



From Your District Superintendent

As we move into the fall it is time to think about Church Conferences and all of the activity that goes along with them. I am again using the Cluster Conference format, but with some changes.

I plan to hold the number of charges in a cluster to no more than three. Most will have only two. There may be an exception or two that have more charges involved, but generally, we will be smaller. I will also be moving the host sites so that we can gather in other churches and enjoy the hospitality and beauty of other settings. This smaller format allows for a greater variety of churches to act as hosts. I am planning to hold individual Church Conferences with churches that have received a new pastor this past July. This allows me to spend time with the SPRC of these churches in order to assess how the new relationships are going.

The plan is to deal with basic administrative issues at the Church Conferences. Pastors will be receiving a packet of information in early September. A reminder that the church budget is to be approved by the Church Board or Council. So, it will not be necessary for the budget to be ready at the time of the conference. Of course, if the budget is ready, it may be presented at the Church Conference.

In our gathering time at Church Conferences we will worship together and celebrate the ministry of our congregations. Our theme this year will be "The Vital Congregation." I am looking forward to these times of fellowship with the churches of the Five Rivers District.

A reminder that I welcome opportunities to be with district churches at other times and in other ways. Preaching, planning retreats, fellowship activities are all possibilities. I have had several opportunities to visit churches in such ways over the past year. Such connections are very helpful for me to experience the life of a church in a different way and to gain a deeper understanding of the church, the people, and the ministries.

Blessings on your ministry and the work that you do to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those around you!

In Christ,

Dennis



Inside this issue:

District Calendar	2
District Prayer Calendar	2
Clergy Birthdays	2
Ives Chapel Clothing Closet Successful Start	3
Leadership Institute registration deadline Sept. 2	4
Laity School of Theology Online Opportunity	4
Quenemo UMC School Supplies Drive picture	4

Special points of interest:

- *September 6th Poverty Simulation at Ottawa 1st, 9 a.m.-noon*
- *September 8th Clergy Meeting at Ottawa 1st, 9 a.m.-noon*
- *September 10-11 Project Revolution, 5Rivers 4th Annual Youth Rally at Lawrence 1st. Prayer Requested for this wonderful district event.*
- *September 18th Vital Congregations Training Event at Garnett UMC 3-5 p.m.*

SEPTEMBER 2011

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	

Schedule of Events

- September 5th ~ Labor Day**
 Conference and District Office Closed.
- September 6th ~ Poverty**
 Simulation at Ottawa 1st all invited
 9 a.m. to noon
- September 8th ~ Clergy Meeting**
 Church Conference schedule and packets will be handed out.
- September 10-11 ~ Project**
 Revolution at Lawrence 1st West
 Campus. 5 p.m.-11:00 a.m. registration required.
- September 12-14 ~ DS at Ex-tended Cabinet Retreat**
- September 15th ~ District Office**
 closed. Marvé vacation day.
- September 18th ~ Vital**
 Congregations training at Garnett UMC
 3-5 p.m.
- September 19 ~ 5R DCOM**
 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. Wellsville UMC
- September 25 ~ Cross Cultural**
 Training at Ottawa 1st 2-7 p.m.

District Prayer Calendar

Sept. 4	Plum Creek Rev. Beth Hodgson
Sept. 11	Louisburg Rev. Donna VotEAU
Sept. 18	Burlington Rev. Pat Buss
Sept. 25	Hiattville Pastor Joni Raymond

September Clergy Birthday

Jerrald Harnden September 5th

"Friendship without self interest is one of the rare and beautiful things in life."
 - James Francis Byrnes



Ives Chapel Clothing Closet Opened August 13 in Baldwin City

By Marvé Ralston

Working in the school district, Cathy Gilges saw a great need for a local clothing closet and had been pondering the details for several years. She wasn't sure how Ives Chapel, a small church in Baldwin City could undertake the daunting mission.

Gilges began thinking about an Ives Chapel sponsored clothing closet seriously after a breakout session at Annual Conference in June of 2010. The discussion triggering the action had been centered on community missions. She brought the idea to the Ives Ad Council in July of 2010, after Annual Conference. She also sought out help from the United Methodist Women's Evening Circle who decided to help with sponsorship. They officially began planning in February of this year. May Gorton, another Ives member, was wonderful support and help in this major endeavor.

The Ives group was proactive with advertizing before the Baldwin City Wide Garage Sale in June, volunteering to be a drop off for any unsold clothes that people wanted to donate. "The response was wonderful," commented Gilges. "We have had people calling ever since to donate items." "We have been amazed at the overwhelming support of this mission." "In the future, we would like to invite other churches to come and help with set-up and take down along with the day of the giveaways."

One definite labor intensive project was setting up for the first time. "We had all seasons of clothing before our first giveaway but chose to hold back the coats, hats, gloves and heavy clothing for our October Winter Giveaway." said Gilges.

Their main focus for the first giveaway was back-to-school clothing. They mostly gave away summer and fall clothing. Socks and underwear were donated by the Ives congregation. "Everyone has to have new underwear and socks for the beginning of school," Gilges reminded with a smile.

Shoes have been a big commodity. A Baldwin school social worker requested several pair, as duct tape was being used to hold the students shoes together at that time "It is very hard to think that a child is wearing shoes like that to school every day." "That does nothing for their self esteem," commented Gilges.

They are hoping to develop a fund in the future to purchase things like this throughout the year when situations come up and there is an immediate need.

When asked about pitfalls, Gilges said she felt bad having to ask their small congregation to provide the new socks and underwear. She was not surprised however at how they came through and provided them at their Undies and Sock It Sunday's. Another situation they are working through is storage which is always a premium in churches.



Looking into the near future, Ives Chapel has plans to have clothing giveaways four times a year; Back to School, Winter, Spring and Summer. The next clothing giveaway will be October 22nd from 8 a.m. to noon. Set-up for that event will be October 19th and 20th. Anyone interested in helping can call Cathy at 785-594-2371.

Community response was absolutely amazing with 35 families coming through each Saturday.



District Office Address:

3300 Clinton Parkway Court, Suite 110

Lawrence, KS 66047-2629

785-841-4804

Kansas Bishop: Scott Jones

District Superintendent:

Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Administrative Assistant,

Newsletter Editor:

Marvé Ralston

E-mail: office@5riversds.com

Website: 5riversds.com



Quenemo UMC members

Mary Jo Carswell, Florence Lewis, and Loren Gray with Rev. Jim Stigall. Getting ready to deliver school supplies to students in need after Quenemo's annual School Supplies drive.

Leadership Institute, Sept. 28-30

The early-bird registration for Leadership Institute is Sept. 2. Registrations are coming in earlier this year, so potential attendees are encouraged to register as soon as possible in order and increase the chances of getting to attend desired workshops.

The annual event will be Sept. at United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood.

Get information and register at www.cor.org/li2011

Saint Paul Laity School of Theology fall session

Laity School of Theology, sponsored by Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, provides interactive Saturday sessions for laity. The fall schedule is:

Sept. 24, The Fifth Gospel: The Land of Israel

St. Jerome once said that the land of Israel was the "Fifth Gospel." This session will explore the geographical and cultural features of Israel, as well as archaeological discoveries, and how this contributes to a better understanding of biblical narratives and images.

Oct. 22, Alcoholism and the People of God

Alcohol and other addictions impact quite a number of people, many of them in the church. This session will examine why alcohol is cunning, baffling and powerful.

Nov. 12, What's Christianity without Hell?

Rob Bell's new book, "Love Wins," takes on the perennial question of life after death and stirred up a storm of controversy. This seminar will explore biblical portrayals of hell using Bell's book as a starting point for an engaging, substantive conversation.

Get more information at www.spst.edu/Laity.

If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

- Mother Teresa

