

C/HP Messenger

Volume 6 Issue 1

January 2012

This Month's Events

Monday, January 2
New Year's Holiday
Regional Offices Closed

Saturday, January 7
FCC, Lyons
Central District Cabinet

Sunday, January 8
FCC, Scott City
High Plains District Cabinet

Monday, January 9
FCC, Kinsley
GB/S Clergy Cluster

Tuesday, January 10
Village Inn, Colby
HPN Clergy Cluster

Tuesday, January 10
FCC, Atwood
HPN Disciples Men Gathering

Wednesday, January 11
FCC, Garden City
HPS Clergy Cluster

Thursday, January 12
Celebration CC, Hays
CN Clergy Cluster

Monday, January 16
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Regional Offices Closed

Thursday, January 19
FCC, McPherson
Mid-KS Clergy Cluster

Monday, January 30
FCC, McPherson
CD Disciples Men 5th Monday Gathering

Currents in the Stream

Much of last year (2011) I spent helping several congregations in their search for a new pastor. Many of them are still in that process of discernment seeking to discover who it is God has already prepared to be their next spiritual leadership. You see finding a new pastor is not like hiring a manager for a store, or an executive for a business. A pastor may do some administrative tasks, but that is not their primary role within the life of a congregation. A pastor may oversee the planning and implementation of ministries and supervise staff and volunteers, but again that is not their primary role. A pastor is a spiritually mature person of faith whose role is to "equip the saints" - the members of congregations - to do the ministry of the church, which is to make and grow disciples of Jesus Christ.

To find the right person for each congregation takes time. To find the right pastor takes prayer. And it takes patience and persistence. Why?

Discerning God's will for our lives together is not something we are use to doing. We often want a quick answer or the completion of the task before we fully understand what God desires for us in a given situation. As a result we end up living by our own power and strength, and we find ourselves becoming tired and discouraged when the results do not measure to our expectations. This is especially true when we hire a pastor based upon worldly values instead of calling a pastor based upon Godly values.

Discerning God's will begins with prayer. It utilizes Bible study and reflection upon our life together up to this point and time in order to identify how God has been present and active in our lives. Discernment requires an openness and a willingness to let God lead us to places that we have never been before and to new understandings that we might never have considered before. God's will doesn't fit neatly into a liberal or conservative philosophies or partisan political agendas. Discernment of God's will asks us to look beyond the color of a person's skin, their country of origin, their age, or their gender. In short, God's will calls us to focus on the content of character and gifts and beacons us to become more loving, more compassionate, more generous, and more forgiving people than we have been. Ultimately, discernment leads us to a place where we can see God's hand moving in the midst of our lives and we are moved to praise God even when our world is falling apart around us.

When we become a Christian, we do so by make the good confession that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and accept him as our **Lord** and **Savior**. Discernment, seeking to know and live God's will is how we surrender to the Lordship of Jesus and receive the salvation that is found in him.

May God bless us all this year as we seek to discern and live God's will for our lives.

Ken

Ken's January Calendar

- 1 Church Visit—Great Bend
- 2 Regional Offices Closed
- 3-5 Office
- 6 Day Off
- 7 Central District Cabinet, Lyons
- 8 Church Visit—Dighton
High Plains District Cabinet, Scott City
- 9 GB/S Clergy Cluster, Kinsley
- 10 HPN Clergy Cluster, Colby
HPN Disciples Men Gathering, Atwood
- 11 HPS Clergy Cluster, Garden City
- 12 CN Clergy Cluster, Hays
- 13 Day Off
- 14 Office
- 15 Preach—Groveland
- 16 Regional Offices Closed
- 17-18 PTS Minister's Week, Tulsa
- 19 Mid-KS Clergy Cluster, McPherson
- 20 Day Off
- 21 Reg'l Assembly Planning, Hutchinson
- 22 Preach—Hutchinson, PPCC
- 23-25 Office
- 26 Spiritual Priority, McPherson
- 27 Day Off
- 28 Committee on Standing, Great Bend
- 29 50th Anniversary Celebration, Salina, BBCC
- 30 Staff Meeting, Topeka
CD Disciples Men 5th Monday, McPherson
- 31 Personnel Committee, Topeka

Schedule is subject to change.

CHURCHES PRAYING FOR CHURCHES

- Jan. 1 - First Christian Church, Salina
Greg & Kim Rea, Co-Pastors
- Jan. 8 - First Christian Church, Colby
Lyle Knebel, Pastor
- Jan. 15 - Christian Church, Sawyer
Bob Gilpin, Pastor
- Jan. 22 - First Christian Church, Smith Center
Linda Kemp, Interim Pastor
- Jan. 29 - First Christian Church, Dighton
Howard Bever, Pastor

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.

2012 Regional Spiritual Retreat PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS



Learn to use ancient prayer practices for personal and communal growth.

**March 14—March 17, 2012
Hartland Center for Spirituality
Great Bend, KS**

\$135.00 (includes meals and lodging)

Retreat Facilitators:

Rev. Kathy Bryant, Rev. Danny Ginn,
Rev. Ken Marston and Don Janssen,
all of the Spiritual Priority Ministry

Sponsored by the Spiritual Priority Ministry with the generosity of the Kansas Bible Chair.

Did you know...

... Belmont Blvd. Christian Church, Salina will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on Sunday, January 29?

... Rev. Tara Thompson has been called as the new minister of Belmont Blvd. Christian Church, Salina?

... that the region has on site training available for elders, deacons, and Pastoral Relations committees. Please contact your district minister, Ken Marston, to arrange a time to access this resource.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Jan. 2 New Year's Holiday—Reg'l Offices Closed
- Jan 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Reg'l Offices Closed
- Jan. 21 2012 Regional Assembly Planning, Ramada Inn, Hutchinson
- Jan. 26 Spiritual Priority Ministry, FCC, McPherson