



Letters from the Lakeshore



Northwest District Leadership Training

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Correctionville, Grace UMC, 429 5th St

Registration from 9:30 am to 10:00 am

Workshops 10:00 am to 2:45 pm

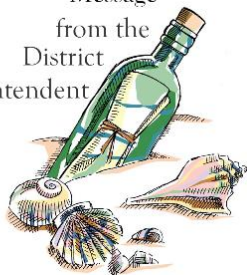
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Message
from the
District
Superintendent

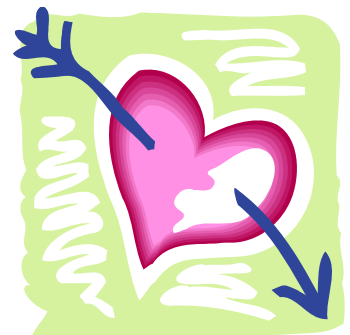


Friends,

I travel a lot and pass by populated places. I rejoice when I see United Methodist signs because that means that we have a United Methodist presence in that place. It is a fact that there are locations in which we have no presence (and I showed a list of those during the NW District Conference in 2009). I continue to pray that our vision of UM presence in all places becomes a reality.

We can make some small steps in 2010 to achieve that, and we start by encouraging each church to identify and target a group of people and do ministry for them according to their gifts and ability.

We have churches which offer really effective VBS or Sidewalk Church School at summer time. Maybe the same program can be offered in another town. Such presence, though temporary, is still a powerful presence which makes a big difference. The ideal is creating a permanent presence with the intention of establishing a new faith community



(Continued on page 2)

A Message from the District Superintendent

(Continued from page 1)

During my early years in ministry (which was in the Philippines), we identified and gathered United Methodists living in a nearby subdivision or community in a Bible Study and prayer meeting. They actually already belonged to a church, and they traveled about 10 miles to attend worship and other activities but they welcomed the opportunity to have something more local. The group met in a bigger home. Later on, other protestants in the community heard about the group and expressed interest and joined. Some dechurched and unchurched became curious, and they came to see. Some had good experiences with the group and stayed. Others had other expectations and did not come back. Two years later this group had grown to the point that they decided to have their own regular worship service. It was held on Sunday afternoon when a United Methodist pastor could come to conduct the service. This is still how United Methodists churches grow in number in the Philippines.

Organizing a Bible Study Group in each of the populated places in our district without UM presence is a small step. To my friends in the NW district, if you know of some people who have the call to organize a Bible Study group for unchurched and dechurched, please let me know. I would like to meet with them, pray with them and equip them.

Praying with you and working with you until God's will happen on earth as it is in heaven.

Rev. Bernie Colorado



Iowa Annual Conference United Methodist Church

Northwest District Office



Bishop Julius Trimble

**District Superintendent
Rev. Bernie Colorado**

Email: BColorado@iaumc.org

**Field Outreach Minister
Sarah Stevens**

Email: Sarah.Stevens@iaumc.org

**District Administrative
Secretary
Judi Calhoon**

Email: Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org

1206 W 4th St
Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

(712) 732-0812
(712) 732-0955(Fax)

www.iaumc.org/nwdist



SMALL GROUP LEADERS TRAINING

Local churches in the Northwest District are encouraged to organize more small groups in 2010. The District is willing to send a trainer come to your local church to conduct small group leaders training. It is obvious that if training is more localize, more will be able to participate. Just like in the early church and early Methodism, small group (or Cell group or Class) always helps God's people (1) do no harm, (2) do good, and (3) stay in love with God.

"How to Get More Members"

The Northwest District Connectional Ministries Council is offering a scholarship of scholarship of \$600 to 10 teams that will attend Jim Griffith's event entitled "How to Get More Members: Members becoming Missionaries" on April 17-18, 2010 (Saturday and Sunday). Scholarship will cover for \$300. tuition and \$300. for hotel accomodation of the team. An email of application must be sent to the District Office. It will be on first come first served basis. Deadline for the scholarship will be February 15, 2010. Each team is composed of 4 to 6 people including the pastor. Application must include the names of the team. After the event, a copy of the Ministry Action Plan must be shared to the District Superintendent.

For more information on the event, contact the District Office.



**"This day is holy to our LORD;
and do not be grieved,
for the joy of the LORD
is your strength."**

Nehemiah 8:10 NRSV



12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor 13:12-13 NRSV

I don't know about you, but I feel like I have been seeing things dimly as of late. This past month's fog has been amazing, if not a little frightening to experience. Whether daylight or nighttime, there were full days when I couldn't see much of anything. Those things which are normally so clear and readily apparent to me were hidden by some seemingly everlasting shroud. The lights of the city down below the terrace which my home sits on—gone. The road signs on the trip to

and fro Des Moines which I know by heart—unidentifiable. The fellow travelers on the journey—hidden. Everything that on any other given day create and color my context, my experience, my safety weren't there anymore.

As I looked out on this foggy world, I couldn't help but think of the church. It is true that for many of our local congregations and for the United Methodist Church as we know it, the future is very foggy. The markers of a thriving ministry seem shrouded, hidden. A future that before offered such certainty and clarity is now, well... dim.

So what do we do when we encounter such foggy? Driving and quite frankly, living, in the fog requires a whole new way of looking at the world. Suddenly little white and yellow lines that we normally take for granted are lifelines, telling us that we are on the right path. Landmarks that normally fade into our memory become essential markers on the journey. Headlights and taillights of fellow travelers can become the most comforting reminder that you aren't alone on the journey. Most importantly the fog is an incredible reminder that we must slow down and be intentional in our choices and actions.

I believe that this is also true of the work of the church right now. In the face of a foggy future, one where right now it feels like we are seeing more dimly than usual, we need to take the time to focus on the essential markers around us. The signs of the kingdom and our call to ministry must be intentionally studied so that we stay on the right journey. The end of the love chapter of 1 Corinthians gives a clue as to what those markers are—faith, hope and love. Even in the midst of the fog, these three should stand out to us just like the invaluable landmarks and road signs that aid us in our travels. They should provide a roadmap, reminding us of what is most important, most clear, and most life-saving about the ministry which we are called to participate in.





I invite you to spend some time studying, praying and thinking about what markers God has given you in your ministry. What does your roadmap look like, even in times of dense fog? I will be leading a workshop at this month's District Leadership on the book, Roadmap to Renewal. In it, Rev. Dr. Douglas Ruffle reminds us of the importance of our true mission and ministry. Those things that abide when all else falls away. Those things which keep us on the journey when it seems that everything else around us is so uncertain and hidden. I am confident that there is bright future for the United Methodist Church and for your local congregation, even if right now I am only seeing dimly.

Blessings, Sarah

February 2010

Important Information

- If you have any articles for the district newsletter, please send them to Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org by the 20th of the month.
- February 27- District Leadership Training
- April 17, 2010 – Confirmation Rally
- April 25, 2010 District Conference at Marcus UMC
- June 5-8– Annual Conference

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Cabinet →	10	11	12	13
14	15 	16	17 	18	19 Conf Parish Dev	20
21	22	23 Cabinet →	24	25	26	27 Dist Training Event
28						



Bernie's Calendar

February

- 1 UMC Advocacy Day in Des Moines
- 3 District team meeting with LDM Naomi Sea Young Wittstruck
- 5 UMECOSS Board meeting in Sioux City
- 7 Visit a church
- 9-10 Cabinet meeting
- 14 Preach at Lakes Church followed by Special Church Conference
- 16 SPRC meeting at Early
- 19 Conference Parish Development meeting
- 21 Visit a church
Preach at Sioux City, St James Lenten Program 7 pm
- 23-24 Cabinet meeting
- 27 NW Leadership Training at Correctionville

CONFIRMATION RALLY

It is time to remind all of our confirmands about the Confirmation Rally on April 17, 2010 (Saturday) to be held at Storm Lake UMC. We begin at 9:30 am for fellowship and followed by presentation about the "Three Simple Rules" and small groups discussions. At 11:30 am, we gather at the sanctuary for worship service. After the meal, the confirmands may go to Kings Pointe for swimming and fun (paid by the District). This will be the 4th time that we do this and we expect all confirmands to come. It is a good opportunity to meet fellow young United Methodists and be in prayer together as they begin their journey new journey as believers and members of the United Methodist Church.



Apportionments Update

Apportionment is every United Methodist congregation's spiritual commitment to the connection in order for our state, national, and global ministry to carry on. Many important ministries can not be done by single church but possible through the joint efforts of all churches as seen in the apportionment. We are thankful for all of the prayers and sacrifices of people called United Methodists.

NW District apportionment receipts as of December 31, 2009 was 80.12% compared to 80.12% in 2008.

AKRON, WESLEY	84%	SALIX	100%	AYRSHIRE	47%
ALTA	100%	HUNTINGTON	100%	SAC CITY	73%
SCHALLER	100%	IDA GROVE, FIRST	100%	SANBORN, ST. ANDREW'S	100%
ANTHON	75%	ARTHUR	100%	SERGEANT BLUFF	91%
ROCK BRANCH	100%	KINGSLEY	100%	SHELDON	100%
ARCHER	100%	LAKES	54%	SIBLEY	17%
ARMSTRONG	100%	LANGDON	100%	OCHEYEDAN	100%
ARNOLDS PARK	11%	SPENCER, ZION	100%	SC, CHURCH ALL NATIONS	0%
AURELIA, FIRST	100%	LAURENS	100%	SIOUX CITY, CRESCENT PARK	100%
CHEROKEE, ST. PAUL'S	100%	LE MARS	100%	SIOUX CITY, FIRST	100%
CORRECTIONVILLE	92%	SENEY	100%	SIOUX CITY, GRACE	19%
CUSHING, FIRST	100%	LESTER, SEEDS OF FAITH	100%	SIOUX CITY, RIVERSIDE	7%
DANBURY	100%	MAPLETON, ST. JOHN'S	77%	SIOUX CITY, RUSTIN AVENUE	22%
DOLLIVER	100%	TICONIC	100%	SIOUX CITY, ST. JAMES	100%
DOON, FIRST	100%	MARATHON	100%	SIOUX CITY, TRIMBLE	23%
EARLY	100%	NEWELL	14%	SIOUX CITY, WESLEY	100%
EMMETSBURG	46%	MARCUS, GRACE	43%	SIOUX CITY, WHITFIELD	15%
ESTHERVILLE	100%	MELVIN	100%	SIOUX RAPIDS	6%
EVERLY	53%	MERRILL, FIRST	100%	REMBRANDT	27%
ROYAL	100%	ADAVILLE, FIRST	100%	SMITHLAND	87%
EXCELSIOR	100%	MILFORD, UNION MEMORIAL	11%	SPENCER, GRACE	100%
FOSTORIA	0%	MOVILLE	97%	SPIRIT LAKE	59%
GALVA, FIRST	20%	NEMAHA	100%	STORM LAKE	100%
SILVER CREEK	100%	ODEBOLT	100%	SUTHERLAND	54%
GRAETTINGER	44%	ONAWA	30%	LARRABEE	100%
TERRIL	25%	TURIN	62%	VARINA	100%
HARRIS	100%	PETERSON	100%	WEBB	81%
LAKE PARK	100%	PIERSON	100%	GILLETT GROVE	100%
HARTLEY	32%	MEADOW STAR	87%	DICKENS	100%
HAWARDEN	100%	PRIMGHAR	100%	WEST BEND	100%
IRETON	10%	QUIMBY	13%	MALLARD	75%
HINTON	12%	WASHTA	100%		
MERRILL, MELBOURNE	100%	ROCK RAPIDS	100%	District Total Paid To Date	80%
HOLSTEIN	100%	ROCK VALLEY, PIONEER	100%	(as of December 31, 2009)	
HOPE PARISH	100%	ROLFE	0%		
HORNICK	100%	RUTHVEN	100%		

February

4	Karen Burnett
5	Judi Calhoon
6	Jerry Oakland
7	Byron & Betty Ayers
7	Esta Fraley
10	Judson Stover
14	Terry & Diana Pollard
17	Neva Thorn Perdue



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Gail Streiffeler who had surgery in December. Gail is the wife of Laurice who is retired clergy serving as interim at Sioux City, Wesley UMC.

Please forward all prayer requests to Judi at the District Office. If you would like the prayer request to go out on the District email list, please indicate that.



Volunteer in Mission Team Leader Training

Sunday, March 14th

Sibley UMC

1:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Are you called to lead a mission team?

Do you want to learn more?

Iowa Conference Volunteers in Mission is ready to assist you learn the ins and outs of leading a team for service in Iowa, in the United States or anywhere in the world.

You are invited to join new and experienced team leaders for a time of education, fellowship and spiritual growth.

Cost of the training is free. There is a manual available for \$20, one per church would be sufficient. There will be a light meal served for a free will offering.

Please reserve a spot by emailing Kathy Martin at kmartin@morningside.edu by March 8th.

Consecration Sunday Speakers

Here is the list of Consecration Speakers for the Northwest District. If there you are qualified to become Consecration Sunday speakers and are willing to be included in the list, please contact the District Office.

Rev. Bernie Colorado, 1206 W 4th St, Storm Lake, 50588,
712-732-0812

Pastor Barb Joy, 705 Fir St, Correctionville, 51016,
712-372-4320

June Goldman, 24113-178th St, Okoboji, 51355
712-332-5811

Lorna Leavitt, PO Box 734, Marcus, 51035, 712--76-2232

Rev. Lon Lewis, 1812 Gary Ave, Spirit Lake, 51360,
712-336-3115

Sarah Kitterman Stevens, 1206 W 4th St, Storm Lake, 50588,
712-732-0812

Ann Trimble-Ray, PO Box 17, Early, 50535, 712-273-5322

FROM BERNIE'S FILE OF RESOURCES

LEADING YOUR CHURCH THROUGH CHANGE

- I. Decide first if the church should change
 - Things to consider, demographic wise:
 1. Is this church in the right place for growth?
 2. Is this church worth changing?
 3. Does it need to die and be reborn some where else?
 4. Is there a more receptive area?
 5. Could I be more effective some where else?
 6. What is the realistic potential?
 - Things to Personally to consider:
 1. Am I the right person to lead this change?
 2. Is this the kind of church I should be pasturing?
 3. Do I match the congregation/community?
 4. Is the existing leadership likely to support me in change?
 5. If the existing leadership stays, can the church grow?
 6. Am I willing to live the rest of my life in this church?
- II. Make a public commitment to stay
 - Law of leadership—change takes time
 - The longer the decline, the longer the change...
 - You can move quickly if:
 1. the pain is great
 2. there is great unity
 3. circumstances are right
- III. Begin sharing a clear vision wherever you go
 - Have a biblical basis for everything you do
 - Create discontent with the status quo by showing the benefits of growth
 - Appeal to the best in people
 - Build morale, give the people a “win”
 - Create a sense of destiny (energy, excitement)
- IV. Expose your key leadership to winning models
 - This is the fastest way to introduce change
 - Do what God called you to do
- V. Build on your strengths
 - Begin with dreams not problems
 - Don't do anything without purpose (and the purpose must be missional, not Financial)
 - Natural church development piece
- VI. Be strategic in introducing change
 - Chose your battles carefully
 - Compromise on non-essentials
 - Be a proponent of the new and not an opponent of the old
 - Call every change an experiment (experiments are temporary and expected to Fail)
 - Know and respect and enlist the “legitimizes” in your church
- VII. Don't take criticism personally
 - No growth without change, no change without loss, no loss without pain
- VIII. Be willing to let people leave or churches die
 - Fact: people are going to leave your church no matter what you do. When you clarify the vision, you choose who leaves
 - Love everyone, but move with the movers
- IX. Continually remind people why we do what we do
- X. Praise and thank people for the changes they do agree to make

Travel with the Trimbles to the Oberammergau Passion Play

Bishop Julius Trimble and Racelder Grandberry-Trimble invite you to join them on an exciting pilgrimage to Germany and Austria in August of 2010. On this trip we will attend a performance of the historic once-every-ten-years Passion Play in Oberammergau and stay in a historic Alpine village.

Other highlights will include a day in Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace; a visit to Innsbruck, where we will tour Maria Theresa's Imperial Palace; breathtaking views of the Tyrolian Alps; a drive through the Brenner Pass, and visits to castles, churches and abbeys in the region.

In the 17th Century, when the village of Oberammergau was spared from the Black Plague, the villagers promised God that they would show their gratitude by performing a Passion Play every ten years. Now, 370 years later, we will have the opportunity to experience this world-famous production.

In addition to the nine-day pilgrimage, travelers may choose an Italy pre-tour or extensions to Switzerland, Vienna and Prague, or an Alpine village extended stay. For further information and registration materials, please contact Ron and Ruth Anne Petrak at 1507 Pennsylvania Ave., Des Moines, IA 50316; Phone 515/262-3691; email address: ronruthanne1507@msn.com.



Retreat News from Okoboji Camp

Okoboji United Methodist Camp is excited to announce the arrival of wireless internet to all of our cabins and retreat facilities (even New Hope on the South Campus!) This new development will enhance our year-round retreat ministry. We are proud of our ability to meet the needs of the groups who gather at camp! The addition of WI-FI service to all Okoboji facilities will help retain groups as well as attract new ones.



Is your group looking for a place to meet? We'd be happy to host you! We are thrilled that each year, more and more groups are finding Okoboji's facilities, programming and food service the perfect compliment to their groups retreat needs. We would love to serve you! Call for availability today! More information can be found at www.okobojicamp.com, or call us at 1-866-856-9862.

Retreat ideas:

Church staff planning	Scrapbooking	Quilting groups
Women's groups	Men's groups – work projects available for all skill levels	
AA and Al-Anon groups	Families – reunions, weekend get-aways	
Sports teams – playing fields and team building opportunities available		
Clergy personal retreats – free to all clergy	Youth groups – lock-ins, mission opportunities	

ANYTHING!! JUST COME!!

Upcoming retreats:

Walleye Weekend Getaway

Take part in an Iowa Lakes Classic! Come to camp and enjoy this annual fishing tournament that brings anglers from far and wide in the hopes of winning the \$10,000 tagged fish! Your registration fee provides you with two-nights lodging and a full Fisherman's Breakfast Buffet on Sat. and Sun. mornings! So grab some friends, family or other fisherman for some food, fun and FISHING...Talk about a great weekend! Call 1-866-856-9862 or email info@okobojicamp.com for details.

2010 Camping Information will be available in early February. It's going to be another GREAT year from camping in the IAUMC!



Candidacy Mentor Training

The District Committee on Ordained Ministry announces the spring date for Candidacy Mentor Training – Saturday, March 6th, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – at Community United Methodist Church in Sergeant Bluff, 1st Street and Baker Drive. Lunch will be provided by the Northwest District. Since there have been changes in the candidacy process and the role that candidacy mentors may play, this training is required for all new and all current candidacy mentors. Topics that will be covered include: the importance of call, discernment, Disciplinary definitions, relationships and mentoring, the role of the candidacy mentor, confidentiality in the relationship, the Iowa Candidacy Process, and using the Guidelines for Candidacy – plus, how to connect with the Candidacy site out of Nashville. A candidacy mentor may be a clergy person who feels called by God and has gifts and graces that will assist others in discernment, self-reflection, and spiritual growth. A candidacy mentor will function in the mentoring relationship as a guide and counselor. If you have questions about the training, contact Pastor Deborah Stowers at umcpstr@longlines.com. If you are going to attend, please register for the training by e-mailing Pastor Stowers umcpstr@longlines.com so that there will be sufficient materials for all participants.



Lay Speaker Training

Sunday, March 14, 21, 28

2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Kingsley UMC

Basic Lay Speaking and 2 Advanced Lay Speaking Classes (to be announced) will be held. More information will be coming out via email in a couple weeks. Mark your calendars now!

A reminder that ALL Lay Speakers must renew every three years.



Northwest District Health Kit Challenge

As we hear the news continue about the earthquake in Haiti, we realize that there is a great need for health-kits to be sent to be sent to Haiti. The Northwest District Disaster Response Team would like to challenge each church to assemble as many kits as possible. If each church could assemble 10 kits we would have over 1000 kits to send to Haiti from the Northwest District. What a small amount of work to be able to help such a large number of people. It is estimated that thousands of kits will be needed in the days and months to come.

We will be collecting the kits at three different spots in the District:
 Northwest District Office (1206 W 4th Street, Storm Lake)
 Morningside College (contact Kathy Martin at 712-274-5148 or email martink@morningside.edu to make arrangements)
 Spirit Lake UMC (1812 Gary Ave, Spirit Lake)

After collecting the kits, we will need to get them to either Sager-Brown Depot in Baldwin, LA or to the UMCOR Midwest Distribution Center in Chatham, IL. If you know of anyone wishing to volunteer to help transport the kits, please contact Kathy Martin.

The kits, valued at about \$12 per kit, contain everything from towels and washcloths to sterile bandages and bar soap. They will be distributed to those who have been forced to leave their homes as a result of the recent disaster. Please see the District website for more information.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help transport the kits, please contact Kathy Martin, NW District VIM Coordinator at martink@morningside.edu or the District Office.

We would like to have all the kits to the drop off points by Monday, February 8th.



Help those in need

Northwest District Leadership Training

Saturday, February 27th

9:30 AM- 2:45PM

Correctionville, Grace UMC

Keynote Address by Kevin Gowdy **“Throwing out the Garbage” (or: Why there’s always an upside to a good economic crisis)**

Every era builds myths. Some have meanings which endure and become a more permanent part of the larger faith tradition. Still, as important and powerful as these myths are, few stand the test of time. Now is an excellent time to sort through the myths found in programs, slogans and conventional wisdom that have grown over the last twenty years. Which ones have reshaped faithful living, and which ones need to be put on the garbage heap? What’s the forecast on truths in the immediate future?

Workshop Choices

Stewardship Practices to Think About for 2010 led by Rev. Kevin Gowdy

Creative Worship led by Rev. Magrey deVega

Many churches consider the concept of creative worship with either resistance or reservation. And for good reason: for most people, personal worship preference is directly related to their view of God. Their liturgy is their theology. So how can we create novel moments that broaden and deepen worship, without being disruptive and unsettling? And how can we use digital and multimedia technology to help us in this task? This workshop will spark your creativity and help you make it happen in your ministry setting.

100-Hour Challenge: Making Outreach Your First Step of Discipleship led by Rev. Ryan Christiansen

"Mission trips, work projects, and using gifts and talents outside the walls of the church will be the growing, if not primary place, for spiritual formation," says Alan Nelson of Rev Magazine. No longer will "join me for church" refer to Sunday morning worship, but increasingly the first steps of faith will happen through face-to-face outreach and service. And the 100-Hour Challenge is a wonderful way of moving members to reach out in relevant ways in your community and invite their friends to join them. This workshop will look at why outreach is critical to the future of your congregation and give you practical ways of growing your ministry of outreach.

Lay Leadership 101: led by Marilyn Brubaker and Rev. Bernie Colorado

Now that you’ve agreed to be a Lay Leader, what is your ministry? District Superintendent Colorado and District Lay Leader Marilyn Brubaker will lead this two session workshop for all leaders.

Trustees 101 led by Rev. Doug Harding

Conference Trustee Chair Rev. Doug Harding will share the basic duties of what it means to be a trustee as well as go deeper into your questions.

Being the Hands and Feet of Christ: Youth Ministry In Action led by Rev. Deborah Wise

In our session we will explore how short term mission trips can be transformative for your church youth ministry and have a lasting impact in your home church too! We will discuss the various options for short term mission trips and how to plan and lead a team. We will cover some of the basics, such as organization and site selection, fund raising and team building and share ideas about how Northwest District Churches can pool our resources to get out and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

Ministry Action Plans & Roadmap to Renewal led by Sarah Stevens

Rev. Dr. Ruffle shares in his book the Roadmap to Renewal the “invitation to go on a road trip to rediscover the mission and purpose of your church.... and to open your minds and hearts to what God is calling your church to be and do.” Together we will begin an entrance into this material. The use of a ministry action plan will be central to this conversation

Best Practices/Idea Exchange Conversations

This year we are adding an extra component to our time together. You are invited to bring your best ideas and practices to share as a group. There will be four possible conversations for you to participate in. We look forward to hearing what you are up to!

Worship

Outreach and Mission

Youth Ministry

Small Groups

Schedule and more information is available on the District Website.