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Methodist Church

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LOWER LIGHTS



Remembering to Give Thanks on Thanksgiving

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Luke 17:11-19 NRSV

LET THE LOWER
LIGHTS
BE BURNING!



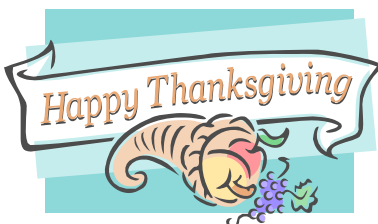
JULIS C. TRIMBLE,
IOWA AREA BISHOP



BILL POLAND,
CONFERENCE
SUPERINTENDENT



PAUL SMITH,
FIELD OUTREACH
MINISTER



Many years ago, an excursion boat capsized in a storm on Lake Michigan, just offshore from the Northwestern University campus at Evanston, Illinois. Several university students rushed to the lake to pull out survivors. One student by the name of Ed Spencer saved 17 persons himself.

Decades later Ed's story was being told to a large audience in Los Angeles, when a gentleman stood up to announce that Edward Spencer was present in the audience. The speaker invited Spencer forward and asked him what the most memorable part of the rescue was. The audience grew silent when Spencer said, "Of the 17 people I saved, not one ever thanked me."

From the time we were young our parents taught us to say thank you, but for many of us those words have become perfunctory. We say them, we may even mean them, but having said them we quickly go on our way. We spend little time contemplating what we have been given and expressing our gratitude for the gift. The above story of Ed Spencer illustrates the point. What he remembered most was that no one said thanks. One would think that having been given your life back at great risk to the giver would merit an ongoing contact, but Ed got none, not even a thank you. Jesus was treated much the same way. In truth he still is.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

On the cross he gave up his life for ours. He died for us so we could live forever with him. He healed ten lepers: only one said thanks. Our life on earth, our life in Heaven, our loved ones, our freedoms, our food; all of these things come from the generosity of God. Does our life reveal our gratitude? Do you come to worship each week with a feeling of joy in your heart at being able to come offer your gifts and thanks to God? Do the hymns and songs give voice to the praise you feel in your heart? Do you wake up every day thinking, "God you have given me another day!"? Happiness springs from such thinking. Living in gratitude results not in obligation, but joy.

Imagine how happy that Samaritan leper was that day giving thanks at Jesus' feet. His happiness was much greater than the other nine. Imagine the blessing that could have been Ed's and the people he saved if only they would have sought him out afterwards. Imagine what life could be for us if we lived always in gratitude with God.

Keep Shining,

Bill



MUMMS UPDATE

Wow...I just arrived home (7:30 p.m.) and there is a gorgeous FULL HARVEST MOON! How could anyone doubt that God is the great creator when we continuously witness HIS hand of art!!!

I have been reflecting back on the 15 yrs plus which MUMMS has been in ministry. As you know, MUMMS "was born" as a result of the 1993 flood....what a confirmation that "in everything God works good for those who love HIM and are called according to HIS purpose." Romans 8:28. Countless children have been told the stories of JESUS, hundreds of kids have attended JOY Camp, many churches have received the helping hands of MUMMS volunteers, the MUMMS vans have carried many volunteers on over a dozen mission trips AND many kids and adults have come to Christ through this ministry!

What an awesome thing to realize a vision was given by God, men and women were obedient and look at the results!

We are now preparing the trailer and a team of nine are going to southwest Iowa to work beginning Oct.17th. Please pray for us as we seek to be His hands, voice, and feet among the brokenness!

YES....the potatoes are coming. Nov. 19th. Call me with the amount your church is requesting. Last year we ran out and the needs are even greater now!!!!

AND....CHRISTMAS IS COMING FAST!!!! Want to bring JOY and the LOVE of CHRIST to the lest, lost and lonely???? CALL ME.....there are families your UMW, UMM or entire congregation can "adopt" during this glorious time of the year. IT is the season for giving and NOTHING brings JOY like sharing the things God has blessed us with!!!

Larry and I do youth group every Tuesday night at Kirkville. 12 or so teenagers....full of energy....hungry and wanting to be loved!!! What a time we have. Recently I needed to do some heavy discipline and then doubted it was the right thing to have done. At the end of the evening, I invited anyone who wanted to pray.....EVERY KID prayed....including one who later told me...."Wow, Peg, usually I can't find any words and tonight they just rolled out." This is a 13 yr old!!!! AND after all that, another girl said, "Oh, I wish you and Larry lived here all the time." I am telling you all this because KIDS NEED TO BE LOVED....they NEED TO BE DISCIPLINED....they NEED TO FEEL ACCEPTED and THEY DESERVE the RIGHT TO HEAR ABOUT JESUS!!!!!! These are some of those "invisible children" I continue to talk about.

They are in your midst.....are YOU LOVING THEM????

Many blessings to you all and THANK YOU to ALL WHO GIVE TO THIS AWESOME MINISTRY!!!!

Peg Egbert, director

641-919-1533

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.

The **HOW** is important but the **WHY** is even more important!

I have been reading a very good book for the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI). The book is Unbinding the Gospel, Real life Evangelism by Martha Grace Reese. In this book, she focuses first on Why and later on in the book about the How. She has an exercise, where we gather a small group of Christian friends and we ask God to bring to your mind the most important time in your life with God. Then we share it with each other and how that experience has shaped and formed our lives. Then she ask these questions, “Have you ever discussed this time with God with anyone else? With someone who is not a Christian? Do your other group members’ experience with God feel important? How does it feel to be trusted with these stories?” (page 22)

Often times when we open our lives up to others, opportunities will open up and we will see people who were at the same crossroads in their lives and without feeling contrived, without feeling staged, we will be able to share our story of how God made a difference.

What turns most of us off is when we feel like someone is trying to corral us to force us to listen. What turns us off when people want to take every single event and twist and turn it to fit their purpose to force something on us.

What seems to make a difference is, when we hear a personal experience of someone we know and trust that is willing to share!

“The more important your faith is to you, the more you want to share it. We have hundreds of reasons to share our faith. But reasons have to be real enough to us that we actually say them out loud.” (Page 20),

“I have not kept this good news hidden in my heart; I have talked about your faithfulness and your saving power. Psalm 40:10”

Blessings, Paul

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

October

28-29 ~ UMW Mission Ed Event—Marshalltown

29 ~ Basic Lay Speaker Training—Ellston 10:00—3:00

30 ~ Charge Conference—Creston 2:00pm; Mt Ayr 6:00pm

NOVEMBER

3 ~ HCI—Chariton

5 ~ Ingathering

5 ~ Advanced Lay Speaker Training—Leon 10:00—3:00

6 ~ Charge Conference—Centerville, First @ 2:00pm; Albia, Trinity @ 6:00pm

8 ~ Charge Conference—Mitchellville-Santiago @ 6:30pm

12 ~ Advanced Lay Speaker Training—Leon 10:00—3:00

13 ~ Charge Conference—Osceola @ 2:00pm

14 ~ DCMC Meeting—Chariton @ 5:00pm

15-16 ~ Cabinet

17 ~ Ministry Cabinet and FOM meeting

18 ~ FOM meeting

20 ~ Charge Conference—Millerton @ 2:00pm

23 ~ Sue Vacation Day

24-25 Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

**United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)
Team Leader Training**

December 3, 2011 11:00 am – 3:30 pm

**United Methodist Church
1421 West Broadway
Polk City, Iowa 50226**

There is no registration fee.

A light lunch will be served on free-will offering basis.

The training is based on standard North Central Jurisdiction UMVIM curriculum and on the General Board of Global Ministries UMVIM Training Manual that will be available at a cost of \$25.00.

Registration Appreciated by November 30, 2011.

To register:

- Call – Dan Houston 515-432-1226 or
- Email – danhouston84@yahoo.com with registration information or
- Mail completed registration form to: Dan Houston, 1530 Quill Ave, Madrid IA 50156

The church is 0.8 mi. NW of the square in Polk City

Registration Form

Name _____

Street _____

City and State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____



Wishing you all a
Happy Thanksgiving!

Bill Paul Sue

Give Thanks by Caring for Yourself

"I thank you, High God-you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration-what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body" (Psalm 139:14)

For the most part we only pay attention to our bodies when they don't work right or when we are unhappy about how they look. How often do we thank God for our wonderful bodies?

The human body is really a very marvelous and intricate creation. We are made of billions of cells that have their own particular function with millions of miles of blood veins, arteries and capillaries. Our heart muscle consistently contracts sending blood to our bodies, our lung aveoli regularly expand with life-giving oxygen that is dispersed into our blood stream, and within our brain, millions of synapses fire as we express our thoughts and feelings. When I think about the complexity the human body and that each body system operates collaboratively as an integrated whole, I am completely in awe regarding this creation of God's that we call a human being!

Yet, much of the time we do not take care of this wonderful creation, this body that we reside in. We feed it unhealthy food, inadequately move our muscles and joints, expect it to keep going on insufficient sleep, and feel emotionally stressed/worried regarding many of our life circumstances.

What would happen if we regarded our body and way of being as a precious and cherished gift; if we would mentally shift our attitude to one of "taking care of this treasure"? How would we eat differently? What kinds of physical activity would your muscles enjoy? How much sleep does your body require to feel refreshed and energized? What worries can you do something about and which ones do you need to let go?

"...didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live as you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body" (The Message 1Cor 6: 19-20)

I invite you to transform your attitude about your body and how you are or are not caring for it. As for myself, I am looking at fruits and vegetables in a new light and my muscles are looking forward to a walk in the crisp fall air.

Kae Tritle, RN

Nov 2011 monthly

Wellness Coordinator

Foundations for New Communities of Faith

Laypersons, is God tugging at you to start something new in your community, to reach people that our churches are failing to reach right now? If that's you, then we invite you to become part of this new class that we will be offering in 2012. Patterned after the Jim Griffith new church start boot camps and the PATH 1 Lay Missionary Planting Network, participants will be equipped with the necessary practical skills to begin new communities of faith right in their own towns, neighborhoods and settings, including:

- Identify your mission field and the most effective models for reaching new people, there
- The Seven Seasons of planting
- The Top 10 planting mistakes
- Why lay led initiatives work best in these contexts
- How to build a launch team
- How to network with and recruit people
- The practical benefits of local church and new community of faith partnerships
- How to launch a new community of faith
- Hands on coaching as you actually do it—Starting your planting
- And more!

This training is offered at the same time the School for Lay Ministry holds classes at Simpson College in Indianola. It is open to all laity (and interested clergy), not just SLM graduates.

Classes will be held January 6-8, 2012; March 2-4; May 4-6 and November 2-4. Tuition for participants is \$100 per weekend which includes three (3) meals and instructor handouts.

Scholarships are available through the Board of Laity. There are two hotels in Indianola and Wesley Woods also welcomes persons for the weekend when they have space.

The deadline for accepting applications is December 1st. To request a registration information packet, please contact Barb Mann: barb.mann@iaumc.org / 515-974-8905 or for more information about this class, contact Scott Hibben: scott.hibben@iaumc.org / 515-974-8926. Thank you.

A Special Appeal



Greetings Friends!

The simple mention of the name Bidwell Riverside in the company of Iowa United Methodists can elicit a murmur of recognition and respect. For over 100 years, Bidwell has been providing hope to those in need and providing an outlet for the expression of our Christian commitment to the poor. Each weekday, Bidwell bustles with energy as children are educated, families receive essential nutritional foods, and people obtain needed clothing. It looks like the Kingdom.

But, as the needs continue to grow and the demands increase for Bidwell's ministry we find ourselves (like most of America), struggling financially. The economic challenges of the past few years have created a significant tension at Bidwell: more people need help while fewer people are giving, and those that do give less. This fact along with the challenges of the past year that included another round of storm water damage, heating and cooling system issues, and all the other demands made by an aging facility have created a strain on Bidwell's operating budget.

The cost of operating Bidwell Riverside, per day that the center is open, is just under \$3,000. With this \$3,000, on a **single typical day**, 52 children receive early quality child care and preschool education, 85 individuals receive food, and over 500 pieces of clothing are distributed. In addition, during the holiday season, over 800 families are able to share in the joy of Christmas through our Christmas Sharing program. Without Bidwell there is no doubt that some families' most basic needs would not be met.

Please take a moment during this time of harvest to think of the rich ways you, your family, and your congregation have been blessed this year, and set aside a portion of that abundance for your neighbors at Bidwell. Be assured that your cash gift will be used to express Christ's love to those in need.

Peace,

Anne Bacon

Executive Director, Bidwell Riverside Center

The Eyes Have It

When you have 20/20 vision, can clearly see allowing you to negotiate life's journey, you are blessed. BUT many Nigerians live in darkness with milky saucers coating their eyes, have growths or river blindness that make for a desperate situation for them and their families. Nigerians will travel for miles by bicycle, motorbike, bus and even walking to the UMC Eye Centre in Zing in June to be one of the one hundred patients to be given free eye surgery. A simple surgical technique allows for cataracts to be removed safely without stitches through two small incisions. Patients will spend one night at the hospital with their bandage removed the following day allowing them to return home with eyes to see and joy in their heart. Our Iowa medical team will be there to assist the Nigerian medical eye care staff.

How can you help the blind to see? Used reading glasses, old sun glasses, glass cases and lenses may provide someone sight and a means of earning a living. To perform one hundred free surgeries, Dr. Gideon Avar, the "God of Sight" calculates \$150 per eye so do you "see" what you can do to help bring sight to the blind? Your contribution may be sent through your local church to the conference treasurer designated: INP, #230, Eye surgery.

Beverly Nolte
5221 Village Run Ave. #604
Des Moines IA 50317
515 266 4186 home



YOUTH LOCK-IN REGISTRATION FORM FOR MT. PLEASANT INGATHERING NOV. 4-5

Lock-In Registration Form
 November 4 - 5, 2011
 Iowa Wesleyan College and First UMC Mt. Pleasant

Name of Participant _____ Age _____
 Church Youth Group you are attending with _____
 Adult from church who is attending and is responsible for you _____
 Parent / Guardians Name, Address, & Phone _____

Each church is responsible for all health and medical needs of the participants that they bring. All adults need to be cleared through your church's safe sanctuary policy to lead and supervise youth.

If there are any problems with youth being disrespectful of leaders, other youth or the facility in which the lock-in is being held; the parent/guardian will be contacted to come and get the youth.

The Lock-In will be on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan College with breakfast at First UMC Mt. Pleasant. On Saturday, we will be at the Ingathering and then you are invited to stay for the tailgate and football game.

AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned person represents that he/she is the custodial parent/legal guardian of the above identified participant. The participant has my/our permission to attend the Youth Ingathering Lock-In from _____ to _____ (dates) at Iowa Wesleyan College and First UMC Mt. Pleasant. This permission is given by me/us with full knowledge of the conditions and activities contemplated during this Lock-In and Mission work.

If medical (illness, injury) care is needed, billings will be sent to the parent/guardian who will be responsible for direct payments to physician, hospital, clinic, etc...

In the event of illness or injury, we authorize the physician and/or hospital to undertake such treatment of and perform such services (including surgery) for the participant as are reasonably indicated by the circumstances.

Signature of LEGAL Parent/Guardian or Adult _____ Date: _____

Signature of 2nd LEGAL Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____

PUBLIC RELATIONS RELEASE

United Methodist Conference personnel may at the individual's election, elect to include photographs of persons and events at Ingathering in printed materials, news releases, film presentations, authorized conference websites and the like for the purpose of advancing the mission of the United Methodist Church. I hereby give permission for photo or visual image of the above named individual to be used for such purposes, without compensation or prior approval rights, at any time with the understanding that said individual will not be identified by name, without permission.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian of Minor Participant or Minor Staff Member	Date	Adult Participant or Staff Member	Date



INGATHERING 2011

**LOCK-IN FOR STUDENTS 7TH-12TH GRADES
GREENFIELD UMC IN GREENFIELD IOWA**

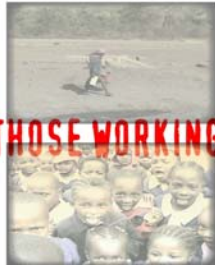
BRING: BIBLE. SLEEPING BAG. CHANGE OF CLOTHES. TOILETRIES. SNACKS TO SHARE.

COST: \$15/STUDENT

**REGISTRATION/CHECK IN AT 7 PM
EVENT BEGINS AT 8 PM
ONE ADULT CHAPERONE PER 12 STUDENTS**

REGISTRATION DUE FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 28, 2011

CONTACT KIM SEBERG FOR MORE INFORMATION
KIMS@WESLEYWOODSOWA.ORG
515.961.4523



WE WORK FOR THOSE WORKING TO SURVIVE

Thanksgiving Ingathering Greenfield Site

November 4-5, 2011

Dear United Methodist Youth Leaders and Youth,

Plans for a successful November 2011 Thanksgiving Ingathering are underway. Success of this event definitely requires the involvement of youth leaders and the youth for the Friday night lock-in and the Saturday morning activities.

It was both a pleasure and exciting to see leaders and youth involved in the 2010 Friday night activities and the energy and efforts everyone put into all phases of the mission kits project. Thank you, thank you for all of God's mission work that you accomplished.

Now 2011 mission kits boxing project coordinators will be: Rev. Kiboko Kiboko, (Norwalk United Methodist Pastor) and Crystal Ellis, (Norwalk United Methodist Christian Education Director).

Jan and David Lundahl, past 25 or 26 year coordinators will be available one more year to mentor, guide and advise the new coordinators, which we fully appreciate.

The parking lot kit boxing project really benefits when the leaders work along with the youth and when the youth's responsibility appears to work the shifts that they sign up to work.

The Friday evening retreat registration will be from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. At the Greenfield United Methodist Church, Kim Seberg will return as the program director. She had an enjoyable time in her first year as the director in 2011.

Friday night offers Christian fellowship and awareness, food, various types of entertainment, putting together some of the new boxes for Saturday's packing and other opportunities that

Kim has planned.

Saturday morning provides an opportunity for all to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in church missions by unloading boxes of kits from vehicles, sorting and repacking kits into uniform size boxes for shipping around the USA and to Nigeria, Africa.

In God's Vineyard, Thanks Be To All.

In Jesus Christ's Name,
Jim Tussey - Co-Chair (641-782-8704)
Jim McIntosh - Co-Chair (641-347-8863)

P.S. - Leaders: Please pre-register your youth group. This small gesture on your part really benefits Kim in her planning to know how much food, to plan for activities, the number of papers to copy, etc. I am sure that you understand. Thank you. Jim Tussey and Jim McIntosh



Escuela Metodista Nuevo Horizonte

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Lambaré, Paraguay 2420

E-mail Address: sue@paraguayschools.org

Web site: <http://paraguayschools.org>

Computer /USA Phone Number Skype: [sue.givens](https://www.skype.com/user/sue.givens) or 330-470-0508



September 22, 2011

Dear District Superintendent Rev. William W. Poland and Members of the South Central District,

Blessings from the Southern Hemisphere, my Brothers and Sisters in Christ! As Missionary Director of the New Horizon Methodist School in the impoverished city of Lambaré, Paraguay, I am writing on behalf of our United Methodist **Advance Project #3021089**. Our Advance Project provides the opportunity for United Methodist churches to partner with us in sharing Christ through education. There are three main ways to help: first, to help cover student tuitions and second, to help with funds for the construction of additional facilities to meet our ministry needs. We also have been selected as a VIM Mission site.

Our mission is to provide children with 2 pillars for life; faith in Christ and an excellent education. The school started in 2001 with 52 children, and now in 2011, ministers to 653. You can see how greatly God has worked to expand and encourage us. We accept children on faith each year that God will provide scholarship funds to cover part of each student's school fees and books. With this help, our children are being offered the opportunity for an excellent Christian education in a nation where schools are typically undersupplied, undervalued and corrupt. Part of our growth of 60 to 70 students per year has been due to both the addition of a new grade level each year and the school's exceptional reputation. We currently use our buildings for 2 school sessions during the day. We also offer Computer Education, English and Music programs in the evenings and Saturdays for over 100 persons from the community. The Methodist church uses the school throughout the week for activities as well.

Our hope is to eventually expand the school as a whole. Our first step, however, is to finish the construction of a large multi-purpose building which was started several years ago to house Christ-centered programs for our students, their families and the community. This New Horizon facility is included in our **Advance Project #3021089**. It will house recreational, sports, music, drama, art and dance programs along with providing an area for concerts and community events. During the ongoing school expansion, we plan to use part of the multipurpose building as temporary classrooms. This will give us space until we can raise more funds for additional classrooms.

Last year, we made an exciting step towards raising funds for this project. An anonymous donor offered us a \$50,000 matching gift challenge. With the help of God, many generous churches and friends of the school, we reached that goal. Now, our anonymous friend, as an expression of his confidence in what God is doing, has offered us a second construction challenge for the same amount. Another \$50,000 before June 1, 2012!

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We are on the web!

www.iaumc.org/districts/detail/17

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The **General Board of Global Missions' Advance Project #3021089** is two-fold. First, it is for the completion of various construction and capital projects (finishing the multipurpose building, expanding the library for the school and community, building an additional wing for classrooms, developing a science laboratory and equipping another computer area). Second, it is for school operation costs and helping cover students' tuitions, materials and books. We are looking forward to seeing the Lord provide for us once again as He has these past 10 years!

Despite the darkness of Paraguay's history (poverty, crime and deeply entrenched political corruption), the Spirit of the Lord is at work here. Lives are being changed, a community is being lifted up and families are being healed. Young people are being offered opportunities that the majority of public schools cannot provided. If students reach high school, they have to declare a career track. One of our students wanted to study bio-chemistry, something we cannot offer at this time. In her placement exam for a special school, Sara scored first out of 200 students from around the country. Our goal is to prepare more youth who are Christ-like, high achievers like Sara. Every obstacle that we have faced has been conquered through faith, prayer, and the mighty hand of the Lord our God.

If you're interested in information about the school and want to be part of changing lives and futures for Jesus and the country of Paraguay, we invite you to partner with us. Please visit our website: www.paraguayschools.org. There you will find photos, information about the school and its history, flyers, brochures and fact sheets that can be printed out and shared with your churches as well as any individuals that may want to help. If you have more specific questions, please feel free to contact me via email or my Skype phone number as noted above. We pray that God will bless your church family and will lead you to make disciples of all nations in whatever way He has planned for you.

Bondservant of our Lord,
Sue Givens
Missionary/General Director