

Five Rivers District



Living Waters

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A Monthly Publication of the Five Rivers District UMC

News from our District Superintendent

As I am writing this article we here in the mid-west are facing some devastating weather. The community of Reading in our Annual Conference has experienced some severe damage to homes and other structures in the town. This includes the Reading United Methodist Church. We are also hearing more and more about the wrath of the tornado that struck the city of Joplin in Missouri. Lives lost, property destroyed, people displaced, and life in general disrupted. Without doubt, it makes each of us ask the age old question – “Why?”

A man in the Joplin community was interviewed by one of the TV network anchors. He was asked “Why do you think you survived?” The man answered, “Faith in God.”

I am the first to celebrate this man’s faith in God! Faith is at the heart of our entire understanding of why we exist and faith motivates us to do the work of ministry that we do. However, I know that others that did not survive had faith in God as well. Thus the “why” question. Why him and not her? Why that community and not another? Why are there tornados, and earthquakes, and tsunamis, and all sorts of natural disasters? Allow me to join the long line of those of faith who respond with a simple “I don’t know.”

I don’t know why such things happen. Or at least not from a philosophical stance. I do know the physics of such occurrences. I do not know the “why.” I am not sure there is a “why” to be had. So, what can we take away for such experiences?

A major “take away” is evidence of the human spirit. This is especially true for the community of the Church. People of faith are responding and will keep on responding with time, money, materials, skills, love, compassion, and prayer. The people of God are again rising to the occasion. The United Methodist Church is in the middle of this response. We know how to help in real and effective ways when disaster comes. We know how to be the presence of God in the midst of situations that hurt.

We are the Church of Jesus Christ! My prayer for us is that we will understand what a difference we do make in the lives of people. Not just in time of disaster, but in all of life. What we do as people of God changes the lives of other people. That is why it is important that we are busy sharing Christ in the smooth times, so that when the hard times come our friends and neighbors have the foundation of Jesus Christ to stand on.

I do not know why bad things happen. I do know how we can make good things happen in the lives of others. Just as John Wesley said, “Offer them Christ!” Today and everyday offer them Christ!

Dennis Ackerman



“One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We all are dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon ~ instead of enjoying the roses blooming outside our window today.”

Dale Carnegie

June 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		

June 2 ~ Pastor's Gathering at Blue Mound call for meal reservation 913-795-2898

June 3 ~ Addiction Workshop ~ Eudora UMC 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Register online <http://goo.gl/b9P2V>

deadline May 31 Clergy and Laity

June 8-11 ~ **KE Annual Conference**

June 12-19 ~ Course of Study

June 17-18 ~ Lay Speaking Workshop

June 12-24 ~ Licensing School Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, KS

June 22-25 ~ Bishop's Week at Mt Sequoyah

June 30 ~ District Leadership Team Meeting, Garnett 6:30

Birthdays

Gayla Rapp June 7th

Kara Eidson June 9th

Nick Woods June 20th

Duane Kessler June 25th

District Prayer Calendar

June 5	Lawrence 1st Rev. Tom Brady
June 12	Ottawa 1st Rev. Wayne Castle
June 19	Garnett, Greeley Rev. Richard Fitzgerald
June 26	Vinland Rev. Nicholas Woods

"Grow old along with me! the best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made. Our times are in His hand who saith, "A whole I planned, youth shows but half; Trust God: See all, nor be afraid!"

Robert Browning
Thinkexist.com



“Loaves for Larissa” *Helping a Sister Church and Pastor in Russia*

by Luella Masters ~ Burlington UMC Administrative Assistant

Almost a year ago, Kansas East Retired Elder, Frank Dorsey, shared an opportunity with Burlington UMC parishioners during worship. He invited them to consider supporting Rev. Larissa Malyshko, Pastor of the Holy Trinity Methodist Church in Khokholskiy, Russia.

Jane Griffith, one of those in worship that day felt called to respond to this ministry and continued praying about the situation. Griffith approached Rev. Pat Buss, Burlington’s pastor, last fall to develop an intentional plan of support.

Based on the scriptural symbolism of bread, the name “Loaves for Larissa” was given to the fundraising effort to collect monetary gifts in support of Rev. Malyshko’s ministry. Loaves of homemade bread are available in the narthex the first Sunday of each month as a token of gratitude for people leaving an offering for this UMC ministry in Russia.

Rev. Malyshko, visited the United States to attend the Russia Initiative in Oklahoma City, April 7-9. Rev. Buss and Griffith attended with Rev. Malyshko. Griffith experienced a definite excitement and presence of the Holy Spirit which she described as “the church alive” at the Russia Initiative.

Rev. Malyshko accompanied them back to Burlington, where she shared her message Sunday morning on April 10th. Following the 10:30 service, the church family joined Rev. Malyshko for a meal and fellowship. A total of \$3,873.64 has been collected to date. Rev. Malyshko’s plane ticket was paid for from this amount and the balance was sent back to Russia with her.



If members of your congregation would like to participate in this ministry opportunity, please contact Pastor Pat Buss at buss.pat@gmail.com.

Photo of Rev. Larissa

Malyshko and Jane Griffith

Contributed by

Jane Hartley

Organizer Jane Griffith said, “Helping Larissa is part of the Wesleyan tradition.” She noted that Rev. Malyshko travels a long way to meet with her congregational members. She would love to be able to offer more opportunities, including medical help, education for young members, and work at developing the church as a center for the community.

Continued on page 5

Creating Connections ...Cultivating Communities Annual Conference 2011

The theme of the Kansas East Annual Conference this year is Creating Connections...Cultivating Communities. It takes place at Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Blvd, Leawood, KS. For those of you who are wondering what Annual Conference is, here is a quick definition.

Annual Conference ~ The basic organizational body in The United Methodist Church. An Annual Conference includes all United Methodist churches in a geographically defined area. Lay and ministerial members of the Annual Conference have the right to vote on all constitutional amendments and delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Members establish the budget for the Annual Conference and vote on all matters related to the organizational life of its agencies and institutions. The Annual Conference members are responsible for the program and administration of the work of the Annual Conference and its local churches. Only ministerial members vote on all matters relating to ministerial membership and ordination. The membership of the Annual Conference consists of an equal number of lay and clergy members, and at least one lay person from each pastoral charge is to be a member.

Taken from ***Dictionary For United Methodists*** by Alan K. Waltz (Nashville, Abingdon Press, 1991), pg. 27-28.

According to an action passed by the Annual Conference, local churches are responsible for the registration fee of their lay members and pastors, including those who are serving a local church in retirement.

Visitors are always welcome. You don't need to register to visit. That said, if you want to stay more than one day, registration and a small fee of 10.00 is required. There are several highlights you might be interested in as well as simply visiting the wonderful facilities of the Church of the Resurrection. ***If you are a visitor the onsite meal opportunities will not be available.***

Here is a link for the Preliminary Agenda:

http://www.kansaseast.org/console/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/AGENDA_abbreviated_4811_C2EV938K.pdf

Some highlights:

- * Bishop Scott Jones will give a State of the Conference Address on Wednesday, June 8th at 2:30 p.m.
- * The Plenary Speaker this year is Rev. Dr. Gil Rendle and he will first speak on Thursday, June 9th at 9:25 a.m. and then again that afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Gil has been working with the Transition Team on visioning for the future.

Rev. Dr. Gil Rendle serves as Senior Consultant with The Institute for Clergy and Congregational Excellence of the Texas Methodist Foundation in Austin, Texas and as an independent consultant working with issues of change and leadership in denominations and large churches.

- * 5K Walk/Run benefitting Haitian orphanage 7:30-8:30 a.m. on Friday, June 10th
- * Ordination and Commissioning Service Friday, June 10th, 7:30 p.m. ~ Rev. Melody Kimbrel from Waverly/Prairie View will be ordained as Full Elder from our district.

Live Streaming is available for some events at <http://www.kansaseast.org/stream>

Annual Conference devotions link on top of page 5. Begin Sunday, May 29th

Please join others from the KE Conference as we share Pre-Conference Devotions beginning Sunday, May 29th for this year's Annual Conference. Here is the link. http://www.kansaseast.org/console/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/Preconference_devotions_booklet_VRBTFW8X.pdf

Of Possible Interest to You

Helping Those with Gambling Problems and Other Addictions training, June 3

A training workshop to increase awareness of resources available for people with gambling problems or other addictions will be June 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Eudora UMC.

Helping Those with Gambling Problems or Other Addictions in Your Faith-Based Community is being offered free of charge, and six CEUs can be obtained if all workshop sessions are attended. Lunch and refreshments will be provided at no charge. This program is open to all clergy and laity.

Register for the workshop by **May 31**. The link is below or call 785-532-1945 LaVonne Boetel

http://www.kansaseast.org/console/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/Clergy_Training_Brochure_05032011_3TDFX6YN.pdf

“Loaves for Larissa” continued from page 3

As part of their support for Rev. Malyshko and her ministry, BUMC have been asked to help by offering salary support. The amount is about \$6,000 a year.

Prayers for Holy Trinity Methodist Church and health ministry to this rural area as well as local refugees and an orphanage would be appreciated. Rev. Malyshko is hoping to expand her ministry to children in the village.

Rev. Buss shared, “We welcome support from other churches in the district to partner in this very worthy outreach ministry.”

“In the next two years we may also be organizing a mission trip to Russia. The needs there are great, but so is their love for God. This could be a tremendous beginning of Christian growth in Central and Southwestern Europe,” he concluded.

If members of your congregation would like to participate in this ministry opportunity, please contact Pastor Pat Buss at buss.pat@gmail.com .

“The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.” ~ Henry Martyn

“God’s work done in God’s way, will never lack God’s supply.” ~ Hudson Taylor



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*“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot
keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”*

Jim Elliot, Missionary/Martyr who lost his life in
the late 1950's trying to reach Auca Indians of
Equador.



Nursery Crib Safety

There are new rules and specifications for crib safety set by US Consumer Product Safety Commission that take effect June 28th. All cribs sold after that date will have to comply with the new safety standards. If your crib is not in compliance this can be a big liability issue. Check out the links below for more detailed information.

Check Your Crib for Safety

There should be:

A firm, tight-fitting mattress so a baby cannot get trapped between the mattress and the crib.

♥ No missing, loose, broken or improperly installed screws, brackets or other hardware on the crib or mattress support.

No more than 2 3/8 inches (about the width of a soda can) between crib slats so a baby's body

♥ cannot fit through the slats; no missing or cracked slats.

No corner posts over 1/16th inch high so a baby's clothing cannot catch.



No cutouts in the headboard or foot board so a baby's head cannot get trapped.



Cribs that are incorrectly assembled, have missing, loose or broken hardware or broken slats can result in entrapment or suffocation deaths. Infants can become strangled when their head and neck become entrapped in gaps created by missing, loose or broken hardware or broken slats.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/5030.html> ~ [US Consumer Product Safety Commission Link](#)

<http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?id=34997&ref=BPNews-RSSFeed0406> ~ [KE link](#)