

The FPC Neodesha building becomes a home for chaplain ministry

The FPC Neodesha building will become the headquarters for the Southeast Kansas location of the Heartland Christian Chaplains Ministry. The building was sold to Ron Cashman, a Neodesha Police Department officer. Officer Cashman will head the office and will serve as pastor for River City Fellowship. In addition, the building will be used by the Kansas branch of the 1033 Foundation, a ministry that works with police, fire, EMS and other first responders as a ministry outreach providing training for chaplaincy.

To read the full article printed in *The Neodesha Derrick*, go to the PSK website www.pbysk.org. The lovely plaque to affirm the history of the building was given by Walter and Mina Olson, long time members of the church. Thank you!!



Mark Your Calendar Now – October 14-15, 2017



Rev. Dr. Leonard Sweet will serve as the speaker for this year's FPC Wichita Durfee Lectures. On Oct. 14th Dr. Sweet will be conducting a seminar from 9:00 a.m. to noon and that same day at 7:00 p.m. he will provide a lecture entitled *A Tale of Two Birds: Deep Faith in a Shallow Culture*. On Sunday Oct. 15th, Dr. Sweet will preach at 10:45 a.m. worship.

Rev. Dr. Sweet has authored 200+ articles, 1300 published sermons and more than 60 books. His best selling books include: *Soul Tsunami*, *Aqua Church*, and *Jesus Manifesto*. Go to the website www.pbysk.org for information on registering for the seminar and Durfee Lecture and on room reservations (for those of you traveling from out-of-town). You may also visit www.firstchurchwichita.org/media/durfee-lecture-series or info@firstchurchwichita.org.

Please remember there is no charge to attend any of the events.

On The Wind

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As a reminder: Healthy Boundaries Training is being held:

August 12, 2017

FPC Dodge City 803 Central Ave, Dodge City, KS
(This location is limited to 15 participants.)

October 14, 2017

Presbyterian Church of Marion 610 Lawrence, Marion, KS
Both sessions: Registration 8:30; Class time 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
Please call the PSK Office to sign up for Aug or October!
316-946-9481



A question for WMW...what is this and why is it washing dishes at summer camp?

Westminster Woods Camp

Two of the many beautiful gathering locations for study, devotions, and prayer time. Each spot is an inspiration!



Refugee report from Mary Knecht, (FPC, Wichita) presented during the May 9th Presbytery meeting



Pictured is the group of refugees worshipping at First Presbyterian Church, Wichita, every Sunday morning from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm. This group is now known as the Wichita Refugee Congregation Church. The name change is necessary since there are refugees attending from Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, and Tanzania not just the Congo. Current attendees include 22 families consisting of 94 individuals.

In 2016, 581 refugees were settled in Wichita. They came from the Congo (304), Somalia (100), Eritrea (42), Sudan (41), Ethiopia & Afghanistan (20) with smaller numbers from Syria, Iraq, Burma, and Uganda.

Children in Wichita's USD #259 speak 114 different languages in their homes. For 2017 the International Rescue Committee-Kansas office, (located in Wichita), an official program of the US State Department, is planning for an additional 540 refugees, with 140 to be placed in Garden City. As of May 5th, 147 have arrived.

An interesting fact is that there are 350 "secondaries" in Garden City (refugees who were originally placed in another state who on their own have moved) to work at Tyson and Cargil companies.

For the two refugee resettlement groups in Wichita, the IRC and Episcopal Migration Ministry cannot keep up with the needs of the refugees. They need to have a furnished home or apartment when they arrive, learn English, find a job, get children enrolled in school, learn how to navigate in the bus system, etc.

In the fall of 2015 FPC Wichita provided 100 backpacks of school supplies for refugee children, in 2016 the number was 250. This year the need will be for 500 backpacks. Help is needed with this project.

Also, as the weather gets cooler in the fall, winter coats are needed.

Last year the Economy Corner (thrift shop run by FPC Wichita and Grace) purchased dozens and dozens of new coats. Financial help is again needed for coat purchase because of the increased need.

At the backpack distribution last fall FPC Wichita met five Congolese refugee families who reported they were praying in a laundromat because they had no other place to worship. FPC has welcomed 15-18 families (25 children and 50 youth and adults) who worship at FPC Wichita on Sunday mornings from 10:45 – 1:45. FPC members provide an hour of Sunday school and an hour of structured play for the children. In months that have a 5th Sunday, they experience a joint worship and then a potluck lunch.

Prayers for refugees who are finding new beginnings in Kansas (mainly Wichita and Garden City) and others that are waiting to come. Pray that they learn English, find jobs and welcoming mentors. Pray that those who are anti-refugee and anti-immigrant will have their hearts and minds softened.

For information on how to support this mission contact Mary Knecht, 316-942-8068 knechtmary@hotmail.com.



Note in the pictures above that there is a personal shopper with each person during the 2016 distribution of school supplies and backpacks and a picture of a bunch of happy kiddos after receiving their backpacks.

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

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.