

LIVING WATER

A Monthly Publication of

Five Rivers District of the United Methodist Church

A Message From Our District Superintendent

There are a lot of things swirling around in the Annual Conference these days. What is the best way to respond to the reality of becoming one Episcopal area in Nebraska and Kansas? What is the best way to respond to some challenging financial realities in local churches, districts and an Annual Conference? How do we best staff and structure to do effective ministry?

Volume 7, Issue 4

April 2011

Inside this issue:

District Calendar	2
Bishop Speaks at PAUMCS Meeting	3
What Should Your Church Archive	4
Opportunities	5-6
Prayer Calendar	5
Clergy Birthdays and Anniversaries	5
Mission Opportunity for Common Ground	6

I could use this space to try and champion a particular position and share my opinions, which I do have regarding all of the above issues. However, what I want to do is have you overhear my conversation with myself about what I base my positions and opinions on. I am sure that we share the same questions and struggles about things that are not entirely clear. It is a natural response to begin with the “why I can’t” do something as opposed to “why I should” do something.

I had the opportunity to preach at a couple of my district churches a Sunday or two ago. The text from which I preached was from Matthew 26. The thirty-ninth verse says:

³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.’

In this passage Jesus is anguished at the thought of suffering and dying. He prays to God and shares his struggle. But what is at the heart of the passage is that Jesus lands in the place of “God’s want.” When this description, “God’s want,” hit me I was taken to a place where I needed to be in this time. While I am not trying to compare our current questions, struggles and opportunities with the passion of Jesus, I do need to be reminded that ultimately it is about what God wants, not what I want. What does God want in the situation we are dealing with at this time? What does God want of me as I consider my response to the questions that are before us? What does God want of our churches, districts, Annual Conference as we move forward?

I do not have all of the answers. We will come to answers together. What I do have is the certain reminder that we need to always consider these things from the place of “God’s want.”

What does God want of me? What does God want of us? How do we best accomplish what God wants? Questions such as, “What does it mean for me?” or “How will this change my situation?” are important, but they are secondary. We need to start in the place of God’s want and move out from there.

I am in prayer for you, your church, and our Conference as we meet the coming challenges and experience the coming opportunities. I appreciate your prayers for me. May we all find ourselves meeting in a good and shared place, the place of “God’s want.”

In Christ



Dennis Ackerman



APRIL 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

The sun was warm
but the wind was
chill.
You know how it is
with an April day.
~Robert Frost



- April 4-5 Cabinet DS in Wichita
- April 10th Rev. Ackerman is preaching at Baldwin 1st
- April 13-14 Cabinet DS in Wichita
- April 18 Extended Cabinet DS in Wichita
- April 19-20 Cabinet DS in Wichita
- April 21 District Office Closed
- April 22 Good Friday
- April 24 Easter
- April 25-26 Cabinet DS in Wichita
- April 28 Clergy Meeting
- May 1 Pre-Conference Briefing
Ottawa 1st 3:4:30 p.m.
- May 1 Rev. Ackerman is preaching at New Lancaster



“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

-Anne Bradstreet

Bishop Shares with PAUMCS Group by Marvé Ralston

Bishop Jones spoke to the PAUMCS (Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries) on Tuesday, March 29th at the Kansas West Conference office. His message had a persuasive thread of the impending changes the United Methodist Church needs to go through to move confidently into the future. It was a positive message regarding keeping what is really important in focus. The mission of the church is, "saving souls." "Church activities should be focused on making Disciples of Christ," he reminded those attending.

He made several suggestions for bringing in younger generations. We have to do things differently, this is the internet age, Bishop stressed. Sanctuaries need to be equipped with new technology to help attract young people.

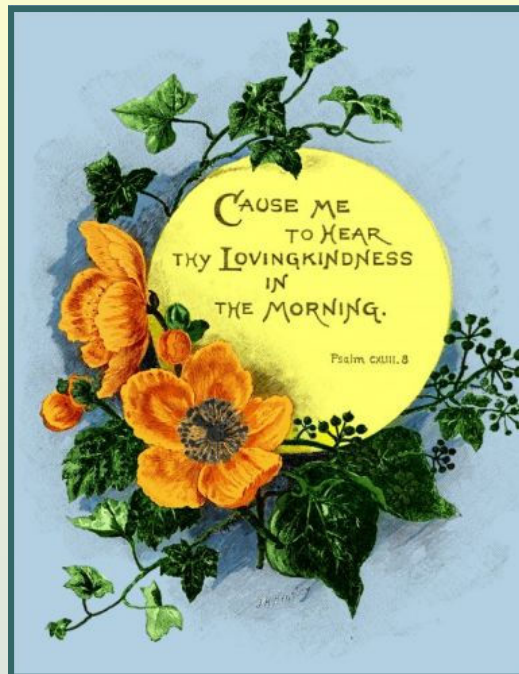
Just because you don't have children in your church currently is no reason not to have a vibrant Vacation Bible School for your community. Have the best VBS around to help attract children and new members to your church. *It's not about what the church can do for you, but what you can do for your community and helping bring new people to Christ.*

There are changes that will be coming up in the future on a conference level. Bishops in the United States are being reduced by 5. This change affected Kansas and Nebraska as they were asked to share a Bishop.

Kansas and Nebraska Conferences have a Transition Team working on exploring options and listening to clergy and laity and results can be seen on the Kansas East website link at <http://www.kansaseast.org/pages/detail/1092>.

This is just the beginning of the process and Bishop reminded us that the adaptive changes need to happen first. Attitudes, values and behaviors will be looked at and open for discussion.

Bishop said that while this change of one bishop for Kansas and Nebraska (beginning in 2012) will affect how he is able to attend events in local churches, it will have many advantages. One example is there will be more chances for webinar events and technology improvements to get information out to more people and training events without travel. More details will be clarified at the Pre-Conference Briefing on May 1st.



Kansas Area Resource Center might have just what you need. The Center is open to pastors and laity who lead: Sunday School, Retreats, Small Groups, Men's Groups, Youth Groups, Workshops, Women's Groups and more... Put the resources of the Center to work for you as you lead others into this Christian experience. Your church can purchase a membership so its entire congregation has unlimited access to resources during the calendar year or UMC churches that do not purchase a membership can still use the resources for a small service fee. To learn more visit their website at www.kswestumc.org, look through their online catalog at www.kswestumc.org/l_index.asp. or call Nancy Cadwell at 1-800-745-2350.

90 to 95% of all church records do not need to be kept permanently. See what the requirements are; de-clutter your church office.

Store pictures and historical documents in acid free file folders.

Don't use paper-clips or rubber bands in storage.

Make photocopies of all newspaper clippings and throw the originals away as that is the best way to save them.

Just What Should Your Church Archive?

For anyone trying to decide what needs to be kept for church recordkeeping purposes or history this is the age old question. Jenny McCollough Baker University Archives came to speak to the PAUMCS group about that issue.

Using the Discipline, which is the basic body of administration and law for our denomination., McCollough handed out a page of information taken from the Disciple about Local Church records which will be in full on our website for your reference.

Several paragraphs from the Discipline regarding local church recordkeeping in general (the ¶# indicates the place it's written):

It is highly recommended every local church have a historian (¶247.5a).

Every local church shall maintain permanent membership records. This includes "baptism, membership, marriage and funeral records..." These records "are the property of the local church and cannot be sold. If the church is discontinued, these records are placed in care of the Conference Commission on Archives and History (¶233).

Every local church is to be organized so that, among other things, adequate provision is made for "the proper creation, maintenance, and disposition of documentary record material of the local church" (¶243).

There is also information regarding general record retention at <http://www.gcah.org>. Use the search box and record retention to see a booklet of information including a local church records schedule.

Anything not being kept but with personal information and/or social security numbers on it should be shredded (preferably with a cross-cut shredder.)

If you have any questions regarding what needs to be kept you can contact Jenny at Baker University Archives which is where both Kansas East and Kansas West store most archived records. Call Jenny at 785-594-8380 or e-mail her at jmccollough@bakeru.edu.

It's More Than Dollars, Giving Back to God

Want to hear how Rev. Lennie Maxwell's church in Belleville, Kansas was able to increase it's stewardship in these tough economic times?

Rev. Maxwell will share what worked for them.

Register online for this free online Webinar. Space is limited.

Time 4 p.m. on April 3rd

Register at <http://kansaseast.org/events/detail/3466>

District Church Prayer Calendar

- April 3 Pomona/Vassar UMC
Pastor Kathy Symes
- April 10 Devon/Mapleton UMC
Pastor Glen Duderstadt
- April 17 Michigan Valley UMC
Rev. Duane Kessler
- April 24 Elsmore/Mildred UMC
Pastor Connie Cox

Clergy Birthdays

- Trudy Anderson April 7th
- Dan Norwood April 13th
- Debby Dick April 25th

Anniversaries

- Connie and Paul Wilson
April 3, 1994
- Marti and Douglas McDougal
April 20, 1991

IRS Mileage Rates

for 2011:

* 51 cents for business miles driven

* 19 cents per mile for medical or moving purposes driven

* 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

www.irs.gov



5 Rivers District Kansas East Conference

Kansas Bishop: Scott Jones

District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Administrative Assistant, Newsletter Editor: Marvé Ralston

3300 Clinton Parkway Court, Suite 110

Lawrence, KS 66047-2629

Phone: 785-841-4804 Fax: 785-841-4820

E-mail: office@5riversds.com

Website: www.5riversds.com



Real Families ~ Parenting Workshops

April 3, 10, 17 and May 1

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

4 Sessions, 4 Different Topics

Presenter: Laura Murphy of Real Families, Inc.

Fee: \$10/Session/Family or \$30/Family for all four

Childcare available. Please Register by phone 785-843-7066

A Local Missions Opportunity

Common Ground is working on a project in the Scranton area. A rural man was in a pickup accident in February that resulted in him being paralyzed from the neck down. He's in his mid forties and has a wife and two school age children.

Roger Dressler, who is with Common Ground, has built two small wheel chair ramps to get him from the house to a large deck, but still needs to build a large ramp to get him off the deck area and away from the house.

Common Ground has limited project funding, but we need about \$1,000 for materials to build this large ramp. maybe your church would like to do a fund raiser to help this family.

Please call Roger at 785-331-8272. Any size donation would be helpful or you might want to help with the construction. We will be putting the ramps together at my house west of Baldwin or you could plan to help with installation at the home south of Scranton.