



# Great Plains Conference of the Free Methodist Church

## **“EVERY CHURCH, A HEALTHY CHURCH, REDEMPTIVELY ENTANGLED IN THE COMMUNITY”**

November/December 2016

*Happy Thanksgiving*  
Psalm 107:1  
Give thanks to the Lord, for  
HE IS GOOD.

### **Our Strategies:**

- Embrace All
- Disciple Deeply
- Cultivate Health
- Develop Leaders
- Multiply Ministries
- Go Global
- Honor Fruitfulness
- Engage Urban
- Partner Strong



#### **EMBRACE ALL**

PTL that a college student at the **McPherson FMC** is having success ministering to the autistic children there!

Although **Osborne FMC** members are generally an older congregation, they are working hard to put aside their own preferences, re-style their environment and make the church more appealing to younger people and families. As a result a vibrant teen ministry has arisen!

Over half of those attending the Annual Motorcycle Ride and Supper fellowship were from outside the church. The event was hosted by the **West Bethany FMC** in Leoti, KS.

#### **ENGAGE URBAN**

We want to welcome Gerry Pickett and his wife, Candace, to the GPC. Gerry is an ordained elder from the Southern CA conference and will be involved in **Church Planting** and **Internet Technology** for the GPC. He will be available to help us with our communication and IT needs, while he becomes *entangled* in the Kansas City community. He is particularly interested in multi-cultural ministry. Candace was recently appointed as Director of Member Care for Avant Ministries in KC.

The **Golden Plains FMC** missions group continues to sew sleeping bags for the county homeless shelter; and is learning how to make gowns to donate to a hospice ministry, as well.

#### **DISCIPLE DEEPLY**

The delegate from the **Macks-ville FMC** is taking the direc-



tive "to serve" to new heights! He used funds from his vegetable garden sales to purchase shingles for a needy family and then replaced the shingles himself! The church, following his lead, helped another family paint their house.

#### **CULTIVATE HEALTH**

The Spiritual Giftedness workshop held at **Newton Golden Plains FMC** was a great success! Those who attended reported a renewed understanding of their own giftedness as well as the gifts of others. This knowledge informs decisions and improves performance in planning and enacting the work of the church. Thanks to the Congregational Nurture Team who implemented this training!

#### **DEVELOP LEADERS**

The purpose of the conference Ministerial & Education Board is to assist each church in identifying, developing and deploying people for healthy, effective and long-term ministry in the Free Methodist Church. The denomination's Ministerial Development & Credentialing department has developed a list of 15 attributes that align with these goals. The GPC has purchased a MEG Manual for each pastor so that all resources are at your disposal.

#### **MULTIPLY MINISTRIES**

The **Topeka** church is building relationships with Girl Scout troops by offering child care during the monthly parent meetings which are held in the facility.

#### **HONOR FRUITFULNESS**

Ten people re-committed their lives to Jesus during September at the **McPherson FMC**.

Pastor Jeanne Bergren had the honor of baptizing Brother Gene Smith during the same week he turned "80 yrs. young."

#### **PARTNER STRONG**

At a Sharefest event, the **Pratt** congregation, along with other community churches, gave away over 500 backpacks with school supplies, 400 pairs of shoes and provided free haircuts for school children.

## HONOR FRUITFULNESS

(September and October)

	Conversions	Baptisms
Newton FMC		1
McPherson FMC	10	
Myanmar Christian	5	4



## Upcoming Events

Looking forward to gathering at the **Christmas Banquet** in McPherson, Friday, Dec. 2nd. Besides wonderful food, we will enjoy great fellowship and the blessing of celebrating the Advent season together.

The Congregational Nurture Team of the Great Plains Conference invites you and your church leadership to a **DISC Personality Profile Training Workshop** April 8, 2017 at the Golden Plains FMC in Newton. Dr. Lenny Favara, Provost/Chief Academic Officer at Central Christian College, will help us understand how to use our personality differences to work together effectively in building relationships and accomplishing tasks. Watch for more details.

**"Equipping for Excellence and Expansion" or "E3"** is a two-day event coming to the GPC from the denomination March 10-11, and will offer insight, training and inspiration to aid pastors

and their leadership teams in becoming part of a multiplication movement. **The Bishops expect all pastors to attend.** For more information and to register go to <https://give.fmcusa.org/events/e3>

Just a reminder that after the first of the year, we will be filling out the **Annual Reports** for the denomination. You might want to begin gathering your data and information.

As you prepare 2017 Budgets, please remember Refuge Ministries as well as our missionaries and GPC church planting efforts.

The **IRS** is making changes that may affect the way churches need to report employees' hours and benefits.

The **Preparation for Growth** initiative will be offered again in 2017. Those who participated last year recommended

that all take advantage of this training. The commitment involves meeting four times and homework between sessions. Watch for more information.

**Pastors' Resource Day** will be postponed in order to encourage more to attend the other valuable training being offered this spring.

**FMYC 2017** will be a phenomenal event for your youth group June 26-30 at Colorado State University. Every few years, the Free Methodist Church hosts an incredible event that is filled with opportunities for 8th-12th grade students to encounter God. Don't miss it! <http://fmcusa.org/blog/2016/10/26/dont-miss-fmyc-2017/>

### Dates to Remember!

**12/2** [Christmas Banquet](#)

**03/10-11** [E3](#)

**04/08** [CNT Workshop—DISC Training](#)

**05/25-26** [GP Annual Conference](#)

**06/26-30** [FMYC '17](#)

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