

MONTHLY PUBLICATION
OF THE FIVE RIVERS
DISTRICT OFFICE

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Living Waters

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From Your District Superintendent

We had the opportunity to hear Gil Rendle speak to the Annual Conference just a couple of weeks ago. Just last week, I had the pleasure of hearing further from Gil as he addressed those present at Bishops Week at Mt. Sequoyah. He took us on a deeper journey into an understanding of the wilderness in which the church finds itself today. Gil is clear that the wilderness is not to be experienced as a negative to be fought against, but as a time of finding direction, renewed purpose, and a deeper connection to God. For a season, the wilderness will be our home. We will wander, learn and grow as we move to a new promised land. Just as with the Hebrew people in the day of Moses, we know that God will lead us to the place where we need to be. God is not finished with the people of the United Methodist Church.

Some of the challenges we face are decisions about the ministry structure of the UMC in the Great Plains. The five finger votes taken at the three annual conference sessions involved indicates that all three conferences are interested in pursuing the possibility of becoming one annual conference in Nebraska and Kansas. This will allow us the opportunity to consider some of the deep changes which Gil Rendle says will be needed for the church to move through the wilderness and find the place where we are being called to by God. None of us now knows exactly what such a conference will look like when accomplished. There will be wilderness to cross on the way to achieving the new structure that will be put into place. What we can do is surround the process with our prayers. Seeking the lead of God's Holy Spirit is critical to all that we do together as the church. I invite you to be in prayer for all of us as we move forward.

I also want to encourage everyone to find time this summer to get away and vacation. Renewal is so important to the health and well being of each us. So, get out there and have some fun!

In Christ,

Dennis Ackerman

July 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	29	30
31						

July 4th ~ Independence Day ~ **Happy 4th of July**

July 4th-10th District Office Closed for vacation

July 10th ~ District Superintendent preaches at Lyndon

July 17th ~ District Superintendent preaches at Mildred-Elsmore

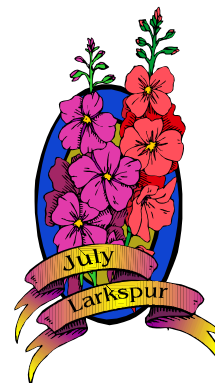
July 24th ~ District Superintendent preaches at Overbrook

July 25-29th ~ District Superintendent is at Duke University for Leadership Training

Clergy Birthdays



Karen Jeffcoat	7/06
Bill Nelson	7/13
Joel Dunn	7/19
Loren Drummond	7/23



Ottawa Trinity, A Perennial Bloomer Once Again By Marvé Ralston

Have you ever thought about how someone would feel when visiting your church for the first time? Although it may feel comfortable and familiar to you, It may need some updating to appeal to others.

Ottawa Trinity under the guidance and leadership of their pastor, Rev. Barb Clinger, have been moving out of their comfort zone and trying to live out their mission statement by doing just that. They have used funds that were sitting (security) but not making a lot of interest and invested them in their place of worship.

Carved into a white stone above the entrance to Trinity in 1951 are two sentences. Meet with us to worship. Depart with us to serve. Good words for any church. Trinity is working to make their church interior and exterior more assessable and a more inviting place to worship. This is in keeping with their mission statement: Inviting, nurturing and equipping all persons to be disciples of Jesus Christ.



New sidewalk, stairs, doors and roof leak fixed



"Crossings" Area



Playground In Use



Oklahoma specially selected bricks and inscribed stone

Ottawa Trinity continued from pg 3

Last May when the new playground had been completed, the Building Renovation Committee began to look seriously at taking the next steps of renovation. Using the planning advice of Doug Loyd, Architectural Renovations, they had plans drawn and put the project out to bid. Harry North Construction out of Baldwin City won the contract and began the project this May.

The plans are now in the process of being implemented. The progress which was only a dream and some architectural plans last year has moved quickly. Funded by memorials and several other accounts (maintenance and construction), no loans had to be taken out to continue. The cost for this project is 85,000.

The new playground Trinity built last May was in full use last Wednesday. Five neighborhood boys were running and climbing on the equipment. They stopped momentarily to see who was coming for a visit then went back to their chasing each other. Lots of happy noise nestled between two church buildings. The porch of the pastor's study and church annex is often used for play as well by several neighborhood girls.

Starting the construction tour outside, the roof is being patched and new larger guttering with heat strips will be replacing the existing gutters that are part of the sanctuary roof leak.

The front concrete steps have been replaced and are uniform, leaving a landing at the top. New doors with a sidelight window will soon replace the existing doors.

The sanctuary transformation is amazing. Previously there was a closed off chapel area at the back of the sanctuary; now walls have been taken down, doorways widened and doors taken off. They have a new tech area where the sound equipment and sanctuary projection screen can be safely controlled.

A very expansive and modern looking foyer with oak wrapped beams is taking shape. This will eventually be their "Crossings" area. The plan is to have several comfortable sitting areas and an open area for fellowship.

Trinity formerly had one very outdated bathroom on the main floor. It has been replaced with a very nice modern men's room and the woman's room is in progress. Once again accessible doorways, new sinks and counter top, bright tile and neutral colors make this 60 year old church interior shine again.

So is the church growing in leaps and bounds? "Not yet," said Clinger. It is steadily building members. Clinger would love to see the church grow to twice its Sunday morning worship size. One thing is for certain, the church members are feeling good about their building and proud to invite others to join them for worship.



Trinity's new men's restroom

Ottawa Trinity continued from pg 4

They are already thinking ahead to the next phase which will be renovation of the sanctuary.

As I left, a young mother walked by and gazed intently at the church as she strolled her baby past Trinity. The community is becoming more aware of Trinity's presence.

What a better way to show Christian love than to renew a 60 year old church already in the community and to provide a safe place for community children to play?

Basic Disaster Response Training

July 6th

Starts at 7:00 p.m. Ends at 9:00 p.m.

Holton Evangel UMC
227 Pennsylvania Ave
Holton, KS 66436-1844

Contact: Julie Pohl kseastvim@yahoo.com

**Facing The Future
Cross Cultural-Cross Racial
Appointments**

Training for All Clergy, SPRCs,
Lay Leadership, and Churches
Sunday, August 14, 2011

2:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ottawa 1st UMC, 203 E Fourth
Ottawa, KS 66067

Register at: office@5riversds.com

Cooperative School of Christian Mission

The Kansas East Conference's 2011 Cooperative School of Christian Mission will be

July 14-16 at Baker University, Baldwin City, KS

The Theme is "All Things New"

Studies Include:

Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Reconciliation

Joy to the World, Mission and Evangelism

Haiti Mission Study

Coordinator: Jean Reynolds e-mail: jeaneliz37@gmail.com

Phone: 785-542-2301 Registration is on the KE website ~ **Must be registered to attend**



Cultivating Christian Discipleship

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Welcome New 5R Pastors:

Marge Cox to Humboldt-Big Creek

Bruce Draper to Edgerton

Don Flanner to Devon-Mapleton

Donna Clark Fuller to Ft Scott St. John
-Hammond-West Liberty

Leslie Jackson to Iola Trinity, Colony

JC Kelley to Ottawa 1st

Nancy Swope to Waverly-Prairie View

Ken Van to Fort Scott 1st

Returning Clergy New Appts.:

Paul Babcock to Baldwin 1st

Marcia Eaton to Gridley-Turkey Creek

Bill Nelson to Kincaid/Selma-Welda

New Mileage Rates after July 1, 2011

Business: 55.5 cents per mile

Medical/Moving: 23.5 cents per mile

Charitable: 14 cents per mile

District Prayer Calendar

July 3	Camp Chippewa and Staff
July 10	St. John's-Hammond-West Liberty Pastor Donna Clark Fuller
July 17	Fulton Pastor Charles Russell
July 24	Gridley-Turkey Creek Rev. Marcia Eaton
July 31	Baker Campus Ministry Rev. Ira DeSpain