

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

From the Pastor's Desk in Africa:

ABWM SPECIAL PROJECT 2022-2023: American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region (ABWMCR) will be the **Antioch Baptist School in Monrovia, Liberia, Africa.** Jessa and I visited this past week to encourage students, take photographs, and share updates on the project. West Side Baptist Church's ABWM women will receive donations for this year's project in Liberia, Africa.



FROM THE ABWMCR WEBSITE: Multiple factors – historic, cultural, and even relatively recent national civil wars and health epidemics (Ebola and COVID-19) – have conspired to disrupt the educational system in Liberia, to the point of putting Liberian children (and adults, too!) at a crippling disadvantage in terms of adequate education and access to appropriate resources. Antioch Baptist Church is endeavoring to stand in the gap by seeking to provide quality education for children and young people – to improve the learning environment for close to one-hundred-fifty students, who have been meeting in cramped quarters, or outside, when the weather permits. Majority of the students are still meeting in cramped spaces (some classes combined) or under trees, where they are at the mercy of the elements, including frequent tropical thunderstorms during the rainy season, which lasts half the year!



In the 2021-2022 school year, Antioch Baptist Elementary and Junior High School had 146 students – 69 female and 79 male; and 24 teachers and staff – 9 female and 15 male.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Pastor Returns 1/31
- Morning Bible Study .2/1
- ABCCR Board Mtg 4
- Holy Communion..... 5
- Souper Bowl of Caring Can/Coin Fundraiser.. 12
- St. Valentines Day..... 14
- Transfiguration 19
- Ash Wednesday..... 22
- First Sunday of Lent... 26

40 DAYS OF LENT
 "The Way of the Cross"

February 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				

CONTINUED FROM PASTOR'S DESK



PAST BUILDING PROJECTS—In the 2021-2022 school year, Antioch Baptist Elementary and Junior High School had 146 students – 69 female and 79 male; and 24 teachers and staff – 9 female and 15 male.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) grants and local resources have resulted in the construction of the ground and first floors of a four-floor school building – providing eight classrooms. This is attracting additional students – which in turn creates a need for more space! A good “problem” to have.

International Ministries has partnered with the Liberia Direct Baptist Missionary Conference since 2000; and we have prioritized this school building project out of our mutual commitment to the dignity, liberation, and productive citizenship that require a solid educational foundation and nurture.

HOW WE WILL HELP! A grant of USD \$30,000 will provide for the construction of the second floor of the building – bringing the building to three-fourth completion of construction! This is critical to the long-term vision of upgrading the school to include Senior High grades and vocational training classes, thus enhancing its relevance to the local community and the nation. Completion of the construction will serve as leverage and motivation to secure funding for finishes and furnishings for this second floor – desks, chairs, tables, boards, plumbing, etc.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - This project has significant ownership and involvement from the community: local volunteers are critical to keeping costs down. A collaboration between parents, the community, the local church (which owns the school and is a member of the Liberia Direct Baptist Missionary Conference), and the national Ministry of Education will ensure a supply of qualified teachers and administrators. The impact of the school and church is noticed in the fact that the community is now being called the Antioch Community!

Jessa and I will have lots of stories to share and information about the Antioch Baptist Church school and convention center project, as well as fabulous clothes given to us by our new African friends at the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary.

The need is great!!! So, please give generously – and sacrificially - to the ABWM project!

African blessings,
Pastor Ivan+



LIBERIA HISTORY - Liberia was founded in 1822 as a US colony and an outpost for returning freed slaves from the United States and the Americas. It grew into a colony and eventually became a commonwealth, and achieved independence in 1847 from the United States with the help of the American Colonization Society (a private organization based in the United States). Many Liberians have great pride in the nation's connection to the United States. Liberia is the oldest, independent republic in Africa.

CHURCH OFFICE

Our Staff



- 3rd Malcolm Smith
- 5th Annabella Lawrence
- 8th David Greuter
- 8th Cheryl Henson
- 8th Nadine Manley
- 10th Nancy Ohse
- 11th Macy Greuter
- 23rd Markayla Calloway
- 24th Brinley Cripe
- 24th Janice Hedberg
- 25th Matthew Smith



10th Will & Lisa Walder



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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAYS - CLOSED

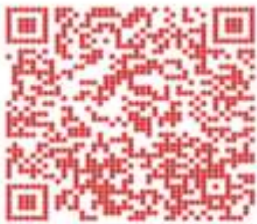
TUESDAYS-FRIDAYS
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

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. 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
 Email: office@wsbctopeka.org

Use Your Smart Phone



venmo

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)**, **recorded phone message**, **via electronic message and social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.)**, and on the local stations (www.ksnt.com and 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.

YOUTH NEWS - Middle and high school youth along with six adult sponsors had a great time bowling for a couple of hours at Gage Bowl on Sunday, January 21.

Our next event will be to host a luncheon after church on Sunday, February 19. We'll be serving lasagna, salad, breadsticks and an array of yummy desserts. Reservations are requested so that we have an idea of how much food to prepare.

A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board outside of the office. Donations for the meal will be gratefully accepted to help offset the cost of our upcoming Young Christians' Weekend in Branson, Missouri.

The WSBC youth and sponsors are so blessed to have such a supportive congregation!

Colleen Smith, Christian Ed



SUPER BOWL WATCH PARTY - Join us Sunday February 12th to watch the Super Bowl in Holmer Hall. Chili will be served starting at 5 PM in Fellowship Hall and we will move to Holmer Hall to watch the game at 5:30. Outreach will provide the chili, cheese, crackers and water. Please bring your favorite game time snacks and drinks (non-alcoholic) to share during the game. Most importantly, bring a guest to watch with us.
Jack Janway



FOOD PANTRY

MOST WEDNESDAYS
3:30 - 5:30 PM

*All food is available free of cost!

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

NEED THIS MONTH:
BABY SHOES (ANY SIZE)

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

We had a remarkable year financially. Throughout 2022, we spent only \$189.54 over our income. We had expenses not planned and yet our congregation continues to be generous in their gifts. Thank you.

Our income for December was \$51,287.05 for a total of \$281,653.50 for the year. We exceeded our 2022 budget by \$16,723.50.

Our expenses for December totaled \$25,117.34 for a year-end total of \$281,843.04 which was \$23,776.04 over what we budgeted for 2022.

Our checking/savings account balance in our main account was \$115,598.93. This includes the capital campaign, youth, outreach and Liberia Mission Trip funds.

The Benevolent Fund balance at year-end was \$6,834.17.

Ongoing Program Balances at year-end to carry forward into 2023 are:

- \$ 683.01 Baby Closet
- \$ 828.33 Milk 2 My Plate
- \$6,371.47 Food Pantry
- \$ 62.84 School Supplies
- \$ 770.00 Blessing Boxes
- \$ 61.65 Meadows Clothes

Youth Fund balance to carry forward is \$3,858.85.

Just like many of you who have investment accounts, we had a loss in our investments. Overall we lost nearly \$90,000 throughout 2022. We paid a total of \$4,653.80 in investment/advisory fees in 2022.

The 2022 year-end individual giving statements have been distributed. If you did not get yours, please let either Nelda Janway or me know. Also, after you review your giving statement, please contact me if you have any questions. If you would like more information on your designated giving, I would be glad to print you a detailed report.

The 2023 tithing envelopes have been distributed. Anyone not receiving envelopes but would like to use them, please check with Nelda or me. Any envelopes you have left over from 2022 or before should be thrown away. Thanks.

Be sure to review the 2022 Annual Report. We have provided the year-end finance reports, the capital campaign reports and the approved 2023 budget.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



MISSION MOMENTS

Doorstep News ~ February, 2023

Another year has begun, and we have hit the ground running! Each year brings new challenges, new experiences, and often many new blessings for Doorstep! We are looking at having the Doorstep Annual Banquet & Quilt Drawing this year after a 3-year COVID hiatus; perhaps a food sale, and the 6th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run will be Sunday, October 1st!

As always we know we could not do all of our services and activities without the help of our member congregations, volunteers, and the community! We have been here over 56 years, and we still operate on “neighbors helping neighbors”!

Super Bowl Sunday is February 12th, and we are asking our member congregations to collect soup and crackers again this year to help stock our food pantry! Watch for sales, and gather your donations! We can use all varieties of soup, and crackers. A successful Super Bowl Sunday can stock our pantry with these items into the spring months! **Our goal for 2023 is 5,000 pounds = 2.5 ton!**

We have decided going forward we will no longer give out clothing and shoes in our Christmas Adoption Project. We will continue to use the distribution model we started due to COVID, and provide gift cards in lieu of clothing. The only exceptions are: NEW pajamas for kids, and NEW hoodies for men, women, and teens... As winter clearance sales are going on, look for warm pajamas from newborn to sizes 18 for kids (boys & girls), and hoodies (sweatshirts) in all sizes, colors, sports teams etc. (sizes small – 5x)

Finally, **Thank You** to everyone who donated money, blankets, games, puzzles, gifts, school supplies, hygiene items, and their time for **Doorstep’s Christmas Adoption Project** this past December! We assisted a total of **260 households with 822 individuals!**

Lisa Cain - Doorstep



Notification of Cross Wind Sale

On December 20th, 2022, a journey came to an end. On October 17th, 1991, the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region purchased 31 acres on the east side of Hesston, Kansas. To this they added an additional 80 acres for a total of 111 acres. This property became known as Cross Wind Camp and Conference Center. The American Baptist Churches of the Central Region began to develop the grounds and broke ground to build the Mabee Center on May 4, 1996. Construction of the Judson and Williams retreat lodges began in April of 1997. The Meredith lodge was added in 1998.

Throughout the years, Cross Wind has become many things to many people in the Central Region. It has been a summer camp for many of our children and a place for meditation for many adults. Cross Wind has hosted many conferences including the Annual Gathering of the American Baptists of the Central Region. Many family reunions and parties have been held at Cross Wind, many of them repeating over the years.

In 2019 Cross Wind began to experience some financial difficulties and made the difficult decision to sell the director's house at the entrance to the property in hopes that the funds realized from the sale would help Cross Wind's financial situation. It did, but only temporarily. The board of directors had some hard discussions, but ultimately came to the decision to explore the sale of the property. With the advent of the COVID pandemic, the decision was made to fully pursue selling the Cross Wind property. A contract for sale was signed in May of 2022 to sell the Cross Wind property to Camp David International. On December 20th, 2022, the sale of Cross Wind closed, and the journey came to an end.

But as with all things with God, when one journey ends, another one begins. The sale of Cross Wind will bring approximately \$200,000 into the Central Region. These funds can be used to begin new ministries within the region that can reach more people with the Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The board of directors of the Central Region Camp and Conference Corporation wish to thank all the members of the Central Region for your thoughts, prayers and donations of your time and treasure over the past 31 years. Please pray for the Central Region. Pray that God's Will will be done and that through the use of the funds from the sale of the Cross Wind property, many people, young and old will turn the lives over to the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ. The board also asks that you find a place in your prayers for the ministry of Camp David International as they bring the love of God to the children of incarcerated parents.

May God bless the American Baptists of the Central Region,

WORSHIP

The Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Reader:

February 5th

Micah 6:1-8

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

February 12th

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

(13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

February 19th

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

February 26th

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

1 Corinthians 3:10-11,

16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

FEBRUARY USHERS

David Greuter, David Martin,
Mark Arnold, Clarence Payne &
Harry Carpenter

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

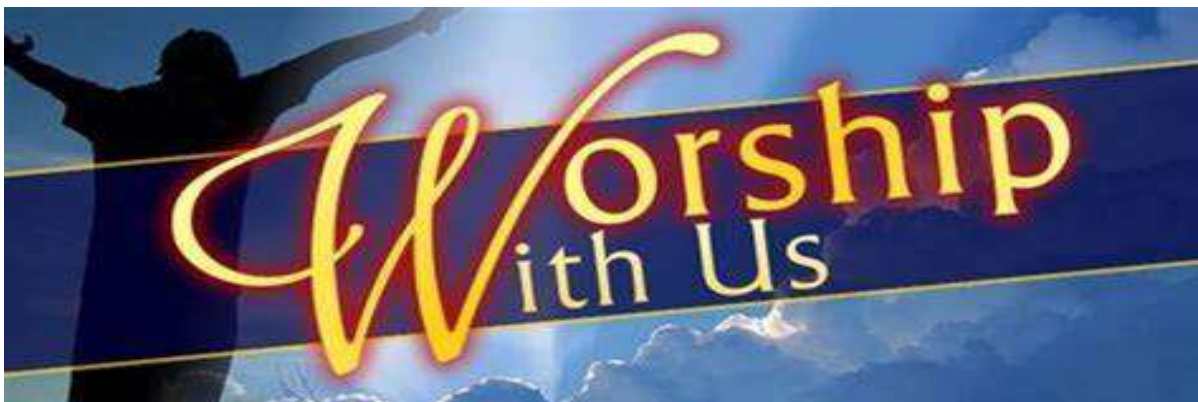
FEBRUARY COMMUNION SERVERS

Ernie Longstaff, Tera Freeman
Pat Carpenter, Jim Goodnow

...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.



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

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

Valentine's Word Search



VALENTINE
HEART
KISS
HUG
LOVE



RED
CANDY
CARD
CUPID
FLOWERS

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

free printable from Long Island Parent Source (www.LIParentSource.com)

FEBRUARY



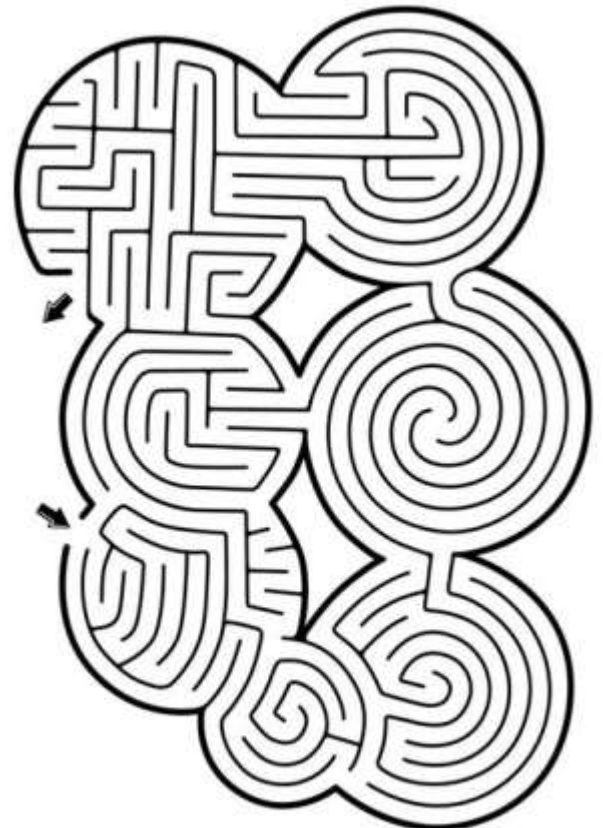
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|------------|--------------|
| ARROWS | GROUNDHOG |
| BALLOONS | HEARTS |
| CANDY | LOVE |
| CARDS | PRESIDENTS |
| CHOCOLATE | RELATIONSHIP |
| CUPID | SUGAR |
| FLOWERS | SWEETS |
| FRIENDSHIP | VALENTINE |

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

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Can you find your way out?

www.janetiles.com



*How great is the love
 the Father has lavished on us,
 that we should be called children of God!*
 1 John 3:1

February

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir	2 1:00 pm Baby Closet	3	4 2:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting
5 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	6 9:00 am Baby Closet	7	8 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir	9 1:00 pm Baby Closet	10	11
12 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:00 pm Super Bowl	13 9:00 am Baby Closet	14 6:00 pm Council Meeting	15 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir	16 1:00 pm Baby Closet	17	18
19 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Special Luncheon (Reserve)	20 9:00 am Baby Closet	21	22 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir	23 1:00 pm Baby Closet	24	25
26 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	27 9:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm DAR	28 6:30 pm Outreach Meeting				