



# LIVING WATER

## *Five Rivers District Office Newsletter*



Volume 6, Issue 5

May 2010

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### News From Our District Superintendent Dennis Ackerman

WOW! That is how I can best describe the events of this past year. It has been an interesting and (mostly) enjoyable ride as I have passed through the annual experiences of being the Five Rivers DS. As I am approaching the end of my first year, I am reflecting on how things have gone and how processes and ministry can be improved. So, I am inviting you to share your reflections with me regarding our district, our shared ministries, my leadership, and how we can do even better as team. Your feedback will help me as I take the time to continue my reflection over the next couple of months and seek to improve my ministry.

As we move through our work on this side of the resurrection, I am praying for you and the ministry that you do in service to Jesus Christ. What we do as followers of Christ is not easy. The challenges of "Offering them Christ" are most daunting at times. The landscape moves under our feet. The cultures that we seek to impact look at us with suspicious eyes when they look at all. Others relegate the Church to the arena of irrelevance. This makes it all the more important that we deepen our passion for Christ. Pray without ceasing! Love one another with Christ-like love! We need to remember that what we offer is life changing and life giving – a full and abiding relationship with God! We need to daily renew our passion for sharing Christ.

One way of renewal is time away from the work of ministry. So, I encourage all of the pastors on the district to find time in the coming summer months to vacation. Make sure that you use your allotted time away from your duties and responsibilities.

In Christ,  
Dennis



## Ottawa Trinity: Still “Blooming Where It Was Planted,” Sixty-One Years Ago.

By Marvé Ralston



When Ottawa Herald reporter asked Rev. Barb Clinger if Ottawa Trinity’s new playground was built so they could attract children to the church, her answer to the stunned reporter was, “no.” There was a brief silence, and she explained their purpose. The playground was built as part of Trinity’s mission statement fulfillment, “Inviting, nurturing and equipping all persons to be Disciples of Jesus Christ.” The playground is a mission of their church to the north side of Ottawa. This was a need for the community where many children reside with no play area.

Shawn Lucas originally came to Rev. Clinger with the idea for the playground. She first asked him, “Does this fit with our churches mission statement?” That was clearly answered with a yes, and the next question was how to pay for it.

A committee began the planning process. It was determined that there were funds in memorials that might be used for this purpose. All those with family members who had given undesignated gifts were contacted, from the smallest to the largest. Twenty-two memorials went to pay for roughly half the playground cost of 12,000. The other half will come out of their operating budget this year.

Many people worked hard to put together the playground and benches. They have recycled rubber mulch for a soft landing under the equipment and two cheery, red benches. With the hard winter, the playground equipment installation that started in October of 09, was completed this month. This was the perfect timing for a spring dedication. The dedication was well received last Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, to a group of over a hundred.

This is not all that Trinity is doing to make their church more inviting to the community. They have added a new front door and recently replaced all the Plexiglas over the stained glass windows. It had become brown with age and almost made the windows look like they were boarded up. The new product used by Integrity Glass in Baldwin City, is Lexon. It provides a transparent cover, allowing the stained glass beauty to shine through. Rev. Clinger has been asked if they recently got new windows by neighborhood children and adults who can now see the beautiful stained glass windows. This makes the 61 year old church take on a new shine.

And that is not all, Trinity has been in transition over the last two years since Rev. Clinger arrived. They switched from thinking in terms of building a new church, to seeing what they could do, right in their current location and building. Once they refocused, they began accessing what their needs truly were.

Since they house two Scout troops, they needed additional small group space, where Rev. Clinger could hold prayer groups and meetings

*“The success of Trinity is not about me; it is about God using us to do God's work in the world.”*

*Rev. Barb Clinger*



### ***Ottawa Trinity Continued***

during the week. Their nursery was cramped, pastor and secretary space were limited and uninviting. They decided to use the parsonage to create a handicapped accessible Annex.

The new pastor's office in the Annex has great light and is comfortable for Pastor Barb and guests. They took up carpet and found wonderful wood floors through out the converted parsonage. There is now a second kitchen and space for small meetings. The secretary's reception area is cheery and very inviting. The new nursery is in the old pastor's office and it is twice the previous size.

Rev. Clinger has become known for taking off doors and trying to bring new purpose to old spaces. They have hired an architect to give life to the possibility of a fellowship, entry area where a small and closed off chapel is currently situated at the back of the sanctuary. Some of the changes have been met with resistance as this is a sixty one year old church. Additional changes are needed in the future to upgrade and protect the aging church, such as insulation in the sanctuary ceiling, and outside guttering to correct leaks.

It all comes back to the churches mission statement; will the changes make them more inviting and nurturing? In particular they are thinking of those with no current church home, who may have never been inside the doors of a church. Will this equip more people to be Disciples of Jesus Christ?

The changes at Trinity are remarkable. As I complimented her on her insight at construction needs and her ability to see what needed to be done, her response was, "The success of Trinity is not about me; it is about God using us to do God's work in the world."

When asked where Rev. Clinger would like to see Ottawa Trinity in the next five years, she said, "My prayer for them is to be more vitally connected to the North Ottawa community." Ottawa Trinity is moving forward with that purpose and mission in mind.

### ***"Bloom where you are planted"***

*~Attributed to all of the following sources: Afghan Proverb, Nancy Reader Compion's Aunt Grace, Mary Engelbreit, a song, as well as an "old garden saying"~*



**Trinity's new Annex**

### **Rev. Barb Clinger**



# MAY 2010

*Annual Conference  
June 9th-12th  
Registration must be  
in by May 1st or  
rates go up by 10.00*

May 3rd  
District Office Closed  
Marve' vacation day

May 4th-5th  
Appointive Cabinet

May 6th  
New Church  
Development

**May 9th**  
**Mother's Day**

May 14th  
North Incubator  
Group  
Countryside 9-5 PM

May 16th  
Rev. Ackerman to  
preach at Louisburg  
10:30 AM service

**May 19th**  
**Clergy Meeting**  
**Ottawa 1st**  
**9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

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 Prayer Calendar

May 2	Baldwin 1st Rev. Dr. Connie Wilson
May 9	Yates Center Rev. Russell Anderson
May 16	Lawrence Centenary-Linwood Pastor Matt Powell
May 23	Ottawa Union Chapel- Pastor Ed English Princeton Pastor Jada Hodgson
May 30	Williamsburg Pastor Billy Hughes



**Pre-Conference Briefings are ~~Cancelled~~ for May 2nd at Garnett UMC**

## ***Experienced Accountant Needed in the KE Office***

The Kansas East Conference seeks an experienced accountant to work fulltime as Assistant Treasurer to handle general ledger work, financial reporting, and supervision of accounts payable and accounts receivable staff. A Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, management or other related field with at least three years experience is required. Experience with Excel and financial software is a requirement. I.T. skills are a plus. Pay will be commensurate with education and experience. Excellent benefits are provided. Send resumes' by May 5th to: [gbeach@gmail.com](mailto:gbeach@gmail.com) or mail to the Kansas East Conference, Attn: Personnel, PO Box 4187, Topeka, KS 66604-0187.

Gary A. Beach  
 Director of Administrative Services & Connectional Ministries  
 Kansas East Conference

## ***May Clergy Birthdays***

Gary Merritt	9th
Felix Burrows Sr.	11th
Maria Campbell	12th
Richard Fitzgerald	19th
Gary Gooding	30th



## *Cultivating Christian Growth*

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Kansas East Conference Mission  
Statement:

To connect and empower people  
and churches in living out the  
Gospel's call to invite, nurture,  
equip and send forth Disciples of  
Jesus Christ.

Trinity's new  
Playground  
is nestled  
between the  
new Annex  
and Church.



Front of  
Ottawa  
Trinity

One of Suzanna Wesley's prayers gives a glimpse of her faith:  
"Help me, Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the  
church, or closet, nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that  
everywhere I am in Your presence... May all things instruct me and afford  
me an opportunity of exercising some goodness and daily learning and  
growing toward Your likeness."

### **Mother's Day is May 9th, some wise words from Suzanna Wesley for parenting.**

Suzanna Wesley was the mother of nineteen children, among them were John and Charles Wesley. It has been said that the Methodist faith was born on the lap of a mother, Suzanne Wesley.

She spent one hour each day in prayer. That's seven hours each week! She spent one hour per week with each child individually imparting spiritual life and wisdom. That's nineteen hours!

Suzanna Wesley over two hundred years ago formulated sixteen rules for raising children. They are still pretty good rules!

1. between meals is not allowed.
2. As children, they are to be in bed by 8 pm.
3. They are required to take medicine without complaining.
4. They are to subdue their self-will so that they might be open to God's salvation.
5. Teach a child to pray as soon as he can speak.
6. Require all to be still during Family Worship.
7. Give them nothing they cry for, and only that which they ask for politely.
8. To prevent lying, punish no fault which is first confessed and repented.
9. Never allow a sinful act to go unpunished.
10. Never punish a child twice for a single offense.
11. Commend and reward good behavior.
12. Any attempt to please, even if poorly performed should be commended.
13. Preserve property rights, even in smallest matters.
14. Strictly observe all promises.
15. Require no daughter to work before she can read well.
16. Teach children to reverence God.