



Winter? Summer? Jackets? Shorts!!

The picture above was taken in February! Just look at all the fun the kids are having on the basketball courts at **FPC Syracuse**! The courts are 25+ years old but new goal post, back boards & hoops were purchased a couple of years ago. The kids in the community use these courts nearly everyday during nice weather and when this picture was snapped it was mid February with temps in the 70's! What a great resource FPC Syracuse has provided for their community! (Thanks to Deb Hasik)

Please hold in prayer Brian and Diane Wheeler and the 2017 WMW Summer Staff! Coordinators & Support: Micah, Maddison, Cassie, Christina, Bradley, Emily, Maddie, Anna S., Christina, Amanda. Maintenance: Kaleb, Matt Lifeguards: Kaitlyn, Emi, Noah T. Female Counselors: Anna K., Chloe, Ellie, Hannah, Reagan, Robyn, Payden, Lora. Male Counselors: Walker, Isaac, Auston, Carter, Jedidah, Noah C., Stephen, Adam. Cooks: Karley, Kiley, Breanne, Kaylee.



**Westminster Woods Camp
Women's Retreat
April 28-29
Julie Jaderston – Speaker**

www.westminsterwoodscamp.com

On The Wind

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www.pbysk.org

State Disasters

Kansas has recently experienced two devastating fires in the Hutchinson, Ashland & Liberal areas. As soon as I heard about them I called Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and they have been most helpful ever since.

We will be applying for grant monies to assist with the trauma done in these areas. While we cannot give money directly to individuals, we can give funds to agencies in those cities and counties that can best disperse them.

First Presbyterian in Hutchinson is beginning the process of gathering Clean-Up Buckets that will be distributed. If other churches want to do the same, please use this link: <http://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/> Please bring them to the Presbyterian Center in Wichita and we will get them to the appropriate place.

Of course, if you or your congregation would like to make a financial contribution, please do it through the Presbytery Office, and we will make sure they go to the greatest need.

Let us continue to pray for and comfort the souls under distress because of these disasters. Blessings, Mike



Kathy Bloom, Ruling Elder, **FPC Liberal**, shares a photo of what was a farmhouse being consumed by the terrible March fires in the Liberal area. This farmhouse was inherited from Kathy's grandmother. Fortunately, no one from FPC Liberal was seriously injured in these fires.



Ann and Dan Brown, are longtime members of **FPC Liberal**. Dan's family goes back to about the beginning of the church in 1888. During the recent fires they lost acres known as "Conservation Reserve Program" land. In this

picture you can see the fires & smoke from the Brown's front porch. (Thank you Pastor Kitty Lum)

What a wonderful Sleep"Less" event! "Come and See"

what God has done: God is awesome in deeds among mortals! (Psalm 66:5) Over 100 PSK Youth and Adult Sponsors (and at least one out-stater) did "Come and See" at "Sleep"Less" event of 2017. We couldn't be more proud (and you should be struggling to contain your pride too!) of our Young People of the PSK Youth Council who planned and executed an outstanding conference all the while working around and through unprecedented difficulties. Our speaker, Rev. Dr. Perryn Rice, Senior Pastor at Lake Highlands Presbyterian Church in Dallas Texas (and of Triennium speaking fame) inspired and convicted over the course of the weekend. From the engaging and sincere worship to the relevant workshops to the incredible food to the hilarity of carnival games to the unashamed sharing in small groups to the wisdom of Youth Council keynotes and to the profundity of Rev. Dr. Rice's messages, the gathered Body of Christ at Sleep"Less" 2017 was blessed to overflowing! We can personally attest to the fact that many lives were impacted positively that weekend.



Thank you to all participants, adults who gave their time, Dr. Rice and PSK for making this event possible.

Geri Doll & Rev. Joseph Wiseman, Adult Co-Moderators PSKYC

Jeremiah Lange, Pastor at Marion, and **Mary Buchele**, Director of Children's Ministry at Garden City, bring greetings from brothers and sisters in Cuba. **They were recipients of a scholarship from the PSK Mission Committee enabling them to participate in a PC(USA) delegation visiting 24 Presbyterian churches in Cuba last October.** They visited 9 of the 13 churches in El Centro, one of three Presbyteries in the Synod of Cuba. There are also 12 mission churches in El Centro. With only 6 pastors (3 men, 3 women), and a couple of seminarians, the shortage of pastors is acute, but according to Edelberto Váldez, the General Secretary of El Centro, "The biggest problem of this Presbytery is the distance."

Here are a few things Jeremiah and Mary learned:

- Presbyterians have been in Cuba since before 1900.

- "Christ did not leave the island at the time of the Revolution." But 80% of the pastors and members did.

- In the early 1990's, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Cuban government came to the churches asking them to help take care of needy, elderly people. (Many Presbyterian churches continue their programs of meals and laundry.) This opened the door to churches being able to be active in the community. After that more doors opened: the Pope visited, Jesse Jackson came, Fidel Castro attended a worship service with Jackson, and Fidel was interviewed by Christian leaders in a 6 hour live talk on Cuban TV. - "We pray for reconciliation between our countries, and between the people who left and the people who stayed," said a farmer, father of woman pastor, who also gave updates on baseball playoff scores.

- The most important part of being in a "sister church" relationship is not the financial piece, but the mutual sharing of ideas, concerns, struggles and triumphs.

- The Evangelical Theological Seminary, (SET, Seminario Evangélico de Teología) is respected around the world, and the Holy Spirit is doing great things there. Along with training pastors (Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Quaker, and Fellowship Baptist), they are working to train lay leaders in outlying towns, and they are participating in the world-wide ecumenical community.

Jeremiah and Mary look forward to sharing more of their experience with congregations, and to a PSK return trip in 2017 to continue fostering relationships with Presbyterians in Cuba.



Pastor Jeremiah Lange, Marion, found a new friend in Cuba!

(Thanks to Mary Buchele)