JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025 WINTER VOLUME 112, NUM. 1-2

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, TOPEKA, I

January 2025								
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THE NEW YEAR AT WEST SIDE BAPTIST

Closed New Years 1

Epiphany Sunday......5

Pastor Returns 28

Annual Business Meeting & Potluck...2/2

Wed AM Bible Study2/5

From Pastor's Pen: "Do Not Be Ashamed... Tell Your Faith Story!"

Have you ever paused to consider the impact of your testimony? Your story of encountering Christ, being transformed by His grace, and walking with Him is a powerful tool in advancing God's kingdom. Yet, many of us shy away from sharing it. Whether it's fear of judgment, a sense of inadequacy, or uncertainty about how our story will be received, we often hold back. But the Apostle Paul's words in 2 Timothy 1:8 remind us that sharing our testimony is not only a privilege but also a calling.

"So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord or about me His prisoner..."

Paul's encouragement to Timothy is both personal and universal. He speaks of boldness—a willingness to proclaim the truth of God's work in our lives without shame. Why? Because our stories point to God's power, not our perfection. They reveal His mercy, His faithfulness, and His ability to redeem and restore. When we share our testimonies, we become living witnesses to the hope of the gospel. (continued on next page)





A PLACE TO BELONG, BELIEVE, and BE INVOLVED

Pastor's Pen

Why Share Your Testimony?

- It Glorifies God When we tell others what God has done for us, we shine a light on His character and His works. Our testimonies declare, "God is faithful. He is good. He saves.
- It Encourages Others Your story might be exactly what someone else needs to hear. It can inspire faith, provide comfort, and remind others that they are not alone in their struggles.
- It Strengthens Your Faith Recounting God's goodness deepens our gratitude and strengthens our trust in Him. It reminds us of His past faithfulness and gives us confidence for the future.

As a church, let's create an environment where sharing testimonies is welcomed and celebrated. Whether in small groups, during fellowship, or in casual conversations, let's encourage one another to speak boldly about what God has done in our lives.

This week, I challenge each of us to prayerfully consider who we might share our testimony with and then SIGN UP to share you testimony in worship on the 2nd or 4th Sunday of a month.

Perhaps it's a friend, a co-worker, or even a family member. Remember, your story has the potential to plant seeds of faith, bring comfort, and glorify our Savior.

Let us not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord. Instead, let us proclaim it boldly, trusting that God will use it for His glory and the building of His kingdom.



HOW TO SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

- **BE AUTHENTIC**: Share YOUR story honestly. Don't exaggerate. Don't embellish. Don't lie. People connect with vulnerability and sincerity, not perfection.
- FOCUS ON GOD: Keep the spotlight on what He has done in your life, rather than on your struggles or accomplishments.
- **BE BRIEF**: You don't have to explain or go into detail. Your testimony doesn't have to be lengthy to be impactful. A concise story can often leave a lasting impression. It's as simple as, "*I was blind but now I see.*"
- **PRAY FOR GUIDANCE**: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you as you share, giving you the words and the courage to speak.
- DON'T TELL OTHERS WHAT THEY SHOULD DO: Share what God did in and through you. Then give a brief invitation: "Come and see..."
- WRITE IT OUT and PRACTICE: The best testimonies are five minutes or less – no longer than an elevator ride. Focus on the important points and practice. It should be smooth but not rehearsed.

CHURCH OFFICE Sour Staff



01/01 Mark & Betty Arnold 01/17 Nem and Mong Sonna 01/28 Wally & Cathy Goodnow



01/01 Dale Allen 01/01 Larry Cramer 01/04 Marion Blasdel 01/05 Angel Kayleen Shaw 01/07 Jake Geist 01/10 Ann'Abella Turner 01/10 Jessica Widow 01/12 Jennifer Blair 01/14 Chris Payne 01/18 David Martin 01/21 William Wennesheimer 01/22 Caden Lutz 01/23 McKenzie Woodall 01/27 Robert Blair 01/27 Nova Dexter 01/27 Traci Brown 01/27 Patricia Tripod 01/28 Oliver Lynch

If I have left anyone off the Birthdays or Anniversaries please let me know. Lynda Cokeley, Church Secretary



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 and Deacon on Duty 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, Church Secretary and Editor, reserves the right to edit submissions for content, grammar, 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: <u>office@wsbctopeka.org</u> www.wsbctopeka.org

ANNUAL REPORTS –Council members start thinking of the article you want displayed in the Annual Reports for the Annual meeting on Sunday February 2, 2025.The deadline for your articles is Wednesday, January 22, 2025, by noon. That is the cutoff time anything after that date & time may not get into the Reports. Please submit your report to Lynda (office@wsbctopeka.org):

Annual Meeting & Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, February 2, 2025 after worship in Fellowship Hall

See Sonia Roling, Church Moderator, for more information and agenda items. Annual reports will be distributed prior to the meeting.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY SCHOOL CINEMA — Christian Ed is hosting a Sunday School Cinema in December.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays, December 29, and January 5 we will watch "The Christmas Candle" by Max Lucado.

Please join us for this fellowship, food, entertainment, and good discussion with friends. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for volunteers to bring snacks.

<u>WWW KIDS CLUB ON WINTER</u> BREAK - The WWW Kids Bible Club will resume on January 8, 2025. We will have Sunday School and other fun activities for children of all ages.



WINTER-SPRING 2025 WWW Kids Bible Club will begins on Wednesday, January 8 at 6:00 pm.

We will have a *Free Supper* beginning at 5:30 pm.

Kindergarten through Senior High school students are invited to Wonderful Wednesdays at West Side (WWW) Kids Bible Club. The evening is filled with FUN games, creative Bible stories, easy-to-learn SONGS, and Bible Buck Store – where kids can

earn treats and PRIZES. Need a RIDE? Call the Church Office BEFORE 3:00 PM at (785) 233-4241.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES - Pastor Ivan will teach a fourweek orientation class for new members and persons interested in joining this Christian Church starting

IN PERSON on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 at 9:00 AM ONLINE on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 at 10:00 AM

The class will cover the core truths of the Christian faith and membership expectations. Participants are NOT required to join the Church after taking the class. SIGN UP TO JOIN THE



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CHURCH AT https://forms.gle/cQ5cQij4bnbP1E3X8.

LADIES & MENS NIGHT OUT - This is a fun time of building friendships in church. Ladies Night Out is on Tuesday, January 7 at 6:00 pm at Ichabods Grille on 21st and Washburn. Each person is responsible for paying for her meal, and don't forget to bring a friend and pay for their meal. If you need a ride, please get in touch with Colleen Smith. We are looking forward to a fun fellowship time!

If anyone would like to suggest a place to eat let Colleen or Brice know.

OUTREACH

WE NEED ALL SIZES OF BABY CLOTHES



TURKEY GIVEAWAY - Volunteers brightened the holiday for many local families by distributing **88 turkeys**, **2 Hams and 132 frozen chickens**. It is



truly a blessing to be able to share in the spirit of giving and helping our neighbors

during this special season of gratitude.



FOOD PANTRY WEDNESDAY 3:30 - 5:30 PM

NO! Food Pantry

*<u>wsbctopeka.org/get-help/food-pantry</u>

SUSPENDING PROGRAM

We will be suspending the Food Pantry from January to March 2025 due to the inability of our partners to provide consistent healthy food for our neighbors.

Hopefully we will find a way to make food available in the springtime.

Thank you, ~ Jack Janway

HATS, GLOVES, & SOCKS: BIG THANK YOU - Thank you so much for donating hats, gloves, coats, and money for the two elementary schools we support.

There were 232 items collected and delivered to Meadows and Lowman Hill. ~



Jack Janway, Outreach

NEW COORDINATOR OF OUTREACH NEEDED

Jack has done a FANTASTICLY OUTSTANDING JOB coordinating the outreach programs of the church for the past several years. The Constitution requires new a leader or coleaders. IS GOD CALLING YOU TO HELP LEAD? If the Spirit is calling, talk to Karen Kirby or Sonia Rolings

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our Church Finances

I am sure that in the January newsletter you would like to see an article about our church finances for the year but that information will not be ready for a couple of weeks. Below is our status at the end of November with encouraging words that even though we have had numerous expenses over the year maintaining our building, we have also had generous tithing. As I write this article, I don't know what the Christmas offerings over the last several weeks will be but encourage you to take a year-end look at our finances in the annual report that will be available at our annual meeting in early February.



Our income for November was \$16,037.89. At the end of eleven months our income is \$248,923.39 or 96.86%. Our % goal for the first eleven months is 91.67% of the annual budget so we are exceeding our goal. There was \$460 given for the youth pie fundraising project.

Our expenses for November totaled \$25,652.64 and a total for eleven months of \$303,498.79 which is 102.07% of what was budgeted. Expenses to note include: \$1,104 in line #7570 Stewardship Program; \$52 in line #8350 for Northeast Area Dues; and \$322.38 in line #8685 for Youth Fund Expenditures.

The difference of income to expenses for the month is \$-8,893.35 and for the year is -\$43,647.11., which means we have spent \$43K more than we have received.

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet is \$23,573.37. A portion of our checking account, \$44,695.60, is in the Capital Campaign and of that \$5,942.37 is earmarked for missions. We have \$6,853.62 in Outreach funds. The main general fund is -\$30,936.13.

The Benevolent Fund balance is \$1,303.88.

Our 2025 budget was discussed at the December All-Church Breakfast Meeting and approved by the congregation after the church service on the same day. You will receive the approved 2025 budget and year-end financials in the annual report that will be handed out at our annual meeting in February. I hope you will plan to attend.

If you haven't pledged yet for 2025, there are still pledge cards available on the book rack outside of the church office and can be turned in to the office or placed in the Sunday offering. All pledges for 2025 will be entered into your record after the first of the year. A year-end statement will be available in mid-January in time for you to have when you do your taxes. Let me know if you have any questions.

Happy New Year! Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



MISSIONS

Save the Date: January 17-18, 2025

Mid Winter Missions Conference

Location: Prairie Homestead, Wichita



Guest Speakers: Jeanine and Walt White Global Consultants International Ministries



ABCCR Mid-Winter Missions Conference: Join us, **January 17- 18, 2025** at Prairie Homestead in Wichita, Kansas as we hear from Jeanine and Walt White, Global Consultants for International Ministries. **Registration is \$45.00 per person.** Registration helps cover travel expenses and the honorarium for Jeanine and Walt. The Registration fee also includes two meals: dinner and lunch, provided by Prairie Homestead.

REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE ARE DUE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 3, 2025.

One registration per person. <u>Lodging is on your own.</u> **Please visit the ABCCR website for more information on lodging.** An offering for Missions will be received. You can register and pay online, or you can mail your registration to: Mediage Newborry 1502 Person Street Logyconworth KS 66049

Melissa Newberry: 1502 Pawnee Street Leavenworth, KS 66048 Please make checks payable to: "Mid-Winter Missions Conference"

2025 MISSION COMMITTEE PLANS

We here at West Side Baptist need to plan our missions work for 2025. The missions committee will meet on January 15, 2025 at 11:30AM in Holmer Hall. We will be planning the programing for the year. Some of the topics we will be looking at:

- 1. **Mission trip to Tijuana & Baja California, Mexico MAY 27-30:** We plan to visit Deliris Carrion-Joseph andMoise Joseph Missionaries, West Side support.
- 2. Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City
- 3. Hands On Mission Project to pack snack bags for Mobile Access Partnership (MAP) on Wednesday, February 5 @ 11:30 AM
- 4. RECEIVE the ANNUAL OFFERINGS:
 - AMERICA FOR CHRIST MARCH
 - ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING JUNE
 - WORLD MISSION OFFERING SEPTEMBER
 - **RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING IN** Thank you for \$1,945.00 received for the Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering toward our goal of \$1,500.00.

The missions committee will meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30AM in Holmer hall. Don Johnson





ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS -DONATIONS must be RECEIVED by December 31 to count on this year's giving statements.

The Stewardship Secretary will mail annual giving statements to our members before January United 31, 2025. In the States, donors cannot claim a tax deduction without a written receipt from the Church. Please wait for your giving statement. Contact Nancy Lindberg if you have any questions or needs assistance.

SCRIPTURE READERS IN WORSHIP

Sign Up to be a Scripture Reader in Worship. Readers proclaim two Bible readings each Sunday. Texts are available months in advance.



Pastor can help you pronounce any hard words. SIGN UP on the Bulletin Board of ONLINE at https://forms.gle/ V82eBGGixadvYpyU9.





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/03 Malcolm Smith

02/05 Ryleigh Chafton

02/05 Laurie Smith

02/08 Shawn Emery

02/08 David Greuter

- 02/10 Heather Jones
- 02/10 Nancy Ohse
- 02/11 Macy Greuter
- 02/14 Reanna Campbell
- 02/15 Renae May
- 02/20 Madison Woodall
- 02/22 Jeffrey Fuller
- 02/24 Brinley Cripe
- 02/24 Janice Hedberg
- 02/25 Albert Carpenter
- 02/25 Matthew Smith
- 02/26 Tony Carreno
- 02/29 Colleen Smith

2025 BOX SET GIVING ENVELOPES

The giving envelopes will be available to pick up at the church on Sunday, December 31st after worship. If you did not receive one and would like to begin receiving envelopes please see Nelda Janway, Financial Secretary

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY - God deserves our praise and worship! We will make every effort to host live in-person worship services each Sunday throughout the year including when it rains, snows, or storms. The parking lot, sidewalks, and stairs will be cleared and salted by a professional company - please take care! Please stay safe and warm at home if you have an illness or do not feel well, or if you think conditions are See Our Inclement Weather Policv unsafe or unhealthy. is posted at wsbctopeka.org/2023/11/inclement-weather-policy.

WORSHIP

The Revised Common Lectionary Texts Year C

Scripture Reader

Second Sunday after Christmas January 5 Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9) 10-18

> *Epiphany* January 12 Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

First Sunday after Epiphany January 19 Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

> Second Sunday after Epiphany January 26 Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

MAY YOU SHINE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN THE NEW YEAR!



JANUARY USHERS

Ernie Longstaff, Mark Arnold, Sonia Roling, Steve Hood and Jack Janway

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

COMMUNION SERVERS

Sonia Roling, Jim Goodnow, Pat Carpenter, and Lonna Hersh

GOOD WAY TO STAY CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH AND SEE WHAT IS GOING ON!

Scan QR Code to Access the Schedule, Bible Classes, Updates, Prayer Requests, and Information on the Church's Website

TEXT "JOIN" to (785) 432-5383 to Receive WSBC Text Messages



ACTIVITY PAGE

Dear God, As I look forward to a New Year, I ask You to guide and protect my family and friends. May Your light shine through us and Your will be done in everything. Amen.



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SunCatcherStudio.com



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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5 9:00 am Last Sunday Cinema 10:30 am Worship	6 9:00 am Baby Closet	7 6:00 pm Ladies Night Out @ Ichabods Grille 6:00 pm Men's Night Out @ Ichabods Grille	8 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet No Harvester's 5:30 pm WWW	9 1:00 pm Baby Closet	10	11 1:30 pm Worship Team
12 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	13 9:00 am Baby Closet	14 6:00 pm Council Mtg	15 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet No Harvester's 5:30 pm WWW	16 1:00 pm Baby Closet 2:00 pm Finance Committee	17	18 1:30 pm Worship Team
19 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	20 9:00 am Baby Closet	21 5:30 pm Christian Ed Meeting	22 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet No Harvester's 5:30 pm WWW	23 1:00 pm Baby Closet	24	25 1:30 pm Worship Team
26 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	27 9:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm DAR	28 6:00 pm Outreach Mtg	29 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet No Harvester's 5:30 pm WWW	30 1:00 pm Baby Closet	31	

WORSHIP

The Revised Common Lectionary Texts Year C Scripture Reader

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany <u>February 2</u> Jeremiah 1:4-10 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany <u>February 9</u> Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany <u>February 16</u> Jeremiah 17:5-10 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany <u>February 23</u> Genesis 45:3-11,15 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38

FEBRUARY USHERS

Sunda

David Greuter, David Martin, Mark Arnold, Ernie Reed and Steve Hood

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

COMMUNION SERVERS

GOOD WAY TO STAY CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH AND SEE WHAT IS GOING ON!

Scan QR Code to Access the Schedule, Bible Classes, Updates, Prayer Requests, and Information on the Church's Website

We're Better Together!

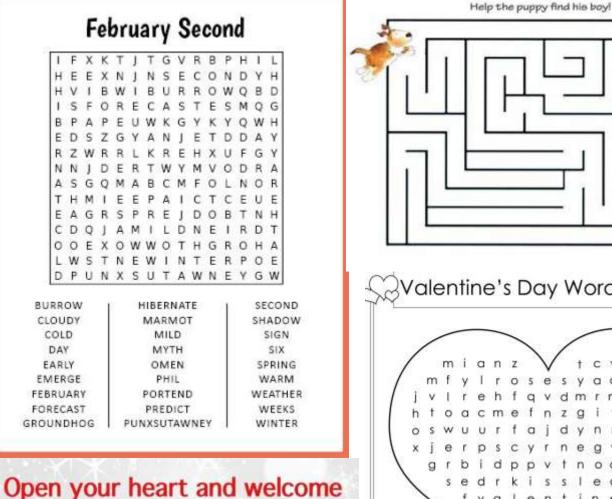
The Church is committed to the continual praise and worship of Almighty God in the Name of Jesus Christ. Church leaders and our clergy hold services regularly in the Sanctuary in compliance with all published federal, state, and local government health orders. Services are broadcast LIVE:

- Facebook LIVE https://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka
- YouTube <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/WSBC</u>

TEXT "JOIN" to (785) 432-5383 to Receive WSBC Text Messages



ACTIVITY PAGE



the new month with a new hope, let go of the past, believe and have faith in God that He will carry you through. Welcome Eberuary Shelby Condo





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	in gr	ppy oundhog lay 2			1 1:30 pm Worship Team	
2 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 Annual Meeting	3 9:00 am Baby Closet	4 6:00 pm Ladies & Men's night out at Cook's Grill	5 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet No Harvester's 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir	6 1:00 pm Baby Closet	7	8 1:30 pm Worship Team
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