



November/December 2016
Volume 13 Issue 6

Living Water

A Bi-Monthly Publication of the Five Rivers District

IN THE FALL OF THE YEAR, AS THE DAYS GROW SHORT AND THE AIR CRISP, we enter into Charge Conference season. A season when, rather than staying home to watch football on Sunday afternoons, our faithful clergy and lay leaders gather to conduct the business of the church. I am enjoying our time together—a time for learning, fellowship, and decision-making. It's a good season of the year.

Between Charge Conferences I seem to be traveling quite a bit. Cabinet has met several times already to begin our work with our new bishop, Ruben Saenz. He brings with him considerable skills and gifts of the Spirit as he comes alongside us in this important leadership role. We welcome him gladly.

In early November, I am in Jacksonville, Florida for a national summit of district superintendents and extended cabinets. And just before Thanksgiving I will be in Austin, Texas for a time of continuing education. Our conversation there will be "A Call to Quiet Courage in an Anxious Time." A timely topic in this turbulent election year, don't you think?

The church leader Gil Rendle says:

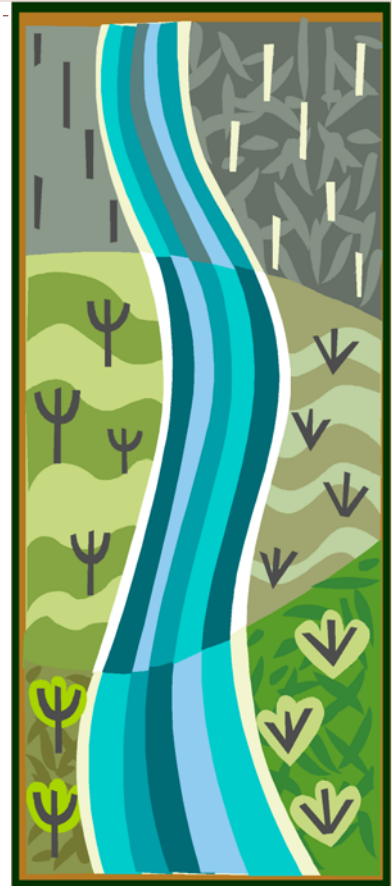
We need a better conversation about courage. The anxiety of the day surrounding the mainline church leads us to want. We quite naturally turn to our leaders wanting energy, clarity, even bombast. Our preference would be for heroics, for solution...indeed, for salvation. We hope for characters larger-than-life with winning arguments and satisfying answers. But courage is not in a heroic voice raising a banner, shouting "follow me!" The quiet courage in an anxious time comes from the leader who more simply keeps an eye on the purpose and who quietly says to those about, "keep moving."

How are you practicing "quiet courage in an anxious time"? It's not easy. But it's what is needful in this season of the church.

"Be strong and of good courage", my brothers and sisters! (Deuteronomy 31.6)

Yours In Christ,

Rev. David Watson



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Interested in riding a comfortable, coach bus to Annual Conference in Grand Island, NE?

Contact
dwelchks@embarqmail.com or the 5R office, approximate cost is around 100.00 per rider. We need firm commitments as soon as possible.

November 2016

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			

Thanksgiving

December 2016

Sun Mo Tue We Th 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 Office Closed



Nov. 2-4 Extended Cabinet Summit: DS is in Jacksonville, FL
Nov. 5th 5-7 pm

Harvest Dinner at Fontana UMC

Everything homemade

Nov. 5th Serving 5-7:30 pm

Richmond United Methodist Church Beef-Noodle Supper

Adults \$8 Kids \$4

(featuring Dunbar Farms beef)

Also Bake Sale and Drawings for Prizes

Nov. 14-16 Continuing DS TMF Group: DS is in Austin, TX

Nov. 19 Round-Up Against Hunger, Lawrence, KS

Nov. 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday, Conference and District Offices closed

Dec. 1 Charge Conference paperwork is due in the 5R office ~ Appointive Recommendation forms are due in the 5R office.

Dec. 7-10 Appointive Cabinet

Dec. 23-Jan 2 5R District Office closed

Jan. 6 Epiphany dinner "Five Rivers Got Talent!" for clergy and their families, retired clergy and spouses ~ Ottawa 1st 6:30 -8:30 p.m.

November Charge Conferences

Nov. 6th

Centenary/Linwood

Central

Eudora

Wellsville/Clearfield

Vinland

Baldwin 1st

Ives Chapel

Edgerton

Worden

Pomona/Vassar

Michigan Valley

3-5 p.m. at Lawrence 1st West Campus

867 Hwy 40, Lawrence, KS

Jan. 8th, 2017

Lawrence 1st

1:30 p.m. at Lawrence 1st West Campus

867 Hwy 40, Lawrence, KS

We have a New Bishop! By *Marvé Ralston*

On September 22nd, the Bishop of the Great Plains, Ruben Saenz (pronounced like Signs), visited Five Rivers District.

He started the day with a tour of some of our churches in the area with the DS, then met the clergy from our district in two different breakout sessions. In the evening there was a reception held in his honor.



Bishop Saenz is moving into his 5th career. He has taught, coached, and had his own business. He served in urban Dallas, Tx, with emphasis on mentoring, reading programs, worked with gang individuals, kids that were considered “throw always,” and health care.

He is trilingual. Growing up he always felt he stood apart. He had to be ok with it.

At one time he had the largest Hispanic congregation in the US.

‘How does he lead? “He is a facilitative leader, Democratic leader, and can be directive and authoritarian. “

“We need a signature mission as the Great Plains Conference” said Bishop Saenz. In Deuteronomy it says, teach the children and seek the welfare of the children. “Children is an emphasis handed down from Bishop Jones ministry. It is a good one. “

“Children are windows into the environment they live in. Jesus put children in the center. Children need to grow up in a situation that teaches them to trust,” he said.

“We are in a time and place where it can be harder to connect to communities. Our laity can connect and know how to do that. We need to equip them to reach those most troubled areas, increase Vital Congregations, help people connect with Christ. We’re in a time and place where the church has a lot to say, about a lot of things. We are the Wesleyan Christian Mission.”

The churches and the conference need to find their emphasis and use “laser beam” focus to help what they are meant to work towards.

When speaking to clergy he said, “Be Christ Centered, Be Excellent. A lot of us are unsupervised. We need to find the internal fortitude to do what is needed for Christ. Be fruitful. Strive for there being more at the end of the day. Fruit is people, children for Christ. Is our ministry accountable and collaborative?” he asked.

Bishop Saenz gets up at 4:30 a.m. each morning. In the morning, he said, there is no one there and he can get things done. He has his devotion time. “Don’t leave the house without doing this”, he said.

“Do your job and trust that others are doing the same. Everyone is a missional strategist,” is the way he ended his first session with our clergy.

Bishop Saenz requests that we pray for him as he takes over the leadership of the Great Plains.

Bishop Saenz talks to 5 Rivers Clergy



Overbrook UMC

Edgerton UMC



We were well represented at
Bishop Saenz's Welcome Reception
Sept. 22, at Ottawa 1st UMC



Barbara Kruger 5R UMW President



Dorothy Welch

Carolyn Elder



Helen Burkett District Lay Leader (middle)
Lee and Carol Milroy



Stand Up Stand Out ~ Project Revolution 2016 By Marvé Ralston

Yet another team of youth took the helm to facilitate our annual youth rally as we celebrated our 8th year in Five Rivers.



The amount of funds available has been up and down depending on the year. The one thing that hasn't changed is the quality of the event.

Many of the youth that begin attending in Junior High are now in leadership positions and help with the planning and implementing process.

The District Youth Council meet many times each year and plan the complete event from scrip-

ture, games, band choice, t-shirt creation, and worship. Every year it is very different, as are the youth participating in it's creation.

The one thing that remains the same; it is focused on sharing the love of Jesus with youth all over our district.

This year we were truly fortunate to have Tony Tillman perform for us.

He is a nationally acclaimed rap artist from Nashville, Tn. Even though he is kind of a big deal, he was very down to earth and was great to spend time getting to know the D.C.Y.M. youth and those that attended our event.

During his concert, he gave his testimony and talked about his personal relationship with Jesus and how that affected his complete life.

Peyton Durand, son of Russ and Eva Durand, created a rap after being encouraged to do so by Tony Tillman, and entertained us during the concert as well as giving his personal testimony.

We look forward to next year's Project Revolution and the youth that will step forward to lead the district.

If you have a child or grandchild in high school that might be interested in D.C.Y.M., please have them contact one of our Youth Coordinators: Tami Clark at tami@fumclawrence.org, or Richard Croll at rcrollo@yahoo.com.

Or call our office and we will make sure they get connected.



Stand Up ~ Stand Out 2016



From Fellowship to Faith to Following – Building Relationships That Lead to Discipleship

By Marvé Ralston

Iola Wesley and the Iola UMW were the hosts of our Fab Five Fall Festival on October 1st. Our guest speaker was Rev. Dr. David Lowes Watson. Youth from Burlington UMC were hospitality greeters. This learning opportunity was a response to a survey that went out to the district in 2015 from the District Leadership Team in Five Rivers. The Leadership team tried to pull together a training event that best met the responses we received from our survey.

We began the day with lively worship lead by Mary Brooks (Lyndon UMC). After a greeting and short message by Rev. Jocelyn Tupper, Iola Wesley, Dr. David Lowes Watson began the 1st session of the day.

The first teaching was on our identity as the church. “Who Are We?”

“We need to get to the depth of our calling and reaffirm it,” encouraged Dr. Watson.



He went on to say, “We tend to shape the church by the standards of society/popular response. We need to be prepared to look ridiculous if that is what the Lord requests.”

“We are called to be a blessing to the world and not a gatekeeper,” he later noted.

“We should become known for telling folks they are doing what God loves, even if they aren’t Christians.” He emphasized.

“Yes, we are born again, but how does that make a difference in how we live?”

The second session was about “forming Christian Disciples”. He talked about a small group format that nurtures discipleship as a craft.” If discipleship is a craft, we cannot afford to lose it.

In the afternoon the Baker University Speech Choir gave a thought provoking talk about what millennials want to see in people of faith with excerpts from the Barna Group studies.

The first afternoon session by Dr. Watson was on “The Church in and for the World.” This was about our primary calling, to announce the coming Reign of God on earth as in heaven. The church is sent to tell the world the good news that Planet Earth is being redeemed in and through Jesus Christ, who will then call others to join us in that proclamation. The flaming center of our ministry is this message, not ourselves as messengers.

We ended the day with “Sharing the Gospel.” He talked about the benefits of small, more intimate groups where we hold each other accountable for spiritual growth and the benefits of mentoring new Christians.

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This process is often laity led, mentoring of new Christians and making sure they grow.

Watson, stressed that there is “cost” to being a disciple. We often use the term disciple too loosely. The General Rules of the United Methodists are easy to understand, but difficult to do.

Dr. David Lowes Watson has written three books that we had available that day.

God Does Not Foreclose: The Universal Promise of Salvation

Covenant Discipleship: Christian Formation through Mutual Accountability

Forming Christian Disciples: The Role of Covenant Disciples and Class Leaders in the Congregation

Fab Five Fall Festival pictures.



*Bishop of the Great Plains
Conference:
Ruben Saenz*

*Five Rivers District
Superintendent:
Rev. Dr. David Watson*

*Newsletter
Editor/Admn.
Assistant:
Marvé Ralston*

We have this Hope as
an anchor for the soul
firm and secure.

Hebrews 6:19

Prayers going up with
thanksgiving for all our
local churches, pastors,
and congregants!

Make plans now! The Bishop's Round-Up Against Hunger Lock-In Registration is NOW OPEN!! We are excited to see you in November :)

The Bishop's Round-up Against Hunger Lock-In will be Nov. 18-19 at Lawrence First UMC West Campus at 6th St (Highway 40) and K-10 (867 Highway 40 Lawrence, KS 66049) beginning at 7 p.m. and will wrap up at 1 p.m. on Nov. 19, at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

The lock-in is for mid-high and high-school youth.

Remember your sleeping gear! Your work gear :) A jacket (it might be chilly in the morning!) Snacks to share (no peanuts please), and \$5/ youth for pizza snack on Friday.). Concessions and other items are available for purchase at the fairgrounds for those who wish to bring additional money. A quick breakfast will be provided Saturday morning.

Youth Leaders, please bring a 2016 Health Form for your youth. (Link to a health form is available during registration!)

One Safe Gatherings Certified Adult must accompany each group of 1-6 youth.

This is a great opportunity for youth to be in service and mission with other youth by participating in youth-led fellowship and worship the evening before and loading and unloading of donated items from area churches and giving back to agencies that serve our communities. We hope you will find this an enriching and rewarding experience!

Adult Leaders can register your groups at

<https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/BishopsRoundUpYouth2016> until November 14th



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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE