

July 2010

Volume 6, Issue 7

*Mission Statement:  
To Cultivate Christian Growth*



# Living Water

## *News From Your District Superintendent*

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

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As I am writing this article sitting in a seminar room in Pittsburg, PA learning about “Superintending the Small Church.” How appropriate is that for the Five Rivers District? The vast majority of the churches in our district and, in fact, in our denomination are small. That is a good thing!

The small church is a vital and life giving presence in places and communities where the Good News of Jesus Christ needs to be proclaimed. As so many of you know so well, the UM church remains in many communities and areas where almost everything else has gone. Many such churches are the anchor and hub of the life for the people in the area. Vital ministry happens through the efforts of Christ’s followers in such churches. Lives are transformed as God’s love flows into the areas served by small churches. People find hope on their way on the journey of life.

I am not naïve about the struggles that small churches are facing. The life of rural America has shifted dramatically over the past couple of decades or more. The small churches in urban areas are facing very similar dynamics of shifting populations. It is not easy to maintain and grow ministry in such circumstances, but it does happen. The small church is resilient! Many have more lives than the proverbial cat. Life happens in small churches when there is the flexibility to identify the current, all be it, shifting needs of the people in the area. Churches that are prepared and willing to risk for the sake of the Gospel will find a way to serve God and others in their place of ministry. Risk taking is the important and difficult reality for hope to exist for the small church. Getting beyond “my” comfort zone and knowing that “my” risk can help change the lives of people is the mindset which will bring renewal to any church.

Small churches are great! Those who pastor such churches are incredibly talented and dedicated people. Please know that I am very aware of the work that happens in and through your ministries.

God’s blessing be with all of the churches and people of the Five Rivers district.

In Christ,

Dennis

Please Save These Dates:

◆ 5R Youth Rally

Project Revolution

September 12-13th 4 p.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Lawrence 1st (West)

◆ The Fab Five Festival and Fellowship

District Event all welcome

October 2nd 10:00 registration—3:00 p.m.

Ottawa UMC

**Schedule of Events**

# July 2010

*Have a safe and happy*

*4th of July!*

- *July 5th to 18th*

*Rev. Ackerman is on vacation*

- *July 5th-9th*

*District Office closed-Admn. Asst. on vacation*

- *July 22nd*

*North Incubator Group*

*9 a.m.-5 p.m. Countryside UMC*

- *July 22nd*

*District Leadership Team Meeting*

*Osborne Chapel 6:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m.*

- *August 7th*

*District Committee on Superintendency Meeting*

*Fort Scott 1st-9 a.m.-Noon*

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

## **Just What Is Facebook?** *By Marvé Ralston*

Want to find an old high school classmate or friend from a past job? Maybe you just want to stay in contact with your siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews and share recent pictures. If you are familiar with computers and have internet access, you might start with Facebook. It's a free online social networking site started in 2004 in Cambridge, Massachusetts by a Harvard student named Mark Zuckerberg.

Zuckerberg originally was working on the Facebook project for Harvard peers exclusively. He got quite a bit of resistance from the school and they even involved legal action which they later dropped. After he got it up and running, he added a few more Ivy League schools and others in close proximity with affiliations to Harvard. It just kept spreading until 2010 where it boasts 400 million active users world wide (users who return to the site in 30 days.)

If you are interested in starting a Facebook account and page, you first need to have an e-mail account set up. There are many such as Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo, etc. Then go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). After you have an e-mail account you can begin setting up the Facebook account. You will want to have a good password ready as well. Please write it down or make it really simple. If you lose it they can send it to your e-mail address but that is not fun.

Next you can set up your privacy. I recommend this as a first step in building your page. In the upper right hand side is **account**. Click on it then scroll down to **privacy**. This brings up a page where you control who can see all your information. You can choose the **recommended** settings or check out **custom settings**, this is a choice at the bottom. Most things I would recommend **friends only**, but some you might not want available at all. You can even select different levels of privacy for different people. **Continued on page 6**

## Of Possible Interest to You:

### Changes to Safe and Sacred Space certification announced

Effective July 1, the Kansas East Conference will be charging \$30 for the background checks required for Safe and Sacred Space certification. The increase is necessary because the state has increased their costs for the checks, and the conference cannot subsidize the program to absorb the increase. To help defray the costs, the conference will increase the time of certification from four years to five years.

### Cooperative School of Christian Mission, July 15

The Kansas East Conference United Methodist Women and the KEC Board of Global Ministries will present the Cooperative School of Christian Mission July 15 at Baker University in Baldwin City.

This years theme is Faith Hope Love in Action. □

Get more information at <http://www.kansaseast.org/events/detail/3104>, or contact Jeanette Grenz at 913-239-0679 or [jgrenz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jgrenz@sbcglobal.net) or Jean Reynolds 785-542-2301 or [gorjeanr@aol.com](mailto:gorjeanr@aol.com).

## Five Rivers District Prayer Calendar for July

July 4	Wellsville Rev. Lane Bailey
July 11	Parker-Beagle-Fontana Rev. Martha McDougal
July 18	Paola Rev. Jim Hopwood
July 25	Richmond Rev. Jerrold Harnden

## Clergy Birthdays and Anniversaries

Karen Jeffcoat	July 6th
Bill Nelson	July 13th
Joel Dunn	July 19th
Loren Drummond	July 23rd



## Lay Speaking – Before You Dismiss it as Not Being Your Forte...

By Marvé Ralston



Several weeks ago on a Wednesday, I received an e-mail from Jada Hodgson. Jada is the Kansas East Conference Director of Lay Speaking as well as the

pastor of Princeton UMC. Her message was, there is an opening in the BASIC class of Lay Speaking, and if I was interested in attending she would add me to the class. My first response before thinking it over; I don't have time this weekend. My daughter was coming home for the weekend; Sunday was Father's Day and a trip to Manhattan.

However, like many busy friends I have, when there is a learning opportunity and I feel God leading, I take it. God had indeed spoken to me at an earlier time that this would be good for me. Now I had a special invitation, could I legitimately turn that down?

I read over the course description and the part that scared me was writing and presenting a short 5-7 minute practice sermon. Now, my thing is definitely not standing up in front of a lot of people. You can ask my pastor how nervous I get when I just help with the reading of the scripture. In all admiration for the courageous person Moses was, I could completely relate with him when he spoke to God in Exodus 4:10. Moses said to the Lord, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

However, I am a firm believer that the more times you practice something, the better you get. So I wrote a short, more like devotional, sermonette to present. The words seemed to flow onto paper easily and I found the appropriate scripture to use with it. I was done by that night for the most part which was good because the rest of my week was packed.

Friday afternoon I headed to Emporia where the workshop was to be held at Emporia 1<sup>st</sup>. I found our class of four people, age 20 something, to 80, to be very interesting and helpful. Within our group were a college student who has already heard the "call" from God to pursue preaching, a certified candidate who is waiting to start the process of Course of Study, an older gentlemen who God has called to lay speak in his local church and me (not sure of my call or if I'm already in it.) I just promised God I would be open to what he wants me to do.

Our teacher was Larry Clark from Bonner Springs UMC. He teaches the BASIC class to everyone. We were given a booklet that was packed with information about different ways we can serve within our church, district and conference. Clark began with saying he didn't particularly like the name of the class, "Lay Speaking Ministries," because there are so many other different ways you can go with the knowledge learned in the classes. At that point I knew I was in the right place.

### Speaking Cont. from page 4

In the class we discussed the importance of taking a spiritual gifts inventory. I'm not sure how many of you have taken one but I promise you, I was surprised what my spiritual gifts were. Ask your pastor if you haven't taken the inventory to guide you to someone who teaches a class in it. I took the class under Rev. Maria Campbell at Lawrence Central although I go to Baldwin 1<sup>st</sup>. It just worked out that way.



Larry Clark, Leslie Jackson, Ben Cole, Everett Spunaugle

There was a whole chapter on Caring Ministries. That seems to be where I best fit in. You can serve your local church in many ways. Many of them are one-on-one and don't involve getting up in front of a crowd. Great relief...

Since I took the BASIC class, I can attend the more advanced classes in the future. They vary each time but might include History/Polity/Church Administration, Women of the Bible, Preaching, and others. I will fill out the report to hand in the DS at our church conference in the fall to be a local church lay speaker.

If I were going to move into the next phase I would become a certified lay speaker and that would require that I take one advanced class every three years and fill out the required Lay Speakers report for our church conference yearly. Beyond that is the Commissioned Lay Ministry program. Details of all types of Lay Speakers are on the KEC website.

I would highly recommend the Lay Speaking program for anyone wanting to explore their areas of service to the local church. Maybe you have a gift for speaking or are already a leader in your church and this will enhance that. If you are like me, it is another avenue of learning and meeting new friends in the Kansas East Conference.

In case you are wondering how my sermonette went; I failed miserably. I ended up reading most of it and I trembled visibly throughout. That said, I was among friends and I received constructive advice, (like not all of us are called to preach 😊.) Another good point is that this is optional and you don't really have to do it.

This experience makes me appreciate our pastor and others who get up each week. They are using their spiritual gifts and natural talents. I have no excuse to not pursue and use mine as well.

This fall October 15th-16th, in Kansas City District at Valley View UMC, another Lay Speaking Ministries Seminar will be offered. They move to different districts each time and there are four a year.

If God is speaking to you, will you say like Moses did, "Here I am?"

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### **Just What is Facebook continued from page 2**

The next step is **adding a profile picture**. You can use any picture you have currently on your computer or upload one from your camera. Some of my friends that really want to maintain their privacy use a family pet, flowers, cartoon character, etc.

You can change your **profile picture** at any time. Just scroll to the top of your profile picture and it will say change picture. It brings up choices such as choosing from an album you have created or your pictures currently saved in files on your PC.

It makes me really happy to see the profile picture of an old friend or family member as they are today. However, not everyone feels good about adding them, so choose what you want. There is a default silhouette that comes on until you choose a picture.

Next you are ready and have the option of entering some personal information. You can add as much or as little as you like. Enter it under the tab at the top called **Info**. It is highly recommended that you not add your phone number or address.

Well that is enough information for now. Please feel free to e-mail me with questions and I'll try to answer them via e-mail and might share them as others might have had the same problems. I am learning as I go and it's hard to believe I have been on Facebook for two years now. I am thankful that it helped reunite me with a dear friend that passed away this week. We had several wonderful chats I might never have had with out it.

Several churches have a Facebook page and we have one for the district as well. Please add us if you join. It is just Five Rivers District., under organizations.

In our August newsletter, I'll give tips for adding pictures and building FB albums. I have 34 albums, I know that's nuts. Pictures are my favorite thing about FB after reacquainting with friends and family. I love looking at others pictures; flower beds; pets; vacations; loved ones; old photos of cousins.... The list goes on and on. **It's entertaining and addictive so beware, do this at your own risk.**