

South Central District
Office of The United
Methodist Church

709 Furnas Dr, Ste 1

PO Box 282

Osceola, IA 50213

Phone: 641-342-1644

Fax: 641-342-1647

JANUARY 2012

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

LOWER LIGHTS



2012: A New Year Filled with Promise, Hope, and Dread

LET THE LOWER
LIGHTS
BE BURNING!



JULIS C. TRIMBLE,
IOWA AREA BISHOP



BILL POLAND,
CONFERENCE
SUPERINTENDENT



PAUL SMITH,
FIELD OUTREACH
MINISTER



“What!” you say, “Dread?” “Aren’t New Year’s supposed to be Happy?” To which I answer of course and I offer up my prayers of blessing for all of you in 2012. The dread I refer to is the prediction of the end of the world in 2012 as some have interpreted from the Mayan calendar. Of course there were also predictions of the end to come in May and October of 2011 and those are just among the latest. I am happy to confess that I don’t share in the dread over 2012 unless its dread over the political ads that have already over-run us

during the Advent and Christmas seasons. I cannot help wondering what Jesus is thinking about all of this as we are supposed to be celebrating his birth and coming reign. I wonder what kind of ads Jesus would make if he had to run for his office as Lord. What would his message be?

That brings me back to promise and hope for 2012. I believe it will be a year filled with significance for you, for me and for the world God loves. We must simply embrace it. That’s the way it is with the Kingdom of God, it is not something we create because it is not ours; it is something we commit to, something we belong to. “My kingdom doesn’t originate from this world.” Jesus said to Pilate. He goes on to say in John 18, “My kingdom isn’t from here.” It comes “from” God and so it does not exist to separate or alienate, but to heal and reconcile. God has come into the world in Jesus to bring life, love and wholeness. It embraces all who would be willing to be embraced by it. It does away with the terms “insiders” and “outsiders” and extends the invitation to all. Jesus was telling Pilate that his is a very different kingdom.

We have been inviting pastors to join us in celebration of Epiphany each year here on the South Central District for a meal and to take part in John Wesley’s Covenant Service. This year Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble will be sharing with us on Saturday, January 21st, at the First UMC, Chariton. Please encourage your pastor to take part. It is a time for us to share again call and commitment as participants in God’s Reign. Let us all commit ourselves to be ambassadors of promise and hope to a world that is too often filled with dread.

Keep Shining,

Bill

Please answer these questions if you would like to see your Church grow Again!

Do you wish there was an effective and there was a proven way of helping your church to become more vital?

Are you in a church with 80 people or less in Worship attendance?

Do you think that you could get the pastor and 10 percent of your attending worship (for example 80 people in worship attendance would be 8, or 50 people in worship attendance would be 5 etc.) to meet with other smaller churches over a period of time?

If you answer yes to these three questions, then the Small Church Initiative (SCI) may be for you. SCI is part of the Healthy church Initiative. SCI was developed in Missouri and it has been used in Indiana. They have very been good in helping churches to become more vital and reaching out to their community more effectively.

We are looking for Churches who would like to be a part of this pilot project (Starting in early March 2012) in the South Central District. If you are interested or you have some questions or concerns, or you would like more information please contact me at paul.smith@iaumc.org or at 641.414.5771.

We have only a limited number of spaces for the pilot project!

“Iowa Women in Ministry invite all clergy to take advantage of an opportunity to assist a sister clergy women in Nigeria to attend the first African Clergywomen’s Consultation from Feb. 1 – 4, 2012 at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. The theme is: “Get Up Take Action: From Isolation to Collaboration!”

At present there are six Nigerian clergywomen who are elders with four of them recently appointed as district superintendents within the UMC. The others are deacons or lay pastors who have assignments in local churches earning about \$10 per month. Opportunities for continuing education are nil so having the opportunity to attend this first ever consultation on the Africa continent would signal positive affirmation of their calling, allow them to have leadership development and the privilege of being part of this historical event.

Their basic cost is air travel from Nigeria to Zimbabwe at approximately \$1,600 per person which is prohibitive for them to raise. Eleven women would like the opportunity to attend so we are asking that those of you who serve as clergy women in Iowa help make this unique experience possible for several of Nigerian sisters in Christ. You would be fostering a sense of unity with Nigeria clergywomen!

Funds may be sent to the Conference Treasurer marked: INP, #230, Clergywomen Consultation. Please advise Beverly Nolte, (bnmedical@aol.com) co-chairperson of the INP, of your support so we can notify Rev. Liatu Kane, a member of the consultation design team and a 19 year clergywoman serving as team organizer in Nigeria.“

The deadlines for registration for [Youth Strike for Christ](#) are coming up quickly. The deadlines are January 1, 2012 for Early Bird Pricing (\$164 per person based on 4 person occupancy per room) or January 15, 2012 for Regular Pricing (\$199 per person based on 4 person occupancy per room). Youth Strike for Christ is a Faith Building Experience for youth in grades 7-12 sponsored by the Iowa United Methodist Conference. The Youth Strike for Christ dates for 2012 are February 3-5. For more information or to register visit the website link above.

On February the 11, 2012 beginning at 9:30, at the Chariton UMC, we will be having the next step in the New places for New People. If you would like to learn more, and to help shape what this emphasis will look like for your local church and to be able to say, “This is what we need!”, then please come and take part in this event!

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

January

2 ~ Office Closed for New Year's Day Observance

4-5 ~ FOM Meeting

10-11 Cabinet

12 ~ Bill and Paul to Ministry Cabinet

13 ~ Bill to Joint Taskforce

16 ~ District Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance

21 ~ District Epiphany Gathering @ Chariton UMC @ 3:30 pm

21 ~ Paul to BGOM

23-25 ~ Paul to Garrett Evangelical

30 ~ Orders Event

February

1-2 ~ Cabinet

6-10 ~ Seminary Visits

12-25 Bill on Vacation

Save the Date!

Jim Griffith is coming back for his workshop on “Worship and other Pastoral Priorities”. He would like for the Staff –Parish Relations Committee, those on the Worship Committee and any others who are interested. The date will be Saturday April 28, 2012 from 10-3pm. We will be at the Family life Center in Albia, Iowa. The cost is 100 dollars per charge and the cost of lunch which will be announced later.

What to get Aunt Gertrude and Uncle Hiram? Alternative Christmas Ideas

What to get my aunt and uncle? They have everything but I feel I should get them something! So why not choose from the [Nigerian wish list](#) for these hard-to-shop-for family members and friends? Surprise them with a gift in their name by choosing one of these projects. How about buying something for your family and then share something with your Nigerian family? Remember Christmas is not *your* birthday.

- \$8 will purchase a Bible in Hausa
- \$15 will provide a one month stipend for a UMC teacher
- \$20 will help an illiterate Nigerian learn to read and write
- \$32 will provide one free prenatal care and normal vaginal delivery for a pregnant woman
- \$35 will buy a goat for the Agricultural Program
- \$50 will purchase vaccines for the poultry program
- \$66 will provide one term tuition for a high school student
- \$100 will stock the medicine cabinet at the church run clinics
- \$130 will purchase a treadle sewing machine
- *\$250 will provide scholarship for youth to attend computer training school
- \$550 will purchase a motorcycle for the Lit-Lit, Evangelism or youth directors
- *\$700 will purchase a computer for the computer center or high school
- \$1,500 will purchase a solar refrigerator for the district medical clinics
- \$2,000 will build a round hut home for an evangelist to minister to unsaved people
- \$4,500 will sink a deep water borehole/well providing clear, pure water
- Any amount of money may be given EmpowHer, our new micro-loan program for United Methodist Women

Money may be given through your church and sent to the Conference Treasurer designated INP, #230 and choice of project.

Through the Iowa Nigeria Partnership we Iowans have opportunity to financially support shared mission programs and offer prayers for UMCN evangelistic ministries.

Beverly Nolte

5221 Village Run Ave. #604

Des Moines IA 50317

515 266 4186 home

Keeping Children and Youth Safe – Webinars

In our continued call and commitment to serving children and youth through equipping leaders, this series of webinars were recorded for use in annual conferences, districts, and congregations of the United Methodist Church to support the reduction of risk of abuse in the Church. It is the hope that these webinars will be used in group settings for new and revitalizing congregations.

Basics of Safe Sanctuaries

Leigh Meekins, Doctoral Candidate in Education

Leigh addresses the basics of Safe Sanctuaries for those who are new to ministry with children and youth, or who need a refresher on the basics

Follow-Up Website

http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.5709637/k.7766/Annual_Conference_Contacts.htm

Follow-Up Contact for Children's Issues: Melanie Gordon mgordon@gbod.org

Follow-Up Contact for Youth Issues: Chris Wilterdink cwilterdink@gbod.org

Webinar PASSWORD: safe

Streaming – <https://cakesbury.webex.com/cakesbury/jr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&RID=98884317&act=pb&rKey=cdea7fe61a5c0f1a>

Download – <https://cakesbury.webex.com/cakesbury/jdr.php?AT=dw&SP=TC&RID=98884317&act=pf&rKey=8645e688c41816b1>

Identifying and Responding to Bullying in the Christian Context

Melanie Gordon, Director, Ministry with Children, GBOD

Melanie addresses issues around bullying as it applies to elementary age children, and how the church can move into being proactive and responsive

Follow-Up Website

<http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.5964019/k.BBC7/Safety.htm>

Follow-Up Contact: Melanie Gordon mgordon@gbod.org

Webinar PASSWORD: respond

Streaming – <https://cakesbury.webex.com/cakesbury/jr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&RID=97588442&act=pb&rKey=8f13c1ab6f1e089d>

Download – <https://cakesbury.webex.com/cakesbury/jdr.php?AT=dw&SP=TC&RID=97588442&act=pf&rKey=d508c77b703e6e05>

Cyberbullying and Teen on Teen Violence

Chris Wilterdink, Young People's Western Jurisdiction Staff, GBOD

Chris addresses how media plays a distinctive role in safety, and the reality of violence among teens

Follow-Up Website

http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.5598111/k.A248/Safe_Sanctuaries.htm

Follow-Up Contact: Chris Wilterdink cwilterdink@gbod.org

Webinar PASSWORD: safety

Streaming – <https://cakesbury.webex.com/cakesbury/jr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&RID=97804682&act=pb&rKey=1762a04aa4b1536b>

Download – <https://cakesbury.webex.com/cakesbury/jdr.php?AT=dw&SP=TC&RID=97804682&act=pf&rKey=5717389694449216>

Melanie C. Gordon



LEADERSHIP[®]
MINISTRIES
A MINISTRY OF GBOD

Director, Ministry with Children

PO BOX 340003 / NASHVILLE, TN 37203-0003 / (877) 899-2780

Holy Land Classic 2012

Jerusalem—Galilee—Bethlehem—Nazareth

10 Days of Biblical Discovery

With

Bishop Julius C. Trimble

Mrs. Racelder Grandberry-Trimble

Depart February 3, 2012 from Des Moines or Cedar Rapids for just \$2998*

*includes fuel surcharges, administrative fee and gratuities; \$98 in taxes (including \$2.50 Sept. 11 Security Fee) is not included

SAVE when you Register with a Deposit of \$300

Your Journey of a Lifetime Includes:

Roundtrip Airfare—Deluxe Motor coaches—Guided Sightseeing—Entrance Fees to Sites Visited—1st Class Hotels & Superior 1st Class Hotels—Buffett Breakfast & Dinner Daily—Online Bible Study Guide—Airline Fuel Surcharge—Gratuities—Administrative Fee

Holy Land Classic 2012

Day 1 and 2—USA to the Holy Land

Day 3—The Galilee

Day 4—Beit Shean, Nazareth, Megiddo and Caesarea

Day 5—Jericho, Qumran, and Bethlehem

Day 6—Jerusalem

Day 7—Jerusalem and the Old City

Day 8—Leisure Day with Optional Masada and Dead Sea Tour

Day 9—Jerusalem

Day 10—Extension or Return

To view this information online, fill in the gray box at www.eo.travelwithus.com/find_trip/

Tour = HL12

Date = 020312T

United Methodist Church-Iowa Area
2301 Rittenhouse St
Des Moines, IA 50321

South Central District Office
PO Box 282, 709 Furnas Dr., Ste 1
Osceola, IA 50213

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID

Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 2906

We are on the web!

www.iaumc.org/districts/detail/17



Happy New Year Happy New Year Happy New Year

We would like to wish you all a very
Happy New Year from your
South Central District staff:

2012

Bill

Paul

Sue

Happy New Year Happy New Year Happy New Year