

FIVE RIVERS
DISTRICT OFFICE

Mission Statement:
Cultivating
Christian Growth

Living Water

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DECEMBER 2009

Greetings from our District Superintendent

Isaiah 8:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.



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As we travel through the Advent season celebrating the birth of Christ our Lord in our churches and homes, may we be blessed by the wonderful connectivity of our rich United Methodist heritage.

Wishing you the blessings of His love in 2010,

Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman



Sometimes as we struggle with mundane tasks like preparing a church budget or maintaining a building or organizing Sunday School and worship services and potluck dinners we lose sight of what Christ truly calls us to do.

A Bishop's Roundup Newbie

by David Simmons
Baldwin 1st UMC

Since I moved to Baldwin City five years ago and became part of Baldwin First United Methodist Church, I have listened to the mission team's annual Bishop's Roundup plea and really didn't pay much attention to it. Then, something happened! A request was made for adults to take youth group kids to the Bishop's Roundup Lock-in at Lawrence First UMC. I answered the call and along with another adult took nine youth to the Lock-in. If you haven't slept with over 150 Christian youth and about 60 caring adults in a church basement in a while and experienced the fellowship of God-loving youth, you are missing an exciting part of the United Methodist Church. No, that wasn't me snoring. Well, maybe it was.

Our instructions the next day were to transport our youth to the Douglas County Fairgrounds but I still didn't know what to expect. Boy, was I shocked. Over 250 energetic youth spread out over 3 barns and unloaded boxes from the 100's of trucks, trailers, cars, vans, and anything else that can haul boxes labeled with various colors of construction papers to signify clothes, food, birthing kits, layettes, bedding, and school kits. When a vehicle would pull up I would warn the driver to keep their seatbelts on or the kids might unloaded them too and stacked up with birthing kits. A trailer would pull up full of boxes of clothes and without prompting lines of 30-40 kids would just appear to pass the boxes to the semi for the Salvation Army. For the record, 3 cars full of boxes can be unloaded in less than 3 minutes.

It was amazing to see what these youth did. When they were done unloading all the vehicles, they began loading everything up in panel trucks to be distributed to various service agencies within the Kansas East Conference. I was completely blown away by the sight of so many caring Christian kids coming together to be God's Hands and Feet. People brought things from Independence, Pittsburg, Emporia, Westmoreland, Topeka, Kansas City, Horton and nearly every church in the Conference. The youth came from Valley Heights, Lawrence, Baldwin, Emporia, Living Waters, Iola and about 30 other churches in the Conference.

Sometimes as we struggle with mundane tasks like preparing a church budget or maintaining a building or organizing Sunday School and worship services and potluck dinners we lose sight of what Christ truly calls us to do. He calls us to love our neighbors. He calls us to keep the food pantry open just a little bit longer so the mother and her two children can have something to eat today. He calls us to provide a layette kit for that grandmother whose week old grandchild was dropped off at her doorstep because the mother is drug addict and can't care for the baby. He calls us to provide that birthing kit to the family in Haiti so a birthing mother has a chance to raise her baby. He calls us to look beyond ourselves and spread His love to the world.
Cont. pg 3

A Bishop's Roundup Newbie cont.

As a Conference, we, you and me and our youth, donated and helped distribute nearly half of million dollars worth of God's unending love to your neighbors and my neighbors and other neighbors around the world. It is through this connection of the United Methodist Church that we can really see how we have answered God's call. As I told my congregation on the Sunday following the Roundup, the 2010 Bishop Roundup starts today. I hope to see you next year sleeping on a church floor with a couple of hundred other young Christians. Uhh, bring your own earplugs.

The 79th Annual Baker University's Christmas Candlelight Vespers is December 6th, 4 and 7:30 PM. It will be held at Baldwin 1st UMC, 704 8th Street, Baldwin City, KS.

Fundraiser for Vinland UMC

Vinland UMC invites you to their annual benefit for **Youthville**. This year they will feature the **Witness Band**, presenting a heartwarming combination of instrumental and vocal religious music. There will also be some small ensembles from the Baldwin High School on the program. The evening will start at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, with a soup and sandwich supper, followed by the program. The church is located five miles northeast of Baldwin and ten miles southeast of Lawrence.

The Vinland church has held events for several years during the Christmas season to benefit Youthville, which supports Kansas youth and their families. Youthville has several live-in homes in the Newton-Wichita and Dodge City areas for youth in need of care and also assists families. Witness Band has been the featured program for three years at the benefit. Prior to that the church sponsored a Living Nativity for several years.

15th Annual Festival of the Nativities

December 5,6,12,13,19 & 20 - Noon to 4pm

Centenary United Methodist Church

245 N. 4th Street, Lawrence, KS

(corner of 4th and Elm in North Lawrence)

To inquire about special group times, call 785-843-1756



Description of the Festival:

Centenary UMC is opening our doors for the 15th year to invite everyone to celebrate the story of Christmas told around the world. This exhibit of over 300 International Nativity sets is a joyous expression of cultural diversity - and a great way for individuals, families, friends and groups to celebrate the universal anticipation of joy as revealed in the coming of the Christ child. The Festival of the Nativities at Centenary will be open on Saturdays and Sundays through the Advent Season (Dec 5-20) from Noon to 4pm, as well as one hour before and a half hour after our Christmas Eve Service. Special times might be open to tour groups if they can be scheduled when our volunteers are available to open the exhibit - for such groups, a love offering will be asked.

December 2009

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		

Dec. 1st	KE Boom and Appointive Cabinet
Dec. 2nd	District Clergy Meeting, Ottawa 1st UMC, 9-Noon Parker- <i>Beagle</i> -Fontana Church Conference 7 PM, SPRC meet at 6:30 PM
Dec. 3rd	Fulton Church Conference 7 PM, SPRC meet at 6:30 PM
Dec. 5th	Commission on Diversity and Advocacy, 10 AM to 2 PM at Lyndon UMC Five Rivers District Leadership Team, 9-11 AM, Lyndon UMC
Dec. 6th	Baldwin Church Conference 1:00 PM, SPRC meet at 12:30 PM Lawrence 1st Church Conference 3:30 PM, SPRC meet at 3:00 PM Eudora Church Conference 7 PM, SPRC meet at 6:30 PM
Dec. 7th	Paola Church Conference 7 PM, SPRC meet at 6:30 PM
Dec. 8th	Garnett Church Conference 7 PM, SPRC meet at 6:30 PM
Dec. 9th	Lyndon Church Conference 7 PM, SPRC meet at 6:30 PM
Dec. 10th	Overbrook Church Conference 7 PM, SPRC meet at 6:30 PM
Dec. 13th	Burlington Church Conference 12:30 PM SPRC meet at 12:00 PM

December Calendar Continued

Dec. 13th	Wellsville Church Conference 4 PM, SPRC is at 3:30 PM Edgerton Church Conference 6 PM, SPRC is at 5:30 PM
Dec. 14th	Uniontown- Redfield Church Conference 7 PM, SPRC is at 6:30 PM
Dec. 15th	Gridley- Turkey Creek -LeRoy Church Conference 7 PM, SPRC is at 6:30 PM
Dec. 16th	Richmond Church Conference 7 PM, SPRC is at 6:30 PM
Dec. 17th	Waverly- Prairie View Church Conference 7 PM, SPRC is at 6:30 PM
Dec. 20-Jan 4th	District Office Closed for vacation In an emergency call the Kansas East Conference Office at 1-877-972-9111
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
Dec. 25th	Christmas Day

May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through! ~Author Unknown

The Kansas East Conference Of the United Methodist Church

Our Vision

people and churches
spiritually alive and growing.

Our Mission

to connect and empower
people and churches
in living out the Gospels call
to invite, nurture, equip,
and send forth disciples
of Jesus Christ.

Clergy December Birthdays

Bud Tuxhorn	December 8th
Marcia Eaton	December 9th
Dallas Peterson	December 21st

May each and every passing year bring you wisdom,
peace and cheer.

District Prayer Calendar

Dec. 6th	Iola Wesley- Neosho Falls Rev. Trudy Kenyon Anderson
Dec. 13th	Ottawa Union Chapel Princeton Pastor Jada Hodgson
Dec. 20th	Williamsburg Pastor Billy Hughes
Dec. 27th	Yates Center Rev. Russell Anderson

Our missionaries in Haiti
Joe and Shirley Edgerton
and work teams

Tony Ikenberry returning from Bangladesh

Five Rivers District

We're on the web at
www.fiveriversdistrict.com

The United Methodist Church

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Bishop Scott Jones

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Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Administrative Assistant, Newsletter Editor

Marvé Ralston

December 15th is the deadline for your *Appointive Recommendation forms for both Self and Staff/Pastor Relations Committee*. They can be gotten off the Kansas East website at www.kansaseast.org. Go to Administration, Charge Conference & Assessment Forms (top left-hand side.) If you have already mailed yours in, thanks.

Clearfield German Christmas Celebration – 597 E. 2200 Rd. (County Rd. 1061) 7 miles south of

Eudora or 4 miles north of Hwy 56

Church is handicapped accessible

Saturday, December 12, 2009

4:30-8:00 PM

Music Meditation Tree Lighting

Sing A Long 5:00 PM

The Guitarists 5:45 PM

Hands of Glory 7:00 PM, Youthville Offering & Christmas Story

Tree Lighting 4:30 & 6:30 PM

Food 4:30 – 6:30 PM (German potato salad, Bratwurst, Blackforest
Cake, etc.)

Crafts 4:30 – 6:30 PM

“Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht” “Silent Night, Holy Night”

