

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

September 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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

From the Pastor's Desk: "WHERE ARE WE GOING?"

What is God's vision for His church? Where is God moving among us? Where is God leading us? It is essential that we reflect upon the vision that God has for His church. Our journey as a congregation is not a mere coincidence, but a divine calling orchestrated by the Almighty. As we pray and discern the movement of the Holy Spirit, let us try to glimpse God's profound vision for His church at West Side Baptist Church.

Three scriptures come to mind when I think of our purpose:

(1) *"There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all"* Ephesians 4:4-6 (ESV). In these verses, the apostle Paul highlights the unity that God desires in the church. Our diversity in gifts, backgrounds, and experiences should serve as a witness to the richness of God's creation. We are bound together by a common faith in the one Lord. God's vision for His church involves unity amidst diversity, where we come together as one body, driven by the same Spirit, united by our common baptism, and guided by the hope of our calling.

(2) *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the*



CHURCH VISION QUEST
FRIDAY, SEPT. 1
5:30 - 8:00 PM
SATURDAY, SEPT 2
9:00 AM -12:00 PM

EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER:

Vision Quest1-2

SS Breakfast3

WWW Kids6

New SS Classes 10

Council12

Newsletter Due..19

IM Board in San Francisco 21-23

NE Area Meeting at FBC Horton24

ABCCR Annual Gathering 29-30

SUN. SCHOOL
9:15 AM

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

PASTOR'S PAGE

very end of the age" Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV). Known as the Great Commission, these verses reveal God's heart for evangelism and discipleship. He calls us to go beyond the comfort of our church walls and share the transformative message of His love with the world. The vision God has for His church encompasses spreading the Gospel, making disciples, and nurturing them in His teachings. We are not just a congregation that gathers; we are a body commissioned to bring His light to every corner of the earth.

(3) **"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer"** Acts 2:42 (NLT). The early church in Acts provides a model of devotion and community that God envisions for His church. We are called to be a family, supporting and uplifting one another. The church is not merely a place to attend on Sundays but a community where believers strengthen their faith through learning, fellowship, breaking bread together, and fervent prayer. God's vision for His church involves a deep connection among its members, a bond that reflects His love and care.

As we gather on Friday and Saturday, September 1-2, to discern when God is inviting us to join His future, let us mediate on these scriptures. ***Everyone is needed! Everyone is welcome!*** Let us remember that God's vision for His church is not just a call to busy acts of service and humanitarian work but an invitation to ***be the people of God***. Together, we can fulfill God's vision and be a beacon of His light in a world that longs for hope and meaning. ***Plan now to join us for this important time of spiritual searching and discernment!***

May God bless you all abundantly as we journey together in His divine vision!

Blessings, Pastor Ivan+



 Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter
Volunteer in Mission



GIVE ONLINE

2024 LIBERIA AFRICA MISSION TRIP

– The Church Council voted unanimously to approve the request from International Ministries (IM) for Pastor Ivan to return to the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary in West Africa to teach classes January 8-31, 2024 .

Help the pastor raise the \$5,000.00 needed to cover all expenses, including pulpit supply, during his time away. The Rev. Art Campbell agreed to serve as the Pastor in Residence next January.



THE GOSPELS BIBLE STUDY

Join our Bible Study of The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) on **Wednesdays at 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM** in Holmer Hall.

The same lesson will be taught in the morning and evenings. The class is free and open to the public.

CHURCH OFFICE Our Staff



Ivan Greuter 09/09
Tom Mansfield 09/11
Mark Arnold 09/13
Alice Kieffer 09/14
Marty Stevenson 09/16
Clarence Payne 09/26
Betty Arnold 09/28
Lonna Hersh 09/30
Selena Jaimez-Calloway 09/30

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAYS - CLOSED

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

FRIDAYS
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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

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

ALL CHURCH VISION QUEST – WHERE IS GOD LEADING HIS CHURCH? Who does God want us to BE in the next five years? Join Pastor Ivan and Church Leaders for a Vision Quest on **Friday and Saturday, September 1-2, 2023**. We will ask God to help us Catch His Vision for His church. **Everyone is needed! Everyone is welcome!** We will work on strategic goals, an updated motto, and a new logo.

CALL the CHURCH OFFICE for an UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY.



**A SMALL CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART
FOR JESUS & OUR NEIGHBORS**

WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

1008 SW Fourth Street | Topeka, KS 66606
Phone: (785) 233-4241 | office@wsbctopeka.org

FOLLOW US HERE!

www.wsbctopeka.org



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY CINEMA - Sunday Cinema has ended. We had another good summer of movies (A Man Called Otto, Faith Like Potatoes and Belle and Sebastian) with coordinated scriptures and great discussions. A BIG thank you to all the volunteers who provided our delicious breakfast treats! We have new Sunday School classes planned for the fall, so we hope you'll want to join us in attending one. And, be thinking of movies to recommend for next summer in case we decide to have a 5th season of Sunday Cinema!

~ Nancy Lindberg



FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF – You are invited to our FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST on Sunday, September 3, at 9:00 am.

Bring a breakfast casserole, quick bread, muffins, cinnamon rolls, fruits, and other items to share. We will celebrate the start of a new semester.

You're never too old for Sunday School!



NEW CLASSES STARTING SEPT. 10 - We are pleased to announce some new (fifteen-week) Sunday School classes that will begin on September 10. Classes start at 9:15 am and end at 10:00 am (or whenever the teacher is finished!) Then please join us from 10:00 am-10:25 am in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship before heading to worship service.

BOOK OF JAMES - Rexanne Greuter will lead a study in the Book of James. This class will be in the adult Sunday School room upstairs.

HARMONIZING FAITH - Matt Smith will lead a class titled "Harmonizing Faith: The Stories Behind Our Hymns." You will embark on an exploration of our cherished hymns. You will explore the rich cultural and historical contexts that gave birth to these spiritual songs and become acquainted with the inspiring figures who penned them and the remarkable narratives behind their compositions. This class will be in Holmer Hall.

THE CHOSEN - A class will begin watching the mini-series, "The Chosen," downstairs in the youth room. If you missed it the first time it was shown, please feel free to join them. We hope you will join us during the Sunday School hour for one of these great options

FELLOWSHIP & MEMBERSHIP

FELLOWSHIP - The Nominating Committee is looking for a new volunteer. The Ministry of Fellowship and Membership shall be responsible to administer, coordinate, and promote the spirituality and congregational care of the membership.

He/She will oversee:

- *Prayer ministry*
- *New membership recruitment and training*
- *Justice and reconciliation*
- *Congregational care*
- *Visitation*
- *Ordination committee*
- *The Social Committee*
 - *Special congregational fellowship events*
 - *Receptions and funeral dinners*
 - *Maintain kitchens and pantry supplies*



See Karen Kirby, Chair of the Nominating Committee, if you feel called to serve the Lord and His Church.

WANTED: NURSERY ATTENDANT(S) Do you, or someone you know, enjoy working with young children? We are in need of nursery attendants on **Sundays 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and Wednesdays 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**. Apply on-line through the “Indeed” site or pick up a paper application in the office. You must be 18 or older to apply.

Volunteers are needed to help with the nursery until a new nursery attendant has been hired. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the church office to help with the nursery beginning in September.

For more information see Janice Kirby.



TREASURER'S REPORT

OUR CHURCH FINANCES

Our income for July was \$21,326.55. The total to date for the year is \$151,558.09 and is 56.69% of our budget. 7/12 of the year is 58.3%. Income to note includes: \$3,905 in #4152 Topeka Community Foundation for the annual Portia and Vern Allbert estate distribution and \$330 in #5465 School Supplies donations.

Our expenses for July were \$28,874.33 for total expenses from first of the year through July of \$179,073.59. This is 65.17% of the budget. Expense items to note include: \$340.38 in #7140 Mission Education (Missionary Tea); \$328.05 in #7540 Technology Operations (Annual renewal of Microsoft); \$828.42 in #7625 Office Operations (Sam's Club Membership, Ring Door Bell protection plan and Adobe computer programs); \$6,941.31 in #7710 Building Facility Maintenance (air conditioner freon leak); and \$144.06 (worship planning) in #8530 Music Resources. We also had an expected increase in our Electricity bill. And, #8685 Youth Fund Expenditures of \$2,286.37 was the expenditure of our youth and sponsors to the Quest Conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin. This line item expenditure will be transferred to come out of the youth fundraising account which currently has a balance of \$3,613.82.

The difference of income to expenses through July is - \$27,515.50.

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet is \$115,000.11 compared to \$117,409.79 last month. A large portion of our balance is in the Capital Campaign and Outreach funds.

The Benevolent Fund balance is \$6,291.96.

Thank you for your continued financial support of our church. Let me know if you have any questions.

~ Nancy Lindberg,
Treasurer



REMEMBERING YOUR CHURCH IN WILLS & ESTATE PLANS

West Side Baptist Church partners with two Foundations to help members and friends to remember the Church in wills and estate plans.



Since 1983, the Topeka Community Foundation has worked to improve the quality of life in our region through an active partnership with donors and others who believe, as we do, that positive change occurs through effective charitable giving. Today, the Community Foundation manages almost 400 charitable funds established by individuals, families, and businesses and nonprofit organizations. Together, these funds represent ordinary people who have made extraordinary commitments to our community.

**5431 SW 29th St. Ste 300
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-4804**



Since 1985, the mission of the American Baptist Foundation (ABF) is to support and strengthen the Christian witness fulfilled by our partners in ministry and mission. The Foundation encourages individuals to support the endeavours of these partners through what is known as "planned giving" - establishing wills and other charitable estate plans.

**American Baptist Foundation
420 West Germantown Pike
East Norriton • PA 19403
Toll Free: 1-833-888-0538**

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FRIENDS



Our Friends story this month features a couple who have been long-time church members and yet, we don't see them in the main part of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. One is busy running the video system in the balcony and the other one also sits upstairs. Who am I writing about? **Tom and Jan Mansfield!** In the 1950's Tom was brought to our church by his mother, **Virginia Mansfield**, who is also a member, and Jan joined in 1970 soon after she started dating Tom.

Jan was born and raised on a farm north of Beloit, Kansas. She is a single child but was fortunate to not only live with her parents but also both sets of grandparents were nearby on adjoining farmland. Jan's dad was a wheat farmer and rancher and her mother was a farm wife. Jan loved all sports but softball was her favorite. She took piano lessons for a number of years and played the clarinet in the band at Jewel High School. After graduating in 1967,

Jan headed to Topeka to the Stormont Vail School of Nursing graduating from their program in 1970. It was when she was in nursing school that one of her classmates, Paul Palmer, introduced her to his friend, Tom Mansfield. Jan and Tom dated more than a year before being married in our church by Doug Beyer in 1971.

Jan's work career included working for Stormont Vail on the Post-Surgical floor and then in Surgery. She then decided to work for the Shawnee County Health Department as a Public Health Nurse. Her favorite work was next when she was the "village nurse" for Aldersgate. It was then she decided that she wanted to enhance her nursing career by studying at Washburn earning her Bachelor of Science degree. Upon graduation she worked for Dr. Tom Hamilton in his practice until she got sick in 2001. Jan came down with viral encephalitis, a brain infection, that caused her to be hospitalized and it ended her nursing career. The infection impacted the memory parts of her brain causing her to still suffer with memory issues.

Growing up, Jan went to a Methodist Church with her mom but when she met Tom in Topeka she attended and then was baptized at West Side Baptist.

Jan and Tom have two sons, Dan and Mark. They both live in the Kansas City area and they both are chemical engineers. Dan was born in 1977 and is married to Amy and has one child, Emma. Mark was born in 1980. Both boys were brought up at West Side Baptist and when they were young Jan did not work but enjoyed being at home with them. She volunteered at their school, Tecumseh South, and in later years enjoyed volunteering at Tecumseh North. At West Side over the years Jan has been a children's program volunteer, a worker in the nursery, helped with many dinners and even substituted playing the piano for Sunday worship.

Continued from page 7

Jan is very artistic. At a young age she enjoyed crafting with her mother. They did quilting and other crafts. If you visit our church nursery you can enjoy some of Jan's artistic paintings on the hallway and room walls. She and Trena Ansell shared in their love of cardmaking and would meet weekly for years using their creative skills making beautiful cards. Jan also sews and in the past sewed some of her own clothes.

Tom was born in Elkhart, Indiana when his mom and dad were visiting family but was brought up in Topeka. He first lived in our church neighborhood on Grove Street and would attend West Side Baptist. He remembers Dick and Hazel May encouraging him to come. Tom had three siblings – Phil who was a year older, Jerry who is three years younger and a little sister Nancy who is six years younger. Phil is the only one who has passed away.



Tom's mother, Virginia, is a member and loves West Side Baptist. She has many friends in the church but has not been able to attend recently. She currently lives in the Brewster Assisted Living Memory Care Unit. Virginia was born in Topeka and attended a Pentecostal Church in her early years. But after marrying and living in the neighborhood, she brought up her four children at West Side Baptist. Virginia got her cosmetology license and worked for a while as a beautician but realized how hard it was to build up a clientele. She then became an aide at the State Hospital and then became an aide at the Veteran's Administration (VA) Hospital. It was from the VA that she retired. Virginia loved sewing and canning.

~ Nancy Lindberg



BLESSING BOXES COLLECTION - There is a collection box for non-perishable food items and hygiene products that will be used for our blessing box in Fellowship Hall on the side of the Milk Refrigerator. ~Jack Janway, Coordinator of Outreach

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

FOOD PANTRY

MOST WEDNESDAYS
3:30 - 5:30 PM

*All food is available free of cost!

wsbctopeka.org/get-help/food-pantry

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!
SEE JACK JANWAY TO HELP!

WORSHIP

...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.



SEPTEMBER USHERS

David Greuter, David Martin,
Nancy Lindberg and Clarence Payne

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

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION SERVERS

Jack & Nelda Janway
Jay & Marty Stevenson

The Revised Common Lectionary Texts

September Reader:

Karen Kirby

September 3rd

Exodus 3:1-15
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

September 10th

Exodus 12:1-14
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 17th

Exodus 14:19-31
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

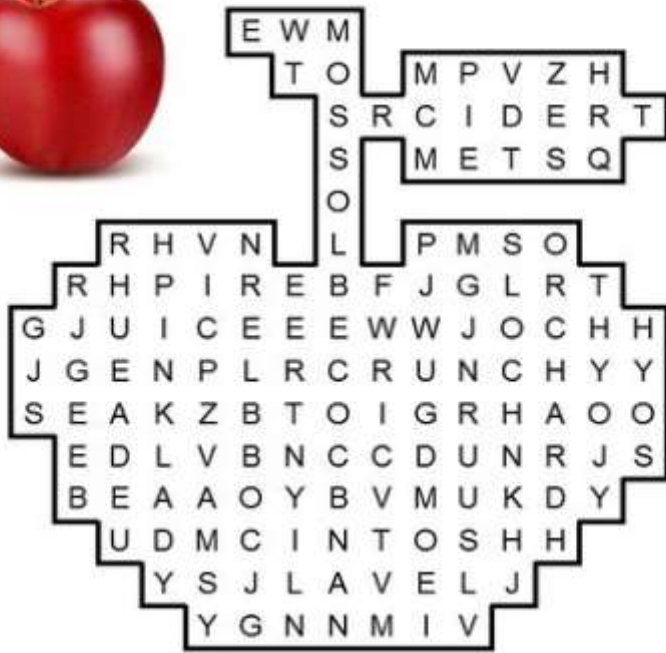
September 24th

Exodus 16:2-15
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Praise
God
with
Music

ACTIVITY PAGE

Apple Word Search



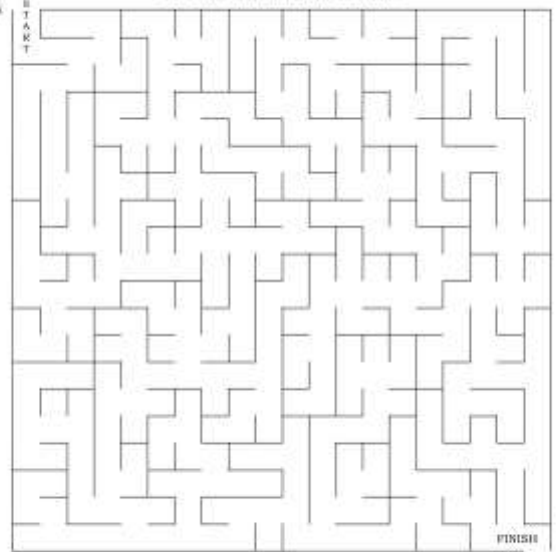
BLOSSOM
CIDER
COBBLER
CORE
CRUNCHY
GALA
GREEN

JUICE
JUICY
MCINTOSH
ORCHARD
PEEL
PIE
PINK LADY

RED
SEEDS
STEM
TREE
WORM

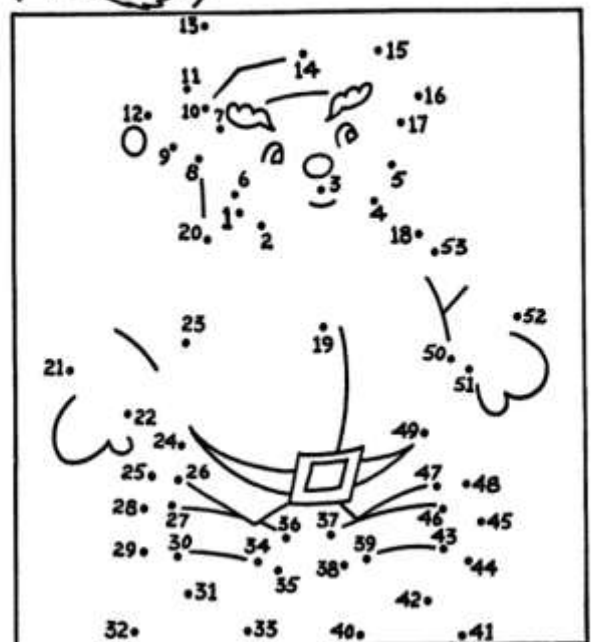
AUTUMN MAZE

Get the leaf back to the tree



Mr. Whiskers says:

"Follow the numbered dots and you will see whose picture the artist elf painted."

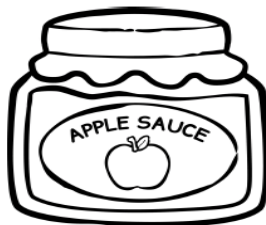


Apples, Apples, Apples

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

Find each word in the search.
Words go T, →, and ↘.

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| apple | juicy |
| cider | pick |
| tree | fruit |
| sauce | blossom |
| sweet | variety |
| season | tasty |





September

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1
5:30 pm
All Church
Vision
Meeting

2
9:00 am
All Church
Vision
Meeting

3
COMMUNION
9:15 am
Sunday School
10:30 am
Worship

4
Office Closed
LABOR DAY
9:00-11:00 am
Baby Closet

5

6
10:30 am Bible Study
3:30 pm Baby Closet
3:30 pm Food Pantry
5:30 pm WWW
6:00 pm Bible Study

7
1:00-3:00
pm Baby
Closet

8

9

10
9:15 am
Sunday School
10:30 am
Worship

11
Office Closed
**PATRIOT
DAY**
9:00-11:00 am
Baby Closet

12

13

14

15

16

PASTOR ON VACATION

**6:00 pm
Council
Meeting**

10:30 am Bible Study
3:30 pm Baby Closet
3:30 pm Food Pantry
5:30 pm WWW
6:00 pm Bible Study

1:00-3:00
pm Baby
Closet

17
9:15 am
Sunday School
10:30 am
Worship
**2:00 pm Mission
Committee**

18
9:00-11:00 am
Baby Closet

19

20
10:30 am Bible Study
3:30 pm Baby Closet
3:30 pm Food Pantry
5:30 pm WWW
6:00 pm Bible Study

21

22

23

1:00-3:00
pm Baby
Closet

PASTOR @ INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES BOARD MEETING in SAN FRANCISCO, CA

24
9:15 am
Sunday School
10:30 am
Worship

5:00 pm NE Area
Meeting at FBC
Horton, KS

25
9:00-11:00 am
Baby Closet

3:00 pm
Pastoral
Relations

6:00 pm DAR

26
**6:30 pm
Outreach
Meeting**

27
10:30 am Bible Study
3:30 pm Baby Closet
3:30 pm Food Pantry
5:30 pm WWW
6:00 pm Bible Study

28
1:00-3:00
pm Baby
Closet

29

30