

C/HP Messenger

Volume 5 Issue 6

June 2011

This Month's Events

Monday, June 6
FCC, Kinsley
GBS Clergy Cluster

Thursday, June 9
United Church, Kensington
CN Clergy Cluster

Tuesday, June 14
Village Inn, Colby
HPN Clergy Cluster

Wednesday, June 15
FCC, Garden City
HPS Clergy Cluster

Thursday, June 16
FCC, Salina
MK Clergy Cluster

Currents in the Stream

June? Already!? Where has the time gone?

For me, the time has been spent caring for and nurturing pastors and future pastors through clergy cluster meetings; meetings of the committees on commissioned ministers and for the order of ministry; boundaries training; mentoring a couple of commissioned ministers through their Disciples History and Polity course, Spiritual Direction sessions; and the post Easter Clergy Retreat. The time has also been spent caring for congregations through consultations with the pastoral search committees from six congregations, congregational leaders on a variety of subjects, engaging men from the Central District and High Plains District in conversations about Christian faith, doing some pulpit supply when pastors needed to be gone, and leading a workshop at Central District Assembly. Then there was the annual Spiritual Retreat that nurtures the faith journeys of both clergy and lay alike.

As we enter June, that means church camping season is upon us. This is perhaps one of the most effective region-wide faith nurturing ministries we do together. These efforts have been guided for more than a decade by our Deputy Regional Minister, Steve Martin, and have been overseen and led by an army of volunteers from all over the region. Few things we do together have the same impact on a young person's life as a week in church camp. A couple of years ago, one teen closed out a week at camp by sharing that they learned they no longer needed to cut themselves anymore, because they now knew they were truly loved. Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of pastors first heard their call to ministry while at church camp.

The second thing that lays before us is our common response to the natural disasters that have struck our country recently. From the flooding along the Mississippi, to the tornadoes that have hit a number of communities, the most devastating of which were the tornadoes that hit Joplin. Currently the best thing we can do at this time is to keep the communities affected by weather in our prayers and to make donations to Week of Compassion. An immediate response of mission trips could overwhelm the resources of the communities we are trying to help, but in the coming months as the infrastructure comes back in place there will be opportunities to join with others and work side by side to bring communities back from the destruction. If you are interested in participating in such a trip, please let your pastor know and have them pass this information on to the regional staff. We will be looking at how we can organize ourselves to help out Joplin and other places.

Third, this July is when we have the opportunity to gather with others from all over the United States and Canada and other places to find encouragement, as well as being equipped for doing ministry in our communities. We gather in Nashville, TN. We will share stories of our lives and ministries. We will hear the stories of how we are making a difference in the lives of others around the world. We will worship together, and we will have opportunities to do work in the Nashville community to help people in need.

Finally, as I look to the rest of the year, I see myself continuing to spend time nurturing and supporting ministers, but I will also be involved with lay members of our congregations at the Men's Retreat which features Sotello Long as our retreat facilitator. My colleague on regional staff, Barb Runge, has been working with the Disciples Women's cabinet in preparation for the Women's Retreat. There will be the annual Camp Gala and meetings for the Committees on Commissioned Ministry, Order of Ministry, and for Boundaries Training, clergy cluster meetings, and visits with search and call committees.

All this keeps me on the road a lot, but to be honest, the travel is not burdensome. I am honored and blessed to be about this work with you and among you. I have seen God doing amazing things through you and I really can't wait to see what God might do through you next.

Ken

Ken's June Calendar

1-2 Office
3 Day Off
4 Office
5 Church Visit, Phillipsburg
& Timothy Lister Ordination, Topeka
6 GB/S Clergy Cluster, Kinsley
7-8 Office
9 CN Clergy Cluster, Kensington
10 Office
11 Day Off
12 125th Anniversary Celebration, Colby
13 Office
14 HPN Clergy Cluster, Colby
15 HPS Clergy Cluster, Garden City
16 MK Clergy Cluster, FCC, Salina
17 Day Off
18 Office
19 Church Visit, Great Bend
20-21 Office
22 Regional Staff Mtg., Disciples Center
23 Spiritual Priority Mtg., McPherson
24 Day Off
25 Office
26 Church Visit, FCC, Hutchinson
27-30 Office

Schedule is subject to change.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

June 2-4 Primary 1 Camp, Disciples Center
June 3 KDW Exec. Comm.,
June 4 KDW Cab. Mtg.,
June 6-11 CYF Conf.-Alpha, Disciples Center
June 13-18 Chi Rho 1 Camp, Disciples Center
June 19-26 KCYF Mission Week, Kentucky
June 23 Spiritual Priority Mtg., McPherson
June 25 KDW Retreat Planning, McPherson
June 27-29 Primary 2 Camp, Disciples Center
June 30-July 2 Grand Camp, Disciples Center

This newsletter is sponsored by the Central High Plains Districts Office of the Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ). The office is located at 5230 Broadway Ave., Great Bend, KS 67530. Phone: 620-792-6490. Kathy Foster is the editor.

BOUNDARIES TRAINING 2011

July 30 at Woodridge Christian Church in Wichita,

or August 4 at the Regional Office in Topeka

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00

The topic of "Clergy Boundaries" is a crucial and timely one in today's society. All members of the clergy (and all church lay leaders) should be informed about such legal and ethical issues as they relate to the church and ministry. This year's focus is on the Ministerial Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines for Congregations.

Did you know...

... two congregations in the High Plains District are celebrating their 125th Anniversary! FCC, Dighton on May 29th and FCC, Colby on June 12th?

... Amy Foster, Children/Youth Pastor at PPCC, Hutchinson, completed her Master's degree in Christian Ministry Specialization in Family Ministry?

... Angela DeVore has completed her Master's of Arts in Missional Church?

... that the General Assembly for the Christian Church Disciples of Christ begins in Nashville, TN on July 9th?

... Team2 will focus on Stewardship as a lifestyle and will feature Bruce Barhauer from our General Church offices?

... the Camp Gala is 17 weeks away, the Men's Retreat is only 18 weeks away, and the Women's Retreat is a mere 20 weeks away?

CHURCHES PRAYING FOR CHURCHES

June 5 - Christian Church, Sawyer
Bob Gilpin, Pastor
June 12 - First Christian Church, Smith Center
Linda Kemp, Interim Pastor
June 19 - First Christian Church, Dighton
Howard Bever, Pastor
June 26 - First Christian Church, Stafford
Paul Porter, Pastor