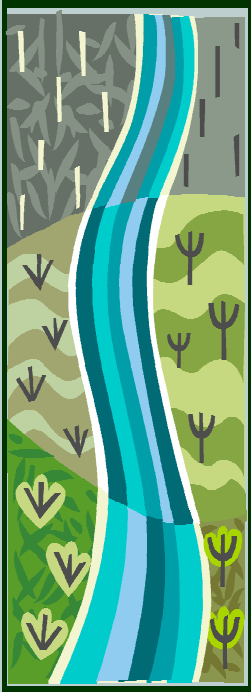


FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT
OFFICE

Mission Statement:
Cultivating Christian Growth



Living Water

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2009

News from our District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I love the fall of the year. The colors, the crispness of the air, the prelude to the holidays are all reasons to feel an uplift in your spirit and a sense of being alive and a part of God's creation. Driving through the countryside during this season is an experience unto itself. There is wonder everywhere if we will take the time to see. My encouragement to all of us is to take the time to "see" what is before us. See what God has given.

Seeing what God is placing before me is too often something that I overlook. I get busy with my work and am blinded to what God is offering. That is a such a mistake for any of us to make in the course of our days. My encouragement is for all of us to slow down long enough each day so that we can experience the fullness of God's presence with us. There is nothing so pressing that we should overlook such time in our lives. What does it say about us when we consider things so important that we do not take time for God.

Please pray for me to take the time to see what God is doing in my life. I will be in prayer for you to do the same. What wonders we can experience as a District if we see and follow God is doing right here within our midst.

I am enjoying my time with local churches as I travel about conducting Church Conferences. I am seeing God at work in the midst of the people of Five Rivers. Keep up the good work and that the time to see God!

In Christ,

Dennis



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“*The Shack* will leave you craving for the presence of God.”

Singer and Songwriter
Michael W. Smith

“*The Shack* is a one-of-a-kind invitation to journey to the very heart of God. Through my tears and cheers, I have been indeed transformed by the tender mercy with which William Paul Young opened the veil that too often separated me from God and from myself. With every page, the complicated do’s and don’ts that distort a relationship into a religion were washed away as I understood Father, Son, and Spirit for the first time in my life.”

Patrick M. Roddy, Emmy Award-winning producer for ABC News

“Regarding the Trinity, it’s actually heretical.”

Mark Driscoll, Pastor of Mars Hill Church in Seattle

“While reading *The Shack*, I realized the questions unfolding in this captivating novel were questions I was carrying deep within me. The beauty of this book is not that it supplies easy answers to grueling questions, but that it invites you to come in close to a God of mercy and love, in whom we find hope and healing.”

Jim Palmer, author of *Divine Nobodies*

Book Review: *The Shack* by WM. Paul Young

By Marvé Ralston

This book came highly recommended to me by many people. I read it through before I ever questioned it. I could easily identify with the “Great Sadness,” as I am sure we all can on some small level. The main question being “Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?”

There are so many things about God that are a mystery. Explaining the Trinity to your children is a tough thing to do for the average parent. Even if you were raised in the church as I was, it is tough. I can’t imagine how tough it would be for a new follower of Christ just learning themselves. I admire Young for writing this piece of fiction for his six children. The first copies were actually printed at Kinko’s as Christmas gifts for them.

As the mother of a son that is currently agnostic, would I look for any way to reach him? You bet I would. Will I give him this book to read? Yes, I think it will help his searching soul. He was raised in church, and when God didn’t answer his prayers as his child-faith required, he began questioning God. He is not alone. There are so many hurting people. If this story in any way helps them find their way back to God, I think it’s a good thing.

I read several reviews with differing opinions. Theology (the study of God) should be sought through the Bible not a piece of fictional writing. However, I think God can use other ways to get us interested, thinking and moving toward Him. Let’s face it, this may open a door for someone that has been outside the church family for a long time and will not pick up a Bible. At the very least I am hoping for a great discussion with my son on this book. Of course I will be praying for him that God will reveal Himself and make an opening for the next steps, the Bible and evidentially church.

Below are some interesting articles I read. When I asked my friends, all but one really liked it. The one that didn’t is an ardent reader and she thought it was “too out there.” My pastor and friend, Rev. Dr. Connie Wilson, suggested I review it from my point of view, so I did.

A Reader’s Review of *The Shack* by Tim Challies

A Review of *The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity* by Glenn R. Kreider

“*Shack*” opens doors, but critics call book “scripturally incorrect.” by Cathy Lynn Grossman, USA TODAY

Of Possible Interest to You:

Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center

150 NW Skyline Dr.
Fayetteville, AR 72701
1-800-760-8126

Leading the Small Church

The Small Church Leadership Institute, **November 15-19**, is offering a program designed to equip laity and pastors with the knowledge and skills to lead their small attendance church to a higher level of health and vitality.

Authorities presenting on small church transformation will be Dr. Jeff Patton (author of "If It Could Happen Here"), Dr. Russell Cephas, Rod Hocott, Cecilia Kelly, Bill Junk, Janice Meese, Judy Benson and Bishop Max Whitfield.

On November 19-21 District Superintendents will be offered 48 hours with Dr. Gil Rendle in conversation about "The Small Attendance Church."

For registration: registration@mountsequoyah.org

Advent Sermon Writing Retreat, November 2-6, 2009

Lenten Sermon Writing Retreat, January 11-15, 2010

Clergy and lay ministers are invited to come to Mount Sequoyah Conference Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas and undertake their in-depth preparation and sermon writing for these two special seasons. Cost \$395, Commuter \$155. For more information, contact Rev. Kim Ross at 800-760-8126, email spiritualdirector@mountsequoyah.org, or go to www.mountsequoyah.org.

15th Annual Festival of the Nativities

December 5,6,12,13,19 & 20 - Noon to 4pm

Centenary United Methodist Church

245 N. 4th Street, Lawrence, KS

(corner of 4th and Elm in North Lawrence)

To inquire about special group times, call 785-843-1756

Description of the Festival:

Centenary UMC is opening our doors for the 15th year to invite everyone to celebrate the story of Christmas told around the world. This exhibit of over 300 International Nativity sets is a joyous expression of cultural diversity - and a great way for individuals, families, friends and groups to celebrate the universal anticipation of joy as revealed in the coming of the Christ child. The Festival of the Nativities at Centenary will be open on Saturdays and Sundays through the Advent Season (Dec 5-20) from Noon to 4pm, as well as one hour before and a half hour after our Christmas Eve Service. Special times might be open to tour groups if they can be scheduled when our volunteers are available to open the exhibit - for such groups, a love offering will be asked.

Apportionment Information for 2010:

Because a "tithe" is not split into categories. The Churches will Tithe to the entire Conference Operating Budget. We still have the four categories within the operating budget. However, churches will not be able to select a category to apply their tithe payment. Rather, the entire tithe payment will be allocated proportionately to all funds sharing in the budget.

Russ Hinshaw, Kansas East Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services 1-877-972-9111

November 2009

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. 1st	Humboldt-Big Creek SPRC 12:00 PM, CC 12:30 PM Iola: Calvary-Salem SPRC 3:00 PM, CC 3:30 PM Iola Wesley-Neosho Falls CC 5:00 PM Welda CC 7:00 PM, SPRC after CC
Nov. 2nd	Pomona-Vassar SPRC 6:30 PM, CC 7:00 PM
Nov. 3rd	Williamsburg SPRC 6:30 PM, CC 7:00 PM
Nov. 4th	Moran-Bronson SPRC 6:30 PM, CC 7:00 PM
Nov. 5th	Lawrence Centenary-Linwood SPRC 6:30 PM, CC 7:00 PM
Nov. 7th	District Committee of Superintendency, Garnett UMC 10-12:00 AM
Nov. 8th	Fort Scott 1st SPRC 12:00 PM, CC 12:30 PM Pleasanton-Prescott, SPRC 2:30 PM, CC 3:00 PM, Gary DeMott Consultation directly after CC Louisburg, SPRC 6:30 PM, CC 7:00 PM
Nov. 9th	Baldwin Ives Chapel SPRC 6:30 PM, CC 7:00 PM
Nov. 10th	LaCygne-New Lancaster, SPRC 6:30 PM, CC 7:00 PM
Nov. 11th	Michigan Valley, SPRC 6:30 PM, CC 7:00 PM
Nov. 14th	Bishop's Roundup for Hunger (see back page)

November Calendar Continued

Nov. 16th	District Board of Ordained Ministry, Wellsville Melvern-Quenemo SPRC 6:30 PM, CC 7:00 PM
Nov. 17th	Vinland SPRC 6:30 PM, CC 7:00 PM
Nov. 18-19th	Extended Cabinet , Appointive Cabinet
Nov. 22nd	Richter SPRC 12:30 PM, CC 1:00 PM Colony-Kincaid/Selma SPRC 4:30 PM, CC 5:00 PM Greeley 7:00 PM CC, SPRC after
Nov. 23th	Osawatomie-Lane SPRC 6:30 PM, CC 7:00 PM
Nov. 24th	Clearfield SPRC 6:30 PM, CC 7:00 PM
Nov. 29th	Hiattville SPRC 10:00 AM, CC 10:30 AM St. John-Hammond-W.Liberty SPRC 1:00 PM, CC 1:30 PM Mound City-Blue Mound, SPRC 4:30 PM, CC 5:00 PM
Nov. 30th	Ottawa Trinity SPRC 6:00 PM, CC 6:30 PM

The Kansas East Conference Of the United Methodist Church

Our Vision

people and churches
spiritually alive and growing.

Our Mission

to connect and empower
people and churches
in living out the Gospels call
to invite, nurture, equip,
and send forth disciples
of Jesus Christ.

Clergy November Birthdays

Kathy Symes	Nov. 1st
Tom Brady	Nov. 6th
Ira DeSpain	Nov. 12th
Paul Babcock	Nov. 17th
Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman	Nov. 23rd
Gene McIntosh	Nov. 25th
Connie Cox	Nov. 28th

District Prayer Calendar

Nov. 1st	Worden Pastor Bud Tuxhorn
Nov. 8th	Pleasanton-Prescott Pastor Gary DeMott
Nov. 15th	Parker-Beagle-Fontana Rev. Marti McDougal
Nov. 22nd	Lyndon Rev. Michael McKee
Nov. 29th	Clearfield Rev. Harriett Bechtle
Nov. 29th	Ives Chapel Pastor Jacob Cloud Holloway

Our missionaries in Haiti

Joe and Shirley Edgerton
and work teams

Five Rivers District

We're on the web at
www.fiveriversdistrict.com

The United Methodist Church

809 Seventh, #1

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Ds E-mail: 5riversds@embarqmail.com

Kansas Bishop:

Bishop Scott Jones

District Superintendent:

Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Administrative Assistant, Newsletter Editor

Marvé Ralston

Needs and Uses

32nd Annual United Methodist Bishop's Round-Up For Hunger Kansas East Conference Mission and Justice

Printable brochure available on the Kansas East website at www.kansaseast.org

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 14th, 2009 **(Please note the new date!)**

4-H Fairgrounds, Lawrence

(Highway 10 east to Harper Street North between 19th and 21st streets)

Peace begins when the hungry are fed.

Critical

Food Commercially Prepared

No Commodities or Glass Jars (12 items per box or case, please)

Please use box size that "Grandma" could carry.

Suggested Items:

Fruit

Green beans

Mixed vegetables

Tuna

Peanut Butter

1 lb. dried beans

1 lb. rice

Crackers

Corn

Macaroni and Cheese

Soup (tomato, chicken noodle)

Canned meat

Spaghetti

Spaghetti sauce

Ramen noodles

*Please purchase food items in regular sizes. Remember to purchase items you and your family enjoy.