

On The Wind

A Publication of the
Presbytery of Southern Kansas
February 2015

www.pbysk.org

The Barmen Declaration

It was hard times for the church, in Nazi Germany in 1934. Adolf Hitler had risen to power the previous year, and had immediately instituted a policy of “forcible coordination” – every segment of society was to be brought into conformity to national goals. Trade unions and political parties were eliminated, schools and clubs were rigorously controlled, there was compulsory youth training, and concentration camps were established for those who refused to toe the line. The churches were not exempt: they were all to be controlled by the government, and loyalty to Nazi policies would be affirmed as the essence of the Christian message.

In opposition to this, a group of church leaders gathered in Barmen Germany in May 1934, and issued this Declaration (which was incorporated into our Book of Confessions in 1967). The heart of the document gives us six strong affirmations of evangelical truth. Here is the first of the six:

Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.

We reject the false doctrine, as through the Church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God's revelation.

The Barmen Declaration never specifically names either Hitler or Nazism, but it's not hard to read between the lines here. We can see their shadows as the *other figure* and *other power* who claim that they can be the source of the church's proclamation. There were 183 delegates to the Barmen gathering; under the pressure of Nazism some of them later recanted their position, and the remainder ended up in concentration camps where many of them died. Nevertheless their testimony lives on: Jesus Christ is the one Word of God whom we hear, trust, and obey.

Here's a point to ponder, eight decades after Barmen: where today are we tempted to find an authority for our lives other than the Jesus revealed to us in scripture? How will we reject that temptation, and learn to follow Christ alone.

Jay Ayers



During the **January 2015 Young Adult Retreat, at Westminster Woods Camp**, we discussed those crossroads in our lives. As young adults, we have a lot of decisions in our path. The retreat teaching was vital on how to apply God into our every day decisions. We spent a lot of time in discussion learning how to turn to God in all situations and put our trust in His plan for new opportunities for the future. We also discussed contentment and how to live contently in Jesus and not contently in our physical being. Growing up is a process, but it is also a vital time to spend with the Lord and find your identity through Him. Along with this, we spent a lot of time in fellowship - either through playing games, playing on frozen creeks, or celebrating three birthdays with lots of treats. It was a weekend full of laughter, love, and praise to our almighty God.

Madison Scheer

PSK Youth Council

Sleep “Less” in Sterling 2015

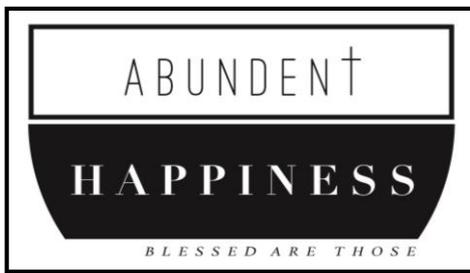
7:00 p.m. Friday, March 13th to

Noon Sunday, March 15th

Sterling College, Sterling, KS

Visit www.pbysk.org for info and registration

LOST
FOUND



PSK Summer Camp 2015

Family Camp May 29-31st
3rd & 4th Grade June 2-5th
5th & 6th Grade June 8-12th
7th & 8th Grade June 15-19th
High School June 22-28th

Visit www.westminsterwoodscamp.com

Pictured (l-r) are Haley Bennet, Mark Hull, Ernie Hull, Addy Williams, Brandy Williams and Lora Bennet (a visitor from Hawaii) of **Cambridge Presbyterian Church** sorting baby clothing items on Christmas Eve.



All during Advent members brought these baby items in order to assemble baby kits for Church World Service. The members assembled 12 kits! In this way the church symbolically welcomed the baby Jesus.



What a colorful display! **First Presbyterian Church, Winfield**, created this great float for the community's Lighted Christmas Parade.



Presbytery Meeting
February 10, 2015
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1750 N. Tyler Rd, Wichita, KS



Pictured left is Rev. James & Donna Anderson. This picture was taken during their Retirement Open House on Sunday, Oct 26, 2014, at **First Presbyterian Church Newton**.

Beautiful children created a special nativity scene during the Christmas program at **First Presbyterian Church, Syracuse!**

