

C/HP Messenger

Volume 5 Issue 6

July 2011

This Month's Events

No Cluster Meetings for the Month of July!!!

**Monday, July 4
Independence Day
Regional Offices Closed**

**Sunday, July 31
FCC, Scott City
High Plains District Cabinet**

Currents in the Stream

Every now and then I hear a comment, what has the region or general church done for us? Or what benefit do we get for being a part of a denomination or if you prefer movement of faith?

On a day to day basis the answer to these questions may appear to be, "not much." However, from the very beginning of the our movement, Barton Stone and the Campbells (Thomas and Alexander) understood that just like an individual needs a community of faith to nurture their growth as a Christian so to do individual congregations. And while they challenged the prevailing attitudes and beliefs of the Presbyterian tradition of their time, they constantly made petitions to various denominational entities to be a part of. Only when they could not find a home within already established church structures did they begin to seek out other like minded church leaders and congregations and develop a new institution for the well being of congregations.

So what are the benefits of the larger church?

On a very practical level taking time to fill out the annual congregational report forms ensures a congregation is listed among the congregations associated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and therefore maintains a congregation's 501c3 tax exempt status thereby qualifying gifts to the congregation for legal tax deductions. But the value of the larger church goes far beyond this.

The larger church with the support has the ability to respond to natural disaster around the world much quicker, effectively and efficiently due to already established relationships and plans than a local congregation could. In doing so a local congregations reach is further when associated with the larger church.

Next, when a congregation finds itself in need of finding a new minister, it is the larger church that can be most helpful. It is the regional church, along with other regions, who know what ministers are looking for a new position to serve. It is the general church who has put in place mandatory background checks for ministers wishing to serve congregations within our denomination as a first line defense against those unscrupulous people who masquerade around as ministers but use their position to harm individuals and congregations. It is the regional church that partners with congregations and institutions of higher learning to nurture people who have heard a call from God to serve the church as an ordained pastor. And it is the region who holds ministers accountable for how they conduct their ministry through annual standing and professional boundaries training.

Furthermore, through gatherings we call assemblies, through TEAM2, and through regional retreats and summer youth camps the region strives to give encouragement and to equip clergy and laity for the ministry they are doing through their congregations on behalf of the Kingdom of God.

Much of the work that the regional and general church does is not always visible on a day to day basis. However, in times of need, it is the regional church that represents the larger family of faith which becomes an essential resource in times of need to help congregations weather stormy times, discover the road to new life and revitalized ministry. The truth is, the congregations do not exist for the benefit of the region or the denomination for the church universal for that matter. Rather the region, the denomination, the universal church exists so that congregations can be all that God meant for them to be.

Ken

Ken's July Calendar

- 1 Office
- 2 Day Off
- 3 Church Visit, Lyons
- 4 Independence Day, Regional Offices Closed
- 5-6 Office
- 7 Day Off
- 8-14 General Assembly
- 15 Day Off
- 16 Office
- 17 Church Visit, Lebanon
- 18-21 Office
- 22-23 CCM, McPherson
- 24 Church Visit, Kinsley (Preaching)
- 25 Day Off
- 26-29 Office
- 30 Boundaries Training, Wichita
- 31 Church Visit, Utica
High Plains District Cabinet, Scott City

Schedule is subject to change.

Minister of Stewardship Education Called

Two-thirds of the Regional Board approved the call of Dr. Jim McCollough as contract staff to serve as the regional church's Minister of Stewardship Education. This position is designed to be a resource for congregations. At the same time the Regional Board approved Diane Watkins to serve as Regional Moderator. These new responsibilities begin July 1, 2011.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- July 5-9 Junior 2 Camp, Camp Tawakoni
- July 9-10 Camp Friendship, Camp Tawakoni
- July 9-13 General Assembly, Nashville, TN
- July 16 Pre-Primary Camp, Camp T.
- July 18-23 CYF Conf-Omega, Camp Tawakoni
- July 22-23 CCM, McPherson
- July 24-30 Wilderness Trail Camp, Colorado
- July 25-30 Pre-High Camp, Camp Tawakoni
- July 25-30 Chi Rho 2 Camp, Camp Tawakoni
- July 30 Boundaries Trng., Woodridge CC,
Wichita

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.



**Disciple Men's Retreat
September 23-24
Disciples Center
at Tawakoni**

**"Discovering the Joy of Being Different,
Yet United in Christ"**

Facilitator: Rev. Sotello Long

EfM Mentor Training Event

The EfM Mentor Training Event will be held at the Disciples Center at Camp Tawakoni on August 18-20. This event is open to any mentor, including those who wish to become mentors for the first time. The deadline for registration and payment of the fee is July 15, 2011. A minimum of 6 and maximum of 8 are allowed for the event. Please contact Jim Bell, EfM Regional Coordinator, for more information, if you are interested. Jim can be reached at 620-727-6330 (cell) or 316-239-1784 (home). Or email Jim at: jdbell1956@att.net.

CHURCHES PRAYING FOR CHURCHES

- July 3 - First Christian Church, Lyons
Ron & Angela DeVore, Co- Pastors
- July 10 - First Christian Church, Lakin
Melody Smith, Pastor
- July 17 - First Christian Church, Coldwater
Andrew Evans, Pastor
- July 24 - Galva Christian Church, Galva
Tripp Edwards, Pastor
- July 31 - First Christian Church, Garden City
Scott Schurle, Pastor