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Living Water

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News from our District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Colleagues and Friends

It has been a long time since I have not been the pastor in a local church. I know the local church. I can walk right in and have a strong sense of how things work and how to get things done. Coming into the role of District Superintendent is another story. There is a big learning curve! But I am learning! When this newsletter comes out, I will have just returned from DS Boot camp where I will have been given everything I need to know to do this job. (Or at least I will have gotten to enjoy Lake Junaluska in North Carolina.)

We all need to grow in our skills and in our relationship with God. Being presented with new challenges is an opportunity to grow. God's people have a way of rising to the occasion. God has placed within us the will to get the work of God done for the sake of God's kingdom. When we do God's business, people's lives are changed for the better. We can be a part of bringing hope, love, and justice into the world. I believe that God has equipped each of us to accomplish these things where we find ourselves in service. That is not to say that this work is easy. Quite to the contrary, the work is often very hard. But, as I said, challenge should bring out the good in us. We can look to God and trust in God to see us through, especially in the hard times. Remember the words of Paul to the church in Philippi:

12 I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Hang in there! I will give my best for the sake of God's Kingdom. I pray that you will too.

In Christ,

Dennis

A Word of Clarity from the DS

Some have asked about my plan to meet with Staff-Parish Committees prior to the Church Conference. This time is intended as an opportunity for me to meet the Committee from your church. I intend to share a little bit about how I see our work together happening and to refresh all of us on procedures. This time is not intended to be an opportunity to work on issues or concerns. We simply will not have the time. My hope is to establish relationships that will prove beneficial as we seek to be faithful to God's call in our shared ministry. Think of this as a "Get to know you" time.



Five Rivers District Mission Opportunities: **Joe and Pastor Shirley Edgerton**

In October 2007, Joe Edgerton, lifetime member of Eskridge Yoked Parish, and his wife Pastor Shirley Edgerton, member of Lawrence Central UMC, became long-term volunteers for the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) on the island of La Gonave in Haiti.

Located approximately 30 to 40 miles from the mainland of Haiti, La Gonave people have been in relationship with clergy and individuals of the Kansas East for nearly 30 years. The people are low on resources but willing to work for a better life.

GBGM long-term volunteers will receive teams and develop resources to turn their desires into a reality.

Critical need - Birthing Kits are crucial to help save lives of Haitian babies and mothers. UMCOR has approved the [birthing kit](#) which is needed immediately.

Support this ministry

If you are interested in supporting this ministry, make checks payable to Central UMC Advance # 982465-6. In the memo line, please add Edgerton's. Send to Lawrence Central UMC, 1501 Massachusetts, Lawrence, KS 66044-4273.



Angel's for sale!! We have about 150 in the US.....\$20.00 and daily prayer for the hungry...helps woodworkers, the new Association for Development of SLG, and the hungry of the world.

Tony Ikenberry

Tony Ikenberry is a long-term Volunteer In Mission serving in Bangladesh. He is a member of the Ives Chapel United Methodist Church in Baldwin City. Tony has been sharing news of his work and life in Bangladesh.

E-mail Tony at tikenberry@gmail.com

See his latest posts on our website at www.fiveriversdistrict.com then Missions.

If you are interested in supporting this ministry, send Western Union to Tony Ikenberry, rd. 11, hse.533, flat5, DOHS Baridhara, Dhaka Bangladesh and they need to e-mail Tony and send name of sender, amount sent, city sent from and MTCN#. You can also send donations through the Kansas East Office.

“You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving .” Amy Carmichael missionary to India

“Sympathy is no substitute for action.” David Livingstone missionary to Africa.

Of Possible Interest to You:

Christian Educators and Youth Workers Retreat October 21-23

Gather on the 21st @7PM, Close after lunch on the 23rd
Bill Selby: Healthy Leaders/Healthy Systems

What image of the Gospel do you project? A Christianity that is alive, joyful, fun? Do you look like the Good News?

Define who you are...Learn how others think...We will gain a deeper understanding of ourselves and others we encounter in our ministries...staff members, parents, youth, children. We will leave equipped with tools to create in ourselves healthy leaders and healthy systems.

Enjoy the spacious, peaceful setting of the Heartland Retreat Center in Great Bend, Kansas.

Registration fee: 100.00 single occupancy, 90 double occupancy Deadline: October 8th
(includes room, all meals, personal take-home resources)

*After October 8th postmark, registration fee will be 125.00

CEU's are available for this retreat.

Registration form is online at www.kansaseast.org or request one from our office

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

Intentional Interim Ministry Training

The South Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops, in conjunction with The Intentional Growth Center, is pleased to offer an Interim Ministry Training Seminar. It is a three-phase training program and will be held at Mount Sequoyah. Phase I will be **September 15-18**. Phase III will be scheduled in 2010 and Phase II is a five-month period of work in one's home parish under a mentor's guidance. The training will be conducted by Dr. Jan Hill from the Intentional Growth Center.

For program information contact Dr. Hill at janhill@IntentionalGrowthCenter.org, 800-482-1442 or 910-382-2535. For meals and lodging contact Mount Sequoyah [registra-
tion@mountsequoyah.org](mailto:registration@mountsequoyah.org) or call 800-760-8126.

September 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			

Sept. 2	Five Rivers District Clergy Meeting Ottawa 1st, 9-12 Noon
Sept. 3-4	Appointive Cabinet, DS in Wichita
Sept. 7	Labor Day, Conference and District Office is closed
Sept. 12-13th	Project Revolution, Lawrence West Campus
Sept. 12th	Safe and Sacred Training at Lyndon UMC 9 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Sept. 12th	District Committee on Ministry, 8:30a.m.-12:00 noon, Wellsville UMC
Sept. 14-17	District Office Closed, Marvé Ralston Admn. Asst. on vacation
Sept. 14-16	Extended Cabinet Retreat DS in Wichita
Sept. 16th	Conference Trustees Meeting,
Sept. 19th	Five Rivers District UMW Fall Meeting Wellsville UMC
Sept. 26th	Rekindle the Gift, 9:30-4:30 PM, Manhattan 1st UMC
Sept. 30th	KE Extension Ministry Meeting with Bishop Scott Jones
Oct. 15th	Save the date - Humana Insurance Meeting for clergy at Garnett UMC, details to follow.

Of Possible Interest to You:

Christians In Action Mission Event

CIA will be Oct. 10 in the Topeka area. Meriden UMC is hosting the event. We will meet there between 9:30 - 10 a.m. to register, split into work groups and have opening worship. Part of the day for the entire group will be spent at the Topeka Rescue Mission with a tour and discussion about the help this organization does for more than 1,000 people everyday. The Topeka Rescue Mission is a not-for-profit that depends solely on donations. It receives no subsidies from govt. organizations or the United Way.

Cost is 18.00 per person and includes lunch, supper, insurance, and C.I.A. t-shirt. Registration forms and fees are due Sept. 21st. Registration flyer available at http://www.kansaseast.org/event_detail.asp?PKValue=2941

Project Revolution

Five Rivers District Youth Rally and overnight event

Lawrence West Campus

September 12th at 4 pm to September 13th at 11:00 am

Registration form is available on our website at www.fiveriversdistrict.com under Youth.

Safe and Sacred Training Offered

September 12th

Lyndon UMC

126 W 8th Ave.

Lyndon, KS

785-828-3211

Cost 20.00 bring to class. Please download and fill out paperwork from the Kansas East Conference website at www.kansaseast.org. Contact the church or Rev. Michael McKee at

michael.l.mckee@gmail.com to register.

Clergy September Birthdays

John Sheehan	9/02
Rebecca Johnson	9/02
Jerrald Harnden	9/05
Matthew Powell	9/07
Connie Wilson	9/22
Michael McKee	9/27

District Prayer Calendar

Sept. 6 Lawrence Centenary-
Linwood
Pastor Matt Powell

Sept. 13 Louisburg
Rev. Donna Voteau

Sept. 20 Eudora
Rev. Michael Tomson DeGreeff

Sept. 27 Greeley, Welda
Pastor Bill Nelson

Five Rivers District

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

The United Methodist Church

809 Seventh, #1

P.O. Box 565

Baldwin City, KS 66006-0565

Phone: 785-594-4804

Fax: 785-594-4820

E-mail: fiverivers@embarqmail.com

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 21, 2009

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.