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Manhattan, KS

March 2017

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH **Headline News**



## **Ski trip 2017**

In mid February, our Cornerstone youth group along with friends and chaperones traveled to Winter Park, CO for their annual ski trip! Pictured above is part of the group at the base of the mountain.

For more pictures, see page 7.

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Rev. McConnell

Every generation likes to complain about the next generation, thinking they don't have it as tough as we did: don't have to work as hard, have far too many conveniences, opportunities come much easier for them than they did for us, are not as respectful and well-mannered as we were, are much more pampered than we ever were, and their music is certainly not as good as ours.

But my takeaway from spending just a short period of time with our mid-high and senior high youth last weekend in Winter Park, Colorado was anything but that. I remember leading ski trips and summer ranch trips out West from churches in Chicago and St. Paul a generation ago, and although they turned out to be great trips, there invariably would be discipline issues, and, at times, fairly raucous behavior from urban and suburban kids. Not so with this group. On the way out to the mountains in a 15-passenger rental van, I would occasionally look back from the driver's seat to see if everything was ok, because everybody was so still and quiet (headphones and texting has a lot to do with this)! And then when we arrived at Winter Park to get our ski rental equipment the kids were quick to listen and ready to receive instruction, followed by a delightful dinner together at "Elevation Pizza" in Fraser, and a settling in at Snow Mountain Ranch before the weekend of skiing in the beautiful mountains. But what stood out most in my mind on this opening day of the trip was that everybody clicked and everybody cooperated.

Now every generation has its own set of challenges. For mine, the baby-boomers, it was perhaps too much focus on the job and the amount of income that would come from that same job, and less focus on quality of life: balancing family and work, and environment. Millennials, generally speaking, reverse that line of thinking with more focus on quality of life than work. As an example, the place to live becomes more important than the job itself. My 32-year old daughter told me a year ago she had selected four places in the country she wanted to live, and she is now living in one of them. A different set of priorities.

Today's post-millennials (mid-teens and below) will struggle to balance connectivity with real human interaction and the responsibility and accountability that goes along with that. We know there's never any turning back on technology, but we do know that as parents, grandparents, and the church community we can continue to encourage the values, ideals, and dreams that never go away: love and understanding, and care for one another.

If the 24-hours I spent with our young people last weekend is any barometer of those same values and ideals, then I hold great optimism for the future of the next generation.

Faithfully,

Cam

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



### Total Body Workout

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

### Crunching the Numbers

During the month of January, we served 180 dinners and 82 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 January, our Food Pantry served 59 adults and 30 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.

## World Friendship Volunteers Needed

First Presbyterian volunteers are needed to take part in World Friendship. World Friendship is a group of international and Manhattan women who meet for fellowship and interest groups in Fisher Hall on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 when KSU is in session. This is a great way to interact with women from all around the world. Last year 30 countries were represented and the weekly group numbers around 60 women. For additional information, contact Mary Alice Schlesener at 785-776-8519, Evelyn Neill at 785-499-5443 or Anneke van der Hoeven at 537-8367.

## Kansas Mission of Mercy serves 1500 patients



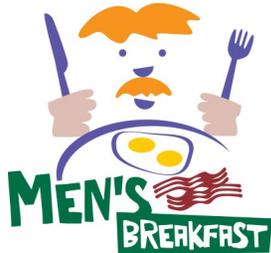
On January 27th and 28th at the National Guard Armory in Manhattan Kansas Mission of Mercy served over 1500 patients in need of dental care. Men, women, and children came from Kansas and neighboring states to benefit from the free dental clinic, which the Kansas Mission offers once a year in different locations of the state. Pictured above are dentists, Dr. Brent Benkelman from First Presbyterian and Dr. Mark Norberg, member of the First Presbyterian Church of Ellsworth, Kansas. Both dentists volunteered their time to help make it hugely successful

event and a tremendous medical outreach to the region. First Presbyterian donated \$1,500.00 to the mission, in support of food for the patients and volunteers.

This year First Presbyterian Church is sponsoring the radio broadcasts of Manhattan CHIEF boys basketball games on Angel 95 KHCA radio. CHIEF stands for Christian Homes In Educational Fellowship. Our church member James Wilson is one of the CHIEF players and his father Ron Wilson does the play-by-play. Games can be heard at 95.3 FM, at [www.angel95fm.com](http://www.angel95fm.com), or on the KHCA app on a smart phone. See [www.chiefbasketball.com](http://www.chiefbasketball.com) for the schedule.

## Men's Breakfast

The March Men's Breakfast will be held a week early, on **March 9 at 7 AM** to accommodate our speaker. Our speaker will be the **head coach of the K-State Women's Soccer Team, Mike Dibbini**. Coach Dibbini is completing his first year in this position after coaching at Cal Poly Pomona and Kansas Wesleyan. He is a 12 time KCAC Coach of the year as well as the 2012 NAIA Central Regional Coach of the Year. Join us for this time of fellowship and get a chance to meet the new coach.



# Thank You!

Robbie and I would like to extend our thanks for the great love we have received from this congregation. From cards to meals and people simply coming to sit and do puzzles with me, we are incredibly thankful for your support over the last month, and we are honored to be a part of this church family. I am incredibly thankful for the leadership of our staff and volunteers who cared for our youth while I was recovering at home.

We thank God for all of you.  
Pastor Kati and Robbie Collins

The Anderson family would like to thank Reverend McConnell, Stephen Kucera, R.J. Leonard, the Deacons, Wesley and Raul Garibay, members of the congregation and church staff who helped us celebrate the life of Robert D. Anderson. We appreciate Karen Davis for organizing the luncheon, Wann Towers, Eloise Brown, Jim Schottler, Leicha Kennedy and Susan O'Neil for their service.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Thanks!  
Jon R. Anderson

On behalf of the Mertz family, Bob and I would like to thank you for all the kindness and love expressed at Jeanne's passing. We are grateful to be part of this church family. The funeral service was beautiful and we appreciate Rev. Cam, Stephen, and Reg for their contributions toward making it so. The kitchen staff/volunteers worked so hard to make the meal really wonderful. You are a blessing in our lives!

In God's Peace,  
Bob and Mary Mertz

Dear friends,  
Thank you for the many warm wishes and prayers for my lumbar fusion surgery. I was blessed with a very kind and talented doctor and a hospital staffed with professional and caring individuals. Please keep praying for the pain to lessen and a full recovery.

Gratefully,  
Carol Ross

# Welcome to Our Church!

## New members— December 2016 class



### BettyBurton Brodersen

Betty has lived in Manhattan for one and a half years, having previously been in Colorado Springs. Betty was introduced to First Presbyterian by her son and daughter in law, First Presbyterian members Ken and Joan Burton.



### Jason and Allison Payntor

Jason and Allison (Ally) have come to Manhattan during Jason's posting at Fort Riley, Madison.



### Jay and Kristen Jensen

Jay and Kristen have lived in Manhattan for 4 and 3 years respectively. Jay is a sales manager at Titan Trailer and Kristen works at Summit Care at Meadowlark Hills.



### Leicha Kennedy

Leicha has lived in Manhattan for five years, previously living in Bronx, NY. Leicha has three grandchildren, pictured with her. She is married to her husband, Willy, and has performed an assortment of jobs at First Presbyterian, including helping in the kitchen and lawn care.



### Trisha Gott and Ben Trenary

Ben is a Manhattan native while Trisha moved from Illinois in 2003. Trisha works as an instructor and assistant director in the Leadership Studies department at K-State. Ben is a teacher at Junction City Middle School.

### P2 Schedule!

See this semester's schedule below to join Natalie, Ashley and the whole gang every Friday night from **6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.** for a little fun, faith and... food! As always, bring a friend... the more, the merrier!

**March 3** Judge Deborah, PNO

**March 10** Ruth and Naomi

**March 17** P2 Field Trip (Destination TBD)

**March 24** No P2

**March 31** Baseball Game KSU vs TCU \*

\*Meet at Tointon Family Stadium at 6:00 p.m. for a short devotional in the stands. Game begins at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 for a ticket (ticket price includes a mini-Wildcat bat! RSVP by Friday, March 10th at P2 or by calling the church office.

### Upcoming Events

April PNO: 7- April Showers

May PNO: 5- Cinco De Mayo

May 13: Mother's Tea

June 6-10: Vacation Bible School

June 17: Father's Day retreat

June 26-30: Heartland Day Camp

July 25-28: Music Camp (showcase performance July 31)

### Children's Choir performance schedule

March 26

May 14

July 31 Music Camp showcase

*\*(Music Camp will be July 25-28th, with Showcase that Sunday, July 31st.)*



We will sing only at the 10:30 a.m. services, please come at 10:10 on performance Sundays to rehearse in the sanctuary.

### Hoop-It-Up Camp draws over 45 Children!

47 four-six year olds are shooting baskets, doing basketball drills, playing tag with their coaches and just having a great time at First Presbyterian's second annual sponsored Hoop-It-Up Basketball Camp in the church's recreation center. Volunteer K-State students, under the direction of Katie Gehrt, are the instructors, and Presby Place director, Tamera Garibay, organized the camp. Hoop-It-Up continues on Saturday mornings through March 11 from 9:30-11:00. Children can enroll at any time by visiting our website at [www.firstpresmanhattan.com](http://www.firstpresmanhattan.com) under "Children."

# Presby KIDS!

Coming this summer...

## HEARTLAND DAY CAMP\*

Here at First Presbyterian Church!

June 26-30th 9:00a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Scholarships available!

\*An extension of Heartland Center (PCUSA), Kansas City, MO

More information to follow!



### VBS 2017 "Maker Fun Factory" Volunteer Sign-Up Form

It's that time of year again...we are in VBS planning mode and anticipating yet another fun-filled week here at First Pres! As always it will take the work of many dedicated hands to help transform our space and carry out our message during VBS week!

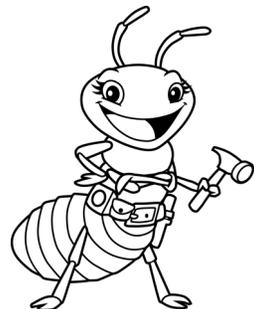
Listed below are volunteer opportunities for VBS 2017: Maker Fun Factory! If you are able to volunteer in any of these positions, please mark where you would like to help and turn this article in to the office or Shiloh Vick (cut along the dotted line). Please consider being a part of this annual special event in the life of our children's ministry!

VBS will be June 6-10th 9:00 a.m - Noon

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snack Factory Leader/Assist    | <input type="checkbox"/> KidVid Cinema Leader/Assist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tinker Tots Preschool Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Game Makers Leader/Assist   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Discovery Leader/Assist  | <input type="checkbox"/> Crew Leader                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imagination Station Leader     | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Crew Leader       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spotlight VBS Leader/Assist    |  |

Can't be here to help during the week? We also need volunteers for the following:

- Set creation/construction crew
- Set up and decorating crew (Sun., June 9)
- Take down/Clean up crew
- Snacks for volunteers



### Music Appreciation Luncheon

On Sunday, January 22, following the 10:30 church service, forty-one musicians and supporters of all sorts - choir members, hand bells, instrumental musicians, brass quartet, special vocal groups and supportive members of the Music Guild gathered in Fisher Hall for our annual Music Appreciation Luncheon.

This annual event gives us the opportunity to show appreciation to all for sharing their musical talents and for their time and dedication to our church. We are honored to have Reg Pittman as our music director. He dedicates a large amount of time to finding and working with many of these groups. He is also in charge of our Sunday's special music. We thank you Reg!

To those musicians reading this article, "Thanks again" to all of you for playing an important role in our Sunday morning worship service.

Thanks to Sylvia and Jon Hollis, Carol and Joe Bruckerhoff, Linda Couch and of course, my husband, Tom Dunn for all their donations of food/decorations, preparing of the meal and clean-up.

Sue Bath-Dunn

### Thank you!

Dear Cam,

Our family extends our deepest gratitude to you and the First Presbyterian Church community for the beautiful funeral service in honor of our dad. The scripture, songs and sermon truly honored dad and blessed us. Your words were a comfort at the church and at the cemetery. Please tell Reg and Dan that we so appreciated their talents in making the ceremony so special. I was especially pleased that Reg was available to sing for dad as he had for mom almost eight years ago.

The luncheon was very nice and we want to thank the staff and volunteers that made that possible. We know that's a lot of work and they did it so wonderfully. We also know they did it to honor dad (and mom) and we greatly appreciate their loving service.

As we've said so often, your church family has been a second family to ours. You all have been a loving support to our parents these past difficult years, helping them out so often and visiting them when they were housebound. Thank you all so much for your Christ-like love, outreach and prayers! God Bless!

Sincerely,

Audrey, Dean, and families (daughter and son of Paul Cross)

It seems fitting to say "thanks" on Valentine's Day for the way you support those in our community affected by mental illness and substance use disorders.

We love you!

Robbin Cole, Executive Director of Pawnee Mental Health Services

# Lent Opportunities

## Stations of the Cross Posters

Throughout Lent, we will have several posters available to color as an alternative spiritual practice. These beautifully illustrated coloring posters feature themes and scriptures which highlight the Stations of the Cross. Any small group or family can volunteer to complete a poster which will be displayed during Holy Week and featured during the Good Friday service. Please contact Pastor Kati if you would like more information.



## Ash Wednesday

March 1st at 6:30pm we will have a short traditional service to begin our Lenten Season. This contemplative service serves as a reminder of our earthly mortality and Christ's calling to holy living. Participants will have the opportunity to receive ashes on their forehead or hands and/or they may simply receive a blessing.

## Lenten Lunches

Lenten lunches and worship services are a great way to take a break in the middle of the week during the Lenten season and reflect on your own personal walk with Jesus Christ. This year First Presbyterian Church will host Lenten services in Presby Place. Programs will begin March 8 and continue subsequent Wednesdays through April 5. All programs will begin at 11:45 a.m. with lunch, followed by a 30 minute worship service, which will begin approximately at 12:15 p.m. Some of our speakers will include KSU volleyball coach Suzie Fritz, former owner and founder of GTM Sportswear Dave Dreiling, provost and senior vice president of Kansas State University April Mason, and doctor of internal medicine and medical director for Meadowlark Hills Home Health Dr. Matthew Floresch.

## Holy Week Opportunities

Singers and Instrumentalists are invited to join the Presby Players and Youth Choir in their preparation for the Good Friday Service. RJ Leonard and Pastor Kati have information on the rehearsal schedule and music. Also sign up sheets will be available for those who would like to help with the Maundy Thursday Seder Meal.



# Ski Trip 2017



After their trips up and down the mountain (left), Brooke Newcomer and Taylor Veatch took some time to warm up by one of the ranch's fire pits (right).



## Wonderful Time at Winter Park

On February 10th, mid-high and senior high youth piled into a 15-passenger van to head out to the Colorado Mountains for two days of skiing and a lot of additional recreation in the form of roller skating, basketball, and tubing. Settling into Snow Mountain Ranch Friday evening, the youth and their advisers geared up for an exciting adventure in the mountains. Many thanks to adults, Wesley Garibay, Clay Breiner and Kendra Rock, Matt Paquette, Ray Coffey, Mike Newcomer, and Cam McConnell, who was on the trip for part of the weekend.

We are already looking forward to the next trip a year from now!!

## A Thank You from the Cornerstone Youth

Our Italian Kitchen was extremely successful! Our total donations raised...drum roll please... \$1,980! We had a safe and fun time on our Ski Trip and we're looking forward to more fun together this summer, thanks to your donations. We also want to thank Wesley Garibay for directing the trip. Thanks to Kendra Breiner for our delicious meals. Thanks to advisers, Ray Coffee, Mike Newcomer, Matt Paquette, and Clay Breiner for helping with the trip. Thanks to Kennan Breiner for comedic relief.