

From the *Upper Room*
A daily devotion written by Rev. Geoff Snook,
PSK Member At Large

THUR
APR 20
2017

THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER

READ Genesis 21:1-7

Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."

— Genesis 21:6 (NIV)

One Sunday morning I noticed many solemn faces in my congregation. I knew these people well, and many concerns weighed on their hearts.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
Laughter is one way that God adds joy to our lives.

As I invited the children to come forward for children's time, they marched slowly up the center aisle, peering at all the sad faces. My two-

year-old son, Isaac, however, sprinted down the aisle yelling, "Mommy!" and threw himself into my arms. Confused, I looked over at my wife, Isaac's mommy, sitting in the front row, and then noticed that the entire church had erupted in laughter as they responded to Isaac's joyful exclamation.

For years Abraham's wife, Sarah, wanted a child. She had hoped, prayed, and wept sorrowfully. But her suffering was only temporary. Now that this miracle, this Isaac, had been born, she laughed — looking forward to sharing the good news with those who would laugh with her.

In this world, we are surrounded by heartaches and serious concerns. However, God is with us and God can still give us joy. Sometimes the joy comes to us directly, as it did for Sarah. Sometimes it comes to us indirectly through the joy of others. However the gift of joy comes, it is a big reminder that the heartaches and concerns of this world are only temporary.

Prayer: Joyful Creator, help us to experience the gift of laughter, and help us to rejoice with others. Amen.

Geoffrey L. Snook (Kansas)

62 *Prayer Focus:* SOMEONE WAITING FOR A CHILD

On The Wind

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www.pbysk.org

PSK Mission to Cuba - December 4-12, 2017

Come and spend time in El Centro Presbytery, Cuba, talking with presbytery & church leaders. What are the opportunities for PSK to be in communion with El Centro Presbytery? (This is not a "brick & mortar" mission trip.) See more trip info and the registration form online at www.pbysk.org.

Questions: Skip Johnson 620-727-3523 (revretired@gmail.com); Jeremiah Lange 620-381-3286 (marionrev@sbcglobal.net)



Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wichita serves as charter sponsor for BSA Troop 416. On May 12th the Church was the scene for an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony for Eagle Scout, Tucker Tasker. Pictured left is Chris Tice presenting the Eagle medal to Tucker. Congratulation Tucker!!

WELCOME! PSK welcomes Rev. Melissa Krabbe and Rev. Caitlin Hendrix. Both pastors come to PSK from Texas. Rev. Krabbe will be serving the Sterling United Presbyterian Church. Rev. Hendrix is a member at large.

BIG TENT

Race, Reconciliation,
Reformation
July 6-8, 2017
Washington University
St. Louis, MO

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/churchwide-ministries/big-tent-2017/>

Theme: "Overcome"

2017 WMW Summer Camps

3rd & 4th May 30th – June 2nd
5th & 6th June 5th – 9th
7th & 8th June 12th – 16th
High School June 19th – 25th

Please hold in prayer Brian and Diane Wheeler and the 2017 WMW Summer Staff! Coordinators & Support: Micah, Maddison, Cassie, Christina, Bradley, Emily, Maddie, Mackenzie, Christina, Amanda, Dara. Maintenance: Kaleb, Matt Lifeguards: Kaitlyn, Emi, Noah T. Female Counselors: Anna K., Chloe, Ellie, Hannah, Reagan, Robyn, Payden, Lora. Male Counselors: Walker, Isaac, Auston, Jedidah, Noah C., Stephen, Adam, Joel. Cooks: Karley, Kiley, Breanne, Kaylee, Annie.



Westminster Woods Camp finished April 2017, by hosting over 40 women for the **Women's Retreat!** "A Heart Exposed" was the theme used by the speaker, Julie Jaderston, and that theme turned out to be an accurate description of the weekend. Julie took the ladies through three different stories of women from the Bible and testimonies of three courageous women who allowed God to impact their lives. The times in the chapel were informative and humorous while at the same time encouraging each one of us to stretch ourselves to become open to God's healing in our lives. The rest of the weekend was spent in small group discussions and fellowship time. The ladies enjoyed an afternoon of Pinterest. Those in attendance were vocal in their appreciation of the weekend and their desire for more retreats like this one!

(Thanks Christinal)

The annual **Spring Gathering and business meeting of the Presbyterian Women of Southern Kansas** was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at FPC El Dorado. The theme was "Out of the Darkness...Into the Light" from John 1:5. Forty-three members and three guests representing ten churches were in attendance.

The Rev. Robyn Abel, FPC El Dorado, led morning worship. The Butler County Homeless Initiative was the recipient of items brought to the gathering. The Executive Director of the Initiative told the group about their work. The morning offering was designated for the Initiative as well.

During the business meeting, Coordinating Team members were elected and installed (see www.pbysk.org). Ginger Reed of Sterling, PWSK Treasurer, was presented with an Honorary Life Membership. (left-right: Donna Foster and Ginger Reed). Deanne Newland of Covenant reported on *The Mission Experience* in San Francisco on September 22 – 30.

After lunch, Kim Parker, former Chief Deputy District Attorney for Sedgwick County, spoke about the problem of modern day slavery.



A group from PSK attended **The Spring Gathering and business meeting of the Presbyterian Women of Synod of Mid-America** was held on April 21-23 at the Radisson Hotel in Branson, MO. The theme was "Can You Hear ME Now?" from James 1:22. Eighty persons attended from two Synods: Synod of Mid-America and Synod of the Sun.

Registrants gathered at the Sight and Sound Theater as the story of "Moses" came alive on the stage. Ending Fri evening with an exceptional dinner at the School of the Ozarks. Carol Winkler spoke on "educate a Child – Transform the World." There was also a program by the college on how it began and insights into the operations of the College.

Saturday consisted of the PW-SMA Business Meeting; Susan Jackson-Dowd spoke on "Hearing the Voices of Change in PW; and eight various workshops were provided throughout the day. Also available during the day was a 'Hands on Mission': making "Hygiene Kits," Experiencing Ferncliff and PDA Ministry. Prizes were auctioned to go to the 'Mission Pledge'. PW had a Fair Trade and PFW resource tables. The offering taken during worship Sunday morning nested \$950 which will be split between Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and The Crisis Center Shelter of Taney County, MO.

Sunday morning offered Worship Service led by Rev. Glenda Watts and Rev. Susan Rosenbaum. Within the morning service 'Installation and Recommitment' of PW SMA Officers and Coordinating Team Members was held.

(Thanks to Peggy McAllaster and Susan Wyman)