

Living Water

a monthly publication of Five Rivers District



FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT

Volume 11, Issue 5

May 2014

From Your District Superintendent

We are waking up this morning to the first real damage of the season from spring storms. Our prayers are with those who have realized injury or damage from the weather. Just as with most things in life, nature has two faces and we have to learn to live with the face that we are looking into at the moment. There is a lesson here for people of faith. Our relationship with God in no way guarantees that we will never have to look into the face of trouble and struggle. Christians live in the same world as all people. What faith does make possible is the ability to stand against trouble and struggle with an assurance of God's presence even in the midst of hard times. It also motivates us as followers of Christ to give of ourselves for the sake and well being of others. We are God's presence when things grow difficult.

This may be a poor transition, but I believe that the above mentioned spiritual understanding is a gift that we can give to our young people. I am leading to a reminder of the Five Rivers District offering that you are invited to take part in. Pastors in the district have received information about this offering which will go to support ministry to children and youth in the district. One half of the offering will go to the District Council on Youth Ministry and one half to Camp Chippewa. These two ministries provide great opportunities for our young people to grow and develop their faith in Jesus Christ. By supporting this special offering we will be working together to give children and youth the spiritual tools needed to face life in good and in difficult times. That is a gift that cannot be measured.

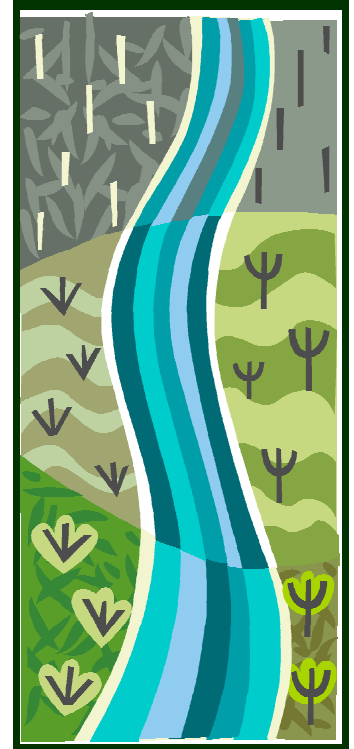
The Leadership Team of the district is inviting every church in the Five Rivers District to take part in this special offering. We have not set a dollar amount goal. Our goal is for every one of the seventy-one churches in the district to do something toward this effort. If you want to do something other than a simple offering, feel free to do so. Whatever your congregation would like to do to help raise funds is fine.

There are materials available for use in promoting this effort on the Five Rivers District web site. Go to <http://www.fiveriversdistrict.com/463145>. You will then see the video link and the flyer link where you can download the materials. On the video link, you will see a down arrow in the upper left area of the page. Click the arrow to download the video to your computer. If you would prefer to receive this material on a flash drive, please contact the district office at 785-841-4804 and let us know.

It occurs to me that Mother's Day is coming soon. That would be a great opportunity to lift up this offering in your church. Whenever you choose to make your effort, it would be great if we could have this offering wrapped before the end of June.

Please help make this a great success in the Five Rivers. Our children and youth will glad that you did. And thanks for the ministry that you do each day in the name of Jesus Christ!

In Christ:



Inside this issue:

DISTRICT CALENDAR	2
CLERGY BIRTHDAYS	2
DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR	2
MOTHERS IN THE SUSANNA WESLEY TRADITION	3
MOTHERS IN THE SUSANNA WESLEY TRADITION CONT.	4
OPPORTUNITIES	4
MOTHERS CONTINUED	5

May 2014

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

- May 11th ~ Mother's Day
- May 12-14 ~ Cabinet in Wichita
- May 12 ~ D.C.Y.M. 6:30 p.m. at Baldwin 1st
- May 26 ~ Memorial Day, District Office Closed
- May 27-30 ~ District Office Closed for vacation
- June 2-6 ~ DS on vacation, District Office is open
- June 10 ~ DS leaves for Annual Conference
- June 11-14 ~ Great Plains Annual Conference in Lincoln, NE
- June 16-July 10 ~ DS on Renewal Leave, District Office is open

Clergy Birthdays in May

Russ Anderson May 22nd
 Libby Oberdorf May 26th
 Hyun Jung Choi May 28th

District Prayer Calendar

May 4 Humboldt/Big Creek
 Rev. Marge Cox

May 11 Parker/Beagle/Fontana
 Rev. Kim Serio

May 18 Yates Center/
 Neosho Falls
 Rev. Russell Anderson

May 25 Baldwin 1st
 Rev. Paul Babcock

I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life. ~Abraham Lincoln

Biology is the least of what makes someone a mother. ~Oprah Winfrey

Mothers in the Susanna Wesley Tradition ~ Making a difference

Rev. Hyun Jung Choi serves Overbrook UMC



Hyun Jung Choi with her boys and Soon-Deck Han, her mother

My mom has inspired me in many ways.

Her name is Soon-Deck Han.
She is a praying person all the time.

1) She has taught that we never miss Sunday worship services. The primary thing for our life is worshiping God.

2) She prays ceaselessly. For 1000 days (over 3 years), she never missed the early prayer services at my Korean home church. She devoted the 1000-day-prayer three times in her life. She taught me to pray to God and live in God.

3) She has read the Bible. In a year, she reads the whole Bible 2-4 times. She always wants to listen to God's words.

4) She serves God and others.

When I was in high school, I followed her to pray at church at night. I believe that God is pleased by our prayers.

Rev. Kathy Symes serves Pomona and Vassar UMC

My mother in faith was my mother-in-law, Peggie. She was a constant encouragement to me especially when I was questioning whether to leave my secular employment and enter the ministry. She provided me with some wonderful reading material and was always open to and ready for a deep conversation about our spiritual journeys.

Growing up I didn't understand the notion of church family but she lived the connection within the church. She was involved in local church ministry, volunteered at summer camp and VBS, played the piano on Sunday and at the nursing home. Peggie was also the lay member to annual conference for several years. By watching and listening to her I became the United Methodist, and Christian, I am today.

With my Catholic background I called her my Mother Superior rather than mother-in-law. She died several years ago and I still miss her guidance and support.

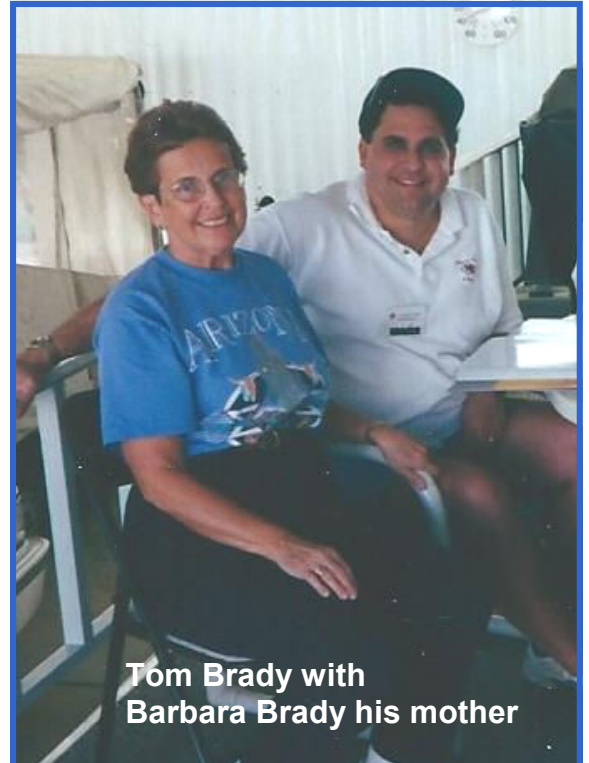


Peggie Symes, mother-in-law and mother in faith to Kathy Symes

Mothers in the Susanna Wesley Tradition ~ Making a difference cont.

Rev. Tom Brady serves Lawrence 1st UMC

It's difficult to measure the impact my mother has had on my faith. With my dad being a pastor, my mother is the one who delivered me to worship and Sunday school. I can remember sitting next to her in worship listening closely to her quiet whispers, receiving the unwrapped candy to satisfy my squirms, watching her close her eyes in sincere prayer, and pointing to the words of hymns my young mind could hardly comprehend. It was my mom who taught me that forgiveness is a Christ-like virtue, that all people are worthy of respect, and that giving brings a much greater reward than receiving. If anyone has aspired to living out the Golden Rule and the Great Commandment, and exemplified genuine unconditional love, it is my mother. Although my humble efforts pale in comparison, I'm grateful for the example. As I said from the start of this paragraph, the impact my mother has had on my faith is immeasurable. However, the impact continues as it lives and grows in me each day of my life.



Tom Brady with
Barbara Brady his mother

Thank you, mom.

Rev. Tom Brady

Opportunities for Growth and Connection:

Are you connected with the Great Plains UMC news? Here is a link for you to sign up to receive the GPconnect. <http://gp-email.brtapp.com/subscribe>

Here is a link to the Great Plains UMC website: <http://www.greatplainsumc.org/>

Available online training for those in Lay Servant Ministry and those interested.

<http://beadisciple.com/workshops.html#IFD100>

If you plan to attend Annual Conference, here is the link to the Pre-Conference Briefing you will want to watch.

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

Your district website is here: <http://fiveriversdistrict.com>

Rev Don Flanner serves Mapleton UMC

My mother, Alice Flanner was a dedicated Christian who attended West Liberty UMC where she met my father, Raymond Flanner in 1937, when they were both 19 years old.

Dad moved to the West Liberty area that year on a dairy farm about 1 1/2 miles from the church and began attending that Methodist Church.

Dad entered the US Army in 1940 and they corresponded until they married in December 1941. My oldest brother was born in 1943 and my sister in 1944. Dad served as a decorated officer in WW11, and returned home in Nov 1944.



Don Flanner with
Alice Flanner his mother

Dad had experienced a "call to ministry" while serving in Europe, but wrestled with that call. When mom was pregnant in Jan 1946 and expected me in late October, I was born several days early, on my father's birthday, Oct 21st.

At the hospital in Ft Scott, mom said to dad, "Ray you do not have to be a minister to serve in ministry, you can train up a child in the way God desires. Maybe Don will be a minister someday." Her words were prophetic and she and dad were active in West Liberty Methodist church all of their lives.

They raised 8 children on that farm and mom read the Bible stories to us each night and taught us prayers at home and in VBC and church. Mom taught a "Willing Worker's Sunday School class" for 60 years at West Liberty and set an example for us. Mom also had a son, my younger brother, 19 months after me, and she prophetically told my dad that he may be a minister someday as well. He became an ordained minister too.

Dad lived 92 years and mom lived to within 3 weeks of being 95 and both attended church until their health impaired them during their last year of life.

All 8 children, 4 boys and 4 girls have been active in Christian ministry and churches all of our lives. My oldest brother, a medical Dr, went on medical mission trips to Haiti 16 times in the last 18 years, prior to his retirement in 2013. My older sister is now the UMW Tennessee State Representative and has been serving as organist and youth leader in the Clarksville UMC in Tennessee for 22 years.

My dad and mom wrote letters to all of us and my dad reminded my brother and me, that he was in prayer for us every day while we served in ministry. Mother never forgot birthday's of all her family/ extended family and most of the church family and friends. She checked who was absent at church every Sunday, for many years, and mailed bulletins and prayer requests made at church each Sunday to all who were absent.

I have attached a photo of mom and me in 2011, while she still lived at home until her last 2 weeks of life. A life well lived.



Cultivating Christian Growth and Supporting the Local Church

FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT

Primary Business Address
3300 Clinton Parkway Court,
Suite 110
Lawrence, Kansas 66047-2629

Phone: 785-841-4804
Fax: 785-841-4820
E-mail: office@5riversds.com

Website: www.fiveriversdistrict.com

My Mother / A People Gardener

Written for Mom/Diana Clark by Marvé 5/10/95

I love flowers, my mother loves people.
As tenderly as I choose my plants,
My mother chooses people.
She chooses those who need her.

Lovingly she prays for them,
Helps where she can.
She gives selflessly,
Expecting nothing.

Sometimes she is rewarded,
With their blooming before her eyes.
Like the children she lovingly teaches.

More often she helps them develop deep roots,
Like perennials that bloom after several years,
Someone else is blessed with their fragrant beauty.

I thank God for my mother.
She helps me see the good in others.
She tries not to judge, only love.

There are not enough people/gardeners in this world.
Nurturing people is not an easy task.
People can be more fragile than plants.
Lord, help me be a people/gardener like my mom.

The number of people you have the ability to affect in a positive manner, is the same number of people that you have the ability to hurt. ~ Joyce Meyer