

## William Mulford Scholarship

### Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation

In 1992 the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation began to offer scholarships. Through the years the number of scholarship offered has evolved. Each of the five scholarships currently offered provides the recipient with \$6,000.00 annually during the academic year.

*"This year, to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Omaha and Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation, a fifth named scholarship is offered honoring Rev. William L. Mulford. Bill Mulford was a graduate of Hastings College and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He was also a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors for 22 years, serving as The Chair of the Continuing Education Program."*

When the Foundation presented the William L. Mulford Scholarship award, his wife Jean Mulford, and daughter Laurie Mulford, joined the celebration dinner held in Hastings, NE, in June 2016. (*Presbyterian Leadership Forum (Fall 2016 edition)*)

**FPC McPherson's Rev. H. Dick Reynolds, who serves as the Chaplain of the McPherson Police Department, decided to create and promote the first Annual Police Appreciation Banquet to honor local officers.** The whole Community of McPherson was involved as financial support was provided to secure for every officer specialized safety equipment in the form of a high speed rifle bullet proof plate insert for each of the officer's vest. In addition, what is known as an "active shooter kit" (additional bullet proof vest) will be added to every vehicle on the streets. Attorney General Derek Schmidt gave the plenary address. McPherson's mayor and city commissioners were present as well as over 110 officers, spouses, & children. As part of the celebration approximately 30 volunteers from many churches helped to provide and serve the meal complete with Hors d'Oeuvres, prime rib and homemade pies for dessert! (Thank you Pastor Reynolds)

### On 9/18/16, FPC Winfield held "Blue Grass Sunday."

During worship service, music was provided by Juni Fisher, a nationally known western music performer who was in Winfield during the town's annual Bluegrass Festival. **FPC Winfield held its third annual "Pig in the Parking Lot" on 9/25/16** where approximately 170 people were served a delicious meal. Both events were outreach to the Winfield community and were free events to public.



# On The Wind

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Presbytery of Southern Kansas  
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[www.pbysk.org](http://www.pbysk.org)

## Westminster Woods Camp Winter Retreats 2017

Young Adult Jan 6 – 8  
High School Jan 20-22  
Middle School Feb 3-5  
[www.westminsterwoodscamp.com](http://www.westminsterwoodscamp.com)

## Presbytery Meeting

November 15, 2016  
First Presbyterian Church  
Hutchinson



## Thanks FPC McPherson!

Great job!



A work crew of approximately twelve came to WMW to paint Cabin 4.5. They arrived Friday night and painted all day Sat., departing Sun. morning.



**The Presbyterian Women of FPC Larned** hosted approximately four dozen ladies from churches in the community to hear from Dr. & Mrs. Okey (pictured left). They told about the work at the Regina Caeli Umuorji Community Hospital in Nigeria. The latest project was

drilling a well to provide free, fresh water. The funds for the drilling and installation came from a silent auction held at the Larned UMC. Over the last few years the hospital has been supported with receiving blankets for infants from the First Presbyterian Church; medical supplies from a First Christian Church donation; and personal care items donated from the ESCUE Chapel.

(Thank you Pastor Southam for sharing.)

## From Pastor Mike Kuner

This past week in Little Rock, Arkansas, they tried to blow up a bridge. The traffic engineers believed that it was past time to replace the aging Broadway Bridge spanning the Arkansas River, uniting Little Rock with North Little Rock. Yea infrastructure! I have driven over that bridge dozens of times.

Americans are good at blowing things up. We love it! Think of the fireworks associated with the Fourth of July.

This past Tuesday, things did not go as planned. The clock counted down, first the two-minute warning, then with a crack and a boom, the bridge exploded. However, when the smoke cleared, it was still standing. The demolition company strategically placed their charges where the engineers instructed; but after the hype and the coverage and the blast, there it still stood. Approximately five hours later, it did eventually fall.

And that has pointed to bridge building. Bridge building among the congregations and through the mission efforts of our Presbytery. I've been thinking about links that exist and those that could. I've been wondering about those who feel connected and those who don't, those nearby and those on the edges. The implications of bridge building for the Presbytery of Southern Kansas are far reaching.

More importantly, the implications are critical for our life together. Bridge building is far more complex than blowing something up. This bridge building is more intricate than pulling together to accomplish goals though it includes that. It's more about seeking to be aware about what we share that may be more important than how we differ. It gets even more intricate where there has been great disappointment and a lack of trust.

Bridge building, "...is not about the birds chirping and everyone getting together to sing Kum-Ba-Yah like we're in a giant Coca Cola commercial," Rabbi Brad Hirschfield says when taking the bridge building concept to a deeper level. This view gradually evolved for Hirschfield. When he was seventeen, he told his parents that he was going to Israel. But not just go to Israel, he was going to study in an all-male school, a Yeshiva, a Jewish seminary.

And not only was he going to study in Israel to become a rabbi, he was going to study in one of the world's most dangerous places, Hebron. At the time, Hebron was precarious. There were 50 Jewish settlers and over 100,000 Palestinians. Hirschfield had gone to Hebron because, "God had sent me." He went to see the ushering in of the day when Jews would reclaim the land God had given them.

He was taking an active role in fulfilling biblical prophecy and he says, "I was certain I was right." Because of the riskiness of living as a settler in Hebron, Hirschfield carried a rifle in one hand and a book in the other. He says, "I've fired at human targets twice in my life. I don't know if my shots hit their mark." In time, because of what Hirschfield describes as, "the excesses of my own community," Hirschfield began to wonder about his experience in trying to "reconstitute the biblical Jewish community." He wondered, "Who's paying the price, not just within the Jewish community but beyond it?" "If we're not asking that

question," he says, "dangerous stuff happens," like acts of terror. He goes on to say, "before we teach others, particularly about faith, morality or anything else, we need to learn about them, to let them teach us." "When you love who you're with, not that you agree on everything, it's amazing how gentle you can be with those with whom you disagree," Hirschfield has discovered. Bridge building? "It's about building genuine relationships."

What if we began to ask Hirschfield's question, "Who's paying the price?" more often? What if we asked it of ourselves in our relationships within our families, our communities and beyond. What if we're really as concerned about others as ourselves? What if we sought to learn from those who are different, those ideas may seem strange and whose religion may be a mystery? To the point, what if we began to genuinely seek relationships with those in our own congregations who see life differently? The bridges we so need may yet be built as we ask the question, listen to each other and continue to learn. As with the good rabbi, there's always room to rethink our own positions.

Among you as one who serves....Mike

(The quotations from Rabbi Hirschfield's book, *You Don't Have to Be Wrong for Me to Be Right: Finding Faith Without Fanaticism*, Harmony 2008, came from a conversation I had with colleague Bill Galbraith.)

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## The Fall Gatherings of Presbyterian Women of Southern Kansas

were held September 24<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church, Derby, and October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Presbyterian Church of Garden City.

There were 50 persons in attendance at Derby representing thirteen churches. The Rev. Deborah Hollifield, First Presbyterian of Newton, led the morning worship service. The worship offering of \$466 was presented to Derby Community Family Services. Debbie Kennedy, CEO of Wichita Children's Home was the morning speaker. She told of the variety of services offered by the Children's Home for youth-- infants to age 22. Ten large bags of children's clothing and individual snack items were brought as an offering by those attending and given to the Wichita Children's Home.

There were 24 persons in attendance at Garden City, representing nine churches. Garden City Pastor Denise Pass led the worship service. The offering of \$155 was presented to ABC Pregnancy Care Center of Garden City. Hannah Proffitt of ABC spoke about the Center. Those attending brought food staples for Emmaus House of Garden City. There were two workshops at each Gathering: "Who is Jesus?" and "A Bead and a Prayer."



(Thank you Peggy McAllaster and Susan Wyman for the info & pictures.)