

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

Liberia with Love 2024 To all that do not have Facebook! Enjoy!

Day 1B: Arrived at the Kansas City International Airport despite the winter weather for my flight to Washington Dulles, then Brussels Airline to Belgium before arriving in Monrovia, Liberia tomorrow night. Prayers appreciated

Day 2: Arrived at the Brussels Int Airport in the early morning hours; smooth landing. Connected with Dr Charles Jones in Brussels for our flight to Monrovia. Stopped in Freetown, Sierra Leon. Arrived safely in Liberia at 9 pm (GMT). Enjoyed watching the circus of baggage claim and customs before our drive to the seminary. Thankful for smooth, paved highways. Exhausted after 28 hours of travel.

Day 4: Happy to reconnect with ol' friends and students. Praised the Lord during student led testimony service followed by a special red snapper and rice lunch (with the spicy spice on the side). Rev. Garmondeh brought fresh fruit and cellphones. Soaked in sweat at 90* with 92% humidity. Boikai harvested coconuts for us; friends said they were delightful. Peaceful sunset. Grateful to be invited back. God is good!



Day 5: God is here!! The Spirit of Jesus is alive and active among the many ingenious Liberians who work diligently and wisely with their resources to serve others. Enriched by making new friends at the kitchen, watching football (soccer) practice, reading and praying, sharing gifts, touring the library, seeing the amazing progress of the piggery and chickens (separate update), walking, sweating, listening to the Atlantic waves crash along the beach in the other side of the lagoon, and talking (a lot) with my mission team partners. The Lord has widened by heart and horizons!! Thanks be to God!!

Day 6 (Saturday): A restful day of study, walking, and prayer as Dr Charles Jones and I prepare to preach a New Year message at Macedonia Baptist Church tomorrow; President Massaquoi's church. A quick ride to town to retrieve late luggage, shop at the Mart, get gas at the station (no roadside fill up today), walk and rest. Notice the road improvements between videos; paved wider road is nice! Delighted to have an ocean breeze on a hot day. Happy to have electricity today! Super to hear from my wife, and then my grandson with his "hi, Papa." Praying for everyone back home in the freezing cold!!



Day 6 (Sunday): Privileged to Preach at Howell Macedonia Baptist Church in Liberia.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Day 7 (Monday): Classes started so the campus is busy with students, faculty and staff. Three bright students in Mission and 10 Bible scholars in Pauline Epistles and Theology. Unreliable electricity makes it difficult to use PowerPoint. Lunch was delicious! Talked with the groundskeepers who eat together from a large bowl. Praise God for the extra food available through the farm program; students eat three times a day.



Day 8 (Tuesday): Fantastic chapel service with a powerful message from Dr Massaquoi! Spiritually rich music and communion service. Classes went well. Richly blessed with my first Liberian language lesson by a gifted teacher, John G. Blessed with numerous conversations with students before a light supper.

Day 9 (Wednesday): Hot, hot, hot day! Taught Biblical Theology of Mission classes (8:20 -10:50 am African Time - when everyone shows up), joined students for prayer and lecture on "Submit to Government Authority," and then lunch (fish/chicken and rice), sweat so much that a puddle formed on the floor around me in Pauline Epistles and Theology class (12:30ish to 3:00 pm). Watched and talked to kitchen staff as they cleaned and cut sweet potato greens. Sister Koa is an amazing cook! Rested, prepared lectures, and wrote sermon for chapel service tomorrow. No AC but thankful for fans!!

Day 10 (Thursday): Taught class and then preached in Chapel, "Say, Yes!" from Matt. 17:14-21 and Heb. 11:1-3. Enjoyed preaching! Lunch was chicken/fish with potato greens and rice. Afternoon class was awesome with great student engagement! Afternoon walk followed by a simple supper and a Liberian English lesson. Quiet night of prayerful reading and reflection in AC.



Day 11 (Friday): Lively discussions in class today. Enjoyed breaking new ground in learning about mission and Paul's letter to the Romans. How much do our theologies of the End Times drive our day to day actions? Fabulous breakfast (oatmeal) and lunch (fried fish and stir fried rice) followed by a delightful nap. Took pictures with the good camera (uploaded soon). Enjoyed taking Charles and Charlie (fellow professors) to the City Bakery!! Bought rolls and breads and cookies. Sweet super and Liberian English lessons. Finished the evening talking with friends before calling home. The Lord is good all the time!

Day 12 (Saturday): Visited Lott Carey Baptist Mission School in Brewerville, Liberia, West Africa. Rev. Emile Sam-Peal gave an outstanding overview of the school and its ministries (photos soon). Surprise meeting with the Rev Dr Elijah Brown, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. Toured Rick's Institute and reconnected with IM friends before a long drive back in heavy traffic; some traveling the wrong direction. Brief dash across four lanes of heavy traffic to buy David football (soccer) jerseys. A quiet supper before focusing on preparing to preach at Mount Nebo Baptist Church. A fun day!



Day 13 (Sunday): Holy Spirit filled service at Mount Nebo Baptist Church. Two students joined Basil Krote and me for worship. Preached “The Time has Come to Repent,” from Mark 1:14-22. Church family provide a superb chicken and rice lunch with salad (yum!). Grateful for the love offering which I used to bless others. Quiet afternoon nap followed by a relaxing walk to see Basil’s family. Conversation with friends before an early evening. God is good!

Day 14 (Monday): Historic national holiday with the Inauguration of the new President of the Republic of Liberia. One student arrived for class since the Kaykays and pen pens (motorcycle taxis) were banned from the road. Special breakfast of cassava, sweet potatoes, eddo, and plantains. Watched the inauguration on the television. Mouthwatering lunch. Brief taxi ride to pay internet fees and shop at the woodworkers. Learned to wash my clothes the Liberian way with a washboard, bar soap, and clothesline. Quiet evening enjoying fellowship with friends before calling family. Peaceful rest!



Day 15 (Tuesday): great day of classes, especially the Biblical Theology of Mission. Praise God for the powerful message Dr Charles Jones preached in chapel. Lunch was smoked fish in palm oil with okra sauce; delectable! Fun time watching the kitchen staff prepare spaghetti with sardines for the students. Mary is a master with the gigantic spoon. Beautiful evening walk and conversation with friends. Liberia is an amazing place filled with creative, resourceful people!

Day 16 (Wednesday): Breakfast was cream of wheat with fresh fruit and coffee. Classes went well. Loved the “discussion” in Pauline Epistles and Theikogy. It lasted long after class was dismissed and the noise could be heard across campus. I Love teaching Bible and Theology!! Lunch was cassava greens with fish and chicken over rice. Napped during the heat of the day. Praised God for the gigantic shipment of fish. Watched the talented women clean the fish for tomorrow’s lunch thanks to International Ministries. A blessed evening watching Boakai Freeman, Master at t hee African iron (heated by charcoals), press by shirts was I prayed he didn’t burn them or set everything on fire Impressed!! A Great evening among friends!

Rev Charles Spurgeon was the Prince of Preachers. Today, I passed a precious note in Spurgeon’s handwriting given to me by Rev Dr Jerry Cain to a new generation of enthusiasts, Daniel R. Johnson. May God continue to call great women and men of faith to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



CHURCH OFFICE Our Staff



8th David Greuter
10th Nancy Ohse
11th Macy Greuter
22nd Jeffrey Fuller
24th Janice Hedberg
25th Albert Carpenter
25th Matt Smith
29th Colleen Smith

**TEXT THE WORDS
TO (785) 432-5383**

**“JOIN” for GENERAL
TEXT alerts and reminders**

**“BABY” for BABY CLOSET
TEXT alerts and reminders**

**“FOOD” for FOOD PANTRY
TEXT alerts and reminders**

**“KIDS” for KIDS MINISTRY
TEXT alerts and reminders.**

Terms and conditions apply.
4 Msgs/Month. Msg and Data rates may apply.

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

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West Side Baptist Church
1008 SW 4th St.
Topeka, KS 66606
Phone: (785) 233-4241
Email: office@wsbctopeka.org

**CALL the CHURCH OFFICE for an
UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY.**

EASTER LILLIES - Beginning Sunday, February 4th we will start handing out our Easter Lily forms. We will need these back in the office no later than the last of February Sunday, which is February 25, 2024..



OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

It's Super Bowl time! Please join us Sunday, February 11 as we celebrate the ultimate football game (and hopefully cheer on our Chiefs!). Chili and crackers will be available at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Then we'll head upstairs to Holmer Hall to watch the game which begins at 5:30 pm. Please bring a snack and/or beverage to share. Be sure to invite a friend!



WWW KIDS BIBLE CLUB WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

- 5:30 pm – Free Supper for Kids and Adults
- 6:00 pm – Bible Clubs and Bible Bucks Store
- 7:00 – Finished / Pick Up

*All food is available at no cost



FOOD PANTRY

*All food is available free of cost!
MOST WEDNESDAYS
3:30 - 5:30 PM

Yes! Food Pantry
Feb 7th
Feb 14th
Feb 21st
Feb 28th

wsbctopeka.org/get-help/food-pantry

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 DONATIONS OF DIAPERS

BABY CLOSET
ARMARIO PARA BABE CERRADO

Donate Good Diaper For Babies in Topeka

Done buenos pañales para bebés en Topeka

Box of 96 for \$20.00 or
Box of 162 for \$30.00

NEED SIZES 4 + 5

Give Online or Send Donation To:
WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
1008 SW 4TH ST | TOPEKA KS 66606 | (785) 233-4241
www.wsbctopeka.org

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FRIENDS



Our Friends story this month features **Janice Hedberg Boyce**. Janice started coming to West Side Baptist in the Fall of 2021. She serves as our church accompanist playing both the piano and the organ. She also accompanies the choir. Janice attends the Wednesday morning Bible Study and helps out on Wednesday evenings with WWW.

Janice was born in Kansas City. Her Dad, Ralph Herrick, was studying at Central Baptist Theological Seminary which is affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA. He became an American Baptist Pastor so Janice was a PK, Preacher's Kid! Janice's mother, Myrtle, was a homemaker and often worked part time as her husband's church secretary. Janice had one brother, Don Herrick, who also became a pastor.

Growing up, Janice lived in Rocky Ford, Colorado for a few years where her dad had his first church. Her grandmother lived close by in La Junta, Colorado. Her grandmother was a church organist and even though Janice was very young, she started playing the piano. From Colorado her family moved to Emporia where her dad was pastor of First Baptist Church. It was in Emporia that Janice was baptized by her dad. Then, when Janice was in 9th grade, they moved to Des Moines, Iowa where her dad was pastor of the Westover Baptist Church. Janice attended Urbandale High School where she played and sang in the school choir. She graduated in 1966.

William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri is where Janice chose to go to college. She studied to become an elementary school teacher graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. Janice married right after college and taught for 3 years. Then she took a break from teaching to start her family. She has a daughter Kristin and a son Eric. Kristin and her husband live in Seneca and have five children. Eric and his wife live in northern Minnesota where he has no children but lots of animals. When she started back teaching she taught at Topeka Latin, Highland Park Central, and Tecumseh North. In all she taught 35 years before retiring in 2014. She did substitute teaching for another 3 years.

I asked Janice what led her to start attending West Side Baptist. She had been a member for many years at First Baptist Topeka and then attended her brother's church, Highland Park Baptist in Topeka, after he passed away in October 2018 from complications with diabetes. Her brother's friend Harold Wolgast suggested she check out West Side and the rest is history. Janice recalls Brice Smith sitting down beside her at one of our church dinners letting her know that he heard she played the piano. And yes, she agreed to not only play the piano but also learn to play our organ. How blessed we are to have Janice!

I asked Janice what she enjoyed doing now that she's retired. She said she loves to read. She has a wide interest reading everything from historical fiction, biographies, mysteries and romance. One of her favorite book series was the Outlander Series. She shared with me that before her husband, Steve Boyce, passed away from cancer in 2020, she read aloud to him the entire 9 volumes of the Outlander Series. Janice also enjoys sewing. She used to sew dresses for herself, her daughter and granddaughters. Then she would sew doll clothes for her granddaughter's American Girl dolls. Now she wants to get back sewing on a quilt.

~ Nancy Lindberg

TREASURER'S REPORT

OUR CHURCH FINANCES

We had a notable year financially in 2023. We ended the year with December income of \$46,011.65 making the total for the year \$282,239.88. We had budgeted \$267,355.00.

Our expenses for December were \$24,887.14 bringing the total for the year to \$298,877.59. We had budgeted \$274,755.00.

Knowing that we were having more expenses than planned in 2023, in December the Pastor asked us to consider a Christmas gift to the church to help us meet our budget. He noted that we needed \$42,660 and you answered by exceeding that goal. **God is good!** We thank you for your tithes and gifts to the church in 2023.

The difference of income to expenses for the year was -\$16,637.71.

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet for December is \$104,777.09. Of that total \$70,367.34 is Capital Campaign funds; \$7,870.53 is Outreach; \$2,167.45 is Youth funds; and \$3,431.18 is in the Benevolent Fund.

The Endeavor investment report we have \$332,647.82. Of that total we have \$31,795.38 in Memorials. In the two Topeka Community Foundation Funds we have a total of \$232,129.98. It is great to see our investments doing better than last year.

The 2024 budget was approved at the December 3rd All-Church Breakfast Meeting. You will receive the approved 2024 budget and year-end financials in the annual report that will be handed out at our annual meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 4th. I hope you will plan to attend this meeting and also enjoy a potluck dinner.

The Capital Campaign projects continue. The repairs and painting of the sanctuary ceiling and walls was January's project. We are also painting the main hallway outside of the sanctuary as well as the kitchen off of Holmer Hall. Once those bills are paid, the Long Range Planning Committee will evaluate what money we have left to complete the remaining projects on our list. As chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, I encourage you to continue your commitment in the third year of our 3-year \$300,000 **Fortifying our Foundation for the Future** Campaign. If you didn't make a pledge but want to help support the building projects, you can do that at any time by indicating on your check, envelope or online gift that it is to support the building projects/capital campaign.

Year-end statements were picked up or mailed in January. Let me know if you didn't receive yours or have a question. Also, if you didn't receive your giving envelopes and would like a set, please let Nelda Janway know. You should throw away your 2023 envelopes.

There will be more year-end financials along with total 2023 missions giving and memorials updates in the annual report available at the annual meeting.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for your continued tithes and offerings.

Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

WORSHIP



FEBRUARY USHERS

David Greuter, David Martin,
Mark Arnold, Clarence Payne and
Tony Carreno

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

FEBRUARY COMMUNION SERVERS

Tera Triggs, Angie Foster,
Pat Carpenter and Lonna Hersh

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:

Facebook LIVE <https://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka>

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/WSBC>



venmo

**ONLINE
GIVING**
[https://west-
side-baptist-
church.square](https://west-side-baptist-church.square)



The Revised Common
Lectionary Texts
**WORSHIP CHRIST
THE KING**

February 4

Isaiah 40:21-31
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 11

2 Kings 5:1-14
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

February 18

Isaiah 43:18-25
2 Corinthians 1:18-22
Mark 2:1-12

February 25

Hosea 2:14-20
2 Corinthians 3:1-6
Mark 2:13-22



MISSIONS & MISC

Doorstep's 2024

**“SOUPERBOWL
SUNDAY” IS
FEBRUARY 11th**



**BRING
SOUP**

**AND
CRACKERS**



TO YOUR CONGREGATION
FEBRUARY 9th – 11th TO HELP STOCK
DOORSTEP'S FOOD PANTRY!

Our Goal this year is 2.5 ton... 5,000 pounds!

We beat it last year... Let's Do It Again!!!

ACTIVITY PAGE

February Word Search



Spring Winter Shadow
 Water Peace
 Flowers Burrow Chocolate
 Woodchuck Groundhog

Penny
 Friends
 Candy
 Valentine
 Arizona
 Aquarius
 Violet
 Roses
 Flag
 Spring

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

Valentine's Day Word Search

c	g	f	l	o	w	e	r	s	i	p
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a	o	g	u	y	h	e	a	r	t	s
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i	s	u	h	s	p	i	n	n	h	n
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e	o	s	c	h	o	s	r	o	s	h
s	w	e	e	r	t	s	f	r	i	e
v	c	h	o	c	o	l	a	t	e	k

valentine red roses
 arrow fourteenth friend
 cupid hugs flowers
 hearts chocolate sweetheart
 love pink kisses

February Word Search Puzzle

AMETHYST
 FOOTBALL
 FLOWERS
 VALENTINE
 CHOCOLATE
 CANDY
 WINTER
 CARDS
 ROSES
 PISCES

F	L	U	G	K	S	V	E	A	H																					
J	O	D	R	H	W	Z	Z	U	K	R	O	G	T																	
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Z	T	M	L	U	Q	P	G	Y	Z	Z	K	A	U	R	E	U	P	V	A	F	I	B	Z	O	R	H	C	Q	H	
T	R	H	C	O	S	V	S	B	D	Q	O	I	J	H	I	Z	P	I	W	I	J	F	O	C	S	J	R	E	S	
O	B	M	T	N	W	E	F	E	N	R	B	Z	O	T	R	A	G	I	D	Z	L	T	B	O	B	M	L	R	O	
G	C	H	V	L	T	E	R	H	U	X	S	D	S	V	X	L	R	I	C	D	V	I	D	L	E	T	C	B	C	
H	L	Y	U	H	Y	S	I	B	H	U	R	A	D	D	R	E	T	B	I	E	C	T	N	U	J	C				
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VIOLET
 PENNY
 HEART
 BURROW
 SHADOW
 ADORE
 FEBRUARY
 PEACE
 CUPID
 PICNIC



FEBRUARY

HAPPY
GROUNDHOG DAY



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 1:00 pm Baby Closet 7:00 pm Parenting the Love and Logic Way Training	2 Groundhog day	3
4 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Annual business meeting	5 9:00 am Baby Closet	6	7 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:00 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm WWW 6:00 pm Bible Study	8 1:00 pm Baby Closet 7:00 pm Parenting the Love and Logic Way Training	9	10
11 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:00 pm Super Bowl Party	12 9:00 am Baby Closet	13 6:00 pm Council Meeting	14 VALENTINES DAY 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:00 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm WWW 6:00 pm Bible Study	15 1:00 pm Baby Closet	16	17
18 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	19 9:00 am Baby Closet	20 5:30 pm Christian Ed Meeting	21 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:00 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm WWW 6:00 pm Bible Study	22 1:00 pm Baby Closet	23	24
25 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Last Sunday to order your flowers	26 9:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm DAR	27 6:30 pm Outreach Meeting	28 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:00 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm WWW 6:00 pm Bible Study	29 1:00 pm Baby Closet	February 29 Leap Day	