

**Northwest
District
Iowa Annual
Conference
United Methodist
Church**

Letters from the Lakeshore



Volume 5, Issue 4

June 2011

SPECIAL MISSION PROJECTS FOR 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Each of the Districts in the Iowa Annual Conference has designated mission projects for us to support during the 2011 Annual Conference. Please share the list with your Annual Conference members and your congregation. Select the project you want to support and bring the items listed to Annual Conference. Donations will be collected in the vendor display area at the "Be Encouraged...Special Missions Project" Booth. During Conference, we will be reporting on support and items given. During the 2010 Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, members collected more than 250 pounds of drink can pop tops for Des Moines Ronald McDonald house, more than 300 pair of new underwear for the Women At The Well, Stepping Out Project, 4 (four) large grocery bags full of box tops for Bidwell Riverside, old cell phones, used eyeglasses, clean, used cotton sheets for rolling bandages, cash donation for the Iowa Food Bank Network, items for ingathering kits,, not to mention the kits delivered to "Fill the Truck" for the Midwest Distribution.



My little bit added to your little bit, added to everyone else's little bit makes a BIG difference.

After Annual Conference, we will have the donations delivered back to each district for delivery to the program/mission.

Women At The Well: New Tennis Shoes--specifically sizes 7-9

The Bishop's Choice: POP-TOPS for Ronald McDonald House

Northwest District: Personal Care Items for distribution thru Food Pantry and Outreach Ministries in the District. Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash

If your church has a local church outreach that would be able to use these supplies, please let Judi at the District Office know.



A Command or Invitation?

Our last district conference held on May 1, 2011, went well, but the attendance was the lowest of my last five years as DS. Our 2012 district conference will be on April 29, 2012. As this gets on the calendar of pastors and other members of the District Conference, I believe it will be given a priority.

I am printing here the short message that I delivered during the district conference. It is my continued reflection with you about the primary task of the church as written in Matthew 28:18-20: "Jesus said, "Go to the people and make them my disciples."

Is this a command or an invitation?

(Continued on page 2)

Message from the DS

(Continued from page 1)

Whether it is a command or an invitation, Jesus expects only one answer which is yes.

I see the word of Jesus in our passage today both as a command and as an invitation. It is a fact that there are those who respond well to a command. And there are also those who respond better to an invitation. There are those who will obey without question. They are like faithful and loyal soldiers who are ready to do the mission without question that their commander wants them to accomplish.

And there are also who need to be encouraged and persuaded before they do anything. They have to be convinced that the mission is good for them, for others and for God.

I have two grandchildren who have different personalities. The first one tends to obey whatever he is told, but the second grandchild must be persuaded. If you want him to do something convince and persuade him.

I believe that even in God's Kingdom, there are those who will respond quickly to God's command but there are also who needs more time to think about it, need more persuasion, and more encouragement before you can get them to do something.

For the sake of the Kingdom, we need both kinds of people to accomplish the mission of Christ. Because of the urgency of accomplishing the mission especially in conversion and new faith communities, I suggest that we take it as a command and just trust our commander, Jesus Christ, our Lord."

Thank you for continually reflecting and praying with me about the great commission (or invitation or command) and primary task of the Church of Christ and working hard to fulfill it.

Living the United Methodist way,

Rev. Bernie Colorado



We're on Facebook!!

Did you know the District Office has a page on Facebook? Just search for Northwest District Office UMC and then like our page. Post your local church happenings, find out what's going on in the District and other important information.

Check out the District webpage under Letters from the Lakeshore for more information about Lake Okoboji United Methodist Camp and Retreat Center!



Iowa Annual Conference United Methodist Church

Northwest District Office



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In the recent months we have had an opportunity to learn a little about Path 1, our denomination's new approach to reaching new people in new places. There have been many chances to come together and talk about what that might actually look like and how we can live that out in the great variety of settings that make up the Iowa Annual Conference. There will be even more ways in the days to come to prayerfully consider and explore what that might look like in every one of our congregations.

At the heart of this shared work has been an earnest and open conversation about what is most vital or essential about who we are as United Methodists and how do we want to share that with others. If we are serious about wanting to invite others in or even send and go out—what is most important to take with us? What is at the core of this thing called church? What are the essential ingredients of a community of faith?

Many of you have heard me share about being a “You Gotta Try It Kind of People”. I believe that part of the answer to that question about who we are is found in the latter part of Acts 2. There we read of a group of people living the gospel in such ways that people can't help but notice and want to participate.

I know that summer is the time of year when most of our churches or communities of faith slow down. We follow a different pace than other times of the year. I challenge you to use the months ahead to sit down with some of your friends from your church and/or community. Share a glass of lemonade or iced tea and spend some time imagining what is at the heart of a community of faith for you—what matters most—what do you want to share with others so that they too can know of God's great love through Jesus Christ. As always, I can't wait to hear what you find!

blessings, sarah

Matthew 25 Grants at Work in our District

Thank you to the Northwest District for the Matthew 25 grant monies that were awarded to Kids For Christ program at Sioux City, Crescent Park UMC. Last year we ran the program for our own church's children and had about 12-15 children each week. This year we expanded to invite three neighboring schools. We are so excited to have doubled our weekly attendance to about 30 children!

Preschool to 5th grade children and some of their parents join together for the meal that is served each Wednesday evening. The opening activity is lead by five confirmation kids who assist us each week in the classrooms.








The kids attend two half hour classes they've chosen from among six classes offered. The classes we offered this 6 week session are: scrap booking, sewing, musical bells, woodworking, drama, and yoga for kids. Our theme in all the classrooms is "Moses, The Prince of Egypt". The last two weeks we will see a movie and invite the parents as we showcase or perform our classes' work or projects.

The grant money has helped to pay for the classes' materials and food for the meals. We are already lining up new classes for the next session with an Easter theme. We will add quilt making, clowns, Spanish lessons and gardening in the next sessions with the hope of setting up a computer center as we try to find usable computers and software. We are inviting the community to participate, including teachers, Shriners, friends, parents of the children and talented church members who help lead and assist us with the classes. The children are loving the classes and we are enjoying sharing our faith in these small settings.

We are just feeling so very blessed that God has led us to this successful outreach and anticipate continued growth. Thank you again to the UMC Northwest District for their wonderful support.



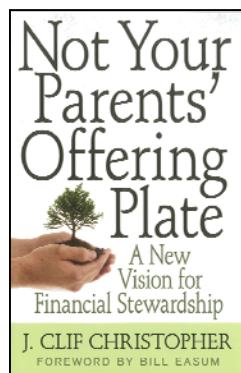
June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3 Cabinet	4 Annual Conference →
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 
← Annual Conference →						
12 	13	14 	15	16 	17	18
19 	20	21 Cabinet →	22	23	24	25 
← Sarah- Continuing Education →						
26	27	28	29	30		
← Sarah- Continuing Education →						

- If you have any articles for the district newsletter, please send them to Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org by the 20th of the month.
- **June 4-7** Iowa Annual Conference
- **July 21** Orientation for Pastors new to the NW District at District Office 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm
- **August 24 & August 27** Charge Conference Forms training. Details in next newsletter.
- **August 27** Northwest District Picnic at Camp Okoboji
- **September 23 & 24** Cell Group Ministry Training

Bernie's June Calendar

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1 | Meet with Planning Team at Ruthven 6:30 pm |
| 3 | Cabinet Meeting |
| 4-7 | Annual Conference |
| 9 | Appointment Introduction Meeting |
| 11 | Appointment Introduction Meeting |
| 12-16 | Special Charge Conferences to approve pastoral support of new pastors |
| 19 | Preach at Smithland UMC |
| 19-20 | Special Charge Conferences to approve pastoral support of new pastors |
| 21-22 | Cabinet |



Come discuss "Not Your Parents' Offering Plate". More information will be available soon!!!!

Monday, July 11 in Sioux City

Tuesday, July 12 in Storm Lake

Thursday, July 28 in Spirit Lake



June

- 21 Rick & Terry Dee
- 1 Mandy Shew
- 2 Carole Holmes
- 3 Lanny & Connie Carlson
- 3 Don & Myra Nelson
- 4 Lynn & Debra Elrod
- 5 Barbara Oakland
- 7 Marshall & Heather Monthei
- 8 Doris Lindley
- 11 Brian & Sheryl Ashley
- 12 Teresa Dee
- 12 Clare & Marian DeBoef
- 13 Steve & Cindy Campbell
- 13 Sharon Klein
- 16 Roger & Caroline Kurtenbach
- 19 Keith & Mandy Shew
- 19 Ben & Susanna Wilson
- 20 Charles Gilbert
- 21 Prince Swamickan
- 22 Lanny Carlson
- 23 Tom & Paula Connors
- 23 Tom & Karen Handke
- 25 Vicki Fisher
- 25 June Goldman
- 25 Jessica Larson
- 27 Steve & Lisa Swenson
- 29 Larry Willey
- 30 Cindy Campbell
- 30 Charles & Christine Miller
- 30 Jim & Neva Thorn Perdue
- 30 Mike Shaffer

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Steve and Lisa Swenson and family. Lisa's mother, Majorie Page, passed away May 3rd. Steve is the pastor at Doon UMC.

All the churches and pastors who are still working on recovery from the storms April 9th.

Please forward all prayer requests to Judi at the District Office. Please remember that we can not put you on the prayer list if you don't inform us!

Please keep the following pastors and their families in your prayers as they prepare for changes in appointments. Also pray for the churches as they prepare for new pastors.

Angela Gafford Asmus will be going on Leave of Absence. Angela has been serving at Onawa-Turin.

Anita Bane has been appointed to Rockwell City-Jolley. Anita has been serving at Rock Rapids.

John Battern has been appointed to LeMars. John has been serving at New Sharon.

Kristen Boysen has been appointed to Galva-Silver Creek. This is Kristen's first appointment

Kim Dewey has been appointed to Rembrandt-Peterson. Kim has been serving at Rembrandt.

Charles Downing has been appointed to Osceola. Charlie has been serving at Galva-Silver Creek

Esta Fraley is returning to retirement. Esta has been serving at Peterson.

Louie Gallo has been appointed to Emmetsburg, First. Louie has been serving in the Philippines.

Charles Gilbert is returning to retirement. Charles has been serving at Sibley-Ocheyedan

Karl Goodfellow has been appointed to Marcus, Grace. Karl has been serving in Wisconsin.

Jason Larson has been appointed to Pella. Jason has been serving at LeMars.

Gary McDonough is going on Leave of Absence. Gary has been serving at Marcus, Grace.

Matthew Miller has been appointed to Storm Lake. Matt has been serving at Grundy Center

David Morris has been appointed to Muscatine: New Hope-Spangler Chapel. David has been serving at Emmetsburg, First.

Jerry Oakland is retiring. Jerry has been serving at Storm Lake.

Shannon Pascual has been appointed to Sibley-Ocheyedan. Shannon has been serving at Buffalo Center and Thompson

Neva Thorn Perdue has been appointed to other conference. Neva has been serving at Hinton-Merrill, Melbourne.

Diana Pollard has not been assigned. Diana has been serving at Langdon-Spencer, Zion

Terry Pollard has been appointed to New Sharon. Terry has been serving at Alta-Schaller.

Jessica Rockhold Gaul has been appointed to Alta-Schaller. Jessica has been serving at Carroll, First (Assoc) and Glidden

Marcia Sangel has been appointed to Rock Rapids. Marcia has been serving at Rockwell City-Jolley

Travis Stevick has been appointed as associate pastor at Spencer, Grace. Travis has been serving at Hudson.

Janice Whiteman has been appointed to Langdon-Marathon. Janice has been serving at Marathon



Cell Group Ministry Workshop:
The power of cell groups for discipleship, ministry, and life calling.

This hands-on workshop will discuss the vital importance of small/cell group ministry and how to implement a working model into your faith community. Sessions will include creating a model that works for you, engaging people to do life together, the four key functions of a cell group, how to build authentic community in your groups, training people to lead life changing bible study and discussion, and the power of serving together as groups. The workshop will be lead by Kevin Applegate who is the Director of Cell Group Ministry at Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio.

Mark your calendars now **for September 23 or September 24.** More information is available on the District website!



Iowa 5-Day Academy of Spiritual Formation & Upper Room Ministries
presents
Rooted & Grounded Life in the Wesleyan Spirit

July 11-16, 2011

Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA

Presenters: Dr. Greg Clapper, Wesleyan Spirituality: A Matter of Heart, Mind, & Community
Sister Kathleen Flood, OP Spiritual Disciplines: Rooted & Grounded in Everyday Life

This 5-Day Event uses the Upper Room model of Academy for Spiritual Formation. Each day includes 3 worship services, (Morning Prayer, Service of Word & Table, and Night Prayer). During Morning and Afternoon: 1 hour lecture, 1 hour for individual meditation, and a time of community feedback. Each evening there is small-group meeting time with 5-7 persons to process your learnings and/or experiences.

Retreat Leader: Kae Tritle, bktritle@msn.com - More information at www.Iowa5day.org

Send registrations to: Karla Haynes, ASF Registrar- 2301 Rittenhouse St., Des Moines, IA 50321.
Room, Board, & Tuition fees: \$425.
\$100 due with Registration (Non-Refundable)

Northwest District Apportionments Update

ALTA	25%	MOVILLE	25%
SCHALLER	0%	NEMAHA	33%
ANTHON	25%	ODEBOLT	33%
ROCK BRANCH	17%	ONAWA	0%
ARCHER	0%	TURIN	0%
ARMSTRONG	0%	PETERSON	34%
ARNOLDS PARK	30%	PIERSON	22%
AURELIA, FIRST	33%	MEADOW STAR	26%
CHEROKEE, ST. PAUL'S	33%	PRIMGHAR	21%
CORRECTIONVILLE	17%	QUIMBY	25%
CUSHING, FIRST	19%	WASHTA	33%
DANBURY	25%	REMBRANDT	0%
DOLLIVER	50%	ROCK RAPIDS	33%
DOON, FIRST	100%	ROCK VALLEY, PIONEER	13%
EARLY	100%	ROLFE	0%
EMMETSBURG	34%	RUTHVEN	33%
ESTHERVILLE	8%	AYRSHIRE	0%
EVERLY	0%	SAC CITY	18%
ROYAL	33%	SANBORN, ST. ANDREW'S	0%
EXCELSIOR	0%	SENEY	33%
FOSTORIA	34%	SERGEANT BLUFF	25%
GALVA, FIRST	0%	SHELDON	25%
SILVER CREEK	33%	SIBLEY	25%
GILLETT GROVE	25%	OCHEYEDAN	33%
DICKENS	33%	SC, CHURCH ALL NATIONS	0%
GRAETTINGER	0%	SIOUX CITY, CRESCENT PARK	0%
TERRIL	33%	SIOUX CITY, FIRST	8%
HARRIS	46%	SIOUX CITY, GRACE	14%
LAKE PARK	33%	SIOUX CITY, RIVERSIDE	2%
HARTLEY	26%	AKRON, WESLEY	27%
HAWARDEN	25%	SIOUX CITY, ST. JAMES	39%
IRETON	9%	SIOUX CITY, TRIMBLE	0%
HINTON	3%	SIOUX CITY, WESLEY	0%
MERRILL, MELBOURNE	33%	SIOUX CITY, WHITFIELD	25%
HOLSTEIN	25%	SIOUX CITY, RUSTIN AVENUE	0%
HOPE PARISH	33%	SIOUX RAPIDS	0%
HORNICK	33%	SMITHLAND	27%
SALIX	0%	SPENCER, GRACE	13%
HUNTINGTON	0%	SPIRIT LAKE	19%
IDA GROVE, FIRST	42%	STORM LAKE	0%
ARTHUR	50%	SUTHERLAND	15%
KINGSLEY	8%	LARRABEE	13%
LAKES	0%	VARINA	33%
LANGDON	33%	WEBB	25%
SPENCER, ZION	25%	WEST BEND	33%
LAURENS	33%	MALLARD	25%
LE MARS	33%		
LESTER, SEEDS OF FAITH	8%		
MAPLETON, ST. JOHN'S	7%		
TICONIC	33%		
MARATHON	26%		
MARCUS, GRACE	22%		
MELVIN	25%		
MERRILL, FIRST	33%		
ADAVILLE, FIRST	33%		
MILFORD, UNION MEMORIAL	3%		

District Total Paid as of April 30, 2011

20%





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**IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Open Hearts. Open Minds.
Open Doors*

Small Groups

In 2010, Bernie attended "School of Congregational Development" and attended the workshop on Small Groups. These are the second part of his notes. The first part was printed in the May newsletter. The final part will be in the July/August newsletter.

IMPORTANT TIPS

1. Connect people anyway you can. Self select. You select leader and recruit themselves. No right way. Remember the premise - deeper and wider
2. Common culture, crisis, calendar, concerns, commitments
3. Turn your committees into ministry teams. Spend time in devotions, prayer, caring. Every little bit of care counts
4. Start with newer people. Remember there is a "Pain in every pew"
5. Use outside events to spawn new groups (like those who came back from Walk to Emmaus)
6. Create the environment for small groups by talking about their importance frequently, uplifting testimonies.
7. Preach about the importance (man let down through roof)
8. Keep the vision before groups to keep inviting newcomers and multiplying.
9. Maintain some oversight over materials being used. Never let a group decide their own study material without some approval process.
10. People usually stay if they find a group to relate to. Most people need significant relationships and responsibilities.

11. People are ready for small groups at different times. Some right away. Others need some months. You keep holding it up as important and usually people will come around. Require or not require for membership.
12. Small groups provide for future leaders. These will become your most dedicated folks if they are getting their emotional and spiritual needs met.
13. Groups will resist multiplication.
14. Never let an irregular (or one who has difficulty fitting into the group) person ruin a group. It will take years to recover. Give help in dealing with the person.
15. Model small groups in your organizational structure and at every opportunity.
16. Be careful not to let food dominate the meeting.
17. 2 hours maximum.

True Vine Ministry

A Ministry of Encouragement for the Clergy Spouse

John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

"This is Our Story"

-Annual Luncheon and Gathering-

When: Saturday, June 4, 2011 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm

Where: Iowa Annual Conference, Bishop Spouse's Room at Hy-Vee Hall

Please see the District webpage for more information.

