



On January 22, 2017 at **FPC Lakin**, during morning worship (pictured l-r) Tammy Meisel, Kathy White and Martin Neff were installed by Rev. Terry Woodbury as Ruling Elders in the class of 2019. It is indeed a blessing to have Disciples who are willing to give of their time and talents to further the work of Christ.

Church Chat ~ February 2017

PSK Youth Council Sleep "less" in Sterling
March 10-12 Sterling College Campus
"COME & SEE"

Rev. Dr. Perryn Rice – Speaker

www.pbysk.org

Synod of Mid-America
Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering

April 21-23 Radisson Hotel

Branson, Missouri

www.pbysk.org

PSK Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

First Presbyterian Church, El Dorado

www.pbysk.org

a heart
EXPOSED

Westminster Woods Camp
Women's Retreat

April 28-29

Julie Jaderston – Speaker

www.westminsterwoodscamp.com

On The Wind

A Publication of the
Presbytery of Southern Kansas
March 2017

www.pbysk.org



True Identity was the theme for the 2017 WMW Winter Retreat season. Brian & Diane W. report that on the first full weekend of the new year was the Young Adult Retreat where a weekend away in the woods was so enjoyed. Next, the High School Retreat brought Joshua Hoover as speaker to 70+ high school campers. Then in early Feb. the Middle School kids arrived for their weekend and they played and worshipped and “crashed” into quiet and sleep by an unheard time of 10:30 p.m.! What a successful WMW Retreat season!

April 28-29 are the dates for the **WMW Women's Retreat**. Julie Jaderston will serve as retreat speaker leading those gathered through stories of women from the Bible and how the Lord healed, transformed, & redeemed their hearts. Please visit WMW website www.westminsterwoodscamp.com for more Information.

While visiting the website, be sure to re-acquaint yourself with the WMW Summer Camp dates and be prepared to register!



Written by Mina R. Olson

In 1858 a Presbyterian Minister, Rev. Wallace preached a sermon in Neodesha township. It was another twelve years before Neodesha became a town. He had staked a claim in 1857 & moved his family to Kansas that fall. He soon abandoned his claim, but our church had early representation. The formal organization of the Neodesha

Presbyterian Church took place on February 12, 1871 by the Rev. S.D. Lougheed of Neodesha

Presbytery, Synod of Kansas. Services were held in Neodesha's first schoolhouse. The congregation was made up of 14 charter members.

For the first few years, a regular pastor could not be supported. The church was grouped with Thayer and other small towns. In the late 1880's the church became self-supporting and ceased to be a mission church.

Early church services were held in the City Hall and the Congregational Church as it was the only church building in the first three years of Neodesha's existence. About 1883, Rev. J.S. McClung became our first ordained minister. During the early 1900's many ministers filled the pulpit. Rev. Charles M. Robb of Mount Vernon, Iowa was called in August 1921. He served the congregation until 1929. Nearly one third of the membership came in during his pastorate, a fine record for any man.

Building of the Church

But now we must turn back the pages of history to the year 1885. By this time the membership had grown to fifty-five and this forward looking group began to plan for a church building. In a November issue of the Register for that year this item appears: "The Presbyterians have purchased the lumber for their new church and work is to be commenced immediately. We are glad to make a note of this as the church has had to work very hard to insure the success which they have at last gained."

In the Register of May 1886 we find a notice of the dedication set for Sunday, May 9th. The Register noted in the May 14th edition the splendid service, ministers who attended and spoke and the fact it was the second church to be dedicated within the year.

The church building sits today on the original piece of land bought for that purpose. It saw changes made through the years with the steeple removed and then at a later date put back on the building, but at a lower height. In the last 15 years the steeple was once more removed from the building. The cross that was put at the top of the steeple in the 1960's was a gift from Lerch and Ethel Mae Smith. It is now in the hands of their son, Kenneth.

In the midst of the "Roaring Twenties" the congregation saw a need to remodel the church building. Quickly plans were drawn up to raise the church and put a basement under it with a 16x24 addition in the rear of the building. Funds were soon made available and work began in 1926. The building was set back five and one half feet from the street and set on its new basement in December 1926 at a cost of \$4500.00.

The Manse

There was a manse to the east of the church, where the G&W parking lot is today. The women's organization, "Ladies Aiders", were instrumental in getting the manse built for the minister's that served the church to have a home. This home was accomplished in 1901, with the cost being \$2192.00. There was an outstanding debt of \$700.00 which was soon paid off by the women of the church. Today that home, minus the brick veneer, sits at the corner of 4th & Ohio. The house was owned by Naomi Wolfe at the time of her death in 1996. The home was moved from east of the church in the mid 1950's.

Ministers from the 1960's

Through the years the Neodesha Presbyterian Church was fortunate to have many Minister's who made a difference in the life of the congregation.

In December of 1959, Rev W.W. Pfautz asked that he be allowed to retire. He had served the church since 1947. During his tenure the church was once more remodeled. In 1961, Mr. Ralph Mitchell, a senior student in McCormick Theological Seminary of Chicago was elected to become Pastor of the church. At the end of 1961 the membership Roll stood at 140 members.

In 1962 and early 1963 a remodeling project once more took place. The heating system was replaced, new amber "bottle glass" windows were installed. A new pulpit, lectern, communion table and other chancel appointments were installed to match the oak pews that were added some ten years earlier.

In January 1965 Rev. Mitchell requested that he be allowed to seek a pastoral call to another church. At the close of 1965 the membership was at 129.

From September 1965 to 1967 Rev. Carl M. Rogers served the church. After his resignation, much planning went into yoking the First Presbyterian Church of Fredonia with the First Presbyterian Church of Neodesha. Rev. Ralph D. Mitchell was recalled to be the pastor of the two churches. He and his wife would live in Fredonia. He was installed on June 9, 1968 and served the two churches until 1978.

Rev. James McClymont served the church from 1978-1988. Following him was an Interim, Rev. Betsy Vogt from 1989-1990. Rev. Jim Smith served as interim pastor from 1990-1991. Rev. Clifford E. Horton served the church for several years. Following his resignation Rev. Frank Hodson filled the pulpit for several months before Rev. Jan Brooks was called to served the church. After she left Rev. Marcy Campbell served as the pastor until 1996-1997. T this time the congregation could no longer support a full time pastor. Lay Pastor Maureen Olson of Iola, Kansas was hired to help Lay Pastor Shirley Ashford of Iola with the Pulpit Supply on Sundays. We were fortunate to see Maureen graduate from a Lay Pastor to an ordained Pastor in the Presbyterian Church. Rev. Olson was our pastor in December of 2016 when we were forced to unexpectedly close our church.

Our church building is the only church building in town to still stand on its original site. We, as a congregation may be gone, but for those of us who were members on December 11, 2016, we will always be the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Neodesha. For many of us the closing of the church has been traumatic. We remember our children's weddings, the funerals of family and friends, the Easter breakfasts the men cooked and meals prepared by all after church meetings.