



## From Our DS

IN MY TRAVELS AROUND THE DISTRICT, and in my conversations with clergy and lay leadership, I hear lots of stories of effective ministry. Food pantries, clothes closets, backpacks for local school children, community meals, advocacy for the marginalized and forgotten—testimonies to the vitality of the Wesleyan witness to the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

But I also hear tales of frustration. Discouraging words such as: “Our numbers are dwindling.” “We don’t have any young people anymore.” “People take advantage of the helpful things we do, but they don’t come back for Sunday morning.” Sound familiar?

While there are no easy answers and quick fixes for the challenges we face as a church, I believe there are some simple ways we can connect with our communities and be more welcoming. I believe it has everything to do with finding our voice. Here’s an example:

I remember a congregation that was well-known in their part of town for a huge Fall Festival event around Halloween. Hundreds and hundreds of families with billions and billions of children came to and through the church’s building for fun, games and a sugar high. But there was no mention of the church, or Jesus, or worship times, or, well, you get the picture. That church had lost its voice! It was doing good things, but not speaking the good word. It was walking the walk but not talking the talk. And it takes both if we are to be the most effective witness for Christ we can be.

Our Fab Five Fall Festival on October 1 in Iola (there’s an article somewhere else in this newsletter about it) will be a great opportunity to discover ways of better connecting with our communities and finding our voice of witness. We will continue the conversation at our cluster charge conferences as we look at the Fifth Element of our membership vows: Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and **WITNESS**. Let’s keep doing the good works which serve others in Christ’s name. But let’s not neglect to speak the GOOD WORD which bears witness to our faith in Christ—and invites others to faith too.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. David Watson

### Inside this issue:

District Calendar	2
Meet the Bishop	3
Half Truths by Adam Hamilton	4
Fab Five Fall Festival	5
Welcome dinner held for new	6
Prayer Calendar	7
Clergy Birthdays	8


# September 2016

SU	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	

- ♦ Sept. 1-6 District Office Closed
- ♦ Sept. 10-11 **Project Revolution 5R Youth Rally**
- ♦ Sept. 10 Five Rivers UMW Fall Meeting  
Yates Center UMC, 8:30 a.m. - Noon, 5.00 reg.
- ♦ Sept. 11 DS preaches at Garnett and Greeley
- ♦ Sept. 15-18 Appointive and Extended Cabinet
- ♦ Sept. 18-21 Cabinet Mission Retreat ~ Mulvane
- ♦ Sept. 19 Eudora UMW Salad Supper 6 p.m.
- ♦ Sept. 22 Clergy Meet the Bishop 2-5 p.m.  
Ottawa 1st UMC, **Laity Meet the Bishop 6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**All district laity are invited. See flyer on page 3.**
- ♦ Sept. 19-23 District Office Closed
- ♦ **Oct. 1st Fab Five Fall Festival at Iola Wesley**  
See flyer on page 5, we need numbers by Sept. 16
- ♦ Oct. 4-5 PAUMCS meeting in Lincoln, NE
- ♦ **Oct. 2 Cluster Conference at Burlington**  
3-5 p.m. Burlington, Gridley/Turkey Creek, Waverly/Prairie View, Yates Center/Neosho Falls
- ♦ Oct. 9 DS preaches at Overbrook
- ♦ **Oct. 9 Cluster Conference at Louisburg**  
3-5 p.m. Louisburg, Paola, Plum Creek, Osawatomie/Lane, Parker/Beagle/Fontana, LaCygne/New Lancaster Pleasanton/Prescott
- ♦ Oct. 9 DS Preaches at Burlington
- ♦ **Oct. 16 Cluster Conference at Iola: Wesley**  
3-5 p.m. Wesley/Calvary, Salem, Colony, Mildred/Elsmore, Humboldt/Big Creek, Kincaid Selma/Welda, Garnett/Greeley
- ♦ **Oct. 23 Cluster Conference at Ottawa 1st**  
3-5 p.m. Ottawa 1st, Overbrook, Michigan Valley, Vassar/Pomona, Trinity/Richter, Lyndon, Melvern/Quenemo, Union Chapel/Williamsburg, Richmond/Princeton
- ♦ Oct. 30 DS preaches at Moran/Bronson
- ♦ **Oct. 30 Cluster Conference at Fort Scott 1st**  
Fort Scott 1st, St Johns/Hammond/West Liberty, Uniontown/Redfield, Hiattville, Fulton, Mapleton, Moran/Bronson, Mound City/Blue Mound
- ♦ **Nov. 6 Cluster Conference at Lawrence (West) Campus**  
Centenary/Linwood, Central, Eudora, Wells-ville/Clearfield, Vinland, Baldwin 1st, Ives Chapel, Edgerton, Worden
- ♦ Nov. 13 DS preaches at Salem

# October 2016

SU	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					



Please join us! We have a new Bishop in the Great Plains. Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr and his wife Maye are joining us from the Rio Texas Conference.

Please join us for a come and go reception to welcome them.


## *Meet the new Bishop*

September 22nd from 6:30 –8:30 p.m.

Ottawa 1st UMC

203 East Fourth St

Ottawa, KS



Refreshments courtesy of the  
Ottawa 1st UMW and the  
Five Rivers District

## Half Truths by Adam Hamilton book review by Marve' Ralston

This book begins its first chapter with a doozy of a title, ***Everything Happens for a Reason***. Adam goes over Calvinism and Deism in some detail. He discusses prevenient grace and John Wesley; to come to a middle ground between a "micromanaging" versus an "absent landlord," Heavenly Father. He uses scripture throughout the book.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Adam talks about Paul's word to the Christian Community and what was *not* being said by that verse.

There are examples of families who have gone through unmentionable pain. They give their take on suffering. It is raw, real, and pondering a lot like this imperfect world we live in.

Chapter 2 of the book is titled, ***God Helps Those That Help Themselves***. Adam doesn't even call this a half truth; he calls this, a third truth. Adam sites the *Ora et labora*, this is a Latin phrase used by Benedictine monks which means, "Pray and work."

He goes on to explain another facet of this, where grace is needed. "Grace is not something we earn, buy or work for. We cannot help ourselves into grace. We can only ask for and accept it."

Times we are so deep in sin or due to our circumstances, are in a hopeless state. We literally cry out to God for our strength.

Psalms 18:6 In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.

You get the gist of the "half truths". Adam breaks each one down and gives scripture to back things up.

This book will make you rethink the easy platitudes we all have said from time to time to help others or even ourselves get through things.

Below are the additional chapter titles.

Chapter 3 is, God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle.

Chapter 4 is God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles it.

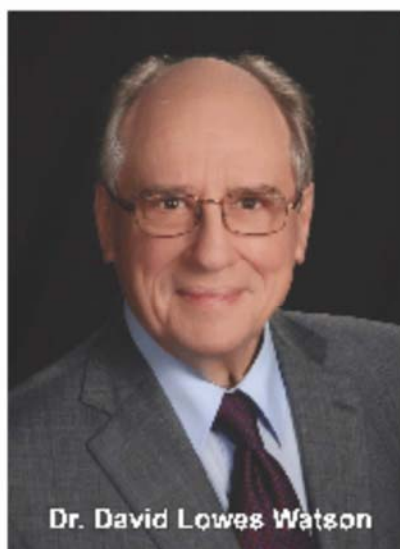
Chapter 5 is Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin.

I think this book is a very good read. I'm having my dad read it and he is giving me feedback as well. Coming from an almost 85-year-old, I'm gleaning some additional wisdom to add to my reading.

This book would make an excellent bible study. Adam backs his word up with scripture and incites you to ponder preconceived thoughts. As always happens to me when I pick up one of his books, Adam Hamilton doesn't disappoint.



Helping our members/congregations discover ways of welcoming  
and connecting our neighbors to a life with Christ.



Dr. David Lowes Watson

# From Fellowship to Faith to Following

Building Relationships That Lead to Discipleship

## Saturday, October 1st, 2016

Iola Wesley UMC, 301 East Madison, Iola, KS 66749

**Event is Free - Registration is 9:30-10:00**

**10-11 :30 Session 1 with Dr. Watson**

**11 :30-12:15 Lunch** - free will offering to cover the cost.

Any funds that come in over the cost of the food will go to the Iola United Methodist Women who are putting the boxes together and serving us that day.

**12:15-2:30 Session 2 begins with the Baker Speech Choir, then Dr. Watson**

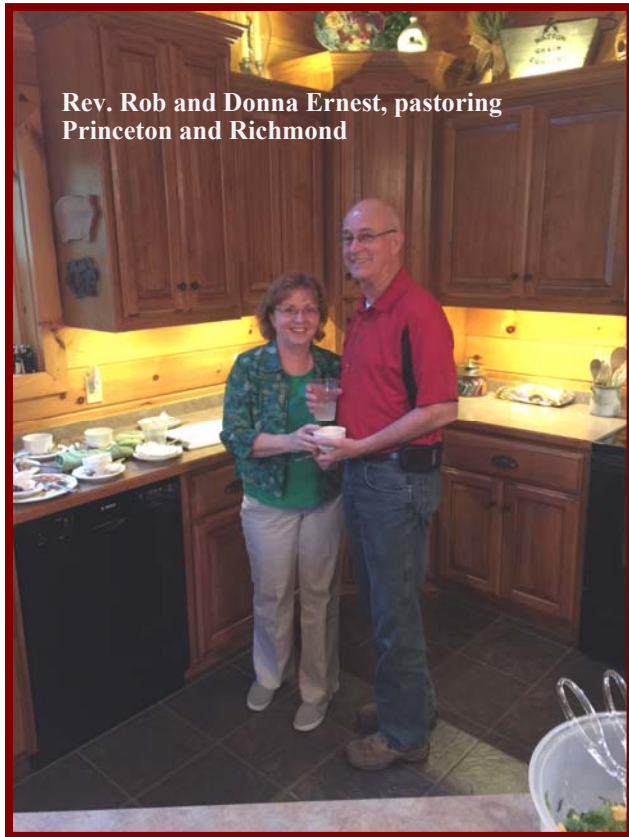
There is no cost to attend this event sponsored by the Five Rivers District. We hope to have a great turnout to hear our guest speaker who was specifically selected by the District Leadership Team to provide inspirational training for our local churches.

- CEU is available for 3 hours contact credit. You will need to send in the request to our office by Sept. 12th so we can have certificates ready that day.
- Childcare will be available but we need to know numbers for that by Sept. 12th as well. This enables us to have Safe Gatherings folk to provide childcare that day.
- If you plan to attend, please let your pastor or our office know. We will need approximate numbers by September 16th for food planning and to have any printed materials ready for that day.

Contact our office for more information. Five Rivers District, 3300 Clinton Parkway Ct,  
Suite 110, Lawrence, KS 66047-2629, 785.841.4804 or  
[5riversdistrict@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:5riversdistrict@greatplainsumc.org)



Join us in welcoming some of our new pastors in Five Rivers District. They attended a welcome dinner at the home of David and Karen Watson on Aug. 28th.



Rev. Rob and Donna Ernest, pastoring Princeton and Richmond



Karen Watson, wife of our District Superintendent

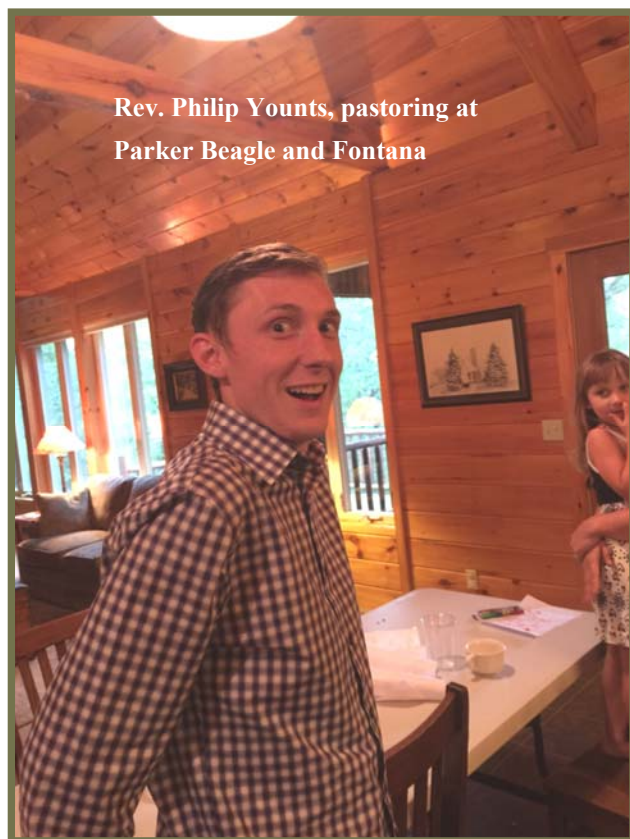


Sam Wheeler son of Rev. Brad and Melissa Wheeler



Rev. Brad and Melissa Wheeler and daughter Emma, pastoring Louisburg





## Prayer Calendar

Sept. 4	Michigan Valley	Pastor Scott Dickinson
Sept. 11	Elsmore/Mildred	Pastor Ralph Peters
Sept. 18	Lawrence: Central	Pastor Piet Knetsch
Sept. 25	Burlington	Pastor Scott Hannon
Oct. 2	Worden	Pastor Changsu Kim
Oct. 9	Waverly/Prairie View	Pastor Ron Bell
Oct. 16	Lawrence: 1st	Pastor Tom Brady and Associate Pastor Kathy Williams
Oct. 23	Humboldt/Big Creek	Pastor Marge Cox
Oct. 30	Yates Center/Neosho Falls	Pastor Javier Rios

**Please keep our youth in your prayers on Sept. 10-11 for our Project Revolution Youth Rally**

Contact Us  
3300 Clinton Parkway Ct , Suite 110  
Lawrence, KS  
66047-2629  
785.841.4804  
5riversds.com

**Bishop:**

Ruben Saenz

**District Superintendent:**

Rev. David Watson

**Administrative Assistant/Newsletter  
Editor**

Marve' Ralston

**Five Rivers District: Cultivating Christian Discipleship and Supporting the Local Church**

***Clergy Birthdays for September and October***

Tom Mullins	9/23
Lori Stevens	9/24
Dorothy Welch	9/27
David Watson	10/1
Don Flanner	10/21

**Please save this date:**

***5 R Clergy Epiphany Dinner on January 6th, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.***

***Ottawa 1st UMC (this includes retired clergy/spouses living in our district)***

Please contact our office by Dec. 1, if you are able to attend for catering purposes.

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—**meditate on these things.**