

July/August 2016

Living Water

The bi-annual newsletter of Five Rivers District
of the Great Plains Conference UMC

THE BOAT PEOPLE HAVE RETURNED. Let me explain. Karen and I live near a lake. And “Boat People” is the term we “Lake People” use to describe the weekend interlopers who take over our scenic byways this time of year with their water noodles, floaties, tubes and skis. We welcome them and grudgingly accept them as part of the landscape until Labor Day—when they all return to school and work—and we get our peace and quiet back.

Truth be told, I’m kind of jealous of the Boat People. Because I’m a Lake Person without a boat. I’ve got a canoe, but that’s not the same thing. I want a pontoon. I’ll name it “The District”. That way, whenever someone calls asking for me, Marve’ can say: “He’s not here right now. He’s out on “The District”. So, that’s my plan.

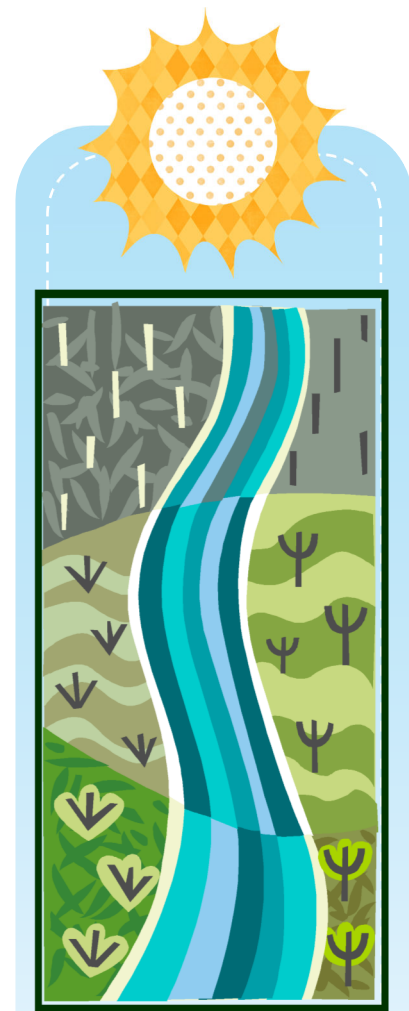
God bless the Boat People. Their return always reminds me of the day when Jesus chose Simon Peter’s boat to teach from—remember? He **CHOSE** Simon Peter’s boat. There were two boats on the shore that day. Jesus could have gotten into either one of them. But Jesus chose Simon Peter’s. I wonder why? What was it about that particular vessel which caused him to come aboard?

I don’t think Jesus ever did anything by accident. I think he was always very purposeful. I think the reason he chose Simon’s boat was that he saw something in the fisherman that intrigued him. Oh, sure, Simon had his problems. He, himself, acknowledged his sinfulness. He was brash and braggy and tended to be a know-it-all. He probably needed a heavy dose of Ritalin just to help him stay focused. But Jesus saw something in Peter—in his impulsiveness and impatience—which caused him to choose his boat. And we’ve been sailing with him ever since.

Would Jesus choose your boat? What a moment it is for us when he does.

Did you know that whatever mode of air transportation the President is traveling on immediately is designated Number One? That’s right. There’s Air Force One, the jet, and Marine One, the helicopter. There are probably others that I don’t know of. They all have their regular call signs when he’s not there. But if the President is on board, they immediately become Number One. I learned this from that movie, “Air Force One”, where Harrison Ford plays the president. And after whoopin’ up on all the bad guys and saving the world from nuclear Armageddon, he climbs a zip-line up into the rescue plane, and they welcome him aboard by immediately changing their call sign: “Liberty Two Four is now Air Force One!” they shout. And Harrison Ford goes back to the White House to live happily ever after.

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B-days, Centenary's
150th

District Events

Lyndon's 5th Get Rev'd
Up event successful

The Myth of the Non-
Christian book review

Important Date:

Oct. 1st Fab Five Fall

Event at Iola Wesley UMC

District Events

July 4th

Independence Day
Conference and District Offices Closed

July 13-16

Jurisdictional Conference in Wichita

July 25, 26, 27

Clergy Consults
5 R Office

July 28th

Clergy Consults
Ottawa 1st

Aug. 1st

Clergy Consults
5R Office

Aug. 2nd, 3rd

Clergy Consults
Fort Scott 1st

Aug. 8th, 9th

Clergy Consults
Iola Wesley

Aug. 10th

Clergy Consults
Ottawa 1st

Aug. 11th, 18th, 22nd and 23rd

Clergy Consults
5R Office

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Well..... until I get a pontoon, I want to be Canoe One. I want to be a vessel that Jesus chooses to cast his nets from, and share his love.

See you on "The District".

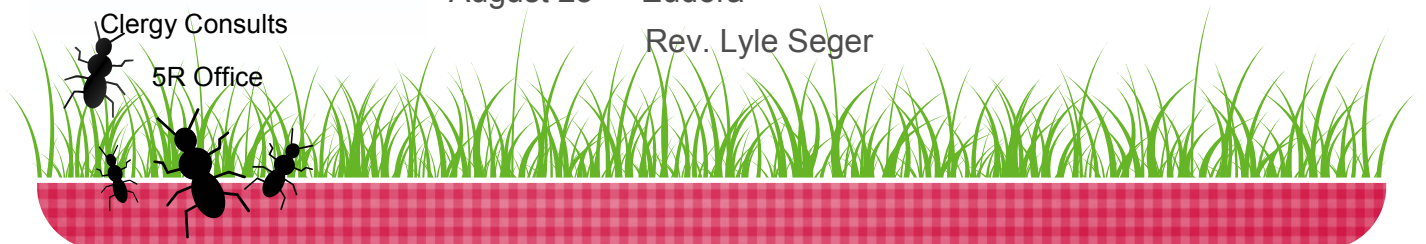
David

Rev. David E. Watson

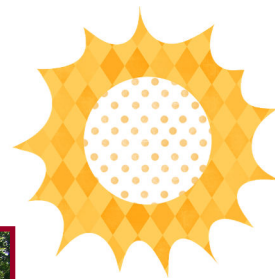
Five Rivers District Superintendent

5R Prayer Calendar July-August

July 3	Ottawa 1st Rev. Kathleen Whitmore
July 10	Pomona/Vassar Rev. Julie Freeman
July 17	Moran/Bronson Rev. Jim Stigall
July 24	St.John's/Hammond/West Liberty Rev. Tom Mullins
July 31	Osawatomie/Lane Rev. Marti McDougal
Aug. 7	Richmond Rev. Rob Ernest
Aug. 14	Redfield/Uniontown Rev. Connie McKee
August 21	Garnett/Greeley Rev. Bill Driver
August 28	Eudora Rev. Lyle Seger



*Lawrence Centenary
Celebrates it's 150th
Anniversary!*



"Small churches have long memories."

"Faith is the one thing that makes a church, but faith is hard to pin down."

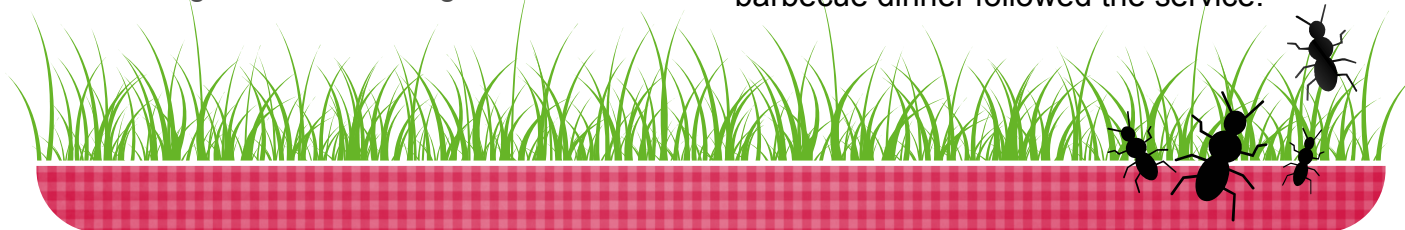
Quotes from the Anniversary sermon by Rev. Dan Norwood

Clergy Birthdays

Dale Thiele	July 8th
Bill Nelson	July 13th
Joni Raymond	July 14th
Brad Wheeler	July 14th
Marge Cox	July 22nd
Kathleen Whitmore	July 25th
Ralph Peters	July 30th
Joni Raymond	Aug. 14th
Kate Cordes	Aug. 15th
Bill Driver	Aug. 16th
Marti McDougal	Aug. 28th
David Ragland	Aug. 29th
Changsu Kim	Aug. 30th



The church was packed for Lawrence Centenary's 150th Anniversary service. Rev. Ji Seok Ju spoke to the congregation via a video clip. Rev. Judy O'Neal was in attendance to wish them well. A barbecue dinner followed the service.



You are Invited: District Wide

The Iola United Methodist
Churches present

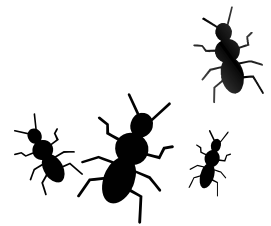
AN ORGAN AND PIANO RECITAL

Featuring
Jan Knewtson
and
Loretta Ellis
with

Guest Vocalist, Rev. David Reed

Sunday, July 10, 2016
3:00 p.m.

Wesley United Methodist Church
301 East Madison Avenue Iola,
Kansas



PIG, PIES & PICKIN

WORDEN UMC

294 East 900th Road
Baldwin City, KS 66006

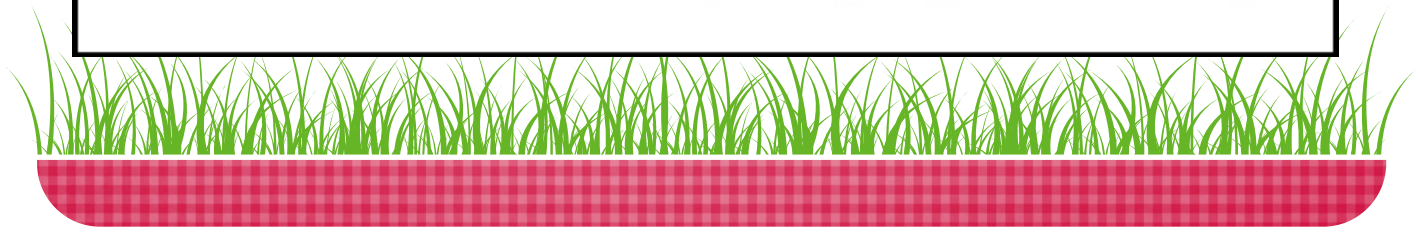
SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2016

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm *PIG & PIES*

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm *PICKIN*

(Worden Praise Team & individual performances)

freewill offering for the music ministry



Barb Schattak (left), Mary Stamm, Lisa Soukup (right)



Get Rev'd Up Car Show

June 18th, Lyndon UMC held their 5th Annual Car and Motorcycle Show at the Lyndon City Park.

Once again it was a success!

They had live music, breakfast and lunch food available for purchasing, t-shirts and drawings.



The Myth of the Non-Christian by Luke Cawley Book Review – by Marve' Ralston

Let me begin this book review with my main reason for choosing this book; I'm interested in evangelism. I will further share, that this book made me do a lot of self-examination as to why I don't share my faith more often.

As I began reading the first chapter, I learned a new word, apologetics. Apologetics is in my opinion, the reason why many of us do not share our faith.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to every one who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

Apologetics by definition is, reasoned arguments or writings in justification of something, typically a theory or religious doctrine. Dictionary.com

The book revealed to me the writer's experience of having used apologetics almost exclusively as a campus minister, thinking that would be the key to getting others to follow Christ. While he felt very confident and successful in defending Christianity as parallel to science, he often didn't get the follow through/buy-in desired.

Through in-depth discussion, the author talks about the two main types of "spiritual but not religious," individuals. He then goes on to list several reasons that folks have become or are atheist, which includes the simplest, they may never have been exposed to the bible or Christian teaching. He shows several methods of inviting conversation about religion and how to be prepared to listen and give friendly feedback without criticism.

Chapter Ten is about "nominal Christians". This group makes up by far the largest group of folks described in this book. The author takes you through 7 stages of full Conversion. He uses the stages from a book called "Beginning Well" by Gordon Smith. This chapter really helped me understand some core things that believers really need a good grasp on. They don't need to happen in the order listed but they all need to happen to fully engage believers. For most folks "conversion is a process" and not something that happens instantaneously.

Cawley gives tips on how to determine if a friend or individual that considers him/herself to be a Christian is in reality a "nominal" Christian. He teaches the steps for helping them become "fully converted".

He suggests this is *one* reason that folks drop out of churches, or after a good start, simply stop attending. They haven't gotten the full connection.

Most of us can likely recount experiences that made a difference in growing our faith and relationship with Jesus Christ.

In the book, there are questions to work through at the end of each chapter. The questions help to sharpen your skills and make you think about your own beliefs and relationship with Christ. I would recommend this book. Be prepared to take some time with it.

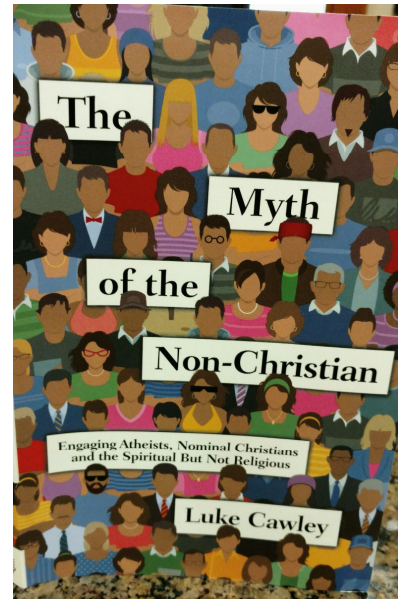
Continued The Myth of the Non-Christian

Other books the author references and recommends .

“*Uncovering the Life of Jesus*” by Rebecca Manly Pippert

“*Beginning Well*” by Gordon Smith

Interested in Lay Servant Ministry?



The Kansas City District is offering a one day Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course, "Simply Basic", on Saturday, September 10, 2016.

The class will meet at 8:00 am at Leavenworth First United Methodist Church, 422 Chestnut St, Leavenworth, KS 66048. All those currently involved or interested in lay leadership are invited to attend.

Participants must read the *Basic Course Participant's Book prior to attending.** This casual version of the Basic Course is offered for a suggested donation of \$20 to further Lay Servant Ministries.

For additional information and to register, contact julie.schropp@gmail.com.

Julie Schropp
Kansas City District Director, Lay Servant Ministries

*The *Basic Course Participant's Book* is now available on Amazon in both hard copy and kindle editions, also at The Upper Room bookstore.

For more information about Lay Servant Ministry and training, check out the Great Plains website.

<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/layservantministries>

Our district LSM Director is David Wasserfallen and his email address is drw1490@hotmail.com

Please contact him or our office with any further Lay Servant questions.

Fab Five Fall Festival

Saturday, October 1st

Iola: Wesley UMC

301 E Madison

Iola, KS

9:30 am - 2:00 pm

CEU's are available with request beforehand.

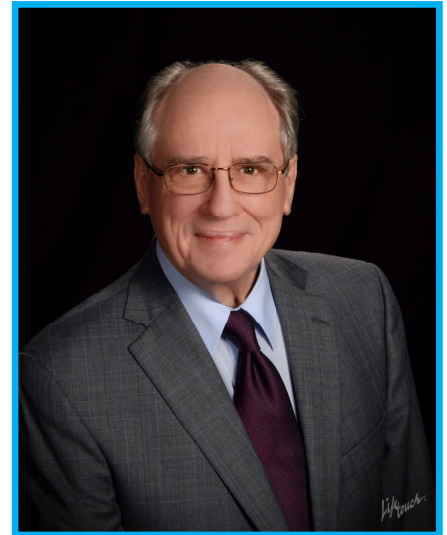
Let us know if you plan to attend.

Enjoy a 5R District worship service

Box lunch (free will offering)

Baker Speech Choir performance

Theme: ***“Building Relationships That Lead to Discipleship”***



Rev. Dr. David Lowes Watson

<https://www.ministrymatters.com>

Use the search box to find some of his columns.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
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