



# Connection

## East Central District

*A place where disciples grow in grace and transform the world by reaching out in love and mission.*

### Conference Health Insurance Seminar - Changes to Health Insurance

The Healthcare Insurance program for active clergy is changing for the year 2011. In order to help each clergy understand this change, a meeting is scheduled in each District. The meeting will present information about the High Deductible Health Plan, the Health Savings Account and the Flexible Spending Account. Representatives from Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield, our health insurance consultants and Kabel Business are planning on being present for these meetings. The presentation will last about an hour. The presenters will be available for individual questions as well.

If they are available you may want to bring your spouse and a member of the Staff Parish Committee with you.

Please note the following dates on your calendar for each district. If you cannot come to the meeting in your district you may attend one that fits your schedule.

Retired clergy do not need to attend these meetings.

Southwest District:  
September 7, 2010 ~ 7:00 pm  
Atlantic, First UMC  
800 Poplar, Atlantic IA

Northeast District:  
September 13, 2010 ~ 10:00 am  
Heritage UMC in Waverly  
1201 230th St, Waverly IA

Northwest District:  
September 14 ~ 10:00 am  
Storm Lake UMC  
211 E 3rd St, Storm Lake IA

East Central District:  
September 28 ~ 10:00 am  
Pictured Rocks Camp  
12004 190th Street, Monticello IA

South Central District:  
Sept. 29 ~ 10:00 am  
Chariton, First UMC  
923 Roland Ave, Chariton, IA

North Central District:  
Oct. 12 ~ 10:00 am  
Faith UMC  
2020 Superior St, Webster City, IA

Southeast District:  
Oct. 13 ~ 10:00 am  
Mount Pleasant, First UMC  
309 N Main St, Mount Pleasant, IA

Central District:  
Oct. 14 ~ 10:00 am  
Immanuel UMC  
2900 49th St, Des Moines, IA

***Attend the  
meeting that fits  
your schedule***

## Retired Clergy Gathering

Wednesday  
September 8, 2010

Ryan's Steakhouse  
230 Collins Road, NE  
Cedar Rapids

Several of the United Methodist retired religious professionals and their spouse/guest gather at 11:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month for a time of fellowship and sharing a meal together.

This is not a closed group so if you are interested in attending, please gather between 11:15 and 11:30 a.m. at Ryan's Steakhouse in Cedar Rapids.



## Retired Clergy Gathering

## United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting is September 18



Women from all parts of the district will gather in Mount Vernon on Saturday, September 18th for this day which will include: music, talks by the "Lost Boys of Sudan" and Marcia Young, training for local UMW officers as well as a group for those attending who are not officers, election and installation

of 2010 district officers, other business, and communion. For those of you who haven't been to the UMC in Mount Vernon recently, the church now has an elevator and a flat parking lot.

UMW units are asked to bring a themed basket for the silent auction (Proceeds from this will go to Bidwell-Riverside), a love gift from their unit, paper products, and any baby or teen blankets that have been made this year.

Advance reservations should be sent to Donna Jordan, 360 12<sup>th</sup>

Ave., Mount Vernon, IA, 52314 by Monday, September 13th. The reservations are \$7 per person and need to be paid in advance. The names of all women attending would be appreciated so name tags can be done ahead of time. Child care can be made available by calling Donna Jordan, 319-895-8759.

The District Annual Meeting is a great place to see old friends and to meet new ones. Hope to see you there!

## Reminders.....

- If you have any articles for the district newsletter, please send them to [ann.zeal@iaumc.org](mailto:ann.zeal@iaumc.org) by the 20th of the month. This is a date change from the 15th. Any information received after the 20th will be held over until the following month.
- Check out the district website for a current list of District Happenings and Upcoming Events at [www.iaumc.org/ecdist](http://www.iaumc.org/ecdist)
- District Staff Meetings are 9 AM on Mondays
- Dave is not in the office on Fridays.



# September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Professional Interviews	2 Professional Interviews	3 Office Closed	4
5	6 Office Closed	7 Professional Interviews	8 Elder Training for Charge Conferences	9 Professional Interviews	10	11
12 Expectation Workshops	13 dCOM Interviews	14 Professional Interviews	15 Cabinet	16 Cabinet	17	18
19 DCMC Meeting	20 Staff training—office closed	21 Day Apart @ Pictured Rocks	22 Professional Interviews	23 LDM Coffees Charge Conferences	24	25
26 Charge Conferences	27 Dave and Jill @ Order of Elders	28 Health Insurance Meeting @ Pictured Rocks	29 Professional Interviews	30 Dave in Des Moines		

## Upcoming Dates for your Calendar

### October 2010

4-6 ~ Clergy Benefits Academy ~ West Des Moines  
 22 ~ Next Step Conference ~ Ankeny First UMC

### November 2010

4 ~ The Disciple Making Church ~ CR St. James UMC  
 6 ~ Thanksgiving Ingathering

### December 2010

5 ~ Clergy Christmas Party ~ Cornell College ~ 5:15 pm

### January 31-February 2, 2011

The Center for Pastoral Effectiveness of the Rockies

### February 2011

4-6 ~ Youth Strike for Christ ~ Des Moines  
 6 ~ District-Wide Season of Prayer begins

### March 2011

9 ~ District-Wide Season of Action begins

### May 2011

1 ~ District Conference Meeting ~ Location TBA

### June 2011

4-7 ~ Annual Conference ~ Des Moines

**District Office CLOSED**  
**Monday, September 6**  
 in observance of  
**Labor Day**

## District Day Apart ~ Ministry and Money

Tuesday, September 21

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pictured Rocks UM Camp

12004 190th Street

Monticello IA 52310

Cost is only \$10 for lunch.

Your EC District Stewardship Team is again sponsoring this event especially for clergy and local church leaders. Rev. Dr. Phil and Janet Jamieson are back to lead this day apart by sharing insights from their

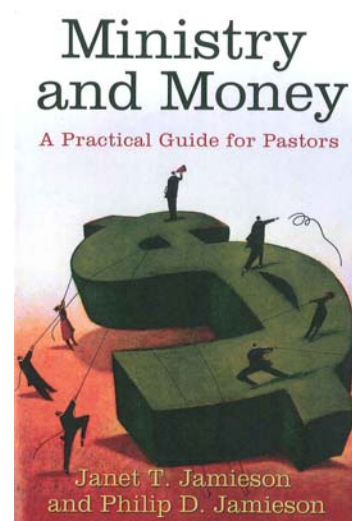
book, **Ministry and Money; A Practical Guide for Pastors.**

Enrich your theology of money and its practical applications.

Each church received a copy of this book either at the Day Apart last year or at their fall charge conference.

[For a complete brochure and registration form please click here.](#)

Registrations are due in the District Office by September 13.



## stirrings – ON THE ROAD

CONVERSATIONS AROUND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



McKendree UMC in downtown Nashville, Tennessee is one of the oldest churches in the area, destined like many churches of its age and location for decline and eventual death ---- but that is not the story of McKendree. A transforming vital spirit and focus is being experienced there – in its outreach to the “displaced” (homeless), in its sense of new-found identity and resulting everyday life, in people each week coming forward in worship to profess a new commitment of faith in Christ. So what’s making the difference for McKendree, and other churches who like them are experiencing a brighter new vitality? This is a question our Iowa Conference Ministry Cabinet is wrestling with right now. We invite you to participate in by joining us in one of the upcoming Stirrings on the Road District Coffees.

All Clergy and other professionals in ministry

Are invited to a time of conversation with the Leadership Development Ministers around the topic of

### Rekindling the Fire:

beyond short-term sustainability towards viable & relevant discipleship

East Central District will have two locations for your convenience

Thursday, September 23, 2010

10:00 am to 11:30 am

DeWitt UMC

222 12th St, DeWitt IA 52742

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Shueyville UMC

1195 Steeple Lane NE, Swisher, IA 52338

## Clergy Benefits Academy

October 4-6, 2010

West Des Moines Marriott

West Des Moines, Iowa

Who should attend?  
Active clergy and spouses - all ages

Early-bird registration \$99.00 (\$169 with spouse).

Registration after August 27 \$129.00 (\$199 with spouse).

This fee includes breakfast, lunch, refreshment breaks and Academy materials

Classroom Workshops  
Age-Focused Coursework  
One-on-One Consultations  
Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Register Online: [www.gbophb.org](http://www.gbophb.org)

Click on "Events & education"

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## Ankeny Next Step Conference ~ Innovative Ideas for Any Size Church

October 22-23, 2010

Ankeny First UMC

206 SW Walnut St

Ankeny IA



The 2009 Conference was so well received, the Iowa Conference has requested we host the event again, and we think this time around will be even better.

Rev. Paul Nixon, will be our keynote speaker at the Friday banquet. Paul currently serves as pastor of Epicenter Church, a ministry to urban young adults in the Washington, DC area. He will also be at the workshops on Saturday.

The workshops offered on Saturday include some of the more popular ones from last year in addition to many new topics. More information will soon be available on our website:

[www.nextstepankeny.com](http://www.nextstepankeny.com)

We hope you and your church leaders will put it on your calendars and plan to join us for two days of inspiration and encouragement.

Bob and Martha Ward

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## Exploring Our Interior Castle

October 29-30, 2010

American Martyrs

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Friday, Oct. 29 ~ 5:00 pm through  
Saturday, Oct. 30 ~ 5:00 pm

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



For the registration form and more information click on this link.

[Exploring\\_Our\\_Int\\_8\\_26\\_55\\_AM..C\\_8\\_26\\_55\\_AM..Griswold\\_edited\\_8\\_26\\_55\\_AM.pdf](#)

## Angel Food Ministries

Pinching pennies has become a way of life for all of us regardless of our yearly income. Many helping programs serve only those with special needs. There is a wonderful program that can SERVE EVERYONE. It is called Angel Food.

Angel Food Ministries is designed to put more food in people's pantry, refrigerator, and freezer for a significantly lower cost. Generally one medium box of food assists in feeding a family of four for about a week or a single senior citizen for almost a month. The food is the same high quality one could purchase at a grocery store. There are not second-hand items. No damaged, out-dated goods, or dented cans without labels. Nothing is day-old, or produce that is too ripe.



**Angel Food  
Ministry**

For only \$31 a medium box of food can be purchased that would cost around \$65-\$70 in the stores.

There are no requirements and anyone can purchase the food. Cash, checks, money orders and even food stamps are all accepted. Additional specialty boxes can be purchased for an additional low cost.

There are many who would like to share this opportunity to save with their neighbors. Living Water United Methodist Church has

been blessed by God to have a facility and the room to provide and share this ministry with the community. We would be glad to bring or email menus to your church if you wish to call, 368-6418 or email us at [Lwchurchnews@yahoo.com](mailto:Lwchurchnews@yahoo.com).

Angel Food can also be ordered online at [angelfoodministries.com](http://angelfoodministries.com). Other distribution sites are:

Anamosa-1st Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Cedar Rapids- 1st Assembly of God  
First Church of the Open Bible  
Hope Lutheran ELCA  
Center Point, Center Point UMC  
Central City, Central City Ecumenical  
Marion, Living Water UMC  
Shellsburg, Parkers Grove Church  
Solon, Our Lords Church

We expected that in tougher times like these, the need for better priced food would be so vast that our host sites would have few challenges reaching beyond their current consumer base. We were wrong. Please help us spread the word about Angel Food-a "food ministry with a servant's heart."

## Thank you

Thank you for allowing me time this summer for renewal! It was truly a gift to be able to step away from my regular tasks for an extended period of time. The days offered opportunities for reading, exercising, sleeping (!), re-connecting with friends, and making a couple of personal retreats. What I appreciated most was the luxury of time to make myself available to my brother, sister-in-law, and family as Angie undergoes treatment for Stage 4 Metastatic Breast Cancer. It was

a gift to be able to be present with them, and also to nurture my relationship with my nephew and my niece as they grow through this painful time. In addition, I was able to offer to take my mom to spend a week in Austin, TX, after her sister, my aunt, suffered a debilitating stroke in early July. It felt "luxurious" to be able to offer a whole week without making all sorts of schedule changes!

Thanks for your prayers, your cards, your e-mails, and your

notes of encouragement during this time. I return to my work among you healthier---physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally---and with a renewed commitment to our mission and ministry together. Thank you for the gift of Sabbath time.

Jill Sanders,  
Field Outreach Minister

## Along Jill's Journey



Dear Friends,

Several months ago, I decided to take a week-end getaway to Myrtle Beach with a friend. Having never been to Myrtle Beach before, I spent

many late evenings scouring the worldwide web for hotel sites. At last, I found the place. It met the first criteria; it was in our price range (read: rather inexpensive!) Beyond that, the website boasted of rooms with nautical décor and ocean views and offered pictures to illustrate the affordable luxury that awaited us. When the week-end arrived, we checked into the hotel and made the journey to our room with eager anticipation. We had no plans except to enjoy the ocean view, walk on the beach, and “veg” in great surroundings. When we opened the door to our room, what we saw looked nothing like what was depicted on the hotel’s website. The room was dirty. The furniture was damaged and chipped. There were no pictures on the walls. The new nautical bedspreads we had seen in the website photo had been replaced by 1970’s red velvet. The window in the sleeping room offered amazing views of cars parked on the second level of the hotel’s parking ramp. And, much to our chagrin, the promised “ocean view” revealed nothing but the branches of a palm tree. (To be honest, I think this was a room they rented for spring break parties at Myrtle Beach!) Disappointment quickly turned to anger, and I resolved to ask for a refund, hoping we might find another place to stay. At first, they refused my request citing policies requiring two night minimum stays. When I opened my laptop on the reservation desk and pulled up the website, I showed them the pictures of the

room advertised there---and then the pictures of the actual room taken with the camera on my Blackberry. I told them that I was claiming false advertising, and that unless they refunded my full payment, I would take appropriate action. Finally they did, and we were able to find a nice place to stay, with an ocean view, just a few doors down for a pittance more.

There’s a reason I tell this story in the September newsletter, and it’s not simply because I need a place to vent. September is a month of new beginnings. With a new school year starting and new routines being put into place, many households establish new relationships with churches as well. If they’ve mustered the courage to walk in the door or found the determination to try again to connect with a community of faith, what happens if they experience the kind of “bait and switch” false advertising that my friend and I experienced at the first hotel in Myrtle Beach?

All of this begs the question: **“Does what we advertise about ourselves in formal and informal ways offer an accurate picture of who we really are?”** When I was serving in my last pastorate, there was a congregation of another denomination in a nearby village that started a “mission outpost” type of worship service. Their advertising was phenomenal—speaking to the hearts and minds of my generation. They promised “business as unusual”--the chance to do church in an entirely different way, powerful contemporary worship, the assurance of acceptance, the opportunity to be formed in community, and the potential to change the world. Even though I was appointed to another congregation, I decided that I would make it a practice to join this congregation when they worshipped on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday nights of the month. And I made the initial journey to that little town, I was so excited about the opportunity to be part of a worshipping community where I could worship and not lead. When I arrived, the pastor seemed genuinely surprised that I was there. It was obvious that my presence made him uncomfortable. He hemmed and hawed about how it had been a strange week and he hadn’t got to do much planning. When we asked him where the worship space was, he pointed to four people seated on folding chairs. We were given old dilapidated hymnals. The order of worship was the same order used on Sunday morning in this historical old church. And the worship experience was a Bible study. Now keep in mind, none of that was bad. I like traditional worship. I like Bible study. I believe that where two or three are gathered, Jesus is present. What I didn’t appreciate was that the reality in no way matched the advertising.

So, as September approaches, how are we doing? Do we practice what we proclaim to be true about ourselves? Do we claim to be friendly but ignore newcomers while limiting expressions of friendship with those we already know and love? Do we state that everyone will be accepted and loved, but then look away from those who believe, look, act, or smell different from the majority of those who gather for worship? Do we promise vibrant worship while merely going through the tired motions of old routines? Do we promise deep spiritual formation for the journey of faith and meaningful ministry opportunities and then satisfy ourselves with merely “paying the bills” or “running the church?” I believe when people come to a house of worship for the first time--- or when they return after a time away ---they come filled with hope and anticipation.

(Continued on page 12)

# SEPTEMBER

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

01	David & Jan Pacholke
03	Lloyd & Mary Brockmeyer
03	Dennis Coon
04	Norm & Bonnie Anderson
06	Ann Zeal
07	Mike & Kristine Ellson
09	Mary Johnston
09	Jill Sanders
12	Mike Townsley
19	Tom Mattson
19	Jim & Connie Davis
20	Mary Johnston & Richard Hines
21	Clint & Karla Twedt-Ball
22	Sam Hahn
22	Paul Shultz
23	Susan Detwiler
24	Christine Minor-Heilig
25	Marilyn Buchanan

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Do you have family news to share? Prayers of concern or joy? If you would like it published in the newsletter, contact the [District Office](#).



**Continued Prayers for,**  
**Pastor Christine Minor-Heilig** as she continues with family and personal health issues.

**Retired Pastor Susen LeBlanc** as she continues to recover from her surgery.

**Our Sympathy to,**  
The family of **Rev. Leroy Edward Bauman** who passed away on Thursday, July 22, 2010. Rev. Bauman served in Iowa **Rev. Bauman** served in Iowa at Lime Springs-Chester; Grundy Center; West Branch-Springdale; Mason City, First (Associate); Waterloo, Kimball Avenue and Cedar Rapids, Kenwood Park. He retired in 1987.

The family of **Mrs. Charlotte Parmer**, spouse of Rev. Wallace A. Parmer. Mrs. Parmer passed away on Thursday, August 19. **Rev. Parmer** served at Archer-Baker; Swea City-Grant; Center Point-Urbana; Charter Oak-Ute-Deloit; Fenton-Cylinder; Moravia, Grace-Salem; Quimby-Washta; Brandon-Mount Auburn and Dumont. He retired in 1985.

**Congratulations to,**  
Vinton, Steward Memorial UMC on their 100th anniversary. A celebration will be on Sunday, September 26. Pastor Lanette Van serves at Steward Memorial UMC.

## Staying Connected Through Prayer

Please lift up the following congregations and clergy.

Sept. 5	Cedar Rapids Bertram-Buffalo ~ Marilyn Buchanan
Sept. 12	Alburnett-Prairie Chapel ~ Burr Bryant
Sept. 19	Wyoming ~ Karmen Jamison
Sept. 26	Anamosa, First ~ Laurie Riley
Oct. 3	Williamsburg, St. Paul's ~ James and Helen Parks
Oct. 10	Faith-Baldwin ~ Merle and Judy Paulsen
Oct. 17	Walker ~ Norm Kelley
Oct. 24	West Branch ~ Scot Patrick
Oct. 31	Viola ~ Ed Moreano



## East Central District Parish Development

### Salem's Story by Rev. John Louk

How is God at work in our community? How can our church participate in God's mission to renew creation and usher in the kingdom of God fully? How will God's Word continue to be spoken and heard in our community? What is the consequence of our praying, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven?" These are some of the questions Salem has been asking since the flood of 2008.

We looked at a church building that was for sale. We determined to accept the buyout of our downtown property. We considered building on the land that Salem already owns on Blairs Ferry Road. There were many opinions about what we could or should do.

We determined we needed to try and discern how God was moving in our community and in our congregation. Therefore, I encouraged our congregation to fast during Lent to help us hear God's voice in our midst. I used Richard Foster's wonderful book, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, to help us prepare. Fasting is a spiritual discipline that helps us draw near to God, leading to greater intimacy with the Lord and to hearing more clearly what the Lord is saying to us. Those who were fasting as well as others in the congregation were invited to gather once a week to pray together.

The ancient church manual, the

*Didache*, prescribed two fast days a week – Wednesday and Friday. Our founder, John Wesley, revived this teaching from the *Didache* and urged early Methodists to fast on these two days. Later in Wesley's life he fasted every Friday.

At the same time I encouraged our congregation to read scripture together. By reading two chapters a day, we read through the Gospels and Acts during Lent. We printed a bookmark to help us stay on track. I encouraged the congregation to be intentional about what it means for us to live together in a way that inhabits the world of the Bible rather than trying to make the Bible fit into *our* world.

After fasting, praying, and reading scripture together, I shared with the congregation our goal of unanimity. Unanimity means being of one mind and it is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It means allowing God to set our minds on the same thing. By ourselves, people can never be in unanimity. It is not the same thing as a democratically organized church, taking votes and relying on majority decisions. Decisions are made by consensus. Unanimity is a miracle that is possible only by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In his wonderful book, *Does God Need the Church?*, German theologian Gerhard Lohfink writes, "In the gift of unanimity, not in its own activity lies the theological mystery of the Church, its power and the

fascination that goes forth from it. Living in unanimity is the first and most important mission of the Church." Lohfink shows that the church does not operate on a model or by pastoral plans and strategies. Rather, the Spirit of God moves in purposeful and often surprising ways to accomplish God's will. As God's people we place our trust in the Lord and in God's provision for us while remaining open to the surprising ways of God.

While we were fasting and praying during Lent, seeking God's guidance and direction for Salem, New Creation UMC was making their own decisions.

Ultimately, they graciously offered their 8.4 acres and phase one building for the cost of their remaining mortgage. Salem accepted the offer and found itself at a major turning point. God was leading us to a new location.

*Unanimity is a miracle that is possible only by the power of the Holy Spirit*

As Salem begins again in a new location, we have an awesome opportunity to reach out to others and welcome them. Because this is a "re-start" for Salem in a new location, we will be perceived as a new congregation, as a new thing. Research has shown that it only takes two Christians to bring one person to faith in Christ in churches three years old or less. In five year old churches it takes twelve Christians. In a ten year old church, it takes seventy-two Christians.

(Salem's Story continued on page 10)

## Salem's Story (continued from page 9)

Bringing new people to new congregations and ministries is far easier than bringing new people to established congregations. We do not want to squander this opportunity for every single person of Salem to reach out to new people and welcome them. There are new neighborhoods all around this new location. We will reach out to them. Moreover, there are unchurched neighbors, friends, family, and co-workers all around us too. Welcoming all these persons means reaching out to them first.

We will not do this simply for the sake of more people in the seats. Jesus began his ministry by proclaiming, "The kingdom of God has come near" (Matthew 4:12-17; Mark 1:14-15). Our calling as the Church is to proclaim, pray for, and embody God's kingdom in the world, here and now. True, the kingdom of God is not fully realized yet, but it has begun. We have had a foretaste of the complete reign of God and we are to embody that

foretaste in the world.

For us, that is what it means to be Salem. "Salem" comes from the Hebrew word *shalom*. This is usually translated as peace. God's peace, however, is not just the absence of conflict but the wholeness of life. *Shalom* means completeness, wholeness, health, peace, joy, love, friendship, well-being, justice, and salvation. Salem/*Shalom* is God's will for the world, for the renewal of creation.

Perhaps that all sounds easy. It is not. Usually, in times of change there is opposition and conflict, stress and angst. There may well be a struggle with the spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12). It is, however, an exciting adventure in the kingdom of God.



What else would we expect following Jesus?

What is God calling your church to do? What are you willing to do to discern God's call and take action in your community? Every church in the East Central District is invited to join in a "**Season of Prayer**" (see related story below) together we determine the location of our ministries in the lives of people in our communities and world. Churches will self-select partners with other congregations in this journey between February 6 – March 8 next year. We will then be invited to participate in a "Season of Action" during Lent (March 9 – April 23), leading up to Easter (April 24). More information will be shared at pastors' professional interviews and charge conferences. Also, you are welcome to contact our district Parish Development team, [Rev. James Parks](#) (Williamsburg), chair.

## DISTRICT-WIDE SEASON OF PRAYER

Before Jesus touched the bread to feed the multitudes, first he prayed. Before he called Lazarus back to life, he prayed. And before he stepped forward to put himself on the cross, he prayed. You see in so many contexts, before Jesus ever located his ministry in the life of broken and needful people, Jesus first turned his thoughts and heart to God for inspiration, direction, power and hope. Should we be any different?

So every church in the East Central District is invited to join in a "**Season of Prayer**" as we together determine the location of our ministries in the lives of our communities and world. Churches will self-select partners with other churches in this journey, February 6-March 8, 2011 then be invited to participate in a "**Season of Action**" during Lent (March 9-April 23), leading up to Easter (April 24).

More information will be shared at pastor's professional interviews and charge conferences, or you can contact your district Parish Development team, [James Parks](#) (Williamsburg), chair.

## Apportionment Update

As of July 31, 2010

Alburnett	16%	Dubuque, Rockdale	50%	Oxford Junction	0%
Anamosa	23%	Dubuque, St. Luke's	19%	Oxford	2%
Baldwin/Monmouth Faith	50%	East Dubuque, Wesley	33%	Palo	35%
Belle Plaine, Christ	11%	Elberon	41%	Pleasant Hill	0%
Blairstown, Calvary	49%	Elwood	0%	Prairie Chapel	50%
Brandon	49%	Epworth	58%	Preston UM	60%
Calamus, Wesley	100%	Garrison	50%	Rochester	58%
Camanche, St. Mark's	58%	Grand Mound, St. Paul's	0%	Sabula	41%
Cedar Rapids, Asbury	7%	Guernsey	58%	Sherrill	58%
Cedar Rapids, Bertram	58%	Iowa City, First	20%	Shueyville	29%
Cedar Rapids, Buffalo	58%	Iowa City, Hope	58%	Solon	8%
Cedar Rapids, Faith	58%	Iowa City, Korean	0%	Springdale	51%
Cedar Rapids, Kenwood Park	58%	Iowa City, St. Mark's	58%	Springville	33%
Cedar Rapids, Lovely Lane	41%	Kalona, Sharon Center	33%	Stanwood Union	58%
Cedar Rapids, Salem	19%	Koszta	83%	Tiffin, Grace	21%
Cedar Rapids, Sharon	58%	Ladora	57%	Tipton, First	25%
Cedar Rapids, St. James	20%	Lisbon	0%	Van Horne, Salem	50%
Cedar Rapids, St. Mark's	58%	Low Moor	0%	Victor	0%
Cedar Rapids, St. Paul's	8%	Maquoketa, First	40%	Vinton, Stewart Memorial	19%
Cedar Rapids, Trinity	67%	Marengo, First	58%	Vinton, Wesley	58%
Center Point	0%	Marion, Christ Community	0%	Viola	25%
Central City, First	14%	Marion, First	58%	Walker	58%
Champion Hill	63%	Marion, Living Water	58%	West Branch	50%
Clarence	50%	Martelle	58%	Williamsburg, St. Paul's	58%
Clinton, First	58%	Mechanicsville	49%	Wyoming	18%
Clinton, Lyons	19%	Millersburg	46%		
Clinton, Trinity	0%	Monticello Yoke	11%	District Total Paid	34%
Clover Ridge	25%	Morley, First	58%		
Coggon United Parish	0%	Mount Vernon, First	58%		
Coralville	58%	Mt. Auburn	9%		
Coralville, New Horizons	5%	North English	3%		
DeWitt	30%	North Liberty, First	50%		
Delmar	58%	Norway	58%		
Dubuque, Center Grove	50%	Ohio	88%		
Dubuque, Grand View	58%	Olin Community	0%		



If you do not agree with this report, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 515-974-8920.

### Apportionments Do What?

Have you ever wondered what our Conference Apportionments accomplish, in terms of ministry and mission? Have you ever wished for help in developing a "stewardship moment", or call for the offering?

Check out the Iowa Annual Conference website: [www.iaumc.org](http://www.iaumc.org)! At the bottom of the home page is a box titled "Featured", and in it is a link to a page called "Thank You Notes".

This page will contain stories of what our "connectional giving" accomplishes throughout the state of Iowa. It's not just institutional maintenance and organization—it's changed lives! Look and see!

## A Refugee Story & IOWA JFON Connection



Moussa Gueye was one of the immigrants who came to the Cedar Rapids clinic soon after it opened in November 2004. He tells us now that Justice For Our Neighbors made a difference for him and his family.

Moussa was from Mauritania in West Africa. There he had been arrested and tortured by the military government. He came to

Iowa because he had a Mauritanian friend who lived in Iowa.

JFON attorney, Rose Mraz, and office assistant, Liliana Pingel, met with Moussa and helped him tell his story as he sought political asylum. As a gift to the program Moussa gave one of his paintings.

After five years in Iowa, Moussa decided to move to New Haven to pursue an artist's career. Moving to

the east coast Moussa says, "I had to make a choice when I came here. I could go back to school to work as an architect, or I could work to support my family."

He chose the latter and now the trained artist and architect delivers New Haven pizzas and washed dishes by night - while by day, he's an artist-in-residence

with a lot to say about work, survival, and starting from scratch.

His wife and three kids joined him in late 2009. He hadn't seen them since 2003 when, the military government of Mauritania threw him in jail on accusation of speaking out against the regime.

Moussa sent his words of thanks saying "My family will never forget what you in JFON did for us."

For the JFON staff, volunteers and others who knew Moussa it is rewarding to know he is an artist-in-residence and that his family is reunited.

Churches and individuals support of JFON helps the program keep helping immigrants who come to our area. Iowa Advance #375 needs your continued support if this mission program is to continue. East Central District Clinic site is Lovely Lane UMC.

## Along Jill's Journey (continued from Page 7)

Wouldn't it be wonderful if they experienced what they long for most deeply because they have worshipped with us?

Now is the time to ask ourselves whether or not the image we portray about ourselves is an authentic one. I pray that it is. But if you search within and find that it isn't, it's not too late. We're the church that proclaims "open hearts, open minds, open doors." If we are to practice what we preach, we need to be actively inviting all people into our communities of faith, going out of our way to build

relationships with them and to help them make connections with others and with opportunities for study and service. This is NOT merely the responsibility of the greeters and ushers or the evangelism/outreach team. It's the task of every member of the congregation. This September and beyond, how will you open your heart, your mind, and the doors of your church to someone new?

If I can be of assistance to you as you seek to practice radical hospitality and to practice what

you preach, please do not hesitate to be in touch. ([Jill.Sanders@iaumc.org](mailto:Jill.Sanders@iaumc.org) or 319.361.0737)

On the Journey with You!  
Jill



## School Teachers for Nigeria

The school bell rings for the Africa University students. In Nigeria Martins David and Kenneth Yerima still wait with bated breath in order to first get their Zimbabwe visas, then be issued a one way airline ticket from Nigeria to Harare, Zimbabwe to arrive by August 9 for orientation.

Doris David, Francis Adamu and Jacob Tahiru are completing their vacation assignments and now preparing for classes to begin at Africa University. Cletus David will begin his internship either in Harare or Nairobi, Kenya.

Jarama Filiya, Principal at the Junior Secondary School in Jalingo, has enrolled at the University of Maidurugi, about 3 hours from Jalingo. He plans to get a Master's Degree in Counseling so will attend classes during the summer break and on weekends over a two year period. Jarama was in Iowa several years ago itinerating in the former Dubuque District. If you wish to support him in his academic pursuits, money may be sent through the channels listed below.

An InGathering book related story was that a woman from Lanesboro had attended the Webster City InGathering site

where she unintentionally laid down a pile of music books. Youth quickly picked them up and packed them in a box marked "books." That evening Dan Corrow called me asking if I might be able to find these music books. Well, with 745 boxes who had time or inclination to look through all of them for the missing books? They were part of the shipment sent to Nigeria. When the boxes were unpacked in Jalingo, books were taken to the high school where our two young volunteers, Emily and Chelsea, were sent to sort through them separating elementary from secondary school books. Enroute to Didango, I went to the book room and was rummaging through boxes when I came upon these music books. So, putting them in my suitcase, these books were brought back to the Lanesboro woman. Who would have thought we would find the needle in the haystack!

Books are highly prized by everyone in Nigeria. Kids don't read for pleasure as books are not available and the teaching curriculum doesn't allow time for reading. The Junior Secondary School Library shelves are becoming full with about 500 + books from Iowa being catalogued and now line the book



cases. Several times while visiting the library, I found students studying with World Book Encyclopedias, finding pictures and stories from National Geographics for their reports or just continuing to read a book for fun. Books open up a whole new vista for Nigerian children while enhancing their knowledge of life in general and the wide world in which they live.

Speaking of books, Hassan Audu, Communication Director for the Pero Conference in Billari, has submitted a manuscript which has been accepted for publication by Dorrance Publishing. It is entitled, "The Agony of the African Women" and will be available on Amazon.com in early 2011.

The Iowa Nigeria Partnership accepts any donations related to providing education for a student, teacher or church related school in Nigeria. Money may be sent through your local church to the conference treasurer marked: INP, #230 and designation (if any). Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.

## Pastoral Interviews & Charge Conferences

Charge Conference Forms are available on the [Conference Website](#). The Pastoral Interview and Charge Conference schedules are available on the [East Central District website](#). The 2010 Pastor's Annual Self-Profile must be sent to the district office, electronically, at least one week prior to your interview. Charge Conference Form A and Form B must be sent to the district office, electronically, prior to your charge conference. Thank you.



from the Conference Superintendent

## Grounds of Faith



When I was a young kid, my folks had the practice of stuffing the three of us kids in the backseat of the Rambler Ambassador station wagon, hooking up the travel trailer and “vacationing” for two weeks around the country. Phrases like “he’s touching me,” “I’m bored,” and the classic “he’s breathing my air” became hallmark memories of those trips. Mom’s usual answer was “be quiet and look at the scenery.” You didn’t want Dad’s usual answer as it involved pulling over and stopping the car. Not a good sign. Mom’s answer had some wisdom to it that was perfectly wasted on three squiggly kids in a confined space. The scenery we were passing through as we traveled the central plains and the Rockies and parts of Canada were things we’d never see at home. The problem was, we weren’t curious enough to be interested in what we were missing. We only wanted what we wanted: out of the car and souvenirs.

This all came back to me as I listened to young folks of all ages reflecting on what it meant to be headed back to school. Some were excited; most were not. Some were anticipating new things; most were lamenting the loss of freedom. I believe that was what triggered the memories of the backseat of the car on family vacations. What I noticed to be the big difference between

those who were lamenting and those who were anticipating was the presence of curiosity or the lack of it. What happens when we stop being curious? It appears that we start missing things; things that we may not encounter again for a long time, if ever. Curiosity is a gift. It keeps us engaged with the moment, the world around us, and all of its potential.

Without curiosity Moses would never have led God’s people out of Egypt because he would never have stopped to check out that burning bush. While Moses was doing his shepherd thing there in Midian and the angel of the LORD appeared to him as a flame out of a bush that did not consume the bush, it was Moses’ curiosity that gave him pause long enough to hear God’s call. If Moses hadn’t been curious enough to “turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up”<sup>1</sup> the story of God’s people would have unfolded very differently. If humanity hadn’t been blessed with the gift of curiosity, Job would never have asked “Why?” and we would not have that story of God’s wisdom and mercy. We’d only have the assumption that for some of us, God doesn’t seem to care. Without curiosity the crowds would not have come to hear this strange John wandering out of the wilderness and his would have been a voice crying unheard

in the wilderness. Zacchaeus would never have climbed that tree and found redemption and the poor would not have found relief in his new generosity. Without curiosity we wouldn’t be asking the questions that lead us to Christ and neither would anyone with whom we share our good news. The right question is more powerful than an answer that closes debate and discovery. As annoying as that three-year-old’s perpetual “Why?” may be, it is a God given gift. We wonder. We seek. We find. We grow.

May the answer we have in Christ always lead you to the questions of “Where?” “How?” “When?” “Who?” May your curiosity never be satisfied. Faith is not a set of answers. It is a collection of stories gathered along a journey that lasts a life time and beyond.

<sup>1</sup>Exodus 3:3, NRSV