

# FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT

Mission Statement: To Cultivate Christian Growth

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## *From Our District Superintendent*

It was good to see many of our clergy at the Kansas Area Professional Seminar held in Wichita a few weeks ago. There we had an opportunity to learn from a person by the name of Bill Selby. Rev. Selby is the head of the *The Center For Pastoral Effectiveness of the Rockies*. This center exists to help pastors and churches gain understanding about the systems and dynamics which exist in any given church. From their web site: "The *Center for Pastoral Effectiveness*, a series of six retreats over an 18 month period, engages participants in a "systems thinking" process that can offer new ways of looking at relationships within churches and families." The intended outcome of this experience is to help churches and pastors become more effective in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

This learning experience led me to consideration of the opportunities and resources that are available to the churches of the Five Rivers District to help with finding ways and means to more effective ministry. I am going to share some of these opportunities in this article.

*The Center for Pastoral Effectiveness* - (see above)  
-[www.pastoraleffectiveness.org/](http://www.pastoraleffectiveness.org/)

### *Leadership and Faith Transforming Communities*

A grant from the Kansas Health Foundation has made this opportunity possible to churches in Kansas. A team of three to seven persons from the church will learn leadership practices and techniques which can be applied in the local setting. A church can help in these ways:

- Communities and churches benefit from the vast leadership knowledge participants will receive
- Individuals more closely align their walk of faith with opportunities to improve community life
- Participants make more progress on the issues important to the churches
- Congregations make a difference in critical community health issues
- Church teams understand barriers and opportunities for more effective ministries inside and outside the church
- See more on page 5 of this newsletter and [kansaseast.org](http://kansaseast.org)

### *L3 Incubator*

"L3 Leadership Incubator creates an environment where spiritual leaders and ideas are born, nurtured, and developed by using cutting-edge technology and prayerful dialogue. L3 stands for three levels of development: love, learn and lead. L1, loving God and neighbor; L2, learning personal gifts and abilities for the future through investigation of current context and congregation; and L3, implementing an Incubator Ministry Action Plan with others in the church setting." (See at [kansaseast.org](http://kansaseast.org))

### *Abide*

Based on the L3 Incubator, the Abide experience is tailored to the small membership church. "This program allows funding for churches to send their pastor and several lay people to attend overnight retreats encouraging faith and stirring

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Kansas East Conference  
United Methodist Church



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## *When Did I See You Hungry?* by Marvé Ralston

If you saw a starving child in America, would you even hesitate to help in any way you could to alleviate their misery? Most of us want to help but do not have a clue where to begin. Our 2010 Annual Conference theme was “The Church United: Eradicating Poverty.” A lofty goal by any measure, but one we are called biblically to try to do.

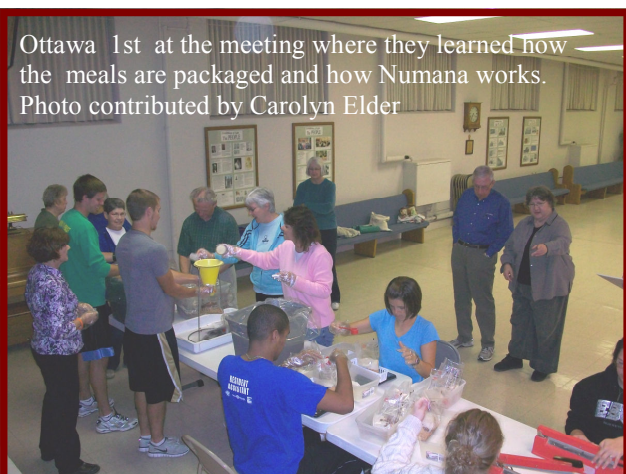
This mission story began last year after School of Mission, the yearly United Methodist Women program held each summer. Five women, two from Ottawa Trinity, Peggy Coen and Judy Love, and three from Ottawa 1<sup>st</sup>, Carolyn Elder, Sarah Mitchell, and Mary Thomas began searching for an outreach as a way of living out what they learned.

Peggy Coen and her daughter-in-law Cherry Coen attended the Kansas State Fair while the group was contemplating what they were going to do. They saw a project in place where school age children packaged food for Haiti. Coen is a retired schoolteacher and she was drawn to the children’s part in the process. She visited with a spokesperson of the organization Numana, Darrell Herde, and became further interested in this as a mission idea.

The name Numana comes from the Israelites’ wandering in the wilderness. God gave them manna enough to sustain their daily needs. Exodus states that raw manna tasted like wafers that had been made with honey and the Israelites also ground it, pounded, and baked it into a cake with oil consistency. The Numana project sends “new manna” to Haiti. The food is freeze dried beans, rice, soy protein and 21 vitamins and minerals measured into quart-sized bags that hold six servings.

Rick McNary began his Not-For-Profit program in August of 2008. For 30 cents, a meal for starving children in Haiti and their families is possible. This cost includes ingredients, packaging, administration, and international shipping. Numana’s mission statement is: Empower people to save the starving around the world.

Coen went back to her group and they decided to ask a Numana representative to come speak to them so they could make a decision about taking on a similar project. Darrell Herde the Numana spokesperson explained the fund raising process (which would be up to them) and how the program worked. Numana collaborates with the Salvation Army who does the actual shipping and provides enough water to help cook the product. They send out the raw materials that are purchased for packaging by the volunteer group.



Ottawa 1st at the meeting where they learned how the meals are packaged and how Numana works.  
Photo contributed by Carolyn Elder

The group was told of earlier successful projects including one last winter. They had a semi packed and ready to ship out but were temporarily halted by Kansas snow blizzards. The earthquake on January 12<sup>th</sup> hit in Haiti and luckily, they were able to ship the food out immediately. While the UMW group was originally only envisioning their churches working on this program, Herde suggested they think about opening it up to Franklin County. The group was initially overwhelmed but Carolyn Elder from Ottawa 1<sup>st</sup>, who Coen calls a real “go getter,” said, “We can do this.”

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The women gave their Mission study on October 10<sup>th</sup> at Trinity and presented the Numana project to the 30 present. They started meeting in October on Tuesday nights to plan their fundraisers and set a goal of 100,000 meals to ship out February 12<sup>th</sup>. Elder became the spokesperson for the group and she began speaking to various organizations, schools, churches and has even been on radio to request help from the community and Franklin County neighbors. They needed 30,000 to pay for the meals so this would be no easy task. Never forget for a minute that this was a “God thing” which defies the impossible daily.

Their fundraisers have included a pancake breakfast at Applebee’s, a dinner at Sirloin Stockade, collecting papers, selling sandwiches, providing a lunch for in-service teachers, and area organizations and schools have held their own fundraisers as well. Sue and Ken Petersen from Ottawa 1<sup>st</sup> have been heading up the paper drive and have volunteered many hours to this fundraiser. At every event, they have been encouraging people to also bring food to donate to local food pantries.

On Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, the group will have their biggest fundraiser to date. They will have an auction, bake sale, and concert at Ottawa Middle School from 6-9 p.m. Three groups will be performing, Sounds of Faith, Hands of Glory and Ottawa University’s, Perfectly Broken. Area businesses and individuals have donated services, created baskets and goods, which will be auctioned off during breaks. There is no admission price but a suggested donation of 3.00 will feed 10 people. They have collected approximately 18,000 towards their goal of 30,000. Coen believes God will help them reach their goal.

The fun part will be packaging day, February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Ottawa Armory. It will take 600 people to help package. Interested folk can register to help at [Handsofglory.com](http://Handsofglory.com) or [Numana-inc.com](http://Numana-inc.com). They will receive a ticket to work shifts 9-11 a.m., 11-1 p.m. or 1-3 p.m. The product comes in on a semi-trailer and after packaging, goes back on the trailer to send to Haiti. Numana works with the Salvation Army who will provide water to cook the meals and will be the distributors and coordinate shipping. Once in Haiti, meals are delivered to school children to take home and share with their families.

Left to right: Cheryl Allen, Judy Love, Sara Mitchell, Carolyn Elder, Mary Thomas, Sue Petersen, Shelbi Allen and Peggy Coen.

Photo contributed by Tori Wilson



If you would like to volunteer to help with packaging or donate to this project, contact [Numanainc.com](http://Numanainc.com), or [handsofglory.org](http://handsofglory.org) to sign up or donate. If you do not have internet access, you can call Carolyn Elder at 785-242-3791, or Numana at 1-877-452-5445.

**“Life’s most urgent question is: what are you doing for others?”** Martin Luther King Jr.

# February 2011

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					

## February Events

- Feb. 1 Tables I,II and III Due online
- Feb. 6 Church Conference at Central regarding parsonage after Worship Service.
- Feb. 8-9 Appointive Cabinet, DS in Wichita
- Feb. 16-17 Appointive Cabinet, DS in Wichita
- Feb. 17 Clergy/Spouse Self Care Workshop at Garnett from 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m. [www.healthfund.org](http://www.healthfund.org)  
fax to Judy Johnston 316-293-2695
- Feb. 20 Lisa Maupin to speak at Lawrence Central see page 5 for details.
- Feb. 21-23 Appointive Cabinet, DS in Wichita
- Feb. 26 Nominations Committee Ottawa 1st 9 a.m.-noon

## District Prayer Calendar

- Feb. 6 Welda, Iola Trinity  
Pastor Bill Nelson
- Feb.13 Baldwin 1st  
Rev. Dr. Connie Wilson
- Feb.20 Lawrence Centenary-  
Linwood  
Pastor Dan Norwood
- Feb.27 Union Chapel  
Pastor Ed English

## Clergy Birthdays

Jacob Cloud

February 24th



### **Lisa Maupin to Speak at Central on February 20th**

Lawrence Central will have Lisa Maupin as their featured speaker on Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at their 10:45 a.m. Worship Service. Maupin is the Communications and Volunteer Director from United Methodist Ministries in the Nebraska Conference. In addition to her work with UMM Communications and Volunteers, Lisa is the Nebraska Annual Conference Volunteers in Mission Coordinator. She promotes various mission and justice opportunities to local churches as well as recruiting, scheduling and hosting VIM teams at United Methodist Ministries. She has presented workshops on volunteer recruitment and retention at regional and national conferences for the American Community Gardening Association, Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission and Youth Service America. Lisa serves on the Nebraska Annual Conference Leadership Development team and is a national trainer for the United Methodist Church's Rethink Church campaign. A Nebraska native, Lisa is a graduate of Hastings College and has a BA in Communications Arts with emphasis in Public Relations and History. While we always encourage you to support your local church with your weekly attendance, if you are in the Lawrence area that day or taking in another worship service, Central invites you to attend.



**Good leadership consists of showing average people how to do the work of superior people.**

**John D. Rockefeller**

### **District Leadership Event a Hit**

January 8<sup>th</sup> was a great day for leadership growth in the Five Rivers District. One hundred laity and pastors, representing 23 churches attended the training held at Lawrence 1<sup>st</sup> West Campus and lead by Ron Alexander from the Kansas Leadership Center.

Alexander informed the group in the beginning that this would be an interactive workshop, and it was. He brought up many ideas and presented new ways to look at situations. He repeatedly asked for situations where those present had handled situations like them and what had worked for them. Feedback from this event has been very good.

After a great day of learning, Alexander invited churches and church leaders to participate in **The Leadership and Faith Transforming Communities Initiative**. Any UMC congregation wanting to address existing and emerging community health (mental, spiritual, physical, social, economic) issues may participate. At least four individuals (it is desired that one of them be the pastor) from one church must commit up to eight days for leadership education over seven months. For more information, contact Sue Dondlinger, Project Director at 316-712-4959. You may obtain an application through the Kansas East Conference website or at the [kansasleadershipcenter.org/programs](http://kansasleadershipcenter.org/programs) website.

If you weren't able to attend the leadership event, The Kansas Leadership Center has provided us with brochures that outline the theories, principles and competencies covered at the leadership event in Lawrence. They are available at the District Office or could be mailed to you by request.

“As we all know, our faith should be more about action than words. The Leadership and Faith Transforming Communities initiative is designed to inspire and educate us to do just that.”  
*Bishop Scott Jones*



# 5 Rivers District Kansas East Conference

## Leadership Opportunity

Small Church Leadership Institute

March 20-24

Institute equipping laity and pastors with the skills they need for leading their small attendance church.

[www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org) 479-443-4531

## Continued from page 1 From our DS

vision, a year involved in the Incubator process to develop leadership, learning and transformation through a Ministry Action Plan, and on-going coaching by ABIDE and Incubator facilitators.” (see at [kansaseast.org](http://kansaseast.org))

I encourage you and your congregation to consider how one or more of these opportunities may be right for your ministry future. All of our churches need to continually be seeking how to be the best body in service to Christ. These opportunities are out there for you to explore, and one of them may be just the thing that you need.

You can find out more by going to the Kansas East Annual Conference web site at [kansaseast.org](http://kansaseast.org). Or contact the District office and we will do all we can to help you know more.

Blessings!  
Dennis

## *Five Rivers District D.C.Y.M. Scholarships Announced*

The following scholarships were awarded through the Five Rivers Leadership Team and the District Council on Youth Ministry. Each scholarship is for 50.00 towards one of the KE Conference sponsored events.

### Recipients:

Dakota Adamson, Storm Adamson, Caleb Dickey, Skylar Dickey, Grace Foiles, Reid Hildenbrand, Brandon Morris, Dannette Newland, Caitlyn Ramsey and Matthew Weiss.

Look for 2011 scholarship opportunities and application in the March newsletter.

**“Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant with the weak and the wrong. Sometime in your life you will have been all of these.”**

Dr. Robert H. Goddard American Rocket Engineer

Kansas Bishop: Scott Jones  
District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman  
Administrative Assistant, Newsletter Editor: Marvé Ralston

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**Kansas East Website:**  
[www.kansaseast.org](http://www.kansaseast.org)

## Camp News

Camp Chippewa needs your help this summer. Volunteers are needed for camp from June 6- July 29. We especially need help the week of Institute June 20-24, 2011 and the week of Youth 2011 July 13 -17, 2011. Camp Chippewa is a gem in the Five Rivers district and we are hosting campers from every district at camp each week. Bishop Jones has stated that a week at Camp Chippewa is part of your ministry. It is not a vacation. Some clergy and lay persons in the Five Rivers district have volunteered at Camp Chippewa and Institute in the same summer and have lived to tell about it!

We ask you to pray, discern and then call Brenda Davids at Camp Chippewa and get signed up to volunteer this summer. We need people that love sharing Christ with kids and are o.k. with getting a little smoke in their eyes from a campfire and seeing how exciting it is to worship and play with youth in our sacred space at Chippewa. You can contact Brenda via e-mail at [bdavids@kansaseast.org](mailto:bdavids@kansaseast.org) or call the camp at 785.242.6797.

All housing at Camp Chippewa has been renovated in the last two years thanks to your contributions to Bridges to Future, come and see what else has changed at your camping ministry site.