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# Living Water

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2008

## Reflections from Ron

Friends and colleagues,

November is upon us. This is typically the season when we start thinking about the close of the year. Thanksgiving, being just around the corner, will sound the trumpet to signal the beginning of the holiday season. At a time in our year when we are usually growing anxious about everything the end of the year means, many people find themselves increasingly anxious because they are at the end of their means. The nation, our nation, which has long waved the flag of pride that we are the wealthiest nation on earth now find ourselves watching our wealth disappear right before our very eyes. These are difficult times, not just for us, but for the entire world. Some people at their wits end are wondering what to do. We now find that this is also a time when those of us who profess Christ as Lord and risen savior will have our own metal tested.

I'm reminded of a Scripture. This is probably not the time to proof-text a point, but I'm not certain that this Scripture falls into that category. Once again it might be a gentle reminder of who we are. The text is found in Romans 5:3-8.

### **Romans 5:1-5**

*<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.*

*<sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

Maybe, just maybe it is in these very troubling times for the entire world that we have an opportunity to stand as a beacon of hope for those who don't know our Christ and shout to the world that these are troubling times. These are character building times. These are the times that produce hope and not despair because we depend on God who is still in control. Perhaps — this is a time when we can be cultivating Christian growth among ourselves while sowing seeds of hope for the rest of the world community.

Agape and shalom,  
Ron

## November 2008

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						

Nov. 1	Evangelism Conference Ottawa 1st 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	Daylight Savings Time Ends-Fall Back Church Conferences: Humboldt 12:30 p.m., Iola Wesley/ Neosho Falls 3 p.m., Iola Calvary/Salem 5 p.m., Welda 7 p.m.
Nov. 3	Church Conference Ottawa Union Chapel/Princeton 7 p.m.
Nov. 4	Election Day-Vote!
Nov. 5	Church Conference: Moran/Bronson 7 p.m.
Nov. 6	Church Conference: Williamsburg 7 p.m.
Nov. 9	Church Conference: Fort Scott 1st 12:30 p.m., Fulton 3 p.m., Pleasanton/Prescott 5 p.m., Louisburg 7 p.m.
Nov. 10	Church Conference: Richter 7 p.m.
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day
Nov. 12	Appointive Cabinet (KE and KW)
Nov. 13	Extended Cabinet
Nov. 16	Church Conferences, Hiattville 10:30 a.m., St. John/ Hammond/West Liberty 12:30 p.m., LaCygne/New Lancaster 3 p.m., Paola 6 p.m.
Nov. 17	Church Conference Melvern/Quenemo 7 p.m.
Nov. 18	Church Conference Plum Creek 7 p.m.
Nov. 19	Church Conference Michigan Valley 7 p.m.
Nov. 20	Church Conference Lawrence Central 7 p.m.
Nov. 22	District Committee on Ministry 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Nov. 23	Church Conference Baldwin 1st 1:00 p.m., Vinland 3:30 p.m., Eudora 6 p.m.
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving District Office Closed
Nov. 29	Preaching Workshop Garnett UMC 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Nov. 30	Church Conference Ottawa Trinity 12 p.m., Lyndon 3 p.m., Overbrook 6 p.m.

## Continuing Education Opportunities

### Certified Lay Minister Course, Nov. 14-15

The Center for the Small Membership Church is offering United Methodist Theology and Doctrine at Camp Chippewa, Nov. 14-15, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday. This session is for persons who are wanting to learn more about pasturing a church.

Rev. Jim Darby will be the instructor for this class

### Other Upcoming Certified Lay Minister Courses

Rev. Kevass Harding, Dellrose UMC Wichita will be the instructor for courses on Evangelism

Jan. 16-17 at Camp Chippewa

Jan. 23-24, Webster Conference Center in Salina

The registration fee will be \$75 for these courses. For more information, contact Carl Ellis at 785-827-5541 ext. 1315 or [carl.ellis@kwu.edu](mailto:carl.ellis@kwu.edu).

### Clergy Birthday

Kathy Symes	11/01
Tom Brady	11/06
Ira DeSpain	11/12
Paul Babcock	11/17
Karel Ramsey	11/22
Gene McIntosh	11/25
Connie Cox	11/28

### District Prayer Calendar

Nov. 2	Waverly-Prairie View Karel Ramsey
Nov. 9	Devon-Mapleton Glen Duderstadt
Nov. 16	Moran-Bronson David Shrum
Nov. 23	Lawrence: Central Maria Campbell
Nov. 30	St. John's-Hammond- West Liberty Vida Rhee Williams

## Five Rivers District

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

## Mission Statement: Cultivate Christian Growth

### Continuing Education

#### Deeper Learning for Everyday Christians

Laity School of Theology, Saint Paul  
Saturday, November 15th

Scripture, Tradition, Reason, Experience and Moral Discernment

Dr. Angela Sims  
Assistant Professor of Ethics and Black Church Studies

Interested laity and lay leaders can grow in their theological learning through classes and discussions with Saint Paul faculty. Each Saturday seminar is designed to meet for one day from 9:00-3:00 on the Saint Paul School of Theology campus. Cost: \$35 per person, lunch included.

For more information or to register online go to [http:// www.spst.edu/site/laity\\_school.php](http://www.spst.edu/site/laity_school.php).

#### ***BeADisciple.com offers online workshops***

The Institute for Discipleship at Southwestern College offers a number of online courses.

How to Provide Your Workshop Online

Crowing "Prince Caspian" An Evangelism and Discipleship Growth Opportunity

Storytelling Beyond the Sermon

Effective Communication with Little or No Money

The new BeADisciple website was recently launched. Visit [www.beadisciple.com](http://www.beadisciple.com) for more information on the Institute for Discipleship or the online courses offered.