



# Living Water

Five Rivers District

## From Your District Superintendent

Volume 11, Issue 9

Sitting here in the heat of an August day it is hard to think about the activity of the fall, but it is time to think about church conferences. I am in the process of making the schedule for these meetings and you should be seeing the dates within the next week or two.

This year I am planning to do church conferences for each individual charge in the district. There are a couple of situations where churches have chosen to do shared conferences, but otherwise I will be with each charge.

The format for the meetings this year will be more basic. We will not have a separate worship time, but will begin the meetings with a devotion time which I will lead. I am planning for these meetings to take no more than ninety minutes. The conferences will happen on Sundays at 12 noon, 3pm, and 6pm. There will be weeknight meetings that begin at 7pm. Connected to these meetings, I plan to meet with the Staff/Parish Relations Committee of churches that have received a new pastor this appointive year.

The pastors that were present at the recent district clergy meeting received packets containing the forms which are needed for church conferences. Pastors that were not present at the meeting are receiving the packet via mail. Please make sure that this information is shared with those who need it.

In preparation for these meetings, I ask that you pay special attention to Form 1: Vision and Goals Process for Vital, Transforming Ministry. Having goals for your church is important to keeping focus on the purpose of the church - making disciples of Jesus Christ.

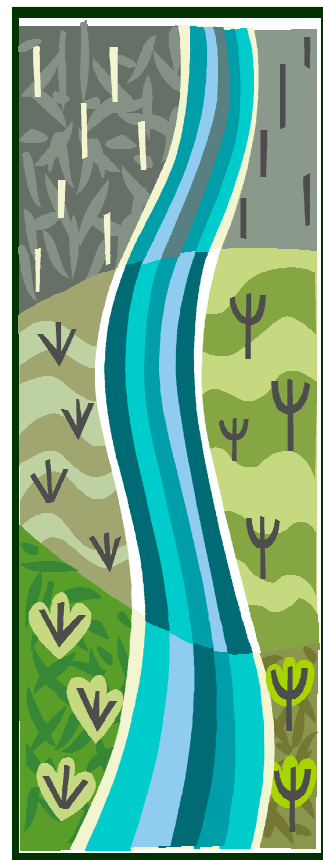
I am looking forward to seeing the churches of the district this fall. Blessings on your ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Dennis Ackerman

### Inside this issue:

<i>District Calendar</i>	2
<i>Prayer Calendar</i>	2
<i>Two Churches Work Together to Build a Home</i>	3
<i>Continued</i>	4
<i>Marriage Enrichment Workshop Offered</i>	5
<i>Bishop's Round-Up Links</i>	6
<i>Mound City UMC Community Work Day</i>	6



# SEPTEMBER 2014

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				

## District Events

- Sept. 1st and 2nd ~ District Office Closed
- Sept. 6th and 7th Project Revolution  
Registration and information link ~ <http://www.5riversds.com/463145>
- Sept. 8-10th Adm. Asst. training in Wichita
- Sept. 11th District Leadership Team Meeting at Wellsville UMC 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 13th District Committee on Superintendency 9-11 a.m. at Garnett UMC
- Sept. 13th Bishop's webinar on the Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality. 10:00 a.m.
- Sept. 15-19th District Office Closed

- Sept. 19-20th Marriage Enrichment Weekend at Yates Center UMC
- Sept. 20th DCoM 8:30 a.m.—12:30 Wellsville UMC
- Sept. 30th-Oct. 1st PAUMC Meeting

## Prayer Calendar

Sept. 7	Lawrence Central Rev. Moon Hee Chung
Sept. 14	Fulton Pastor Charles Russell
Sept. 21	Clearfield Rev. Lane Bailey
Sept. 28	Wellsville Rev. Lane Bailey

## Two Churches Work Together to Build Congregants a Home in Five Rivers District

Written by Marvé Ralston

For many years the prospect of having an ongoing housing emergency has been a given for one family that attend Kincaid Selma UMC . Several people in their church were frequently going over to help and there seemed to be no end to the issues.

Randal Beckmon who was often the first called, attends Kincaid Selma Church. Randal and his wife Marsha, began praying about what to do about this situation. He had been on call for the family, and the emergency calls had gotten more frequent over the years. They became convinced that the next step was to build the family a new home, as the one they currently lived in, was becoming increasingly inhabitable.

The Beckmon's son and daughter-in-law attend the Blue Mound UMC. As the plans became more complete, Nathan and Krissy Beckmon, volunteered and brought members of their church to help as well. An alliance was formed between the two churches to make this project what Nathan called, "A mission in the local community".

The surrounding communities became involved and with help from various businesses, organizations and private donors, many of the materials were donated. The folks that could not contribute labor, often prepared meals for the workers.

Since the middle of July, when the building project began in earnest, you could count on finding Kincaid Selma and Blue Mound UMC church attendees and members at the building site. Both church pastors, Rev. Bill Nelson and Rev. Walter Marsella have been on the job site, encouraging and providing much needed help.

The 45x22 home has been built with ongoing input from the family involved. They have been consulted about all the details and even know where their current furniture will be placed when their new home is complete. (Continued on page 4)



The home is handicapped accessible, and room placement with care giving was incorporated in the planning. Even the family pets were given consideration. An easily accessible door was strategically placed to make it easier for the daughter that cares for the family pets to get them inside and out.

These are very humble folks and none of them really wanted to be recognized for what they have done, but the below scripture came to my mind when writing this.

1 John 3:16-20 in The Message says:

This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear.

My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're truly, living in God's reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves.

One family at a time, we can do what we are called to do as the church. We meet their needs at the margin as Jesus called us to do.



The Beckmons left to right  
Nathan, Krissy and Randal



**September 19 - 21, 2014**

## **Keeping It Real**

*Helping make good marriages better, Rev. Dr. Virgil Brady, author of Kiss and Tell: Make Love the Married Way, will lead engaged, newly weds, couples with children at home, empty nesters, and those who have been married many wonderful years in six successful habits that can help make even the best marriages better.*

### **A Marriage Enrichment Weekend**

Phone:  
620-365-2285

Email: [iolawesley@gmail.com](mailto:iolawesley@gmail.com)  
301 East  
Madison Ave.  
Iola, Kansas 66749

### **Wesley United Methodist Church**

Virgil is a lifelong resident of Kansas. He graduated from Highland Park High School, Topeka, in 1957 and attended Wichita State University on a full basketball scholarship. He went on to Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, TX earning his masters degree, and an honorary doctorate from Baker University. He had served four United Methodist Churches throughout his career retiring from Lawrence First UMC in 1999. He has written four books. *The Score is Love All; Believing the Be-lievable; Kiss and Tell; Death with Style and Grace.* He and his wife Elaine spend approximately four months a year in Southern California where their three children live.

#### **WHAT TO EXPECT**

The encounter will begin on Friday, September 19 at 6:00 p.m. with registration and gathering for an elegant meal with your spouse and several of your newest friends followed by an introduction of our speaker.

On Saturday, September 20, the conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. with guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Virgil Brady. Lunch will be provided.

Registration fee includes all meals as well as childcare during both portions of the conference. Scholarships are available, based on need.

Each registered couple will receive a copy of *Kiss and Tell*.

For a freewill offering, childcare will be available at the church Saturday evening, September 21st from 5:00 - 10:00 p.m. for those who would like to go out on a date night. **Please make arrangements ahead of time on the registration form or the Friday evening of the event.**

#### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

##### **Friday, September 19th**

6:00 p.m. Registration/Gathering/Dinner

Introduction of Speaker

##### **Saturday, September 20th**

9:00 a.m. Rev. Dr. Virgil Brady

## Five Rivers District



Primary Business Address  
3300 Clinton Parkway Court, Suite 110  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047-2629

Phone: 785-841-4804

Fax: 785-841-4820

E-mail: [office@5riversds.com](mailto:office@5riversds.com)

## Cultivating Christian Discipleship

### ***Bishop's Round-Up scheduled for November 15th***

More information as well as the flyer can be found at this link.

<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/eventdetail/95559>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bishops-Round-Up-Against-Hunger/417853941624548>

### ***Feeding the Baptist/ An Annual Event at Mound City***

by Lois Wright

Community churches in Mound City have plans to get together to work this Labor Day weekend.

People in Linn county that are in need of services, such as painting, cleaning up yards, mowing, gardening, roofing projects, etc can let the group know and they will start early on August 31, to get the jobs done.

The MC Methodist church provide a much appreciated lunch for all those that have gone out to work. It started out to be just the Baptists, but has caught on with other churches in the community. Mound City served at least 100 last year.