

The Farmer and His Field

Jesus once told a story about a farm owner who went out to admire his wheat field. I understand that. I have admired many a wheat field, over the years.

You know how it is when the earth is all rich and dark and damp, after the seed has been planted but it hasn't quite sprouted yet, and you can just feel the power of the soil: I love that. And then one morning you see this ever so faint green haze against the brown that means that the first eighth-of-an-inch of sprout is there: I love that. And by the end of the week, all the brown is gone and the whole field is just the most vivid green: I love that. And when the wind ripples across the rows of golden grain, a week or so before harvest time, when the wheat hasn't quite yet turned that dusty color it will become when the combines start to roll, and the sunlight reflects on it and it almost seems like it's not golden as a metaphor, it's real gold and it's alive: I love that. I can understand why that farmer wanted to go out to admire his wheat field.

But as he stood there, the farm owner discovered that there were weeds mixed in with the wheat. These particular weeds are sometimes called 'tares' or 'cheat,' and the thing about them is that they look an awful lot like wheat, early on, but when the time comes for the harvest it turns out that there's nothing there.

Some of the hired hands said, "You know, we could get in there with some spades and hoes and chop out those weeds. Then they wouldn't be taking water and sun and soil nutrients from the wheat." I suppose that was a worthy thought on their part: they wanted the wheat to grow well.

But the owner said, "No." He said, "You wouldn't be quite as precise with that hoe as you think you are: sometimes you would aim for a weed and hit the wheat instead. And sometimes it's hard to tell which is which: you might swing and accurately hit what you inaccurately took to be a weed. No. We'll just have to wait until harvest time, and we'll sort it out then."

Jesus said that's the way the kingdom of God is. I'm sure everyone sees the warning: we must not suppose we can judge who will be wheat and who will not. But the story also works as a surprising invitation: an invitation to discover that someone you thought for sure must be a weed could actually turn out to be a genuine part of the kingdom. Just like you.

Jay Ayers

On The Wind

A Publication of the
Presbytery of Southern Kansas
Sept 2013

www.pbysk.org

Group photo of "the guys" from **Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wichita**, on a mission trip to Pittsburgh, PA.



(left to right) Ben Folks, Bradley Tice, Chris Tice, (Youth Leader), Will Trimmel and Don Martinson.

These gentlemen worked in coordination with Group Work Camps providing their services to those in need.

This group also stopped during their journey to Pittsburgh for some fun activities like visiting the Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

WELCOME TO PSK

Rev. Kathryn Bates joined the Presbytery of Southern Kansas and is serving First Presbyterian Church, Larned, KS as Interim Pastor.

Retirement Congratulations...

to Rev. Tom Church on being designated as Honorably Retired. A retirement recognition service took place during the August 17th Presbytery Meeting.



3RD & 4TH GRADE CAMP AT WESTMINSTER WOODS

Third and Fourth Grade Camp was a ton of fun! A favorite place during free time was the lake, where the campers enjoyed the new boardwalk. When campers weren't swimming, fishing, or having fun in chapel, a popular "kitchen

raid" occurred after dark. Cabins would sneak into the dining hall (full camouflage and night gear highly encouraged), and attempt to take cookies from the kitchen. It sounds like an easy task, however, the Lou crew (support staff members that are not in a cabin) would try to catch campers in the act. The campers usually escaped with cookies in hand, and only a little wet from water balloons.

The entire camp also had an early wake-up call Thursday morning, as a huge storm rolled in. A giant clap of thunder awoke the whole camp at around 6 AM, and rumor has it that some cabins never went back to sleep. Thursday was a fun but tiring day!

Ted Dower also gave many great talks in chapel. The theme this summer is God's love, and Ted gave a great illustration during a message. Ted told a story of when he was younger and painted his dad a picture. It wasn't the greatest picture, but Ted loved his dad so much & he was very proud of it so he gave his dad the pictures as a present. His dad loved him and loved the present. His dad even hung the picture up in his office, where it still hangs today! This illustration helped us realize that when we love, we want to show it through our actions.



Thank You to the 2013 Brotherhood Day Camp Counselors and Staff



Counselors: (L-R: JaQués, Treshae, Carrie, Ashlei, Tony, and Akayla)

Time for a little science experiment at day camp.

Brotherhood Day Camp kids made "Elephant Toothpaste!" They learned how a volcano is formed and how it erupts.



Afterwards the kids made the "toothpaste" to show how lava flows.

Enjoy these pictures of the surprise looks on the faces of the kids!