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## Reflections From Ron

Greetings colleagues and friends,

By now, you've probably already made up your minds about what you have chosen as an act of self-denial for Lent. I'm guessing, as well, that the limits of our self-denial have run the gamut from things as simple as giving up bread to someone's all time favorite, chocolate, or those other delicious treats and delicacies that are so attractive to our taste buds and waistlines. And while fasting and self-denial are a meaningful and relevant part of the Lenten season, I believe our call to engage in this spiritual practice is supposed to have a less self-serving result than the possible reduction of our waist, hips, and thighs. Nonetheless, denying ourselves physical pleasures can be a reminder of that the indulging pleasures of life are sometimes a distraction from the real things of God.

What is amazing about this time of year (the Lenten Season) is that while we are focused on the spiritual discipline of self-denial, nature is preparing to swing full tilt into its birthing season. Before we know it, flowers will be in bloom, trees will be budding, and the nakedness of the earth's landscape will begin to adorn itself in lush lavenders and vibrant greens, bright yellows and vivid reds, deep violets and regal blues. We are denying ourselves and nature is rebounding from the cold, sullen death of winter into its most abundant season of growth.

What's also amazing is that there is nothing in the entirety of Holy Scripture that invites us to consider denying ourselves the privilege of doing good. Quite to the contrary, we are encouraged to strive for the mark of the high calling and never cease to be about the business of doing good works. This is a trait that may reach beyond what it means to be Christian and touch the hearts of all that belong to God, but it especially speaks to those who are Ambassadors of Christ. While those of us who are Christian see this as a unique opportunity to live in reflection and repentance as a season of self-denial, may it also be that we see this season of Lent as an opportunity and season to cultivate our Christian spiritual growth.

Agape and shalom,  
Ron

## Meet Pat Masingill from Garnett UMC

When someone enters the doors of your church during the week day, who more than often greets them? Who is the first person during the week that answers the phone to a sometimes distraught or grieving family member? Who gives information regarding church use or upcoming events? Who creates the bulletins, coordinates the pastor's schedule and other church meetings, makes sure reports are in, who often coordinates the use of the copy machine and other technical equipment?

When something is going wrong in the church, who is probably the first person who knows about it, listens with a compassionate ear, let's the pastor know if it is something he or she can fix or channels the call to someone who can. All the while maintaining confidentiality; with the churches best interest always in mind.

Sometimes this person is not paid and is the clergy's dutiful spouse. In larger churches, this is the church administrative assistant or secretary or even secretaries. Often it is a volunteer or several volunteers who come in to help out. Please be extra kind to these important people. They daily represent the church to a lot of hurting people often including your pastor.

This week we will meet the Garnett United Methodist Church Administrative Assistant, Pat Masingill.

Pat how long have you been the office administrative assistant for Garnett UMC?

It'll be seven years in August.

What do you consider to be the toughest part of the job?

I love working for Garnett UMC. Personally and spiritually it's the most rewarding job I've ever had. The changing of pastors and getting used to their personalities and the way they want things done is challenging in the beginning, but I've been truly blessed by knowing and working with each one. Adding Power Point to our worship service was a little scary at first but now I enjoy doing it. I stressed out over nothing!

Are you a member of Garnett UMC?

Though I'm a member of the United Brethren in Christ Church, Garnett UMC is my second church family. They have taught and inspired me so much over the last 6 1/2 years.



“I love working for Garnett UMC. Personally and spiritually it's the most rewarding job I've ever had.”  
Pat Masingill

Tell us a little about your family.

The only children I have are the furry kind. A German shepherd named Zoë and I recently adopted a cat named Sailor. I also have a niece and nephew that live nearby and a little brother that lives in Oklahoma with his family.

I heard you went on a Mission Trip this year. Give us some highlights and a link for us to see what you did.

There were so many highlights on my trip to Honduras it's hard to choose. The greatest part about these trips is seeing God work from the beginning to end. How He raises the money before we go, works his wonders while we're there and even after we get home. There is one moment that sticks out in my mind as the most amazing though. We had planned to have an ice cream sundae party for the children but we were never anywhere where we could get any. Then Friday afternoon, our last day on the work site, God sent us an ice cream truck. Here we are out in the middle of nowhere and this ice cream truck shows up. So we had our party after all and the kids and the adults loved it.

<http://www.cokerocksusa.blogspot.com>

Have you been to any PAUMCS events?

No, I'm afraid I haven't.

What do you consider to be one “shining” moment of your life?

Standing in a little dirt floor and tin roofed church in El Salvador and feeling the presence of God like I had nowhere else. Their passion for the Lord was absolutely amazing.

Every person above the ordinary has a certain mission that they are called to fulfill.

[Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#)

A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.

[Mohandas Gandhi](#)

### *Safe and Sacred Instructor Training*

Held at Council Grove UMC

March 7th, 1-6 PM

Coordinator Nancy Brown

*[nancybrowncor@aol.com](mailto:nancybrowncor@aol.com)*

Must contact Nancy at least one in advance so she has all the materials you will need for training.

# March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Gen. 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 I Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15	2	3	4	5	6 World Day Of Prayer	7
8 Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 I Cor. 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	30	31				

March	2nd-3rd	Appointive Cabinet
March	8th	<b>Safe and Sacred Space Training Wellsville UMC</b>
March	10th	Extended Cabinet
March	10th	PAUMCS Event at Salina Trinity, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
March	11th-12th	Appointive Cabinet
March	17th-18th	Appointive Cabinet
March	21st	<b>Preaching Workshop Garnett</b>
March	21st	Focus Team
March	26th-27th	Appointive Cabinet
March	28th	DCom,
March	31st-1st	Appointive Cabinet
<b>April</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>Five Rivers District Conference, Louisburg UMC 9:30 AM-3:00 PM</b>
April	4th	UMM 2009 Rally, Worden UMC
April	4th	<b>Five Rivers District UMW Spring Meeting</b> , Lawrence 1st UMC, West Campus
<b>June</b>	<b>3rd-6th</b>	<b>Annual Conference at Baker University</b>

**United Methodist Men**  
**Kansas East/West UMM**  
**Missouri UMM Conference**

**2009 Spiritual Rally**

Worden UMC  
 294 E 900th Road  
 Baldwin City, KS  
 (West of the US 56 and US 59 Intersections)

Saturday, April 4th, 2009  
 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Event to be held in the Church Sanctuary

Speakers and Entertainment  
 Rev. Creighton Alexander-Project Transformation  
 Worden UMC Praise Band  
 Church of the Resurrection Praise Band  
 Hands of Glory Contemporary Christian Music in Sign Language  
 5 Workshops to choose from and a communion service

**Clergy Birthdays**



Barbara Clinger	March 2nd
Donna VotEAU	March 21st
Beth Hodgson	March 21st
Jim Hopwood	March 23rd
Glen Duderstadt	March 25th
Charles Russell	March 25th
Jada Hodgson	March 31st

**District Prayer Calendar**

Mar. 1	Burlington Rev. David Livingston
Mar. 8	LaCygne/New Lancaster Rev. January Kiefer
Mar. 15	Baker University Rev. Ira DeSpain
Mar. 22	Osawatomie/Lane Rev. Gary Gooding
Mar. 29	Paola Rev. Jim Hopwood
	Our missionaries in Haiti Joe and Shirley Edgerton and work teams

# Five Rivers District

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Kansas Bishop: Dr. Rev. Scott Jones  
District Superintendent: Rev. Ronald King  
Administrative Assistant, Newsletter editor  
Marvé Ralston

**We're on the web at**  
**[www.fiveriversdistrict.com](http://www.fiveriversdistrict.com)**



DS  
Rev. Ron  
King

Rev.  
Ji-  
Seok  
Ju



Rev. Michael McKee, Rev. Gary Merritt, Rev. Connie Wilson

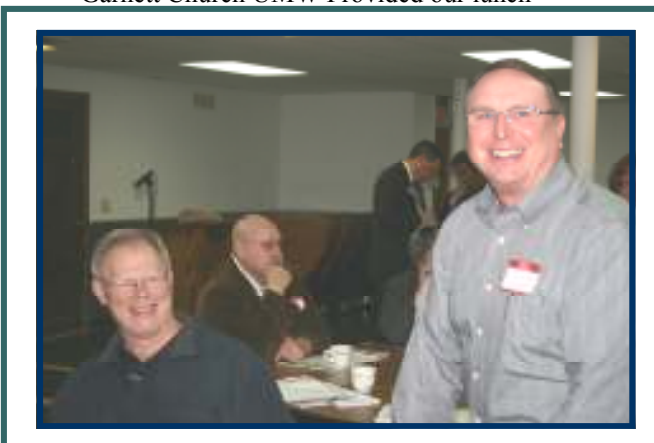


Garnett Church UMW Provided our lunch

Rev. Karel Ramsey and our guest speaker Rev. Lew Van Der Wege



Rev. Jim Hopwood and Rev. Trudy Kenyon Anderson



Rev. Dallas Peterson, Rev. Gene McIntosh

