



C/HP Messenger

March 2018

Currents in the Stream

Do you know what your purpose is? Moreover, do you know what the purpose of your congregation is? Why you exist? Currently, it is a question we are asking even of the regional church. That is why we have been having listening conferences around the Region throughout the month of February. We still have two more to happen in March (FCC in Great Bend on March 11, and FCC in Colby on March 25), so if you have not attended one at this point, I encourage you to pick one of these two opportunities and lend your voice to reshaping who we are as a regional church and what we will be doing for the near future.

To know one's purpose, either as an individual or as an organization, is important because it is one of the keys to how effective you are in life. Many years ago, Stephen Covey, in his book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, asserted this was the first habit of effective people, they define what their purpose is. Last fall, I heard Rick Morris of Hope Partnership, a General Church initiative to help transform struggling congregations into vital faith communities, say the same thing. Struggling and declining congregations lack the clarity of vision as to why they exist or even why they are doing any particular ministry or activity. In contrast, vital, thriving congregations have a clarity of purpose.

Why is this important? Because when you are clear about your purpose, you are able to focus your talents, energies and resources into that purpose. When you are able to focus your talents, energies and resources, you gain a clearer sense of who you are and you can see the progress you are making in fulfilling that purpose. When you know your purpose you gain a sense of fulfillment and meaning in life and that has benefits too.

Long ago, the writer of Proverbs 29 wrote "Where there is no vision, people perish."

So, I ask you again, do you know your purpose? Does it give you direction for how to live your life? If not, perhaps it is time to pause your chaotic and hectic life for awhile to contemplate why God created you. What unique gifts and abilities and interest do you have to further the reign of God on earth? What is it that would fill your life with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction and lead you to say, "I made a difference." Whatever that may be, that is your purpose. Grab hold of that purpose and let it guide you through all of life's ups and downs.

Ken

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 11
Reg'l Vision Listening Conf.
FCC, Great Bend

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

Wednesday, March 21
HP Clergy Cluster
FCC, Garden City

Thursday, March 22
MK/GB/S Clergy Cluster
FCC, Lyons

Sunday, March 25
Reg'l Vision Listening Conf.
FCC, Colby

Friday, March 30
Good Friday
Reg'l Offices Closed



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

Did you know?

... First Christian Church, Stafford
has called Cindy Dubovich to be
there minister. Her installation
service will be Sunday, March
18th.



CHURCHES PRAYING FOR CHURCHES

- Mar. 4 - First Christian Church, Great Bend
Josh Leu, Minister
Sue Bishop, Associate Minister
- Mar. 11 - First Christian Church, Hutchinson
Bib Phipps, Minister
- Mar. 18 - Park Place Christian Church, Hutchinson
David Dubovich, Minister
- Mar. 28 - Groveland Christian Church, Inman
Charles Kaufmann, Minister

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 March Calendar

- 1 Day Off
- 2-5 Gen'l Conf. of DM, Ohio
- 5-8 Office
- 9 Day Off
- 10 COM, Wichita
- 11 Church Visit—Great Bend
Listening Conference, Great Bend
- 12 Office
- 13 Office
CN Clergy Cluster, Russell
- 14 Day Off
- 15-17 Spiritual Retreat, Great Bend
- 18 Church Visit—Sawyer
Installation Service, Stafford
- 19-20 Office
- 21 HP Clergy Cluster, Garden City
- 22 MK/GB/S Clergy Cluster, Lyons
- 23 Day Off
- 24 Office
- 25 Preaching—Lewis
Listening Conference, Colby
- 26-29 Office
- 30 Good Friday, Reg'l Offices Closed
- 31 Day Off

Calendar subject to change.



High Plains District 2018 Mission Trip July 22-28, 2018

Join us in Counselor, NM for a week-long mission trip with our fellow congregants in the High Plains District. We will be working with Lybrook Community Ministries in order to complete our goal of hands-on mission work. Lybrook is an outreach for Native Americans near the Lybrook Navajo Mission. Its focus has been on the special needs of the area and sharing the Gospel.

Questions? Ask your local pastor. **OR** Contact: Rev.

Aerii Smith; email: singing2cats@gmail.com

phone: (620) 397-2153 between 9am-12pm Mon-Thurs

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Mar. 2-4 KCYF Spring Retreat, Disciples
Center at Tawakoni, Augusta
- Mar. 3 KDW Cabinet, Topeka
Reg'l Vision Listening Conf., Wichita
- Mar. 10 COM, Wichita
- Mar. 11 Reg'l Vision Listening Conf., Great Bend
- Mar. 15-17 Spiritual Retreat, Heartland Center
For Spirituality, Great Bend
- Mar. 16-24 International Affairs Seminar
- Mar. 30 Good Friday, Reg'l Offices Closed