

Connectional Ministries Council

E-Newsletter September 2009

As we make disciples for Jesus Christ, the Kansas West Conference

Calls God's people to:

INVITE through radical hospitality

EXCITE for intentional faith-sharing

UNITE in risk-taking mission

For the transformation of the world.

Linda Louderback, Director — llouderback@kswestumc.org

REFLECTIONS FROM LINDA

From Leading Ideas – Lewis Center for Church Leadership

Most pastors and other leaders who are stiff and distant are not that way because they are evil people. In the vast majority of cases, they are good-hearted people who really want to please God, but they are following the only ministry model they have ever seen: wearing masks and playing roles. But the mask of the completely competent, always in control, never-bothered leader hides the real, flesh-and-blood person who, no matter how spiritually mature he or she may be, struggles with the pain, complexity, and fears of being human. The mask tells people, 'I'm okay. Don't mess with me. You may need me, but I don't need you.' The mask has the look of authority and power—and distance.

Program Ministries – Bev Weber, bweber@kswestumc.org

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Each year at Annual Conference, awards and recognitions are presented in a number of areas to laity, clergy and churches. The awards include the Denman Evangelism Awards, Mission Church Awards, Healthy Congregations Recognition, Creation Care Awards and Communication Awards. Information and related nomination forms are available on the conference Web site, www.kswestumc.org. Also awarded is the Welcoming Church Certification with information available at www.rethinkchurch.org. Kansas West churches recently awarded this certification include Argonia UMC and Winfield Grace UMC. Mulvane UMC has received its second certification.

Discipleship Ministries – Dennis Wallace, dwallace@asburychurch.org

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Fall is here. (Not that I'm wearing pants yet ... still shorts.) But the air is getting cooler, the students are back in school, and the youth workers are getting together. Which brings me to my focus:

- Monthly YES Meeting (for any youth worker who wants to gather for worship, training and community).
 - First Thursday of each month, 9:30-Noon, at College Hill UMC in Wichita
- Hays District Youth Worker Training – Oct. 24, 9:00-3:00, First UMC in Hays
- Dodge City District Youth Worker Training – Jan. 30, 10:00-4:00, First UMC, Garden City

- Conference YOUTH WORKER Trainings (for any Youth Worker who wants to hone their mission and vision in ministry)
 - Oct. 19, Dec. 7, Feb. 8, and Apr. 26 – 10:00-4:00, at East Heights UMC, Wichita

The Camping Commission has evaluated this past summer's camping and is thanking God for the ministry that has taken place. Be looking for next year's camp brochures!

Finally, save these 2010 dates

MidWinter Retreat (High School Students) Jan. 22-24

Confirmation (Confirmands/Middle School students) Rally April 9-10

LEAD Camp (Middle School Students) June 7-11

LDW Camp (High School Students) July 19-23

JYMO (Jurisdictional event for middle and high school students) July 6-10

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Could your Christian educators, local church teachers and leaders in your conference use some inspiration, encouragement and learning? If so, you might want to encourage them to look at "iteach", a monthly e-mail newsletter which is archived at <http://www.gbod.org/education/iteach/archives/default.asp>. Recent topics have included learning from life experiences, thinking theologically with youth, and tips on lesson planning

Advocacy Ministries – Connie Wooldridge, pastorconnie@hotmail.com

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

Our first "Lunch and Learn" event was held at the Mid-American All Indian Center, Aug. 20. We had a total of 11 women and men in attendance. The title was "Personal Safety." The demonstrators were officers from the Wichita Police Department. Officer Griggs and Sgt. Bolin demonstrated defense tactics. They are instructors from the Wichita police training center and did a great job showing us moves that could help get away from an attacker. They taught how to be alert, be aware of the people around you, be assertive and trust your instincts. They answered our questions, and we learned quite a bit. We each received an excellent brochure on personal safety. We would like to have a "Lunch and Learn" every quarter. The crime prevention unit of the Wichita Police Department is available by appointment for lectures to groups on these subjects and other subjects. Contact them at 316-268-4101.

Mission Ministries – Mike Rose, pastor@universitychurch-salina.org

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

From Bonnie Laycock, Wichita First UMC - Trip to Peru planned for November

Bonnie Laycock will be leading a mission team to La Merced, Peru, leaving Saturday, Oct. 31, and returning Tuesday, Nov. 10. A team from First UMC in Wichita went to La Merced a few years ago and began work on a parsonage for the pastor of the Methodist church. This year's team will be continuing that work. La Merced is located on the eastern side of the Andes Mountains. The team will fly in to Lima and then take a bus up and over the Andes. The western side of Peru

is dry and desert, but once over the Andes, the land is lush and tropical. La Merced is located near the Amazon area, and the team will be able to visit several Methodist churches located in the jungle area and some of the native tribes. Accommodations in La Merced will be extremely comfortable in a beautiful setting, and food will be prepared for the team. There already are 10 people signed up to go, but there is room for several more. If you feel God is calling you to a mission in Peru and would like more information, please contact Bonnie Laycock at 316-267-6244.

DISASTER RESPONSE

Early Response Team Training

Two financial vehicles are in place for responding to disasters. The **Kansas Area Disaster Relief Fund** has a long history of responding to natural disasters in our state. It provides humanitarian relief to those in need.

The **Rebuilding Kansas Churches Fund** assists congregations whose buildings have been damaged or whose ministries have been disrupted by disaster.

To donate to either of these funds, send checks to the Kansas West Conference office at 9440 E. Boston Suite 110, Wichita, KS 67207. All checks should be payable to the Kansas West Conference and have "Area Disaster Fund" or "Rebuilding Kansas Churches" on the memo line to indicate the purpose of the donation.

Did You Know?

Speakers are available to come to your congregation or event? Names and contact information are below.

- ✚ Rev. Martin Holler, Volunteers In Mission chairperson, 316-648-4327 or martinholler@att.net
- ✚ Paul Burger, conference mission coordinator, piburger@sbcglobal.net
- ✚ Sandy Hendrickson, conference disaster response coordinator, disasterresponse@fairpoint.net or
- ✚ Rev. Keith Fink, chairperson, conference Disaster Response Committee, kumcpastor@sctelcom.net or 620-825-4933

Upcoming Events – Information available on the conference calendar, www.kswestumc.org

BLAST 2009 – Building Leaders And Sunday School Teachers hosted by Salina University UMC and the Northern Kansas CEF Cluster, Oct. 17, 2009, Salina University UMC

BOUNDARY AWARENESS TRAINING DATES

Oct. 10 – Liberal St. Paul UMC

Oct. 11 – Dodge City First UMC

Nov. 7 – Great Bend First UMC - Boundary Awareness Trainer Training. Current certification is required. Training will be limited to 12 people.

Nov. 14 – Newton Trinity UMC - Connectional Ministries Council

THE ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Perhaps there is no greater need right now in the United Methodist Church than the need for spiritual leaders. We need clergy and laity who have the courage to lead the Church with compassion and wisdom. We need leaders with spiritual

depth and personal resources to persevere against the principalities and powers. And we need people with a deepening love and abiding faith in the Triune God.

Since 1983, Upper Room Ministries has offered The Academy for Spiritual Formation® as an in-depth experience in Christian spiritual formation for clergy and laity. This letter is to announce that a two-year Academy (#31) will be starting in July 2010 in the South Central Jurisdiction. Also enclosed is information about the **matching grant program**, which will provide up to \$5,000 to help individuals from your Conference participate.

The Academy is an intense, two-year program that brings participants together for 40 days (five days each quarter) for worship, silence, covenant groups and study. Sixteen courses form the backbone of the Academy; worship and small groups shape its heart and soul. Once called “the best kept secret in the United Methodist Church,” an independent research study funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment confirms its effectiveness. Participants emerge with a deeper relationship with God, a better sense of self- and soul-care and more creativity and freedom for the practice of ministry.

While ecumenical in outreach, the Academy is Wesleyan in spirit, balancing an emphasis upon personal and social holiness. During the first year, emphasis is placed on deepening one’s life in Christ; during the second year, participants are encouraged to focus on engaging the needs of the world. Disciplines of body (health and wellness) as well as mind and spirit (lectures and worship) provide renewed vitality on many levels.

This is an expensive and time-demanding program. That’s why we developed the **matching grant program**, which we call **Encouraging Spiritual Leaders (ESL)**. Here’s how it works.

We ask you to identify up to five people in your conference (clergy or lay) whom you feel could benefit from this program and who would be a benefit to others. After they’ve applied and been accepted into the Academy (usually routine), the Upper Room will match the Conference support up to \$5000 per Conference. You are free to select the individuals using whatever process you wish.

Academy #31 begins July 26, 2010. All sessions will be at the Oblate Renewal Center in San Antonio, Texas. More information about the Academy, including the dates for all eight sessions, is available on our website

www.upperroom.org/academy.

Please check the conference calendar for various training courses and meetings.

What can we do for you? . . . OR . . . How can you help us?

Since our United Methodist Church is whole only when we are connected through Christ and working as God’s hands and feet in ministry together for the betterment of humanity, what stories can you tell as we are in ministry together? Do you have folks in your community whose lives have been changed because of a church event or group? Were you or someone you know changed by attending church camp?

Share your stories by contacting one of the people in the above ministry areas. Our goal is to have this newsletter every month, and the more stories the better. Thanks in advance for sharing God’s love with others in our conference.

Please share this newsletter with those in your congregation or agency.