

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

SUNDAYS IN JUNE WORSHIP THE LORD

- ♦ JUNE 6 - General Time
1 Samuel 8:4-20, 11:14-15
Psalm 138
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35
- ♦ JUNE 13 - General Time
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5:6-17
Mark 4:26-34
- ♦ JUNE 20 - Father's Day
1 Samuel 17:1a-49
Psalm 9:9-20
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41
- ♦ JUNE 27 - General Time
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43
- ♦ JULY 4 - Patriotic Sunday
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

“Blessed is the nation
whose God is the Lord.”
Psalm 33:12

GROWING IS GOD'S BUSINESS!

“All by itself the soil produces grain--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head” (Mark 4:28)

Pastor's Corner - Do you remember the nursery rhyme "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary" by Mother Goose? It goes:



Mary, Mary, quite contrary
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells and cockleshells
And pretty maids all in a row.

I never understood this children's song. Who was Mary contrary? Who puts cockleshells in the garden, except to add calcium to the soil? Why were there maids in the garden? Many experts have explained the song's meaning, including stories about Mary Queen of Scots, Mary Tudor, and others.

The line which stuck with me as a child was, "How does your garden grow?" My grandfather was a gardener, and I wanted to be like him. He taught me good seed, good soil, hard work, consistent watering, weeding, and determination makes gardens grow. Right? Not always.

Like many persons stuck at home during the pandemic, I expanded my enjoyment of gardening. I read some of the studies which highlighted the positive effects of gardening on people's wellbeing, mood, and nerves. Digging in the dirt has a calming effect upon many of us!

I built raised beds, prepared the soil, planted good seeds, watered them, and waited for my small vegetable patch to produce a bounty, but it did not give me everything I expected. Some seeds did not sprout, others the squirrels ate, and some, like the Zinnias, flourished. I had no control over if, when, or how many of the seeds would grow. But, I know, **growing seeds is God's business!** In his parable of the growing seed, Jesus told us this irrefutable fact, "All by itself the soil produces grain." (Mark 4:26-29). Gardeners must do everything in their power to prepare and promote growth, but in the end, the Lord causes things to grow!

Growing spiritually and numerically as a congregation is like gardening. We can do everything in our power to prepare for and promote growth, but ultimately, **God causes the**

Christian and the Christian church to grow!

As Psalm 127:1 teaches us, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

One way to prepare for church growth is a process called **Natural Church Development (NCD)**. It is a process to increase the health of a church that pinpoints where to focus attention to improve health and release greater growth potential. It is a spiritual journey that involves people and empowers them to make positive changes in their congregation. The main objective is to increase the overall health of a congregation by measuring eight Quality Characteristics:

1. Empowering Leadership
2. Gift-Oriented Ministry
3. Passionate Spirituality
4. Functional Structure
5. Inspiring Worship
6. Holistic Small Groups
7. Need-oriented Evangelism
8. Loving Relationships

NCD helps church leaders ask the essential questions: ***What must we do to prepare for God's growth? How can we join God's work in the world using the spiritual momentum He is already creating? Where should we focus God's resources to fulfill Christ's mission?***

Starting this summer, we will be engaging in an expedition to see where God yearns to expand His kingdom in our neighborhood. We will hold prayer retreats, investigate demographic information, engage in meaningful conversations about strategies, and some of our members will be asked to complete a survey. We will do our best to prepare for God's work among us, through us, and in us. I hope we will be pleasantly surprised by the Lord.

~ Blessings, Pastor Ivan+



Our Church Finances

The Memorials Committee (Alice Payne, Molly Morris, Bev McCurdy, Pastor Greuter and



Nancy Lindberg) met recently to discuss and recommend to the church council several memorial accounts for items approved to be purchased for the church.

- The family of Judy Longstaff requested rose bushes and an angel statue for the bench area on the northeast corner of the church. The committee recommends the approximate \$500 for these items out of Judy's memorial that currently totals more than \$3,750.
- The expense of approximately \$4,500 for a new digital media console for the sanctuary was recommended out of the older memorial accounts including Ila Mae Martin's memorial. A list of those memorials will be announced once families have been contacted.
- A music cart to store and move the old hymnals from Holmer Hall to/from the music room was recommended for approximately \$400 and that memorial will also be announced once the family has been contact and the council has approved.

Our income for April was \$22,547.72. Our total income for the year to date is \$104,127.27. Our budget percentage of income through April is 48.73 %. Our budget year is 33.3 %.

Our expenses for April total \$20,001.15. Our expenses total for the year is \$82,036.91, which is 33.65 % of our budget.

The difference of income to expenses for the year is \$22,090.36.

I announced recently that West Side Baptist was approved to receive \$29,487.00 as part of the second round of the federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP). This amount was based on our church payroll and utilities for the 2nd quarter (April, May and June) of 2020. This money was deposited in our capital campaign account at Capitol Federal Bank. I transferred \$12,058.83 for our April 2021 expenses – \$9,269.80, gross payroll, and \$2,789.03, utilities. I'll do the same for May in early June and for June in early July. Once this money has been spent, I will complete the paperwork for the PPP loan to be forgiven. Our first PPP loan received in 2020 was for \$23,500.00. This federal program is being used by many small businesses including churches to provide financial assistance during the struggles of COVID-19.

Thanks,
Nancy Lindberg
Treasurer

One Great HOUR

OF SHARING

Hi Everybody,
Following is a summary of the items we discussed at our Mission

Committee meeting after church in May:

1) We will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in June. We are setting the goal at \$1500.

2) Bethel will be resuming their summer youth program in person for June and July with some restrictions. I do not have any confirmation yet on the resumption of the Friday night services, but my feeling is that if the youth program goes well (and health guidelines allow), Bethel will open more "in person" activities. We have 5th Fridays in July, October and December. I doubt we will be going down in July, but I think October might be possible. We usually don't go in December. I will continue to monitor the situation.

3) I would like to determine if there is interest in a Fall mission project. I have not contacted any place yet; I would like to see how many are interested first. If there are enough people, we can consider an out-of-state project like Murrow, or something closer to home. We can discuss that later. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in a Fall mission project and if you have a specific project preference.

Thanks!

Jim Goodnow, Missions

DOORSTEP - Currently, we are planning a kick-off for late June, as we seek to raise awareness and funds for our assistance programs, capital improvements, Doorstep's endowment fund, and operating expenses throughout this next year. For example, our HVAC system is original to the building, which we own, and is over 60 years old. It is time for an upgrade, and we need to raise funds for a new, more efficient system.

More information will be going out to our congregations, and our Facebook page in June, and throughout the next year regarding ways you can help Doorstep, and continue to be a part of the work we do as neighbors helping neighbors.



NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION...

Summer Sunday School Cinema begins June 6 @ 9:00 AM. Our first movie is "Zootopia", an animated Disney film with lessons for mature children, teens, and adults. This film received great reviews for not only its humor, but also its messages about courage, empathy, tolerance, teamwork, bullying, and stereotypes. We will watch this film in 4 segments during the month of June. There is a sign-up sheet for treats on the bulletin board. Please join us for this time of fellowship.

Plans are being made for a children's **Vacation Bible School** to be held July 26-30. Supper will be served at 5:00 PM with activities to follow until 7:00 PM. Eligible ages are any kids who have finished K up through 5th grade. Our theme is "Wilderness Escape – Where God Guides and Provides." Please watch for details in the upcoming weeks on how you might contribute. Many adult volunteers will be needed to get everything ready and accomplished both prior to and during that week.

We are also planning to restart our **Wonderful West Side Wednesdays**, aka **WWW**, in the fall. This has been such a vital and important program for the children, youth, and adults in our community and church the past several years. Beginning on Wednesday, Sept 1, we will provide a meal and a group Bible lesson for children and adults. Again we will be counting on volunteers to carry out this mission. There are jobs to help with transportation, cooking, serving, clean-up, teaching, playing, singing, and more. You are invited to be a part of WWW.

Alice Payne, C.E. Coordinator



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - I know that school is just getting out and the last thing you are thinking about is school supplies, but due to the longer school year caused by the pandemic, the summer break will be short and school will be starting again in mid-August. In conjunction with Midtown Community Services, we will be collecting school supplies to fill a backpack for 40 needy students in July. A list will be provided of the items our Church will be asked to donate, but in the mean time, if you want someone else to do the shopping, please drop your donation off at the Church Office. Thank you.

Jack Janway
- Outreach



Love. Grow. Serve.

Church News

VENMO – Give to God using VENMO – a phone app. Search for the church **@wsbctopeka** or scan the QR code. We appreciate all your donations and generosity. Questions? Call the Church Office for help.



GIVE ONLINE – Donate safely online to the general fund and designated funds through the Church's Store at <https://squareup.com/store/west-side-baptist-church>

Fellowship and



Worship Opportunities

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 the service online at:

- Facebook LIVE – <https://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka>
- YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/WSBC>
- Order a free copy of the service on DVD by contacting the Church Office.



21st Brice & Colleen Smith



5th Jan Pukach

10th Cathy Goodnow

13th Jared Cripe

15th Amy Cripe

17th Ashley Smith

18th Helen Bloom

19th Karen Kirby

19th Becky Poe

24th Lillianna Matthiessen

28th Matthew Payne

**Praise
GOD!**

Come Worship with Us...

SUMMER FUN

Word Search Puzzle



W A T E R P A R K V A C A T I O N
 F R I E N D S W S T Z G H N A I G
 T S A Z Q P A B Q C N P N M D C S
 E W O N C H I I Y I A S U R X E N
 B I C Y C L E C P C R Y O Z M C F
 O M P W I Z J M N E F J A A P R R
 U M E I F M A T L I U I G M O E I
 T I H G A C O K X C C B S N P A S
 D N N J X O N P S M B K E H S M B
 O G W V F I I P X D R T R A I X E
 O O U E R R O C O O K O U T C N E
 R A R P T L F U W S S C V Q L H G
 S A S D F O L E M O N A D E E T A
 B A A P E Q R S U N S H I N E M N
 W O I F A I R G R O U N D P X B M
 R L W N F E K N B A S E B A L L X
 F B B M Y P M V T D G I S W O R V



- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| BAREFOOT | FISHING | PICNIC |
| BASEBALL | FLIP FLOPS | POPSICLE |
| BEACH | FRIENDS | ROAD TRIP |
| BICYCLE | FRISBEE | SPRINKLERS |
| CAMPING | GAMES | SUNSHINE |
| COOKOUT | ICE CREAM | SWIMMING |
| FAIRGROUND | LEMONADE | VACATION |
| FIREWORKS | OUTDOORS | WATER PARK |

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Name: _____ Date: _____



Feeling Grateful

Word Search

What are YOU thankful for on Thanksgiving Day and all the other days of the year? Here are a few ideas to get you started.

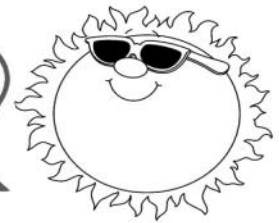
- ANIMALS
- BED
- BIRTHDAY
- BOOKS
- CARS
- CHALLENGES
- DAD
- EARTH
- FAMILY
- FLOWERS
- GRANDPARENTS
- HEALTH
- HEARING
- HEART
- HOME
- ICE CREAM
- JOKES
- LAUGHTER
- LUNGS
- MOM
- MOON
- MUSIC
- NATURE
- OXYGEN
- POPCORN

L E R D I D N V I K B S T E A C H E R
 X Q I A C C D V G P S R E W O L F V S
 T Q Q D E S J Q E S L A O R G U Q T Z
 A R Y G C R B G T Z T C O J U Z C E C
 S T N E R A P D N A R G X N H T S F M
 T W M A E T J N N E I S Y P Z R A K S
 E O A R A S M I O A D I G W G Y A N E
 H B S T M X M C T O I V E A N Q O I G
 C S I H Z A B Z V R M K N N I V B L N
 U B Z Z L Z N O I T A C A V D Q O H E
 O H P S U N S H I N E E Y N A L Q H L
 T G O F B I R T H D A Y H X E K T U L
 D E P Q C P X P T Y K H E A R I N G A
 X X C T H G I S L F A M I L Y G B F H
 S K O O B W C M A E H Z U G S V B E C
 X F R Q V H U V E I G H J R D M Q O U D
 D G N S O S I N H V T M S F R S E O H S
 S Z E O I L L E M S E K O J F I J M B
 Z Z L C L A U G H T E R H Z P H L A A

- RAIN
- READING
- SCHOOL
- SHOES
- SIGHT
- SMELL
- STARS
- SUNSHINE
- TASTE
- TEACHER
- TOUCH
- VACATION



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Happy
**Father's
 Day**

The righteous man walks in his integrity; **His children are blessed after him.**

PROVERBS 20:7

W S U N S H I N E N Y U E L A
 M G A G W C S L A D N A S S M
 A N T A A I X F X A D L X T H
 E I K K T E L C I S P O P D N
 R M H L E H O L I D A Y S G B
 C M T A R Z G B V Q C P M T L
 M I M I M M O S Q U I T O S R
 T W R Q E U C I N C I P P G Y
 Z S A T L V A C A T I O N O M
 I U W T O B G Z O B J O Q M B
 L B F M N P O H F I P U F Z S
 H O T V W T Q Q G N I Y A L P
 L S U M M E R D E S C L A V I
 V A E C I R E W O L F N U S Z
 J U J O F D Y Y B E A C H W R

- BEACH
- CREAM
- HOLIDAYS
- HOT
- ICE
- MOSQUITOS
- PICNIC
- PLAYING
- POPSICLE
- SANDALS
- SUMMER
- SUNFLOWER
- SUNSHINE
- SWIMMING
- VACATION
- WARMTH
- WATERMELON

SPRING VOCABULARY WORD SEARCH



R B Z B V S W W H K F C T Q C
 R S G U O C A W F M O E S F L
 Y H M T N K T V X R O B I N K
 W O Y T O Q G R E E N Y Q W Z
 O W Z E C T T O X T L A Z P A
 T E Y R L I K R O E V H M W Y
 G R Z F E P D J Z A T V O Y K
 A S D L A Q A Y S P P B A G T
 R I M Y N G N W E Y N L J V B
 D K W K I S D T S I Q Y D L L
 E P A Z N M E M A Y F A I W O
 N G N V G V L R S B I E S H S
 U L I O Y K I K J B I Y T Y S
 Z Y N R F L O W E R S C K E O
 Y Q K P I C N I C W O B N U M

- BLOSSOM
- BUTTERFLY
- CLEANING
- DANDELION
- FLOWERS
- GARDEN
- GREEN
- MAY
- PICNIC
- RAINBOW
- ROBIN
- SHOWERS



52.



Happy
**Father's
 Day**

A father is always willing to sacrifice his own comfort for that of his children.

THE BEST DAD



June



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	2 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	3 1:00 pm Baby Closet	4	5 1:30 pm Worship Team
6 9:00 am Sunday Cinema 10:30 am Worship	7 9:00 am Baby Closet	8 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Meeting	9 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	10 1:00 pm Baby Closet	11	12 1:30 pm Worship Team
13 9:00 am Sunday Cinema 10:30 am Worship	14 9:00 am Baby Closet	15 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	16 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	17 1:00 pm Baby Closet	18	19 1:30 pm Worship Team
20 Father's Day 9:00 am Sunday Cinema 10:30 am Worship	21 9:00 am Baby Closet	22 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Outreach Mtg	23 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	24 1:00 pm Baby Closet	25	26 1:30 pm Worship Team
27 9:00 am Sunday Cinema 10:30 am Worship	28 9:00 am Baby Closet	29 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	30 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet			

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

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Email: office@wsbctopeka.org 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.

