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## Reflections from Ron

Hello Colleagues and Friends,

It's almost unbelievable. It seems that I just sent out correspondence to you all celebrating the joys of summer and our opportunities to continue cultivating Christian growth when, low and behold, summer is half over. School will be reconvening shortly. Students will be heading back into the classrooms to do nothing more than cultivate their educational pursuits.

As family members of these budding young leaders of the future, we will want to encourage their every effort to grow more into what they have deemed their life's career goals. If they have chosen to be doctors, we will want them to excel in their ministry so that the people for whom they provide their medical skill will be blessed by their hard work. If they choose to be scientists, school teachers, artists, musicians or engineers, we will want them to have pursued their goals with vigor and cultivated their knowledge in a way that they will be the best in whatever is their life's endeavor. In the end, we want to be able to give our support and encouragement. We want to be able to acknowledge their accomplishments, celebrate their achievements, and proclaim their success in ways that make us all proud.

I wonder what changes might occur in our world (God's world) if those of us called to be Christian took to the pursuit of cultivating our Christian growth with the same energy that we expect our young people to pursue the excellence in education that we hope for them. What might happen if we, as Christians, expected from ourselves the same dedication to live more like Christ that we expect from students who will become engineers and doctors to live wholly into the profession that they claim as a career?

Our role in God's world as Christians is a difficult job. Just when we think we've got it all done, something arises that challenges our faith, shakes our confidence, rocks our foundation, clouds our skies of assurance and sometimes, puts God seemingly out of touch. Cultivating our Christian growth may not make any of the causes of life's uncertainties go away, but it can certainly create in us a steady and sturdy connection to the one in whom we believe. What I am convinced of is this: cultivating Christian growth in ourselves as well as encouraging it in each other will allow us to one day stand before Christ and hear him say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant!"

Agape and Shalom,  
Ron

## *A God Thing!*

By Rev. Ralph Jarboe

“There were many decisions made there between God and me, including my decision to go into the ministry.”

Rev. Ralph Jarboe

To understand what happened to me on May 25, 2008 you have to know a little about my background and where my home church is located. So to begin with, I was born and grew up in Wellington, KS. To make a long story short, I started attending 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church in Wellington, when I started working on my God and Country Award in Scouts. I joined the church in April 1964, and earned the award in 1965. Rev. Vern Livingood gave the altar call in 1966, two or three Sundays in a row. I said something to Phyllis Garrett about having the feeling that I needed to go forward. But my excuse was that I was already a member of the church, and didn't know what the congregation would think of me. Phyllis told me that it was going to have to be my decision, and that it didn't matter what the congregation thought, because it was between God and me.

I had knelt at that altar rail many times before for prayer and to ask God for many different things. But on January 10, 1966, the closing hymn was “Just As I Am Without One Plea.” I read through that hymn and it described what I was feeling. So when Vern gave the altar call that morning, I was standing and singing, next to a school buddy, Mike Shepard. About the second verse my hands begin to shake, and I shoved the hymnal into Mike's hands and went down front. I remember Vern saying this was a hard decision for Ralph. I remember feeling that same tingling that I had felt before, which had to be the Holy Spirit filling me.

After that I knelt at that altar rail many times to pray, until I went off to college. There were many decisions made there between God and me, including my decision to go into the ministry.

After I received my license to preach June 1, 1967, I became a student pastor at Randall UMC in June of 1969. On May 30, 1974, I was ordained a Deacon in the United Methodist Church, and on May 25, 1978, I was ordained an Elder in the United Methodist Church.

Some time after 1976, I heard that 1<sup>st</sup> UMC of Wellington was going to build a new Sanctuary on the same property that the old Sanctuary stood. I was visiting with Rev. Gerald Martin at the time, and he asked me if there was anything in the old church that I wanted.

I said, “I want three feet of the kneeling rail just left of the center.”

Jerry said that could be arranged. And so it was, when I came home for Christmas after they had torn the old church down, Rev. Martin, had delivered three feet of the altar rail, which was in three pieces, to my folks in Wellington. From about 1978 until 2008 I had carried and put in storage those three pieces of altar rail from 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church in Wellington. In June of 2007, it was still in a storage shed at Erie, KS, and that June the Rivers were over flowing. The Neosho got out of its banks, and got into my storage shed at Erie. When we got it cleaned out there was the three pieces of the kneeling rail.

In November or December of 2007, I asked David Bird, if when he got back

from Texas this next spring, would he be able to put it together for me. The Birds came home in March and I took the kneeling rail over to him in April. He figured out how it went together, and I left it with him. On May 18, I announced to Trinity UMC in Ottawa, that I was being appointed to 1<sup>st</sup> UMC in Hoisington, KS. That Morning David Bird said to me, “I guess I better get busy on the kneeling rail.” On May 23 or 24 David let me know that the kneeling rail was put together. I picked it up on the 24<sup>th</sup> and placed it in the front of the Sanctuary. Sunday Morning, May 25, 2008 I knelt on the kneeling rail, at my old place, for the pastoral prayer. During the sermon I shared with the congregation, about being in the ministry for 37 years and being ordained an Elder 30 years ago without knowing what the exact date was. After the service I walked into my office, and looked at my Elders Orders, and my mouth fell opened and that same tingling went up my spine, as I read the date, May 25, 1978. This was a God incident!

Rev. Ralph Jarboe and his wife Marie are now serving Hoisington UMC in Kansas West District.

**Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light. -- Helen Keller**

**This world is God's workshop for making men in. -- Henry Ward Beecher**

**Every man's life is a fairy tale written by God's fingers. - Hans Christian Andersen**

**Welcome to the new appointments and assignments in our district:**

**Baldwin 1st**

Connie Wilson and husband Paul

**Michigan Valley**

Nancy Brown and husband Kirk

**Garnett UMC**

Gary Merritt and his wife Cheryl

**Moran/Bronson UMC**

David Shrum and wife Goldana

**Hiattville UMC**

Mary Akins and husband James

**Ottawa Trinity UMC**

Barb Clinger and husband John

**Lawrence 1st UMC**

Kara Eidsen (associate pastor)

**Pleasanton/Prescott UMC**

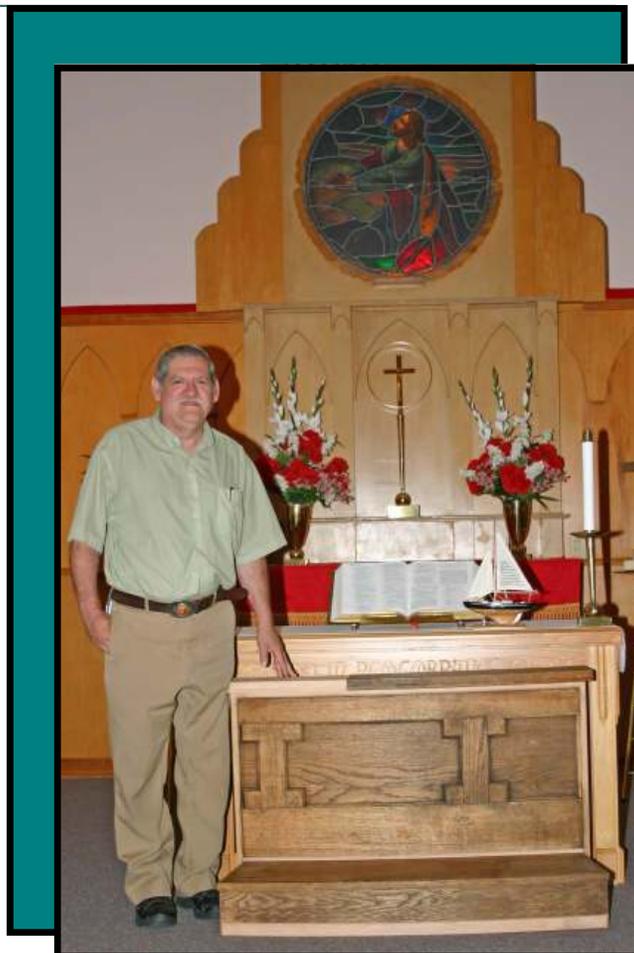
Gary DeMott and wife

**Melvern/Quenemo UMC**

Jim Stigall and wife Joann

**Worden**

Everett (Bud) Tuxhorn and wife Carla



**Rev. Ralph Jarboe**

**Keep these dates open!  
September 13 –14th**

**DCYM Youth Rally  
“The Big Shabang!”**

Lawrence 1st West Campus, Saturday, Sept. 13th, at 4:00 p.m. to Sunday, Sept. 14th at 10:30 a.m.

There will be a band, lots of outdoor activities and good food. Registration form and more details to come

# August 2008

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
31						

**August 3rd**

Safe and Sacred training offered at Worden UMC 2-5p.m.

**August 9th**

UMW KEC Spiritual Retreat

**August 17th-Sept. 3rd**

Rev. King is on vacation

**August 27th**

New Pastor Orientation  
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Topeka Lowman UMC  
Contact Gary Beach at [gbeach@kansaseast.org](mailto:gbeach@kansaseast.org)

**August 24-27th**

Sermon Planning Retreat (see opposite page)

**Sept. 1st**

District Office Closed for Labor Day

## Continuing Education Opportunities

### Sermon Planning Retreat

Starts 8/24-8/27

You are invited to a sermon planning retreat, from Aug. 24th at 8:30 p.m. to Aug. 27th at 3 p.m., at Mount St. Scholastica monastery in Atchison, KS (female and male). This will be a self-directed planning session with opportunities to share ideas, pray and relax together, and to discern future preaching texts. You are welcome to come for all or any part of this retreat time. A pottery session is available on Monday night.

Costs: Lodging \$35 per night, Meals \$20 for each set of 3 meals (BLD) Pottery, \$40

Please send a deposit equaling 1/2 of your total costs (payable to Sophia Center) to Sermon Planning Retreat, c/o Nancy Kollhoff, 612 Poyntz, Manhattan, KS 66502.

Arrangements can be made for massage and spiritual direction (\$45 and \$40, respectively). If you have questions or need more information, contact Nancy Kollhoff (785-213-3265) or revnan@gmail.com or Trudy Kenyon Anderson (620-714-1498) or revtrudy@gmail.com.

### Clergy Birthdays

*"I am long on ideas, but short on time. I expect to live to be only about a hundred." - Thomas Edison*

Nancy Brown	August 4th
Abuena King	August 5th
Harriett Bechtle	August 16th
Marti McDougal	August 28th

### District Prayer Calendar

Aug.3	Iola:Wesley-Neosho Falls
Aug.10	Fulton
Aug. 17	Ottawa:Union Chapel-Princeton
Aug. 24	Hiattville
Aug.31	Lawrence:Centenary-Linwood

*\*Our youth at camp and mission trips.*

## Five Rivers District

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Kansas Bishop: Dr. Rev. Scott Jones  
District Superintendent: Rev. Ronald King  
Administrative Assistant, Newsletter editor  
Marvé Ralston

Mission Statement: Cultivate Christian Growth

### Safe and Sacred Training Offered in August

Rev. Bud Tuxhorn the new pastor at Worden has agreed to host and give a class on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Worden UMC from 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

If you have teachers interested, have them download the paperwork from the Kansas East website at [www.kansaseast.org](http://www.kansaseast.org). Click on administration, then on the left side select Safe and Sacred, then forms and materials. They can already have the pastor's recommendation form already signed and filled out. This will save time and Rev. Tuxhorn can mail off all the forms at one time. Make sure they bring the required \$20.00 to go with the application.

The class will be held at Worden UMC. You can e-mail the pastor if you will be attending the class at [wordenumc@msn.com](mailto:wordenumc@msn.com). However, he said all are welcome as long as you bring the required paperwork to speed things up.

Worden UMC  
294 East 900 Road  
Baldwin City, KS 66006

This church is actually off of 56 Hwy. You turn right at the Junction of 59 and 56 and head West on 56 (coming from Lawrence) . The church is on the left hand side of the road.  
785-594-7598

### Safe and Sacred Instructor Training

New materials (DVD and notebooks) plus training will be offered on September 6th from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. This will be held at the Church of the Resurrection at 13720 Roe, (137th) in Leawood. There will be one DVD per district given out at this time to be shared when needed by trainers. Call or e-mail Nancy Brown 913-897-3121 or [nancybrowncor@aol.com](mailto:nancybrowncor@aol.com) with questions.