

# The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

## January 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

New Year Worship.....1/1  
 CLOSED Holiday.....2  
 Epiphany of the Lord .....6  
 Epiphany Worship .....8  
 De-decorate the Church...8  
 Pastor in Africa .....9  
 M.L. King Jr Day .....16  
 ABCCR MidWinter  
 Mission Conf..... 20-21  
 Annual Church Meeting  
 & Potluck .....29  
 Pastor Returns .....31

## From the Pastor's Desk:

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you;  
 God will never leave you nor forsake you.  
 Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deut. 31:8)

I find great comfort in the truth: **nothing surprises the Lord!** I may be caught unawares by winter storms, family struggles, pandemics, international conflicts, emergencies and crises, but God is not startled or troubled by anything—not even by human rebellion and choices.

The church teaches **God is omniscient** which means God has universal knowledge of all things before they happen. God knows what is to come...until the end of time.

As Moses was sending God's people into the Promise Land (Deut. 31), he reminded them: **God goes before us to prepare a way. Therefore, we do not need to be afraid or discouraged, the Lord will take care of us** (paraphrased). These are the same encouraging words Jesus spoke to the disciples in John 14:1: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." The Lord will not abandon nor forsake us. God will take care of his children, all the time, everywhere. We need to trust the Lord in all situations regardless of our fears.

As we prepare for the new year, I hope you find strength and comfort in God's word: **"God will never leave you nor forsake you."** We may never know what tomorrow holds but we know the one who holds it! The Lord. Trust in God no matter what happens. He is Here!



New Year blessings,  
 Pastor Ivan+

## GOD'S WORD FOR A NEW YEAR

Will you read through the Bible in a Year? Many dedicated Christians make resolutions to be better or do better at the start of a new year. You can make a resolution with a plan to keep it: Read through the Bible in a Year! [Download](#) the brochure from the American Bible Society or pick up a copy outside the Church Office. Visit <https://americanbible.org> to learn more.



# CONTINUED FROM PASTOR'S DESK

## MISSION TRIP TO LIBERIA, WEST AFRICA

*I am absolutely overwhelmed with gratitude!!*

It was a dream, I thought, when the Liberia Baptist Theo. Seminary (LBTS) in Monrovia, West Africa and International Ministries (Am. Baptist Foreign Mission Society) invited me to **teach Christian New Testament Theology in January 2023.**

I agreed to go ***IF*** the Church Council approved the trip as a substitute for a sabbatical (a 12-week period of rest, renewal and research every seven years). Be careful! God has plans!! Not only did the Church Council unanimously approve of the trip, they agreed to sponsor me on this trip with prayers.

So, I thought, Jesus sent his disciples two-by-two, therefore, I need to find a mission partner to join me. At first, I asked a recently retired specialist in IT security. Unfortunately, he was not able to go. After a careful search, God chose Jessamine (my 21-year-old daughter). She will start student teaching in Middle School English during her final semester at Ottawa University. In January, she'll travel to Liberia to be a Teaching Assistant in the English Department and Library worker. Upon her return, she'll return to student teaching and plans to graduate in April 2023. God's plans are wonderful!

We started to fundraise, **knowing we only had six weeks to raise \$7,000.00** (the COST is \$3,500.00 per person). I thought it was an impossible task. How can I raise a thousand dollars a



Rev. Charles Jones, IM Area Director for Liberia, in a motorcycle taxi funded by American Baptists.



week during the holiday season? *To our great surprise, we were able to raise our goal and a little more thanks to the generosity of our church members, family, friends in Illinois and Nebraska, regional Mission & Evangelism team, and area churches. **The Lord is right, "Nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).***

Jessa and I were able to get our shots (four each, including a vaccination for Typhoid and Yellow Fever), purchase our airfare, arrange transportation, book hotels, and get needed supplies, like mosquito netting.

After prayer and consultation with our mission partners, we were informed the extra funds we raised were needed for projects such as carrying used religious books in suitcases for their library, One Great Hour of Sharing projects and a work site our regional American Baptist Women's Ministries are supporting.

Rev. Art Campbell has agreed to serve as Minister in Resident in January. He will preach, officiate funerals (hopefully, we'll have none) and answer all emergency calls. Rev. Bev McCurdy will be teaching Bible studies on Wednesdays. **I am grateful for these leaders!**

Jessa and I have started to collect the supplies needed to live in Liberia for a month—such as solar powered phone chargers, solid/dry shampoo, wet wipes (no running water), special water filters for drink water, etc. Jessa has already planned what movies we plan to watch on the sixteen hour flight (one way) to/from Africa. It's exciting to think that all this is possible because of **GOD and YOU! Thank you for this indescribable gift!! I am truly grateful!**

**We will return on Tuesday, January 31. Pray for us!!**

**Blessings, Ivan+**



# CHURCH OFFICE Our Staff



HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

1st Mark & Betty Arnold

1st Ed Perkins  
3rd Ethan Sturgeon  
14th Christopher Payne  
18th David Martin



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
MONDAYS - CLOSED

TUESDAYS-FRIDAYS  
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Call for a Pastoral Visit  
Pastor's Day Off: Monday

**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](mailto:office@wsbctopeka.org). Lynda Cokeley, Secretary and Editor, reserves the right to edit submissions for content and publication spacing. Send address corrections and subscription requests to:

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Topeka, KS 66606.  
Phone: (785) 233-4241  
Email: [office@wsbctopeka.org](mailto:office@wsbctopeka.org)



**ANNUAL REPORTS** – It is that time again for all the Council members to start thinking of what you want in your report. Please submit your report to Lynda ([office@wsbctopeka.org](mailto:office@wsbctopeka.org)).

**The Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon will be held on SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**

**See Pat Carpenter for more information and agenda items. Annual reports will be distributed prior to the meeting.**

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER & EMERGENCY CLOSING**

If weather conditions or an emergency warrants the cancellation of an event, activity, meeting or public worship, or the closing of the building, the Church Office will notify members, participants, and the community as soon as reasonably possible by a **post on the church website ([www.wsbctopeka.org](http://www.wsbctopeka.org)), recorded phone message, via electronic message and social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.), and on the local stations ([www.ksnt.com](http://www.ksnt.com) and [www.wibw.com](http://www.wibw.com)).**

**Children's Programing is cancelled if Topeka Public School closes their buildings or cancel classes or after school activities.**

Activities and events are canceled at the request of the ministry coordinator sponsoring the program. The building and office are closed at the request of the Senior Minister. *Public Worship is postponed or canceled only by the consent of the President of the congregation, the Coordinator of Worship, and the ordained clergy.*

Every effort will be made to keep constituents and stakeholders informed of all closures, postponements, and cancellations. **STAY SAFE! STAY WARM! CHECK on your NEIGHBORS and SHUT INS!**



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & OUTREACH

**WWW KIDS BIBLE CLUB** - FREE SUPPER on Weds, 5:30 - 6:00 pm, followed by Bible lessons for children, youth, and adults. \*All food is available for free.

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. Come join the fun and invite someone to come along.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - The Adult Sunday School Class will begin watching **"The Chosen" Season 3 on the 8th of January 2023 in Holmer Hall.**

~ Jack Janway



**FOOD PANTRY**  
**MOST WEDNESDAYS**  
**3:30 - 5:30 PM**

\*All food is available free of cost!

[wsbctopeka.org/get-help/food-pantry](http://wsbctopeka.org/get-help/food-pantry)

No Food Pantry on the 5th Wednesday of the month

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**  
**SEE JACK JANWAY TO HELP!**

**We've shared 116,981 pounds of food  
with 12,624 persons in 3982 families**

**BABY CLOSET**

**MONDAY - 9:00-11:00AM**  
**WEDNESDAY - 3:30-6:30 PM**  
**THURSDAY - 1:00-3:00 PM**

[wsbctopeka.org/get-help/baby-closet](http://wsbctopeka.org/get-help/baby-closet)

***NEED THIS MONTH:***  
**BABY SHOES (ANY SIZE)**

**We've helped 1,110 children in 414  
families so far this year**

# TREASURER'S REPORT

It is hard to believe 2022 has come to a close. Our church ended the year healthy financially with a successful first year of a 3-year capital campaign, **Fortifying Our Foundation for the Future**. A review of the capital campaign projects completed and plans for 2023 and 2024 will be shared at our January 29<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and potluck dinner. I hope you will plan to attend. If you didn't make a capital campaign pledge last year, it is never too late. Just indicate your pledge on your next giving envelope.

Nelda Janway and I prepared your 2023 giving envelopes so please throw away any 2022 envelopes left and begin using your 2023 envelopes. If you did not get envelopes and would like a set, please let Nelda or me know.

Our income for November was \$19,595.80 with a total of \$230,366.45 for the year. We are at 86.95% of our budget. 11/12 of the budget year is 91.67%. The income for this month included \$451 in the Youth fund #5185 for their popular pie auction and \$370 for the School Holiday Foods fund #5466. Thank you!

Our expenses for November totaled \$27,374.93 with a yearly total of \$256,517.06 which is 99.4% of our budget.

The difference of income to expenses for the first 11 months of the year is \$-26,150.61 compared to last month difference of \$-19,983.70. Once again we had enough money in our checking account for cash flow because of the capital campaign funds.

Our checking/savings account balance in our main account shown on the balance sheet is \$109,040.46. This includes the capital campaign, youth, outreach and the Pastor's Liberia Mission Trip funds.

The Benevolent Fund balance is \$6,834.17.

At the December 4<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Breakfast the congregation approved the proposed 2023 budget. It includes a 5.15% increase in expenses which incorporates a 3% salary increase for our staff. It also includes a .92% increase in income. We approved a deficit budget of -\$4,006.

Next month's newsletter will have our 2022 year-end financial report so I'll be able to tell you more then on just how we ended our year financially. We will also have your year-end statement ready before the end of January.

Let me know if you have any questions. I hope you have great start to 2023!

Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



**ONLINE GIVING**  
<https://west-side-baptist-church.square.site>



**Use Your  
Smart Phone**



**venmo**



# MISSION MOMENTS

## Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

The theme for the 2022 RMMO was: "For all they've done". "I thank my God every time I remember you." - Phil. 1:3

I thank my God every time I remember all of you and your generosity in giving to all the special offerings, including the RMMO! We have collected \$1,753.00 toward our goal of \$1,750. As a reminder, the RMMO is a way to remember the pastor or missionary who made a difference in our lives. The ones who were with us in the big moments and small. With leadership, listening, wisdom, condolence or just the right prayer when needed most, their selfless service has a lasting effect. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering is a way to give back. Thanks again for your generous support!

## Blessing Box Packaging Project

The Mission Committee will be packaging 50 feminine hygiene kits for distribution in the Blessing Boxes around the Topeka area. We will start immediately after the church service on January 22, 2023. If you would like to participate in this project, plan to stay for a short time after the service on that Sunday. Everybody is welcome to participate!

## Global Servant Spotlight

Sue Hegarty - SUE's ministry in Costa Rica is two-pronged. She works with the Baptist Federation to strengthen the ministries of churches and their pastors by teaching classes, Bible studies and workshops. Sue is a liaison with American Baptist mission teams that visit Costa



Rica to develop fraternal relationships and assist with ministry projects. She also works with Nicaraguan immigrant women, many of whom are dealing with situations of domestic violence, at the same time they are starting over again in a new country. Sue provides assistance with issues such as legalizing their status, housing, skill-training and education as well as providing emotional and spiritual support for these women and their children.

<https://www.internationalministries.org/author/s-hegarty/>

## MISSION GIVING

THANK YOU FOR GIVING  
**GENEROUSLY TO GOD'S**  
WORK IN THE WORLD!

## ABCUSA OFFERINGS

America for Christ	\$2,132.00
One Great Hour Sharing	\$2,798.13
World Mission Offering	\$2,140.00
Retired Ministers & Missn	\$1,753.00

## ABCUSA MISSIONARIES

Becky & Larry Stanton	\$1,200.00
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## ABWM - WOMEN'S MIN.

Love Gift	\$ 588.00
Rainbow Acres Project	\$ 747.00

## LOCAL MISSIONS

Doorstep, Inc	\$1,786.00
Benevolent (Recvd)	\$3,732.25
Rent & Utility Assist	(\$2,538.98)

## Liberia Africa

Mission Trip Goal	\$ 7,000.00
Received toward Trip	\$10,395.00

Amounts as of 12/23/2022

**SHARING**  
**BRINGS JOY**  
TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.

# WORSHIP

## The Revised Common Lectionary Texts Reader:

January 1st  
Isaiah 63:7-9  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

January 8th  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:1-3  
Matthew 2:1-3

January 15th  
Isaiah 42:1-9  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

January 22nd  
Isaiah 49:1-7  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

January 29th  
Isaiah 9:1-4  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

## JANUARY USHERS

Clarence Payne, Ernie Longstaff, Sonia Roling, Jack Janway and Harry Carpenter

Interested in being an Usher??  
See Clarence Payne, Head Usher

## JANUARY COMMUNION SERVERS

## ...We're Better Together!

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.

**COME  
WORSHIP**  
*with us!*





# REGISTER NOW

MIDWINTER

MISSION



**IM Global Servants**  
**DR. RICK & DR. ANITA**  
**GUTIERREZ**  
SERVING IN SOUTH AFRICA

**JANUARY 20-21, 2023**

**FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
600 E Marlin St

& EVANGELISM

CONFERENCE

REGISTER ONLINE  
[www.abccr.org](http://www.abccr.org)



REGISTER BEFORE  
JANUARY 5



# 5 EASY WAYS TO BE A MISSION ADVOCATE



## 1. DECIDE

Say "YES" to God's work in the world! Being informed and engaged in God's work is one of the hallmarks of our Baptist faith. Decide now to come to the Midwinter Mission & Evangelism Conference.



**REGISTER  
NOW**

## 2. LEARN

Learn about God's global mission work at the MWMC by registering online or completing a paper registration and mailing it TODAY.

## 3. WELCOME

Be friends with God's global servants! Invite them into your home, hearts, and churches. Get to know the servants God is using to spread the Good News.



## 4. GIVE

Prayerfully and financially support God's global servants by partnering with them each month. A free-will offering will be received.

## 5. PRAY

Ask God to release His supernatural blessing, so persons receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and churches are strengthened and grow.



**TRAVEL SAFELY  
TO THE MidWinter  
Mission & Evangelism  
Conference**



600 E Marlin St,  
McPherson KS 67460  
620-241-6400  
[www.fbcmcpherson.com](http://www.fbcmcpherson.com)

**SCAN  
QR CODE  
TO  
REGISTER**



# HOTELS

**Hampton Inn**  
620-480-2990

**Holiday Inn Express**  
620-241-5566

**Best Western Plus**  
620-420-2667

**Holiday Manor**  
620-241-5343

**Fairfield Inn**  
620-504-5353

**McPherson Inn**  
620-241-3690

**Executive/Knights Inn**  
620-241-8881

**\*Lodging options\* - All located within 5-10 minutes of the church. \* Each attendee will need to make a reservation and pay for their hotel or lodging.**



# ACTIVITY PAGE

## JANUARY

WORD SEARCH

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

**NEW YEAR**  
WISHES  
BELLS  
MEMORIES

**JANUARY**  
BUCKET LIST  
FAMILY  
HAPPINESS

**HEALTH**  
BLESSINGS

WWW.MOMGENERATIONS.COM



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Thanks to John Ramsey

03-06-1998

I KNOW I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE SHEPHERD OF THE FLOCK ... BUT I'M REALLY STARTING TO FEEL LIKE KEEPER OF THE ZOO





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:30 am No Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm NO WWW 7:00 pm Choir	<b>5</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:30 am No Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir	<b>12</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet	<b>17</b> 6:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>18</b> 10:30 am No Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir	<b>19</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet	<b>24</b> 6:30 pm Outreach Meeting	<b>25</b> 10:30 am No Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir	<b>26</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Annual Meeting	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet	<b>31</b> 6:00 pm DAR				

