



## From Your District Superintendent

We had a great time together at the Fab Five Festival early in October. With about 120 in attendance and many churches of the district represented, we celebrated the ministries that are happening throughout our area. My thanks to all who participated by sharing ministry ideas through booths, or presentations, or with printed information. Also, a big word of thanks to the people of the Worden church for their hospitality in hosting our event. It was a good day!

Debi Nixon from the Church of the Resurrection shared some good information and insight regarding the subject of evangelism. I know that some of the churches present took her advice to heart and have already implemented some of the suggestions which she had about reaching people for Christ. For me, the one big idea about evangelism that came out of Debi's information is that evangelism is something that is done deliberately and with planning. Evangelism is intentional! If we are depending on accidental evangelism to happen we will always be disappointed. While we can depend on God being at work in the hearts of people who need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ, it is imperative that we do our part and not shy away from the work of evangelism. Being intentional about making invitations to others to share in our faith and come to know the love of God in Jesus Christ is what we exist to do.

*Evangelism is intentional! Evangelism is intentional! Evangelism is intentional!*

There are great opportunities to be intentional about evangelism in the coming couple of months. During the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas the doors of the church are open wide. But please do not just wait for folks to wander in accidentally. Make plans to invite people to worship and fellowship opportunities. Then assist them in finding your church and in finding their way around the event that they are participating in. Remember, there are those who have never experienced worship. You may need to be with them to help them navigate the experience and to understand the meaning and purpose of what is happening. This is all a part of the work of evangelism.

May God bless your efforts in evangelism. May you be an Ephesians 4 church:

*<sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.*

In Christ,

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Charlene Bailey Special Contributor
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*Nov. 25th is United Methodist Student Day*

## Schedule of Events

# November 2012

- Oct. 31st—Nov. 2nd District Office is closed
- Nov. 6th Election Day
- Nov. 10th DCoM in Wellsville 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 11th Veteran's Day
- Nov. 17th Bishop's Round-up
- Nov. 18th-25th National Bible Week
- Nov. 19-20th Cabinet Meeting, DS in Wichita
- Nov. 22nd-23rd Thanksgiving, District and KE Conference offices closed
- Nov. 23rd District Leadership Team Meeting at Wellsville 7-8:30 p.m.

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	

### November Church Conferences:

Nov. 1st, Thursday ~ 7-9 p.m.

Melvern/Quenemo at Melvern UMC

Nov. 4th, Sunday ~ 3-5 p.m.

Hiattville at Hiattville UMC

Nov. 4th, Sunday ~ 6-8 p.m. at Bronson UMC

Mildred/Elsmore and Bronson/Moran

Nov. 6th, Tuesday ~ 7-9 p.m.

Baldwin 1st at Baldwin 1st UMC

Nov. 8th, Thursday ~ 7-9 p.m.

Ottawa 1st at Ottawa 1st UMC

Nov. 11th, Sunday ~ 3-5 p.m.

Colony/Iola Trinity and Kincaid Selma

Welda at Colony UMC

Nov. 11th, Sunday ~ 6-8 p.m.

Iola Wesley and Iola Calvary/Salem  
at Iola Wesley UMC

Nov. 15th, Thursday ~ 7-9 p.m.

Williamsburg at Williamsburg UMC

Nov. 18th, Sunday ~ 3-5 p.m.

Turkey Creek/Gridley and Yates Center

Neosho Falls at Turkey Creek UMC

Nov. 18th, Sunday ~ 6-8 p.m.

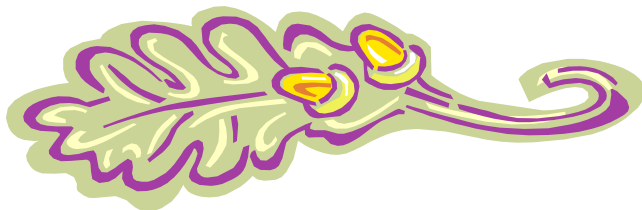
Burlington at Burlington UMC

Nov. 27th, Tuesday ~ 7-9 p.m.

Vinland at Vinland UMC

Nov. 29th, Thursday ~ 7-9 p.m.

Humboldt/Big Creek at Big Creek UMC



**Time Change Sunday, Nov. 4th~Fall Back**

# FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT CELEBRATES FAB FIVE FESTIVAL

by Charlene Bailey Special Contributor of article and all pictures

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More than 100 people attended the FAB Five Fall Festival and Fellowship event at Worden UMC on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Churches share through presentations and displays, ministries which happen through their local churches. As District Superintendent, Dennis Ackerman welcomed attendees, he reminded them of the topic of the day – *EVANGELISM* – and that evangelism is not a dirty word. All churches need to find their way of sharing their faith with others. Borrowing a line from Bishop Scott Jones, he said that, “if we ever return to the 1950’s, many of our churches are ready.”

Presentations for this event were intentionally chosen as a means of encouraging churches to look beyond themselves toward creative possibilities for ministry in local communities. Several churches were highlighted and shared 15 minute presentations. These included: **THE HUDDLE**, Lawrence First UMC; **CELEBRATE RECOVERY**, Lyndon UMC; **T4G “Time for God”** Sunday school program, Louisburg UMC; and, **FEARLESS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST**, Mound City/Blue Mound UMCs.

Debi Nixon, Co-author of **Catch: A Church-wide Program for Invitational Evangelism**, was the featured speaker for the event. Debi shared a challenging, thought provoking message for churches on how they can attract and connect visitors to their churches. Debi is the Managing Executive Director of Regional Campuses and Catalyst Ministry at Church of the Resurrection and has been on staff there since 1994.

As a church, we are called to be outwardly focused; to reach out into the community sharing the good news of the gospel with those who are non and nominally religious. The objectives of the **Catch** program are **Clarity** of purpose; **Attracting** visitors; **Transforming** into a welcoming environment; **Connecting** and doing effective follow-up; and **Helping** individuals on their journey.

Debi explained that there are two types of churches – inwardly focused and outwardly focused. Those that are inwardly focused exhibit behaviors where internal relationships among church members can actually build barriers with those on the outside (visitors) trying to connect with the church. Churches which are outwardly focused have walls that are penetrable and they value all people, inside and outside the church. Their leaders are willing to change things in order to reach new people and everything they do is designed to make a new person feel comfortable. These churches don’t do the typical “announcements” and “joys and concerns” during the worship service, as these can often put the visitor at a disadvantage because they don’t yet understand the inner workings of the church or know the people who are named. This can make the guest feel like an outsider often causing them to feel as if, “everyone else knows what they’re talking about but I don’t. I don’t fit here.” She challenged the churches to think closely about which type of church their local church represents.

Debi spent a lot of time challenging churches to seek **Clarity** on three important questions: 1) Why do people need Jesus Christ? 2) Why do people need the Church? 3) Why do people need their church? All of these questions should be answered by every church in order for them to be able to identify their clarity of purpose. Debi encouraged churches to go home and spend some time with their leadership answering these questions and celebrating what is remarkable about their church.

Debi shared numerous ways churches can interact with visitors ranging from a brief door step visit the first time a person visits (done the day of the first visit to better ensure a return visit).

### Fab Five Continued from page 3

Something as simple as a coffee mug from the church is left with the visitor to show appreciation for their interest in the church. She also shared valuable information on how to send direct mail pieces targeted demographically, as well as using social media (Facebook, Twitter) and local church websites to connect and interact with members and the community. She suggested an excellent source for mailing lists, *Every Door Direct*, which is available through the local post office. Images and slogans for direct mail pieces can be found at [www.outreach.com](http://www.outreach.com) as well as Google Images. United Methodist Communications also offers a wide variety of resources that may be used in developing direct mail pieces. Their web address is [www.umcom.org](http://www.umcom.org).

Debi closed with a challenge to churches to reflect on what they think visitors expect from the church and contrast that with what visitors are currently experiencing in their local churches, and then go on to develop their own action steps as they commit to being a church that is reaching out to attract and connect with the unchurched in their community. Additional information and resources covered by Debi in her presentation may be obtained at [www.cor.org/liresources](http://www.cor.org/liresources). There you will find calling scripts, a first time visitor survey, new member call tips and many other helpful resources.

Other Local Church Ministries highlighted during the day included the following:

**THE HUDDLE** is a United Methodist Men's Ministry of First UMC Lawrence. The purpose of this ministry is to deepen a personal faith and relationship with God through fellowship with other men. Born out of a small group vision, the Huddle late night is a men's ministry open to all men of the church, as well as those outside of the church. The mission is to connect and empower men for living out the gospel of Jesus. THE HUDDLE is men talking man to man about what it means to be a Christian in the Lawrence community. In addition to small group interaction, the format includes fellowship and music.



**THE FEARLESS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST** is a ministry sponsored by the Mound City/Blue Mound UMCs. Several years ago, after struggling with the youth ministries at both churches, a suggestion came from Krissy Beckman, a member at Blue Mound UMC. She believes that it is really important for young people to choose to come to the church, at a time when they have so many other options of things to do competing for their time. Pastor Dallas Peterson shared that two years ago she came to him and suggested that perhaps the two youth groups could meet together as one. Subsequently, **Fearless Followers of Christ** was launched and has made an important difference in the lives of young people in these two communities. Krissy and her mother, Jackie Broyles, are leaders of the group. Currently, there are approximately 20 youth involved in



this ministry compared to a scant few previously. Youth ministry is once again alive and well. They meet once a month and share a meal. They have participated in many mission and ministry opportunities, as well as some fun adventures, and are hoping to take a mission trip in the not too distant future.

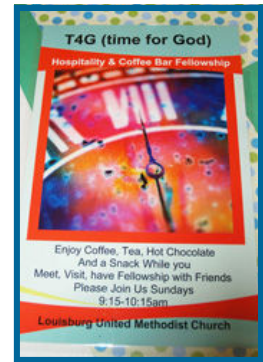


Fab Five Continued from page 4



**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** began at Lyndon UMC in the Spring of 2012. This unique program is a Christ Centered program based on the 8 Beatitudes. It enables people to get over hurts, habits and/or hang-ups they may have. Pastor Loren Drummond and member, Mary Brooks, shared information about this highly effective recovery program with attendees. The program is for those suffering from any one of a wide myriad of personal hurts, habits or hang-ups. Lyndon UMC partners with other churches in the Lyndon community to conduct the program, which consists of weekly meetings and a meal. He assured churches that there is help, advice and money to help get a program up and running in their own local church and invited churches to contact him for further information about starting this vital ministry in their own church.

**T4G "TIME FOR GOD" - Rebranding Sunday School.** Louisburg UMC has rebranded their Sunday School program out of a recognition that attendance among children, youth and adults at the church was declining and something had to be done. They have changed the name from "teacher" to "leader" which has been found to be more interactive. They also changed the name to T4G (Hospitality and Coffee Bar Fellowship) which meets every Sunday for one hour beginning at 9:15. Now, rather than 2 or 3 in class on any given Sunday, they are typically 8-10 in a class. They consider the adjustments they have made to have been a great success in reaching the members of their congregation.



**Imagine No Malaria** - Every 60 seconds, malaria claims a life in Africa. *Imagine No Malaria* is an extraordinary effort of the people of world-wide United Methodist Church, by putting faith into action to end preventable deaths by malaria in Africa, especially the death of children and mothers. \$510 was generously given by those present at the FAB Five event to be used toward the efforts of the *Imagine No Malaria* ministry outreach.



Did you Know? The average American will consume more than 4,500 calories and 229 grams of fat on Thanksgiving Day.

Sparkspeople.com

**Benjamin Franklin argued that the Turkey should be our National Bird. He stated that it was more respectable and a native of North America.**

<http://www.holidayinsights.com/tday/turkey.htm>

**Bishop of the Great Plains Episcopal Area  
Scott Jones**

**Five Rivers District Superintendent  
Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman**

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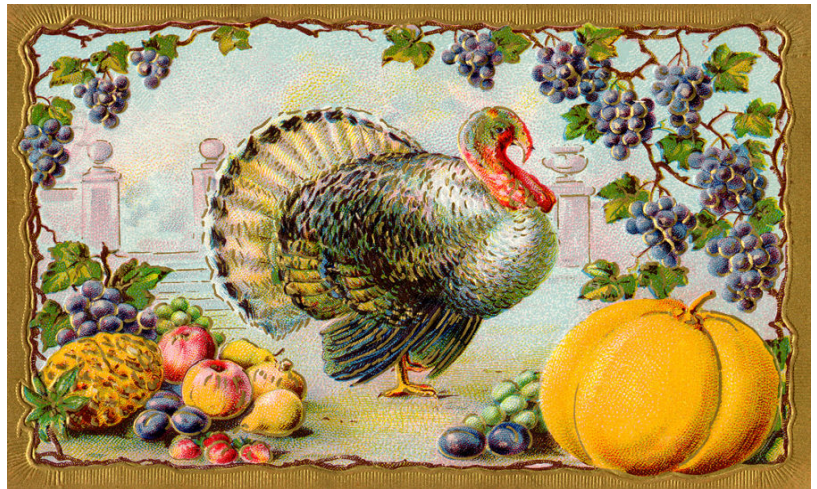
## Thanksgiving Prayer

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### Help Me Thanksgiving Day Prayer

O God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work,  
help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a home,  
help me to remember those who have no home at all;  
When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer,  
And remembering,  
help me to destroy my complacency;  
bestir my compassion,  
and be concerned enough to help;  
By word and deed,  
those who cry out for what we take for granted.  
Amen.

~ Samuel F. Pugh



### *District Prayer Calendar for November*

Nov.4	Baldwin 1st Rev. Paul Babcock
Nov.11	Lawrence Centenary/Linwood Pastor Dan Norwood
Nov.18	Union Chapel Rev. Barb Clinger
Nov.25	Princeton Pastor Jada Hodgson