



From Your DS

I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time- waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God- it changes me.

C.S. Lewis

I have been thinking about prayer. It is talked about a great deal. We promise to pray for one another. We seek the prayers of others to intercede on our behalf. Prayer is our “go to” response to many situations and many circumstances. All of this is a very good thing. We need to pray.

But what do we expect when we pray? Usually we expect God to hear us. We expect God to know our needs and our desires. We expect God to respond to our prayers – one way or another.

What we do not always expect, although we do hope for such, is for God to give us what we desire. We know that God will not always respond as our hearts and minds hope.

What is so unexpected about our prayer life, is what C.S. Lewis says in the quote above: “It doesn’t change God – it changes me.” We approach God with our prayers seeking a certain response and hoping for the desired outcome. We do not approach God in prayer fully expecting for prayer to change us. But that is the reality of prayer. It changes us.

So, may we approach God in prayer with the same request that the disciples brought to Jesus – “Lord, teach us to pray.” (Luke 11:1) Teach us to open ourselves to God’s Holy Spirit. Teach us to be vulnerable in God’s presence. Teach us to see God’s will. Teach us to do God’s will. Help us to pray. Change us!

I am praying for you. Wonder what changes that will bring within me.

In Christ,



OCTOBER 2013

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		

October 7th Cigna Open Enrollment meeting at Garnett UMC 9 a.m.-noon

October 12th District Committee on Superintendency Meeting at Garnett UMC 9:30-11:30 a.m

October 18-19 Great Plains Leadership Event in Manhattan, KS

October 22nd Clergy Meeting at Ottawa 1st UMC 9-noon

October 26th Princeton Chicken Noodle Supper 5-7 p.m. **100 year tradition**



District Church Prayer Calendar

Oct. 6 Lawrence 1st UMC
Rev. Tom Brady
Rev. Mitch Todd

Oct. 13 Eudora
Rev. Lyle Seger

Oct. 20 Osawatomie/Lane
Rev. Marti McDougal

Oct. 27 St John's/
Hammond/West Liberty
Rev. Donna Clark Fuller

Clergy Birthdays ~

Rev. Bruce Draper Oct. 5th

Rev. Don Flanner Oct. 21st



Rev. Jim Hopwood and Lonny Hinote from Paola UMC work on building a handicap ramp at our Helping Hands event



Abbey Ackerman and Amanda Rosich work on one of the painting jobs.



Debbie Ackerman (wife of DS), Helen Burkett (District Lay Leader) and Garnett UMC member help with cleanup.



Helping Hands group working on a porch for a Garnett resident.

5R Helping Hands Work Day



Ives Chapel Pastor, Kate Carpenter and her husband Curt helped with painting difficult to reach areas.

Project Revolution ~ the 6th Five Rivers District Youth Rally

By Marvé Ralston

September brings many things, and in Five Rivers District, one of them is Project Revolution, our District annual Youth Rally and lock-in. This year was the 6th Project Revolution. As is customary with this event, it was youth led; planned and executed by the D.C.Y.M. (District Council of Youth Ministry.)

This year's Project Revolution was held at Lawrence 1st West Campus. This location has major indoor and outdoor space for recreation, worship and a concert.

Two mini concerts were performed with the first by Kalona Pence, an accomplished high school senior from Manhattan, Kansas, who wrote and performed her own songs. The second concert was performed by Meagan Young, one of our first year Project Revolution attendees, and a talented musician who is active in the Praise Band at Baldwin 1st.

The logo for this year was designed by Skylar Dickey, also a former D.C.Y.M. member and president. T-shirts are ordered once the logo is designed and this is a popular component of the event.

Skylar Dickey was the Five Rivers District young adult representative for us at both Annual Conference and the Uniting Conference this year.

The past two years the rally has been open to other district youth that want to participate and have Safe Gatherings adults that are willing to attend with them.

The event would not take place were it not for the D.C.Y.M. Coordinators, District Youth Coordinators and parents who help supervise the event and step up every year to help out.

Tami Clark (Lawrence 1st), Eva Durand (Baldwin 1st), Laura Ramsey (Lyndon) as well as Matt Stuckey (Iola Wesley); all deserve a great deal of praise for their unfailing devotion to the D.C.Y.M. group and 6 years of youth that have matured in Christ and leadership, under their direction.

This year youth also have the opportunity to participate in the Great Plains Youth lock-in called The OneEvent. This will be held in Topeka, Ks in January at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Here is the link for more information theoneevent@greatplainsumc.org. Early bird registration with a 10.00 savings, is due by October 30th, 2013. (Pictures on page 6)

1st Helping Hands Work Day Successful

The Five Rivers District *Helping Hands* event on September 14th was a success. The day began with some instructions and devotions. The groups were sent out with the best utilization of their work skills in mind. For some that meant cleanup, painting, ramp or porch carpentry. A simple lunch was served at Garnett UMC. Garnett UMW helped with lunch preparation.

Lonnie Bailey and Roger Dressler (Common Grounds) will have additional opportunities for work teams coming from local churches to help in either Kincaid with the building of two handicapped ramps or a roofing project in Fort Scott. We should have more information out regarding this after Friday p.m. There were folks from Worden, Paola, Lawrence Central, Baldwin 1st, Garnett, Welda, Lyndon, and Ives Chapel UMC at our event. Thanks so much to all that made the effort to participate. (Pictures on page 3 and 4)

Project Revolution Pictures 2013



One of two mini concerts at Project Revolution

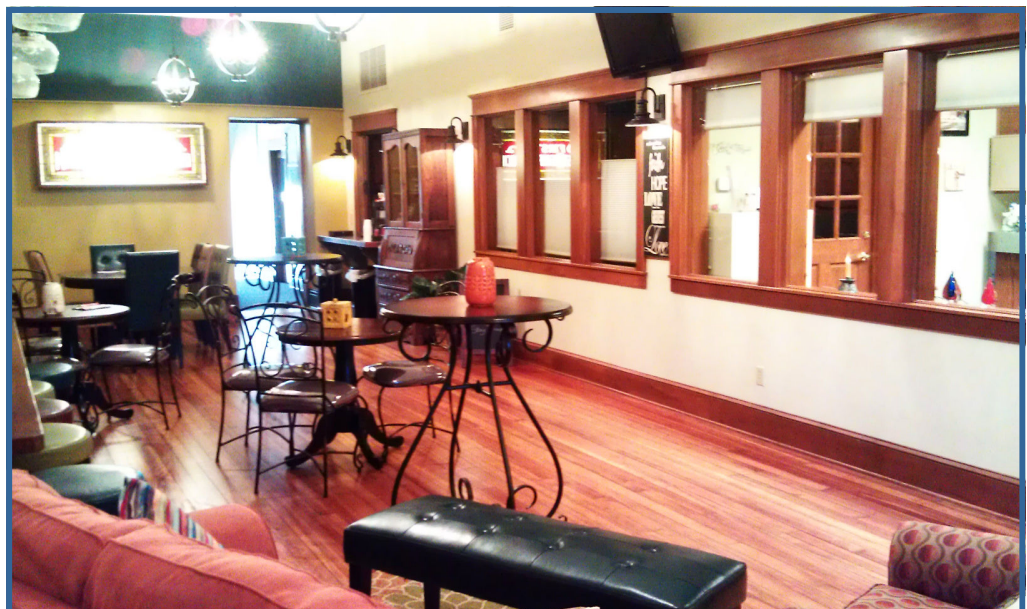


Above is the D.C.Y.M. staff 2013 led by President Stephanie Brands.



***Wonderful Foyer Transformation at Ottawa 1st Shared by Kay Wilburn
(Ottawa 1st Administrative Assistant)***

These are the pictures of our transformation of Ottawa 1st fellowship hall which is now called 1st Cup. We wanted a more welcoming entry to our church. It is now bright and inviting. We have already used it for a reception, every morning we have around 10 gather for coffee and fellowship. On Tuesdays we are inviting the public for ***Donuts & Devotions***. All new visitors will be given one of our new 1st Cup Coffee Mugs that will use the Methodist symbol for the 1 in 1st Cup. Next Monday we are starting a Beth Moore Study which will start at 9am in 1st Cup for devotions and 9:30 to 11:30 for the study. This is an 8 week study. We pray this room will bring new faces into our church. The team of ladies have worked very hard to transform this space.





Five Rivers District Office
3300 Clinton Parkway Ct, Suite 110
Lawrence, KS 66047-2629

Phone: 785-841-4804

Fax: 785-841-4820

Website: 5riversds.com

Cultivating Christian Discipleship

Great Plains Episcopacy Area Bishop: Scott Jones

District Superintendent:

Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Administrative Assistant,

Newsletter Editor:

Marvé Ralston



Church Conferences for October

Sunday, Oct. 20 th 3-5 p.m.	Princeton	Plum Creek, Princeton
Sunday, Oct. 20 th 6-8 p.m.	Ottawa Trinity	Trinity, Union Chapel, Ottawa 1 st
Tuesday, Oct. 22 nd 7-9 p.m.	Moran	Bronson/Moran, Elsmore/Mildred
Thursday, Oct. 24 th 7-9 p.m.	Richmond	Richmond
Sunday, Oct. 27 th 3-5 p.m.	Iola Trinity	Iola Trinity, Colony
Sunday, Oct. 27 th 6-8 p.m.	Humboldt	Humboldt/Big Creek
Tuesday, Oct. 29 th 7-9 p.m.	Prescott	Pleasanton/Prescott, Fulton