

FIVE RIVERS  
DISTRICT  
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# Living Waters

Volume 8, Issue 5

May 2012

## Annual Conference

Once again the KE Annual Conference will be held at The Church of the Resurrection ~ June 6th to 9th.

Register to attend as a visitor if you want to visit for more than one day. Register by May 1st to get a 10.00 discount if you are clergy or a lay member and paying the regular registration fees.

[http://  
www.kansaseast.org/  
pages/detail/1096](http://www.kansaseast.org/pages/detail/1096)

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## *From Your District Superintendent*

In one of his articles (“A Healthy Urgency” 4/18/2012) leading up to the opening of General Conference, Bishop Robert Schnase (Author: “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations”) of the Missouri Annual Conference shared his thoughts regarding the challenges facing the United Methodist Church today. In this article Bishop Schnase considered the financial, structural, sociological, theological, and missional hurdles that we as a denomination are facing.

He is correct. We are facing many challenges in our quest to faithfully help build the Kingdom of God. Some of these challenges are a result of we as a denomination not keeping pace with the changes in our society. Some are caused by our stubbornness in resisting needed changes in how we do our work. Some of the challenges are simply handed to us by circumstances and realities that seem beyond our control.

So what do we do? My answer is “I do not know fully.” What I do know is that we as the church will need to make some hard decisions over the next few years. Bishop Schnase says the following:

*Thomas Friedman, the New York Times columnist, writes, “We can either have a hard decade or a bad century.” We have to make some hard decisions—about our own discipleship, about our congregational mission, about how we organize our work in conferences and the general church—or we will face an increasingly difficult future.*

We will need to discover new financial models, new structure to support the mission of the church, new insight into effective means and methods of communicating the Gospel, and a renewed focus on our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. It will not be quick, but it must be intentional. That is why I am in prayer for the General Conference of our church as they meet over the next couple of weeks. They will be considering responses to the challenges we face. But I am also praying for the local church, the laity of individual churches, the pastors of individual churches, and myself as we seek and consider ways of being the church where we are located.

*Continued on page 2*

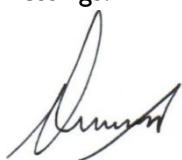
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In the midst of the journey, we must keep perspective. We are the church and God is at work in what we are doing now and in the future. Bishop Schnase reminds us of this when he says:

*These challenges do not tell the full story of United Methodism today. We touch the lives of hundreds of thousands of people through our ministries, we have thousands of deeply committed and highly gifted laity and clergy, and we practice a theology of grace that the world needs. God continues to work through The United Methodist Church.*

God is using us! And God will continue to equip us for the work of ministry. The future may look different. It may sound different. It will be different. But making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the word, that will never change!

Blessings!



### Schedule of Events

# May 2012

- May 6th Pre Conference Briefing at Ottawa 1st ~ 3-5 p.m.
- May 16th Nominations Committee ~ Ottawa 1st, 9:30 to noon District Office is closed till afternoon for meeting.
- May 29th Clergy Meeting at Ottawa 1st ~ 9 a.m. to noon.
- May 29th D.C.Y.M. at Ottawa 1st, 6p.m.
- May 31st District Leadership Team at Wellsville 7 p.m.
- June 6th—9th Annual Conference at Church of the Resurrection
- June 10th-July 23rd DS will be on renewal leave

| 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  |     |     |

**District Prayer Calendar**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| May 6         | Camp Chippewa<br>Director: Jessica Thompson                                   |
| May 13        | Gridley/Turkey Creek<br>Rev. Marcia Eaton                                     |
| May 20        | Baker Campus Ministry<br>Rev. Ira DeSpain                                     |
| May 27        | St John's/Hammond/West<br>Liberty<br>Pastor Donna Clark Fuller                |
| June 6th –9th | Please pray for our Annual<br>Conference and guidance<br>with decision making |

**Clergy Birthdays**

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Maria Campbell     | May 12th |
| Richard Fitzgerald | May 19th |
| Russ Anderson      | May 22nd |
| Gary Gooding       | May 30th |



"Life has got to be lived - that's all there is to it. At seventy, I would say the advantage is that you take life more calmly. You know that 'this, too, shall pass!'"  
~ Eleanor Roosevelt

<http://www.inspiration-oasis.com>

**Of Possible Interest to You****Take on the 21-day complaint-free church challenge**

Ever wonder what it would be like if your church were complaint free, with no griping about the budget, worship songs or staff? What if all our words were like honey? "Gracious speech is like clover honey — good taste to the soul, quick energy for the body." (Proverbs 16:24)

Learn more at [www.umcom.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=mrLZJ9PFKMG&b=6084837&ct=11666563&notoc=1](http://www.umcom.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=mrLZJ9PFKMG&b=6084837&ct=11666563&notoc=1)

**'Worship & Song' accompaniment CD set**

Are there occasions when you do not have an accompanist available for Sunday worship? Would you like to enhance singing in other settings, such as camp retreats, youth events or nursing home services?

A new "Worship & Song" 7-CD set of accompaniments and arrangements is available from Cokesbury for \$395.

Find out about this set and other "Worship & Song" accompaniments at

<http://images.umpublishing.org/Newsletters/WLM126640001QK001A.html>

**Five new ideas from GBOD newsletter available**

The April issue of the General Board of Discipleship's Five New Ideas to better equip vital congregations features:

- Help a new church launch its weekly worship service.
- Prepare pastors and congregations for smooth clergy changes.
- Discover grant opportunities for youth and young adult ministries.
- Plan to celebrate Christian Home Month in May.
- Encourage older adults to live with purpose and joy.

Read the newsletter at [www.gbod.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?](http://www.gbod.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?)

“I have been involved with DCYM for several years now and I can honestly say that each year my faith grows stronger and stronger. The major event – Project Revolution – always leaves me awestruck with how God works in so many different ways. This event in particular, is great because it gathers a mass of people from all over the district (Christian and non-Christian) and exposes youth to God’s love. For some, it is the first time they see true love.

The best part about coming and being a part of Project Revolution is watching so many youth come to Christ for the first time. For those that already know and love Christ, they get to have a new outlook that may deepen their faith and understanding of who God is. Overall, this event has impacted many lives and I’m sure will continue to do so in the future Project Revolution’s.”

**-Brooke**



**Band for 2011 The Mashup**



**Brooke**



**1st Project Revolution**

**Worden UMC 2008**



## Project Revolution ~ Five Rivers District 5th Youth Rally

September 8-9th, 2012 is the scheduled date for the 5th Project Revolution-Youth Rally for Five Rivers. They will meet at Worden UMC where they started the first year. The youth rally begins with registration/orientation and lots of outdoor games. A dinner of hamburgers, hotdogs and all the fixings is served by the District Council of Youth Ministry with help from parent volunteers. The youth especially look forward to the live Christian band concert. They have enjoyed a different band each year. There are skits, words of wisdom and testimonies given by the members of the D.C.Y.M. The evening is usually capped off with reflection time and a movie. Breakfast is served before church the next morning with the congregation. All youth from our district are invited to attend. Please call or e-mail Tami Clark at [Tami@lawrenceumc.org](mailto:Tami@lawrenceumc.org) or the district office at [office@5riversds.com](mailto:office@5riversds.com), for more information. **Please save the date** and look for registration information this summer.

All youth that attend must come with their youth director or a Safe and Sacred certified adult with a ratio of 5 youth to one adult. Please read what Caitlyn and Brooke wrote about their experiences at Project Revolution and D.C.Y.M. Brooke's pg. 4, Caitlyn's is below.



**2012-13 District Council of Youth Ministries Officers: (left to right)** Clay ~ President, Maddie ~ Vice Pres., Stephanie ~ Secretary, Caitlyn ~ Chaplain, John ~ Treasurer

Project Revolution is a great ministry led by the District Council of Youth Ministries. From what I have seen, the youth who already come to our event have fun, meet many others in the area that they may not have had the chance to meet before, and can experience and worship God with others who want to do the same thing.

I have been on DCYM for about 5 years now, which coincidentally is the same amount of time that we have been having Project Revolution, and during that time I have witnessed many youth who have been impacted by the community that we have at Project Revolution. Also, at Project Revolution, you get to have great food cooked by members of the DCYM, hotdogs, hamburgers, and a great breakfast too!

I have met some of my best friends because of Project Revolution and I hope that more youth will come for the great experience waiting for them at Project Revolution this year!

**-Caitlyn**

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**District Council of Youth Ministry 2012-13**