



Living Water

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Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Bishop of the Great Plains
Scott Jones

Five Rivers District
Superintendent
Rev. Dr. Dennis
Ackerman

Newsletter Editor/Admn.
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From Your District Superintendent

Have you ever been in a situation in which you felt that you had one foot in each of two different places? Well, that pretty well describes what I am experiencing these days. I am finishing up the final few weeks of my tenure as the Five Rivers District Superintendent and beginning to make contact and learn about the church to which I will be going soon. Obviously, this has me considering the dynamics of transitions.

I want to mention a couple of resources for churches and pastors that will be experiencing transitions this summer. One is a book titled "Your Best Move." It is written by Robert Kaylor. This book shares information that Rev. Kaylor gathered in research which he conducted concerning clergy transitions. Kaylor, being a United Methodist pastor, has first hand knowledge of the experience of moving from one church to another. He outlines a process for making transitions well. His process involves several pieces:

- 1) Leaving well
- 2) Creating a Transition Team
- 3) Achieving early wins
- 4) Researching the congregation
- 5) Building the Leadership Team
- 6) Communicating during the transition
- 7) Maintaining balance

This little book can very helpful as you navigate pastoral changes. This is true for both pastors and SPRC committees. I have copies. Please contact me if you would like to have one. Priority goes to pastors and churches who are transitioning this year.

Another good resource is Harvard Business Professor Michael Watkins' "The First 90 Days." (Kayton sites this work in his book as well.) While this is a book is not tailored for churches and pastors, it is about leaders and organizations. Watkins helps us understand ways to achieve good starts in new leadership situations. He addresses such things as how to learn your new role, right strategies, making good things happen, and building good teams. It is worth you time to read.

I am in prayer for the churches and pastors of the Five Rivers District and all of the Great Plains Conference, who will be transitioning this year. Change is never easy, but it can be managed in a way that gives glory to God and helps pastors and churches transition well and start well.

I hope that this is helpful!

Dennis

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Mother's Day</i> 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

District Calendar:

May 7th ~ Clergy Meeting, 9 a.m.-Noon
Subway lunch will be provided, please let us know if you plan to attend by Monday, May 4th.

May 10th ~ Mother's Day

June 6th, 9-5p.m. Emergency Training

June 7th, 4-5:30 p.m. Ackerman's going away reception at Ottawa 1st UMC fellowship hall.

June 10th -13th ~ Annual Conference in Wichita. Early registration by Monday, May 25th.

<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/registration2015>

There are folks that are looking for a roommate. If you need one, let us know, we will try to help you advertize and help find one.

District Prayer Calendar

May 3 Camp Chippewa
Camp Director: James Rickner

May 10 Louisburg
Rev. Rob Walters

May 17 Fort Scott 1st
Rev. Steve Cole

May 24 Turkey Creek/Gridley
Rev. Marcia Eaton

May 31 Mound City/Blue Mound
Rev. Walter Marsella

District Clergy Birthdays

Russ Anderson May 22nd
Libby Oberdorf May 26th
Hyun Jung Choi May 28th

Project Revolution (Our annual 5R Youth Rally)

SAVE THE DATE ~ Saturday, September 12, 2015 is Project Revolution! Starting at 5 PM, until church the next morning, is an awesome opportunity for you to worship, sing, hear live music, play games, and be in fellowship with other youth from the district. It will be held at first United Methodist celebration center in Lawrence, Kansas. All 7th through 12th graders are welcome! We hope to see you all there:) -Your 5 Rivers District Council on Youth Ministry.

Fund Balance Reports are due by June 30th for 2014
<https://eridan.websrvcs.com/console/PageManager.asp>

Emergency Response Training

Humboldt UMC

Trainer: Rev. Russell Anderson

Saturday, June 6th

9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Cost 25.00 + lunch

Cost includes materials and a t-shirt

Register at Humboldt UMC 620-473-3242

or Yates Center UMC 620-625-2266

Reception for Dennis Ackerman and Family ~

You are invited to a reception for Rev. Dennis Ackerman and his family as they prepare to move to Manhattan. The event will be 4 to 5:30 p.m., Sunday, June 7th, at First UMC in Ottawa.

Dennis is completing his term as Five Rivers District Superintendent and preparing to pastor College Avenue UMC in Manhattan, KS. We will miss his leadership in our district, and we wish him well in his new appointment.

Refreshments will be provided. Knowing that Dennis is an airplane buff, event planners have a “flying” theme in mind for the event.

You may leave gifts and notes on a card and money tree. If you are not sure you can attend or want to anonymously contribute in advance, send checks (made out to Paola United Methodist Church) to Rev. Jim Hopwood, Paola UMC, 209 S. Silver St., Paola, KS 66071

Clergy Spouses Day at Annual Conference

Are you a clergy spouse or do you know one?

Clergy Spouses (retired included) are invited to a clergy spouses day at the Great Plains Annual Conference in Wichita, KS, Friday, June 12, 2015 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

RSVP your attendance to Vicky Miller

vickymiller@hotmail.com

**Emergency
Response
Training ~ June
6th at
Humboldt UMC**



*You are Invited to the Ackerman's Going Away
June 7th, 4-5:30 p.m.*

New In Town and Looking for a Church by Rev. Kathy Symes

Two years ago a group of middle school and elementary siblings walked into the Vassar United Methodist Church and said they were new in town and looking for a church. They were planning on visiting all the churches in the area and chose us first. They fell in love with the congregation and the feeling was mutual!

We put together a Sunday School class and began offering a children's moment during worship. One member of the congregation bought them all bibles. It has been several generations since there were any children in the church and we have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them.

Soon they were bringing their friends and then other families began bringing their grandchildren. Before long we had enough children for two Sunday school classes. The kids all sit together and now take up 2 or 3 pews.

Whenever we have fellowship meals or fundraising dinners they are all the first ones there to help with set up. They love to help serve and carry trays and drinks. And they are always the first to help with clean up. They have been a God-Send to the congregation. They have revitalized the entire congregation and we learn from them each week.



We have taken a field trip to Church of the Resurrection for Saturday worship since many of them have never been to the 'city' before. They enjoyed the Palm Sunday service there and each bought something from the gift shop. After worship we enjoyed a meal together at Applebees. They really wanted to go on another field trip and have a lock in. I told them we would need to do a fundraiser so they put together a bake sale and earned more than enough for a day trip and the lock in. So I guess on May 15th several of us adults will plan on staying up all night with them – and are encouraging all the members to stop by and join us for some of our lessons and craft time.

Last fall we began confirmation class. After the first of the year several didn't want to wait until we finished confirmation to get baptized. After discussing it we decided to baptize all that were ready on Easter Sunday. This was the first time that we have met many of the parents and grandparents of the youth since they come to worship on their own each week.

On Easter Sunday we ended up baptizing 4 of the siblings. They took their vows seriously and we have discussed them at length at class. We have at least two more who will probably be baptized on Confirmation Sunday. Our Confirmation class was supposed to end on April 26th but because they were enjoying it we extended it to May 24th. Each confirmand designed their own banner which will be hung on Easter Sunday. Myself and a member of the Pomona congregation made them confirmation stoles to present to them when they join the church.

These youth have energized the entire church and the congregation is looking forward to them participating in full membership within the United Methodist Church!

Considering Youth Ministry? Read how Ellen Harper, from Bronson UMC, responded to “the call”.

Have you ever considered starting some type of youth ministry but weren't sure where to begin? Twenty years ago, Ellen Harper from Bronson UMC, began the process of creating such a group at the suggestion of a former pastor. She felt God asking her to give it a try, despite feeling like she lacked some knowledge of the Scriptures and teaching methods. She began with two things for certain; a desire to bring the Word of God into the lives of youth, and an enjoyment of working with that age group.

The original group was Jr/Sr High, but like many other small town youth groups, the children in the original group grew up. It became increasingly difficult to get high school age youth to participate, with so many activities competing for their time. The community demographics changed as well, with an increased number of younger children in the community. So Helen decided to open up the program to all school age children. They now have 12-20 youth, ranging from age 6 to 12 years old.

They meet once a month, on the 3rd Wednesday. As part of the evening, several women in the church volunteer to provide a delicious meal. Several participants had a few words to say about the program.

One of the 5th Graders, Nicholas Haller said, “I like to come because it's fun and I like the food”.

Evan Harper who is a 4th Grader agreed, “It's fun, something better to do than watching tv, and good food”.

Ellen provides the weekly lesson and activities. A very important part at the beginning of their meeting is the prayer circle. They encourage just talking to God and that everyone can talk to God about something. Special words are not necessary. It's about God wanting us to communicate with him. They have singing, games, activities and a scripture lesson.



The group is growing because the kids spread the word to their friends. Ellen believes the main draw is the food and games. She hopes they are hearing God's Word and that it will stay in their minds and hearts. She wants them to learn that Jesus loves them and they are never alone when they let Him into their heart.

Ellen admits it is difficult to work with such a diverse age group. She often wonders if they are listening; however, it has been amazing what all they can recollect about things they have discussed.

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**Offered by Overbrook UMC ~
 Free Sunday school and Vacation Bible School materials**

Overbrook UMC have Sunday school and Vacation Bible School materials to donate to another local church. If you are interested, contact them directly at
 785-665-7345 or e-mail them at
overbrookumc@yahoo.com

Photo by Melissa Stokes of Ellen Harper and the Bronson UMC group she leads.

“Every child you encounter is a divine appointment.” ~ Wess Stafford, President, Compassion International

“If I could relive my life, I would devote my entire ministry to reaching children for God.”

~ Dwight L. Moody, evangelist

Considering Youth Ministry? continued from pg 5

Fayth Harper, a participating Sixth Grader reinforces that sentiment. When asked what she enjoys about the group, she said “We learn things about God and I get to see my friends.”

So if you feel too busy, or don't feel qualified to start a group like this, Ellen encouraged, “I know how you feel; it takes a strong commitment to devote the time and patience. I am learning right along with the kids. As long as I am able, I will do what I can to give others the opportunity to know Jesus and share with them how much he loves us”.

