

**On October 30, 2016, FPC Wichita** celebrated its 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Sunday. The service is based on an order of service from the Church of Scotland and used in St. Andrews and West Kirk in Auchterarder, Scotland, where the Rev. Dr. David Walker, Pastor Emeritus, served in a pulpit exchange in 1960.

Upon return to the U.S., Dr. Walker resolved to introduce some of the Scottish pageantry into services of worship. One of those places was Wichita First Church in 1981. Bagpipes and drums are not used every week in Scotland but are used for festival celebrations and parades.

On Heritage Sunday, the church bell tolled to call the congregation to worship. The procession, led by the acolytes, included The Beadle, the banner bearer, the bagpipes and drums, and the ministers. Their entrance set the stage for a festive service of worship. The service officially began with the call of The Beadle, "Let us worship God!" Typical hymns from Scotland were sung, including *Amazing Grace*, accompanied by the pipes. The pastor preached on the subject of "What a Redeemed Life Looks like."



The Beadle played an important role in the Scottish Presbyterian church. The main role was to protect and care for the Kirk's (church's) *Bible*. Each year a different *Bible* from our Archives *Bible* Collection is used by the Beadle. This year the *Bible* was the family *Bible* of William Phelps Thompson, former member of FPC & Moderator of G.A. in 1965. The banner was made in 1985 and was woven in Scotland.

The tartan is generally described as the St. Andrew tartan but is also the Ross family tartan. The Rosses were early members of FPC. Stoles for the ministers were also made from the same cloth. The Choir, wearing tartan stoles, sang a stirring anthem, *Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord*, by Rene Clausen. This number was commissioned in 1999 by First Presbyterian Church in honor of Peg Decker and Mona Pike.

At First Church, 50 year or more members are honored each year. There are 69 living members who have belonged to the church for 50 years or more. Other activities included a pancake breakfast and the annual Archives Open House. The Archives presents the history of the local church since 1870, when it was first chartered. The service may be viewed on the church website (firstchurchwichita.org). Pull down the *Media* menu and select *Live Streaming*. Plans are already underway for next year's celebration.

(Thank you Gary Huffman for this information and picture)

# On The Wind

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How many of you have traveled 61 miles one-way or even 42 miles for a Sunday evening worship? Some Presbyterian congregants from Tribune and Leoti did as they traveled to Lakin to praise the Lord and have fellowship with one another. These three congregations have been getting together on the 5th Sunday of the month for about five years. The format of the gatherings is planned by a 3-church steering committee.

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, no that wasn't a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, they gathered as a body of Christ to glorify God and the sharing of communion through a worship service that was modeled around the eight points of Reformed Worship (shared by David Gambrell, associate for worship in the PC (USA) Office of Theology and Worship). Fellowship followed the service with the sharing of a meal and conversation.

An extra blessing was having Brian Wheeler, Westminster Woods Camp Director, talk about evangelism and its impact on the campers and others who attend or work at Westminster Woods. Brian did double-duty that day as he also gave the message at Lakin during morning worship. The weekend prior (Oct 30th) he had also given the morning message at Leoti and Tribune. We commend Brian's commitment for making the jaunt to southwestern Kansas two weekends in a row.

(Thanks to Donna Neff)



Westminster Woods Camp Winter Retreats 2017  
Young Adult Jan 6 – 8; High School Jan 20 – 22;  
Middle School Feb 3 – 5

Welcome to the Presbytery of Southern Kansas  
Rev. Lara MacGregor! Pastor Lara and her family  
live in McPherson, KS.

## Residents of a Kansas city rally in support of Muslims

Christian community stands together with Somali immigrants after a foiled bomb plot in Garden City targeted them.



Residents of this small American community, Garden City, KS, rallied to support the local Muslim community after federal investigators

uncovered a plot by local militia members to bomb an apartment complex where many of them live. US law enforcement agencies announced the arrest of three men on October 14, charging them in a domestic "terrorism plot" to bomb an apartment complex in Wichita suburbs where several Somali immigrant families lived. The Muslim community in Garden City - mostly refugees or asylum seekers from Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan - numbers about 1,000 out of a population of 28,000. Almost all of them work at Tyson's Fresh Meat packing factory in the area.

**Reverend Denise Pass, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Garden City, organized the rally last week to show support for the Somali community.**

"When I heard this tragic news, it came to my mind that we - as members of this community and as Christians - should support and protect the local Muslim community," Pass told Al Jazeera. Tens of people from the community as well as members of her church took part in the rally around the apartment complex that was to be targeted.

Southwest Kansas, where Garden City is located, is conservative but, according to Pass, it did not mean the community at large was racist, anti-Muslim, or against immigrants.

"The actions of few racist individuals should not be taken to represent the whole community, just as the Muslim community should not negatively labelled or held responsible for the actions of the very few terrorists who happened to be Muslims," she said.

Many of the immigrants do not speak English, which makes them vulnerable as well as isolated from the mainstream community, according to Mohamad Abdi, a 23-year-old Somali worker and a student who was one of the founders of the African Community

## Grateful Witness

In recent days, our family has been dealing with issues that brought an initial shock and then some panic. Those of you I have spoken to about this have promised to pray. Your prayers have been felt! It is my prayer along with yours, now, that the prayers will have been answered.

It is this type of event that leads us to ask many questions: To what will my life amount? What will God and the communion of saints that we have celebrated this November find as the essence of my life, the true flavor, the distillation of however many days I am granted?

Indeed, God has bestowed more "gracious benefits" than I can count. I can never repay God for my nurturing family, or the opportunity to do meaningful work, or a body that does (pretty much) what I want, or a safety net of loving and faithful friends, much less this gorgeous world, or the gift of faith, or all the rest.

All I can offer back is what I do with my life. I want it to boil down to some form of grateful witness. Each day is another chance to clarify this life a bit more, get another imperfection out, trim the extraneous and ragged edges.

I pray that your Thanksgiving Day and season of Advent with be filled with joy, love, gratitude, and hope.

*Mike Kuner*



**First Presbyterian Church of Syracuse held their Fall Festival.**

Everyone enjoyed a hayrack ride to a hay bale maze where "Clark" (Cave Quest VBS character) greeted each child as they Entered the maze.

There was pumpkin painting and face

painting for kids. Approximately 100 people enjoyed a soup & sandwich supper.

(Thanks Meghan for the fun information)



Center in Garden City. Mursal Naley, 27, president of the community center, told Al Jazeera he and other members were "heartened by the overwhelming support from the American community in Garden City".

(Thanks to Sue Waked, daughter of Rev. Arlene and Rev. Jesse Patrick. Sue read this article where she lives in Amman, Jordan. Sue has lived in Jordan for 19 years. She is raising her five daughters and now helping to care for a granddaughter. In correspondence with Sue, she wrote that she "loves Jordan, a small country rich in history and full of friendly people.") It is a small world!