



On The Wind

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TAKING TIME TO SAY "THANKS"

Once upon a time Jesus was walking from one town to the next, with his disciples following along behind, and a few dozen others as well, who were hoping that they would see a miracle or two. Maybe Jesus would do another one of those "feeding the multitude" things, and they'd all get a free meal out of it.

As they came to a bend in the road, another group met them, coming from the other direction. And – uh oh, this was a group of lepers! Ten of them, faces covered, wrapped in rags. As soon as the two groups saw each other, the lepers yelled, "Unclean! Unclean!" as the law required.

Then one of the lepers saw that it was Jesus, and pointed him out to his companions: and all ten of them started calling out, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" And so he did: he told them "Go, show yourselves to the priest" – because everyone was so afraid of leprosy back then that even if Jesus healed them, they could not legally go back to their homes unless one of the priests certified that their leprosy had indeed been healed.

So the ten men went, because that was what Jesus told them to do. And as they went, they felt such a sense of wholeness, as the leprosy left them and health returned. Wow! They started to shout and sing; a couple of them started to dance with joy; and some of them started to run, running to see the priest and get certified as healed so they could go back home, or maybe just running straight home and not even bothering about the priest. But one of them turned around and came running back to Jesus, praising God in a loud voice. Then he knelt down before Jesus and said, "Thank you."

You might suppose that taking the time to say "Thanks" would be the obvious thing that everyone would do, but that turns out not to be the case. Indeed, on this occasion, Jesus asked his followers, "Weren't there ten of these guys who got healed? Where are the other nine?"

It doesn't take a long time, to express our gratitude to our Lord in a purposeful and devout way. But it does take some. It takes some time, some effort, some decision, to focus our hearts and give thanks to God for all the healings and blessings and wonder and grace in our lives. What particular things will you do, during this Thanksgiving season, to offer up your gratitude to God?

Jay Ayers

The Fall Gatherings of the Presbyterian Women of Southern Kansas were held at Covenant Presbyterian, Wichita, on Sept 25th & First Presbyterian, Coffeyville, on Oct 2nd. The theme of the gatherings was "River of Hope" based on Psalm 46:4-5. The cash offering of \$225 received at Covenant was designated for Brotherhood Presbyterian Pre-school, Wichita, and the offering of \$150 received in Coffeyville was given to their Church's in-house thrift shop. A representative from each of the mission projects spoke to the women at the gatherings about their work and expressed their appreciation for the gifts.

Each gatherings began with worship followed by a presentation from the nine women from PSK who attended the national Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Orlando, FL last July. Sue Nispel reviewed several books of interest to the women. Information was presented on the *Café' Justo Presbytery to Presbiterio Partnership*, where a church may purchase coffee through Frontera de Cristo's Just Trade Center. Workshops on the Bible Study, "Dispatches to God's Household, The General Epistles," and on Missions completed the program.

Fair Trade items from Ten Thousand Villages, Newton, were available at both gatherings. In Coffeyville, books from Perfect Peace Bookstore were available for purchase. Thirty-seven women attended the gathering in Wichita and 30 were present in Coffeyville.

The annual Spring Gathering and business meeting is planned for April 23, 2013, at First Presbyterian Church in Derby.

Westwood Church served hot dogs, hamburgers, chip & ice cream to 250 during their Neighborhood Gathering. Church neighbors, families from Benton Elem. Pre-school and Moms Day Out, and Westwood members enjoyed the good food and the music provided by local band *Fly by Night*.



Terry Whitesell grilled hamburgers for the Neighborhood Gathering.

Westminster Woods

Winter Retreats 2013

Young Adult Jan. 4th – 6th

High School Jan. 18th – 20th

Middle School Feb. 1st – 3rd

www.westminsterwoodscamp.com

Presbytery Meeting

Saturday, Nov 17, 2013

Sterling College Campus

The Letter C = Chalk and Circles...



Brotherhood Pre-School students have been studying the letter C and they learned that C is the first letter of chalk and circles. The students went outside with chalk to draw circles on the sidewalk.

... and Construction Workers

Brotherhood Pre-School offers their students different “occupational outfits” to wear during play time. One student, Donald J., dressed in a construction worker’s outfit. Since street renovation is going on outside of the school, it was great fun for Donald to meet one construction worker. This kind worker agreed to pose with Donald for this wonderful picture!



First Presbyterian Church, Syracuse had an elevator fund established several years ago through a memorial gift. A group from the congregation heard a representative of B&K Access Systems of Salina, KS who gave his recommendations as to the placement and type of elevator that would be best for this small church. The Session will meet and hopefully by that time a bid will be in place.

Wheat harvest near Syracuse on the Kent Eddy farm. Kent had help from son-in-law Craig Ellerback, Deb Hasik, and the young cutie in the picture...T.J. Gould



In September, the **Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church Puppeteers** made the morning worship service come alive! With several songs and readings, they helped the congregation worship, as well as, encouraging everyone to clap their hands and tap their feet.