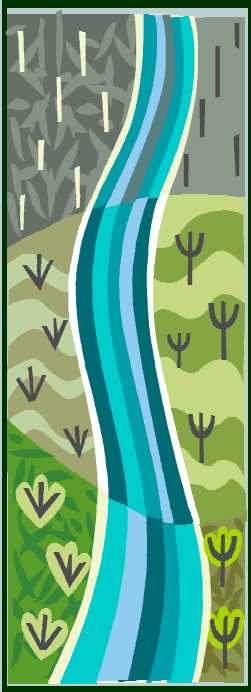


Mission Statement:
Cultivating Christian Growth



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Living Water

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2009

News from our District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe, President of the College of Bishops of the South Central Jurisdiction, announced last week that Nebraska and Kansas will become an Episcopal area on September 1, 2012. This, of course, has ramifications for each of us. What those ramifications are will depend on how the three annual conferences involved choose to order and structure themselves in preparation for the change.

What I can tell you is this – you know what I know. And what is it that I know? I know that the Bishops have done what they are responsible for doing – making the decision about Episcopal areas. I know that there will be a task force established consisting of seven people from each of the three annual conferences to consider the possibilities. I know that there will be lots of talk and deliberation about what should be done. I know that I do not know what the outcome will be when the dust settles. That is basically what I know.

Here is what I believe: God will still be God and God will still be at work in the world through us. The Church as an institution is the structure that we hang things on to do the work of ministry. Structure changes. The mission of our faith continues unabated. We are here to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The task force will have the responsibility to recommend the best way that United Methodists in Nebraska and Kansas can structure ourselves to achieve the above mission.

So, we will each need to be in prayer for the task force as they consider the possibilities for ministry that lie ahead for our church. Then we continue the work of sharing Christ with those around us.

I am looking forward to beginning Church Conferences this month. So, I will be seeing you!

In Christ,

Dennis

Martha Smith, Active Member of Vinland UMC Turns 104 Years

By *Marvé Ralston*



“Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of eighty and gradually approach eighteen.”

[Mark Twain](#)



“Life is half spent before we know what it is.”

[George Herbert](#)

Would you still be faithful to attend church when you have trouble seeing and hearing the pastor any longer? How about being willing to give Mission Minutes at age 103? Well Martha Smith finally gave up Mission Minutes this summer when her poor eyesight made it too tough to continue. However, she still enjoys attending church and listening to the church choir on Sunday mornings. Rev. Orrin Potter and his wife Pat help with transportation to and from church. It was at Potter’s recommendation that I visited Smith who turned 104 this month. What a true treasure she was to visit with. Here is a little bit of what she shared with me.

Smith turned 104 on September 15th. She lives in Baldwin City and attends Vinland United Methodist Church where she has gone since she was a young girl. Smith’s father moved the family from Vinland Presbyterian Church when it closed, to the Methodist Church. She taught Sunday school for many years starting with very young children up to junior high. She finally retired from teaching when, “A junior high boy refused to go to Sunday school any more because he was taller than the teacher,” she said.

Smith met and married her husband, Cecil Carl Smith, at the Vinland United Methodist Church. She never dated before meeting Cecil, and married late in life. About a year later, they had their only son, Edwin. Edwin takes after his dad according to Martha and can’t sing, which also made us both giggle and Edwin smile in agreement.

Smith has lived her whole life in this area and has only been out of the state to visit her sister Edith and family in Nebraska. As a child, she wanted to be a nurse when she grew up.

Smith grew up one of five girls (one died at birth) making her father a farmer with no sons, she added. She grew up on the Kelley Farm, south of Vinland. She attended Coal Creek Grade School. She graduated from high school at the age of fourteen. Smith was the farm help for her father for many years. “My father had a plan for me after high school but he forgot to tell me,” She said. “He wanted me to go live with Great Aunt Annie in Lawrence and go to Kansas University but he didn’t mention the plan to me.” “I didn’t want to go to college, so my aunt found me a job at the Lawrence Public Library; I mended and put away books,” she said.

This prompted me to ask her what her favorite book is. “I don’t read books anymore,” she said with a big smile. Smith is still around a lot of books as she currently volunteers, where she has for over 80 years, at the Coal Creek Library in Vinland. The library was originally called Coal Creek Social Library Association. Smith volunteers from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, from April to the end of October and would be happy to give a short history lesson to anyone who is interested and wants to drop by during that time.

I turned 50 this year and am now pondering what God has planned for the next 50+ years of my life.... Kind of makes you smile and do some serious thinking doesn’t it?

Five Rivers District Sponsored Youth Rally a Success—Thanks D.C.Y.M.!

By Matt Stuckey, Iola Wesley Youth Director and D.C.Y.M. Co-director

Project Revolution reached out to even more youth than last year and is a tremendous ministry in the Five Rivers District. This Year 115 youth (6th-12th grades) participated up from 73 last year. This years success is due to the planning and carrying out of the ministry by the Five Rivers DCYM youth. To start the evening all were welcomed by DS Dennis Ackerman. Those attending participated in games of fellowship including the memorable cheetos head game, enjoyed a great barbecue including a bonfire with s-mores, amazing worship led by Wayne Kerr (Katy, Texas), a moving and heart felt testimony by Kaylin McCrary who called us to let our light shine to all people and to be in ministry with them, and lastly the night ended with a prayer walk where many youth were asked to contemplate their ministry to others. We the Five Rivers DCYM and adults would like to thank all those who helped make this ministry a success. We could not of done it without you all. Project Revolution next year will be September 11th and 12th featuring the band the Cast and Crew. Hoping we all continue to Pray for our young people in the Five Rivers District.



October 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	31

Oct. 1st	Northern Five Rivers District Clergy Breakfast, 8:30 A.M., 56 Hwy. Restaurant, Ottawa, KS. For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Jim Stigall 785-242-3259/sanctus46@hotmail.com.
Oct. 2nd	Cat/Hawk Challenge-Friday, Oct. 2nd, The Marriott, Overland Park (10800 Metcalf) Doors open at 6:50 a.m. Tailgate at 7 p.m.. Dinner at 7:30. Contact KU Wesley, Jim Reed or Mike Toluba 785-341-7231 or 229-942-1374. jimreed42@gmail.com, mike.toluba@gmail.com.
Oct. 6th	Bishop Jones Speaks to the Kansas East Conference, Topeka First, 600 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Oct. 12-16th	New Church Leadership Institute, Mount Sequoyah, AR. District Superintendent will be attending.
Oct. 15th	Humana Insurance Meeting, Garnett UMC, 205 S Oak St., Garnett, KS Actives 10 a.m.-Noon, Retirees 1 p.m.-3 p.m. This is not a mandatory meeting but informative and enrollment information will be handed out and explained for 2010. Enrollment forms will be available in the District Office as well.
Oct. 16-17th	Lay Speaking Training Offered - Camp Chippewa, 2577 Idaho Road, Ottawa, KS. Registration deadline is Wed., Oct. 7th. Four courses available including the required Basic. Cost \$50.00. To register e-mail Conference Director Jada Hodgson at legalbgl@micoks.net., David Wasserfallen, District Director at david.wasserfallen@embarq.mail, or call the District Office for a registration form.
Oct. 16-18th	Maple Leaf Festival in Baldwin City. Vinland UMC Biscuits and Gravy breakfast Oct. 17th 7-11 a.m., Soup Lunch

Five Rivers District Calendar Continued

- Oct. 15 Northern Five Rivers District Clergy Breakfast, 8:30 A.M., 56 Hwy. Restaurant, Ottawa, KS. For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Jim Stigall 785-242-3259/sanctus46@hotmail.com.
- Oct. 18 Ottawa First CC, 12:00 PM SPRC, 12:30 PM
Plum Creek CC, 3:00 PM SPRC, 3:30 PM
Union Chapel- Princeton CC 6:30 PM SPRC, 7 PM
- Oct. 19 Wesley KU Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 20 Extended Cabinet, DS in Wichita
- Oct. 21st Mentor Training by invitation, Lawrence 1st (downtown location) Brady Fellowship Hall
10 a.m.-3 p.m..
- Oct. 21st Southern Region Clergy informal lunch, Noon to 1:30 PM, Iola Wesley, 301 E Medison Ave, Iola, KS
Anyone interested should feel free to show up with your sack lunch for fellowship.
- Oct. 22 Yates Center CC, 6:30 PM SPRC, 7 PM
- Oct. 24 KEC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat
- Oct. 25 Devon-Mapleton CC, 11 AM SPRC, 11:30 AM
Colony-Kincaid CC, 3 PM SPRC, 3:30 PM SPRC
Iola: Trinity CC 6:30 PM SPRC, 7 PM
- Oct. 26 Lawrence Central CC, 6:30 PM SPRC, 7 PM
- Oct. 27 Elsmore-Mildred CC, 6:30 PM SPRC, 7 PM
- Oct. 28 Worden CC, 6:30 PM SPRC, 7 PM
- Oct. 29 Greeley CC, 6:30 PM SPRC, 7 PM

Clergy October Birthdays

Debbie Ackerman	10/03
Michael Tomson-DeGreeff	10/08
David Shrum	10/09
Janet Myers	10/26

Life has got to be lived - that's all there is to it. At seventy, I would say the advantage is that you take life more calmly. You know that , this too, shall pass!
- Eleanor Roosevelt

District Prayer Calendar

- Oct. 4 Mound City-Blue Mound
Pastor Dallas Peterson
- Oct. 11 Wellsville
Pastor Richard Fitzgerald
- Oct. 18 Richter
Pastor Jacob Cloud Holloway
- Oct. 25 Baldwin 1st
Rev. Connie Cox

Five Rivers District

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

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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 *Please purchase food items in regular sizes. Remember to purchase items you

1 lb. rice and your family enjoy.

1 lb. rice

Crackers

Corn

Macaroni and Cheese

Soup (tomato, chicken noodle)

Canned meat

Spaghetti

Spaghetti sauce

Ramen noodles