



First Presbyterian Church Winfield, has recently opened a Blessings Box for those in the community in need of essential toiletries, including toothbrushes, toothpaste & soap. The idea for the box came from the church's Christian education team and was unanimously endorsed by the church's spiritual leaders. The Blessings Box is open to the community

and will be continuously stocked by donations from members. The Blessings Box was a project for the summer Bible-study group *Kids of the Kingdom*, featuring kids from ages 3 to fourth grade. The program has been in existence for more than 15 years; it is a community-wide, free, weekly summer learning program. "More than 60 kids have engaged in the program," said the Rev. Angela Madden, First Presbyterian pastor. "They spend two hours learning about the Bible and finding a place of love and support, making art, doing a service project and having snacks." The program started this month and will finish this week. The kids have been bringing donations as their offerings for the past four weeks so the box could be filled as soon as possible.

Cayla Bromlow, currently in her second year as Church Life coordinator, helped with the project. When asked the idea behind the box, she said, "I think we were looking for another way to do, like, our offering. (We) took money last year, but we used it to help with water in different countries."

Church members and the Kids of the Kingdom can bring toiletry supplies in lieu of monetary gifts for their offering each week. "Anyone in the community (who) has a need for hygiene items, whether it be toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, combs, (or) hair products, they'll be able to find at no cost to them, a free blessing to them, (to) take and use," Madden said.

"The hygiene-particular idea is that those are expensive products that (people) often can't get at a food pantry or they run out of money for." The Blessings Box was handmade by Don Bromlow, Jeremy Lankton and Ralph Royston, and can be found attached to the Winfield First Presbyterian garage.

(Thanks Braydee Holmes, *Courier Traveler* intern)

Rev. Dr. Leonard Sweet will serve as the speaker for the 2017 FPC Wichita Durfee Lectures. Make plans to attend the seminar and lecture from Rev. Dr. Sweet on the weekend of Oct 14th – Oct 15th. Dr. Sweet has authored 200+ articles, 1300 published sermons & more than 60 books. Please remember that there is no charge to attend these events. Visit www.pbysk.org or www.firstchurchwichita.org/media/durfee-lecture-series



On The Wind

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The Presbytery of Southern Kansas meets on Tuesday, August 8th Westminster Woods Camp



We are pretty sure we **won't** be asked to launch ourselves into the PSK meeting!



AND, we are hoping that Brian & Diane **will** give us eating utensils to use with our meal.

PSK Presbytery Women Fall Gatherings

Ladies, mark your calendars:

Tuesday, September 26th – FPC Wichita
Tuesday, October 3rd – FPC Coffeyville

Have you signed up for Healthy Boundaries Training?

Aug 12th – FPC Dodge City Oct 14th – Marion Presbyterian
Registration 8:30 a.m. Session is 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Question? Deb Schmidt deb.schmidt.apts@gmail.com

Tom Simpson tsimpson3@cox.net

Lara MacGregor revmacgreg@hotmail.com

First Presbyterian Hutchinson High School Mission Trip

An excited but nervous High School Group turned up at FPC Hutch on May 25 to head off on our Mission Trip to downtown Hollywood, CA. We checked our luggage & boarded the plane for LA. Our first few days were spent around LAX and Manhattan Beach as we relaxed & had group sessions to prepare for what we would be faced with in Hollywood. Doubts filled us as we made our way to the Door Project and the Community House. This would be our home for the next 6 days. The Director of the Door Project, Elizabeth, met us with our keys as we settled in. Dinner was at a Chicken and Waffle House, which everyone enjoyed! Then we headed to FPC Hollywood for our group orientation with the Door Team. We wondered what the next week would hold as we worked with the homeless across LA. We did icebreakers and skits before splitting our group into the two teams for the week. After worship and prayer time together we headed back to our house to prepare for an early start the next morning. We learned that over 44,000 people are on the streets of LA and we had the privilege of working with some amazing agencies and programs tackling the needs of a homeless community the size of Hutchinson. The thing we quickly realized was that these people who we call homeless, we normally walk pass and never make eye contact with are in fact people who have a name, who we can talk with and work alongside. Instead of us talking about the Homeless we started to talk about Larry, Lena and Cynthia who we had built a relationship with and even called them our friends. We learned about the struggles and obstacles they faced and we worked with them on programs that would help them get into their own home and get a job as they rebuild their lives. We had a warm welcome everywhere we went. The clients loved talking to the youth, and showing them new skills. We have two girls who can now expertly carve and prepare whole chickens. We peeled a mountain of potatoes to feed hundreds at Skid Row and served the meals; first to all the men and then later to the women.

We packed enough food parcels for over 400 people and families who are living below the poverty line at MEND (Meeting Everyone's Needs with Dignity) and we served coffee, hung out and chatted with the homeless clients before participating in recovery programs with them. All of these experiences opened our eyes and hearts as these wonderful people shared openly their lives and issues with us. I can honestly say that we all had a life-changing week. I know that we learned more than we could ever have imagined. We learned not to judge a book by its cover and not to stereotype! The thing that stands out to me is that all these successful agencies are a constant for them throughout the year. Stability is not a word that a homeless person knows about and these agencies provide a little piece of stability and normality for them. They give them the boundaries and rules that don't normally exist for them and they give these clients respect and some sense of dignity.

I believe that God sent us to LA not to just to experience a week but to look at how we as a church can be a resource week by week for people and families in need. I really believe that our wonderful group of thirteen students and leaders started to see the world differently. I told them how we had seen them grow through the week, how we saw them



work hard and never complain and how they now see people through the eyes of Jesus. They became the hands and feet of Jesus. They showed the love of God as they became the hands and feet of Jesus.

(Thank you Keith Neill)

UPDATE....in the July "On the Wind" there was an article from Mary Knecht, FPC, Wichita, outlining plans to provide 500 backpacks of school supplies for refugee children and lunch for them and their families on Saturday, August 12th. This is a very big undertaking. We are pleased that others have joined in this important mission project. Grace Presbyterian, Trinity Presbyterian, the Korean Presbyterian Congregation along with the Hindu Temple of Greater Wichita are helping with supplies, volunteers and/or cash gifts. Health Core, a non-profit clinic, will be providing immunization and dental screenings.

The Economy Corner and FPC Wichita's Mission Committee have purchased the 500 backpacks. The FPC Wichita Presbyterian Women's study circle will be providing and serving lunch and the youth group will lend some helping hands.

At publication date of this newsletter additional volunteers are needed. If you can help and want to be a part of this great ministry contact Mary Knecht, 316-942-8068, knechtmary@hotmail.com asap.

Clerk of Session –Three dates have been confirmed for the Clerk's Records Review in 2017.

Saturday, August 12th – 10:30 – 12:30 – FPC Larned

Saturday, Sept 16th – 10:30 – 12:30 – Mt Vernon, Wichita

Tuesday, Oct 3rd – 2:30 – completion – FPC Coffeyville