



C/HP Messenger

February 2018

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 11
Reg'l Vision Listening Conf.
FCC, Colby

Tuesday, February 13
CN Clergy Cluster
Meridy's, Russell

Sunday, February 18
Reg'l Vision Listening Conf.
United Church of Kensington

Wednesday, February 21
HP Clergy Cluster
FCC, Scott City

Thursday, February 22
MK/GB/S Clergy Cluster
FCC, Salina

Sunday, February 25
Reg'l Vision Listening Conf.
FCC, Garden City



Currents in the Stream

Discernment. According to Webster's dictionary, discernment has to do with keen perception or judgment or insight. It has to do with clearly recognizing differing possibilities as we seek to make good decisions. In spiritual discernment, it is about coming to recognize what is of God, and what is not.

The problem we often face in spiritual discernment is that it is not always easy, and it is often difficult and time consuming. You see, when we are faced with a choice between what is clearly right or wrong, good or bad, we do not need to engage in discernment. Spiritual discernment is needed when we need to choose between two apparent good choices to determine which is God's preference. Furthermore, just because you feel at peace with a choice, that doesn't necessarily mean that choice is in keeping with God's will.

One of the insights that Ignatius of Loyola had about spiritual discernment is the fact we all find ourselves being pulled in differing ways by the two main spirits in the world. On the one hand there is the Holy Spirit, and on the other, is the evil spirit. Depending on whether we are striving to live by God's will, or are indifferent to God's will, these spirits behave in different ways. When we are striving to live by God's will the Holy Spirit is comforting and leads us into peace, while the evil spirit is busy trying to irritate and agitate us. When we are not striving to live by God's will, when we caught up in our sinfulness, it is the evil spirit that counsels "Don't worry. Be happy. Be at peace." And it is the Holy Spirit that is at work irritating and agitating us reconsider. The key here is our intentional orientation to how we are going to live.

Once we have our orientation right, how then do we begin to discern God's will? Over the years, I have come to identify four basic questions that can point us to what might be of God: What does the Bible have to teach us? What does the life and teaching of Jesus have to tell us? What does our history tell us? Does the spirit seem to be leading us one way or another? Will this help us fulfill our mission or purpose? If the answers to these questions all point to one particular answer it is probably of God.

-Ken

Relax, Refresh, Renew

CLERGY RETREAT

April 24-26, 2018



Dr. Lisa Davison
Professor of Hebrew
Language & Scripture
Phillips Theological Seminary

Disciples Center at Tawakoni
Augusta, Kansas

REGIONAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT

March 15 (2:00 p.m.) - 17 (12:00 p.m.), 2018

Heartland Center for Spirituality, Great Bend, KS

Come away from this weekend having been deeply nourished from keeping company with the Spirit's presence in what has been called The Old Quartet – Wind, Fire, Water, and Earth.



Rev. Carol Jolly



... that the complete 2018 camping schedule can be found at kansasdiscalpes.org. Early bird discount rates are only good through April 30.

... the second annual High Plains District Mission trip is being planned? We are once again going to Lybrook Community Ministries in New Mexico, July 22-28. The cost is \$150 per person. All ages are welcomed.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Feb 5-7 TCU/Brite Minister's Week, Ft. Worth
- Feb. 11 Reg'l Vision Listening Conf., Colby
Reg'l Vision Listening Conf., Wichita
- Feb. 13 Reg'l Vision Listening Conf., Pittsburg
Reg'l Vision Listening Conf., Independence
- Feb. 16-17 CCM, McPherson
- Feb. 18 Reg'l Vision Listening Conf., Kensington
- Feb. 25 Reg'l Vision Listening Conf., Garden City

TCU/Brite Minister's Week

February 5-7, 2018—Fort Worth, TX

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.

Ken's February Calendar

- 1-2 KLC, Wichita
- 3 Day Off
- 4 Church Visit—McPherson
- 5-8 Minister's Week, Fort Worth
- 9 Office
- 10 Day Off
- 11 Church Visit—Colby
Listening Conference, Colby
- 12 Staff Meeting, Topeka
- 13 Office
CN Clergy Cluster, Russell
- 14 Office
- 15 Day Off
- 16-17 CCM, McPherson
- 18 Church Visit—Lebanon
Listening Conference, Kensington
- 19-20 Office
- 21 HP Clergy Cluster, Scott City
- 22 MK/GB/S Clergy Cluster, Salina, FCC
- 23 Day Off
- 24 KS DM Cabinet, Galva
- 25 Church Visit—Garden City
Listening Conference, Garden City
- 26-28 Office

Calendar subject to change.

Spring Retreat for Youth

March 2-4, 2018

Disciples Center/ Tawakoni

- The Retreat will include both middle school (Chi Rho) and high school (CYF) youth & sponsors. Keynotes will feature Lara Blackwood Pickrel, an ordained minister serving as a Pastor in Missouri. Lara is a graduate of TCU and Brite Divinity School, and is a long-time advocate for youth in the church. She's also



CHURCHES PRAYING FOR CHURCHES

- Feb. 4 - First Christian Church, Garden City
Scott Schurle, Minister
- Feb. 11 - Iglesia Discipulos de Cristo, Garden City
Guillermo Reyes, Minister
- Feb. 18 - First Christian Church, Goodland
Doug Amend, Minister
- Feb. 28 - Community Church, Gorham
Karen Harvester, Co-Minister
Rob Harvester, Co-Minister