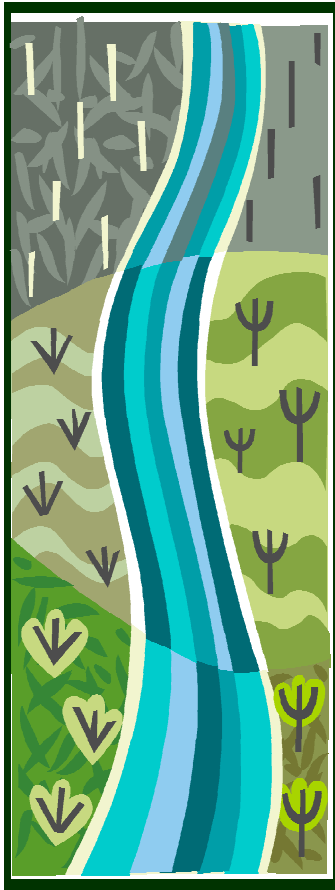


Living Water

Five Rivers District Office Newsletter

REFLECTIONS FROM RON



Hello Colleagues and friends,

The year is off and running and already one month has passed. Each month brings something to celebrate, whether it's a secular holiday, or whether we just give thanks, rejoice and be glad that it's a day that the Lord has made.

For months, now, we've heard the stories of impending doom about our world. The economic collapse of the financial industry has drawn our attention. The bailout of the American auto industry has us surprised and angry that our tax dollars are going to the very people that are already getting our money. The FBI has reported an increase in bank robberies and it appears that our money is not as safe there as it once was. And Madoff has made off with the finances and wealth of the rich in ways that leave them embarrassed, financially strapped, and some have

already committed suicide because their wealth is gone (not all of it, but enough to have driven them to despair).

There is no doubt that stories will arise as time and space seem to implode on one another. The world as we know it seems to be getting smaller. We're no longer as alien to one another as we were a generation ago. Perhaps it is the increasing world population. Maybe it's the fact that we can now travel greater distances in shorter periods of time than ever before. Perhaps it has been the advent of the internet, the possession of our Blackberry's, space book, and other internet modes of access that we seem to be less a stranger. Nonetheless, we seem to be more aware of what's happening on the world stage that ever before.

Well, what does that mean exactly? I believe it means that the world needs us (Christians and other

believers in God) like never before. I also believe that God has called us to be a special people to the world, especially in times like this.

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Perhaps now is the time for those of us who are Christians to seek ways to move beyond the walls of the church to cultivate our Christian growth — that is if we have been redeemed and are a

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METHODIST TERMS AND DEFINITIONS BY MARVÉ RALSTON

When I started work in the district office, I was given a “**Dictionary for United Methodists**” by **Alan K. Waltz**. It was given to me by Rev. John Vaughan who had been on the committee that interviewed me and was a pastor at Iola: Calvary/Salem at the time. He would later become a good friend whom I frequently called if I needed advice or information. Pastor John is now with our Heavenly Father. More than ever, I realize how much I have learned in this office as well as how much I am still learning. Here are a few of the things that many of you know but you may want to share with those like me, who grew up in the Methodist Church but are unfamiliar with many of the terms or definitions. This dictionary is definitely one I recommend and have used a lot.

Itineracy, Itinerancy -The system where ministers are appointed to their charges by Bishops. Ministers are under obligation to *serve where appointed*. It developed from earlier days when ministers traveled throughout an area serving different churches and not remaining with any one particular congregation for a lengthy amount of time.

This is best explained in an article written by Rev. Kathleen Whitmore. You can find it on the district website at www.fiveriversdistrict.com under archived newsletters May 2007 issue. It is titled ***Home Is Where the Bishop Sends Us***.

The Book of Discipline - The fundamental book outlining the law, doctrine, administration, and organizational work and procedures for the UMC. This is amended by the actions of the General Conference and a new Book of Discipline is published every four years after being finalized. It is usually available several months after General Conference. 2008 version currently available.

Social Principles – A lengthy document setting forth the basic position of the UMC on important social issues. Printed in full in the ***Book of the Discipline***. We had a workshop on it several years ago. You can get copies of it from the Service Department of the General Board of Church and Society by ordering them online at www.umc-gbcs.org. The new ones will be available through Cokesbury sometime soon.

The Christian Year — The six definable Christian observances. Each focusing on a different aspect of the Christian experience and tradition. The dates may change from year to year as they relate to the Christian celebrations of Easter and Christmas. **Advent** begins four Sundays before Christmas. **The Christmas Season** is the twelve days from Christmas Eve at sunset through Epiphany on January 6th. **The Season After Epiphany** which begins January 7th and lasts until Ash Wednesday. **Lent** begins on Ash Wednesday until Easter. The exact dates of Lent are dependent on the date for Easter Sunday. **Easter** is the first Sunday after the first full moon, after March 21st. Easter can be anytime between March 22nd and April 25th, so the length of the Season after Epiphany and Season After Pentecost varies. The Easter Season is fifty days long and goes through the Day of Pentecost. **The Season After Pentecost** begins immediately after Pentecost Sunday and continues until the beginning of Advent.

Liturgical Colors - These are the colors symbolizing the days and seasons of the Christian year. They are purple for Advent, white for Christmas, Season After Epiphany is white for the 1st and last Sundays and green at the other times. Purple is also used for Lent. Easter is white until the day of Pentecost and red is used on that day. The Season after Pentecost, white for the 1st and last Sundays and for All Saints Day and green at other times. **Permission granted from the publisher for one time use from the publisher Abingdon Press.**

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Deut. 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentines Day
15 2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9	23	24	25 Ash Wednesday	26	27	28

- Feb. 2-3 Appointive Cabinet
- Feb. 10 Extended Cabinet
- Feb. 11-12 Appointive Cabinet
- Feb. 19-20 Appointive Cabinet
- Feb. 21 Preaching Workshop in Garnett
- Feb. 23 District Clergy Meeting, Garnett, 10 AM-3 PM
- Feb. 24-25 Appointive Cabinet

District Prayer Calendar

Feb. 1	Edgerton UMC	Rev. Gayla Rapp
Feb. 8	Lawrence Central	Rev. Maria Campbell
Feb. 15	Devon/Mapleton	Pastor Glen Duderstadt
Feb. 22	Richmond	Rev. Jerrald Harnden

Five Rivers District Office Newsletter

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We're on the web at

www.fiveriversdistrict.com



2009 Mileage Rates

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2009 the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

55 cents per mile for business miles driven.

24 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes.

14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

Reflections From Ron continued from page 1

people zealous for good deeds. In the coming days, it looks like the world is not going to be lacking for people to do this work. And once again, the harvest will be plentiful. Will there be a labor shortage?

Agape and shalom,
Ron

Computers donated for local church use

Need a church computer? You can get a used but reconditioned computer and/or printer for your church use from the **Church of the Resurrection**. You need to call Rick Estrin if you are interested. His home number is 913-685-1008, and his mobile is 816-591-0465. His e-mail is restrin@lucent.com.

Be prepared to answer questions about what you plan to use the computer or printer for such as the internet, word processing, Excel spreadsheets, etc. This is a free service from the **Church of the Resurrection** to help Local Churches with computer accessibility.

Clergy Birthdays

Connie McKee Smith Feb. 3rd

Ji-Seok Ju Feb. 28th