



Living Water

A monthly publication of

Five Rivers District

Volume 13, Issue 3

From the DS

There have been many things going on around the district of late. I would like to share some thoughts about a few of them.

We need to sadly acknowledge the tragic death of one of our district pastors. Rev. Beth Hodgson and her husband, Willis, were both killed in a one car accident on Plum Creek road near Osawatomie on Sunday, February 22. This accident happened not too far from the Plum Creek United Methodist Church where Beth had served as pastor for many years. Please pray for the family of Willis and Beth, including their daughter Jada Hodgson, Certified Lay Minister at Princeton UMC, as they move forward from this loss.

Other news includes the announcement by Bishop Scott Jones of the appointment of Rev. David Watson as the new Five Rivers District Superintendent beginning on July 1, 2015. David is currently the Senior Pastor of Salina First UMC. He comes to this position with many years of effective service as a pastor. David has served in the 5R district in the past at Baldwin City First UMC and at Fort Scott First UMC. David also served as the DS of the Parsons District in the Kansas East Conference at one time. Please watch for information about a welcome event for David that will happen sometime in the summer.

Of course we need to be mindful of the appointment process that is ongoing in the Annual Conference. This time of year always brings a level of anxiety for United Methodist pastors and churches. There have been some appointment changes already announced in the Five Rivers District. There may be others. Please pray for the pastors and churches of the district as we navigate change and seek to build strong and faithful relationships between pastors and churches.

As you continue your journey through Lent, may God's Spirit lead you in reflection, prayerful discernment, and renewed commitment in your relationship with Jesus Christ. The path to the Cross is uphill and requires much effort. May you find strength on the road through Lent.

In Christ,

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Bishop: Scott Jones

Five Rivers District Superintendent:
Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Newsletter Editor/Admn.:
Assistant
Marvé Ralston

March 2015

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				

Schedule of Events

- March 3 ~ Clergy Meeting at Ottawa 1st UMC 9-noon
- March 9-12 ~ Appointive Cabinet, DS is in Wichita
- March 10-11 ~ PAUMCS workshop at Valley Center
- March 19-21 ~ Appointive Cabinet, DS is in Wichita
- March 30-April 2 ~ Appointive Cabinet, DS is in Lincoln, NE

5R Prayer Calendar

Mar. 1	Worden Rev. Changsu Kim
Mar.8	Baldwin 1st Rev. Paul Babcock
Mar.15	Lawrence Central Rev. Moon Hee Chung
Mar.22	Burlington Rev. Scott Hannon
Mar.29	Lawrence 1st Rev. Tom Brady, Rev. Kathy Williams

Clergy Birthdays

Barbara Clinger	March 2nd
Steve Cole	March 6th
Moon Hee Chung	March 11th
Jim Hopwood	March 23rd
Charles Russell	March 25th
Jada Hodgson	March 31st



“Our prayers may be awkward.

Our attempts may be feeble.

But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.”

Max Lucado

Lay Servant Ministry ~ Take another look at how this program might help support your local church and further develop discipleship.

By Marvé Ralston

Have you ever wondered what Lay Servant Ministries encompass? Lay Servant Ministries have something to help all laity grow in their faith walk and be better equipped for service in their local church and beyond. They offer four different paths of coursework. Classes are open to anyone and not dependent on their participation in the program. Lay servant Ministries have changed their format and with the Great Plains Conference, are able to offer more workshops than ever before.

Lay Servant Ministry was formerly called Lay Speaking Ministry. In the past it was geared more toward folks that wanted to fill the pulpit, either in their local church (Local Church Lay Speakers) or in their own church and beyond (Certified Lay Speakers).

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church approved the name change of Lay Speaking Ministries to Lay Servant Ministries in 2012.

There are now four pathways in this program. They are Local Church Lay Servant Ministry, Certified Lay Servant Ministry, Certified Lay Speaker Ministry and Certified Lay Ministers. Each one has specific criteria to follow and require several things to maintain status. You can find everything you need to learn about the options on the Great Plains website address below.

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

So what does this mean to you? You don't need to participate in the program to attend a Lay Servant Ministry workshop. We encourage you to take any and all courses that will help you develop your faith. There are more courses than ever being offered and many of them are within several hours of drive time to attend. There are also online courses offered.

You can find current workshops being offered across the GP Conference at the above link.

There is more information at www.gbod.org/laity

We get phone calls from laity and pastors alike for folks that are capable of filling the pulpit. We recommend using the folks that have gone through the program and have been approved by their local church through church conference action. They are listed with contact information on our website on the Lay Servant Ministries page.

Anyone that is listed as a Certified Lay Servant (CLS) may fill the pulpit locally or outside their church. A DSA is already serving a local church as a District Superintendent Assignment.

<http://fiveriversdistrict.com>

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Continued from pg 3 ~ Lay Servant Ministries

We are now offering a quarterly Lay Servant Ministry Newsletter. If you are interested in receiving either a copy online through e-mail or a hardcopy, please send us your contact information.

We have a Five Rivers District Director: David Wasserfallen.

If you have further questions regarding this program or have any suggestions for making this program even better, he is the person to contact.

David Wasserfallen, District Director

Five Rivers Lay Servant Ministries

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