

Presbytery Office Building Update

Progress is being made towards the selling of the Presbytery's office building as directed in the May 7, 2022 Presbytery meeting:



1. The Trustees have signed the Sale Listing Agreement (contract) with Evan La Rue, STREET Commercial Real Estate. The listing price will be \$185,000 with terms of 6%. STREET Real Estate will place a sign on the facility and prepare the marketing materials.
2. The detailed inventory of educational and stored material is underway. The next step will be to inventory all furniture, fixtures and decide on their future use/disposition.

Message from Brent and Catherine Johnston

Dear First Presbyterian Church members and friends,

Brent and I were immensely touched by the generous outpouring of love and gifts upon his departure from Wichita. We will miss the friends we have made and the sunsets from our deck. We carry with us your good wishes. The rest is in God's hands. I asked Brent if he had any parting words of wisdom and he said, "Keep the faith and be the Church."

With love, Catherine and Brent
Now at home in Tennessee
144 Dahlgren Dr., Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Wichita Korean Church Building Painted

The Wichita Korean Presbyterian Church congregation on July 17, 2022 celebrated the painting of the trim on their church. In an earlier conversation between Nam Choi and Ken Coryell, a unanimous conclusion was reached that the paint job consisting of power washing, scrapping off loose paint, caulking and applying the new coat of paint was beyond the capabilities of their congregation so the Straightedge Paint & Repair Company was hired by the Presbytery.



Jacob Sissel, Mike Allard and crew, Straightedge Paint & Repair, did an excellent brush and roller job.

On the Wind

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Transitional Executive Leader report Healthy, Healing, and Whole-y

In a 2009 (!) article of the Presbyterian Outlook, that reported on the health of presbyteries, seminaries and churches, George Goodman, former Executive Presbyter of Peaks Presbytery in Virginia, and Jill Hudson, Mid Council staff at Office of General assembly at the time, said this:

A healthy presbytery, said Hudson, is clear about its mission and aligns its budget to that mission. It is not conflict-driven, but it is not conflict-averse either. It's able to put things in perspective. Conflict doesn't determine what it is about.

A healthy presbytery knows how to initiate and manage change but does not institutionalize it. If something does not work three years down the line, the presbytery is not afraid to fix it. "Our 21st-century world will not allow" such inflexibility. The presbytery needs to be flexible in structure, to have permeable boundaries and not rigid walls.

Finally, a healthy presbytery views all of its leaders as change agents, not just the executive or the stated clerk.

I would say that the years 2020 and beyond have tested these benchmarks and then some. How do you think the Presbytery is doing? I believe as we read between the lines that the Presbytery does only as well as our churches, their pastors, leaders, members, and volunteers. For many years I have said that spiritually, emotionally, and physically healthy leaders are a key in the formula of what makes a healthy church. If we are to zoom out from there, it would stand to reason that healthy churches AND healthy pastors, CREs, and elders will contribute to a healthy Presbytery. Put another way, the Executive and very small staff cannot be the sole embodiment of the Presbytery. Without the churches and its leaders (pastors, elders, commissioned leaders, other servants, and staff), the Presbytery is a mere shell.

So, how are we doing? I think that we are at a crisis and pivotal turning point. The ways and the wonderful history that got us here is not going to take us forward (my



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favorite part of the 2009 article is that the view is mostly on the windshield with an occasional glance to the rearview mirror). WE need a much broader constituency to move the Presbytery forward and seek a new path. WE must be willing to take even more brave steps into the unknown even though we've already taken some baby steps in that direction. The real transition comes now and into the future, when we must consider changing our structures, our focus and the way we relate to one another and do our work.

My charge to the Presbytery (yes, you!) is to consider one person (or more!) who can serve or lead in our midst... give names to me, Jeremiah Lange (moderator-elect) or Melissa Krabbe (moderator) and areas of expertise and interest. We need Trustees, we need people to work with our churches (COMT) and we need people to serve in more limited time capacities such as ACs, task forces and short-term committees. Elected positions require ordination. There are other assigned tasks that may only require a certain skill set and NOT ordination, so please give us all names and a brief description of interests and abilities and of course, contact information.

The mission and focus is simple: putting our time, energies and funding to strengthen and support our churches and their leadership to grow in faithfulness to the Gospel whether they are stable, growing or even nearing end of life. The harvest is plentiful, the workers have been few...please consider contributing to the health and our future.

In Christ, with Christ and through Christ –
Gail

Celebratory Organ Recital on August 14th

The Wellington First Presbyterian Church cordially invites you to enjoy a Celebratory Organ Recital in the church sanctuary at 1419 Western Ave., Wellington on August 14, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. This concert will feature Organist JuleAnn Troutman and is one of several events that will celebrate the church's 150 Years in ministry that began on June 23, 1872.

Troutman is a graduate of Oklahoma City University with a Masters of Music in piano and organ performance. She has performed both as a soloist and as a collaborative artist with recitalists, ensembles, productions, and organizations throughout the Midwest and in Mexico. Her experience as a lecturer and pianist for Wichita State University, a pianist and rehearsal accompanist for WSU Music Theater and Opera productions, and other exciting collaborations make this concert one to attend. A fuller biography will be included in the concert program.

Plan to attend this Celebratory Organ Recital featuring JuleAnn Troutman on August 14 at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Wellington.



First Presbyterian Church of Newton: 150 Years of Worshipping and Serving

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church Newton is celebrating our 150th year of worshipping and serving in Newton, Kansas in 2022!

How do you honor and share this history? The members of the Outreach Committee were joined by 4 others who added to the passion of how to celebrate this event.

Lead up to our Celebration Service included: a display at the Harvey County Historical Museum (HCHM), a different activity each Sunday (oldest Bible, wore Tee shirts made for the 150th for Church in the park...), advertising using yard signs, banners, Face book, website, announcements Sunday mornings, reading memories from present and former members and more.



After months of planning, the Church service day was here! There would be two speakers welcoming those in attendance and those viewing our livestream, a previous minister in addition to our Pastor responding to scripture touching on our Church's past, present and future, beautiful music from our Celebration Choir 35 voices strong including a hymn specifically written for the 150th Celebration, We Have Come This Far by Faith (Randall/Loucks, 2022).

visiting with past members and guests attending that day, self-guided tours of the Church, viewing the items (from 1902 and 1959) from an uncovered time capsule, items from the 'old' church, photos, a catered lunch and much more!

By the end of the service there were many smiles. After lunch there were conversations and lots of laughter. Young and old alike looked through photos and took those dear to them. There were those who took time to visit the exhibit at the HCH Museum which brought more conversations. The day was as successful as the Committee had hoped-and more. Here's to the next 25 years!

Pam Trussell, 150th Celebration Committee



See the entire album of beautiful pictures **HERE:**
<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmXdDRsn>