

On The Wind

A Publication of the
Presbytery of Southern Kansas
February 2017

www.pbysk.org

Presbytery of Southern Kansas
Saturday, February 11th
First Presbyterian Church, Winfield

The Westminster Woods Young Adult Retreat, affectionately referred to as YAmPping, was enjoyed by 51 people. This included staff, volunteers, and participants. The speaker, Riley Voht, challenged us to think about where we found our Identity. He posed very challenging questions and the small group discussions were a favorite for the participants.

Worship was led by Mark Nelson and is always a fulfilling experience.

There is just something special about worship at The Woods. For free time, many people enjoyed the classic Ving Vong. This is a Westminster Woods original game.



This retreat is a wonderful time to focus on your relationship with God, reconnect with old friends, and meet new friends. We praise God for the opportunity and give Him the glory!



Here's a photo of the canned foods collected the fourth quarter of 2016 by **Bethel Presbyterian Church, Wichita**, to give to the needy through Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church's food pantry. This "canned" Christmas Tree weighed 236 lbs. Another 120 lbs of non-canned goods were also collected so the total amount of food donated was 356 lbs. The grand total collected and distributed for the year was 707 lbs. A round of applause to Bethel's "artistic elves" for creating this pleasing "canned" Christmas Tree arrangement to display all the canned goods.



Economy Corner

The Economy Corner is a store with a mission. In 1960, the Women's Association of the **First Presbyterian Church, Wichita**, made a pledge of \$5,000 to the church's building fund, and they held a rummage sale to help raise the funds. Their next project was to use the remaining articles to start the thrift shop that became The Economy Corner. In 1962, the Women's Association of **Grace Presbyterian Church, Wichita**, joined the effort. Today, there are approximately 100 volunteers from the two congregations who staff the store and work under the supervision of a paid manager and assistant manager.

Located at the corner of Broadway and Central, across from the Lord's Diner, the Economy Corner is open six days a week: Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The store offers a constantly changing variety of new and gently used merchandise at affordable prices.

This year, the Economy Corner was a recipient of a PSK Mission Partnership Matching Grant. The following note was received from the Economy Corner Board: "Dear Friends, Thank you very much for your generous cash gift to Economy Corner. Your help in enabling us to purchase winter coats for our needy customers is greatly appreciated. Many thanks for your support of this ministry."

Albert Einstein said, "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

Christmas is a time of miracles; both large and small. If we are lucky, we get to witness the occurrence of miracles or at least learn of them as experienced by someone else.

This is the third year that the **Economy Corner** has used our Mission money to purchase new coats, hoodies, sweats, gloves and hats. This year we spent \$8700 and purchased a total of 412 coats (146 men's, 115 women's and 151 kid's), 91 hoodies and 46 thermals. In the past we have had "angels" who noticed our dedicated shoppers in stores and expressed curiosity about the odd loads in their shopping carts. Some of these "angels" donated to our Mission of providing winter wear for those in need. This year has been no different. Our "angels" (The Presbytery of Southern Kansas, Grace Presbyterian Church and some individuals) have donated over \$1000 this year to help fund this annual project.

The volunteers at the Corner are frequent witnesses to an amazing story or reaction by the recipient of the new winter gear. Those of us not lucky enough to be there, get to hear the stories.

We have helped 102 International Refugees (95% referred by IRC and the rest are part of ECC) this year with winter wear. The IRC sponsors called to say that they were so happy they were "almost dancing" with joy. We provided two men with the first brand new coats they had ever owned because we had two size 5x coats. One of our woman's 4x coats was requested for a care facility resident. In another instance, a grandmother who had gained custody of her grandchildren from foster care was helped when they came to her with only the clothes on their backs. Economy Corner helped to clothe them for the cold weather. In addition, we filled twice as many vouchers in November as we did in October. We also have regular shoppers who require special assistance due to visual and other handicaps. Our patient volunteers help these shoppers "see" and find the item they require. All of these special projects take extra time and commitment by our wonderful volunteers. We are so blessed to see life as though everything is a miracle and to be part of the efforts to assist our community.

Mary Burgett, Manager
Economy Corner, Wichita, KS

(Thank you Mary Knecht)