

West Side Baptist Church

2010

1008 SW Fourth Street
Topeka KS 66606
Phone 785-233-4241 Fax 785-233-1988
www.wsbctopeka.org e-mail office@wsbctopeka.org



Dr. Paul W. Stevens

FROM PAUL'S PEN . . .

God has been good to West Side Baptist Church this summer. We were able to celebrate the decision of Tamara as she was baptized, giving witness to all of what had happened in her life. Her baptism symbolized the death to the old life without Christ and a new life born into the family of God. We rejoice with her. We also enjoyed the fellowship of other members of West Side at the church-wide picnic held at the Park.

We have had several visitors in our worship services over the past few Sundays and we are happy they have chosen to worship with us. If they feel so led, may God's leading of them lead them to become members of West Side.

I want to emphasize the importance of the observance of the Lord's Supper or Communion, which we will be observing on September 12th. This service, which I call the "Apostolic Lord's Supper", will occupy the entire

worship time on that Sunday morning. Everyone is asked to come into the sanctuary at the time of worship in a quiet and worshipful attitude. We are asking for silence on this particular morning. I will begin the service by explaining again how to go about the service and then after reading a passage of Scripture, will sit down and the observance of Communion will begin, led by the deacons of West Side. People from the congregation will come, as they want to, to the table in groups of 10 and sit at the table and observe the Supper led by the deacon. After they are finished, another group will come to the table until all who desire have come to the table. Those sitting in the audience will remain in a meditative and prayerful mood, remembering what Jesus did for us on the cross. It is hoped that this service will provide for all a very meaningful worship experience. Please invite others to join us in this special service.

We continue to thank God for His blessings on us. If you have a special request for prayer let Lynda know. If you desire to meet with me when I am at the church, let Lynda know and she will make an appointment.

PASTOR PAUL

Former Associate Pastor Dan Orozco has been called to serve as the new Pastor of Youth and Families for the Topeka's Brookwood Covenant Church. We wish Dan well and God speed.

LIBRARY CORNER

WHAT BAPTISTS BELIEVE

The West Side Baptist Church library has a section which includes books on history and beliefs of Baptists, American Baptist identity and distinctives, biographies of famous Baptists and many pamphlets about American Baptists in particular. Some of these resources will be highlighted in the newsletter over the next couple of months.

We'll start with **The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms**, by Walter B. Shurden (1993, Smyth & Helwys Publishing, Inc.). Shurden says he believes a statement issued by the Commission on Baptist Heritage of the Baptist World Alliance in 1989 is "the single best statement of the Baptist identity issued by a group of Baptists in the twentieth century (p. 63, the full document is Appendix II). This document says in part:

Baptists are:

- members of the whole Christian family who stress the experience of personal salvation through faith in Jesus, symbolized both in baptism and the Lord's supper;
- those who under the Lordship of Jesus Christ have bonded together in free local congregations, together seeking to obey Christ in faith and life;
- those who follow the authority of Scriptures in all matters of faith and practice;
- those who have claimed religious liberty for themselves and all people;
- those who believe that the Great Commission to take the Gospel to the whole world is the responsibility of the whole membership. (p.66.)

The book has a chapter on each of the four fragile freedoms that are the foundation of Baptist identity: **Bible freedom, soul freedom, church freedom, and religious freedom**. These concise chapters help us understand our roots. Baptists are not well understood in our society, perhaps because we are so diverse.

Yet, Shurden feels strongly that what Baptists stand for and where they came from offers something significant to our society and world that we badly need. He says that if Baptists would again defend and live out these four essential freedoms, we would be "prophetically relevant" to the world today (p. 55).

The appendices are nearly as long as the main body of the book. Each of the eight appendices is an historic document for Baptists. They are worth reading, even by themselves, for a very clear view of who we are as Baptists.

In 1995 a group of folks at West Side Baptist Church studied this book so there may be several copies around and people with whom you can discuss the contents. For those who were not a part of that group, or want a refresher, this is a good place to begin for a deeper understanding of who we are as Baptists.

To read this book, find it on the display shelf in the library, sign the check-out pad, study the book and return it so others may enjoy it.

Fred Ansell



ABCCR ANNUAL GATHERING

The 2010 Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region will be held October 8-9 at the Heritage Conference Center, 710 S. 9th St., Atchison. If you would like to attend, please contact the church office or Nancy Lindberg.

TWO MORE TO MAGGIE CHAPMAN'S FAMILY

Maggie Chapman's great granddaughter had twin boy and girl on August 29. Her great granddaughter and new babies are doing great. Congratulations Maggie!



HOW WILL WE PAY FOR OUR FUTURE? YOU ARE INVITED TO LEARN HOW!

Can we really afford the trained and experienced pastor we need? How can we provide the kind of ministry God intends for our neighborhood and city? Will we be able to maintain our historic building we've recently upgraded to expand our accessibility? What mission projects can we accomplish for God on such limited income? How can a smaller and aging congregation make a significant impact? Where will the resources come from for our growth and fellowship?



These are a few of the questions raised recently partly because of our dwindling resources. To plan for the future your Diaconate has invited Rev. Soozie Ford to lead us in a discussion about our financial future, otherwise known as "stewardship".

Earlier this year Rev. Ford was appointed as the Stewardship Facilitator for American Baptist Churches/USA and is deployed from Iowa.

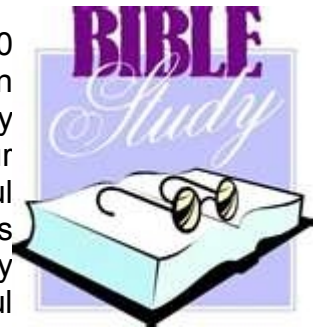
If you are concerned about the future at West Side Baptist Church plan now to attend this meeting Monday evening, September 20, at 6:30 PM. We'll have some light refreshments and an informative, inspiring and challenging discussion and be finished by 8:00 PM.

The program is entitled "**THE BIGGEST LOSER: Reflections on a Not-So-Generous-Heart**". Using a parable from Luke, we'll reflect on the necessity of addressing issues of stewardship and generosity within current "real life" experience of our church. With this emphasis on a biblical foundation we'll also explore the importance of leadership and potential resources related to stewardship ministry. Ample time will be allowed for discussion and questions.

This program/workshop can make a huge difference in the immediate and long term ministry at West Side Baptist Church. Come be a part of this exciting discussion and planning .

PASTOR PAUL'S BIBLE STUDY

For several months now 20 or more have been gathering on Sunday evenings to hear from our interim pastor, Dr. Paul Stevens, on the "Miracles of John". The first Sunday of September Pastor Paul will have the Bible study and plans to discuss if everyone will want to continue as it gets darker earlier in the evenings. We will continue studying Galatians through September. If you don't plan on being at the Bible Study on September 3rd and would like to voice an opinion on future Bible Studies, please let Pastor Paul know.



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL - A BIG HIT

This summer we have had adult Sunday School in a different way for those who were interested in attending. Guest speakers shared their missions experiences. Members of our congregation including Fred Ansell on Cuba and Pastor Paul on Eastern Europe and Myanmar (Burma) were on the schedule. Other speakers included: Christina Lingard-Heidrich - Doorstep, Carolyn Predmore - Japan , Lucas Schriver - Haiti, Doug and Jan Mauck - China, Kelly Matthews - Cornerstone, Barry Feaker - Rescue Mission.



September brings back the regular Sunday School classes along with memories of a great summer of learning about missions work throughout our community and world. We thank all those who shared with us during this time.

DIACONATE TO HOST FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

The diaconate will host a fellowship night. A September date will be decided at the Sept. 1st diaconate meeting. Watch for date and details (website and church bulletin) so you can join in the fellowship.

SPIRITUALITY AND JUSTICE LOOKING THROUGH NEW LENSES

Molly T. Marshall, Ph.D, President of Central Baptist Theological Seminary, will be speaking at Georgia Neese Gray Theatre at Washburn University (17th & Jewell) on Sunday, September 19, at 7:00 pm. For more information, call Bill Beachy at 785-232-4388 or e-mail him at topekacpj@aol.com by September 14.



New Classes Begin

BACK TO SCHOOL

It's back to school time! GED instructions will begin in September. Please contact Jan Mauck if you or anyone else would be interested in getting your High School diploma. Please call 785-235-2103.



CHOIR PRACTICE STARTS UP

After a refreshing summer break, our church choir is starting up again - at least their practices are. On Thursday, September 9th, Janet Nyfler, our choir director, is kicking off the new year with a dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the church. Choir practice will follow at 7:00 p.m. Anyone who would like to sing in the church choir this fall and winter is encouraged to attend. We all look forward to the choir and their addition to our morning worship services.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



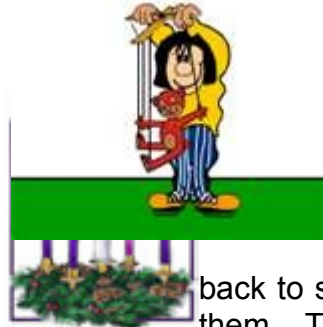
Halloween Happenings is in the planning for October 31, 2010 from 5-7 p.m. in the church parking lot. We need volunteers for setting up, helping with games, donations of candy, and passing out candy. See Pat Carreno for more information.



WSBC YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF

On Sunday, September 12, from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. we will be having a gathering of youth ages 11 through 14 or grade 6th – 9th. Come and join us for food, games and in fellowship. Invite your friends too! Any question please contact Brice or Colleen Smith at 267-2484.

PUPPET MINISTRY



The puppet ministry at West Side Baptist Church had their first performance on August 29 during church. Their message was for children going back to school and taking God with them. The puppets will perform once a month under the direction of Chelle Decker. You are invited to see their next performance in September. A big thanks to Ernie Longstaff and Don Morris for making the show house and to Alice Keifer for making the costumes for the puppets. Thanks to Almira Collier, Pat Careno and Marianne Spano for providing voices for the first performance.

MUSIC A SPECIALTY ON AUGUST 30

Each year the Capital City Chorus sing at one of our morning worship services. August 30 the Chorus sang "This Little Light of Mine/Do Lord Medley" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic". The Chorus practices on Tuesday nights in our church fellowship hall. Rick Kready is their director and WSBC member Matt Smith is one of the newest members of the chorus. This is his second year to sing with them. Dale Allen also sings in the chorus but wasn't in the group on Sunday. The Chorus was founded in 1946 and has been practicing at West Side for more than 25 years.

Also singing on the last Sunday of August was an inspirational quartet that we heard for the first time. The Cornerstone Family School Men's Quartet with Elijah Packard, Josiah Packard, Lucas Springer and Ben Ciummo.

ANNUAL WORSHIP IN THE PARK

What a beautiful Sunday we had for our Worship in the Park on August 22nd. 78 members and guests joined us at Snyder Cabin in Gage Park for our Sunday morning church service and potluck dinner. The children enjoyed a visit to see God's animals in the Topeka Zoo (see article and pictures) while the adults enjoyed singing praises and hearing God's word at the shelter house. With fried chicken for everyone and plenty of delicious food brought in by everyone, we enjoyed the time of fellowship. We thank Almira Collier and her fellowship committee members (Lila Paslay, Judy Longstaff, and Molly Morris) for organizing the kitchen and to Ernie Longstaff and Brice Smith for getting the audio equipment and chairs set up. Thanks to Dan Decker and Nancy Lindberg for taking the children to the zoo.



WORSHIPPING GOD AT THE ZOO

After reading the story Who Taught Frogs to Hop? by Robert Ingram outside the Topeka Zoo, Adriana, Sage, Nathan, Aaron, and Ted joined Dan Decker and Nancy Lindberg in a trip through the zoo on August 22, 2010. This was their way of worshipping God while the adults were at the shelter house. With a camera in hand, each child had several opportunities to take pictures of the animals they saw. They identified the letter of the alphabet the animal name started with and enjoyed seeing the many shapes, sizes and colors of the animals which God has created.

They were able to see two of the special animals in the zoo. Hope, the baby giraffe, was outside and the vision, the baby hippopotamus, was standing next to his mother in the water. God creates wonderful animals and wonderful children too!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BEGINS THIRD YEAR

In September 2008 West Side church members and those attending WSBC received a letter kicking off a 3-year \$550,000 "Strengthening our Foundation for Ministry" Capital Campaign. After a survey to identify our needs, top items on our list included: installing an elevator to help utilize our space in a more efficient and inclusive way; providing new landscaping and lawn service; and increasing our mission support. Other items such as renovating Homer Hall and replacing funds in our investment account were also on the list to be considered. Replenishing the investment account was a way for us to replace dollars which had been spent in the previous year funding a handicapped bathroom, audio visual equipment in the sanctuary, and completing many fix-up projects around the building.

Now we begin the third year of the campaign. Our church members and friends have made generous gifts. Although the campaign is only two-thirds complete, I am pleased to report that we have raised more than \$383,000 of the \$416,000 pledged. Of this \$383,000 we have \$40,000 that we are putting in a CD to be there when we decide on a special missions project. We also have set aside \$10,000 for the elevator service contract which will provide service for at least the next ten years. We have approximately \$50,000 at this date that have been used for the investment account. The remainder in the fund and the monies that continue to be paid on pledges and gifts made this year, will be available for other additional small projects as well as 10% for our missions project.

Who would have ever thought that we would be in this place today one year before the end of our campaign? The Good Lord has been very good to West Side Baptist. Our members and our friends have helped us build a solid foundation from which we can win our neighborhood, our community, and our world for Christ.

Remember, all gifts for the campaign are welcomed, so if you want to make your gift to help us "strengthen our foundation", put it in the offering plate or send it to the church office and indicate that it is for the capital campaign. Thank you for your continued support of our church and our ministry. God's blessing to you.

Nancy Lindberg

PROFILE REVIEWS STARTS

The West Side Baptist Pastor Search Committee has started to review the first profiles that matched the leadership and ministry skills identified by the congregation. A meeting was held on August 16 with ABCCR Staffer Adriana Chaney in which several profiles were given to committee members. Adriana explained how to review the profiles which includes information on a pastor's specialties, work experience, education, and work style ratings. It also contains personal information about the pastor and a few paragraphs that he has written about himself.



A second meeting in the month was on August 30 when the the committee started a discussion on the candidate information. Other possible candidates will be added to the group over the next few weeks. The committee was joined by Fred Ansell who is working with the committee on preparing the church "package" that will be shared with possible candidates. This package is a tool that will be used to interest the candidate in coming to West Side Baptist. The search committee will meet again on September 13.

If you ever have any questions or want to talk with one of the search committee members about the process, please feel free to do so. The committee members welcome your interest. And, they ask for your continued prayers in the search committee work. Pastor Search Committee: Aaron Ansell, Chair; Brice Smith, Recorder; Molly Morris, Brian Hunter, Pat Carpenter, Nancy Lindberg, Nancy Cottril and Marianne Spano.

