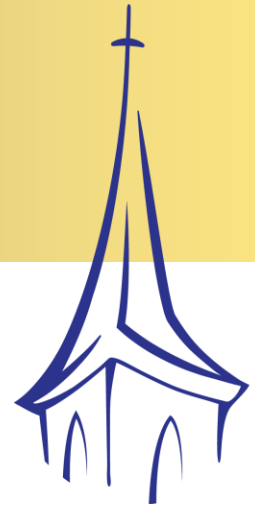


January
2020

WEST SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

UPDATE



From the Desk of Pastor Kelly



My eyesight is rather poor. Without contacts or glasses, I can only see clearly for a few feet. After that, everything goes blurry. I see people, but not the details of your face. I recognize that there's a tree, but can't tell leaves from branches. I know there's a sign up ahead, but stand no chance at reading the words. My eyesight is rather poor. Without contacts or glasses, I can only see clearly for a few feet. After that, everything goes blurry. I see people, but not the details of your face. I recognize that there's a tree, but can't tell leaves from branches. I know there's a sign up ahead, but stand no chance at reading the words.

But give me my contacts and I can see everything beautifully. People come into view, lost details reappear, and I can tell where I am going. 2020 vision is like that.

As we enter into a new year and a new decade, perhaps the image of 2020 vision is helpful to us as a church. Most churches (dare I say *all* churches) can be rather nearsighted. With blurry eyes, we struggle to see with clarity where God is taking us and what He commissioned us to do and to be. We often do well at seeing one another, yet cannot always fix our eyes on where God is taking us.

That's why He's given us His word. As the Spirit of God reveals the mind of the Father to us, He readjusts our vision, strengthening muscles, and inviting us to see with His eyes. We are going to begin a study together of 1 Corinthians this new year. We'll discover together a beautifully, messy Gospel that utterly transforms every bit of who we are individually and collectively. And we will invite our God to help us see clearly who He means us to be and what He's calling us to do as a church filled with disciples who believe in worship, belong to community, bridge through outreach and become by mentoring.

It's going to be an amazing year, friends, as our God continues to enhance our vision.

Love ya,
Pastor Kelly

From Pastor Greg

I love the youth at WSBC. Being able to teach them week in and week out has been one of the greatest joys of my life these past few years. I've been trying, therefore, to increase the overall strength of the youth program here at WSBC. One initiative we have recently taken is to create a youth ministry internship position. This gives the youth an opportunity to hear a different voice teach every once in a while and puts another solid, Christlike influence in their lives. It also gives the intern the experience of youth ministry and allows them to be mentored and trained as they hone their ministry skills.

Throughout the fall, we worked with Messiah College and their Youth Ministry Department in order to find an intern. After he attended our church, went through several interviews, and met our youth group, we decided that a young man named TJ House would be a good fit for our program. Below is a short message from TJ introducing himself. I hope you will welcome him and encourage him as he prepares for a life of ministry.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Associate Pastor Greg Kabakjian

Hello, my name is TJ House. I'm a Senior at Messiah College and Majoring in Youth Ministry with a minor in Psychology. I've recently been taking classes that focus on counseling. I enjoy applying basic physics to real life, chess, snowboarding, watching movies with friends, and visual puzzles. I don't like screens, TV shows, or stuff that involves sitting without thinking. I'm from a small town in Maryland with a lot of horses. I have 1 to 2 dogs and a cat. I'm more of an easily excitable introvert than extrovert, and I'm excited to be with y'all for the next few months!

-TJ House

GROWING OR DECLINING CHURCH?

1. We Can vs. We Can't: Perhaps the biggest difference between growing churches and declining churches is the attitude around what's possible. Growing churches believe they can. Declining churches believe they can't. They're both right (compliments to Henry Ford).

Growing churches make a way when there seems to be no way, which is what God specializes in. The mission is important enough to take significant risk.

2. Them vs. Us: Declining churches focus on themselves. Growing churches focus on the people they're trying to reach. If your leadership table conversations are all about the needs and wants of your members, it's a sign that your church is insider focused. The mission of the church is to reach the world. Growing churches not only know that, they live it. If you're becoming smaller and smaller, is it because you're selfish?

3. Principles vs. Preferences: Declining churches focus on members' preferences. Todd didn't like the music. Allison thinks we're not deep enough. Bill wants to start a new program. And so the leaders respond, trying to please everybody. In reality, declining churches bend to the preferences of its members. Growing churches don't. Instead, they focus on the principles (even strategies) that will help them reach new people. Is your leadership team principle-driven or preference driven? There's a world of difference between the two.

4. Proactive vs. Reactive: Growing churches are proactive. They choose their agenda and immediately get on issues that can impact their future. Declining churches are reactive, letting members determine the agenda and reacting to problems as they arise. In fact, most declining churches are so busy reacting to problems other people raise that they never get around to charting a course for the future.

5. Now vs. Eventually: Growing churches act. They act now. Declining churches don't. Declining churches don't actually say they won't act, they'll just say they'll get to it 'eventually', or someday, or 'when the time is right'- which means never. If you can't remember the last time you made a major decision that changed the course of your church, your leaders are wasting their time.

Benevolence Fund

Do you know about our Benevolence Fund? This fund blesses those both within and beyond our faith community facing financial need. Recently, these monies went toward desperately needed car repairs, a family's first-month's rent, groceries, bus passes for job transportation, electric bills and more. The fund is replenished monthly on the 2nd Sunday by your generous giving. If you or anyone you know need assistance from the fund, connect with Bruce Montgomery (deacon board chair), Greg Hartman (deacon board treasurer), or Pastor Kelly.

All Church Clean – Up

We will take down our Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 4, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Mission Board Sponsored Organization Highlight: CAPC - Capital Area Pregnancy Center

You can find detailed information on CAPC at their website: <https://lifechoicesclinic.org/>

- They serve women and men in the Capital Area who are facing a pregnancy decision.
- They exist to go beyond the politics of pregnancy to serve women and men facing pregnancy decisions by offering education and resources that empower an informed choice.
- They are a nonpolitical, Christian organization with a relational goal: to see those facing a pregnancy decision receive love, care, and support—to one day have a community where no one walks through these decisions alone.
- We provide information on all three legal options (parenting, abortion, and adoption), in an environment that won't manipulate them towards a specific outcome, with staff that will love them, in a safe and confidential setting."
- We believe that women's stories don't end with a pregnancy decision and that only relationship can truly transcend the confusion, complexity, and controversy often surrounding pregnancy. We recognize that the power of simple compassion and love in the midst of a culture that is bursting with tensions and unrest is an oasis to a generation being politically courted and relationally ignored."

Puerto Rico Mission Trip

Thank you for keeping our Puerto Rico mission team in prayer as they prepare to serve with disaster relief efforts February 12-19. Our team consists of Charlie Bihl, Steve & Gayle Campbell, Gary Dambach, Elaine Deimler, Frank & Caroly Frischkorn, Becky Gentzler, Doug Hill, Pastor Greg Kabakjian, Tom Kennerly, Pastor Kelly Legg, Mike & Bethany Malykh, Debra McCown, Patty McCown, Keith Nichols, Dlark Stefanic, Ashley Stine and CJ Wright.

From the Christian Education Board

Walton Wall Scholarship

The Dambach-Walton-Wall Scholarship is granted to support an individual's maturity, leadership development, and Christian advancement through activities such as sport camps, scout camps, music camps, etc. That is, while the activities can be Christian development oriented, they do not necessarily have to be. With this in mind, the WSBC Board of Christian Education is pleased to offer this scholarship opportunity to children regularly attending WSBC.

This application is available to rising K through current 11th grade students and can be picked up at the church office beginning January 12. In order to administer this scholarship appropriately, the student will fill out the application now (deadline is Feb 9, 2020) for any camp that they are attending during the 2020 year. Applications will be evaluated and, if accepted, the student will be notified by March 22, 2020. Final monies will not be paid to the student until they return from camp with a receipt showing payment and a written summary of their camp experience. (Those students who cannot yet write are asked to share a picture.)

Upcoming Opportunities

Men's Breakfast Fellowship

The next meeting of the Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be at 8:00 a.m. on **Saturday, January 18, 2020** at Friendly's Restaurant. All men are invited!

Ladies Breakfast Fellowship

The next meeting of the Ladies Breakfast Fellowship will be at 9:00 a.m. on **Saturday, January 18, 2020** at Friendly's Restaurant. All ladies are welcome!

Annual Business Meeting

Don't forget the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, January 19th immediately following the Morning Worship Service. All reports should be emailed to Janet at j.spriggs@wsbc.org by January 10, 2020.



Listening Sessions

Overviews of the proposed renovations to our main floor, entrances, & Kitchen have been emailed (limited hard copies available in the Resource Center). Trustees will be available to answer questions and receive feedback 1/5 and 1/12 from 10-10:30 a.m. in Davidson Chapel.

WSBC Discovery Course

Are you ready to learn more about life at WSBC or feel led to become a covenant member? The Discovery Course is a perfect fit for you. This 3-week course is a prerequisite for membership at WSBC and will provide an overview of our history, a look at our present mission, an explanation of what it means to be American Baptist, and an invitation to join what God is doing in and through WSBC.

The course will run from 9-10 AM on January 12, 19 & 26 in room 203 in the education wing. Sign up on your connect card.

January Meetings

Advisory Council Meeting

The Advisory Council will meet on **Tuesday, January 7**, at 6:30 a.m. in Room G-4.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on **Monday, January 13**, at 6:30 p.m. in Room G-3.

Missions Board Meeting

The Missions Board will meet on **Tuesday, January 21**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Library.

Board of Christian Education Meeting

The Board of Christian Education will meet on **Tuesday, January 21**, at 7:00 p.m. in Room G-3.

Diaconate Board Meeting

The Diaconate Board will meet on **Tuesday, January 28**, at 7:00 p.m. in Room G-4.



Birthdays:

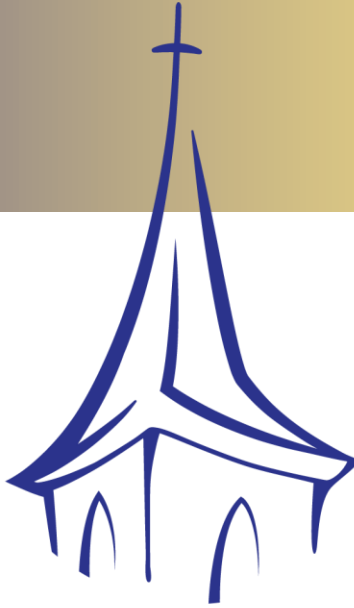
- 1 – Ashley Stine
- 4 – Cheryl Vulich
- 5 – Abiodun Adeyemi
- 10 – David Carr
- 11 – Kristine Zoll
- 13 – Cynthia Diaz & Carol Wittle
- 14 – Beth Ice & Judy Spangler
- 15 – Peg Phillips & Clark Stefanic
- 16 – Judd Brouse
- 17 – Steve Sleboda
- 20 – Samael Diaz
- 27 – Chuck McCown

Special Dates



Anniversaries:

- 3- Francisco & Cynthia Diaz
- 6 – Ron & Carol Keeney
- 28 – Steve & Rose Sleboda



WEST SHORE

BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Christian Education Hour— 9:00 AM

Coffee Café —10:00 AM

Worship Service— 10:30 AM

Staff:

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Kelly Legg	Cell: (610) 755-8203	Email: pastorkdl@gmail.com
Associate Pastor:	Greg Kabakjian	Church: (717) 761-0942 Cell: (717) 877-6055	Email: gkabakjian@gmail.com
Choir Director:	Carol Saltzer	Cell: (717) 383-9740	Email: carolsaltzer@hotmail.com
Office Manager:	Janet Spriggs	Church: (717) 761-0942	Email: j.spriggs@wsbc.org
Organist:	Gary Stefanic	Home: (717) 635-9602	Email: garystefanic1@comcast.net
Church Sextons:	Rimma & Vladimir Torchilo	Church: (717) 761-0942	