



# Living Water

A Monthly Publication of the

## FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT

### From the DS

As I sit in my office writing this article there are several inches of fresh snow on the ground! Who would have expected such a winter storm this late in March. While not unheard of, they are not the norm for this time of year in Kansas. The snow made for an interesting contrast as I participated in the Palm Sunday service yesterday.

There is something exciting about unexpected happenings. The change-up in timing, or environment, or circumstance can give energy to a situation. Snow shoes on a donkey that is carrying the Messiah under the waving palm branches is just enough different to make the old new again. Maybe it is God's way of breaking in to the reality of our existence in unexpected ways. Like a child in a manger. Like a crucified savior. Like a stone rolled away from an empty tomb.

May the power of the resurrection come to you in unexpected ways this Easter. God breaking into your life anew with fresh energy and new life. The contrast of tomb and triumph. The reality of life breaking in to snatch away death and break its power over us. Unexpected, but welcomed!

One of my favorite songs is *The Rose* by Amanda McBroom which was made famous by Bette Midler. The song ends with these wonderful words:

*Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snows  
Lies the seed  
That with the sun's love  
In the spring  
Becomes the rose*

Beneath the bitter snow of our winters lies the seed, that with the Son's love, in the spring of resurrection becomes the (a) rose. Easter blessings!

*Dennis*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
District Calendar	2
District Prayer Calendar	2
Clergy Birthdays	2
K-State Wesley's Spring Festival You're Invited	3
Clergy Can Retreat to Camp Chippewa	3
Emergency Response Team Certification	3-5
Healthy Congregations Healthy Retreat	4

Bishop of the Great Plains Episcopal Area  
Scott Jones

Five Rivers District Superintendent  
Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Newsletter Editor/Admn. Assistant  
Marvé Ralston

# April 2013

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				

## April Calendar of Events

- April 1-3 Cabinet Meets ~ DS is in Wichita  
 April 11 Clergy Meeting, 9– Noon at Ottawa 1st UMC  
 April 30 **Fund Balance Reports Due**  
 April 16-20 District Office closed ~ Marvé is at PAUMCS Annual Conference  
 April 17-19 Cabinet Meets ~ DS is in Wichita  
 May 5 **Pre-Conference Briefing CANCELLED**  
 May 29-31 KE Annual Conference

Don't Forget ~ *April Fool's Day*



## Prayer Calendar

- April 7 Devon/Mapleton  
Rev. Don Flanner
- April 14 Worden  
Pastor Bud Tuxhorn
- April 21 Ives Chapel/Richter  
Pastor Jacob Cloud
- April 28 Edgerton  
Pastor Bruce Draper

## Clergy Birthdays for April

- Jay Henderson 4/4  
 Trudy Anderson 4/07  
 Daniel Norwood 4/13  
 Butch Ritter 4/24

## ***You are invited to K-State Wesley's Spring Festival on Sunday, April 28***

There will be a benefit concert featuring The Thundering Cats Big Band on Sunday, April 28 starting at 2:00pm. The concert will be hosted at College Avenue United Methodist Church, located at 1609 College Avenue. During the concert, there will be a free-will offering to benefit K-State Wesley.

After the concert, you are invited to the K-State Wesley campus ministry center, located at 1001 Sunset Avenue. You will be able to tour the building, see the newly renovated kitchen, enjoy some refreshments, hear stories from our college students, and offer financial support to our campus ministry efforts in Manhattan. Tours of the building will begin at 3:30pm. The program will begin at 4:00pm and concluded by 5:00pm.

For more information, call us at 785-776-9278 or visit <http://kstatewesley.com/springfestival/>

## ***Consider Camp Chippewa***

Do you ever need a chance to regroup, and renew your own soul, without your daily schedule of interruptions? Whether for a personal retreat or for a group of up to six people, Camp Chippewa can offer you a place to get away from it all.

A donation of \$20 per night would be appreciated to help cover the facility and maintenance costs of our camp. Reservations do need to be made a minimum of two weeks in advance; contact our office at [785-242-6797](tel:785-242-6797) or email [office@campchippewa.org](mailto:office@campchippewa.org) to schedule your retreat today!



**Rev. Russell Anderson leading a ERT certification event, March 23rd.  
Photos by Steve Burnett.**

## ***Early Response Team Training***

Due to new guidelines set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and United Methodist Committee on Relief, volunteers who wish to assist in the early stages following disasters must have Early Response Team Certification to volunteer. Requirements for the Early Response Team Certification include:

- Complete Early Response Team course
- Complete the basic disaster response course
- Complete Safe and Sacred Space Certification
- Volunteer at one disaster site

**Contact: Julie Pohl VIM  
Disaster Response Coordinator  
[kseastvim@yahoo.com](mailto:kseastvim@yahoo.com) 816-390-0324**

**See pages 4-5 for more details.**

## Early Response Team Training

By Rev. Russell Anderson

Early Response Teams (ERT) meet a specific need in the early days after a disaster, i.e. a tornado, flood, ice storm. The ERT are not the first ones into a community after a storm, but they are the first ones in after it has been cleared to do so by the First Responders or emergency personnel of fire and search and rescue. While there are very specific tasks that the ERT does (debris removal, temporary repairs, applying roof tarps, shelter operations, child care, volunteer reception centers, and damage assessment), nothing is more important than the task of providing hope for the survivors after the event. This is the first, and foremost, task of an ERT. We are called of God to come alongside those who have had their lives disrupted by tragedy, and be a caring presence – to be Jesus with skin on – to those in need. This is crucial for an ERT member.

An ERT is trained to be totally self-sufficient as not to become a burden on the community they are helping, meaning they carry their own tools, repair supplies, bedding, and food. An ERT is designed to provide assistance to the community in the relief phase after the event, with the goal of preventing further damage to a survivor's home. While some temporary repairs are needed to make the home safe and to prevent further damage, ERT persons do not do the recovery work, or permanent repair work as often found in VIM teams. By completing the ERT training you will also be certified in the Basis Disaster Response training needed to participate on a VIM Team through the Kansas East Conference. The Basic Disaster Response certification, however, does not give you an ERT certification, because the ERT certification is an UMCOR certification. Regardless, it is a good idea to take both.

The training is an eight hour course taught by UMCOR certified trainers. The course consists of the basic understanding of the role of a team, the “When,” “What,” and “Who,” of ERT. Additionally, the concept of “Do no harm” is taught. Plus, there are hands-on learning techniques of applying a roof tarp, sorting debris, and safety in an effort to understand how to prevent further damage. In order to volunteer as an ERT you must also be “Safe Gatherings” certified. Upon successful completion of the ERT course, and the “Safe Gatherings” certification, you will receive a photo ID badge, the UMCOR ERT certification and be put on a national data base of UMCOR certified ERT. An ERT is trained to respond first to a disaster within their own community, and by invitation only to a community within the Kansas East Conference and/or any conference in the South Central Jurisdiction. If you are interested in becoming an ERT member, please, watch the Communiqué and/or District Newsletter for the next training event.

ERT certification training event at Yates Center UMC on March 23rd



Photos by Steve Burnett  
Steve is the Asst. Disaster  
Response Coordinator for  
the KE Conference

Telephone: 785-410-0210



Hands on training for ERT certification

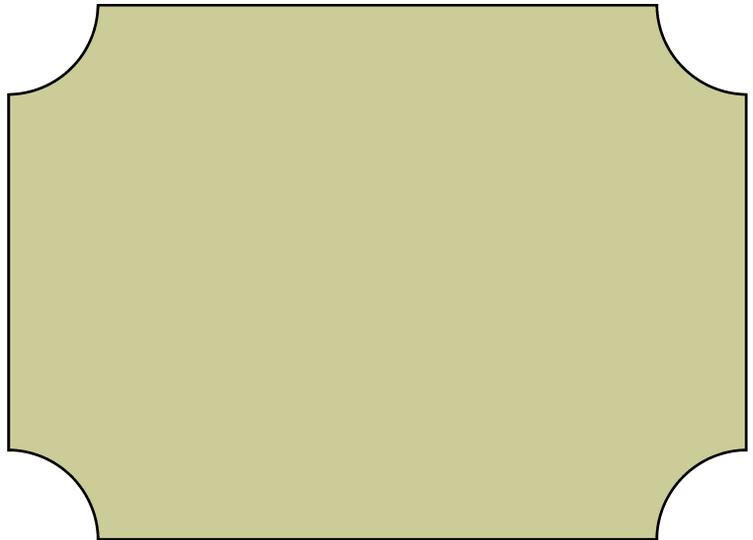
*Safe Gatherings Certification cards are no longer being sent out in the mail. You should receive an e-mail with your certification information. Make sure you have their e-mail set to go into your mail box. See below to add a name to your Outlook 2007 safe recipients list so that information from Safe Gatherings doesn't go into your junk box. All pastors are administrators and can see who in their church are Safe Gatherings certified if you are uncertain of your status.*



**Safe Gathering Training** is now online. **You will no longer receive a card in the mail after certification, just an e-mail.** The coordinator for the Great Plains Conference is Kathie Monroe [kmonroe@kswestumc.org](mailto:kmonroe@kswestumc.org), [SafeGatherings@kswestumc.org](mailto:SafeGatherings@kswestumc.org) or 1-800-745-2350. Also on our website: <http://www.5riversds.com/SafeGatherings>  
Safe Gatherings Certification <http://www.greatplainsumc.org/pages/detail/404>  
See this link to add a name to your Safe Senders or Safe Recipients List on Outlook 2007.  
<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/outlook-help/add-a-name-to-your-safe-senders-or-safe-recipients-list-HP005243357.aspx>



District Office  
3300 Clinton Parkway Ct. Suite 110  
Lawrence, KS 66047-2629

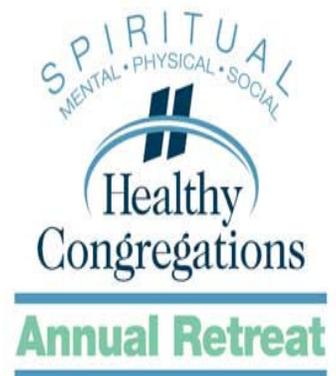


### **You're invited - register today to reserve your place!**

We hope you'll join us at scenic and relaxing Rock Springs 4-H Center for the 2013 Healthy Congregations Annual Retreat for Kansas United Methodists, Friday and Saturday, April 26-27 (and optional April 25 pre-retreat Covenant core training).

Register today at [healthfund.org/retreat](http://healthfund.org/retreat) and enjoy two days of relaxation, interesting and fun workshops, and networking with friends and peers. The Retreat is provided free of charge by the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund.

The event brings together United Methodists with shared interests in congregational health ministries and the promotion of holistic health and healthy lifestyles. Retreat workshops cover the spiritual, mental, physical, and social components of health and include information you can take home and use in your own congregations right away.



For current Healthy Congregations Covenant teams or those interested in getting started, the retreat is your chance to complete all seven of the core training courses needed for certification, in a face-to-face format. The Healthy Congregations Covenant program provides churches with access to professional team training, helpful supporting resources, and annual funding of up to \$1000 for your health ministry program. Visit the retreat website for the full schedule of courses and workshops.

A \$25/person refundable deposit is required for registration; deposit checks will be returned during check-in. The full schedule and online registration is available at [healthfund.org/retreat](http://healthfund.org/retreat). Please feel free to forward this email to other Kansas United Methodists who might be interested in this fun and enjoyable opportunity.