

Living Water

A Bi-Monthly Publication of the
FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT



Friends:

In the last several months, our District Superintendent, Rev. David Watson, has been all over our district. He has been filling the pulpit, meeting with pastors and SPRC committees, leading Church Conferences, and celebrating along with groups as they serve their communities. His plans for this spring are a continuation of that.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank him. If you check out our calendar, you will see he has a very event filled next few months. Our request is that you will be in prayer for our district and our DS and his family. It is that time again, when the Cabinet and Bishop are working on new appointments. Our DS is part of the Cabinet (made up of 17 District Superintendents and our new Bishop, Ruben Saenz.)

The UMC have itineracy in their appointment process. Elders are appointed by the Bishop, local pastors are approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry and licensed by the Bishop, and subject to the possibility of moving each year. On Dec. 15, 2016, a form came into our office from both the pastors and SPRC Committees. From those forms, as well as the needs of the GP Conference, decisions are prayerfully made regarding pastor moves.

Much prayer is needed as the Cabinet and Bishop discern what is in the best interest of all our Great Plains Conference churches. Once the largest churches are appointed, it moves down the line. Concerning the part-time appointments, it often falls on the DS to recruit and find folks that are the best qualified to pastor your churches. This is no small responsibility!

We have a wonderful district made up of 70 local churches. We have 48 folks serving our churches that are ordained Elders and Deacons, Local Pastors, District Superintendent Assignments (DSA), Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) in full and part-time positions. Please pray for them all; both in this season of transition, and for fruitful ministry in 2017. You will find our district prayer calendar on our website. It lists different churches and ministries to pray for each week.

We increased our district apportionment giving from 70.45% to 75.85% this year. This was a struggle for many of our churches, thank you! Our district mission is to Cultivate Christian Discipleship and Support the Local Church. Thank you for all you are doing to help us move toward that end!

Marvé Ralston
Administrative Assistant to Rev. David Watson
Five Rivers District Superintendent

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Clergy Meeting:
March 7th, Ottawa
1st.
Todd Seifert will be
speaking about Multi-
media Worship Tools
9-Noon

January 2017

Su	Mo	Tue	We	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				

February 2017

Su	Mo	Tue	We	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				

Jan. 28 ~ Celebration and Thanksgiving for Dottie Forinash Knetsch, 11:00 a.m. at Lawrence Central UMC

Jan. 31 ~ Statistical Tables are due online, all local churches by 5 p.m.

Jan. 31-Feb. 2 ~ Appointive Cabinet, DS is in Topeka

Feb. 5 ~ DS preaches at Lyndon UMC

Feb. 6 ~ District Leadership Team 6:00 p.m.

Feb. 11 ~ DS teaching a class at Burlington UMC on "Outreach" 9-Noon

Feb. 12 ~ DS preaches at Prescott/Pleasanton UMC

Feb. 12-13 ~ UMW LEAF at Topeka First UMC

Feb. 13-16 ~ Appointive Cabinet, DS is in Lincoln, NE

Feb. 19 ~ Ottawa 1st, How to Share Your Faith Without Being a Jerk, after Worship by the DS

Feb. 27-Mar. 2 ~ Appointive Cabinet, DS is in Wichita, KS

Lay Servant Ministries in Five Rivers District By Marvé Ralston

On January 20-21st at Ottawa 1st UMC, there was a training event in our district. In attendance, were folks there from all over the Great Plains Conference. There were two advanced level classes offered, Prayer and Polity, as well as the Basic class, which is a requirement for the additional classes. Rev. Jim Hopwood led the Prayer course, Jada Hodgson led the Polity course, and Tom Kleist led the Basic class.

Lay Servant Ministries is a program of the United Methodist Church that provides training and education for the Laity. There are several paths you can take with the training; but you are not required to follow them in order to take the classes.

Here is a link to learn more about what a Lay Servant is, as well as future training events.

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

Our district has a director, David Wasserfallen, who is happy to answer any questions you have about the program. His email is drw1490@hotmail.com.



Rev. Scott Dickinson
(Michigan Valley UMC)
Entertains our group with
some magic.



“Five River’s Got Talent” By Marvé Ralston

Five Rivers District, annual Clergy Epiphany Dinner was held on Friday, January 4th at Ottawa 1st UMC. We started with appetizers provided by Karen Watson, wife of Rev. David Watson, our District Superintendent. The appetizers were a wonderful addition to our meal and helped facilitate more fellowship before the dinner.

Prairie Star catered our dinner and as always, did not disappoint. We had mesquite chicken, scalloped potatoes, green beans and rolls. Karen Watson also provided a delicious pecan cake for dessert.

For entertainment after our dinner, we had Jada Hodgson (serving Plum Creek UMC) who began the evening with humorous storytelling. The next act was Dan Norwood (Lawrence: Centenary/ Linwood UMC) who played guitar and sang several songs. Scott Dickinson (Michigan Valley UMC) entertained with Magic that included a flaming bible. Connie (Mapleton UMC) and Allen Edgerton performed several songs and shared that they had formerly participated in a band together. Caren Loper (Lyndon UMC) completed our entertainment with several beautiful songs on the keyboard. We have wonderful talent in Five Rivers for sure!

Thanks to all that entertained, Karen Watson for her great appetizers and dessert, Ottawa 1st for hosting us, Prairie Star for our catered meal, and all those that attended for sharing the evening with us. Pictures on pages 4 –5



Five Rivers District
“We’ve Got Talent”
Annual Epiphany
dinner and fellow-
ship. January 4th, at
Ottawa 1st UMC.

Yes indeed, we’ve
got talent!

Jada Hodgson, pastor at Plum Creek UMC began our evening talent show with her storytelling. Jada has written a newly published book, “A View From the Fog.” You can find it on Amazon.com



Dan Nor-
wood, pas-
tor at Law-
rence Cen-
tenary and
Linwood
UMC, sang
and played
his guitar.



Connie Edgerton serving Mapleton UMC and her husband Allen, entertained us with songs



Caren Loper played the keyboard as her lovely part in our talent show.

Scott Dickinson, pastor at Michigan Valley UMC, entertaining us with his flaming Bible





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Ruben Saenz

District Superintendent:

Rev. David Watson

Administrative Assistant/Newsletter

Editor

Marve' Ralston

We have new babies in our district to celebrate!

Meet Jinha Kim, born on January 14th and weighing, 6 lbs and 10 oz, She is the new daughter of Rev. Daekyung Kim (Melvern and Quenemo UMC) and his wife Jinhee Han. She is welcomed home by older sibling Inha.



Jinha Kim



Reily Bell

Reagan Bell

Meet Reily Wayne and Reagan Waverly Bell, Reily weighed 7 lbs, 11 oz, and Reagan was 6 lbs , 8 oz. They were born on Oct. 17, 2016 to Rev. Ron (Waverly and Prairie View UMC) and his wife Kristen. The were welcomed home by a very proud older sister.