



LIVING WATER

A monthly publication of the Five Rivers District

*Volume 13, Issue 4
April 2015*

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Emergency Response Training

At Humboldt UMC for 5R.

Trainer: Rev. Russell Anderson

Saturday, June 6th

9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Cost 25.00 + lunch

Cost includes materials and a t-shirt.

Register at Humboldt UMC 620-473-3242

Yates Center 620-625-2266

*Bishop of the Great Plains
Scott Jones*

*Five Rivers District
Superintendent
Rev. Dr. Dennis
Ackerman*

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From the District Superintendent

We are almost through the season of Lent. Calvary is just ahead. In this Lenten season I have been on a journey of self discipline. My goal has been to improve my spiritual well being by better exercise of spiritual practices. It has been a measured success so far. But I can say that giving attention to an area that needs strengthening is a growth experience in itself.

It has made me spend more time considering the discipline that Jesus exercised on his path to the cross. We sometimes want to think that Jesus never considered not following that path. We want to think that Jesus had no doubts and never faltered. But I do not believe that such is true. I believe that there were many experiences that could have driven him in another direction. The point of the incarnation is that he came to experience what we experience. I would have been very hard pressed to stay the course as Jesus did. My faith likely would have failed me. The reality that kept Jesus on that path was his perfect relationship with God. Jesus was challenged..."If it be possible, let this cup pass from me."(Matthew 26:39) But he did not stop trusting and believing in God. He knew the anguish of physical, mental, and spiritual harassment, but he did not acquiesce to those who mocked and derided him. Jesus stayed strong.

We all find ourselves moving toward Calvary at times. Challenges and temptations want to overwhelm us. We feel as if we do not have what it takes to finish the journey. Sometimes we just want to throw up our hands and yield our spirits to the world and shout "WHATEVER!"

Thus the need for spiritual discipline. Through prayer, and study, and worship, and time apart (among others), we gain strength and endurance to keep us on the path. Spiritual discipline keeps us in sight of the cross of Jesus. And when we stop to look at that cross, we again see that it is empty, just like the tomb.

Easter is coming. We are Easter people!

In Christ,

Dennis Ackerman



April 2015

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		

Schedule of Events



- March 30th–April 2nd, Appointive Cabinet DS is in Lincoln, NE
- District Office closed, March 30th–April 3rd
- April 3rd Good Friday
- April 5th Easter Sunday
- April 14th–17th Appointive Cabinet DS is in Topeka. Admn. Asst. at Cont. Ed.
- April 27th–30th Appointive Cabinet DS is in Wichita
- May 7th Clergy Meeting, 9 a.m. to noon

Clergy Birthdays:

Trudy Kenyon Anderson April 7th
 Kim Serio April 11th
 Dan Norwood April 13th
 Butch Ritter April 24th

Do you have a high school senior in your congregation that is college bound next fall? Contact our office or jacob@newchurchlawrence.org.

We will make sure they are connected and warmly greeted when they arrive in Lawrence. We will be happy to steer them to their prospective campus minister if they are going elsewhere in KS or NE.



April 1st

Annual Conference

Registration begins on **April 1st**.

You can find the form to register below

<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/annualconference>

Prayer Calendar

April 5

Paola UMC

Rev. Jim Hopwood

April 12

Ottawa Trinity/Union Chapel

Rev. Barb Clinger

April 19

Waverly/Prairie View

Pastor Ron Bell

April 26

Vinland

Pastor Joni Raymond

Reception for Dennis Ackerman and Family ~

You're invited to a reception for Dennis Ackerman and his family as they prepare to move to Manhattan. The event will be 4 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday June 7 at First UMC in Ottawa.

Dennis is completing his term as Five Rivers District Superintendent and preparing to pastor College Avenue UMC in Manhattan. We will miss his leadership in our district, and we wish him well in his new appointment.

Refreshments will be provided. Knowing that the Rev. Dr. Ackerman is an airplane buff, event planners have a "flying" theme in mind for the event.

You may leave gifts and notes on a card and money tree. If you're not sure you can attend or want to anonymously contribute in advance, send checks (made out to Paola United Methodist Church) to Jim Hopwood, Paola UMC, 209 S. Silver St., Paola, KS 66071.

Emergency Response Training

It's about that time again. Yes, tornado season is something we all dread. Waking up in the night to a tornado siren going off is not fun. Worse yet is reading about our Kansas or surrounding states dealing with the devastation that a tornado brings.

Here are some interesting facts shared at an informational meeting clergy had with regards to Emergency Response Training. In particular, with regards to the United Methodist Church and how we work after a disaster.

Rev. Russ Anderson (Yates Center UMC) is the South East Region Disaster Coordinator. He gave a power point presentation on Disaster Response.

Some things he went over are mentioned below.

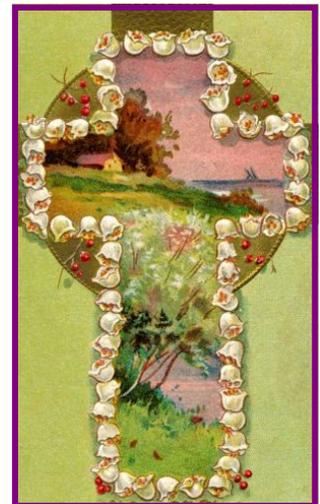
United Methodist disaster response teams are often the first responders and the last ones to leave.

Disaster is the leading cause of poverty in the US. After a disaster hits, individuals often have a feeling of hopelessness. There is an increased risk of drug use, alcoholism, depression and suicide.

Those often hit the hardest are the elderly, folks in poverty, single parent households, those physically, psychologically and emotionally disabled.

Any event that disrupts the normal way of life is a disaster.

Disaster often outstrips community resources.





Five Rivers District

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***Cultivating Christian
Discipleship***

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Disasters may affect as little as one family.

May is the height of tornado season.

There is information on the Great Plains website page for disaster response.

<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/disasterresponse>

Here is the page for disaster response grants.

<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/disasterrecoveryassistancegrants>

The Great Plains Disaster Response Coordinator is Rev. Hollie Tapley.

Her e-mail is htapley@greatplainsumc.org

Contact Russ Anderson or Hollie Tapley if your church would like to host a Emergency Response basic course or Early Response Team Training (ERT).

You can help United Methodist Committee on Relief (**UMCOR**) by making disaster kits.

<http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies>

- The 2015 **Pastoral/Ministerial Leadership Assessment form** is available online. It has been mailed out to all the PPR chairs we have addresses for. Please note this is due back in our office by May 15th. If you have received permission from the DS not to complete this form because you have done it recently for a DCoM interview, then you may disregard this reminder.

<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/staffparishforms>