

Living Water

A bi-monthly publication

From Our District Superintendent:

EVER SINCE BECOMING ELIGIBLE FOR THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S DISCOUNT I take every opportunity to exploit my advancing years and enjoy their peculiar benefits. This includes wearing white tube socks with sandals, boring people with grandchildren stories, and referencing old hymns. As a pastor, I fought the worship wars and helped several congregations—with varying degrees of success—to transition from “traditional” to “blended” to “contemporary” worship styles. And while I have a deep appreciation for newer worship expressions including those from the emergent stream (look it up), I remain a traditionalist at heart, and find myself regularly drifting back to the oldies. Here’s one:

“God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church’s story, bring her bud to glorious flower.”

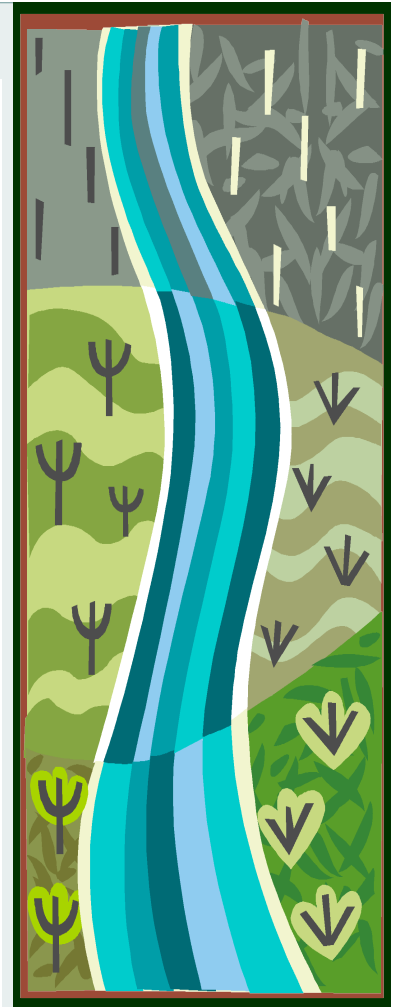
(And the repeated refrain says it all)

“Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour...
for the living of these days...
lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal...
serving thee whom we adore.”

(Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930)

Wisdom...and Courage. Can you think of anything we need more these days? We face—as have all generations—daunting challenges. “Fightings without and fears within” as Charles Wesley put it in another old standard. And the “fightings” are within the church as well. Petitioning God for “wisdom and courage” gets my vote every time.

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Ruben Saenz

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Rev. David Watson

Administrative Assistant/ Newsletter Editor

Marve' Ralston

<i>May 2017</i>						
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			

June 2017						
Su	Mo	Tue	We	Th	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	

District Events for May and June

- May 1 D.C.Y.M Meeting at Baldwin 1st UMC ~ 6:30—8:00 pm
- May 1-5th District office is closed. Admn. Asst is on vacation and Cont. Ed with PAUMCS
- May 7th DS is preaching for Worship at Plum Creek UMC ~ 10:45 am
- May 9th Clergy Meeting at Ottawa 1st UMC, 9:00 am to noon
- May 9-12th DS is traveling and attending Continuing DS training in Dallas, TX
- May 15-17th DS is at Cabinet in Lincoln, NE
- May 21st DS is preaching for Worship at Paola UMC ~ 8:15 am and 10:30 am

June 6-10th DS is at Annual Conference in Grand Island, NE

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

June 12-18th DS is on vacation. Rev. Bruce Emmert, the Kansas City DS, or Rev. Kay Scarborough, the Topeka DS, are both on call for him. The District office is open so call there first.

June 19-26th DS is on vacation. Rev. Bruce Emmert, the Kansas City DS is on call for the DS.

District Prayer Calendar

May

May 7 **Camp Chippewa**

James Rickner and Staff

May 14 **Richmond/Princeton**

Rev. Rob Ernest

May 21 **Iola Salem**

Russell Vallier

May 28 **Baldwin: First**

Rev. Paul Babcock

June

June 4 **Pomona/Vassar**

Rev. Julie Freeman

June 11 **Baldwin Ives Chapel**

Rev. Jeni Anderson

June 18 **Mapleton**

Rev. Connie Edgerton

June 25 **Osawatomie/Lane**

Rev. Marti McDougal

Clergy Birthdays

May

Caren Loper 5/7

Jim Hopwood 5/23

Hyun Jung Choi 5/28

June

Javier Rios 6/2

Daekyung Kim 6/23

Ed Flener 6/25

Scott Dickinson 6/28

Save the Date:

Sept. 9-10

Project Revolution 5 Rivers Youth Rally

Open to all Junior high and Senior high youth.

Sept. 5

5R Clergy Meeting at Ottawa 1st UMC

9-Noon

Nov. 7

5R Clergy Meeting at Ottawa 1st UMC

9-Noon

Lay Servant Training

All current information on upcoming LSM training has been consolidated to the Great Plains website at (<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/lsmtraining>). This is the most current list and we try to duplicate it on our own District website as well.

In addition, on-line training is available through GBOD's website. Any classes taken via the GBOD website need to be reported and confirmed to our local District (either myself or through Marve) so we can get it into record here.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me . . .

David Wasserfallen, District Dir. LSM

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United Methodist Church Polity: By Marvé Ralston

UMC polity can make for stimulating conversation. Almost as exciting, as figuring out the meaning behind the many acronyms, United Methodists use.

However, there are some very important pieces of UMC Polity, that we all need to understand. This is especially true this time of year, when the *itineracy* of the UMC is at work, through the Bishop and Cabinet appointment process.

Itineracy began with John Wesley in England. It carried over to the United States with Francis Asbury. Itineracy was part of the “connexion” that John Wesley created and worked diligently to promote.

Preachers itinerated very often in early Methodism. As frequently as every 2 months, and their limit to staying in one place was two years. John Wesley looked at itineracy as a strong commitment from the pastors. They showed strength of commitment by their willingness to move.

“This process is currently directed by Bishops, implemented by District Superintendents and allows for exchange of pastoral leadership and resources across the conference and sometimes conferences.” (Warner, “The Method of our Mission”).

The process of appointment making is more complex than it looks. By the time an introductory is eminent, many things have been reviewed. This process actually begins after the Appointive Recommendation forms are returned in December. The forms are given to both clergy and the local church Pastor Parish Relations (PPR) committee to fill out. Both are asked if this clergy and church are a good fit moving into the new year. Even if they currently are in a good fitting situation, sometimes their gifts and talents are needed elsewhere. The move can be initiated by the clergy person, the PPR committee, the District Superintendent, or the Bishop.

If a new appointment is going to happen, then many things are considered. First the location of the appointment, is it rural or urban, will it require the clergy person to move. Then the profile of the clergy person. This is created, with input from the clergy person themselves, the District Superintendent, Pastor Parish Relations (PPR) committee, if they previously were in an appointment, any needed information from the District Board of Ordained Ministry, and other pertinent information that can help with the process. This is all looked at by the Bishop and Cabinet (made up from all the district superintendents in the conference) as they work on appointing pastors to our local churches. Much prayer goes into the process before a move is considered.

After the decision is made, the next step is the pay worksheet that is signed by the PPR chair, the clergy person and the District Superintendent at the introductory.

All of this happens before the announcement about the new clergy person. The clergy are appointed by Bishop Saenz, during Annual Conference, for the new appointive season, which runs from July 1st to June 30th. They typically move the Sunday, before the first Sunday in July, and the first Sunday in July, is the first time they fill their new pulpit.

Some of our smaller churches are led by District Superintendent Assignments (DSA) and Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) who are folks that have taken specific classes to lead small congregations and been approved by the District Committee on Ministry.



Project Revolution 2017

The new officers of the Five Rivers District Council on Youth Ministry (D.C.Y.M.), want you to save the weekend of September 9-10, for a district youth event. We are having our 9th Youth Rally/Lock In, at Lawrence 1st (West Campus.) If there are not currently youth in your church, please join us in prayer for this powerful time of youth led ministry.

There will be activities, games, food, a live concert and a great time to meet others in Junior High through High School, from our district and those surrounding ours. All are welcome. Our one request is that you send one Safe Gath-

erings adult with each child, up to groups of 6 per adult.

The registration form will be online and goes up in July. Cost is 20.00 which includes the live band, t-shirt, dinner, breakfast and snacks.

Have questions? Contact one of our District Youth Directors: Tami Clark at tami@fumclawrence.org, Richard Croll at rcrollo@yahoo.com or the 5R office at fiveriversdistrict@greatplainsumc.org.

If you have youth that are in high school and interested in being a part of our D.C.Y.M. that plan this from beginning to end, please contact one of us. We will be meeting at least monthly until September to plan. It's a great group of youth that work on the planning and implementing of this annual event.

From the DS: Cont. pg 1

The Wisdom needed for the way forward is that which opens us to the mind and heart of God. What is it that God finished on the cross and launched from the empty tomb? The Kingdom! And it is the wise and courageous among us who seek and see God's Rule and Reign at work—and align ourselves with it. That's my hope and prayer for the United Methodist Church—and my little part in it.

How do we gain such Wisdom—to see the mind and heart of God at work? And where do we find the Courage to align ourselves with it? A wise one once said that to hear and obey the voice of God, one must live within listening distance of God. And we know how to do this already. Read and meditate on the scriptures. Say our prayers. Gather for worship. Welcome, embrace, and serve all people through acts of mercy and justice. Hold one another accountable for doing good, resisting evil, and staying connected with God. It's practicing the old means of grace—the method of Methodism! These are the ties that bind us together as

God's people on the Wesleyan Way. If there is a way forward...this is it.

See you along the way,

David

Rev. David Watson

Five Rivers District Superintendent

The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.

¶120 2016 Discipline



Prescott and Pleasanton UMC shared a sunrise service for Easter at the Fairmont Church site. They had great attendance, as you can see.

Rev. Bill Fitzgerald led the service and is the Pleasanton/Prescott UMC charge pastor.



Photo credits to Shelly Mead



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PLEASE
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