



News From Your DS

A lot of things are happening in the Conference, in the Great Plains area, and in the Five Rivers District. I hope that you are staying informed and helping to communicate these events and activities to your congregations.

One of the big things coming for the 5R district is our Fab Five event on October 6th. Again we are inviting every church in the district to bring a display of a ministry that the church is doing to help further the ministry of Jesus Christ in your area of service. The overarching theme for the day will be evangelism and outreach. While you do not need to focus on a ministry of outreach or evangelism specifically for your display, if you want to highlight an activity that has proven effective for your church in bringing people to Christ, feel free to tell us about it.

Our guest speak for the day will be Debi Nixon. Debi is a staff member at the Church of the Resurrection and co-author with Adam Hamilton of the book: "Catch." Her work focus is on effective ways to do the work of evangelism. Debi has worked with churches of every size and in many different environments. I am looking forward to hearing her ideas about this core aspect of the life of any church.

Please share this date and this information with the people of your church. We had a wonderful time a couple of years ago celebrating our district and the ministries of our congregations. Let's make this one just as special and enjoy the fellowship, learning, and encouragement of being together on October 6th.

See the registration information located in this newsletter to sign-up folks from you church to be a part of our gathering. I believe that the Spirit of God will move through us as we are together in the name of Jesus Christ and as we celebrate being the Church together! See you there!

In Christ,

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Bishop of the Great Plains Episcopal Area:

Scott Jones

District Superintendent:

Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Admn. Assistant/Newsletter Editor

Marvé Ralston

September 2012

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						

September Events

Sept: 3rd ~ Labor Day, Conference and District Offices Closed

Sept. 8-9 ~ Project Revolution, District Youth Rally at Worden UMC

Sept. 9th ~ DS to preach at Williamsburg UMC 10:00 am service

Sept. 9th ~ Imagine No Malaria informational workshop at Garnett UMC
3-4:30 p.m., see pg. 5

Sept. 10-12 ~ Cabinet Retreat DS in Nebraska

Sept. 14-21 ~ District Office closed Marvé is on vacation

Sept. 17th ~ District Committee on Ministry at Wellsville 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Sept. 22nd ~ District UMW Fall Event at Baldwin 1st UMC, 9:00 am-noon Registration due Sept. 15th, cost 5.00, Treasurer Marge Davis 913-893-6260, PO Box 451, Edgerton, KS 66021-6260

Sept. 27th ~ District Leadership Team at Worden UMC, 7 pm

Sept. 28th ~ Registration due for Fab Five Event, see pg. 4



Please Pray for Project Revolution and our Fab Five Fall Festival and Fellowship

October 6th ~ Fab Five Fall Festival and Fellowship

District Prayer Calendar

Sept. 2 Uniontown/Redfield
Pastor Joel Dunn

Sept. 9 Parker/Beagle/Fontana
Rev. Marti McDougal

Sept. 16th Waverly /Prairie View
Rev. Dr. Nancy Liston

Sept. 23

Clearfield

Rev. Lane Bailey

Sept. 30

Melvern/Quenemo

Pastor Alex Bruening

“Do not make prayer a monologue-make it a conversation.”

Author Unknown

Bishop Jones Speaks at Clergy Meeting By Marvé Ralston

Bishop Jones spoke to the Five Rivers district clergy on August 16th. It was our first to have him speak after the announcement of his new appointment, Bishop of the Great Plains Episcopal Area. Jones will be serving three conferences from Sept. 1, 2012, through Jan. 1, 2014, when the Kansas East, Kansas West and Nebraska conferences become one new conference to match the geography of the Episcopal area.

Bishop Jones began by saying that this transitional time is a good opportunity to become better and to strengthen our local churches. It's a good time to evaluate what we already do well and raise it several notches. "How will that look?" he questioned.

Bishop asked questions regarding local church ministry and gave advice.

"Every ministry carried on in the church should be feeding into and inviting people into relationship with Christ," he said.

"How many of you have led someone to Christ in the last 12 months?" he asked.

"Is your church a mission station or a club?" Bishop continued. "In most communities half of all people are un-churched. We need to be talking to the un-churched and not just being a chaplain to members. That is a Country Club mentality," he reiterated.

Bishop asked district clergy to think about several key ideas. "How do I as a missional pastor, minister to the un-churched?"

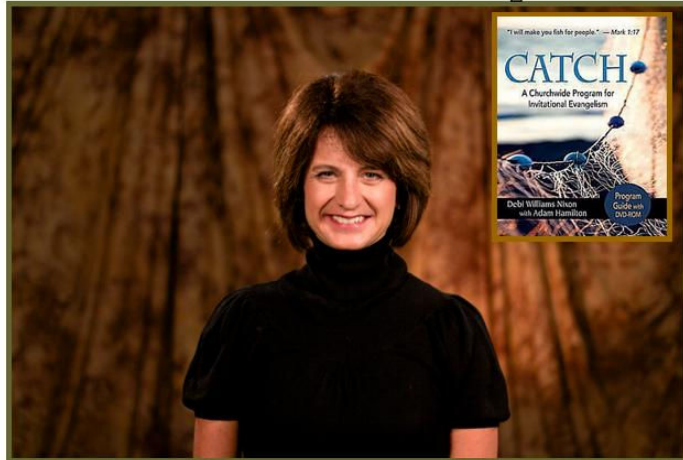
Church vitality should be measurable. "Under your leadership, will the church be more vital when you leave?" he questioned.

We should be working on intentional faith development. "Christians go to church; they interact in several small groups, one of which is an accountability group; Christians tithe," Bishop shared.

"Pick good leaders," he stressed. "The behavior of leaders sets the tone for the whole church."

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Fab Five Fall Festival and Fellowship 2012



Schedule

Registration and Booth Set Up	9:00-9:45 a.m.
Worship	10:00-10:45
Break	10:45-11:00
View Booths and eat lunch	11:00-12:25
Debi Nixon Guest Speaker	12:30-2:00

Guest Speaker *Debi Williams Nixon*
Co-Author with Adam Hamilton of
Catch a Church Wide Program for
Invitational Evangelism

**Join Us Saturday October 6th
at Worden UMC**

3.4 miles west of the intersection of 59 hwy and 56 hwy. Worden UMC is on the South side.

Registration for Fab Five Event due Sept. 28th

Cost is 10.00 per attendee and includes lunch
provided by the Worden UMW and the workshop by Debi Nixon

Name: _____

Address: _____

Church: _____

E-mail: _____



Send to: Five Rivers District Office, 3300 Clinton Parkway Ct. Suite 110, Lawrence, KS 66047-2629
Phone: 785-841-4804 E-mail: office@5riversds.com Website: 5riversds.com

Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go By Adam Hamilton

Book review by Marvé Ralston

I will admit that the title caught me first. Having read many books on forgiveness I was curious to see what this one had to offer that was different. Adam's book on forgiveness begins with Psalms 32:1-5.

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

My strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

You are gripped right from the beginning with God's mercy and forgiveness for *us*. It is a great starting point and reminder of why we too must forgive, and how it is central to the theme of Christianity.

There are four chapters, the first dealing with our own "straying from the path" and God's forgiveness. He uses a backpack and carrying different sizes of pebbles to stones around, as an illustration of what we all carry in terms of both unforgiveness and sin that is quite powerful. Through it all, he continues to show how God has already made provision for our personal forgiveness and reconciliation to him. He wants us to give him the "baggage".

The second chapter deals with relationships and how even the small things can add up over time and weigh us down as we figuratively carry it around. In this chapter he further discusses the medium to largest areas where we can encounter hurt and hurt one another. He gives the six most important words for relationships to work, "I am sorry" and "I forgive you".

Chapter three begins with Matthew 18:21-24. You know the scripture where Peter asks God how many times we are to forgive our brother? He talks about the serious subject of forgiveness and how it differs from condoning. "Forgiveness means letting go of the right to retribution," he shares. He covers consequences and even the tough subject of what to do if the offending party has or will not repent and seek forgiveness. This is tough stuff.

Joseph is the starting point of chapter four. In this chapter, Adam uses Joseph's long lineage of dysfunction to begin this wonderful story of forgiveness and redemption. This chapter is primarily about family and some of the problems we all bring into our adult lives that begin in our family of origin. He ends the chapter by reminding us that Jesus was a stonemason. The houses in his day were made of stone. When we place our stones in his hands, he can begin to work/chip away and turn them into something beautiful.

The epilogue reiterates the serious nature of forgiveness and the power it holds in our relationships and our ability to live into "Imago Dei" or mirroring God's image and purpose for our lives.

I recommend this book. It is an easy read and worthy of study. You can purchase the tools to turn it into a 4 week bible study with a DVD and guide. Both are available at www.cokesbury.com.

You Are Invited ~ Please Come

Imagine No Malaria Informational Meeting led by Ashley Gish Field Coordinator

Garnett UMC, 124 W Oak, Garnett

Sunday, September 9th, 3-5 p.m.

Take Time to Save Lives

Every 60 seconds, malaria claims another innocent life in Africa. Malaria is responsible for 655,000 deaths each year, yet it is a preventable, treatable and beatable disease. With your help, we are empowering the people of Africa to overcome malaria's burden through prevention, treatment, communication and education. Learn more about how The United Methodist Church is fighting malaria and find out to get your local congregation involved by visiting ImagineNoMalaria.org



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Suite 110
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On September 2nd we are asked to keep Bishop Jones in our prayers as he begins his appointment in the new Episcopal Area.



Bishop Jones talks to the district clergy at Ottawa 1st UMC.

Several times Bishop Jones reminded us of our mission statement taken from General Conference. "The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."