

C/HP Messenger

Volume 5 Issue 9

September 2011

This Month's Events

Monday, September 5
Labor Day
Regional Offices Closed

Thursday, September 8
FCC, Smith Center
CN Clergy Cluster

Monday, September 12
Kingman Christian Church
GB/S Clergy Cluster

Tuesday, September 13
Village Inn, Colby
HPN Clergy Cluster

Tuesday, September 13
FCC, Atwood
HPN Disciples Men Gathering

Wednesday, September 14
FCC, Garden City
HPS Clergy Cluster

Thursday, September 15
FCC, Lyons
Mid-KS Clergy Cluster

Currents in the Stream

From time to time, I overhear someone question, "What has the regional or general church done for their congregation?" As you might expect, as a Regional staff person, my initial reaction is to feel defensive, so I try to take a few deep breaths to center and calm myself, then pray before responding. You see, from my perspective, and granted it is biased since I am a representative of the region, there is a lot we do for congregations, though much of it is behind the scenes and is often experienced by only a few congregations at a time.

One of the main things all of us on regional staff do is provide support, encouragement and guidance, first to the pastors serving congregations in Kansas, but also directly to our congregations. We do this through clergy cluster meetings, pastoral visits in our congregations (every congregation in the region has at least one regional staff visit every 12-14 months), filling the pulpit as asked to do so by pastors, and providing workshops for elders, deacons and other groups within our congregations as requested.

A second, and perhaps one of the best faith nurturing things we do as a region, is our summer church camp experiences. Church camp has been, from its very inception some 80 years ago, one of the most effective Christian Education tool in helping children and youth grow in their faith and begin developing skills for leadership within congregations. Every summer at camp, children and youth experience and grow in their understanding of what it means to love God and neighbor as God loves them. They return home different people than before attending camp. Every summer some teenager hears a call to serve the church by becoming an ordained minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every summer regional church camps change lives.

Third, when congregations are in times of ministerial transition, regional staff work with congregational search committees as they figure out how to go about discovering who God has already prepared to be their next minister. We then spend many hours behind the scenes making initial contact with prospective ministers and getting ministerial profiles to committees for consideration.

Fourth, the region provides special opportunities for congregational leaders and pastors to gather at educational and leadership training events so that each congregation is supported, encouraged and equipped to be a vital faith community bearing witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Together Educating Everyone Around Mission and Ministry (TEAM2) that took place this past weekend is one such event. If you were not there, you missed an opportunity to hear Bruce Barkhauer, Director of the Center for Faith and Giving for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as he helped us explore Christian Stewardship. Bruce reminded us that stewardship is not fund raising for the church. Stewardship is about becoming the people and communities of faith God created us to be and therefore integral to all that a person and the church does, including how we manage the wealth God has blessed us with. Through workshops on Pastoral Relations Committee, church policies and procedures, planned giving, youth ministry leadership training, parish nursing, and stewardship as a spiritual discipline, those in attendance discovered the richness of being a good steward of God's blessings.

I could mention much more about what the region does for congregations, but as you can see, I am out of space once again. Perhaps in another article I will tell of other ways. But for now remember the wider church exists so that local congregations can be the vital faith communities God meant you to be—communities that make a real and positive difference in the world.

Ken

Ken's September Calendar

- 1 Spiritual Priority Mtg., McPherson
- 2-3 Office
- 4 Church Visit, Great Bend
- 5 Labor Day, Regional Offices Closed
- 6 Office
- 7 Staff Mtg., Topeka
- 8 CN Clergy Cluster, Smith Center
- 9 Day Off
- 10 Office
- 11 Church Visit, Galva
- 12 GB/S Clergy Cluster, Kingman
- 13 HPN Clergy Cluster, Colby
HPN DM Gathering, Atwood
- 14 HPS Clergy Cluster, Garden City
- 15 MK Clergy Cluster, Lyons
- 16 Day Off
- 17 Gala, Disciples Center at Tawakoni
- 18 Church Visit, Garden City, FCC
- 19-21 Office
- 22 Day Off
- 23-24 KS DM Retreat, Disciples Center at Tawakoni
- 25 Church Visit, Lewis
- 26 Office
- 27 Day Off
- 28-29 Office
- 30 COM, Wichita

Schedule is subject to change.



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

KS Disciples Women Retreat

LOOKING PAST THE CHURCH'S DOOR

Midweek—October 5-7
Weekend October 7-9

Disciples Center at Tawakoni



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.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Sept. 17 Gala, Disciples Center at Tawakoni
- Sept. 23-24 KS Disciples Men Retreat,
Disciples Center at Tawakoni

HIGH PLAINS DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

October 15, 2011

First Christian Church, Atwood
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jim McCollough

Did You Know...

- ... that Paxton Jones will be returning from Sabbatical on September 1?
- ... approximately 130 high school teens attend summer conference this year?
- ... 20% of all Christians in the U.S. give absolutely nothing to any charitable cause?
- ... Administrative distrust is one of the major reasons people do not give to the church?
- ... Clear and accountable operational procedures, adoption of general accounting procedures (GAP), regular financial reporting, and breaking the conspiracy of secrets around money in the church builds trust and increases giving?
- ... A clear and succinct mission statement gives a lift to all areas of church life including finances?

CHURCHES PRAYING FOR CHURCHES

- Sept. 4 - Groveland Christian Church, Inman
Charles Kaufmann, Pastor
- Sept. 11 - United Church of Oberlin
Judith Stricker, Pastor
- Sept. 18 - United Church of Kensington
Becky Saddler, Pastor
- Sept. 25 - Kingman Christian Church, Kingman
Josh Bell, Pastor