

Living Water

A Monthly Publication of the



FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT

Volume 10, Issue 3

March 2013

News From Your District Superintendent

Just some things:

-We had a great training event back on February 9th! Over one hundred folks gathered at Ottawa First United Methodist Church to learn about the role of Lay Leaders & Lay Members to Conference, Pastor-Parish Committees, and Finance Committee & financial Leaders. It was a good day and I greatly appreciate the efforts of those who took part in this training opportunity. A special word of thanks to our presenters: Rev. Gary Beach, Ms. Niki Buesing, Ms. Courtney Fowler, and Mr. Oliver Green.

-The appointive process is underway for 2013. I seek your prayers as the Bishop and Cabinet take on this important task in the life of our Annual Conference. Please be in prayer for all of those who will be transitioning this year.

-A webinar was held on February 10 to share the latest information contained in the proposed "Plan of Organization" for the new Great Plains Annual Conference. This document contains the recommended basic structure of the new conference and information about other decisions which we will share in at the Uniting Conference on August 22-24 in Salina. I very much encourage you to review this information and share your response or questions with the Transition Team. I especially encourage the Lay Members to Annual Conference to review the document in preparation for our regular Kansas East Conference session in late May and for the Uniting Conference. Also, watch for information about coming updates to the Plan of Organization.

-Please note a couple of important pieces of information which will impact local churches in the preparation of 2014 budgets.

- 1) The "Plan of Organization" mentioned above contains information about the recommended minimum salaries proposed for the Great Plains conference for 2014. I have been in contact with the pastors of churches that I believe may be affected by this new situation. Please review the information and be aware of possible impact on your 2014 budget.
- 2) New federal law will impact those churches that are currently designated as having three-quarters time pastors. Beginning in 2014 churches at three-quarters time will be required to participate in the Conference insurance system. Again, I have been in contact with the pastors of the affected churches to communicate this information and discuss possible actions.

Please stay informed about all of these activities in the life of our conference. Blessings on your ministry!

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March 2013

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						

March 1 **World Day of Prayer**

March 4-6 Kansas Appointive Cabinet ~ DS is in Wichita

March 10 **One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday**

http://www.umcgiving.org/site/c.qwL6KkNWLrH/b.3833841/k.5891/One_Great_Hour_of_Sharing__Overview.htm

March 15-16 **Lay Servant Training** event at Ottawa 1st UMC link to registration is below

http://www.kansaseast.org/console/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/CurrentSeminar_W4HF7CJ1.pdf

March 18-20 Kansas Appointive Cabinet ~ DS is in Wichita

March 23rd **Emergency Response Certification Training** ~ Yates Center UMC from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., cost is 25.00 plus \$ for lunch. Please call Yates Center UMC to register 620-625-2266.

Trainer is Rev. Russ Anderson.

March 24th Palm Sunday

March 29th Good Friday District Office Closed

March 31st **Easter Sunday**

April 11th **District Clergy Meeting, Ottawa 1st**



Clergy March Birthdays

Barb Clinger	March 2nd
Shirley Edgerton	March 5th
Moon Hee Chung	March 11th
Donna VotEAU	March 21st
Beth Hodgson	March 21st
Jim Hopwood	March 23rd
Charles Russell	March 25th
Jada Hodgson	March 31st

District Prayer Calendar

March 3 ~ Fort Scott 1st ~ Rev. Ken Van

March 10 ~ Gridley/Turkey Creek ~ Rev. Marcia Eaton

March 17 ~ Parker/Beagle/Fontana ~ Rev. Marti McDougal

March 24 ~ Baldwin 1st ~ Rev. Paul Babcock

March 31 ~ Princeton ~ Pastor Jada Hodgson

Safe Gatherings: A Replacement for Safe & Sacred Space Certification.

Safe Gatherings is a Biblically-based boundary awareness and abuse prevention program developed by the Kansas East and Kansas West conferences to certify volunteer workers, staff and clergy, enabling them to work with children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities in accordance with the policies of the conferences.

In 1996, the United Methodist General Conference adopted a resolution to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse in the church. The resolution outlines specific steps to be taken to protect vulnerable people. Local churches and conferences are directed to develop an ongoing education and training program and screening and safety procedures. The resolution was affirmed in 2004 and 2008.

The annual conferences adopted policies in accordance with this resolution for the protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults. The annual conferences' program applies to all conference and district events, as well as all local church events and activities. By completing this certification program, individuals are authorized to work with children, youth and developmentally disabled adults in any church-related setting.

Safe Gatherings replaces Kansas East's Safe and Sacred Space program and will replace Kansas West's Boundary Awareness program.

Beginning July 1, 2012, all persons in the Kansas East Conference who are renewing or completing first-time certification will complete their education and certification process online. Both conferences will use this new online system, which replaces the current face-to-face training for certification.

Here is the link for all those seeking certification.

<https://www.safegatherings.com/>

More questions or to find out if members are certified? You can e-mail

SafeGatherings@kswestumc.org or call 1-800-745-2350 for more information.

Free Lenten devotions can help the hungry

The Society of St. Andrew's, Advance #801600, is offering a free Lenten devotion booklet, "How Beautiful," based on Romans 10:15b: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!"

The Lenten devotions challenge readers to take seriously the scriptural injunctions to care for the poor and provides an opportunity to feed our hungry brothers and sisters.

Find out more at www.endhunger.org/lent.htm or call 800-333-4597.

"Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time."

Martin Luther

www.quotegarden.com/easter.html



Cultivating Christian Discipleship



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Thank you to Mary Brooks for taking these pictures. Also Dave Wasserfallen and Mary Brooks who both serve on the District Leadership Team, for providing help with registration and logistics at our Feb. 9th event.

