



Games Camp held June 18-20 at Whispering Winds Camp (FPC Wichita camp on the outskirts of Wichita). What fun!! (Thanks Liz N.)

On The Wind

A Publication of the
Presbytery of Southern Kansas
August 2018

www.pbysk.org

**Presbytery of Southern Kansas
meets at FPC Derby
on Tuesday, August 14, 2018**

Vacation Bible School at Cambridge Presbyterian Church

Vacation Bible School was held from June 4-7. VBS was organized by Kendra Hull with church members Marsha and Rita as leaders and another big thank you to Koreen, Marilyn, and everyone else who helped in the background. The theme of Bible School this year was, *Rolling River Rampage*. The Bible verse for the week was, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." Isaiah 43:2. The kids enjoyed snacks, music, Bible stories, Reflection Time, and crafts. Everything presented revolved around the VBS theme.

The kids rehearsed the play, "Jesus Calls the Disciples" and also learned to play *Amazing Grace* on the hand bells. During craft time the kids built a diorama of Jesus calling to his disciples.



The VBS artists used water, floaties, glitter, stickers, rocks, and sticks in their creations which were amazing, true works of art. Even though Thursday was a rainy, cool day the kids went outside for water fun. They played string tag in the rain, and basically had a great time getting wet. What a fun week!

(Thanks Lisa Braun)

The week of June 25th - 29th found between 10 and 18 children enjoying **FPC Coffeyville's VBS: Shareable Parables – The Stories**

Jesus Told. The parables of the soil, the lost son, the treasure and the pearl, the wise and foolish builders, and the last coin were all enjoyed with stories, crafts, music, and a snack that went with the lesson each day. FPC Coffeyville, was pleased to have the young children in the congregation plus many friends from the Coffeyville community in attendance.



(Thanks Rexanne B.)

First Presbyterian Syracuse VBS

For VBS the sanctuary was decorated in trees, and vines and "island" accents to illustrate the VBS theme: *Shipwrecked; Rescued by Jesus*. For the week of June 11-15, 112 kids participated in VBS. The mission project for VBS was to fund the purchase of seeds for planting in Haiti & helping to feed the hungry. The VBS offering raised approximately \$350!!



Thanks Deb H.)

The 223rd General Assembly St. Louis, MO, June 16-23, 2018

Reflections by Pastor Mark Miller

I was honored to serve our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) denomination as a commissioner to the 223rd General Assembly held at the America's Center in downtown St. Louis, just a few blocks north of the Gateway Arch.

Attending the General Assembly as a commissioner has always been on my bucket list. Before arriving in St. Louis I read and studied over 500 two-sided pages of GA reports, recommendations and overtures. Attending as a commissioner was a great experience.

More than 2,300 participants attended the General Assembly meeting including 538 voting commissions (269 teaching elders and 269 ruling elders elected by 170 presbyteries), as well as young adults, theological students, missionary advisory delegates, ecumenical advisory delegates, corresponding members and many others.

Brass and organ, sounds from a flute and voices of a mass choir of more than 200 St. Louis area Presbyterians blended together at the opening worship service on Saturday morning. That evening Ruling Elder Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri from First Spanish Presbyterian Church in Miami, FL and the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, serving as Resource Presbyter for the presbyteries of Boston and Northern New England were elected as new GA co-moderators.

On Sunday morning, commissioners attended one of thirty-two St. Louis area Presbyterian churches. I worshiped at New Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Charles, MO. The congregation is only 15 years old. During Sunday afternoon the commissioners heard reports from the Vision Team, The Way Forward Commission and the All-Agency Review Committee. A new denomination vision statement was adopted: *"God calls the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be Prayerful, Courageous, United, Serving, Alive."* (P.C.U.S.A.) The six agencies of the Presbyterian Church (USA) were reviewed and it was recommended that adaptive changes were needed so congregations, presbyteries, and synods can better do the work they've been called to do making the national church more nimble and responsive to the needs and concerns of the world.

I was appointed to one of the fourteen assembly committees: Peacemaking, Immigration and International Issues (less the Middle East). The committee began its work Sunday evening. Throughout the 2½ days the committee met we focused on the difficult situations in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, South Sudan, the Korean peninsula, Yemen, Madagascar, Syria, Nicaragua and Puerto Rico, as well as seeking God's peace through nuclear disarmament and families not being separated at our southern borders, concerns about gun violence and much more.

The General Assembly began its plenary work Wednesday morning by approving a consent agenda of some 80 actions by the unanimous vote of assembly committees. However, nearly 100 items were presented, discussed, amended and voted on the floor of the General Assembly over the next 3½ days.

We got a break Thursday evening as jazz saxophonist Kirk Whilom, who toured with Whitney Houston and other artists, shared a concert for the GA participants. We needed that break because Friday's meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m. did not end until 12:15 a.m. Saturday morning. Thank goodness the voting was done electronically instead of paper voting or the meetings would have taken much longer.

Saturday morning the General Assembly affirmed a \$1.25 increase in the GA portion of per capita for 2019 and no per capita increase for 2020. This increase was significantly lower than the projected increase of \$3.00 over the next two years.



This mass choir performed during opening worship.



Mark Miller's Committee Room. Peacemaking, Immigration, & International Issues



Mary D. in the midst of meetings and voting.

Signage outside the America's Center where G.A. met.

