

NE Messenger

Volume 5 Issue 12

Summer 2011

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 19
Father's Day

Saturday-Wednesday, July 9-13
General Assembly, Nashville, TN

Saturday, July 30
Wichita
*Boundary Training, Woodridge
Legacy of John Dinner, Marriott*

Thursday, August 4
Boundary Training, Topeka office

Saturday, August 20, Noon—3 pm
*NE Clergy picnic, Carousel Room,
Gage Park*

Friday-Saturday, August 26-27
TEAM2 Event, Wichita-Hillside

The next issue of the
NE Messenger will be
published in September.

Peace Offerings

For the next three months (June 1-August 31), I will be on sabbatical from my responsibilities as your district and regional minister. It is being taken at the urging of the region's Personnel Committee and with the gracious blessing of our Regional Board, who recognized that "This Region—you—deserve a Regional Minister who is refreshed and on top of his 'game' for the future ministry that we share."

Three months may seem like a long time for someone to be away from the office, but one of the things I learned during the only other sabbatical I've ever had is that it takes 4-6 weeks to de-stress before you can even begin to recharge one's proverbial batteries. Upon occasion I've had colleagues who've split their sabbaticals into 3-6 week segments; my observation is that by taking less time, most of them failed to achieve the renewal they sought and came back almost as stressed as when they left.

So—what am I going to do while I'm away? Preach—on Timothy Sunday at my 'home' church in Raytown, MO. Learn—by auditing a New Testament course on "The Historical Jesus" at PTS in Tulsa. Read—some of the latest books on Disciples theology and thought (latest being a relevant term as a stack has accumulated behind my desk). Write—still working on a compilation of my preacher-father's newsletter columns. Rest, relax, renew—spend quality time with my wife, play a little golf [hopefully not too little], visit family, and sleep! I have a couple of other pet projects I'm working on, too.

Will I get all of this accomplished in three months? Uh, in a word, "No!" But it will be a break from the routine, an opportunity to set a different [need I add healthier?] pace and lifestyle for a while, and it is truly needed.

Meanwhile, I leave you in the good hands of Steve Martin, Renee Bridwell, Ken Marston, Barb Runge, Susan White and the rest of our outstanding staff. I confess that I am biased in their favor, but I cannot adequately tell you how much they impress me on a **daily** basis with their care-giving and ministry on your behalf—and mine! They make us an exceptional regional church, and me a better regional minister, by their wisdom, compassion and attention to detail (for which I sincerely thank them). Please do not hesitate to call them if you have a need!

Grace and peace,
Pax

Pax' Summer Schedule

Paxton is on sabbatical from June 1—August 31. The schedule below is for informational purposes only. Please contact Deputy Regional Minister Steve Martin or the Topeka Office if you need assistance this summer.

June 5 Preach at Raytown (MO) CC
13-17 Audit course at PTS, Tulsa

July 9-13 General Assembly, Nashville

Please see Peace Offerings on pg 1 for additional details.

[Schedule is subject to change without notice.]

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

June 2-4 Primary 1 Camp, Disciples Center
June 3 KDW Exec. Comm., Great Bend
June 4 KDW Cab. Mtg., Great Bend
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

JOPLIN TORNADO RESPONSE

The airwaves have been filled with news of the tragic loss of life and physical devastation in Joplin, MO, caused by a tornado on Sunday, May 22. We are grateful for the many inquiries from folks wanting to “do something” to help the survivors.

Please know that you already ARE “doing something” in Joplin, Sedalia, and other communities throughout the Midwest ravaged by storms. The Week of Compassion [WOC] has acted on your behalf with an initial financial response. Brandon Gilvin of WOC and Josh Baird of Disciples Volunteering met on Monday with the crisis management people in Joplin to see where best to focus our volunteer efforts.

Until we hear otherwise, WOC asks that we “Pray, Pay and Stay” where we are. PRAY for the victims; PAY with our financial contributions; and STAY away until we are told we are needed. Otherwise we become another part of the problem.



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.

Did You Know ... ?

... that FCC-Topeka has issued a call to its next senior minister? Dale Matherly from Lebanon, IN will begin his ministries there on September 1.

... that Traci Matherly, Dale’s wife, is an ordained Disciples minister, too?

... that our camping season will soon be in full swing? Primary 1 begins this Thursday!

... that CYF’s Omega Conference in July is full and has a waiting list? There’s still room in the Alpha Conference in early June, however, and it’s not too late to register!

... that the General Assembly in Nashville is less than six weeks away?

This newsletter is sponsored by the Northeast District of the Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ). The office is located at 2914 SW MacVicar, Topeka, KS 66611. Phone: 800-737-8130. Kathy Foster is the editor.