2018 Congregational Escape & MissionFest

Plans are underway for the 2018 Congregational Escape and Mission Fest, Saturday, August 11, at Disciples Center at Tawakoni.

Formerly called Regional Assembly, this family-friendly event will include elements of a traditional assembly such as worship and workshops, along the fun of a county fair including play activities, swimming, and “fair food” offered by churches and Disciples Men’s groups from across the region.

Mission grants will be awarded at the event; details will be forthcoming as plans develop. Men’s and women’s groups may hold their Assembly-connected activities on Friday evening, August 10.

Other affinity groups may also develop Friday evening activities; contact regional staff with questions. A voting booth will provide you the opportunity to voice your opinion on church business.

RV parking will be available, and some lodging at the camp may be available. Details are still under development.

Admission will be $10/person, $25/family. Food booths will have donation jars, with proceeds going to mission.

Come escape with us!

Week of Compassion Special Offering—Feb 18 & 25

Imagine a small fragile seedling becoming a food system that prevents famine. Imagine that it leads to medicine and disease prevention. Imagine a child who will become a visionary leader and peacemaker.

Creative energy is set free when basic needs are met: energy for a young scientist to pursue technology; energy for a community leader to bring peace; energy that artists can use for their craft. That young seedling will grow to feed a community; to provide families with income.

The contribution you make through the Week of Compassion offering — the seedling that you help plant — has effects that ripple far beyond your imagination.

Will you be part of God’s dream for the world? Will you make a difference? With your gift, you are part of God’s imagination for families who will have time and resources because they do not have to worry about their crops and feeding their family. Contribute to Week of Compassion, with the prayerful hope that God will do with our gifts — More Than We Can Imagine.

Caring for the Stranger 2018 Clergy Retreat

The 2018 Relax, Refresh, Renew Clergy Retreat is April 24-26 at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni.

Dr. Lisa Davison, professor of Hebrew language and Scripture at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, will engage participants on the Old Testament teachings about caring for widows, orphans and strangers.

Retreat cost is $70. Scholarships are available; contact one of the Regional Ministers.

Register and pay online or download the registration form and mail with payment to the Topeka regional office.
We Want to Hear From You!

Regional Listening Conferences:

The Regional Vision Team is working to understand the role the Regional Church plays in church life in this century. To hear from congregations, particularly from those who sit in the pews, the Vision Team is hosting Listening Conferences which will help us re-think what it means to be the regional church, and therefore, what our regional staff needs to be and do in ministry with you. Read more here, including the complete schedule.

Remaining Listening Conferences:

- Feb. 11 — Colby FCC, 4-5:30 p.m. Riverside CC, Wichita, 2-3:30 p.m.
- Feb 18 — United Church of Kensington, 4-5:30 p.m.
- Feb 25—Garden City FCC, 4-5:30 p.m.
- Mar 11 — Great Bend FCC, 4-5:30 p.m.

Thoughts from your Regional Minister

By: Ken Marston, Regional Minister

In 2018, as we continue the Vision Process in our region, new things are happening. Our biennial regional assembly will be anything but traditional—see the feature article on the front page. Through a new ministry initiative Congregational Enhancement Grants, the region will partner with congregations for new ministries. With a grant from the Kansas Leadership Center, we will send 40 people, ministers and church leaders, for intensive leadership training.

Kansas Disciples Men are dreaming new dreams and seeking to do new things with a focus on mission in 2018. Instead of the traditional men’s retreat, normally held in September, the cabinet will do three things:

1) Forge new relationships with local congregations by going to them instead of planning an “y’all come” event,
2) Partner with local men’s groups to host Pancake Breakfasts/Cooking for...
It’s Year Book Time!

The Year Book & Directory of the Christian Church is a snapshot in time of our church, collectively. It is only complete and helpful if every congregation and ministry reports accurate information.

If your church has been estimating worship attendance, do the math and turn in a real count this year, or begin now to gather the weekly information so that you can do this next year. If you’ve been subtracting deaths and adding new people to previous counts, audit these numbers. Do they represent real people?

Each congregation in the Year Book is included under our church-wide 501(c)3 designation, and a copy of the completed Year Book & Directory is provided to the IRS in lieu of each listed congregation filling out annual Form 990. If completeness drops, this ease of reporting is jeopardized. This one form—or annual IRS report? That’s probably an easy choice!

Forms and instructions were mailed January 19 and are due by March 15. The information may be provided on paper or online. Sooner is always better!

Register Now for the 2018 Camp Season

Registration is open for summer camp 2018. The schedule and registration form are included; See Appendix A. Register and pay online or download the attached form and mail with payment to Topeka Regional Office.

Plan to attend one of 15 camp experiences available for all ages. All camps are at Disciples Center at Tawakoni, near Augusta, unless otherwise stated.

The all-inclusive camp fee includes lodging, food, and program expense including a nurse. All campers receive a theme T-Shirt and water bottle.

Register early! Early-bird discount expires Monday, April 30, and some camps reach capacity before this date.

Scholarships are available. Camp scholarship applications are due April 1. Remember most churches will pay half of the registration fee. Check with your church office for details.

Where is God in the Midst of Struggle?

Spring Retreat for Youth will be March 2-4, at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni. The retreat will include both middle school (Chi Rho) and high school (CYF) youth and sponsors.

Rev. Lara Blackwood Pickrel will bring the keynotes. A graduate of TCU and Brite Divinity School, Lara is a long-time advocate for youth in the church.

The program begins at 7 p.m. on Friday and ends at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday. Eat before you arrive!

What should I bring?
- Sleeping bag
- Towels
- Personal Items
- Offering
- An Open Heart!

Register before Wednesday, Feb. 21, to save $15 off the $80 fee.

“God is Calling—Will You Answer?”

2018 KDW Spirit Fests

Karen Sturchio, Kansas Christian Home CEO, will keynote the 2018 Kansas Disciples Women’s Spirit Fest. She will also help lead a workshop in which participants will be asked to share personal stories and callings. There are three additional workshops including one on the 2018 Just Women Bible Study “Called for God’s Purpose.”

There are three locations:
- April 7: Riverside CC, Wichita
- April 8: Pittsburg FCC
- April 14: FCC Topeka

Registration will be available soon.

“The Art of Communication”

Church Communication Workshops 2018

“The Art of Communication” workshops begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays in April 2018 at Woodridge Christian Church, Wichita.

These are for everyone, regardless of skill, who is interested in church communication ministry, including but not limited to office staff. Those who attended last year will find helpful review and new skills.

Join the discussion from your home or office, no matter where you are. Each workshop presentation will be streamed live. Video recording will be available; registration is required to access the recordings.

Topics:
- Your Church Story in Photographs
- Branding: Your Church’s Public Image
- Websites: The Gateway to the World
- The Church Newsletter Goes Digital
- Social Media: Connecting the Generations

Cost is $25 per workshop or $100 for all five workshops. SAVE! Pay only $90 per person when three or more from the same church register for all five workshops.

Register and pay online or download a the form and mail with payment to the Topeka Regional Office. Registration is due by Friday, March 16.
Birthdays:  
All the saints who are 80, 90, 95, 100 and beyond

January:
Ralph Struthers, Clearwater FCC .................. 95
Melva Malcolm, Pittsburg FCC .................. 90
J C Merrell, Pittsburg FCC .................. 90
Wylie Pitts, Baxter Springs FCC .................. 90

February:
Charles Scheidegger, Holton FCC .............. 102
Carrol Johnson, Columbus FCC .................. 80

March:
Lucille McCalla, Lyons FCC .................. 102
Ernest Rowland, Hiawatha FCC .................. 101
Barbara Hanney, Wichita Hillside CC .................. 95

Want to see a birthday or Anniversary listed?
The birthdays and anniversaries listed here are from your church newsletters or directly from your church office. Send us your list with names, dates including year, and church membership. We list those Kansas Disciples who are celebrating a birthday of 80, 90, 95 or 100+ years and an anniversary of 50, 60, or 65+ years.

Transitions:
Kara Courtney began her ministry at Pine Valley Christian Church, Wichita, on January 2. The installation service will take place Sunday afternoon, March 4.

David Hansen has completed his interim ministry with Pine Valley Christian Church.

Connie Skinner retired from Topeka FCC as Associate Minister of Congregational Care on January 7, after 17 years of ministry.

Ashley Canas began her ministry at Topeka West Side CC in January as the youth minister.

Lydia Ganaden-Cordaro began her ministry at Hutchinson Park Place CC in January as the youth minister.

Ordination Anniversaries:
All those who have served 25 years or more in ministry

January:
George & Geraldine Cantrell, Coffeyville FCC .... 66

February:
Frank & Barbara Leo, Wichita Hillside CC .... 70
John & Barbara McCune, Wichita Hillside CC .... 68
Jim & Ann Maynard, Wichita Hillside CC .... 67

March:
Wylie & Mary Ann Pitts, Baxter Springs FCC .... 66
Bill & Shirley Freeman, Fredonia FCC .... 60

Remember us in your will:  
Christian Church in Kansas  
Disciples Center at Tawakoni

Kansas Regional Office  
Steve Martin, Regional Minister  
Susan White, Executive Secretary  
2914 SW MacVicar Ave.  
Topeka 66611-1787  
785-266-2914; 800-737-8130  
Fax: 785-266-0174  
Barb Runge, Disciples Women  

Central & High Plains Satellite Office  
Ken Marston, Regional Minister  
Kathy Foster, Admin. Assistant  
5230 Broadway Avenue  
Great Bend 67530-3208  
620-792-6490; Fax: 620-792-1268

South Central Satellite Office  
Renee Bridwell, Regional Minister  
Jessica Marston, Communications  
8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.  
Augusta 67010-8111  
316-775-1236; Fax: 316-775-1455

We Want Your Feedback!
Our New Year’s resolution is to communicate better with you. We have assembled a short questionnaire for you to let us know how we can better serve you.

Check out the latest news and events on our website, our Facebook & Twitter page or scan this QR code with your mobile device.