EASTERTIDE VOLUME 112, NUM. 5

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, TOPEKA, KS

MAY DAYS TO REMEMBER

National Day of Prayer & Happy May Day 1

Graduation Sunday.... 4

Dom. Republic Mission Trip (Pastor)10-21

Mother's Day......11

Church Council 13

Christian Ed Mtg 15

Book Club (Sun) 25

Memorial Day Holiday Office Closed............ 26

Worship Committee. 31



FROM PASTOR'S PEN: DISTRICT COORDINATORS

The Apostles said. "Brothers and sisters....

we will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." Acts 6:3-4 (NIV)

We broke the ceiling - not literally, the plaster is fine but we reach a new record in worship attendance: 115 persons in the Sanctuary on Easter morning for the Celebration Service. God is cause the church to grow with more Jesus followers. Praise the Lord!

In the early church, as recorded in Acts 6, the church grew rapidly after Jesus' resurrection, the apostles were faced with a beautiful challenge: *the community was growing!* With that growth came increasing needs—especially among the widows and vulnerable. The apostles wisely responded by appointing trusted individuals to help them care for the people, allowing everyone to be served well and no one to be overlooked. They realized that one person could not do it all. The church needed gifted servants in every area working together from a common purpose: Love!

Inspired by this biblical model, I'm thrilled to introduce a new initiative: *Our District Coordinator Ministry.*

The Church Council and I have divided our families roster into districts based on zip codes, and assigned a District Coordinator to each area. These coordinators are

spiritual leaders called to help provide better, direct communication, prayer support, and spiritual care in their assigned district, as well as help us connect with our guests and visitors.



Pastor's Pen

Their role echoes the ministry described in Acts 6: to ensure the needs of the community are not neglected, while also supporting the work of teaching, preaching, and prayer.

In the coming weeks, your District Coordinator will be reaching out to introduce themselves if they have not done so already and share their contact information. They are here to:

- ♦ Share urgent information and prayer updates from the Church
- Offer Christian support and encouragement
- **♦ Stay in touch and listen to your concerns**
- ♦ Help foster deeper community in your area

This is not a replacement for the role of our pastors or deacons—it's an extension of it. Just as the early church grew stronger by sharing responsibility, we believe this model will help us grow in both number and love.



I have actually decided to conclude my service on the Board of International Ministries to focus more time and energy at the church and in the neighborhood. Rexanne and I still feel called to service this beloved community!

Please welcome your District Coordinator with open arms when they reach out. And keep this ministry in your prayers, asking God to bless the connections and conversations that will happen through it. We are one Body with many parts—and each part matters deeply. You need Us! We need You! You BELONG here!

Blessings in Christ's love and service, Pastor Ivan+

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER The First Thursday of May @ 6 PM

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

Historical Summary

- 1775 The first Continental Congress called for a National Day of Prayer
- 1863 Abraham Lincoln called for a day of prayer for the nation.
- 1952 Congress established NDP as an annual event by a joint resolution, signed into law by President Truman.
- 1988 The law was amended and signed by President Reagan, designating the NDP as the first Thursday in May.

JOIN US MAY 1 @ 6 PM for a PRAYER SERVICE!



CHURCH OFFICE



Anniversary

5/05 Tom & Jan Mansfield

5/10 John & Jan Swain

5/21 Russ & Fran Seymour Hunter



5/07 Myrt Blasdel

5/13 Barbara Amos

5/13 Chuck Cozad

5/13 Mary Woodall

5/14 Almira Collier

5/17 Marianne Spano

5/18 Alice Payne

5/29 Joshua Tripod

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 office@wsbctopeka.org. Lynda Church Secretary and Editor, reserves the right to edit submissions for content. grammar, and publication spacing. Send corrections subscription address and requests to:

> WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH 1008 SW 4th St. Topeka, KS 66606 Phone: (785) 233-4241

> Email: office@wsbctopeka.org
> www.wsbctopeka.org

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Wishing you God's unending favor, kindness and love this

Memorial Day

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

1 Peter 2:17: "Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor."

Getting to Know Our Church Friends

Our Friends story this month features one of our newer families to join our church, Shawn and Jennifer Emery. They live on Fillmore just down the street from the church and their son, Nicholas, has been attending WWW for several years. They bring new joy and enthusiasm to our congregation. We can see Shawn some Sundays playing his guitar with our praise band and Jennifer is busy working with some of the younger children. On Easter during the children's sermon Jennifer helped the kids explain their project on Jesus during the week leading up to his crucifixion.

Jennifer was born in Topeka. She was an only child to Lola and George Jack. Her mom, Lola, was a Certified Nursing Aide (CNA) at the Kansas Neurological Institute (KNI) while in Topeka and



later a CNA in a nursing home in Springfield, Missouri. Her dad, George, was a lifelong mechanic adopting Jennifer when she was nine years old. Jennifer and her parents attended Crestview Methodist Church and later Highland Park United Methodist Church when she was growing up.

Jennifer was involved in journalism throughout high school and graduating in 1990 from Highland Park. She enjoyed not only taking pictures but also picture developing and creating layouts for the school newspaper. She also wrote articles for the paper.

Jennifer's mom taught her that she had to have perfect grades in school and she lived up to that through high school. But, when she started Highland Community College studying journalism, she realized she couldn't be the A+ student she had been so she quit and moved back to Topeka.

Shawn was also born in Topeka and is three years older than Jennifer. They met when they were teenagers. Shawn told me the story of meeting Jennifer at a party and when she was thirsty and wanted to get a soda, she went looking for someone with a car to take her to get something. He had a car so he offered to take her only to have her shut his fingers in the car door as they were getting in. Ouch! But that must have done the trick because they started dating and when she came back to Topeka after only one semester of college, they were married in the East Side Baptist Church in June 1991.

Shawn was born to Ron and Sandy Emery. His dad, Ron, was a printer and his mom, Sandy, worked with computers at Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Shawn has one sister, Angel Emery. They grew up going to the East Side Baptist Church and he was baptized around the age of 12.

Shawn graduated in 1987 from Shawnee Heights High School. His interests in high school were music and track. He said he didn't like running but enjoyed throwing the discus and shot put. His love of music started when he was 14 and by the age of 20 led him to be part of a 4-man band named My Own World (MOW) playing the guitar and singing.

(Continued on next page)

Getting to Know Our Church Friends

They were a pop rock band playing alternative music in venues in Kansas City, Lawrence and Topeka. Perhaps you heard them play back in the day?

During high school and after they were married, Jennifer had several waitressing jobs and then went to work at J.M. Bauersfeld's. Out of high school Shawn worked at Hall Commercial Printing. It was during this time they had their first child, Destiny, in 1998. After 14 years working for Hall Printing, they decided they wanted a change so Shawn found a printing job in Arizona. They had another change by having their second child, Brendon, in 2001, and Jennifer worked at the Safeway Corporate Office doing payroll. After three years they became homesick and decided to move back to Topeka, buying their home at 308 Fillmore, just across from West Side Baptist Church. Shawn started working at Hobby Lobby as assistant manager. Jennifer went back working for Bauersfeld's and then started up her own home day care when Bauersfeld's closed. Shawn also studied at Washburn and got a Liberal Arts Degree.

Later, they moved to Manhattan where Shawn became co-manager of Hobby Lobby and Jennifer worked at Stone Creek Family Physicians as a receptionist. Then Shawn had the opportunity to become store manager of the Hobby Lobby in Olathe. They moved back to their home in Topeka with Jennifer driving to Manhattan and Shawn to Olathe. Then, Nicholas was born, Jennifer's mom got cancer and, along with the stress of being a new store manager, Shawn said he "hit his threshold and came running home". Shawn started his own lawn care business and has several people working for him. They mow, do landscaping, build flower beds and whatever is needed. In winter, he does snow removal and Door Dash. After being tired of driving back and forth to Manhattan, Jennifer opened a day care center in Topeka but it closed in 2020 due to Covid. She then taught pre-k at St. Matthews Catholic Church and currently works at Tallgrass General Surgery and Bariatrics as a receptionist.

Shawn and Jennifer have been married for 34 years this June. Their daughter, Destiny, is married and lives in Rhode Island but will be moving soon to Colorado Springs. She serves in the U.S. Army, taking after Jennifer's father who also served in the army.

Their son, Brendon, is studying IT at Washburn University and son, Nicholas, is a 7th grader at Robinson Middle School.

When Jennifer was driving back and forth to Manhattan she started listening to k-love radio and it helped her "turn to God." She loves working in the yard and listening to Christian music as she works. Over the years Shawn and Jennifer have attended a few churches and their children have on occasion attended youth groups at West Side. But about 1 ½ years ago they decided to walk across the street and try our church service. Jennifer was wanting a welcoming church with a pastor who was also a good Bible teacher and she believes she has found that at West Side. Nicholas was baptized last year at West Side Baptist. We welcome their family and are glad they walked across the street!

~ Nancy Lindberg



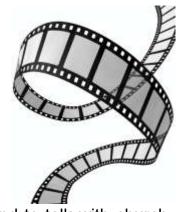
Emery, Jennifer Nicholas

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL CINEMA - We will be hosting our weekly Summer Cinema series again in 2025 beginning June 1. We're looking for movie recommendations: faith based or inspiring. This movie will be divided into several Sundays. Refreshments will start at 9:00 a.m. with the movie starting promptly at 9:15 a.m. followed by group discussions. I hope you will plan to join us.

There will be a <u>sign-up sheet on the bulletin board</u> for those who would like to bring treats, serve and clean-up for one of the Sunday mornings. Coffee and juice will be provided with breakfast items prepared by those who would like to bring something.

Don't miss this opportunity to see a movie, to enjoy tasty treats, and to talk with church friends about what life lessons can be learned from this movie and others throughout the summer.





CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATION SUNDAY RECOGNITION -

Christian Education wishes to recognize all our graduates (High School, College, and Graduate Programs) during the worship service on Sunday, May 4. If someone in your family is graduating, please call the Church Office or speak with Pat Carpenter or Marty Stevenson.





<u>WWW KIDS BIBLE CLUB</u>: Thanks to all of our leaders, volunteers and kitchen staff for an outstanding year of WWW Kids Bible Club. BINGO NIGHT on Wed., April 30 at 6 PM. Free Supper at 5:30 PM. Christian Education is working on creative ideas for next fall. Watch for more news or come to our CE meeting on Thursday, May 15 at 5:30 pm. No WWW Kids Club in June, or July see you all back again in August.



"The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down." Psalm 145:14 (NIV)

You can register by scanning the OR Code



Age is determined by what grade the student is entering in the fall of 2025.

CAMP CHRISTY

9-13

26 - 27

JUNE
2-6

High School Camp: (\$280) before May 1 (\$300) after May 1

Director: Damion Denison Registration Deadline: May 19, 2025

JUNE Middle School Camp: (\$280) before May 1 (\$300) after May 1

Director: Damion Denison Registration Deadline: May 26, 2025

JUNE Junior Camp: (\$280) before May 1 (\$300) after May 1

16-20 Director: Erin Isham Registration Deadline: June 2, 2025

JUNE Primary Camp: (\$140) before May 1 (\$150) after May 1

23-25 Director: Becky Rider Registration Deadline: June 9, 2025

JUNE Day Camp: (\$90) before May 1 (\$100) after May 1

Director: Tonya Koehn Registration Deadline: June 9, 2025

CAMP WHITE MEMORIAL

High School Camp: (\$395) before June 1 (\$415) after June 1

Director: Morgan Aspinwall Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025

JULY
Middle School Camp: (\$395) before June 1 (\$415) after June 1

Director: Wallace Smith Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025

JULY Junior Camp: (\$395) before May 1 (\$415) after May 1

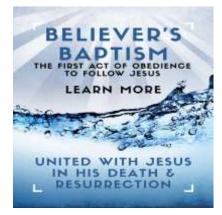
Director: Kami Minor Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025

No registrations will be accepted after the cutoff date.

ELLOWSHIP & MEMBERS

MENS & LADIES NIGHT OUT - This is a fun time of building friendships in church, Ladies & Men's Night Out is a monthly restaurant outing on the First Tuesday May 6 at 6:00 pm to build friendships and strengthen bonds between Christian sisters and brothers (separately). Colleen and Brice picked the restaurant. IN MAY we will gather at The Pad 1730 NW Topeka Blvd. Each person is responsible for paying for her meal, a 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!





STAY CONNECTED AND WHAT IS HAPPENING! Scan QR Code to Access the Schedule, Bible Classes, Updates, Prayer Requests, and Information on the Church's

> Website: www.wsbctopeka.org TEXT "JOIN" to (785) 432-5383 to Receive WSBC Text Messages



SUBSCRIBE to the e-Newsletter at http://eepurl.com/bPB8eL

WOMEN'S MINISTRY & SPECIAL PROJECTS - Ladies, mark your calendars for Monday, May 12, from 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM! We'll enjoy sandwiches and chips for May's meeting, so come hungry for food and friendship! (Sorry, Pastor Ivan—ladies only!) The Women's Ministry will meet monthly on the second Monday, focusing on food, fellowship, and faith. These meetings are a time to relax, share our stories, learn each other's likes and dislikes, and grow in love as sisters in Christ. We can't wait to connect and grow with you!



~ Shalom, Deacon Traci Brown

Doorstep Needs Food Donations!

The following items are needed to stock our shelves and continue feeding our neighbors with complete food orders!

We are out of or low on the following:

Spaghetti

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Pancake Mix

Vegetable Soup

Egg Noodles

Hamburger Helper

Tuna

Peas

Scalloped Box Potatoes

Mixed Beans

Pork & Beans / Baked Beans

Diced Tomatoes

Bring your donations to Doorstep, 1119 SW 10th Ave, Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm, South Door.

Thank You!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our income for March was \$72,065.77. For the first three months of 2025 our income total was \$129,362.44 or 47.02%. Our % goal for three months is 25% of the annual budget so we are over our goal. Our income for the month included several members making their yearly tithes, the annual rent payment for Capital City Chorus, continued gifts to the Baby Closet, and the flower income with offset of expenditures for the Easter flowers.

Our expenses for March totaled \$41,222.89 compared to February of \$26,691.31. For the first three months of 2025 we have an expense total of \$99,776.55 or 31.37% of our budget. Expense to note: a major expense was our annual insurance payment of \$15,596.00.

The difference of income to expenses is \$30,842.88.

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet is \$72,996.11. This includes \$6,623.79 in Outreach funds, \$52,154.31 in Capital Campaign, \$602.66 in the Youth Fund and \$1,332.34 in the Benevolent Fund.

Our newest memorial for Don Johnson totals \$590.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks. ~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



Your generous giving of tithes and offerings pays for the Church's ministries, mission, staff salaries and benefits, and programs.

Download from the App Store or iTunes. Search church @wsbctopeka.

Our church receives no government funding. We uphold the Separation of Church and State. to the

We are grateful for the generous tithes and offerings from friends and members. Please give in worship, via US mail, online at https://west-side-baptist-church.square.site, or scan the QR codes.

General Fund, designation of the plant of t

Leviticus 27:30 'A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.

VENMO – Give to God using VENMO – an easy-to-use, secure phone app. Download from the App Store or iTunes. Search for the church **@wsbctopeka** or scan the QR code. You can donate

to the General Fund, designated funds, mission offerings, and others.





AGAPE FELLOWSHIP BENEVOLENCE FUND: We traditionally receive an offering for families and neighbors in need each time we celebrate the Lord's Table (Holy Communion). These funds help pay rent, utility bills, medical and prescription costs, and other unmet needs.

Families can complete an Application for Assistance in the Church Office or speak with the Pastor. Funds are limited. Families receive a free membership to Financial Peace University if they receive benevolence fund assistance.

WORSHIP

The Revised Common Lectionary Texts Year C <u>Scripture Reader</u>

Janice Kirby

Gospel Reader Sonia Roling

Third Sunday after Easter May 4

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19

<u>Fourth Sunday after Easter</u> <u>Mother's Day</u> May 11

Acts 9:36-43 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30

Fifth Sunday After Easter May 18

Acts 11:1-18 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35

Sixth Sunday after Easter May 25

Acts 16:9-15 Revelation 21:10;21:22-22:5 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9







Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
- Psalm 100:2 -



MAY USHERS

David Greuter, Ernie Reed, Sonia Roling Jack Janway, Clarence Payne

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

COMMUNION SERVERS

Clarence & Alice Payne Mark & Betty Arnold

ACTIVITY PAGE



Flower Word Search

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daffodil gardenia hyacinth lantana lilac

aster

azaiea

begonia

caladium

catmint

marigold pansy peony petunia sunflower



ABDOMEN
ANTENNA
BUTTERFLY
CATERPILLAR
CHRYSALIS
EGG
FLUTTER
HATCH
INSECT
LARVA
MILKWEED
NECTAR
PROBOSCIS

PUPA THORAX

BUTTERFLY WORD SEARCH

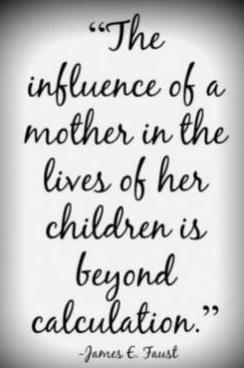
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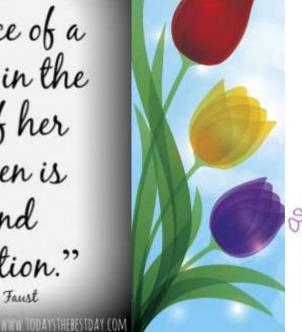


Welcome Spring!

Isalah Garas

For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.









Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		A STATE OF THE STA		1 PRAY 1-3 PM Baby Closet: OPEN 6 PM National Day of Prayer Service	2	3 1:30 PM Praise Team
4 GRADUATION 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM NURSERY 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 3 - 5 PM Capital City Chorus	5 9 - 11 AM Baby Closet: OPEN	6:00 PM LADIES & MEN'S NIGHT OUT at The Pad, 1730 NW Topeka Blvd	10:30 AM Bible Study—John (HH) 3:30-5:30 PM Baby Closet: OPEN NO NURSERY 5:30-6:00 pm TOPS No SUPPER No Bible Studies 6:00 PM Y&YA 7:00 PM Forbes AA	8 1-3 PM Baby Closet: OPEN	9	10 7:00 AM - Jessa and Pastor to STM Trip to Dominican Republic (Return 5/21) 1:30 PM Praise Team
Mother's Day 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM NURSERY 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 3 - 5 PM Capital City Chorus No Community Groups	12 9 - 11 AM Baby Closet: OPEN 5:30 - 6:45 PM Women's Ministry (HH)	13 6:00 PM Church Council (HH)	14 NO Bible Study 3:30-5:30 PM Baby Closet: OPEN NO NURSERY 5:30-6:00 pm TOPS No SUPPER No Bible Studies 7:00 PM Forbes AA	1-3 PM Baby Closet: OPEN 5:30 PM Christian Education (HH)	16	17 Armed Forces Day 1:30 PM Praise Team
18 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM NURSERY 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 3 - 5 PM Capital City Chorus	19 9 - 11 AM Baby Closet: OPEN	20	21 NO Bible Study 3:30-5:30 PM Baby Closet: OPEN NO NURSERY 5:30-6:00 pm TOPS NO SUPPER NO Bible Studies 7:00 PM Forbes AA	Pastor Returns from Dom. Republic 1-3 PM Baby Closet: OPEN	23	24 11:30 AM — 2:30 PM A/V Technology Training (S) 1:30 PM Praise Team
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM NURSERY 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 3 - 5 PM Capital City Chorus 5:30 PM Snack Supper & Book Club (HH)	26 Memorial Day Baby Closet: CLOSED	27 6:00 PM Outreach Ministry (HH)	28 10:30 AM Bible Study—John (HH) 3:30-5:30 PM Baby Closet: OPEN NO NURSERY 5:30-6:00 pm TOPS No SUPPER No Bible Studies 6:00 PM Y&YA 7:00 PM Forbes AA	29 ASCENSION DAY 1-3 PM Baby Closet: OPEN	30	31 1:30 PM Praise Team 2:30 PM Worship Com Meeting (HH)