



Living Water

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Save the Dates:

Project Revolution
September 7-8th
District Work Day
September 14th

From Your District Superintendent

Last week I found myself in the midst of a gathering of Extended Cabinets, BOOM reps, Bishops, and other conference leaders from the South Central Jurisdiction. We met at a gathering called “Bishops’ Week.” The focus of the meeting was “Excellence in Ministry: Developing Fruitful Leaders.” This is an issue that has been a part of Methodism beginning with Mr. Wesley himself.

Wesley asked this question regarding his preachers: “Have they fruit?” He also made the issue of fruitfulness a matter to be considered by the lay folks who were participants in the Class meetings established by Wesley in his day. Thus, the question bears on each of us who walk in the way of Christ.

The Rev. Nathan E. Kirkpatrick is managing director at Leadership Education at Duke Divinity and an ordained elder in the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. In an article about Wesley’s question, Rev. Kirkpatrick had this to say:

“Have they fruit?” John Wesley asked of his would-be preachers. Could those who were seeking ordination show anything for their service? Was there at least one person who had found faith through the word they proclaimed? A single person whose spiritual practices had been enlivened by what they taught? A hungry person who found bread? A homeless person who found shelter? Was there any sign that the ministry exercised by this person was making the world to the dream of God?

Again, the evidence from Wesley does not limit this question to pastors, but presents it to all of those who claim to be disciples of Christ.

Fruit is that which carries the seed of the plant which produced it. So, the fruit that we bear carries the seed of God’s love which is planted in the heart of the other. We are carriers of Christ’s love and grace and have the obligation and opportunity to infect others with the reality of God’s transformative presence.

To bear fruit we need to cultivate God within us. This happens through spiritual discipline and the exercise of spiritual gifts. We need to continually pray, study, serve, proclaim, give, worship, fellowship, and love. This will ensure that the fruit that we carry will be full and loaded with the essence of God.

One other observation. The inquiry regarding fruit needs to begin within each of us. Before we can ask “Have they fruit?” we must ask “Have I fruit?” So today I am considering this question within my own heart. Each day this is where it begins – am I “...making the world to the dream of God?”

Bishop of the Great Plains
Episcopal Area
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Five Rivers District
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Newsletter Editor/Admn.
Assistant
Marvé Ralston

JULY 2013

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			

District Events

June 30 Rev. Jim Stigall's **Welcome** at Bronson UMC for **Moran/Bronson** ~ all are invited, worship at 11:00 a.m., potluck lunch at noon, Folk Mountain Gospel Group to perform at 1:30.

July 4-5 District Office Closed for **4th of July** Holiday/Vacation

July 6th The Amazing Grace 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Run in Blue Mound by Blue Mound UMC. 7:00 a.m. registration, 7:30 5K race, 8:30 1 mile Fun Run. Contact is Kerry Coffel 913-259-2801 or kerry.coffel@gmail.com

July 7th Vinland UMC ~ 2pm Vinland UMC is hosting a "**Tent Meeting**" at the Vinland Fair-ground. There will be open microphone preaching, or monologues, poems or readings. A couple of churches have requested time for music and preaching but all are welcome to participate. We encourage "dress" be from the 1800's and we will have some

frock coats, etc available. Refreshment will be provided and some lessons and activities for children. I will send a brochure when the schedule is completed nearer the time ...people can call the church office (785-594-3256 and leave their name and call back if they would like time at the mic or music or whatever).

July 7th Worden UMC ~ 10:30 am Worden UMC is holding an old fashioned "**Camp Meeting**". There will be guitar, banjo and mandolin music on the agenda. Afterwards feel free to join them for a potluck lunch at noon.

July 25th Clergy Pension Meeting ~ Garnett UMC see page 3 for details

July 27th Restoring Balance – Lunch and Dialogue www.kansaseast.org/events/detail_ke/4487

July 29th Worlds and Oceans of Fun ~ KE Youth Register at <http://kansaseast.org/youth>

Church Prayer Calendar

July 7 Mound City/Blue Mound
 Pastor Dallas Peterson

July 14 Burlington
 Rev. Moon-Hee Chung

July 21 Centenary/Linwood
 Pastor Dan Norwood

July 28 Ottawa Trinity/Union Chapel
 Rev. Barb Clinger



2013-14 District Council on Youth Ministry Officers

Vice: Caitlyn Ramsey (1st on left) President: Stephanie Brands
 Secretary: Grace Foiles Chaplain: Jenna Van Bargaen

Clergy Birthdays:

Alex Bruening July 3rd
 Bill Nelson July 13th
 Loren Drummond July 23rd

Pension Meetings Being Held in July

The Kansas East Conference will be hosting meetings throughout the Conference to explain the changes in the clergy pension plan and cover the changes in the retirees health plan. These changes will be effective January 1, 2014.

All active clergy (not in retirement status) are encouraged to attend to learn how the pension plan has changed. The new pension plan will require a contribution into your UMPIP (clergy match) and you will learn what affect it will have should you make the decision not to contribute the required match.

Those serving a quarter-time will receive a contribution to their pension, only it will not go into the CRSP as it currently does.

The pension portion of the day will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. In the afternoon from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., that portion will cover Extend Health which will be the new coverage for the retirees at the first of the year.

There will be a representative from the General Board to assist with these meetings.

Please add one of these meetings to your calendar and plan to attend.

The meeting dates and locations are as follows:

July 22nd Wesley UMC, Parsons
 July 23rd Susanna Wesley UMC, Topeka
 July 24th Heritage UMC, Overland Park
 July 25th Garnett UMC, Garnett
 July 26th Manhattan 1st, Manhattan



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New Pastor Assignments for Five Rivers District:

Ives Chapel UMC ~ Pastor Kathleen Carpenter

Colony UMC ~ Pastor Dorothy Welch

Mapleton UMC ~ Rev. Don Flanner will be staying

Elsmore/Mildred UMC ~ Rev. Ralph Peters

Eudora UMC ~ Rev. Lyle Seger

Garnett and Greeley UMC ~ Pastor Bill Driver

Iola Trinity UMC ~ Pastor Dorothy Welch

Moran/Bronson UMC ~ Rev. Jim Stigall

Osawatomic/Lane UMC ~ Rev. Marti McDougal

Overbrook UMC ~ Rev. Hyun Jung Choi

Parker/Beagle/Fontana UMC ~ Pastor Kimberly Serio

Richter UMC ~ Rev. Lori Stevens

Waverly/Prairie View UMC ~ Pastor Ron Bell

Rev. Karen Jeffcoat has moved to Lincoln, Neb. to take the position of Registrar of the Great Plains District but will be linked to our district through Extension Ministries.

If your churches name is not on the list, your pastor has been reappointed by the Cabinet and Bishop Jones to serve another year. Please be in prayer for all our pastors and churches. Remember our district's mission statement: Cultivating Christian Disciples.