

# NE Messenger

Volume 6 Issue 5

January 2012

## COMING EVENTS

Monday, Jan. 2  
New Year's Holiday  
*Regional Offices Closed*

Friday, Jan. 13  
2448 SW Rother Rd, Topeka  
*NE Clergy Cluster Epiphany Party  
at the Joneses*

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

Tuesday-Wednesday, Jan. 17-18  
PTS, Tulsa, OK  
*Re-Mind & Re-New Event (formerly  
PTS Minister's Week)*

## Peace Offerings

In his first newsletter column of 2012 Dale Matherly, senior pastor of FCC-Topeka, ruminates on society's penchant for considering "The Year in Review" before pondering what the new year might hold. In like manner, he says, we would do well to consider our spiritual life—where we have been, are, and hope to grow—and suggests we engage in a Spiritual Check-up developed by Patricia Hayes, a consultant from The Alban Institute.

Do you have your pencil and paper ready? Okay, here we go! [Be honest with yourself as you answer.]

1. Prayer: How has your prayer life been this past year? Blossoming? Fading? Faltering? Open? Routine? Is this an area that needs more focus for you?
2. Learning: What have you studied in the past year, formally or informally? What have you learned?
3. Worship: Are you worshipping at least weekly? How has that time been? Highs? Lows? Are you taking time to prepare or "just showing up"?
4. Leader Skills: Do you sense that your capacity to lead has increased? Are you observing the leadership of others? What are you learning?
5. Community Building: How are you helping your congregation thrive, formally and informally?
6. Action: Where have you been visible in your faith? What blocks you from action?
7. Sense of Growth: Where have you served God this past year?
8. Balance: How is your sense of living a balanced life? Do you keep Sabbath?
9. Growing Edge—Stretching Beyond the Comfort Zone: If we accept that we are not living in the fullness of the kingdom, where are you called to focus in the coming year?
10. Are there things that you need to let go of in order to make room in your life for more prayer or study or service to others?
11. Are there things that you need to let go of in order to make more room for God in your life?

With all of its struggles and challenges, I am thankful to be on this same journey of faith and growth with you.

Grace and peace,  
Pax

### Pax' January Schedule

- 1 New Year's Day
- 2 Regional Offices closed
- 3-5 Office
- 6 Day off
- 7 Office
- 8 Church visit—Topeka?
- 9-12 Office
- 13 NE Clergy Epiphany Party @ Joneses home (Topeka)
- 14 Day off
- 15 Church visit—Girard?
- 16 Regional Offices closed
- 17-18 Re-Mind & Re-New, PTS, Tulsa
- 19 Office
- 20 Day off
- 21 RA12 Planning, Hutchinson
- 22 Church visit—???
- 23-24 Office
- 25 Day off
- 26-27 Tennyson Center Board, Denver
- 28-29 50th Anniversary Celebration, Belmont Blvd CC, Salina
- 30 Staff meeting, Topeka
- 31 Personnel Committee, Topeka

[Schedule is subject to change without notice.]



You are invited to an Epiphany Party at the Jones' home—2448 SW Rother Rd in Topeka—on Friday, Jan. 13. Dinner begins at 6:30. Ham, potatoes and table service will be provided. Please bring a vegetable dish, salad or dessert to share ... and don't forget your White Elephant gift for the "gift" exchange afterwards! Please RSVP to [pjones@kansasdiscalples.org](mailto:pjones@kansasdiscalples.org) or at 785-266-2914. See you there!

### **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

- Jan. 16 Regional Offices Closed
- Jan. 21 2012 Regional Assembly Planning, Ramada Inn, Hutchinson
- Jan. 26 Spiritual Priority Ministry, FCC, McPherson

### 2012 Regional Spiritual Retreat PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS



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

March 14—March 17, 2012  
Heartland 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 ... ?**

... Bill Worcester completed his ministry as pastor of FCC-Hiawatha on Christmas Sunday? He and wife Joyce will remain in the NE District as residents of Topeka.

... David Webb has been called as Intentional Interim by West Side CC-Topeka? He begins on January 8.

... Paxton Jones has begun a 3-year term as a member of GCOM [the General Conference on the Ministry]?

... that the Kansas Region finished 2011 with a balanced budget? This is the second consecutive year that you have enabled us to do so. Thank you for your faithful support of the regional church!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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.