



Rev. Paula Daniel Steinbacher
Faith Development Facilitator

First Presbyterian Church of Arkansas City has adopted

“A Year of Radical Reformation” to stimulate excitement from fresh approaches to ministry. Members of all ages are encouraged to ‘dream dreams’ and ‘see visions’ and then talk about those dreams/visions. One successful ministry that has begun is the



“Presbyterian Academy,” started by 88 year old Ed Gilliland. He had a vision to offer an intergenerational tutoring ministry powered by the online Khan Academy program. Five new

members of the community have enrolled this summer bringing the total of students participating to 15. This program is bolstering the children’s math and science skills.

A ministry started this summer is called *OPEN Worship*. *OPEN* honors the idea that God is about to do a new thing and seeks to help the congregation learn to *Sing a new song to the Lord*. Rev. Danny Daniel says, “*OPEN* encourages us to look out into our community and invite people to come share in our new song.” The church is worshiping on Wednesday nights under *OPEN* skies (weather permitting), being *OPEN* to change and *OPEN*

to the moving of the Spirit. These evening worship services have been meaningful and fun, with over 30 people attending each Wednesday night!



On The Wind

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Family Camp 2013 Westminster Woods



This year was a great Family Camp! It was rainy at first, but all of the families got to their dry cabins before the heavy rain started. First night, campers sang & danced during chapel to songs like *Go* and *Happy Day* and



then listened to speaker Ted Dower who talked about God’s love for us & how that love is big & powerful. It was awesome to hear that the God of the universe loves all of us! After chapel families played pull up & link up tag, ate a snack & attended Vespers. Vespers is a long standing tradition at Westminster Woods. It is a shorter shorter service with music, scripture, and a short reinforcement of Ted’s message.

For the next day, families enjoyed time together at the lake & at the dining hall. There were sandcastles built, swimming, fishing, making friendship bracelets, and walks. There were opportunities to study scripture. Families played a variety of games outside the dining hall, some of which included water balloons. At Vespers, families were encouraged to continue conversation about God’s great love.

On the last day at chapel, Ted gave a great talk about God’s love never ending. It never gives up or runs out! One camper made a profound statement about God’s love being like numbers, which go on and on and never end. After a picture and a sack lunch to go, families headed back home.

The Power of a Steward

Sometimes servants get taken for granted. Sometimes masters have the attitude that says, "Look, you're here to do what I want you to do, and I don't care what happens to you as a person." But Jesus once talked about a rich man who recognized that it was important that all the servants get taken care of.

And so the rich man appointed someone to a position of responsibility in his household. This appointee would be known as a steward – that's the term for someone who is in charge of a project or a place, even though that project or place is actually owned by someone else. A shop steward doesn't own the factory, but is in charge of the manufacturing floor. An airline steward doesn't own the plane, but is in charge of the passenger area. In *The Lord of the Rings*, the Stewards of Gondor are not kings; instead, they are to see themselves as servants of the king, set in charge of the city of Gondor until the king returns. A steward is a servant with authority and responsibility, appointed to make sure that things will happen the way the master would want.

Then Jesus asked this haunting question (Matthew 24:45): who will be a faithful steward, to make sure the other servants in the household get their food allotment at the proper time?

You can see that that's an important responsibility: people will eat, or not eat, depending on how well the steward takes care of that job.

As Christians we believe that Jesus has entrusted into our keeping some of the wealth of heaven. Will we take the view that everything we have is owned by us, and it is entirely up to us to decide what we will do with it? (Alas, some stewards do take advantage of their position that way.) Or will we recognize that because all that we have and all that we are is a trust from God, it is our deep desire to be faithful to our master's intentions?

The power of a steward is the power to make a difference in this world as we strive to accomplish our Master's will: making sure that the hungry are fed, that the needy are cared for. Jesus entrusts that power to us, counting on us to be faithful to our calling. *Jay Ayers*

Presbytery Meeting
Saturday, August 17, 2013
First Presbyterian Church
Newton, KS

Celebrating 125 Years

The Presbyterian Church was established in Liberal, KS on July 8, 1888.

This was the first church to organize in this new town in Seward County. The plat for the new town of Liberal had been completed and lots were offered for sale on April 13, 1888.

Then on July 8, 1888, seven citizens organized the first church: the Norman Mills family (four members), who had relocated from Anthony, KS, Mr. & Mrs. Coomer, who came from Pratt Presbyterian Church and W.S. Stoufer, who came from the Fargo Presbyterian Church.

There were many challenges faced by those first members. It was a difficult time as there were little resources during that period of Liberal's history. There was no money, no supporting church organization with funds to loan, and no church building. There was though a group of Christians wanting to have a place to worship God.

The original First Presbyterian Church building was erected in 1889 constructed of wood and located at 5th & Pennsylvania. (taken from *The Prairie Light*, July 2013 edition)



Brotherhood Summer Day Camp!

It is officially Summer Day Camp time! Kids are playing games, watching movies, enjoying water fun and eating ice cream!

On June 29th Brotherhood Day Camp held a Fish Fry to raise funds to support the camp. It was a delicious dinner for all who came to eat and enjoy some family fun.