



# Letters from the Lakeshore



**Northwest District Pre-Conference**

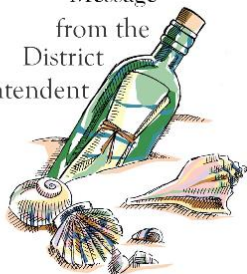
**Saturday, May 15**

**Storm Lake UMC (211 E 3rd St, Storm Lake)**

**9:30 am to 12:30 pm**

The Board of Pension will explain Pension matters which will be brought to the Conference. All clergy and lay members to Annual Conference should attend this event!

Message from the District Superintendent



It was wonderful to see many confirmands during the April 17, 2010, Confirmation Rally at Storm Lake United Methodist Church. All of them have been taking confirmation class and will be confirmed soon.

Our goal with the Confirmation Rally is not only that they may meet, fellowship, pray and worship with other confirmands from other churches but also to study the "Three Simple Rules." Each of them was given a copy of Bishop Rueben Job's book. The group was encouraged to read, study, and follow the suggestions in the book regularly. During my presentation, I made it clear that United Methodist

way always includes the following: (1) They do no harm; (2) They do good; and (3) They stay in love with God.



May 9, 2010

### A Message from the District Superintendent

(Continued from page 1)

I believe that as these new members take the Lord and the “Three Simple Rules” seriously, they will turn around the church and will make the world a better place. Of course, a Confirmation Rally can only introduce (or re-introduce) the United Methodist way of living and also inspire and encourage these young and new members. The most important work is the follow up done by the pastor, mentors, and parents and also examples modeled by the whole congregation.

Please see pictures of participants in this year’s Confirmation Rally below.

*Rev. Bernie Colorado*



**Iowa Annual  
Conference United  
Methodist Church**

**Northwest District  
Office**



**Bishop Julius Trimble**

**District Superintendent  
Rev. Bernie Colorado**

Email: [BColorado@iaumc.org](mailto:BColorado@iaumc.org)

**Field Outreach Minister  
Sarah Stevens**

Email: [Sarah.Stevens@iaumc.org](mailto:Sarah.Stevens@iaumc.org)

**District Administrative  
Secretary  
Judi Calhoon**

Email: [Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org](mailto:Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org)

404 E 7th, Ste 2  
Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

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

[www.iaumc.org/hwdist](http://www.iaumc.org/hwdist)





Greetings all—It is such a blessing to be in ministry in this time and place with all of you. This month I would like to share you with an opportunity for an important ministry for your prayerful consideration. I asked our new District Chair of Hispanic/Latino ministries, Rev. Paula Cripps to share a word of encouragement and invitation with you. As you read her words, I pray that you may hear your own Pentecost message! Blessings, Sarah

As we continue our journey as Easter people, I am reminded once again, as we move towards Pentecost that we are also called to be people of the Pentecost. Whenever I read the Pentecost story from Acts, chapter 2, I am reminded that Spirit of God came upon the followers of Jesus, and they were able to speak in the native languages of the global people who gathered and living in Jerusalem.

In the Northwest District today, we are living in cities, towns and rural areas where global people have gathered (just like at Jerusalem), and continue to gather (as migrants, immigrants and refugees from every part of the country and world). And, my question is, how are we as the United Methodist church of the Northwest District, being Pentecost people, in light of the beautiful reality of our ever-changing diversity? How are we ministering to people in ways so that they can understand and know more fully the good news of Jesus Christ in ways that make sense within the cultural context they bring to NW Iowa, and in ways so they can worship and serve God in the native language of their heart?

I am Paula Cripps, the associate pastor at Storm Lake UMC, and your NW District Chair for Hispanic/Latino ministries. And in holy conversations with our DS, Bernie and with our FOM, Sarah, we have come to realize that we want our NW District to be an area of Iowa in which, like Acts 2:7, the global people gathered can be amazed and say “Isn’t this UMC a church of English-speaking people? How is it then, that we hear, each of us, in our own native languages (and our own cultural contexts)? Sudanese, Vietnamese, Mexican, Lao, Guatemalans, Swedes, Salvadorans, Ethiopians, Puerto Ricans, Germans (you continue the list for your ministry area).”

So, as we think globally and act locally, and allow the Spirit of God to do the same through us, Sarah Stevens and I want to come to you. In whatever part of NW Iowa you are, we want to come and continue the holy conversation of how we can offer you and your local ministry the resources and tools to be in ministry, specifically with the Hispanic/Latino community, but we are also open for a broader discussion of multi-cultural ministry. We, as churches, have the opportunity to respond to the holistic needs of our sisters and brothers, and since Jesus calls to each of us is to be in ministry to and with all of God’s children, we want to offer ourselves and resources to help you and your local church to be in ministry with the Hispanic/Latino population of your area, and to continue church growth within the UMC, as Pentecost people.

--Rev. Paula Cripps, Storm Lake UMC, [paulacripps@iw.net](mailto:paulacripps@iw.net)



## Step Forward in Faith




Coming to Annual Conference is the Virgin HealthMiles walking program.

This is open to clergy, spouses, and others who on the conference health insurance program. For a \$20 fee will enroll you in the program. Following enrollment you will receive a “go-zone” electronic pedometer in about a week. Each day the number of steps accumulates. As you reach different specified levels of steps, you are eligible for cash or gift rewards. Your “Go-zone” pedometer stores the number of your steps over a 2-week period so that even when away from electronics your steps will add up. The pedometer is “computer-friendly” and plugs into a web-based program to help you keep track of your steps and lets you know when you are eligible for rewards. Info at Annual Conference will help you sign up for better health and rewards. Contact Kae Tritle at [bktritle@msn.com](mailto:bktritle@msn.com).

# ▶ May 2010

## Important Information

- If you have any articles for the district newsletter, please send them to [Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org](mailto:Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org) by the 20th of the month.
- May 4 – Clergy Mentor Training
- May 6 – Multi Staff Church Workshop
- May 15– Pension Information Meeting and Pre-Conference Training
- Judi will be on vacation May 24-28
- June 5-8– Annual Conference
- May 1, 2011 Northwest District Conference—Mark your calendars now!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2	3	4 Clergy Mentor Training	5	6 Multi-Staff Workshop	7	8
9 	10	11 Cabinet →	12	13	14	15 Pre-Conference Workshop
16	17	18	19	20 Sarah in Des Moines	21 Office Closed	22
23 	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Office Closed	Judi- vacation →				



## Youth Ministry List-Serve Available

Youth Ministry List-Serve is now available on the Conference Website. Youth workers and all others interested in keeping up to date with announcements concerning youth ministry events, resources and trainings opportunities in the Iowa United Methodist Conference are encouraged to sign up to be included on the conference youth ministry listserv.

Go to the [www.iaumc.org/site/stayconnected](http://www.iaumc.org/site/stayconnected) section of the conference website, check the Youth Ministry e-news box, fill in the requested information, and hit “submit.”

## Bernie’s Calendar

### May

- 2 Preach at Smithland UMC
- 4 Clergy mentors Training
- 5 Meeting with Leadership at Rock Valley Pioneer UMC
- 6 Multi-Staff Training at West Des Moines UMC
- 8 SPRC meeting at Washta
- 9 Visit a church
- 11-12 Cabinet meeting
- 13 Board of Ordained Ministry meeting
- 15 NW District Pre-Conference meeting at Storm Lake
- 16 Preach at LeMars followed by Special Church Conference
- 19-20 Ministry Cabinet
- 23 Preach at Ruthven-Ayrshire followed by Evangelism work

### Ministry Appraisal Forms Due May 1st

**ALL Pastors under appointment and S/PPRCs are each to return a completed (and signed) hard copy of the form to the District Office by May 1, 2010. The form is found on the Conference Website under forms.**



May

- 1 Mari Samuelson
- 2 Catie Newman
- 5 Len Garrison
- 6 Gary McDonough
- 6 David Morris
- 7 Dan & Martha Anderson
- 7 Connie Carlson
- 8 Sheryl Ashley
- 8 Alice Church
- 8 Valerie Heller
- 11 Carol Cotten
- 12 Alex & Joy Washington
- 13 Dan Anderson
- 15 Helen Stover
- 19 Carl Klein
- 21 Ramalee Pearson
- 21 Harold & Ruth (French) Werley
- 24 Mike & SuzAnn Shaffer
- 26 Charles & Alta Gilbert
- 26 Amy Miller
- 27 Opal Finley
- 30 Robert Stemme



Please keep the following in your prayers:

**The family of Tom Hotle** who passed away April 25. Services will be held at 2:00 pm at Storm Lake UMC. He served at Pleasant Hill-Prairie Gem-Wesley Chapel; Crawfordsville; Muscatine, North Parish; Muscatine, Park Avenue (Assoc); Hope Parish: Panora-Linden-Morrisburg-Yale-Prairie Center; Odebolt; Corydon Parish: Corydon-Millerton-Sewel-New Zion and Sioux City, Crescent Park. He retired in 1996.

**All the Confirmands and Graduates of the Northwest District.**

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.

**Charles Downing** who has been appointed to Galva-Silver Creek. Charles is a retired clergy.

**Nea Huggins** who has been appointed to Sioux City, Wesley. Nea has been serving at Sherrill in the East Central District.

**Chad Lierman** who has been appointed to Ida Grave, First-Arthur. Chad has been serving as associate pastor at Cedar Falls, First in the Northeast District.

**Julie McCullough** who has been appointed to Gillett Grove-Dickens. Julie has been serving at Webb-Gillett Grove-Dickens.

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.



**You Are Invited To a Seminar  
Inclusion In Your Worship!**

The Commission in Ministry With Persons With Disabilities is holding a Seminar during the Annual Conference on inclusion of all persons in worship. Staci Holms will be presenting during the evening meal of the first day of the 2010 IAUMC, June 5th.

To see the brochure and to attain the invitation letter and registration form please go to the Conference website and check under Annual Conference. To receive the meal you will need to pre-register!

## APPORTIONMENT UPDATE

The United Methodist Church as a connectional or global church is able to carry out its world-wide mission through connectional giving or apportionment. Methodism spread in the United States and all over the world because of connectional giving of the people called Methodists (or United Methodists since 1968). To be current a church needs to have paid 25%

AKRON, WESLEY	17%	SALIX	0%	AYRSHIRE	0%
ALTA	17%	HUNTINGTON	0%	SAC CITY	5%
SCHALLER	5%	IDA GROVE, FIRST	25%	SANBORN, ST. ANDREW'S	17%
ANTHON	8%	ARTHUR	25%	SERGEANT BLUFF	25%
ROCK BRANCH	33%	KINGSLEY	25%	SHELDON	17%
ARCHER	0%	LAKES	0%	SIBLEY	0%
ARMSTRONG	0%	LANGDON	25%	OCHEYEDAN	8%
ARNOLDS PARK	8%	SPENCER, ZION	25%	SC, CHURCH ALL NATIONS	0%
AURELIA, FIRST	25%	LAURENS	25%	SIOUX CITY, CRESCENT PARK	0%
CHEROKEE, ST. PAUL'S	25%	LE MARS	21%	SIOUX CITY, FIRST	8%
CORRECTIONVILLE	17%	SENEY	25%	SIOUX CITY, GRACE	9%
CUSHING, FIRST	25%	LESTER, SEEDS OF FAITH	0%	SIOUX CITY, RIVERSIDE	0%
DANBURY	8%	MAPLETON, ST. JOHN'S	27%	SIOUX CITY, RUSTIN AVENUE	4%
DOLLIVER	25%	TICONIC	25%	SIOUX CITY, ST. JAMES	17%
<b>DOON, FIRST</b>	<b>100%</b>	MARATHON	0%	SIOUX CITY, TRIMBLE	25%
<b>EARLY</b>	<b>100%</b>	NEWELL	12%	SIOUX CITY, WESLEY	17%
EMMETSBURG	13%	MARCUS, GRACE	13%	SIOUX CITY, WHITFIELD	17%
ESTHERVILLE	8%	MELVIN	0%	SIOUX RAPIDS	0%
EVERLY	7%	MERRILL, FIRST	25%	REMBRANDT	0%
ROYAL	25%	ADAVILLE, FIRST	25%	SMITHLAND	0%
EXCELSIOR	10%	MILFORD, UNION MEMORIAL	2%	SPENCER, GRACE	17%
FOSTORIA	0%	MOVILLE	17%	SPIRIT LAKE	0%
GALVA, FIRST	0%	NEMAHA	25%	STORM LAKE	9%
SILVER CREEK	25%	ODEBOLT	25%	SUTHERLAND	9%
GRAETTINGER	6%	ONAWA	11%	LARRABEE	25%
TERRIL	17%	TURIN	25%	VARINA	25%
HARRIS	21%	PETERSON	25%	WEBB	0%
LAKE PARK	25%	PIERSON	15%	GILLETT GROVE	25%
HARTLEY	0%	MEADOW STAR	11%	DICKENS	25%
HAWARDEN	25%	PRIMGHAR	8%	WEST BEND	25%
IRETON	5%	QUIMBY	0%	MALLARD	17%
HINTON	3%	WASHTA	0%		
MERRILL, MELBOURNE	25%	ROCK RAPIDS	17%	<b>District Total Paid as of March 31, 2010</b>	
HOLSTEIN	25%	ROCK VALLEY, PIONEER	8%		<b>14%</b>
HOPE PARISH	7%	ROLFE	0%		
HORNICK	14%	RUTHVEN	25%		





## CAMPS and RETREATS - LOCAL CHURCHES

### An Unparalleled Faith Shaping Partnership

Below is an excerpt from an article written by Kevin Witt, director of Camp and Retreat Ministries at the General Board of Discipleship. Kevin is concerned that intentional links form between powerful camping experiences and the on-going nurture of a deeply caring faith community. Here are some of his suggestions.

“Energetically encourage children, youth and adults to participate in Christian camps and retreats and create ways to be aware of who attends from your church and your community.

Develop on-going strategies for welcoming those who return and provide opportunities to hear about the highlights of their experience. Show that you care by celebrating what is important to them.

Be intentional about incorporating meaningful aspects of the camp-retreat experience into the local church setting, in order to build on the seeds of faith that are planted. This may be a song which the congregation can learn, symbols of the experience in the worship setting, sermon or study topics, testimonies and stories, the chance to use new leadership skills in the local church community, etc.

Perhaps the most beneficial step a congregational leader could make is to participate in camp/retreat events yourself and develop partnerships with Camp/Retreat Center Staff. The connections you will make with the participants themselves can have life-long implications. Rarely will you have the opportunity to develop the depth of relationships with persons from your congregation and beyond. Living together in Christian community for an extended period of time at a camp or retreat opens so many doors.

See Camp and Retreat Ministry as an important extension of your own congregation’s ministry. Get involved and support it with your prayers, your presence, your service and your gifts. Watch lives change before your eyes as they become open to the moving of the Spirit in their midst in these special settings.”

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## OKOBOJI CAMPING NEWS

**Walleye Weekend Getaway – May 1-3:** 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! \$60.00/person

**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.

**Local Church Camp Celebration** - Do you have a Camp Sunday (or Wednesday) celebration planned yet...a time to share about the good news of our conference Camp & Retreat ministries? If not...PLEASE DO...there’s still plenty of time! Everyone needs to know that camp is a fun, effective and exciting way to help children, youth and families grow in faith! The activities and opportunities campers experience at camp will stick with them for the rest of their lives! Our staff is ready to help too! Just let us know!

**Bulletin Bites:** Okoboji Camp is introducing a new program called "Bulletin Bites". "Bulletin Bites" are basically just a sentence or two from camp, for you to include in your Sunday worship bulletins, church newsletters, or any other place you see fit. You will receive "Bulletin Bites", via e-mail, a couple times a month as a way to keep your congregation "in-the-know" with what is happening at camp! Thanks, in advance, for helping to make sure these "Bites" find their way to the folks in your church!

Thank you for all you do for the Iowa Camp and Retreat Ministries!

## CLERGY MENTOR TRAINING

Tuesday, May 4  
10 am to 3pm  
Storm Lake UMC (211 E 3rd St)

All certified clergy mentors are encouraged to attend. Ordained clergy who are interested to become clergy may contact Deb Stowers and must attend the training.

## Multi Staff Leadership Workshop

May 6, 2010  
West Des Moines UMC

Those **expected** to attend are the following: Lead Pastors ; Associate Pastors ; All paid program Staff (CE Directors, Youth, Music Staff, etc) ; All persons working in TEAM configurations in a Local Church and/or in the context of a Multiple Charge. More information will be coming out soon.

## Small Group Leaders Training

Saturday, July 10  
9:30 am to 3:30 pm  
District Office (404 E 7th, Ste 2, Storm Lake)

This training will focus on Early Methodism's Small Group and Covenant Discipleship and is for laity who are interested in starting and leading small groups. Leader: Bernie Colorado. Please register by Tuesday, July 1. Registrations limited to 20 people.

**Please note the change in date!!!**

## Exploring Our Interior Castle

Embracing metaphor to enhance your Spiritual Journey and discover the extraordinarily holy in the ordinary.

A 24 HOUR RETREAT EXPERIENCE

Presented by the Spiritual Formation Steering Committee, Board of Discipleship of the Iowa Annual Conference, United Methodist Church

May 14-15, 2010 at Creighton U. Retreat Center, Griswold, IA  
[www.creighton.edu/CURC/curc.html](http://www.creighton.edu/CURC/curc.html)

Friday 5:00 p.m. through Saturday 5:00 p.m.

**Please register by May 3rd**

## Bernie Colorado's Reflection on Matthew 25:14-30

Since the time we accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we became children of God and also servants in his Kingdom.

Everybody and everything in the Kingdom belongs to the King.

Everybody is there to serve the purpose of the King.

Early Christians recognized the Kingship of God.

Today, the concept of servanthood has changed. We no longer call ourselves "slaves of God" but "volunteers in the Kingdom"

In the parable in Matthew 25:14-30, the three servants were expected to be productive. The first and second servants doubled their talents.

The master said to the first & second servant: "You are good and faithful servant". They met the expectations of the master. This is the goal of a servant.

He also said, "Come and share my happiness". Highest joy.

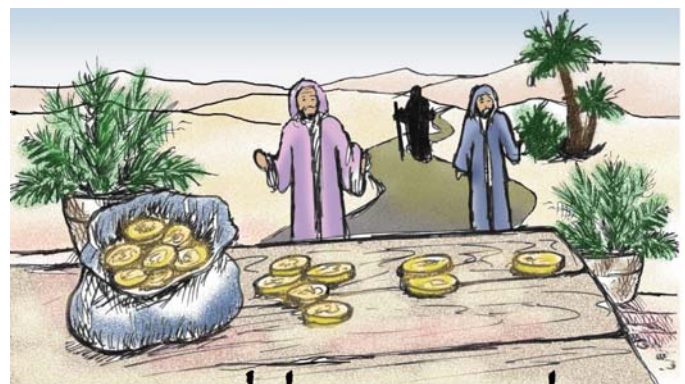
The third servant did not reproduce the talent given to him. He chose to be rebellious, unfaithful and lazy. He also criticized the master. He charged the master of being unjust, unfair and cruel. We can not justify our wrong ways by criticizing God. Whatever God does which we don't understand, he is still God and must be obeyed.

The master said to him: "You are lazy and good-for-nothing". The saddest moment in the life of a servant is when your master says that you are good for nothing.

The master also said to the rebellious servant, "Your talent or your money will be taken away from you". This simply means that he loses the privilege to serve the master. If real joy is by serving God and we are no longer allowed to do that, that will be the most devastating moment for us.

Finally, the master said to the third servant: "You are worthless. You will be thrown out". Once you are out, you no longer belong to the Kingdom. We disown and reject God through our rebellion, unfaithfulness and laziness. So it is actually our decision to get out.

If you are a good and faithful servant, you will be given more. Right away, we think of material blessings. It's alright to think that way. But let us not limit ourselves to material things for God will give us even more important than that.



The Parable of the Talents