



Letters from the Lakeshore

We Are Moving!!!

The Northwest District Office will be moving. We will be moving into our new offices on March 1st. Our address will be **404 E 7th ST, Ste 2, Storm Lake, IA 50588**. Please change your addresses for the District Office beginning March 1st. We hope to have very little interruption in phone and internet service, but on moving day, please contact the Storm Lake UMC at 712-732-5458 if you have an emergency and need to contact us. An open house is being planned for April 20. More info in the next newsletter



Inside this issue:

Church Anniversaries	2
Blessings	3
District Calendar	4
Birthdays & Anniversaries Prayer Requests	5
Apportionments	6
Camp News	7
District Trainings	8



Message from the District Superintendent

I want to share my reflection on Matthew 6.

Matthew 6 focuses on someone's spiritual maturity especially about relationship with God and with others.

Worship and prayer life is obviously about our relationship with God while stewardship and service to others is about our relationship with others.

What about worship that needs to be examined. Matthew 6 tells us that we must avoid showing off. Worship must always be focused on God rather than on ourselves. It is true that in worship we receive from God but worship is primarily giving praise and glory to God. If

that is the primary purpose of worship there is no chance and time for complain and criticism. Whatever are the weaknesses of worship, if it is sincerely done to glorify God, it will always bless the worshippers even those who have other purposes.

Like worship, prayer is also focused on God rather than on ourselves. God is the only audience of our prayers. Many people can not pray in public because they are worried about what people say. In Matthew 6, Jesus seems to indicate that prayers offered to God privately come from the heart. What matter

(Continued on page 2)



Don't forget to change your clocks March 14!!

A Message from the District Superintendent

(Continued from page 1)

is not the eloquence but the faith, love, trust and sincerity of the one praying. Everybody can pray before God. What is more important is what God thinks about our prayer and the person who is praying.

Jesus encourages his people to make their treasures on earth become treasures in heaven as well. How can materials savings become spiritual savings. The obvious answer is use our material possessions in fulfilling God's purposes on earth. God's people are called to tithe their income. That is the only way to store up treasures in heaven.

Act of mercy can never be separated from a disciple's spirituality. From the beginning, Jesus summons all to care and give to the poor people. It does not matter how they became poor or why they became poor. They need help because they are poor. Someday they will no longer be poor and will not need anymore our acts of mercy, and will be in a position to help others.

If we give to the poor in order to be recognized by the people, then that's the only recognition we get. But those who do good to others because the love of God in them will have real joy and will share God's glory.

Lent is a time to examine our spiritual life especially our relationship with God and our fellow man. A true disciple is growing and moving on to perfection.

Rev. Bernie Colorado



**Iowa Annual
Conference United
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**Northwest District
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CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES IN 2010

Please let our District office know if you are celebrating your Church Anniversary. Those who are celebrating this year are the following:

Merrill-Melbourne UMC to celebrate 150th anniversary on September 19, 2010

Onawa UMC 155th anniversary on August 29, 2010

Melvin UMC 100th anniversary on September 26, 2010

Nothing But Nets Youth Challenge

The Northwest Youth are being challenged to help raise money for "Nothing But Nets" by shooting free throws in the month of March in the March Madness Nothing But Nets Free-throw Campaign. All youth will be invited to find sponsors who will donate a specified amount of money for each free throw made out of 100 attempts. This can be done anytime in March and then report results to Judi at the District Office so the District can recognize the churches and youth who participated, how much was raised by each and who made the most free throws out of 100. The free throws can be shot at the local gym in their area and supervised by an adult. A form will be sent out in a separate communication from the District Office the first week in March that can be used to record the shots and money. The local church will send in the money raised on their monthly remittance form to the Conference. This will be a way for the local churches in the District to meet some of the criteria of the Bishop's FIT Challenge.

Any questions call Steve Swenson, District Youth Chair, 712-260-6700



Behold, I am making all things new...

As many of you have heard by now, the district office is moving this month! I have to tell you, this gal is excited. As a daughter of ministers, I am a very experienced and enthusiastic mover. Moving quickly became a positive to me. It was an opportunity to recreate myself. It meant a new room that I could set up however I wanted and a new community with new friends to meet, even if some were more open to newcomers than others. It even meant a new library with new books for me to explore. And I could be whoever I wanted to be in this new place. It was a chance to be made new again.

Right now I am preparing to pack up my office. For those of you who have

come to visit, you know it is a compact space with lots of personal touches as I have tried to make it just right. Just like the nearly dozen bedrooms I lived in before moving out on my own, I took it as a challenge to make that space special, welcoming and mine. But now it is time to move to a new space, bigger and better. And this time, with the new office, I got to pick the colors and the shapes—a whole new challenge! Not only do I get to start something new, but I get to help create it from the very beginning.

As you might imagine, beyond the fun stuff of colors, decorations, and furniture placement, there is the issue of organizing all the necessary pieces to do the work at hand. Not only do I have the files that I have started since I began this position 3 years ago, but I also inherited files from over 10 years of similar work by others. And then of course there are the countless numbers of documents and files that I haven't found just the right spot for. Add to that binders—lots and lots of binders from countless trainings and programs and organizations. And then last but not least is the great collection of books that I have—a collection that is made up of my books, old and new, as well as books that I have inherited from family members and colleagues in ministry—a collection of favorite books that have been read and reread and those that are on my must read pile.

All of this stuff points to one of the most crucial parts of any good move—a chance to stop what you are doing, sort, purge, reprioritize, re-order... in other words, recreate! For this gal who hasn't moved her primary home for nearly a decade, I am ready!

I think that this is one of the most compelling parts of the Lenten experience. The forty days that we have entered into are an opportunity to stop our normal ordering of life and to be recreated as we prepare to meet the resurrected Christ. It is a lengthy process of looking at our current way of living and finding a way to be made new. Whether you choose to give up something or to focus on a spiritual discipline or means of grace, you are intentional engaging in your Christian journey in a special way that will leave you different at the end.

One of the most meaningful ways that I have learned to honor this important process is a Good Friday Tenebrae service during which the entire place of worship is stripped of all its drapings and symbols, left bare. Suddenly the worship space that has looked so familiar for so long, looks and feels completely different, even alien. And yet, that emptiness is soon replaced with the bursting forth of new life on Easter morning—a time when all of creation is made new in the resurrection of Christ!

We are so gifted by this annual ritual of being made new—of being called to stop what we are doing, take account of who and what we are and prepare ourselves for something completely different. My hope for you this Lenten season is that you will use this time to be recreated. Whether in your personal life, your ministry, or your congregation, let this be a time when you are willing to let yourself be transformed—even moved into something new!



Blessings, Sarah

p.s. and don't forget to stop in and see the new office!

▶ March 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
- Candidacy Mentor training
- March 7– District Council on Connectional Ministry and District Nominating Committee
- 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 Moving Day	2	3	4	5	6 Candidacy Mentor training
7 DCMC	8	9 Cabinet →	10	11 Ministry Cabinet	12	13
14 VIM and Lay Speaker Training	15	16	17 	18	19 Conf Parish Dev	20
21 Lay Speaker Training	22	23 Cabinet →	24	25 Sarah FOM meeting	26	27 
28 Lay Speaker Training	29	30	31			



Bernie's Calendar

CONFIRMATION RALLY

March

- 1 PARC meeting in Des Moines
- 3 Seminary Visit
- 6 Candidacy mentors Training at Sgt. Bluff
- 7 NW District Council on Connectional Ministry meeting at Marcus 2:30 pm and Committee on Nominations at 4pm
- 9-10 Cabinet meeting
- 11 Ministry Cabinet
- 14 Teach - Lay Speakers Class
- 15 SPRC meeting
- 16 SPRC meeting
- 21 Teach - Lay Speakers Class
- 22-23 Cabinet meeting
- 28 Teach - Lay Speakers Class

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.



March

- 1 Rick Layman
- 10 E. Paul Hansen
- 11 Sally Potter
- 12 Lela Mae Layman
- 14 Linda Morris
- 15 Karl Watkins
- 17 Karen & Len Garrison
- 17 Leela Prince & Prince Swamickan
- 20 Linda Wittstruck
- 21 Gladys Teasdale
- 22 Karen Garrison
- 23 Scott & Carole Holmes
- 23 Tom Hotle
- 25 Paula Cripps
- 30 Ed Frank
- 31 Marvin Lindley



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Catie Newman who is recovering from gall bladder surgery. Catie is the pastor at Hornick-Salix.

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.



Shells Along the Beach...

Our feature article this month comes from Steve Campbell who is the pastor at Hartley.

Church. What images come to mind when you think about that word? Do you see stained-glass windows, wooden pews, crosses, baptisms, weddings, funerals, poinsettias, and Easter lilies? If you're my age or older, you may see youth hayrack rides, roller skating parties, and bonfires. Do you hear "The Old Rugged Cross" and "How Great Thou Art," or do the sounds of "Shout to the Lord" and "Days of Elijah" float through your mind? Do you see institutions, bureaucracy, hypocrisy, back-biting, and judgment? What comes to mind when you hear the word church says a lot about your experiences in the church.

Whether our thoughts about the church are positive or negative, perhaps it's time we rethink church. In the New Testament, our word church comes from a Greek word that means assembly, congregation, assembled Christian community, the universal body of believers. The New Testament writers never envisioned a building or an institution when they wrote the word church. The church was and is people, people doing what Jesus called them to do and being what Jesus called them to be.

Could it be that the church is not all it should be because its individual members aren't all they should be? Could it be that that's okay because each member of the church is at a different stage in his or her journey with Jesus? Could we show some grace and forgiveness to the hypocrites, back-biters, and judgmental people in the church because we realize their sin is no greater than ours? Author and pastor Chuck Swindoll has said that there is no such thing as a perfect church. But if by some strange miracle you should find a perfect church, don't join it. You would only ruin it.

Do you suppose it's time to rethink church? Maybe it's a good time to rethink your place in the church. Church is not what we do on Sunday morning, but who we are and what we do twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Church is all of us working together, playing together, laughing together, and crying together. Church is being together. None of us can be the church by ourselves any more than we can be a basketball team or an orchestra by ourselves. We need each other if we're going to live successfully as Jesus' followers. By ourselves we're easy targets for the enemy.

Whether you've been happy with the church, hurt by the church, or bored by the church, I hope you will join us to rethink the church. Together we can become the church that Jesus longs for us to be.

Blessings, Steve

2009 Apportionments Update

With all of the negative talk about the economy, I couldn't help but wonder and worry about how the Annual Conference would end the year 2009 with apportionments. The result is very positive, and for me is one more reminder God really does respond to prayer. Our percentage receipts for current year apportionments is 0.61% less than in 2008. The dollar income however is \$441,172 higher than the previous year. When we include prior year apportionments paid we did receive 83.78% and that is 0.43% greater than last year. The missions and ministries that receive this support I know appreciate the effort that all of you made in meeting our shared ministry. God has blessed each of us and will continue to bless us as we share with others what we have so graciously been given. Thank you for the continued support. Chuck Smith, Conference Treasurer. Copied from February Treasury Notes.

AKRON, WESLEY	100%	SALIX	58%	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	100%
ROCK BRANCH	100%	KINGSLEY	100%	SHELDON	100%
ARCHER	100%	LAKES	54%	SIBLEY	45%
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	100%	SENEY	100%	SIOUX CITY, GRACE	39%
CUSHING, FIRST	100%	LESTER, SEEDS OF FAITH	100%	SIOUX CITY, RIVERSIDE	7%
DANBURY	100%	MAPLETON, ST. JOHN'S	77%	SIOUX CITY, RUSTIN AVENUE	26%
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	17%
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	100%	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 For 2009	80%
HOLSTEIN	100%	ROCK VALLEY, PIONEER	100%		
HOPE PARISH	100%	ROLFE	0%		
HORNICK	100%	RUTHVEN	100%		



The 2010 camping materials are in! Packed with 1000's of fun, faith filled life-changing opportunities, the 2010 IAUMC camping catalog and Okoboji brochure offer something for everyone of all ages – it's almost unbelievable! Day camps to 5-night events, Pre-kindergarten through high school, family camps, volunteer/service opportunities, leadership training and much more. We have enough materials for every child, youth, young adult and family in your congregation. CALL US and we'll let you as many as you need!

What's New at Okoboji? So much is happening this summer at Okoboji, and we CAN'T WAIT to share it with YOU!! We've got your old favorites, new surprises...SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

First of all, we're continuing the Journey! Or...maybe we should say continuing with Journeys! The new Journey program is quite a hit, and it's here to stay! To make choosing what YOU want to do at camp even more fun, we've thrown in some new Journey choices! To check them out, and learn more about what Journeys are, take a look at the Journeys section in this catalog or visit www.okobojicamp.com.

This summer our "shorter" camps have also experienced some changes, with the introduction of "Short Stacks". These 2-night camps for 6-9 year olds have all the fun you're used to, plus a few new surprises! Check them out!

So...what's new? Everything! Whether you are a day camper ready for that new overnight experience, a 2-nighter ready for a new week-long adventure, or a past camper ready to try out some new Journey choices or Specialty Camp, it's easy to see that there is always something new waiting for you at camp!

Camp Ambassadors! New Outreach Opportunity! An Okoboji camping experience has been part of countless people's faith stories beginning in 1915. Camp Ambassadors work within their local churches to continue the tradition of sharing the mission and ministry of an Okoboji camping experience! Our goal is to make it easy...even FUN to share this powerful opportunity! New resources include printed materials, videos and handouts all designed to help children, youth, young adults and families learn of life changing camp and retreat opportunities at Okoboji United Methodist Camp. Each United Methodist Church in NW Iowa will receive a 2010 Camp Ambassadors packet. To request additional copies, please contact us at camp. Email or call 1-866-856-9862.

HELP! Children, youth and families in YOUR churches or places of ministry need to know about camping opportunities! Camp is a place where many of your colleagues, friends and family members have made decisions about faith in their lives! Camp is a mountain-top experience in many people's faith stories. Maybe it's in yours too? A camping experience CONTINUES to be part of today's children, youth and families faith story! THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE FAMILIES IN YOUR CHURCH!!

Camp Sunday - Do you have a Camp Sunday celebration planned yet? If not...PLEASE DO! Everyone needs to know that camp is a fun, effective and exciting way to help children, youth and families grow in faith! There's plenty of time to schedule a special day to focus on the good news of our Iowa Camping Program! The activities and opportunities campers experience at camp will stick with them for the rest of their lives!

The staff at Okoboji is here to help! We would love to help you plan your Camp Sunday celebration. Just let us know!

"Camp gives kids a world of good!"

www.okobojicamp.com

info@okobojicamp.com

1.866.856.9862



Northwest District Health Kit Challenge

Congratulations to the Northwest District!!! You were challenged to collect 1000 kits for the earthquake victims in Haiti. The response was overwhelming. **We collected 2259 health kits and 7 layette kits!!!**

Thank you to Dale and Barb Ryon, Danny and Sharon Hauswirth, and Curt and Kim Ingwertson who transported the kits from Northwest Iowa.



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

See the District Website for more information



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 will be held. Please see the District Website for registration. You must be registered by March 8th.

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

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 martink@morningside.edu by March 8th.