and social change organizations to seek justice, healing and transformation through restorative art and creative expression.

Compelled by Jesus' prayer that the kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, Mylinda creates spaces where servant leaders and those who do the hard work of rescue, relief and restoration can be nurtured and renewed. As sinner and saint, she sees beauty in broken places, wonder in wounded people and life in loving God and others. For more info, visit: <https://www.internationalministries.org/author/m-baits/>

Missions, Jim Goodnow

Congrats to our Graduates!

On May 2, 2021 we will recognize Macy Greuter and Shelby Hersh for their graduations from high school. Congratulations!

We also want to recognize Aaron Poe on his promotion from 8th grade to high school.

May God bless you all in your future endeavors as you let your light shine!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL -

The adult class Sunday school class is now studying "Answers to Tough Questions" (Defending What You Believe) by Jeremiah J Johnston for the next 5 weeks. Jack Janway

THANK YOU - I would like to thank everyone for being such a big support to Dad (Ernie) and I and my sister's and brother through this trying time. God has surely blessed us with a lot of wonderful friends. Mom has touched a lot of lives and stood firm in her faith and now she is with our Lord and at peace. Please continue to pray for all of us as we learn to live without Mom (Judy). She will be deeply missed.

God Bless,
Ernie, Lynda & Will and Steve & Lisa and Becky and Jon & Pam and all of the Grandkids and Great- Grandkids



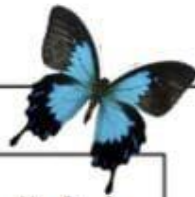
8th Tom & Jan Mansfield
10th John & Jan Swain
Russ & Fran Seymour
Hunter



13th Barbara Amos
13th Chuck Cozad
14th Almira Collier
17th Marianne Spano
18th Alice Payne



Spring



Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

BLOSSOM
BUDS
CROCUS
DAFFODIL
FLOWER
GARDEN
GREEN



GROW
LILACS
MELTING
PUDDLE
RAIN
RAINBOW
ROBIN
SEASON



SEEDS
SHOWERS
SUN
SUNSHINE
UMBRELLA
WARM
WEATHER



If you focus on **results**,
you will never change.
If you focus on **change**,
you will get results.

~Jack Dixon

Spring



- | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------|--------|--------|
| BIRDS | CALF | GARDEN | LAMB | SNAIL |
| BLOSSOM | CATERPILLAR | GRASS | NATURE | SPRING |
| BUGS | CHICKS | HATCH | NEST | SPROUT |
| BUNNY | FLOWERS | INSECTS | RABBIT | TULIP |
| BUTTERFLY | FROG | LADYBUG | ROBIN | WORM |





Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1 12:00-5:00 pm Pastor @ IM Board Meeting 1:30 pm Worship Team
2 Graduation 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	3 9:00 am Baby Closet	4 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	5 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	6 1:00 pm Baby Closet	7	8 9:00-2:00 Pastor @ ABCCR Board 1:30 pm Worship Team
9 Mother's Day 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	10 9:00 am Baby Closet	11 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Members Mtg	12 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	13 1:00 pm Baby Closet	14	15 10:00 am Worship Committee 1:30 pm Worship Team
16 Ascension 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	17 9:00 am Baby Closet	18 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg	19 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	20 1:00 pm Baby Closet	21	22 1:30 pm Worship Team
23 Pentecost 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	24 9:00 am Baby Closet	25 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Outreach Mtg	26 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	27 1:00 pm Baby Closet	28	29 1:30 pm Worship Team
30 Trinity Sun. 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	31 CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY 9:00 am Baby Closet					

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED
www.wsbctopeka.org
Topeka, KS 66606
1008 SW Fourth Street
West Side Baptist Church

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.

BIBLE READING PLAN - The Navigators have a great Plans for Reading Through the Bible in at Year at www.navigators.org/resource/bible-reading-plans or ask the Church Office for a copy.

