



# Living Water

## Five Rivers District

From the District Superintendent

**Advent** - the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.

The season of Advent is here. I have always loved this season of the Church calendar. The feeling of anticipation coupled with the celebration of the history and tradition of the Nativity is special. It is a true experience of the “already and not yet.” The reality that we are already a part of the kingdom work of God while our work is helping usher in more and more of God’s will.

Beginning a journey is usually exciting. Doing something new. Going somewhere different. Leaving behind some things that may need to be let go of. This is true even if the journey is familiar and comfortable. Our journey to Bethlehem is such a journey. There is no more familiar road for us then that which leads to the manger. The glow of the star-lit heavens makes the way seen and the path available for us to travel.

My hope this Advent season is that we who are followers of Christ will be the stars that light the way for others to find the path to the manger. There are so many people who are seeking the meaning and purpose that the incarnation makes possible. It is the perfect starting place for a person to begin a journey of faith. An understanding that God is with us can make the difference in the life of a person who has no hope that God could even consider his/her presence, let alone be with her/him. We can help lead such a person to encounter the “already” present God in the manger. That encounter can lead to a life journey of discovering the truths and realities of the “not yet” being revealed.

So, be the light of Christ that lights the path to the manger – to God. May the blessings of the Christ Child be with you on this journey we call Advent!



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DISTRICT CALENDAR	2
FEEDING FAMILIES IN HIS NAME	3-4
DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR, DEC.	4
DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR, JAN	5
CHURCH CONFERENCE SCHEDULE	5
WORDEN UMC MISSION TO HAITI	6-7
THE ONE EVENT ~ CONF. YOUTH RALLY	8

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

**December Events:**

Register for The One Event to save 10.00 4th

Christmas Candlelight Vespers 2 & 5 p.m. 7th  
Rice Auditorium  
404 8th Street  
Baldwin City, KS

District Superintendency Meeting 10th  
Ottawa 1st UMC 5:30-6:30 pm

**New Church Lawrence Christmas Eve Service**, Hollywood Theatre, Lawrence, KS 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve All are invited to come enjoy a variety of Christmas music from old to new 24th

District Office Closed 22nd  
Holiday and vacation through Jan. 4th

December 2014						
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			

**January Events:**

**The One Event** 3rd  
Grand Island, NE  
register at [greatplainsyouth.org](http://greatplainsyouth.org)

**Epiphany Dinner** 9th  
Five Rivers District Clergy  
6:30—8:30 p.m.  
Ottawa 1st UMC

**Martin Luther King Day** 19th  
District Office Closed

**Orders and Fellowship** 21-22  
St. Marks UMC  
8550 Pioneers Blvd  
Lincoln, NE  
register by Jan. 7th to avoid late charge of 25.00

**Lay Servant Training event** 30-31  
Scottsbluff 1st UMC  
20024th Ave.  
Scottsbluff, NE  
Register online  
<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/eventdetail/489363?month>

**District Committee on Ministry (DCoM)** 31

January 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	31

## **Feeding Families in His Name** ~ *A Ministry of Fort Scott 1<sup>st</sup> UMC*

written by Marvé Ralston

Would your church be equipped to provide up to 225 meals once a week to your community? If you go to Fort Scott 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, the answer is yes! That has not always been the case, so don't be discouraged if you are not there yet.

Tom Braker, a member of Fort Scott 1<sup>st</sup>, had the bold idea of starting a weekly meal for the community of Fort Scott, at no charge.

Another church member, Jean Tucker, began lobbying the idea to see if there was community support. She was met with some resistance from outside the church but found that most church members were on-board with the project.

Two families committed to providing the food for a meal a month, until they were producing 50 meals a week. At that time they requested donors.

With the help of church volunteers and the community, they served their first meal on May 11, 2011. The first night 44 meals were served.

When they hit the number 50, they also began requesting commodities through the Kansas Department of Children and Families.

They asked for donations of freezers and refrigerators to store the food as it came in weekly. Folks responded and several were donated to help store food.

They are generously supported by the community restaurants and grocery store. The foods donated vary weekly but are always put to good use.

Due to the fact that much of the food is donated, they do not give the menu until the night before. If there is a major donation of cabbage, there will be coleslaw, etc.

Jean Tucker is the coordinator of this project. Last week they provided 225 meals. On average 200 meals are served most Wednesday nights from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. This includes some that are picked up and delivered to folks. This takes a steady group of 12-15 volunteers to accomplish this lofty goal. Although the group may vary some, God has provided the help necessary to keep this project going.

There are several folks who generously bake desserts every week and consider it their mission/ministry gift.

Jean is passionate about this project and said, "This is not our project; it is God's project".

She can tell you different times that folks have showed up to their Wednesday night meal from other towns and even other states. Folks in surrounding areas will tell them about the Fort Scott 1<sup>st</sup> UMC church program.

There is another time three children showed up for the meal without their mother who was bedridden at the time. They had seconds, a peanut butter sandwich and even took food home to their mom. They had walked over a mile to get that meal. Someone sat with them to make sure an adult picked them up and they didn't walk home unescorted.

**Continued on pg. 4**

### Feeding Families in His Name ~ a ministry of Fort Scott 1st UMC continued from pg 3

This is a place where everyone is welcome and families are encouraged to eat together. If they run out of food, there is always something in the freezer they can warm up. No one goes away hungry and meals are frequently taken home for folks that cannot physically get to the church.

Jean can tell you the monthly trends. They don't have as many folks on the first week of the month because folks have a full pantry. The numbers go up as the month progresses with the largest meals served near the end of the month. Weather also plays a big part as many folks that are served, do not have transportation or walk to the church for their meal.

The church applied for and received a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation, to purchase a commercial sized stainless steel refrigerator and freezer to help with their mission. Although they applied for a grant in 2013, they didn't receive one the first year they applied. They are very thankful for their new commercial appliances that help them provide this weekly gift to their community.

If you have a food pantry or serve meals in your church, here are a couple addresses you might want to check out.

Kansas Health Foundation (grants) given out in the spring and fall  
309 E Douglas  
Wichita, KS 67202  
1-800-373-7681



Commodities:

Kansas Department of Children and Families

Visit their website for more information at: <http://Kansashealth.org>

Commodities for help with soup kitchens.

<http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/USDA-Commodity-Programs/SKFB.aspx>

#### WELLNESS BENEFIT

Some helpful reminders: Clergy on GP Conf. Insurance for 2014. Must be mailed in before the end of the year. There is a form to get filled out at the link below.

In 2014, the participant premium of the health insurance will be waived for one month if the individual completes an annual health exam. A form will need to be signed by the participant's doctor and returned to the Administrative Services office. If the clergy person is married and the spouse is covered by the GPUMC health insurance, both the clergy and the spouse must have an annual exam for the waiver of the clergy share. Administration of this benefit is yet to be determined. This wellness benefit also applies to lay employees of the GPUMC.

In order for the doctor visit to be counted as a wellness exam, no health issues outside of a regular physical can be covered with your physician at the appointment.

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

#### December Church Prayer Calendar

Dec. 7	Melvorn/Quenemo Pastor Alex Bruening
Dec. 14	Fort Scott 1st Rev. Steve Cole
Dec. 21	Turkey Creek/Gridley Rev. Marcia Eaton
Dec. 28	Elsmore/Mildred Rev. Ralph Peters



## Clergy Birthdays December

Rev. Marcia Eaton 9th

Rev. Lane Bailey 22nd



## Clergy Birthdays January

Rev. Lyle Seger 9th

Rev. Jim Stigall 14th

When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things — not the great occasions — give off the greatest glow of happiness. ~Bob Hope

## Church Conference Schedule

Date	Location	Church or Clusters
Dec. 4 7pm	Lyndon	Lyndon
Dec. 7 12noon	Wellsville	Wellsville-Clearfield
Dec. 7 3pm	Ives Chapel	Ives Chapel
Dec. 7 6pm	Eudora	Eudora
Dec. 9 7pm	Richmond	Richmond
Dec. 11 7pm	Hammond	St. John's-Hammond-West Liberty
Dec. 14 12noon	Lane	Osawatomie-Lane
Dec. 14 3pm	Beagle	Parker-Beagle-Fontana
Dec. 14 6pm	LaCygne	LaCygne-New Lancaster
Dec. 15 7pm	Ottawa 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ottawa 1 <sup>st</sup>
Dec. 16 7pm	Gridley	Gridley-Turkey Creek
Dec. 18 7pm	Williamsburg	Williamsburg
Jan. 11 12noon	Downtown	Lawrence 1 <sup>st</sup>
Jan. 11 3pm	Centenary	Centenary-Linwood

## January Church Prayer Calendar

Jan. 3	New Church Lawrence KU Campus Ministries Rev. Jacob Cloud
Jan. 10th	Clearfield Rev. Lane Bailey
Jan. 17th	Wellsville Rev. Lane Bailey
Jan. 24th	LaCygne/New Lancaster Rev. Pat Longstroth
Jan. 31st	Camp Chippewa James Rickner and Staff

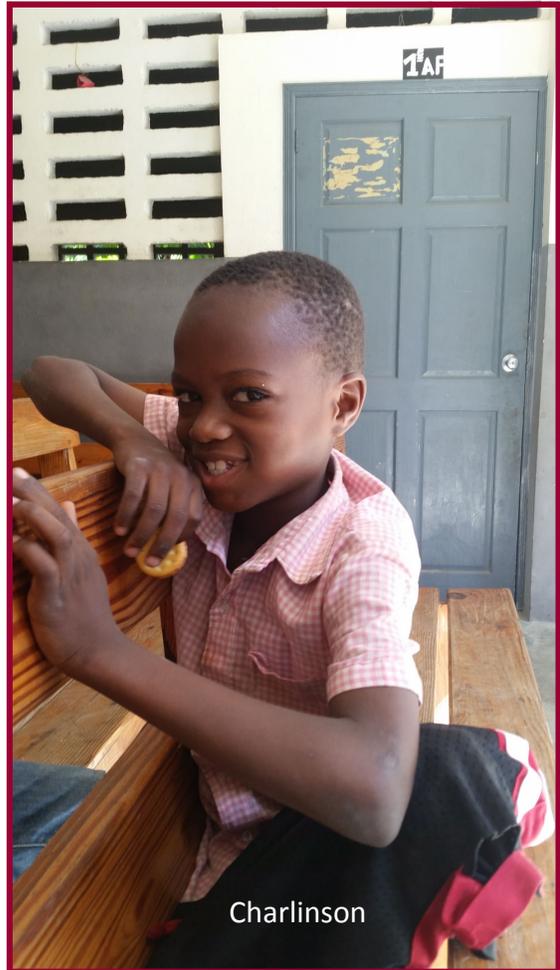
Emily England teaching Bible School in Haiti



Church construction project in Leveque, Haiti. Photo contributed by Angela Watts



- Nancy; This is one of our sweet little girls that came to visit us at the construction site every day and attended Vacation Bible School each



Charlinson

## WORDEN UMC MEMBERS MISSION TRIP TO HAITI

Our team was so blessed to travel to Haiti on this mission trip. Six of us were there from November 4 to November 11. I was doubly blessed, as I was able to go on this trip with my daughter, Emily. During the week we worked alongside Haitians to rebuild the church that was destroyed in the earthquake. It was the hardest week of work that any of us have gone through, but so rewarding to see the progress being made. We also held Vacation Bible School for the local children for three days, leaving them each with stories of Jesus and small crafts to decorate each day. The children were so loving toward us all. We started each morning with group breakfast and devotions. After a long day of work we would gather for dinner and evening devotion. Any free time that we had we spent with the locals either teaching each other our languages, playing soccer, sharing our faith, sharing laughs, and sharing much love. The Haitians are so rich in spirit, it is an honor to be in their presence. I know each of us will forever have a Haiti Heart.

Susan England

Photos contributed by Susan England



L to R Emily England, Roger Dressler, Susan England, Angela Watts, John Heckathorne, Deb Handy; Donations were collected from our church to send ahead of us to purchase medical supplies needed in the area clinics.

L to R John Heckathorne, Lemaire Napoleon, Deb Handy, Madame Lulu, Angela Watts, Roger Dressler, Emily England (crouched), Susan England; This is the entrance to the school in Leveque. We were housed in the school during our time on the worksite.



*Five Rivers District*



**Cultivating Christian Discipleship**

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Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful ~ Norman Vincent Peale

**The One Event ~ GP Conference Youth  
Rally and Overnight Grand Island, NE**

Friday, January 30, 2015 to Saturday, January 31, 2015

Groups that want to pre-order meals at the convention center need to order them by December 4. (They certainly don't have to order meals though, they can always go out.)

Our special rates at the hotels also expire December 4. After that there's no guarantee the hotels will still be able to offer those rates.

If you have any questions call us here at the Wichita office or email us at:

[theoneevent@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:theoneevent@greatplainsumc.org).



**May Peace be your gift at Christmas  
and your blessing all year through!**

~Author Unknown