

## Five Rivers District



# Living Water

a monthly publication

*Cultivating Christian Growth and Supporting the Local Church*

## *From Your District Superintendent*

### Inside this issue:

*District Calendar for June and July* 2

*The Itinerary System and Moving Clergy* 3

*Retiring Clergy* 3

*New Appointments* 4

I want to say “thank you” to all of the churches that have responded to date to the Five Rivers District offering for children and youth ministry in the district. We are getting off to a good start! For those churches that have not yet participated, please keep this in front of your people and respond at a time that works well for you. Together we can help support the spiritual development of our young people and help build the Kingdom of God where we are.

There are several churches in the district that are receiving a new pastor in on July 1. Please be in prayer for these transitions as churches and pastors make connections and seek to move forward in ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. Also, I ask that you be in prayer for those pastors that are leaving our district. I am grateful for the service and leadership that they have provided and ask God’s blessing on them in their new settings for ministry.

I encourage all of you to find some time for renewal and rest in the coming months. It is important for each of us to get away from the routine and spend time engaged in a special project, going to a different place, reading that novel, visiting family; whatever you find renewing and restorative.

I will be following my own advice as I take some time away from my work for renewal. Following Annual Conference, I will be on leave through the end of July. During that time my cabinet colleague, Mike Chamberlain, will be on call. My assistant, Marvé, will be in the office for much of this time, so try reaching her if you are in need of help.

Have a blessed summer! And when it gets hot, just remember this past winter and recall how you said, “I can’t wait for summer to get here!”

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Ackerman', written in a cursive style.

Dennis Ackerman

### Special points of interest:

- The Great Plains 1st Annual Conference- June 11-14th
- Please send the District offering for children and youth ministry to: Great Plains Conference office, PO Box 4187, Topeka, KS 66604-0187, add #786 in the memo line of the check.

# June

**Sun Mo Tue We 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					

# July

**Sun Mo Tue We 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		

- June 4-10th DS is on renewal leave
- June 11th-14th GP Annual Conference in Lincoln, Neb.
- June 16– Aug. 4th DS is on renewal leave  
KC DS Rev. Mike Chamberlain is available if needed and our office is open during most of this time. 913-722-4775
- June 23-24 District Office Closed
- June 30-July 4 District office closed for 4th of July and vacation
- Aug. 7th District Leadership Team Meeting 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wellsville UMC
- Aug. 19th Clergy Meeting 9 a.m.-noon. Ottawa 1st UMC.
- Oct. 2nd Clergy Meeting 9 a.m. – noon. Ottawa 1st UMC.

## Prayer Calendar June and July

- June 1 Princeton  
Pastor Jada Hodgson
- June 8 Iola Calvary/Salem  
Rev. Gene McIntosh
- June 15 Baker Campus Ministry  
Rev. Kevin Hopkins
- June 22 Garnett/Greeley  
Rev. Bill Driver
- June 29 Ottawa Trinity/  
Union Chapel  
Rev. Barb Clinger
- July 6 Waverly/Prairie View  
Rev. Ron Bell
- July 13 Moran/Bronson  
Rev. Jim Stigall
- July 20 Redfield/Uniontown  
Rev. Connie McKee
- July 27 Mapleton  
Rev. Connie Edgerton

## The United Methodist Church and Our Itinerary System By Marvé Ralston

I like to think God is in the process of sending new pastors to our district and directing those we have come to love, into new churches. That said, it's always tough to see clergy friends move out of our area.

We must acknowledge this itinerary system is intrinsic to the United Methodist Church. It may not be a perfect system, but it ensures that all churches from the largest to the smallest have pastors.

Much thought and prayer regarding the talent and gifts, as well as the clergy's personal preference for areas and types of congregations (rural, city, etc.) go into this process.

We need to continue to ask God to be with our moving pastors and bless those coming into our churches and the congregations affected by these moves. Let's envelope all with our prayers.

These pastors and their families are transitioning to new locations this year;

Rev. Kara Eidson is leaving Wesley KU Campus Ministry, KS and will now pastor Spring Hill-Bucyrus, KS ~ KC District,

Rev. Donna Clark Fuller is leaving Fort Scott: West Liberty-Hammond-St. John's and will now pastor Mount Hope-Haven, KS ~ Wichita West,

Rev. Shirley Edgerton is leaving Vinland and will now pastor Axtell-Beattie, KS ~ Flint Hills District,

Rev. Gina Gile is leaving New Lancaster-LaCygne and will now pastor Dakota City-Homer - NE ~ Elkhorn Valley District/NE.

Rev. Jay Henderson is leaving Lawrence Central and will now pastor Topeka: University/Washburn U Campus Ministry, KS ~ Topeka District,

Rev. Dallas Peterson is leaving Mound City - Blue Mound and will now pastor Girard – Farlington, KS ~ Parsons District,

Rev. Mitch Todd is leaving Lawrence First and will now pastor Mulvane, KS ~ Wichita East District,

Rev. Bud Tuxhorn is leaving Worden and will now pastor Healy - Utica UMC, KS ~ Hays District,

Rev. Ken Van is leaving Fort Scott First and will now pastor Leavenworth First, KS ~ KC District,

Rev. Donna Voteau is leaving Louisburg UMC and will now pastor Pratt UMC, KS ~ Wichita West District.

Several of our clergy friends have retired this year; Rev. Ira DeSpain is retiring after 22 years at Baker University as Campus Minister. Here is a link with a story on this in the KC Star.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/05/16/5028395/after-22-years-of-clicking-with.html>

Rev. Duane Kessler is retiring from serving Michigan Valley UMC (although his former status was retired Elder). Duane and Karen have plans to travel and spend more time with their grandchildren.

***The Lane United Methodist Church is having a "Dedication Service" of our new siding and other repairs to the church on Sunday, June 29, 2014. Worship is at 8:30 a.m. we have fellowship afterwards and will have lunch at noon. This is also an Alumni Dinner for Lane High School Graduates. Please let us know if you plan to attend: Pastor Marti McDougal 913-755-4774 or 913-731-5069.***

***ALL FORMER PASTORS AND FAMILIES ARE INVITED as well as other friends of Lane UMC.***

## Five Rivers District



*Primary Business Address*

*3300 Clinton Parkway Court, Suite 110  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047-2629*

*Phone: 785-841-4804*

*Fax: 785-841-4820*

**Website: [www.5riversds.com](http://www.5riversds.com)**

***Cultivating Christian Discipleship***



*So neither one who plants nor the  
one who waters is anything, but  
only God who makes things grow.  
1 Corinthians 3:7*

***This is a list of the new, or returning in a new charge, pastors.***

Baker University ~ Rev. Kevin Hopkins

Burlington ~ Rev. Scott Hannon

Fort Scott: First ~ Rev. Steven Cole

Fort Scott: West Liberty, Hammond and St. John's ~ Student Pastor Tom Mullins

Hiattville ~ Rev. Don Flanner

LaCygne-New Lancaster ~ Rev. Pat Longstroth

Lawrence: First Associate ~ Rev. Kathy Williams

Lawrence: Central ~ Rev. Moon-Hee Chung

Louisburg ~ Rev. Rob Walters

Mound City-Blue Mound ~ Rev. Walter Marsella

Mapleton ~ Rev. Connie Edgerton

Michigan Valley ~ Pastor Kristen Bell

Vinland ~ Rev. Joni Raymond

Wesley KU Campus Ministry-New Church Lawrence ~

Rev. Jacob Cloud

Worden ~ Rev. Changsu Kim

**Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud** ~ Maya Angelou

