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**FIRST**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Manhattan, KS

July 2016

# Headline News

## “Campfires and Cowboys”

Folks, it’s great to be here, as I see it from my perch,  
And to be part of Manhattan’s First Presbyterian Church.

This church has wonderful fellowship, which I applaud,  
And a commitment to serve others as well  
as serving God.

Our church has many ministries that  
reach adults and youth,  
While serving all our members and sharing gospel truth.

To Pastor Cam McConnell, we’re glad to have you back,  
With thanks to Pastor Kati and all those who took the slack.

Tonight we come together in fellowship and fun,  
To talk Campfires and Cowboys, but now my time is done.

So thanks for coming out tonight for the benefit it employs,  
As the First Presbyterian Church celebrates  
Campfires and Cowboys.

-Ron Wilson, The Cowboy Poet

(Delivered at “Cowboys and Campfires” night on June 15)

*For more from Wednesday Nights on the Blacktop, see page*

*7.*



Rev. McConnell

(Some of this article reprinted from Rev. McConnell's June 5<sup>th</sup> sermon)

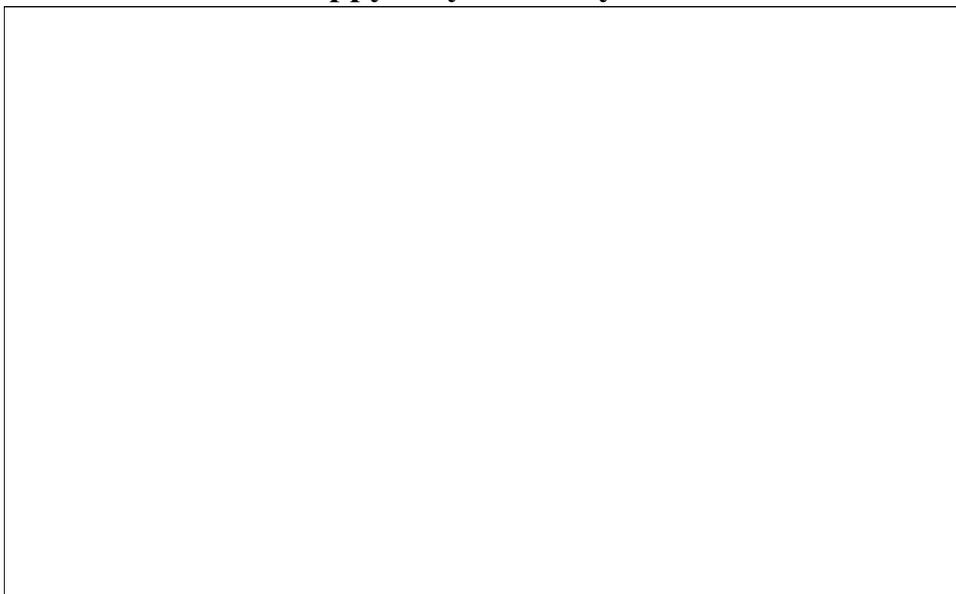
**We know**, as one said, the only constant is change, and we could also add: the indisputability of disruption. As many of you know this is what I experienced the month of May. Surgery disrupted my life. It disrupted my family's life. It disrupted my ministry with you. But I would soon discover there would be advantages to this unexpected disruption. Below are a few observations and anecdotes:

When my daughter arrived the day before my heart surgery in Cleveland, she offered up the idea of going to a Cleveland Cavalier 2<sup>nd</sup> round NBA playoff game the night before the operation, including, of course, the opportunity to see LeBron James in action. It was perhaps a good distraction about what was to happen the next morning. But then I opted for, instead, a quiet family dinner in "The Flats" district of downtown Cleveland on the banks of the Cuyahoga River. That evening my older brother led us in prayer as everybody around the table was given the opportunity to seek the peace of God's presence through his or her own prayer.

On the morning of surgery we were expected to report to the Cleveland Clinic at 5:15 a.m. for all the multiple pre-op preparations that I had never been through before with the exception of over 30 years ago when I went in for a hemi-laminectomy (neck disk surgery). The day before Jennifer and I had met with our surgeon, Dr. Lars Svensson, South African born and raised, and son of Lutheran missionaries. A man of enormous talent and experience, recently appointed chairman of the Clinic's Heart and Vascular Institute, overseeing 25 heart and vascular surgeons who perform over 7,600 heart surgeries a year, along with oversight of 100 cardiologists, he expressed confidence in his every word (I was fortunate that he turned out to be my surgeon). Later, I discovered that we had something in common when he noticed on the table beside my bed the most recent biography of German pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He said he had recently attended a lecture given by another Bonhoeffer author. The fact that my surgeon was a son of missionaries and familiar with one of the great modern-day martyrs of the Christian faith was a comforting connection for me.

Shortly after the surgery, I was wheeled into the ICU unit and greeted by my most lovely wife, Jennifer, who was an amazing support throughout this whole surgical journey. Then my kids, Harper and Cal, followed suit in comforting their father with tubes coming out from each and every direction (such a pleasant sight)! Then I would soon discover how utterly dependent I became on the hospital staff to provide for my every need. Used to taking care of things by myself all my life, I was humbled by my reliance of others to take care of me (I was reminded of Jesus' words: "He who humbles himself will be exalted.") I didn't necessarily feel exalted at that moment, but I did feel humbled!

## Coming Up Next... Happy July Birthdays!



### Color the Psalms

Friday mornings at 10am will be a new bible study called "Color the Psalms". Participants will engage in discussion questions over the Psalms while coloring a related color page. Kids are invited to attend with a parent, but no formal nursery care is provided. Leader is Susan Maxwell, email at [susiebassoon@yahoo.com](mailto:susiebassoon@yahoo.com). Site will be on church grounds, either in the nursery or Friendship Park. The "Color the Psalms" book is \$8.00 at Target online or the local Christian Bookstore. Contact Susan for any questions!



### Blood Drive

First Presbyterian Church will have a blood drive on July 17, 2016. Please contact Tamera Garibay at 785-236-0955 for an appointment.

### Time and Talents Fair

On **Sunday, August 21**, all studies, committees, and activities are welcome to set up information tables. Representatives from these groups are welcome to visit with fair attendees about their missions and activities. **Please RSVP to the office to reserve a space.**



## **Prayers and Support Needed**

On Sunday, May 15, 2016, Daniel Swayne, husband of Kate (Lyons) Swayne and son-in-law of John and Peggy Lyons, lost his life when the plane in which he was flying crashed after takeoff in the United Arab Emirates.

Dan served his country faithfully for 21 years as a fighter pilot in the US Air Force. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel with numerous medals and honors, including the Distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery in the Gulf War. Kate and their daughter, Grace, will be spending their summer in Manhattan and will be active at First Presbyterian during that time.

Friends of the family have set up an education fund for Grace, <https://www.youcaring.com/grace-swayne-571416>.

## **Total Body Workout**

Zumba is back. Come Zumba with us on Monday's from 5:30-6:30 in Presby Place.

### **Prayer shawl**

Prayer Shawl ministry will not be meeting this summer, but we encourage you to keep knitting and crocheting shawls for those in need! There are plenty of supplies in Whitney Short's office, located upstairs next to the cry room.



### **Crunching the Numbers**

During the month of May, we served 251 dinners and 96 breakfasts. We also distributed 33 brownbag lunches.

Our Community Dinners take place on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-6:45 p.m. and the Community Breakfasts on Wednesday mornings from 7:30-8:15 a.m. Average attendance at dinner is 35-40 and for breakfasts is 20-25.

### **Food Pantry News**

In March, our Food Pantry served 50 adults and 40 children. We partner with the Flint Hills Breadbasket to help those in our community who are food insecure. The First Presbyterian Food Pantry serves our community on Fridays from 10:00 a.m.-noon and 1:00-3:00 p.m.



Four days later the Cleveland Clinic discharged me to the care of Jennifer, and I must say how liberating that was to walk out into the "free world" with the smell of spring in the air, picturesque Lake Erie, and the sounds of the city. And speaking of the city, Cleveland, one of the great "rust belt" cities of America, was enormously hospitable with a racially and ethnically diverse staff working in the downtown hotel where my family stayed. Gracious, helpful, full of good humor---what wonderful they were. We hear a lot about racial and ethnic divide in America, but we left this northeastern Ohio city with nothing but a feeling of unity in how everybody treated one another and the mutual respect we shared for each other. The Psalmists words came to mind: "How good and pleasant it is for God's people to dwell in unity." (Psalm 133:1)

And, finally, having gone through major surgery, I now have a greater empathy for those who experience the same. Knowing the complications of major surgery and the complications of recovery, I now feel like a better pastor. From everything challenging in any field comes increased confidence in meeting the needs of those who are in need of prayer and support.

Let me thank you for all the prayers, cards, e-mails, texts, phone calls. What a source of strength you were to Jennifer and me. And let me thank my wife, Jennifer, who continues to be the "rock" of my life, along with my family, and you as a congregation whose love and support made all the difference in the world.

Gratefully and faithfully,

Cam

### **Congratulations!**

Rev. McConnell recently was awarded Meadowlark Retirement Village's "Johanna Lyle Service Award". This award recognizes individuals who have contributed leadership, resources, time and task to the Meadowlark Hills mission to serve elders. It is named for its first recipient, Johanna Lyle, a former Meadowlark Hills board president and professor in accounting at Kansas State University (reprinted from Meadowlark Society Banquet program). Mrs. Lyle is also a member of First Presbyterian Church, along with her husband, Dr. Ken Lyle.



# In Our Church

## First Sunday Summer Brunches



July 3 and August 7

In Fisher Hall following the 10:30 Service

### GUIDELINES

**Congregation: Bring a potluck dish to serve 10-12:**

Meat dish, vegetable dish, or salad

**Bring your own Table Service:**

We are trying to go green and reduce use of plastics, paper products and plates...plus reduce clean-up.

**Bring a friend!**

*Membership Committee: provides dessert and beverages*

PB&J will be provided for kids

*Deacon's Ice Cream Social will be a Bonus for the July 3 Brunch*

*"Gathering in gratitude for our bountiful blessings..."*

**Everyone is welcome!**

First Presbyterian Friends and Coworkers, I would like to thank everyone who helped make my wedding day the best day ever! Jason (MY HUSBAND!) and I could not have asked for anything more from our friends here at First Presbyterian.

Taylor Roberts, Administrative Secretary

Pictured right: **Pastor Kati** with **Taylor** and **Jason Roberts** following the ceremony.



### **Mission Committee Update**

At its June meeting the Committee voted to contribute up to \$400.00 to supply and prepare breakfast and lunch for the "Bike and Build" group during their stay in Manhattan, as they travel coast-to-coast to help with sustainable housing projects across the United States. Mission Committee members helped with the preparation of the meals. Sue Bath-Dunn coordinated the June 21st event.

The Committee also received information from the Ecumenical Campus Ministry's executive director, David Jones. Several members of the Committee will take a tour of "ECM's" relatively new building on Sunset Avenue, and will consider funding at its August meeting.

# Presby KIDS!

## **Volunteers Needed**

Kickoff Sunday is just around the corner! We need volunteers for the coming 2016-2017 school year to join our children's ministry team. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Shiloh Vick at 785-537-0518.

Our VBS directors would like to thank ALL of the wonderful volunteers this year who blessed us with their time and talent! Thank you to all who donated items as well! We can safely say a fun time was had by all involved and all who attended...VBS 2016 and the volunteers behind it received rave reviews from parents and kids! Thank you also to the staff who supported our efforts... particularly Mike Hedke, facilities maintenance director, who went above and beyond to make it extra special! A huge thank you to Andrea Higgins and Susan Maxwell for their time and commitment coordinating this amazing event! It truly does take a village and many hours of preparation to plan, create, transform and execute an event of this magnitude. We appreciate you all!

Shiloh Vick, Director of Children's Ministries

## **Music Camp Service project**

Would you like to help with our music camp service project? Our beneficiary is the Food Pantry at First Pres. The focus will be paper products (tissue, toilet paper, paper towels) or personal items (toothpaste or deodorant). Music camp and donation collection will be the last week of July. Any questions, contact Susan Maxwell at [susiebassoon@yahoo.com](mailto:susiebassoon@yahoo.com).

## **215 pounds in snack foods!**

FPC has donated two hundred fifteen pounds of snack foods to local children who don't get enough to eat on the weekends over the last school year. Thank you to all those who have donated! Collection will stop over the summer. If you are interested in participating in this ministry in the fall please contact Susan Maxwell at [susiebassoon@yahoo.com](mailto:susiebassoon@yahoo.com). Thank you First Pres!!!

## **Up, Up, and Away!**

Our June Parents' Night Out featured a balloon theme including balloon crafts, snacks, and water balloons.

# Youth Corner

## Youth News Update

Mark your calendars for our informational lunch on August 14th following the 10:30 am Worship Service. Youth, Parents and Volunteers will have a chance to hear about our upcoming events for the 2016-2017 school year, including Confirmation which will begin in January of 2017. Small Groups and Cornerstone Youth will return this fall, beginning the week of August 21st, but don't worry, we'll have plenty to do over the summer! If you're not on our text list, talk to mid-high youth leader, Natalie Bender, who will be sending updates for bowling, swimming, snow cone and trip meet-ups, or summer youth singers!

## Walking the Talk!

Introducing our 2016 Summer Mission Trip Team: Edward Mckeever, Zachary Paquette, Brianna Dowling, Charles & Janet Stark, and Rev. Kati Collins. Our three youth on the team also offered sermons on Youth Sunday. Check out the Sermon Archives on our website to see them preach. Watch for a date in August when they will share about their experience! On July 10th, we will commission and pray for them as they will leave Sunday, July 17th, for Porcupine, South Dakota, staying and working on the Pine Ridge Reservation with members of the Sioux Nation. Thank you for your financial and spiritual support of this transformational opportunity for our youth! Several have agreed to be prayer partners for our team, and if you are praying for us, send Pastor Kati an email and she will share it with the group!

## New Cornerstone Youth Leader

We are excited to have a new Cornerstone Youth Leader on board, Nick Wiggins. He will be leading Cornerstone Youth as well as helping us form an outreach program for youth in the community. Nick is a graduate student at Kansas State in Educational Leadership and Academic Advising. He has already been raising up strong youth leaders in the RISE program which builds relationships between students and mentors through "stepping", a combination of rhythm and dance. Watch for the ministry we will be launching for the fall!



## Beat the Heat

This is an important message from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In a heat wave, keeping your cool will keep you healthy. People and animals should stay indoors. If you don't have air-conditioning, go to the mall or the library or a community relief shelter. Remember to drink more fluids, but avoid alcohol and high sugar drinks. When going out, wear light clothing and never leave any persons, especially infants or young children, or animals in a closed, parked vehicle. To learn more, call 800-CDC-INFO.

## Huge Multi-family Garage Sale Supporting MECP2 Duplication Syndrome Research

MECP2 Duplication Syndrome is an extremely rare chromosome disorder. Birth defects may include epilepsy, respiratory problems and severe developmental delay.

*Sale held in Presby Place:* Friday, July 15, 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 16, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

*Have any clean/good condition items to donate? Drop off your items at*

*Presby Place:* Thursday, July 14, 9:00-5:00

Friday, July 15, 8:00-noon

*Make a donation— cash or cash payable to:* RSRT-401 Project

For More Information Contact: Sue Bath-Dunn

785-313-5248 or suebath@gmail.com

Sue and her friends would like to thank First Presbyterian Church for use of the facility, your donated items, and for participation in the sale.

## Regional Seminar to be held here on September 15

First Presbyterian will host and sponsor a regional seminar for Presbyterian ministers and lay leaders on September 15th. As a way of strengthening our denomination, the Mission Committee decided to offer this outreach to pastors and lay leaders in an effort to bring in well-known leaders in the areas of preaching, youth ministry, stewardship, and evangelism. The seminar will be open to clergy and laity throughout the mid west. Stay tuned for more information!

## Concert in the Park

August 5th

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Join us for fun fellowship and live music in Friendship park. We will be featuring member Joan Nelson's band, The Lovehandles!



# Summer Nights!

June was a hot month! On Wednesday nights, crowds enjoyed gathering with friends and family in our Friendship Park starting at 5:30, bringing our own dinners, followed by a special program at 6 p.m. Last month we enjoyed programs from “The Church Ladies”, Geologist Dr. Richard Shields, and Cowboy Poet Ron Wilson! Join us in July as we continue with more multi-generational fun events!

July 6th: Patriotic Red, White and Blue (Military Appreciation Night)

July 13th: Movie Night in our air conditioned sanctuary.

July 20th: No event scheduled

July 27th: Drum Circle and Dancing!



Pictured top left: **The Church Ladies** kick off the summer with a night of live music, sidewalk chalk, and games.

Pictured top right: **Dave Schoneweis** gives knot tying lessons at “Cowboys and Campfires” night.

Pictured bottom: **Ron Wilson** shares some of his cowboy poetry at “Cowboys and Campfires” night.