

## 2020 HISTORIAN REPORT - Midwest Women's Presbyterial

This is the 103rd convention of Midwest Women's Presbyterial meeting April 3-4, 2020 in Sterling, Kansas. This is the 13th time Sterling has hosted since Midwest Women's Presbyterial was organized in 1915, meeting annually except for depression years of 1932 and 1934; and during World War II in 1942.

**1915** - Rev. Carrithers from the Indian Mission spoke to the convention on "The Sure Foundation." Prayers were offered for the Syrian mission, particularly Mrs. Samuel Edgar and family as Mr. Edgar had been deported.

**1924** - "Christ for the World" was the theme. Rev. Alvin Smith conducted Bible studies from I John. Members of the eleven Junior Societies had written character sketches of their favorite Bible people. Top entries were presented with Sterling's placing 1st and Olathe, 2nd. Winchester had the largest group with 46 after promoting 12 to CYP. At the request of the Foreign Mission Board it was voted to raise Rose Huston's yearly salary to \$930. Miss Huston said, "Things that make a nation great are Christian homes, Christian schools and Christian churches." She told of the transformation of these three institutions in China, from pagan to Christian.

**1935** - Resolutions presented at this convention were that "Our chief executive and his advisors be brought to realize that it is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" and regret for the nationwide lapse in morality.

**1940** - Presbyterial celebrated its 25th anniversary with the theme "Advance". Rev. Lester Kilpatrick told of the horrible conditions of the people of China. Ports were being closed to missionaries and he believed it was necessary to move to the interior of China to carry on the work. Japan's war on China made the burden of relief fall squarely on the shoulders of the missionaries. Meals that year were available at the college cafeteria for 25¢ a plate.

**1951** - "Let the God of my salvation be exalted" was the theme. Clarinda delegates were delayed due to floods. Mr. Glen Black, injured after 55 missions in Korea, urged prayer for the spiritual as well as the physical well-being of our servicemen. Ella Margaret Stewart, who was asked by Chinese Christians to leave China in 1950, due to the "hate America" attitude, prayed for pastors and church leaders in China, since the Communist takeover.

**1959** - "Thus saith the Lord, this thing is from me" was the theme. Robert McMillan gave "A Glimpse of Wichita", his wife told of her life from age 3 in Moscow and the family sang Psalm 2. Mrs. Clark Copeland took the convention on "A Visit to Cyprus".

**1965** - The 50th Anniversary was celebrated. "God, Our Refuge In All Ages" was the theme.

**1974** - Theme was "Praising the Lord." \$200 was sent to Gene Spears to help with transportation to their daughter Carol's wedding.

**1984** - "Serve the Lord with Gladness" was the theme with Bible studies led by Fran Mann.

**1993** - The 76th convention theme was "Joy in Adversity, how to handle trouble", a Bible study based on Philippians 1-2, led by Erma Prutow.

**2002** - Pioneer Women in the Modern Day Church was the program presented at the 85th Presbyterial by Sisters in Grace a ministry team from Clarinda, Iowa. Cari Ann Faris spoke on Foreign Concerns.

**2012** - Me? Study Leviticus?? was the theme with Mrs. Erma Prutow, Pittsburgh, PA, speaking. Missions speaker was Pastor John McFarland about the opening of the Central Presbytery in East Asia, and God's work in that region of the world. Mary Lou Patterson of Shawnee was president.

Files are in order. At some point all the boxes of scanned materials, will be disposed of. Special items will be saved. The President's Book is on display. ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Mitzie VanHorn, Historian