

Christmas Highlights Around the Presbytery

PSA: Make sure all your websites and phone messages and other media are updated with the seasonal events and services!

United/Sterling will host the Sterling College choir Christmas concert on Saturday, December 3rd at 6pm. More information about the choir concert and college symphonic band concert via the listings below:



Sterling College choir Christmas concert at United Presbyterian Church on Saturday, December 3 at 6pm: <https://tinyurl.com/2p3upeqw>

Sterling College band Christmas concert at Culbertson Auditorium on Sunday, December 4 3pm: <https://tinyurl.com/38xn855h>

Marion Presbyterian Church will feature a Christmas Vespers service at 5pm on Sunday, December 11. This service features choral music and readings sung by a volunteer community choir. It is a wonderful evening of worship during Advent.

Westwood/Wichita will feature a Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 11th at 10:30am, a Children's Program on Sunday, December 18th at 10:30am. More information is on their website at: <http://www.westwoodpc.org/>

Grace/Wichita has a number of events coming up, including a special choir cantata featuring a composition, entitled "A Star in the East,"



More information on their website listings below:

- ▶ Silent Night Worship - <https://www.mygpc.org/silent-night-worship-december-12-at-630-pm>
- ▶ Choir Cantata: <https://www.mygpc.org/choir-cantata-december-18>
- ▶ Christmas Brunch: <https://www.mygpc.org/christmas-brunch-december-18>
- ▶ January Adult Sunday School Series: <https://www.mygpc.org/living-our-faith-january-adult-sunday-school>

First/Newton will feature Treble Clef Christmas Vespers on Sunday, December 4 at 3pm. This "Christmas Joy" event will feature the Treble Clef Choir, Hearts 4 Him, and the Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble. A freewill offering for the Treble Clef Scholarship Fund will be collected.

On the Wind

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Notes from the Transitional Executive Leader

It is finished! The building is sold and your Presbytery staff is busy (think Christmas elves) at home working to respond to your needs, ironing out the wrinkles and hoping to eventually provide an even higher level of responsiveness.

The first thing I have noticed is that I am most certainly not working less since being at home. I have made a commitment to be meeting people where they are in the Presbytery. For your information, I have been at meetings in Wellington, McPherson, multiple meet ups in Wichita area and of course, our November Presbytery meeting in Great Bend. The number of Zoom meetings also remains high. After several months hiatus, the executive leaders of our six Presbyteries in the Synod of Mid America were able to gather just before Thanksgiving.

The first Sunday of Advent gave me the opportunity to worship with Pratt Presbyterian AND celebrate a baptism of six week old Ellie Stitt. WOW! A rare privilege. Next weekend will be the 1 year anniversary of the building/ministry sharing agreement with St. Bartholomew's Episcopal meeting at Southwest Presbyterian Church, Wichita. December 11 I will return to Marion for their annual Christmas Vespers, and if the roads be made clear, I will preach at Ashland on December 18 and rush back across the state to attend the Christmas organ concert at Wellington. In between, there will be COMT, PCT and maybe Trustees meeting. Our Ministry Mission Connector profile is on the PCUSA web matching system and the search committee hopes to begin to receive applications soon.

So, it is not less busy or active. In January, Presbytery Coordinating Team will meet in person to work on the next level of adaptive change to make this a more nimble, responsive and faithful Presbytery. As my Christian friends in Palestine say, Inshallah (God willing!)

Peace, Shalom, Salaam,
Gail



Presbytery Office Has Been Sold

By Ken Coryell
Trustee, Presbytery of Southern Kansas

1. Changing the physical arrangements of an organization can be viewed from at least a couple of perspectives. The first that might come up could be "The Trustees sold the Presbytery office". The other is a bit more uplifting which could be one of "Wow, wonder where God will lead us now." I like to be WOWED
2. So, as far as the happenings at 3521 W 21st, the Trustees took care of the building and property. The Presbytery, the people, remain but in a different location.
3. 1 Corinthians 14:40, King James Version "Let all things be done decently and in order." certainly applied to the selling of the office. The 80-item closing checklist that was used was very helpful to track progress. The diligent tasks started on Feb 8, 2022 when the Presbytery Building Task Force recommended that the office be sold. Then came the May 7th Presbytery meeting when the Presbytery voted to sell the building.
4. Actions accelerated when the Trustees received an offer of \$145,000 to purchase the office on Jul 7, 2022 from Amanda Cushman, Amanda Cushman Accounting. Amanda wanted to expand her work, move the office out of her house and have room so that she may hire additional personnel. This offer was rejected.
5. The Trustees selected Evan LaRue, STREET Commercial to be our realtor on Jul 13, 2022. On Jul 21, 2022, Evan priced the facility at \$185,000 based on comparable listings.
6. After some discussions, the Trustees met on August 3rd and accepted an offer of \$177,000 or \$88/sq ft from Amanda Cushman, with closing on or before Nov 10th. The Trustees were blessed in that Amanda did not want immediate possession. Her goal was to have closing prior to Thanksgiving so that she could do some interior painting and open in early January.
7. Now, the hard work began, to move the Presbytery file cabinets, dispose of the old/out-of-date paper-work and clean the office. Trinity Presbyterian Church solved the storage issue by agreeing to rent to the Presbytery one room at \$120 per month. Nine file cabinets and three racks for various church records storage were moved by a commercial company to Trinity.



Visioning and Dreaming: Synod Assembly Report

By Debbie Farrell, Synod Commissioner

A meeting of the stated synod assembly was held October 6, 2022 at 9 am at Central Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Mo. Central Presbyterian Church is home to the Synod of Mid-America offices as of this year. The move from a commercial space in Liberty, MO has taken the Synod office from non-ADA compliant to fully accessible.



As the Synod of Mid-America is in the midst of a leadership transition, transitional synod executive Tony De La Rosa lead special sessions to support the development of a vision for the synod in these phases: a discussion about the nature of trust in the organization, a review of key organizational values identified through a prior exercise, creation of a timeline of synod milestones, and a small group visioning exercise.

The small group visioning exercise began with freely listing participants' dreams and visions for the synod. Next, we identified obstacles to realizing these goals. Finally, we recorded directions for realizing the visions.

As a participant and small group facilitator, I was energized by the large number of visions and dreams and the enthusiasm with which they were offered. Visions correspond to the real, current needs of congregations, pastors, presbyteries, and the world. There was a great deal of commonality between small group themes: strengthening relationships in all directions, extensive collaboration, programming in the areas of leadership, healing the world, and innovation, providing broad educational training in multiple formats, providing pastoral care and respite for pastors and leaders, taking new approaches to the allocation of financial and human resources.

The governance committee was tasked at the assembly meeting with compiling and refining the data collected in small groups and developing vision statements for the synod of Mid-America. That activity is in-work. In addition to answering God's call and serving the needs of God's children in Kansas and Missouri, the approval of the mission and vision for a programmatic synod is needed to affirm the unity and alignment of its presbyteries and to assist a synod executive nominating committee in their work.

To read the entire story (there are 22 bullet points!) go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/2rzymjkw>