

November 1, 2015  
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# Living Water

A Monthly Publication of the Five Rivers District

**IT WAS ONE OF MY FORMER SUPERINTENDENTS** who had hanging on her office wall a simple message that said it all: “Yes, Lord”. Isn’t that what it takes? Our affirmative response when God calls—our “Yes” to God’s initiatives. I think of all the ways I have said “No” over the years. Not just to God, but to family, friends, sometimes to total strangers. “NO!” How would things have been different if I had been more inclined to say “Yes”?

Bishop Robert Schnase has a new book out called Just Say Yes! Unleashing People for Ministry. It’s not too thick—(I often choose my reads these days based on the “thickness” or lack thereof!)—and it’s a great treatment of the call to say “Yes, Lord”. What do people, systems, churches and leaders who say “No” look like? And more to the point, what about those who say “Yes”? Listen to a couple of Bishop Schnase’s questions:

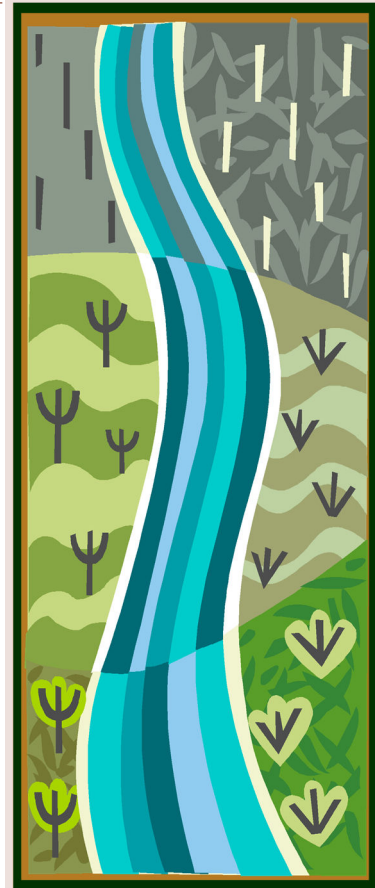
**“Successful churches and effective pastors are willing to do things that declining churches and unsuccessful pastors are unwilling to do. Growing churches say Yes to ministries that declining churches say No to. Do you agree? What do you see as some of the implications of this for your congregations?”**

**“Think of someone who exhibits the qualities of a permission-giving leader. What behaviors in yourself would you need to work on to become more permission-giving?”**

I think that often we say “No” as a means of control. And often our desire for control serves to quench God’s creative Spirit. Whenever I feel inclined to do so, I remember the time my friend and colleague Frank Dorsey said: “I’m not into control, I’m into the Spirit!” And so he was.

How about you? Are you into control, or into the Spirit? Are you saying “Yes, Lord” in your life and ministry?

Rev. David Watson  
Five Rivers District Superintendent



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Bishop’s Round Up is Nov. 21st from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Douglas County Fairgrounds
- Dec. 1st Appointive Recommendation Forms due in 5R office

# November 2015

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. 2 Boundaries Training 201 for those renewing prior training. Countryside UMC 3221 SW Burlingame Rd, Topeka, KS

Questions: nlambert@greatplainsumc.org or 402-464-5994-126

Nov. 4-6 New DS Group, DS in Austin, TX with Dr. Gil Rendel

Nov. 12 Rev. Jan Todd visits out district churches

Nov. 13-14 Lay Servant Training at Ottawa 1st

Nov. 20 Boundaries Training for those renewing prior training. St. Mark's UMC, 6422 Santa Fe Dr., Overland Park, KS

Nov. 21st Bishop's Round-Up

Nov. 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday. District and Conference offices will be closed.

## November Charge Conferences

Nov. 1, 3 p.m. Yates Center/Neosho Falls at Yates Center UMC

Nov. 1, 6 p.m. Wellsville/Clearfield at Wellsville UMC

Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Edgerton UMC

Nov. 9, 7 p.m. Mound City/Blue Mound at Mound City UMC

Nov. 10, 7 p.m. Michigan Valley UMC

Nov. 11, 7 p.m. Richmond UMC

Nov. 15, after worship Melvern/Quenemo at Melvern UMC

Nov. 15, 3 p.m. Waverly/Prairie View at Waverly UMC

Nov. 15, 6 p.m. Burlington UMC

Nov. 16, 7 p.m. Baldwin 1st UMC

Nov. 17, 7 p.m. Humboldt/Big Creek at Humboldt UMC

Nov. 30, 6 p.m. PPR Committee at Vassar

Nov. 30, 7 p.m. Pomona/Vassar UMC at Vassar UMC

### Clergy Birthdays:

Nov. 1 Kathy Symes      Nov. 16 Darlene Sheffer      Nov. 23 Scott Hannon

Nov. 6 Tom Brady      Nov. 17 Paul Babcock

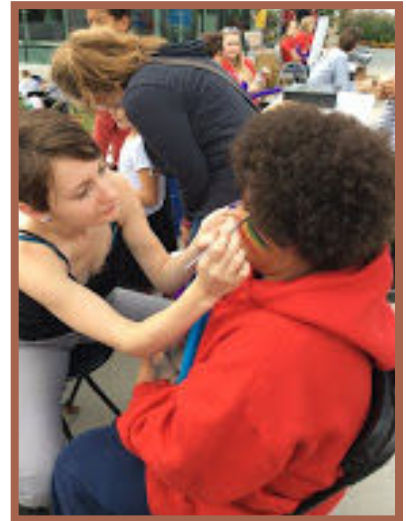
Nov. 6 Pat Longstroth      Nov. 23 Julie Freeman

## Love Lawrence Event Successful by Marvé Ralston

Rev. Jacob Cloud had a vision of an event that would introduce folks to non-profit helping agencies, build community and invite folks to New Church Lawrence and KU Campus Ministry.

An event was planned to do just that. It began by his inviting Lawrence area non-profits to set up booths introducing folks to their organizations.

Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> was the culmination of a lot of hard work and planning to see this venture into fruition. The hope was that there would be at least 200 folks in attendance, and by 5:30 p.m. Monique Brigham, event planner said they had already exceeded that goal by over 25%.



Love Lawrence was funded in part by contributions Pastor Jacob and staff raised from community businesses.

The event took place at the Lawrence Public Library and spilled outside for face painting, food trucks, live music, ball pit, and balloon animals.

The first table inside the library, set up for the non-profits, was New Church Lawrence. Warm greetings and an invitation to future events was forthcoming.

There were over 17 booths with information and sign-up sheets to volunteer or contribute to these vital non-profit area agencies.

Although rain threatened to damper the event, it never happened. Children and adults alike seemed to enjoy the balloon animals and face painting, as well as come away with some great information.

What a better way to show your intention of making Lawrence a better place, than to introduce folks to many ways of serving through area Not-For-Profits, and invite them to New Church Lawrence and/or KU Campus ministry?



Registration forms for the Lay Servant workshop on Nov. 13th-14 can be found on our website

Under Lay Servant Ministry.

[www.fiveriversds.com](http://www.fiveriversds.com)

If you need a hardcopy, just call our office.

We still have 7 scholarships to cover the 50. registration fee to attend a workshop. The only thing you need to do to receive that is to attend a 5 Rivers District church.

Request one through our office or Dave Wasserfallen the 5R Director of Lay Ministry.

Reg. Deadline is Monday!

Nov. 7th **Rev. Loren Drummond, Lyndon UMC**, will be recognized for his contributions to the Kansas Coalition Abolishing the Death Penalty at their Conference and Banquet.

Abolition Conference

1 p.m. -4 p.m.

Champions for Change

Banquet 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

First Baptist Church

3033 SW MacVicar Ave

Topeka, KS

RSVP Please

[info@ksabolition.org](mailto:info@ksabolition.org)

## LAY SERVANT MINISTRY

Ever considered taking your faith to the next level? Lay Servant Ministry might be your next step.

We will be sponsoring a Lay Servant Training Event Nov. 13-14 at Ottawa 1st UMC.

Below and page 5, you can meet two of our workshop teachers.

### MEET ~ JADA HODGSON

Jada Hodgson is a Certified Lay Minister who has been serving as pastor of the Princeton United Methodist Church for eleven years and the Plum Creek United Methodist Church for eight months. Jada served as District Director of then Lay Speaking Ministries for the Five Rivers District and as Conference Director of

Lay Speaking Ministries for the Kansas East Conference. Lay Servant Ministry and the small membership church are her passions. In the Polity class, Jada will lead an adventure through the exciting world of denominations, our denominational structure, and how we do church governance as the United Methodist Church. Jada has served on the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation twice and as a member of the Jurisdictional Mission Council for the South Central Jurisdiction. So there will be some stories of personal experience in the various levels of the church.

Anyone interested in a deeper understanding of the structures of our church would be welcome.



Jada Hodgson and her niece and nephew



## MEET ~ REV. JANUARY KIEFER

Bio: Prior to entering the ministry, January spent seven years as an art teacher. It was there that she learned the power of storytelling to engage her listeners and spark the creative spirit within them. She subsequently embarked on a fifteen year career as a storyteller, traveling the country presenting performances and workshops to all kinds of people in all kinds of places. Now in her fifteenth year of ministry, she served first in the African Methodist Episcopal Church before transferring to United Methodism. She believes that we are called to be co-creators with God in the nurture, healing, and celebration of God's Beloved Community.

### Workshop Description:

Much of the Bible began in the oral tradition. All of the Bible was initially presented as "spoken word." We'll look at the relationship between written and spoken word, and explore what happens when we lift the texts off the page and breathe them back into the air.

In this exciting class you will:

- DISCOVER the vital role imagination plays in approaching, interpreting and delivering biblical stories,
- EXAMINE elements of the told tale,
- LEARN techniques for internalizing and memorizing stories "by heart,"
- PRACTICE telling!

You will lighten up, loosen up, listen up, and just plain have fun as you engage the dynamic relationship between teller, tale, and listener.



Salem UMC Picnic and Brass Band after their Church Conference, Sunday, Oct. 4th!

*Bishop of the Great Plains  
Conference:  
Scott Jones*

*Five Rivers District  
Superintendent:  
Rev. David Watson*

*Newsletter  
Editor/Admn.  
Assistant:  
Marvé Ralston*

We have this Hope as  
an anchor for the soul  
firm and secure.

Hebrews 6:19

Prayers going up with  
thanksgiving for all our  
local churches, pastors,  
and congregants!

There is a survey we are asking you to fill out,  
both online and postcard form, for those that  
receive a hardcopy newsletter.

Please respond, it should only take a couple  
minutes of your time.

The District Leadership Team members are  
looking at programming and truly want your  
input.

Here is the online link. Please call  
our office if you have any trouble  
completing the survey.

<http://goo.gl/forms/6UsK4dKRuo>



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE