



Reflections From Ron

Dear Colleagues and friends,

It seems again that the year has shot by. We now stand in the door of September. The year is already two-thirds gone, fall is closer than we realized and with the oncoming of fall there are so many things that are before us. There are of course going to be the usual events. There will be a ***District Clergy Meeting on Monday, September 17, 2007***. It presently scheduled at the Ottawa 1st United Methodist Church and all of our clergy are expected to be present for that meeting. Charge/church conference schedules should be ready for distribution by that time. There will also be information that will help your local churches wrestle with issues of stewardship, financial and otherwise so that our local churches can become all that God has intended for them to become.

We will have begun laying the foundations for our ***Annual Conference Capital Campaign, "Bridges to the Future"***. Many of you have been to the first of such promotional events. There will be a second opportunity to engage the process at the second event, the ***Clergy & Spouse meeting on Monday, October 1, 2007 at 7:00 PM at Ottawa 1st United Methodist Church***.

There will also be the fall ***District Council on Youth Ministries Meeting at Garnett United Methodist Church on October 15, 2007 at 6:00 PM***. All of the regional youth coordinators, youth representatives and DCYM Coordinators will begin to put some flesh on the bones of next years youth ministry schedule. And of course, all of us will be gearing up for the other usual events that fall brings — trying to merge fall school and community calendars with church events.

And then there will be the other stuff that just shows up on our calendar — things that we haven't thought about yet like United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, Laity Sunday and probably a whole list of stuff that I can't even think about right now.

The main thing is that all of these things — all of the events are opportunities for each of us the think creatively, to brainstorm with each other and engage with each other in and through the Holy Spirit to cultivate Christian discipleship where we are. Isn't that what we're supposed to be about anyway? Aren't we, after it's all said and done, on a journey either together or alone, to develop who we are as Christian disciples? That's the least we can do until, as Paul says:

"... we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13)

Perhaps that's why it's important for us all to pursue our district mission to "*cultivate Christian discipleship*" — in the giving of our time, our gifts, in our money, in ministry, in service, in works, in faith, in love, in grace (all of which are really Christ's gifts to us), in every way until we have grown up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. Won't you help us al in doing your part?

Agape and Shalom,
Ron

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Eudora UMC's New Building by Marvé Ralston

Don't let the youthful grin fool you. Rev. Michael Tomson Degreeff has had some tough issues to work through this past year with the new Eudora Church facilities. The new church sits on 38 acres that were purchased by the Kansas East Conference. It is a beautiful location on the K-10 Corridor. To get to the place they are now, required selling two beloved church buildings, using their \$500,000 cash reserves and borrowing \$750,000. They are into their third capital campaign and will have a 1.4 million dollar, 13,000 square foot building for this first phase.

With no firm date set for moving into the building, they are expecting to move in before the Christmas celebrations. This will be the finish of Phase 1. It includes six classrooms, sanctuary and fellowship hall, receptionist office, workroom, pastor's office, kitchen off the fellowship hall, narthex entry, six restrooms with several catering to the nursery and children, storage room for the tables and chairs. And plenty of room for expansion.

The building has been built with forward thinking and is very energy efficient. There were three main components of the energy efficiency. They added extra insulation, built with energy conscious orientation and it is heated by well planned in-floor heating designed by Jerry Hundley a church member. It is 95% efficient. The in-floor heating allows them to set the thermostat 3-5 degrees lower in the winter and still be comfortable with a proposed lower heating bill of 20-30 %. They should save greatly on their utilities and have dust free as well as even heating. "No cold feet in this church," said Jerry Hundley.

The air conditioning is also planned for efficient operation. The air handlers sit on a mezzanine above the sanctuary and they use chilled water for cooling. The compressors that chill the water can stage in increments of 5 horsepower (5-30). Thus using just the capacity needed, the system also lends itself quite well for expansion and future needs. Both Don Bradshaw (Project Manager) and Jerry Hundley would be more than happy to work with other congregations regarding building an energy conscious church.

Their children's classrooms are being built with licensing for current daycare regulations followed. The option is open for them in the future although not a concern now. This includes space for a washer and dryer as well. They have restrooms between classrooms for the small children as well as plenty of windows in the nursery for worried parents.

The day I visited was a Wednesday (one of the volunteer days.) There was a group of church volunteers with the oldest being 85 years old. I was told that they had all been working daily since April with the ongoing goal of "getting into their building." Volunteers this particular day were Loretta Gantenbein and Anissa Norris doing speckling in preparation for priming on Saturday, John Scott and Larry Gantenbein as well as Felix Shutt doing work in the sanctuary (see pictures.) Keep in mind that they are working in an unconditioned building in this heat. That has got to be a "God thing."

Almost at the end of my tour, Rev. Tomson-Degreeff showed me the prayer wall outside their sanctuary. Inside it, but invisible to me, is pictures and prayers written before the final drywall went up. He spoke of the generosity and sacrificial giving that has gone on in their church. They have had *Story continued after church pictures on page 5*

Eudora's New Facilities



Anissa Norris



Loretta Gantenbein



Larry Gantenbein

You can help the Eudora Church get into their building even sooner Eudora UMC is still in the need of extra hands to complete its' building project. They have open work days on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. On Saturdays lunch is provided. They welcome any one willing to work that is over the age of 16 (for safety reasons.) Eudora Church # 785-542-3200



John Scott



Rev. Tomson Degreeff and Felix Shutt

kitchen appliance donations, playground equipment, even an organ donation. When there has been a need with no idea how it will get paid for, someone has stepped up and sacrificially given, another “God thing.” Much prayerful consideration started with the planning of this building and continues daily. As a district, let’s lift this church up in our prayers as they complete Phase One of their building project.

You can help the Eudora Church get into their building even sooner Eudora UMC is still in the need of extra hands to complete its’ building project. They have open work days on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. On Saturdays lunch is provided. They welcome any one willing to work that is over the age of 16 (for safety reasons.) They currently need help with priming and painting as well as lots of clean-up. There will be more jobs with skilled persons needing assistance to complete projects as well. Of course monetary donations are welcomed as well and can be sent to the church with a notation that it is for their church building project.

Please consider taking a group from your church to help out our fellow brothers and sisters at Eudora. If you are taking more than a few people, please call Rev. Michael Tomson-Degreeff and let him know so they can plan for the lunch on Saturday and have work efficiently laid out.

Most importantly, please continue to remember Eudora UMC

in your prayers.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Rev. Michael Tomson-Degreeff

Eudora UMC Phone #785-542-3200

Address of new church is 2084 N. 1300 Rd.



Rev. Michael Tomson Degreeff



Eudora's New Building Continued



God At Work In Osawatomie...A New Appointment

Please see related story on page 10



“Jesus’ body was made up of people of all ages and genders, and of different faiths, all with one purpose; to feed the hungry and try to return some semblance of that abundant life Jesus came to make possible for all. I was blest to be a part of that body and I know those other 70 volunteers were equally blest, as we made a human chain to place and store food in our basement.”
Rev. Gary Gooding
Please see related story on page 10



September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 DS Returns from vaca- tion	6	7	8
9 KC District installation of new DS Mike Chamberlin	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 District Clergy Meeting Ottawa 1st 10 -2 p.m.	18	19 Clergy Consul- taions at 5R Office	20 Clergy Cons. at Garnett Supt Meeting Garnett 7p.m.	21	22
23	24 Clergy Consul- tations at Worden	25 Clergy Consul- tations at Garnett	26 Clergy Consul- tations at Paola	27 Clergy Consul- tations at 5R Office	28	29
30						

**Online District in Wichita
Cabinet Retreat in Wichita**

I trust in Nature for the
 stable laws of beauty
 and utility.
 Spring shall plant and
 Autumn garner
 to the ends of time.
 - Robert Browning

September Birthdays

John Sheehan	9/02/46
Jerrald Harnden	9/05/41
Janet Justice	9/17/49
Michael McKee	9/27/52

District Prayer Calendar

Please remember these churches, clergy and spouses in

- Sept. 2 Richmond Community Church
Rev. Jerrald Harnden and family
- Sept. 9 Moran-Bronson UMC
Rev. Steve Paul and family
- Sept. 16 Elsmore-Mildred UMC
Pastor Connie Cox and family
- Sept. 23 Pomona-Vassar UMC
Pastor Kathleen Symes and family
- Sept. 30 Lawrence:Centenary-Linwood UMC
Rev. Ji-Seok Ju and family

Along with these clergy, please remember the Edgertons and Mission Team in Haiti.



**“The journey
isn’t over,
we’ve just
begun”
Rev. Donna
Voteau**



A Perfect Day for Celebrating in Louisburg by Marvé Ralston

Sunday, August 26th was a big day for Louisburg UMC. They moved out of their old building and symbolically moved the remaining, precious church contents in a walking trek, to their new church building. Rev. Donna Voteau with the help of Rev. Lane Bailey (associate pastor at Lenexa UMC and former pastor at Louisburg) and Rev. Evelyn Fisher (Topeka District Superintendent) officiated the service. Rev. Ronald King was on vacation but he had prepared a blessing that was read at the event by District Superintendent Fisher.

It couldn't have been a more perfect day. The sun was shining, there was a gentle breeze and it was not a typical, overly hot, summer morning. There was a full house with many people standing at the back of the former church building for the de-consecration of the old building. A memory book was given to all attending and it included written memories of church members and former pastors as well as the program of the service. There was a symbolic locking of the former church after all the people were out. The congregation left on foot with some children on bikes and numerous other vehicles. A cart was provided for the oldest members who were not able to walk. Much consideration for the feelings of the members was shown as they left their beloved church building for the last time.

The new building has many remnants of the old one. The stained glass windows have been used in the entry. Stones were moved from the old church grounds to the new one. And of course the most important part is the individuals and families that are remnants of the old church. They were recognized for all their hard work to get to the place they were at that day, as were those no longer with them.

Rev. Voteau gave a wonderful message about some of the feelings people may now have. A shifting of responsibility as people moved forward in the new building. She talked about how this was a fresh start for them to use a mulligan (golf term meaning do-over.) The building, pulpit, baptismal were all consecrated during the meaningful service.

The children were all up front sitting on the platform steps throughout the service. They were attentively listening, and excitedly watching. This was a big day for them as well. They enjoyed the screens with pictures and song words. There was a lovely PowerPoint presentation of church members throughout the years.

A wonderful final note was the number of people who joined the church that day. Many of them were new to the community. All were welcomed and recognized. There were also three baptisms and a renewal of wedding vows. The

service was followed by a catered luncheon provided by a neighboring catering business who donated all the food.

There were many pictures taken that day for your viewing on the district website. We just included a few in this newsletter. You can also read the first article written for our April newsletter about the church in our archived, April newsletter. It will bless your heart as you see how far they came in a few short months. Please join with us in *prayer* and *much thanksgiving* as we celebrate the opening of Louisburg UMC's new building. Pictures below taken at Louisburg's New Church Consecration 08-26-07.

Beginning the trek to the new church



Twenty-plus years ago, the plans began for a new church. Although they have changed and been reworked, there has always been hope that this day would come.

Leaving the old church



New Members being greeted by Rev. Voteau



“When God knows we have a church to put in a building, we will have another building to house our church.”
Rev. Donna Voteau early in the building process.

1st marriage rededication



Louisburg's new UMC



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Not Just Another New Appointment By Gary Gooding

A new appointment is an exciting time for both the receiving congregations and the newly appointed pastor. There is that first Sunday after July 1st that is filled with the hope and prayers that you don't fall on your face, sometimes literally.

I didn't have to worry about that at one of my new appointments, because we were greeted with some folks of our new congregation on the sidewalks in front of the Osawatomie First Church watching the news helicopter circling over the two tributaries that surround our city.

Church was canceled because an evacuation order had been issued due to rising waters with the fear the levy wouldn't hold. Luckily and with God's good graces it did, for the most part on the north, but not on the south and about 353 properties were flooded by the Pottawatomie Creek.

An emergency shelter was set up at the Trojan Grade School with over 200 people seeking refuge. That was Sunday morning.

Immediately food, clothing, bedding, personal hygiene items, and other needs started pouring in. Because the First UMC had been the food pantry point for the community, people were asked to take the food donations to that familiar spot. They did and we began filling one small room as we searched for volunteers to staff the operation. We were blessed with so many who were willing to give of their time to do this, and we were in business.

Then the food really started pouring in, from Louisburg to Plum Creek UMC's and all points in between and close to. There is no way to know how much was received because we haven't had to time to stop and count, but it has definitely been appreciated by so many.

Then on Sunday, the 22nd of July, as a truck from the Church of the Nativity in Leawood, Ks. delivered 2150 bags of love, and some groceries, that had been received in a food drive from 3 different parishes, I saw Jesus hard at work. Jesus' body was made up of people of all ages and genders, and of different faiths, all with one purpose; to feed the hungry and try to return some semblance of that abundant life Jesus came to make possible for all. I was blest to be a part of that body and I know those other 70 volunteers were equally blest, as we made a human chain to place and store food in our basement. Since then with donations we have been able to purchase a deep freeze, and we have meat to distribute also. There is still much to be done and we will be busy for months to come, but I am even more assured of God's Amazing Grace than ever before.

I just want to thank all of you who have contributed money, clothing or other items; those who helped man the pantry, prayed for us and are currently praying for us; and those of you who have performed all the other unselfish acts in order to ease another's pain. God Bless you! God has surely blessed us.

*In Christ's Love,
Pastor Gary Gooding*

Please continue to remember our friends as they recover from flooding in Osawatomie and the surrounding areas. (related pictures on bottom half of page 5)