

Volume 6, Issue 11

November 2010

5 Rivers District Kansas East Conference

3300 Clinton Parkway Court

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Lawrence, KS 66047-2629

From Our DS

Friends and Colleagues:

I want to extend my thanks to everyone who helped make the Fab Five Fall Festival & Fellowship such a great success. So many people did so much work to get it all done. The worship, food, displays, music, learning, space, technology – all had people working at making that part go well. We had a fantastic day and we can be aware of just how blessed we are to be the people of God in the Five Rivers District.

If you had any question about whether ministry is happening in our district, one pass through the displays at the Fab Five event answered that question. We are touching lives through the ministries of each local church. The love of God in Jesus Christ is being shared with people in our communities. We are praying for, feeding, teaching, having fellowship with, worshipping with, singing with, and loving the people around us. And much more! The United Methodist Church is alive in our district.

Bishop Robert Schnase challenged us to be and do even more with his sharing about the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. God has made us to do great things and bring transformation in the lives of people. We can do just that if we are faithful to our calling. We are challenged to give our best to God in all that we do. We need to strive for excellence in every aspect of ministry that we undertake. God deserves our very best. The people of God's creation deserve to know the love of God through us. We can do it with the help of God! I pray that we will rise to the challenge and be the very best that God has created us to be. Just think of the difference we will make if we give God our very best. Believe that we can do what God wants done.

Please pray for one another as you go about living into God's vision for us. Remember, we are all in this together!

Blessings!

Dennis Ackerman

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MISSION STATEMENT: TO CULTIVATE CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Living Waters

Schedule of Events

- Nov. ~ 4th Cluster Conference
Osawatomie 7-9 p.m.
- Nov. 6th ~ District Committee on
Ministry Wellsville UMC 9 a.m. –
4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 7th ~ Cluster Conference
Ottawa 1st 3-5 p.m.
- Nov. 11th ~ North Incubator
Group, Countryside UMC 9 a.m. –
5 p.m.
- Nov. 13th ~ Laity Training 9 a.m.-
noon, Garnett UMC, Wesley UMC
- Nov. 14th ~ Church Cluster Lyn-
don UMC 3-5 p.m.
- Nov. 16th ~ Appointive Cabinet,
DS in Wichita.
- Nov. 18th ~ Church Cluster Fort
Scott 1st 7-9 p.m.
- Nov. 21st ~ Church Cluster Bur-
lington UMC 3-5 p.m.
- Nov. 24-29th ~ Thanksgiving
Holiday/Vacation District Office
closed



November 2010

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				

“Project Revolution has been one of the most rewarding programs I've ever been involved with. It's been a privilege to lead and serve with some fantastic people. The opportunity to help start a program that's seen so much growth over the last three years is truly a blessing. I am really going to miss D.C.Y.M. next year!”

Colin Thomas ~ D.C.Y.M. President 2010-11



Colin Thomas ~ D.C.Y.M. President, Baldwin 1st
(orange staff shirt facing us)

Come To Him In 2010 ~ Project Revolution by Marvé Ralston

Come to Him in 2010 was the theme of this year's Project Revolution. This was our third annual Five Rivers District Youth Rally which took place at Lawrence 1st West Campus the weekend of September 11th-12th. There were 170 + youth, sponsors and parents in attendance. This year's District Council of Youth Ministry was largely in charge of planning this event under the direction of the D.C.Y.M. coordinators Tami Clark (Lawrence 1st) and Matt Stuckey (Iola Wesley).

Clark and Stuckey have been coordinating this event and the D.C.Y.M. for the last three years. Much thanks to them for their consistent hard work. We want to thank Lawrence 1st for allowing us to use their preschool classrooms and gym for sleeping areas and the space inside and out of the West Campus for Project Revolution. Also thanks to the parent volunteers who came and helped with guidance and hard work to see that this event went smoothly.

Each year we have seen steady growth with higher youth attendance. This is a great opportunity for those youth who attend a small local church where they might be the only teen in their church. This is a chance for them to get together with a great group of United Methodist Church teens in our district.

The band Cast and Crew did a wonderful job of entertaining for our concert. This led into the worship service which was D.C.Y.M. led. Several youth shared how God has been leading them into their future endeavors. There was a prayer walk, outdoor games, volleyball and plenty of food and snacks. Time was left for forming friendships and fellowshiping with other youth in the district.

This was a lock-in overnight event and after a quick breakfast the youth helped set up for the morning service led by Rev. Mitch Todd. The sermon was Holey-Wholly-Holy. It seemed to fit perfectly with the sharing done the night before. The sanctuary of the West Campus was filled almost to capacity with all the youth added to the normal congregation. Anyone who saw or works with this wonderful group of youth will attest to the fact that God is at work in the Five Rivers District D.C.Y.M. and our local church youth groups.



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Fab Five Fall Festival and Fellowship Event ~ Oct. 30th by Marvé Ralston

What brought over 300 United Methodist laity and clergy to Ottawa 1st on Saturday? The answer is the Fab Five Fall Festival and Fellowship event. The goal was to have a radical worship service, outstanding and motivating speaker, sharing of what is working/ministry in our local churches and a great day of fellowship. Although there is always room for improvement, the weather cooperated and the day was a flurry of fun activities.

Worship began with Rev. January Kiefer (LaCygne/New Lancaster) leading the group with the theme of Living Water. She had artfully decorated the Chancel area with fabric that represented and very realistically left one with the impression of flowing water. She enthusiastically set the tone and mood for meditative worship. Rev. Mitch Todd led us in the singing of hymns. The sound of over 300 United Methodist's joining in song was sweet indeed.

Bishop Robert Schnase who has written *Five Practices of Fruitful Living* and *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* was our guest speaker. He presented questions to ponder on how services, and ministries are currently being done. What is working and why or why not? He gave an example of what had and had not worked with a group he led. They found that the best time to rally a group of college age students was 9 p.m., in someone's home, on a Sunday night with pizza. For most of us that would probably not be our first choice but it worked and grew the group considerably.

Schnase encouraged the study of the unchurched to figure out what would attract them to join us. It began with making it easy for them to attend, not hard. He went on to talk about building personal relationships and not forgetting that it is in the margins that we come into contact with the unchurched. We should use every opportunity to draw and invite others into relationship with God.

We broke for lunch and one group went to the gym for our Festival of Ministry sharing event while the other ate lunch. Local churches were asked to bring posters, pictures, mission trip mementos, and whatever best describes their churches concentration of ministries. Many hours were spent on this and most of our churches were well represented with wonderful ideas to share about what was working for them. There were children's ministries, green ministries, movie night ministry, insightful ways to raise funds for your ministry among just a few ideas. It was hard to take it all in but the excitement was definitely in the air as members of each church shared with one another. The Boogers a local Blue Grass group played soft background music for a true treat for the ears during the festival of sharing time and before worship.

In the afternoon we heard more from Bishop Schnase and many folk went home with notes on how they were going to make changes effective as soon as possible. Cokesbury had several tables set up for those who wanted to purchase books and there are more tools including a bible study guide and DVD set to go along with the books. You can find them online at Cokesbury, www.cokesbury.com. Lonnie Bailey also has *Five Practice of Fruitful Living* books for sale at the KE office for 7.00 a copy if you are in the Topeka area. There are several copies at the district office as well as Several copies of *What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty* for 22.00 per copy.

Much thanks goes to Celia Davis, Mary Thomas, Carolyn Elder, Donna Rayson, Paul Rayson, Five Rivers Youth and Youth Leaders, Brenda Davids, Sara Mitchell, Cheryl Allen, Randy Payne the UMW and other members of Ottawa 1st for their help with this event. Please forgive if I didn't mention someone. There were so many that gave of their time and talents to make this event happen.

This was planned by the Five Rivers District Leadership Team led by Dennis Ackerman, Tom Brady, David Wasserfallen, Becky Stebbins, Carol Milroy, Mary Brooks and Marvé Ralston.

Pictures from the Fab Five Fall Festival and Fellowship Event





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November Clergy Birthdays

Kathy Symes	November 1st
Tom Brady	November 6th
Ira DeSpain	November 12th
Paul Babcock	November 17th
Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman	November 23rd
Gene McIntosh	November 25th
Connie Cox	November 28th

District Church Prayer Calendar

Nov.7	Camp Chippewa
	Rev. Howard Sudduth
Nov.14	Iola Calvary-Salem
	Rev. Gene McIntosh
Nov.21	Fulton
	Pastor Charles Russell
Nov.28	Gridley-Turkey Creek- LeRoy
	Rev. Marcia Eaton

"The mission of the church takes place in the margins."

Bishop Robert Schnase