



## NEW MANAGER FOR DISCIPLES CENTER AT TAWAKONI



With the reconfiguration of staff that's made necessary by the coming retirement of Regional Minister Renee Bridwell, the Regional Board approved creating the full-time

position of Camp Manager, a role that's been on the camp wish list for ages.

A search team reviewed 10 applicants, interviewed four, and chose Sid Rutland as our best fit. Rutland's background in horse ranching and all the handy skills learned there, his common sense and maturity, and his deep care for the success of the camp stood out.

Rutland's home church is First Christian Church in Independence where his family were very active. His early

camping experiences date back to Christian Hills, and he is proud that he never missed an event for which he qualified.

In recent years, he has proven himself in service as an intern, camp counselor, and for the past two years has been the intern supervisor during the summer camp sessions.

Sid brings great experience and useful training for this role: emergency wilderness rescue, medical training toward an EMT certificate, ropes course certification, and water safety certification. He is ready to learn more about the operating functions of the facility.

A new challenge will be marketing to outside entities including family reunions, business clientele, etc. He will be available to bring camp information and programs to your church as well.

## COMING EVENTS

Ministry in Transition . . . . . Pg. 3  
October 2-4; 4-6

KDYC Youth Convention . . . . . Pg. 3  
November 8-10

Camp Work Days . . . . . Pg. 2  
November 14-16

Art of Church Communication . . Pg. 4  
Tuesdays in March

All About the Campers Training . .Pg. 4  
March 27-28

KDW SpiritFest 2020 . . . . . Pg. 3  
April 18, 19 & May 2

IAS Trip 2020 . . . . . Pg. 4  
March 13-21

Tawakoni Gala  
Tentative— Fall 2020

## KANSAS DISCIPLES YOUTH CONVENTION

Rev. Virzola "Virgi" Law will keynote the 2019 Kansas Disciples Youth Convention.

Spend time with other youth, grades 6-12, from across the region Nov 8-10 at Hutchinson Conference Center.

Law is well-known among Disciples for her years of service including most recently, supporting the XPLOR program of the National Benevolent Association.

Gather your friends and mark your calendar! Register and pay online at [kansasdisciples.org](http://kansasdisciples.org) or download a form and mail with payment to Topeka Regional Office.



## TOGETHER, WE CONNECT AND EQUIP...

Recently, a Communication Questionnaire was sent to all Kansas Disciples congregations, to gather information about their communication infrastructure, use, and desires. This information will help the regional Vision Team learn more about what our congregations need in order to be better connected, so that they can participate more completely with neighboring congregations and with the region.

Submit articles for the November issue by

**October 21**

Send text and photos to [messenger@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:messenger@kansasdisciples.org)  
All articles are edited for clarity, conciseness, tone, and space.

# THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

BY STEVE MARTIN



I shared with Girard First Christian Church, "I wish you could walk in my shoes!" If you could walk in my shoes, you would recognize the Body of Christ at work throughout the Kansas Region. Here are only a few of these:

I so much appreciate the monthly gathering of ministers in support groups across the Region, where they come together to know and hear each other, and to provide support and encouragement! This support brings health to their ministries and provides stability for the congregation.

Congregations are giving serious discernment to calling pastors, and discovering the wonderful gifts which younger clergy bring to the congregation. I am constantly amazed by the vision and the energy which these younger clergy bring to ministry.

The sharing of prayers, concerns and efforts whenever there is an emergency due to storm or other disasters. When pastors and leaders hear that Week of Compassion will help, they are amazed and so very grateful! This was true at Lewis Christian Church only a short while ago.

I read every camp evaluation from last summer's program and I am pleased to report that we had a very good camp season. Our leaders are the best and they take their role seriously, which goes to make the camp experience so rich. Several campers commented, "This is my favorite place always!" or other words to that effect. Some say "this is the ONLY place where I can truly be myself." Campers not only enjoy the camp, but they gain so much from relationships they form each summer and this nurture continues into their future. What a tremendous gift we offer at Tawakoni.

Our vision is to **connect** and **equip** that **together** we will build up the Body of Christ. We trust that YOU will join us as we seek to be faithful disciples!

## PRAYER 4 PARTNERS

### From the Region:

- **Manhattan First CC**  
Pastor Ben Hitzfeld  
CE Director Ashley VanGilder
- **Independence First CC**  
Pastor Mark Lyon
- **Haysville First CC**  
Pastor Rusty Westerfield
- **Lebanon First CC**  
Pastor Lance McDowell
- **Scott City First CC**  
Pastor Rodney Hopper  
Associate Pastor Steve Payne  
Music Minister Garee Geist

### From the General Church:

- October is pastor appreciation month. Pray for your pastor, Regional Ministers, and General Minister and President.



## TIME TO WINTERIZE TAWAKONI

Join us for Tawakoni fall camp workdays Thursday, Nov. 14, through Saturday, Nov. 16. Work begins at 10 a.m. on Thursday and continues through on Saturday afternoon.

Overnight lodging and meals are provided. Registration is required so that meals and material can be purchased before work begins. Call Vern Failor, 785-231-3960.

A number of projects are planned to prepare the new shower building for inspection, prepare the camp for winter, and the caretaker house ready for the new camp manager.

Projects include:

- Insulate ceiling and install some ceiling in new shower building
- Repair the shower in Cabin 4B
- Complete electrical work in new shower building
- Repair trim on the administration building
- Install sheetrock in the caretaker's house basement
- Winterize cabins 1 & 2 and the pool pump house
- Repair and paint water line markers
- Repair the weatherstripping on all Dining Hall doors

### 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

*Clergy Care Office*  
[Ken Marston](#), Regional Minister  
[Krista Donaker](#), Admin. Assistant  
5230 Broadway Avenue  
Great Bend 67530-3208  
620-792-6490; Fax: 620-792-1268

### South Central Satellite Office

*Communication Office*  
[Renee Bridwell](#), Regional Minister  
[Jessica Marston](#), Communications  
8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.  
Augusta 67010-8111  
316-775-1236

### Disciples Center at Tawakoni

Sid Rutland, Camp Manager  
8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.  
Augusta 67010-8111  
316-775-1222

**REFLECTIONS FROM: DISCIPLES MEN FALL RETREAT**

Twenty-one men from around Kansas gathered at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni to connect and equip each other for life and service at the Disciples Men's Fall Retreat. Greg Alexander, new Director of the General Conference of Disciples Men, was the featured speaker. Alexander shared with those present the basic building blocks of The Jesus Way – a new direction for Disciples Men's ministry.

He also shared that there are five new pieces of curriculum that have either been developed or are in the process of being

developed, one of which will feature "the Daily Rule for Life" from our Men's Odyssey Project.



**REFLECTIONS FROM: DISCIPLES WOMEN FALL RETREAT**



At the annual Women's fall retreats held the first week in October, women from across the region celebrated the 145th anniversary of Disciples Women Ministry. Additionally there was a celebration for retiring Women's coordinator Barb Runge. KDW President Jauna Khan also welcomed incoming coordinator Carla Pearson. Keynote speaker Kirby Gould offered much food for thought as she shared the tragedy of her family's deaths in 2014 at the Jewish Community Center in the Kansas City area.



**MINISTRY IN TRANSITION SEMINAR**

**Ministerial leadership during transition or crisis**

October 28-29  
2 p.m. Monday — 3 p.m. Tuesday  
Disciples Center at Tawakoni

**Tools for Diagnosing the Body of Christ, Assessing Congregational Health, and Welcoming a Robust Future**

Your instructors are Steve Bridwell, interim minister since 2001, assisted by Renee Bridwell, Kansas Regional Minister. Steve is currently in his 13th Intentional

Interim ministry, and Renee has been on regional staff since 2008.

This seminar is jointly sponsored by the Christian Church in Oklahoma & the Christian Church in Kansas; leadership costs are subsidized by a grant from the Kansas Bible Chair.

Paid registration is required by Friday, October 25; the \$110 fee covers 4 meals, lodging, and materials.

Register by October 14 and save \$25. No Refunds after Friday, October 18. Register online at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org).

**KBC GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE**

Using only the return on investment on the funds from the sale of property which once housed the Kansas Bible Chair at KU, the KBC Task Force recommends grants for Executive Committee approval, for projects which inform the educational and spiritual growth of Kansas Disciples.

KBC grants subsidize the costs of most regional programs, keeping individual fees much lower than would otherwise be possible. In some cases, individual costs are less than half the actual cost of the programs.

Grants applications are considered twice a year; applications are due by October 31 and April 30. The grant application and guidelines are found online at [www.kansasdisciples.org/grants](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/grants).

**BOOK A CABIN AT TAWAKONI TODAY!**

Summer dates are filling fast; book your family reunion, corporate picnic, crafting retreat or other event now!

Some summer weekend and weekday dates are still open. Call Sid at 316-775-1222 or Jessica at 316-775-1236 for availability.

## TAWAKONI: THE SECOND DECADE AND BEYOND



On August 21, Mike Carr, CEO of United Camps, Conferences & Retreats (UCCR) visited Disciples Center to bring an outside expert view of the camp and to advise on operations and development.

Consistently, Carr complimented the improvements since CCK purchased the facility in 2004, many of which were done by volunteers with minimal staff involvement. He was pleased to see the obvious care and attention to detail, in maintenance and in cleanliness.

Currently, our challenge is to build Jones Lodge, the much-needed motel-style cabin which will replace cabin 3. Ground-breaking was held at the recent Disciples Connect & Equip (#DCE) on August 10, but the camp committee is reluctant to begin the work until at least ½ of the projected \$350,000 cost is on hand. **A \$10,000 challenge match offer stands at more than \$4500 to date; it will expire at the end of 2019.**

Overall, Mr. Carr said again and again, “what a wonderful place... for both facilities and as a place to enjoy the natural world.”

*Read the full article online at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org).*

## KCH AUXILIARY HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Kansas Christian Home will host their annual Holiday Bazaar from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2.

Through your involvement, KCH was able to make a difference in the lives of their residents.

See accompanying flyer for information on purchasing tickets for the quilt raffle.

## COMING SPRING 2020

### IAS 2020: CHRISTIAN FAITH IN 21ST CENTURY



To be serious about Christian faith in the 21st century is to live self-consciously as a global citizen. International Affairs Seminar (IAS) is designed to help Christian

High School Juniors/Seniors experience what it means to live this reality. The seminar is intended for students who are active in a Disciples congregation.

The 2020 trip will be Friday, March 13, through Saturday, March 21. Steve Martin,

Regional Minister, will serve as director/coordinator. Adult Sponsors will reflect the communities from which the youth are enrolled.

Fee and registration information is available online at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org). The fee for this trip is subsidized by a generous grant from the Kansas Bible Chair.

For more information, contact Steve Martin at [smartin@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:smartin@kansasdisciples.org) or call 800-737-8130.

### 2020 SpiritFests:

April 18, 19, & May 2. Locations will be published at a later date.

### Art of Church Communication Workshops

Tuesday mornings in March. Topics are:

- ⇒ Your Church Story in Photographs
- ⇒ Your Church Live
- ⇒ The Community Connection
- ⇒ The Welcome Center
- ⇒ Texting in Church

Read more at [kansasdisciples.org](http://kansasdisciples.org)

## SEEKING CAMP LEADERS FOR 2020

Curious about how you can get involved in the summer camp program? If you are a leader in our summer camp program or want to be one, this is for you!

### “It’s About the Campers!”

March 27-28

Disciples Center at Tawakoni, Augusta

The Camp Program Team is bringing together current and future camp adults and those who are curious about whether they might fit into the program, to share their wisdom and learn from others about best practices

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in various leadership roles.

There’s something here for everyone! Learn how the pieces fit together and how each person contributes to the whole camp experience.

The program will begin with supper on Friday at 6 p.m. and will close by 2 p.m. on Saturday. Bring bedding and spend the night in one of the cabins.

Rev. Greg Rea will present two keynotes on Trust-Based leadership for our youth campers. Greg has done much research regarding challenged youth, and he brings information which

is insightful and helpful. He knows youth and knows camp as well!

### Register early and save big!

Register by Tuesday, March 10, and pay \$25. Beginning March 11, the registration fee is \$45, still a great deal! Online registration at [kansasdisciples.org](http://kansasdisciples.org) will open in January.



Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter!

## MANHATTAN FIRST CC DEDICATES NEW BUILDING



On August 18, Manhattan First Christian Church dedicated its new facility. Approximately 165 people attended the dedication. Pastor Ben Hitzfeld led the service and participated in the ribbon-cutting as did Building Committee Chair Dr. Richard Gallagher, Regional Minister Steve Martin, and Coordinating Council Chair Ruby K. Brower, and others. The decision to relocate from downtown Manhattan was to alleviate a chronic parking shortage and aging building.

*Photos submitted by Kirby Gould*

## RIVERSIDE WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

Rev. Arthur Stewart was installed Sunday, September 29, by Regional Minister Renee Bridwell as the new settled minister of Wichita's Riverside Christian Church. Rev. Stewart, 35, comes to Wichita from the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, where he earned his Master of Divinity from Brite Divinity School. In addition to having served as pastor, he brings experience in youth ministry and in regional, interfaith and community ministry.

At his first meeting with the elders, Arthur told the group he wanted to be invited to everyone's homes for dinner and indicated, with a mischievous smile, that if he didn't get invited, he might invite himself. Almost immediately they started receiving informal reports of his visits to homes and hospitals.

*Pictured are Stewart, Rev. Travis McKee who brought the message, and Rev. Renee Bridwell.*



## VOTH RECEIVES AWARD

Quarterly, RCB Bank presents a "Community Builder" award to a person whose ongoing work improves the communities of Arkansas City, Winfield, and the immediate area. Dennis Voth, pastor of Central Christian Church in Ark City received this award on October 4, in a short ceremony at the downtown bank location. The award is accompanied by a \$250 donation to a charity chosen by the recipient. We are delighted that Dennis chose Disciples Center at Tawakoni to receive this gift. Thank you Dennis, and thank you, RCB Bank!



## IN MEMORIAM:

First Christian Church in Independence reports that **Patsy Lyon**, mother of their pastor Mark Lyon, died Monday, August 26. Her service was held in Tulsa in September.

**Wesley Charles Ward**, 63, died Sept. 16. He had served as pastor at First Christian Church in Girard, as well as at churches in Missouri, California, Pennsylvania, and Oklahoma. Even though Wesley left pastoring churches, he continued to pastor people, helping them through trials in their lives and encouraging young adults to continue their

education past high school. West Side Christian Church in Topeka hosted his funeral service.

**Vernon Ball** died Sept. 12. Those who attended camp at Christian Hills near Eureka may remember Vernon and his wife Lois, who lived at Christian Hills Camp as caretakers for many years. They continued to live in Eureka after leaving their work at the camp. His service was held at the Christian and Congregational Church in Eureka.