

On The Wind

A Publication of the
Presbytery of Southern Kansas
October 2013

www.pbysk.org

What are you enjoying most during Youth Triennium?



PSK Youth Triennium attendees: (back row l-r) Trebor Rekoske, (FPC Wichita); Kyle Ochampaugh (Garden City Presbyterian); Nick Lockyear (FPC Winfield). Front row (l-r) Laura Wollard, Kayla Middleton and Kylee Wollard (FPC Winfield). Their signs answered the question "What are you enjoying most during Youth Triennium?" The answers: *Youth Ministry Training, Praising God Together, Meeting New People, and EVERYTHING!*

PSK youth and adult sponsors attended the Youth Triennium July 16-20th on the campus of Purdue University.

Presbytery Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2013
Grace Presbyterian Church, Wichita

The 5th and 6th grade Westminster Woods summer camp had so many campers two extra cabins were used! This was the first "split camp," where one-half of the campers were pirates and the other half were ninjas. The camp ate meals and had cabin time (a time spent bonding with your individual cabin) separately but everything else was done as an entire camp. Which means that chapel and evening games were full of energy and craziness!

One night, each cabin went on a special scavenger hunt around the camp finding "treasures." As a cabin, they worked together to solve pirate puzzles, find objects hidden in the sand, walk the "plank" blindfolded, sing a song in parrot language, etc.

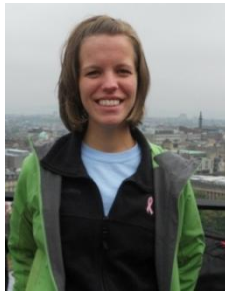
Another big event during this week was the infamous water balloon fight against the Lou Crew. The Lou Crew consists of support staff members without a cabin (for example: recreation coordinator, health room, photographer, kitchen staff, etc). Earlier in the week, the Lou Crew attacked each cabin with water balloons, and the campers/counselors began to strategize their retaliation. "Down with the Lou Crew" was a chant often heard at dinner. On the last night of camp, all of the campers and counselors met at a central location for an epic water balloon battle against the Lou Crew. As usual, the campers won!



The camp theme was the topic for one of the most remembered chapel messages when Ted Dower spoke about love means action. Ted talked about how we can show love through our everyday actions. He gave the example that his dog can't understand words, but can understand Ted's actions. He challenged the campers to find practical ways to love people like their families and friends when they go home.

Clarissa Sents Serving in Chicago

In an article in the June edition of "On the Wind" you met Clarissa Sents and read about her selection to serve with the Presbyterian Mission Council's Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) program in Chicago from Aug 2013 to July 2014. First Presbyterian Church, McPherson, held a commissioning service for Clarissa on August 18, 2013. Please pray for Clarissa as she serves a year in Chicago with YAV. If you'd like to follow Clarissa, please read her blog at sentsc.blogspot.com. It's entitled "Clarissa's Deep Dish Adventures."



The week of Sept 9-13th, Westminster Woods Camp welcomed the Mariners in Mission! The group members (from Northern Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio and Illinois) worked in the Kansas heat, enjoyed great fellowship and were successful in their endeavors at the camp.



October 20-23, 2013
Parkville Presbyterian Church &
Hilton K.C. Airport
www.churchresourcecenter.org

The Authority of Jesus

Just as Jesus got back to Capernaum, they came up to him to ask for a favor. You see, this outsider – a Roman centurion, an officer in the army of the foreign oppressors – he had a servant who was very ill, and apparently the illness had baffled the doctors, and so he was requesting from Jesus a miracle of healing for this servant.

There's a whole long conversation that could happen here, about who is worthy to ask for a miracle, and whether oppressors deserve to get favors when they are already demanding tribute. But on this occasion they managed to get past that question fairly quickly, and Jesus said he would come and heal the sick servant.

"No, wait. That won't be necessary," said the centurion. "It's not like you have to actually show up in person. All you need to do is command. I understand how authority works," he said. "I'm in the army. My superior officers have authority over me: they issue a command, and I carry it out. I've got soldiers under my authority: I tell them what to do, and they do it. All it takes, Jesus, is a command from you."

That's what the centurion said. Do you think he was right? Do you think that all it takes is a command from Jesus, and then it's as good as done? Watch out now – this is a trick question!

Because if we say Yes (and the answer is indeed supposed to be Yes) then it means that it's as good as done when Jesus gives a command *to us* – because of course we are going to do whatever Jesus commands us to do. But it doesn't always happen that way, does it? You know from your own record that sometimes we do what Jesus says, and sometimes we don't.

We tend to talk about authority as if it's a question of doctrine: as if the authority of scripture is a concept that should be understood in a certain way. But what the centurion's answer tells us is, authority is measured not by how we understand it, but by how we obey it.

Think about the command of Jesus that you have the hardest time with. Which one is it? The one about making disciples of all nations? The one about loving your enemies? The one about generous giving? The one about forgiving the person you are holding a grudge against?

Here's my question. As a follower of Jesus, what do you need to do to show the authority of Jesus, by your obedience to his call?

Jay Ayers