

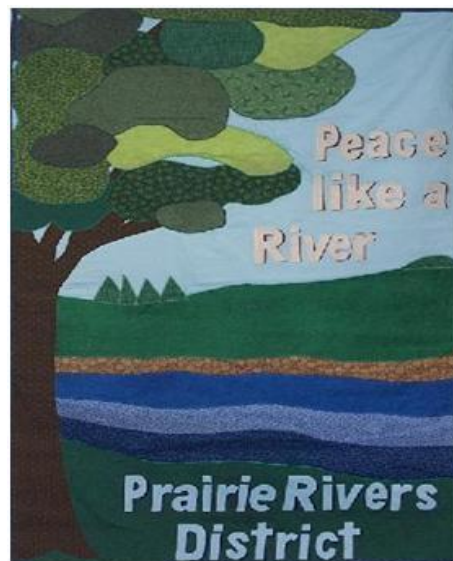
JANUARY 2009

“Wellspring”

*Prairie Rivers District
United Methodist Church*

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Reflections

“A New Year for Hearing”


There were a lot of special communications from God going on in the time surrounding the event of Jesus’ birth. God spoke through “signs and wonders” – angels, stars, and singing – in dreams and on hillsides. Actually God spoke to many persons during that time, but not all heard or saw. God still speaks but not all will hear or see. But some did and some will.

It is true that sometimes God crashes into our darkness but usually we find ourselves in the presence of God when we step into the *light* that God has provided. The door is always open and the light on.

I wish I could find the right words that would cause me, and you, to begin the year 2009 with the resolve to carve out a period of time each day to open ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit; to come silently before God and let go of ourselves in the presence of the One who knows what is needed and what is best.

I have been reminded recently of the scene of a young mother trying to get her son, Isaac, to go with her. She was pulling hard one way and he another. He had dug in his heels and was not about to follow. We are like that with our God. But, God will not overpower us, as did Isaac’s mother when she finally just picked him up and carried him off. We have a choice whether or not to follow Christ.

2009 is an opportunity to offer up our sins of the past and know the forgiveness offered by Jesus Christ. It is an opportunity to let go of the resentments, disappointments, failures and losses of the past year(s) and let God restore wholeness to our lives. God speaks! Are we listening? Or will 2009 be another year where we do all the talking?


Your District Superintendent

Churches Praying for Churches

Please include in your bulletin each week. Also include Bishop Ann Sherer and Harold Backus.

4-Jan	Chester	1-Feb	Cowles
11-Jan	Clarks	8-Feb	Davenport
18-Jan	Columbus	15-Feb	David City
25-Jan	Cotesfiled	22-Feb	Doniphan

Calendar

December 24-Jan 2	Office Closed	Holidays and Vacations
January 5	Back From Vacations	Linda and Harold
January 6	Superintendency Committee	7:00 at Central City
January 7-8-9	All Day Consultations	See list below for your appointment time.
January 11-13	Harold in Austin Texas	D.S. Training
JANUARY 12	STAT TABLES ARE DUE	ALL DATA MUST BE ENTERED BY 5:00 P.M.
January 15	L-3 Team	GI First UMC
January 16-17	Harold at Retreat Center	North Bend and Schuyler
January 18	Triune Parish	Meet with Council in Bruning
January 19	Office Closed	Martin Luther King Day
January 20-22	Clergy Session	
January 20-23	Cabinet and Clergy Session	
January 24	Common Table	
January 26	All Day Consultation	See list below for your appointment time.
January 28-Feb 2	Harold in Florida	Training
February 3	All Day Consultation	See list below for your appointment time.
February 6	All Day Consultation	See list below for your appointment time.
FEBRUARY 7	<p style="text-align: center;">DISTRICT POST HOLIDAY CELEBRATION</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">for Clergy and Retired Clergy and family</p>	<p>11:30 at Howard Johnson in Grand Island-</p> <p>RSVP NEEDED to District office with number attending.</p>

Pastor Appointment Advisory Consultations

RSVP	Pastor First	Pastor Last	Time
Wednesday, January 7			
X	Jay	Vetter	9:00
X	Mary	Scott	10:00
X	Valjean	Warman	11:00
X	Fred	Andersen	1:00
X	Glen	Holtz	2:00
X	Tamara	Holtz	3:00
X	Hyeongdong	Baek	4:00
Thursday, January 8			
X	Nancy	Lambert	9:00
X	Dale	Lambert	10:00
X	Alan	Davis	11:00
X	Dorothy	Aspegren	1:00
X	Trudy	Hanke	2:00
X	Richard	Fairbanks	3:00
X	Dorthea	Fairbanks	4:00
Friday, January 9			
X	Thomas	Hyde	9:00
X	Martin	Leeper	10:00
X	F. Matt	Fowler	11:00
X	Martha	Voigt	1:00
X	Dan	Spearow	2:00
X	Glenn	Hubbard	3:00
Monday, January 26			
X	Beverly	Lanzendorf	9:00
X	Eric	Biehl	10:00
X	Bill	Ritter	11:00
X	Michael	Burgess	1:00
X	Jeff	Adams	2:00
X	Jeff	Wulf	3:00
X	Art	Phillips	4:00

RSVP	Pastor First	Pastor Last	Time
Tuesday, February 3			
X	Cole	Fowler	9:00
X	Robert	Perry	10:00
X	Vern	Olson	11:00
	Lorri	Kentner	1:00
X	Dean	Joy	2:00
	Betsy	Galloway-Carew	3:00
Friday, February 6			
X	Donna	Carpenter	9:00
X	Paul	Blanchard	10:00
	Rosalie	Anderson	11:00
X	Jocelyn	Tupper	1:00
X	Matthew E.	Fowler	2:00
X	Richard	Savage	3:00
Monday, February 9			
X	Marta	Wheeler	9:00
X	Karla	Sheffy	10:00
X	Ron	Harris	11:00
X	Mark	Baldwin	1:00
X	Mark	Schutt	2:00

TBA	Mona	Fassler	TBA
TBA	Ra	Drake	TBA
TBA	Lee	Wigert	TBA

More Information to follow, after the New Year!

If you have something, you would like us to post in our Newsletter please email or send it to:

Prairie Rivers
207 N Pine #102
Grand Island, NE 68801

Email: prairierivers@umcneb.org

“Making a Difference”

Brochure

Registration

In order to provide two opportunities to participate in the workshops, you will need to pre-register by December 15. Please fill out the registration below and return to:

Elkhorn Valley District Office

PO Box 1283

Norfolk NE 69702

OR

e-mail the information to:

siensen@umcneb.org

- 10:30 Training for PPRC
- 11:45 Lunch (\$6 paid that day)
- 12:45 Worship

You Pick 2 Workshops

2:00 AND 3:30

Note: workshops will be run twice

- Connectional Joy that Makes a Difference
- Holy Conversations that Make a Difference
- Gracious Generosity that Makes a Difference
- Three Simple Rules:
Wesleyan Spirituality that Makes a
Difference
- Ministry with Children that Makes a Difference
- Radical Hospitality to the Stranger
that Makes a Difference
- Lay Leadership that Makes a Difference
- Youth Ministry that
Makes a Difference

Name: _____

e-mail or phone _____

Church _____

Childcare needed: _____

Number of children _____ Ages _____

M a k i n g a D i f f e r e n c e

“Making a Difference”

with

Bishop Ann BroRSVP'edshire Sherer

Please join us for a day of
Learning,
Worship,
&
Fellowship

**Sponsored by the
Elkhorn Valley District**

**Saturday, January 17, 2009
10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**First United Methodist Church
406 W Phillip Ave
Norfolk NE**

A LoRSVP'ed at the Day

10:30 Training for Pastor-Parish Relations Committees

Bishop Sherer welcomes PPRC members, pastors, and anyone who is interested in strengthening the ministry of your church.

11:45 Lunch

Norfolk First UMW will provide a light lunch for \$6

12:45 Worship:

Celebrating the Mission and Ministry Of the

Nebraska Rural Ministry Project Bishop Sherer will bring the message

2:00 and 3:30 Workshops

Please review the descriptions of the workshops and pre-register for two workshops. (Pre-registration is helpful to make workshop room assignments.)

Childcare is available by advance registration.

Thanks!

You Pick 2 Workshops
Connectional Joy that

Makes a Difference

Doyle Burbanks-Williams

While General Conference may seem distant from the local church, it is not! This workshop will LoRSVP'ed at how General Conference makes a difference in our lives as the United Methodist Church.

Holy Conversations that Make a Difference

Robbie Lonewolf & Anita Hall

Holy Conversations make a difference by:

- Exploring ways to manage conflict while remaining faithful disciples
- Learning about the models of Holy Conferencing and Disagreeing in Love
- Using Biblical references and solutions for dealing with conflict

Gracious Generosity that Makes a Difference

Douglas Kallesen

This workshop on Gracious Generosity will:

- Examine Biblical views of generosity
- LoRSVP'ed at current thoughts on generosity
- Give examples from the speakers life
- Help participants develop an action plan for themselves and their congregations.

Three Simple Rules: Wesleyan Spirituality that Makes a Difference

Phil Sloat

Do not harm. Do all the good you can. Stay in love with God. John Wesley's rules for the "People Called Methodist" remain powerful guides for how we live today.

Ministry with Children that Makes a Difference

Carol Buckley

"A Church for All God's Children" was developed from the Bishop's Initiative for Children in Poverty. It is a wonderful way to make a difference for children. This workshop will help you get started, give some inside hints, and tell the story of two churches who are living out this process.

Radical Hospitality to the Stranger that Makes a Difference

Alison Brown

How might we as faithful disciples respond to issues of immigration and documentation? These are often hot button, political issues. Immigration attorney Alison Brown will help those who attend this workshop reflect on their response.

Lay Leadership that Makes a Difference

Janet Davis, Mary Ellen Kilmer, and Jeff Hart

Being a leader who makes a difference begins with YOU! This session is a chance to learn more about identifying ministry gifts, growing as a disciples, and being used by God.

Youth Ministry that Makes a Difference

Mary Miller

Youth ministry is exciting and challenging! This workshop will present a program which helps young people use their faith as a source of resilience as they face the challenges of growing up.

Planning Retreat at St. Benedict's Retreat Center

The Schuyler – Christ United Methodist Church and the North Bend – First United Methodist Church will conduct a planning retreat beginning 6 p.m. on January 16 and conclude by 2 p.m. January 17.

The Adult Sunday School class at the Christ United Methodist church will preview some of the DVD video resource and material to be used at the retreat. The class is open to all.

Your prayers for the retreat participants are invited. Our Supt. Harold Backus will lead us through a time of prayerful reflection. In that time all of us will be focusing upon discerning the ways we see God's Spirit moving in our communities and our churches.

Our times and communities are not only changing, in many ways have changed and we are in need of catching with the changes. God has been present in the changes in the past, is present in the change happening now, and will be present in changes into the future.

The goal of retreat is to discern how God is present among us in the possibilities created by the changes and to look at where the possibilities will take us into the future.

People wanting to participate in the retreat need to contact Pastor Fred Andersen at schuylerumc@msn.com or telephone 402 – 352- 3560 by January 2. This date is the absolute deadline for registration. The enrollment is limited to 25 people.

