



Northeast Connection January/February 2012



A Greeting from Jackie's Little Corner of the World....

In the days when local companies gave beautiful calendars away I always anticipated what new image would appear each month as I turned the page. I would thumb ahead to find the one I loved the most. Then I had to wait until that particular month arrived. I learned early on if you are impatient and tear out a page it makes a real mess of the calendar. Our calendar page has turned. God is with us as we journey together in 2012. God has created an awe inspiring image of the year ahead for us to discover as we live out the coming days and weeks.

For some of us the days of paper calendars have been replaced with electronic calendars. Then if you are like me I still do both. Maybe I should correct that—Janet and I do both!! She helps me keep all the appointments straight. There has been a time or two when I have double-booked and Janet has lovingly straightened me out (and my calendar)! The young adults of today do not remember calendars like the ones the local grain elevator handed out with pockets for holding monthly receipts. They use little electronic gadgets that hold endless information and the need for paper receipts is quickly fading. Life is continually evolving. The Church is always evolving too, to meet the changing times and needs of God's people.

It is a great time at staff meetings when the "J-Team" gathers for a time of prayer and devotion. We pull out our calendars in their multiple forms. We each do it a bit differently, but we remain well aware—God holds our days. We might schedule things and make plans—but God holds the day. As disciples we are entrusted with the days to accomplish the things we believe God is calling each of us to do.

God is with the Northeast District as the churches, pastors, and laity enters this new year. God's Spirit is calling us to journey forward together in trust, by faith, and with hope. God has, is, and will be faithful. The question is—will we be faithful? I believe, with God's help and by God's grace, the people of God will be faithful.

There are a variety of calendars on the market today. Each calendar contains a variety of monthly images or one grand image that can sustain the user for the entire year. I have been pondering, reflecting, praying, and seeking an image that might capture the calendar images for the NE District in 2012. From my little corner of the world I share some images of what the year ahead may look like as we entrust each day and the whole of our life to journey together with God for God's purposes. (I am not an artist, but maybe someone out there can capture these images in print.)

Micah 6:8: And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

*Faithful and growing disciples living and sharing God's love with their family and neighbors each and every day in some small way. Negativity and discouragement will give away to a spirit of joy and optimism as we love God and neighbor and serve our neighbors who are in need.

*The pews will become strangely uncomfortable. Just enough so that "the church" will go out into our communities, meeting new people, sharing God's love, and inviting others to join them to make this a more loving and just world for all.

(Continued on page 5)

WITH DEEP APPRECIATION....THANK YOU



Thank you one and all....you know the role you played. You know what you did to make the day special. You know, and God knows who you are. Some I know because you were visible to me. But many of you I may never know because you worked behind the scenes, or quietly worshipped. To each and every one of you—THANK YOU.

Installation

THANK YOU for the warm welcome to the district and your expressions of love, caring, and support during the celebration at my installation service on Sunday, December 4 at Grace United Methodist Church in Oelwein. It was a special day, with the Bishop, and with the clergy and laity of Iowa. We all gathered to worship God. It was our time to join together in a ministry covenant for our beloved NE District. I walked away with a new sense of my calling and new energy for my responsibilities.

As I shared in my message we are called to be SALT and LIGHT for the world. Each disciple, each local church, each district, each Annual Conference, will live out their calling differently because of our locations and the gifts God has given each one of God's people. So...in your little corner of the world—go forth to make a difference for at least one person. May you be the one to share God's grace and love that has the power to change another person's life. When we each take our calling to be God's people seriously and use our gifts—we have the power to change the world together, with God's help.

As we enter into the New Year may you continue to be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ that is so apparent you are by your warm welcome and by the ministries you represent.

Blessings,
Jackie

Or more formally,
Jackie L. Bradford
Conference Superintendent
NE District

Please—call me Jackie!

Wandering in the Wilderness Places of Grace



*Wandering
in the
Wilderness*

The tempo was awkward and the harmony was a little strange, because the organ teacher mostly taught students to play for horse shows and county fairs, not for church. I muddled through the hymns as best I could figure out, and the good folks at this tiny church encouraged me. They had every reason to pray that God would send them a real organist, but they didn't—at least out loud. They thanked me for being there every Sunday. They mentioned it when I played a piece they particularly liked. I found in that church a place of grace. Because of them, I lived more richly, joyfully, and generously than I would have without them.

In a world filled with judgment, harsh words, and criticism, the church at its best is a place of grace. We know well the opposite of grace. We hear that we have not done enough or produced enough or studied hard enough or played well enough. We learn that our work or our grades or our behavior is not good enough.

And then, if we're lucky, we discover a place of grace in which we are restored and encouraged, a place where someone says "thank you," or "you are my beloved child," or, in the words of a youth Sunday School class, "you rock my socks off." We not only feel better, we live better, and we carry that grace out into a world that desperately needs it.

Thank you for your grace-giving ministries!

Jaymee



2012 Northeast District UMW Legislative Event

February 9, 2012
(With snow date 2/16/12)

Des Moines, Iowa

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Naomi Sea Young Wittstruck, the Leadership Development Minister for Social Action will lead a training with our group. Then we will go to the Capitol to do advocacy on a given issue. Meeting location with Naomi will be at the Wesley United Methodist Church at 800 E 12th St. in Des Moines. Bring a sack lunch, refrigerator and coffee/water available.

Come learn a little about how our state legislature functions, how to be an advocate for your Christian beliefs; have fun and fellowship with other believers.

Please e-mail/call Bobby Jo Paige at rjpdaisy@gcmuni.net, phone # 319-824-2076. with the names, address including zip codes of anyone attending in order to find your legislatures. You are welcome to car pool at Grundy Center UMC back parking lot. We will be leaving at 8:00 a.m. For more information/directions or to car pool please e-mail/call Bobby Jo Paige [at rjpdaisy@gcmuni.net](mailto:rjpdaisy@gcmuni.net), phone # 319-824-2076.

PASTOR'S DAY APART

It is time to gather informally and spend time together.

WHEN?: THURSDAY, February 23—9:30-2:00 p.m.

WHERE?: Oelwein, Grace UMC

The cost for snacks and lunch is \$10. (Please indicate whether or not you need a vegetarian lunch.)

Make checks payable to the **Iowa Annual Conference**

Please mail registration and check to the district office.

THE DEADLINE is Friday, February 17, 2012

Name: _____



**PASTORS'
DAY APART**

New Places for New People



EXCITING OPPORTUNITY—FOR EVERYONE ON THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Conference Training and Equipping Event

February 25, 2012

Waverly, Trinity

Gathering at 9:00 a.m.

Training 9:30 a.m. –12 noon

“New Places for New People” is about sharing stories.

And asking the question: Where is God leading you into your community?

Come to the training and receive resources and practical tools to take home and use. This training session will build your confidence and give you practical ways of building new relationships with new people...in new places.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THIS EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO DISCERN WHERE GOD IS CALLING YOU TO BE IN RELATIONSHIP AND MINISTRY IN NEW PLACES WITH NEW PEOPLE!

Invite someone or a car full to join you. You will not be disappointed. This will be a great opportunity to spend time with people and to listen for God’s voice.

(Continued from page 1)

*The need for backpacks of food and pantry donations will diminish because the people of God will challenge the systems that create the need. And in the meantime until the injustice is corrected we will continue to provide for the hungry in every community.

*People will get together for times of learning which will strengthen their personal witness and give them confidence to reach out with God's love and to share the power of God to make a difference in a life. The means of grace (prayer, searching the scriptures, observing the sacraments, service, fasting, worship, financial giving, etc.) will give us strength and purpose for serving boldly.

*Leaders will risk trying something new and give up saying, "we have always done it this way." That really is just an excuse. It is like staying stuck in the mud. Imagine how different your life would be today if we had stayed with the practice of rubbing two sticks together to create fire.

*We will celebrate and celebrate and celebrate God's generosity and share it with others who need it more.

*We will discover our gifts for serving and use our gifts faithfully out of gratitude for all God has done in our lives.

*We will be connectional as United Methodists remembering we can do far more together than any one person or local church can do alone. Just look at the Ingathering harvest. If churches made the decision to pay their apportionments, or attempt to increase what they have been paying—we could change the world! There would be funding available for more grants. Persons in greatest need would receive the missional support their very lives depend on. God's purposes would be accomplished. We could make a tremendous difference, just like the Ingathering harvest of over 1 million dollars, given across the Conference on this one day. \$1,000,000 makes an amazing difference in God's world.

*We will find courage to look closely at how we can better serve together with other neighboring churches. In this time of congregational decline and financial shortfalls we must look at new ways of working together as small churches struggle to remain open. What would it mean for God's purposes if we found new ways of sharing our resources and still accomplish what the local church desires to accomplish?

*Then there is God's desires and plan for us....in the NE District...for us to discover in 2012.

These are just a few images I have to share. Maybe God has others you desire to share with me.

THANK YOU for your great witness at the fall Charge Conferences of the amazing ministry that is happening on the district. THANK YOU for your continued commitment to being the Church called to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." THANK YOU for being courageous enough to risk stepping out in faith to become part of God's calendar page for the NE District in the year ahead.

Blessings,

Jackie





Calendar Reminders

Save this date: The Annual NE District Leadership Training Event will be Sunday, March 25, from 2:00—5:00 p.m. We will offer workshops for local church leaders and there will be a follow-up on New Places for New People offered by Conference Leadership Development Ministers. Location and final workshops will be announced soon.

Mark Your Calendar: There will be a laity event with Bishop Trimble on March 31, 2012 from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at Ankeny Family Life Center located at 710 NE 36th St., Ankeny with a light lunch provided as part of the registration. Laity are encouraged to travel to Ankeny to be with the Bishop personally, however, they will simulcast this event on several locations on the NE District to be announced so stay tuned.

The 2012 Iowa United Methodist School for Ministry will be April 10-12, at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott. The theme is: "Because God calls the Body of Christ." More information is available at <http://www.iowaschoolforministry.org>.

License as a Local Pastor School — Illinois Great Rivers School will be July 22-August 2, 2012 on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. Early February details will be available on their website: <http://www.license2preach.net>.

JAVA WITH JACKIE

Laity across the district are invited to attend a morning of JAVA and conversation with the District Superintendent. Jackie has scheduled four events on the district.

They are all on Saturday mornings, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Come share in a time of devotion and informal conversation. What is on your mind? What do you want to have dialogue with the DS about?

What are your passions and the passions of your church?

Jackie wants to come and LISTEN and have conversation with you about our beloved United Methodist Church.

JAVA WITH JACKIE schedule:

Saturday, March 3—9:30-11:00 a.m. at Reinbeck UMC

Saturday, March 10—9:30-11:00 a.m. at Osage, First UMC

Saturday, April 21—9:30-11:00 a.m. at Decorah, First UMC

Saturday, May 12—9:30-11:00 a.m. at Strawberry Point UMC





Bishop Trimble and Rev. Jackie Bradford at Rev. Jackie's installation on December 4, 2011 at Grace UMC in Oelwein.

Around the District

Congratulations to Rev. Lilian Gallo Seagren currently servicing Waterloo, Kimball Avenue UMC, has been asked by Bishop Trimble to serve on the Cabinet beginning July 1, 2012. She will be appointed to the Southeast District Office.

Birth Announcements

(Nashua-Republic Community) It's a boy! On December 12, Benjamin Okudisurdi Lundula was born to Rev. Okitakoyi Lundula & his wife Berth.

(Dike) Pastor Dan & Valerie Ridnour have a new grandson, Noah Jacob, born on December 27 to Mike and Julie Goemaat.

(Rockford-Marble Rock) Pastor Judy & Brad Wooton are grandparents to Kyler John born December 29 son of Kyle & Heidi Wooton.

(Colesburg) Pastor Allen & Joyce Craft have a new grandson, Finn Donald, was born on January 11. His parents are Jeremy & Laura Wolff of La Porte City.

Our Sympathy to:

Mrs. Marna Hancock & family on the death of Rev. Eugene Hancock who passed away on November 26. Rev. Hancock served on our district at Independence, First.

Rev. Robert Smith & family on the death of his wife, Mary on November 28. Rev. Smith served at Waterloo, Graves-Evansdale and Nashua-Republic Community.

To the family of Rev. Donald Thompson who passed away on December 12. Rev. Thompson served at Toledo: Otterbein-Fairview.

Rev. Lee Roy Collins & family on the death of his wife, Wilma, who passed away on January 5. Rev. Collins served at Elgin-Illyria, Toledo & Chelsea.

Mrs. Jo Ann Pfaltzgraff & family on the death of Rev. Paul Pfaltzgraff on January 6. Rev. Pfaltzgraff served at Nora Springs, Pleasant Valley, and Cedar Falls, St. Timothy's.

Rev. Don Callen & family on the death of his wife, Addie Claire, who passed away on January 15. Rev. Callen served at St. Ansgar-Little Cedar.



Harry Denman Evangelism Award

Rev. Dr. Jill Sanders (on behalf of the Evangelism Advocate for the Board of Discipleship,
Rev. Dot Hasler)

The Board of Discipleship of the Iowa Annual Conference is now accepting nominations for Clergy, Laity and Youth for the Harry Denman Evangelism Awards. Denman was known for his dedication to introducing people to his friend Jesus. He founded the Foundation for Evangelism in 1949 and believed that it was the business of every Christian to be an evangelist. Anyone may nominate a person in any of the three categories of Clergy, Laity or Youth (persons age 18 or younger).

Begun in 1981 to honor United Methodist clergy and lay persons in each annual conference who exhibit unusual and outstanding efforts for the work on Christian Evangelism, the Harry Denman Evangelism Award helps draw attention to evangelism in the local church. Those eligible for these prestigious awards are persons who are effective in helping others to experience the transforming love of God through Jesus Christ. Each annual conference is encouraged to honor one YOUTH (age 18 years or younger), one LAY person and one CLERGY person from their conference each year. Anyone- laity, District Superintendents, or pastors-- may nominate someone from any of the three categories.

Nomination forms are available by contacting the NE District Office: 319-268-7502; janet.condon@iaumc.org.

The Christmas Spirit and Politics

The Rev. Maureen Doherty
Director, New City Ministries

As I reflected with my parish during Advent and the journey to Bethlehem, where we pondered the Messiah born in poverty, my mind was and still is numbed as I heard the children of the poorest in our nation characterized as "Having no habits of working and having nobody around them who works. So they (children) literally have no habit of showing up on Monday, they have no habit of staying all day; they have no habit of "I do this and you give me cash unless it is illegal." This comes on the heels of comments that "poor children should be put to work as janitors in their schools. Poor children don't understand work unless they're doing something illegal." (Newt Gingrich 12/2/2011)

This child born of the Promise of God will lead us on a journey to the poorest of the poor and in healing, touching, feeding, opening the eyes of the blind, comforting those who reach out to touch, in responding to those who cry out from the wilderness, he is Christmas hope everyday. Jesus demonstrates that we are our brothers and sisters keeper, we are hope and light and life and through us all will know the kingdom of God. Such callous words and attitudes diminish us as people of faith, as American's as human beings. The heart of God is with the poor, lest we forget!

This past year you demonstrated in your overwhelming generosity to New City Ministry that Christmas is not a one day affair; you enable us through your gifts to be the heart and hands of Christ, to be the hope of Christmas everyday. The words of Mr. Gingrich reminds us that as an agency that exists to advocate for the poor and those who are oppressed, we still have much work to do. We must continue to raise a voice of justice, love, equality and compassion. May the voice of NCM ring out loudly above all others!

We give thanks for you. May the simple crib of Christmas be our guide into this New Year.

Blessings from the Board and Staff of New City Ministries.

January 2012 School Teachers for Nigeria

Beverly Nolte, Iowa Nigeria Partnership

As we begin to schedule activities and events in our 2012 calendar, may this new year be filled with multiple opportunities and myriad blessing. Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the UMCN educational programs in Nigeria. Your support undergirds our friends as they raise the academic and educational standards of their country through providing Christian education to children, youth and adults.

Jacob Tahiru, a third year student at Africa University, returns to Zimbabwe on 1/11/12 to complete his last semester in the Faculty of Management and Administration. He has completed an internship with Taraba State Government in Jalingo, Nigeria this past year.

For the June work team to Iowa, we are looking for educators to provide in-service training for elementary teachers, assist with three computer training schools and offer technical service to the school directors, help in cataloging theological books at the Bishop Rueben Job Seminary Library and help paint the elementary building at Kakulu Theological Seminary. Contact Beverly Nolte for more information and an application (515-266-4186, bnmedical@aol.com).

The first African Clergywomen Consultation is being held Feb. 1 -4 at Africa University in Zimbabwe. We Iowans are asked to provide at least two scholarships for Nigerian clergywomen to attend this history learning and educational event. Cost is \$1,500 for a round trip airline ticket per attendee. Let's make it happen for these clergywomen sisters to affirm their calling and have leadership development as offered by event planners.



ASH WEDNESDAY

NE District Asking Fund

Thank you to all of the churches that have contributed to the 2011 NE District Asking Fund. Your generosity has provided scholarships for many clergy and laity to attend continuing education events, conferences, and workshops. Clergy may receive up to \$250 and laity up to \$350 per year for continuing education events as long as the funds last. Applications are available through the district office and are processed as they are received. The voluntary District Asking also provides grants to local churches for a variety of ministry projects, ranging from technology upgrades to starting new ministries. Applications for District Asking Ministry grants are due April 1 each year, reviewed by the District Parish Development Committee for eligibility, and presented at District Conference in the spring. A revised form is on the NE District web pages. District Asking Funds also support specialized ministries, including New City Ministries.

What's Available on the NE District Web Pages (www.iaumc.org/districts/detail/18)

- 2011 NE District Charge Conference Schedule
- 2011 NE District Pastor Interview Schedule
- 2011 Parsonage standards & Inspection Form
- NE District Certified Lay Speakers and Graduates from the School for Lay Ministry
- NE Forms:
 - Application for NE District Asking Parish Development Grant
 - 2012 NE District Matthew 25 Application
 - 2012 NE District Matthew 25 Application Instructions
 - Northeast District Asking Continuing Education Form
- Northeast Connection Newsletter
- Northeast District Church & Pastor Directory
- Northeast District DCMC Committees

<p>Welcoming the Stranger A Charter for Racial Justice Event</p> <p>Saturday, April 28, 2012</p> <p>Britt UMW with Vida Nueva, Hispanic Ministry</p> <p>Registration 8:30—9:00 a.m. Program 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Britt UMC 707 4th St. SW Britt, Iowa 50423</p>	<p>Send registration by April, 12, 2012 to Jean Sheets, 1930 Echo Ave., Britt, IA 50423-8523 with \$8 for lunch and coffee — checks payable to Britt UMW.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>E-mail _____</p> <p>Babysitting (list ages) _____</p>
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<i>Date</i>	<i>Churches</i>
January 29, 2012	Fairbank, Waterloo Jubilee
February 5, 2012	Fayette, First; Waterloo, Kimball Avenue
February 12, 2012	Floyd, Grace-West St. Charles
February 19, 2012	Frederika; Hazleton, Trinity
February 26, 2012	Garwin; Waterloo, Linden
March 4, 2012	Gladbrook, Waterloo, St. Paul's
March 11, 2012	Greeley; Gladbrook Chapel
March 18 2012	Greene Yoke; Waverly, Heritage
March 25, 2012	Grundy Center; Waverly, Trinity

Prayer Calendar for NE District

Please lift up the following congregations in the Northeast District during worship and/or in your newsletter.



New Places for New People in the NE District

Rev. Jayme Glenn-Burns, Field Outreach Minister

Mt. Hope UMC is a small country church on the corner of Sage Road and Mt. Vernon Road north of Waterloo. We have 80 members with an average attendance of about 20. Because of being located on gravel roads in the country where there is not a lot of change in the people of the neighborhood, it has been difficult to encourage new people to attend. We have a mature congregation with few young people, so it is difficult to offer a large number of programs. Our main focus has become MISSIONS! Many of us have passion for missions after hearing Mike Slaughter at the Laity Summit in October. He said that we should “minimize bricks and maximize mission.” He said that the numbers in the seat is not what is so important, but how many are going out to the world to share Jesus Christ. One of the ways that we can do that is through our missions. We give money, but we also do many in-kind gifts like the school kits, health kits, new blankets and bedding for Burmese families in Waterloo, coats to the Salvation Army, and support to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Our amount may not look huge, but because we are part of a Connectional Church that works together, we together can do much to spread God’s word around the world.



District Clergy Epiphany Dinner January 6, 2012 at Jubilee UMC in Waterloo

(Photos courtesy of Rob Condon)

More pictures on pages 12 & 13



Rev. Jackie Bradford holding Pastor Sheryl Hull's granddaughter, Arianna, daughter of Jaide & Karen Minikus, as Mrs. Delpha Brockmeyer admires the sweet bundle.



The Epiphany Dinner was an opportunity to experience LeChristopher's Southern Cuisine a ministry of the Jubilee UMC. L-R: the Parkers (William and Carmelita, wearing black chef hats), Matt Boyd, Dorothy Duff, and Lela Simpson



L-R: Jergene Delaney, Terry Stevens, and Endya Johnson



L-R: Matt Boyd, Carmelita Parker, and her husband William "Redd" Parker

More Epiphany Dinner Pictures



Rev. Doug Tharpe pastor at Evansdale, St. Mark's UMC.



Rev. Myron Brockmeyer listening to a musical piece sung by Tradis Thomas.



L-R: Rev. Linda Butler (St. Timothy's); Rev. Mark & Janice Young (New Hope Parish).



L-R: Gentlemen from Jubilee UMC — Tradis Thomas, Rev. Abraham Funchess, and Eddie Moss.



L-R: **THE J-TEAM** Rev. Jaymee Glenn-Burns, NE District Field Outreach Minister; Janet Condon, District Secretary; Rev. Jackie Bradford, NE Conference Superintendent.



Seated: Eliza Washington
Standing L-R: Janet Condon, Theresa Sisk



Rev. Tim and Michelle Bonney from Cedar Falls, First



Rev. Clive & Mavis Cook, Janet Condon, Fritz Kruger, and Rev. Mary Green.

**Save the Date
Conference Older Adult Council to Present
Caregiving Workshop**

On Saturday, April 28, 2012 the Conference Older Adult Council will be conducting a caregiving workshop. This event is made possible by a grant from the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries of the General Board of Discipleship.

The day promises to be beneficial to pastors, parish nurses, Christian educators and other church leaders. The workshop will provide local churches with resources to help those in their congregations who are involved in caregiving. It will be held at First UMC in Des Moines. The cost is \$25.

Watch your mailbox for a brochure and registration form. The form will also be placed on the Conference website. If you have questions, call Christine Anders at 515-244-6209.



**Volunteers in Mission (VIM)
Roundup Scheduled for August 24-26, 2012**

Roundup is for everyone, old, young, those who have been on a VIM mission and those who would like to know more about Volunteers in Mission. It is a time to renew friendships, meet new people, and share our stories and our visions. It is a gathering experience for work, worship, learning and fellowship. For more information contact: Dan and Jean Houston, 1530 Quill Avenue, Madrid Iowa 50156, 515-432-1226 or Dan 515-991-4797 or Jean 515-778-9414, danhouston84@yahoo.com or mjhouston19@yahoo.com

Roundup August 24-26, 2012

Wesley Woods Camp
10896 Nixon Street
Indianola, IA 50125-7226
Telephone 515-961-4523

Northeast District Office UMC
2302 W. 1st St., Suite 110
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Phone: 319-268-7502
Fax: 319-268-7521
NE District website:
www.iaumc.org/district/detail/18

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Rev. Jaymee Glenn-Burns
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