

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

# Letters from the Lakeshore



**Volume 4, issue 7**

**September, 2010**

## District Insurance Meetings

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. Please note the following dates on your calendar for each district. The meeting should last about two hours. If they are available you may want to bring your spouse and a member of the Staff Parish Committee with you. Also, if you cannot come to the meeting in your district you may attend one that fits your schedule.

Southwest District 7:00 p.m. September 7 at Atlantic, First UMC

Northeast District 10:00 a.m. September 13 at Waverly, Heritage UMC

**Northwest District 10:00 a.m. September 14 at Storm Lake UMC**

East Central District 10:00 a.m. September 28 at Pictured Rocks Camp, Monticello

South Central District 10:00 a.m. September 29 at Chariton, First UMC

North Central District 10:00 a.m. October 12 at Webster City, Faith UMC

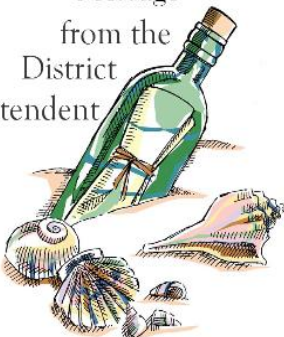
Southeast District 10:00 a.m. October 13 at Mount Pleasant, First UMC

Central District 10:00 a.m. October 14 at Des Moines, Immanuel UMC



## We Are All in Ministry Together

Message  
from the  
District  
Superintendent



In their book "The Art of Possibility," Rosamund Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander discussed the need to practice the "We" attitude instead of "Me." We is "you-plus-I." The practice of WE is about reclaiming "The Other" as one of us. I thought this is also what Paul is saying in I Corinthians 12 when he talked about the body with many parts. Each part is important. And if one part suffers, all suffer. If one is glorified, all are glorified.

During the Start Up session which we conducted for the newly appointed pastors in the Northwest District, I talked about connectional community and responsibilities. All of us in the group came to be reminded that "connection" is about being one and focusing on what will work for all of us and not just for oneself.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Message from the DS

As I conduct Ministry Expectations Workshops for each SPRC with a newly appointed pastor, we remind each other that "we are all in ministry together." It is not just the ministry of the pastor but the ministry of all of us. So the question that is asked is "What do we (pastor and congregation) want to happen? What is best for us? All of each of us and all of all of us.

I also want to thank all pastors and churches for all of the efforts that have been exerted in order to fulfill connectional obligation. We are all in ministry and mission together for the world through the apportionment.

Living the United Methodist way,

Rev. Bernie Colorado



## Northwest District Lay Leader Rally

Sunday, September 26  
Cherokee, St Paul's UMC  
3:00 PM

All Lay Leaders and spouses/significant others are invited to attend!

Any QUESTIONS? Call, e-mail, or write:

Marilyn Brubaker  
4987 Oriole Avenue  
Paullina, IA 51046  
(712) 448-2498

[mrbkr@iowatelecom.net](mailto:mrbkr@iowatelecom.net)



Iowa Annual  
Conference United  
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Northwest District  
Office



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Some of you may remember from last year's charge conferences, that I dragged a door with me from church to church as we celebrated the various ways that we are called to invite people in, but especially to send people out into service. You may even remember singing the words to "Seek Ye First". If I could have my pick, you would remember my challenge at the end to see where God is calling you in the year ahead and to go! Well, as we get back into our crazy fall schedules and as charge conferences start to creep up again, I would like to share with you a door that I encountered this last month. After much persistence by Ken Miller, a layman from Holstein UMC, I finally accepted his invitation to attend worship at the Rockwell Men's Correctional Facility. It was an incredible experience! I already knew that I was experiencing an incredible God-



moment, but imagine my feeling of blessedness and surprise when we all started to sing, "Seek Ye First" and the pastor asked the congregation (including me!) to consider where God would be leading them in the year to come. We truly serve an awesome God! His challenge was profound and the inmates' responses were inspiring. I would like to share with you Ken's words about this important ministry.

*Sarah, I'm so thankful that you were able to join us for worship at NCCF.*

*When anyone accepts Christ into their life, it is special and profound moment. But when these previously hardened hearts open to the healing power of Jesus... well, the only word for that is MIRACLE!*

*It's been several years since I first responded to the calling put on me to visit these men. Shortly after that, I started bringing others with me. I started by telling my fellow church members at Holstein UMC that they would be carrying the light of Christ to these men. Without fail, everyone that has accepted my invitation to attend "Inside Worship" comes away from the experience saying that they felt that the light of Christ was carried to them through the worshiping inmates. I would agree. Christ's light burns brightest when shared by many and held high.*

*The Church of Damascus Road is a true congregation inside the walls of the state penitentiaries at Rockwell City and Fort Dodge. They function very similarly as any congregation on the outside. There's an "inside" church council comprised of inmates and also an "outside" council with supporters from many denominations. CoDR operates pretty much the same as any other church, with one big exception.... We love to see members leave!*

*It's an important ministry to visit the person in prison. Worshipping with ex-offenders and simply being part of the body is more important than a person can imagine until it's experienced. You are side by side worshipping Christ with inmates that the world has told them that they are not suitable to be with other people. By your presence with them, they hear God saying that they still have value in His eyes.*

*I would be glad to be of assistance in helping others experience this ministry. If you would have churches looking for more information, I am willing and able to travel anywhere in the Northwest or Northcentral districts to talk to congregations about how they can be involved in this most basic Matt 25 ministry. I'd be happy to provide a 5 minute "ministry update" but prefer to be able to provide pulpit supply lifting this important ministry. When this is done, it's rich with testimony from myself and at least one ex-offender that shares how he accepted Christ as a result of worshiping "Inside". It's very powerful!!!!*

*Any congregation that has members performing this type of ministry will experience a new energy that can only come from focus on ministries outside the walls of their physical church plant. Worshipping "Inside" may not be the specific ministry that people flock to... but then we were not told that we should do these things to the least of these, only if it's convenient or appealing to us.*

*Sorry about getting a little wordy. I guess we all get that way about something that moves us.*

*Blessings, Ken*

I couldn't say it any better myself! What a gift! I want to thank Ken for his work in this important ministry and for his persistent invitations. I also want to celebrate the model that he has provided. Just think of the incredible places and ways that God is leading us into ministry (both to give and to receive!). Any opened doors you want to share? Blessings, Sarah



If you would like to know more about this ministry please contact me or Ken Miller at [kmiller@ruralcrop.com](mailto:kmiller@ruralcrop.com). And don't forget about the UM ministry in Mitchellville, Women at the Well! There are plenty of doors to go around...

*blessings, Sarah*

## Schedule of Events

- 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.
- September 6-- Office Closed for the Labor Day Holiday
- September 16, 2010-- District UMW Meeting
- September 25, 2010- DCMC Planning Retreat
- October 29-30 Lay Speaker Training at Alta,.
- December 11, 2010- District Christmas Party
- May 1, 2011 Northwest District Conference—Mark your calendars now!!

# September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Office Closed	7 		9 Sarah in Des Moines	10 Ministry Cabinet	11 CCMC
12	13	14 	15	16 District UMW meeting	17	18
19	20		22	23	24 	25 DCMC
26 Lay Speaker Rally	27	28	29	30 Matthew 25 apps due		



## Bernie's September Calendar

1	Ministry Expectation Workshop SC Wesley	15-16	Cabinet meeting
5-6	Filipino Caucus Retreat at Camp Wesley Woods	17	Conference Parish Development meeting at Jordan Creek
7	Ministry Expectations Workshop & Special Charge Conference Spirit Lake	19	Attend Installation Service of Rev. Dave Weesner in Des Moines
8	Ministry Expectations Workshop & Special Charge Conference Anthon-Rock Branch	20-22	Professional Interviews
9	Ministry Expectations Workshop & Special Charge Conference Fostoria	23	District Committee on Ordained Ministry Training
10	Ministry Cabinet meeting at Conference Center	24	Board of Ordained Ministry meeting
10-11	CCMC meeting and Retreat at Conference Center	25	NW District Connectional Ministry Council Visioning and Planning Session
12	Preach at Seney, followed by Ministry Expectations Workshop and Special Charge Conference Storm Lake UMC Mortgage Burning	26	Preach at Melvin Church for their Church Anniversary NW District Lay Leaders Rally at Cherokee
13	Professional Interviews Ministry Expectations Workshop Estherville	27	Orders Event at Indianola
14	Conference Health Benefits Seminar at Storm Lake Ministry Expectations Workshop Ida Grove-Arthur	28-29	Professional Interviews



Birthdays &  
Anniversaries  
This Month!

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### September

- 1 Larry McAlpine
- 2 Carl & Sharon Klein
- 2 Caroline Kurtenbach
- 2 Chad Lierman
- 2 Kim & Ron Dewey
- 4 Esta & Clint Fraley
- 5 Angela Gafford Asmus
- 5 Steve & Nancy Pohlman
- 7 Mildred Hotle
- 7 David & Christina Schumann
- 7 Kwang-Seok & Myung-Hee Yoon Song
- 7 Ben Wilson
- 8 Bruce Bane
- 9 Vicki & Mark Fisher
- 14 June Goldman & Karl Kiilsholm
- 16 Bernie Colorado
- 18 Mark Fisher
- 18 Jan Stemme
- 19 Larry & Connie McAlpine
- 19 Paul Samuelson
- 20 Carl Bengé
- 21 John Newman
- 21 Nancy Pohlman
- 21 Ted Stowers
- 23 Ed & Kris Frank
- 23 Paul & Mari Samuelson
- 24 Roger Madden
- 26 Dave & Opal Finley
- 26 Nea Huggins
- 27 Dean Shelly
- 28 Steve Campbell



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

**Kwang Seok Song and his wife Myung-Hee** and their family. Myung-Hee's father passed away in South Korea. Kwang is the pastor at Sutherland-Larrabee.

The family of **Relda Muller** who passed away August 21. Relda was the wife of the late Rev. Henry Muller and mother of Rev. Merrill Muller.

**Ted Stowers** who has been in the hospital for tests. Ted is the pastor at Merrill-Adaville and the husband of Deborah who is the pastor at Sergeant Bluff.

**Karen Garrison** who is recovering from a broken elbow. Karen is the pastor at Mapleton-Ticonic and the wife of Len Garrison who is the pastor at Danbury.

**Bud and Jan Watts** and family. Jan's mother passed away peacefully August 29. Bud is the pastor at Fostoria.

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.

## Congratulations

To the **Onawa UMC** who celebrated their 155th Anniversary on August 29.

To the **Storm Lake UMC** who will be dedicating their Family Life Center, the Library and elevator, and the renovated Sanctuary — and burning the mortgage on September 12.

To the **Melvin UMC** who will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary on September 26.

To the 2010 School for Lay Ministry graduates from the Northwest District: **Nora Biegler, Robert Brady, Wil George, Robin Hamilton, and Sue Ritts**

To the graduates of the Academy for New Ministry Development: **Terry Pollard, Tim Walker, and Jo Frahm Watkins.**

# 2010 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 58%

AKRON, WESLEY	25%	MILFORD, UNION MEMORIAL	7%
ALTA	58%	MOVILLE	58%
SCHALLER	16%	NEMAHA	58%
ANTHON	25%	ODEBOLT	58%
ROCK BRANCH	66%	ONAWA	23%
ARCHER	0%	TURIN	58%
ARMSTRONG	0%	PETERSON	58%
ARNOLDS PARK	34%	PIERSON	45%
AURELIA, FIRST	58%	MEADOW STAR	35%
CHEROKEE, ST. PAUL'S	54%	PRIMGHAR	24%
CORRECTIONVILLE	50%	QUIMBY	17%
CUSHING, FIRST	50%	WASHTA	37%
DANBURY	33%	ROCK RAPIDS	58%
DOLLIVER	75%	ROCK VALLEY, PIONEER	8%
<b>DOON, FIRST</b>	<b>100%</b>	ROLFE	0%
<b>EARLY</b>	<b>100%</b>	RUTHVEN	58%
EMMETSBURG	13%	AYRSHIRE	0%
ESTHERVILLE	17%	SAC CITY	20%
EVERLY	24%	SANBORN, ST. ANDREW'S	25%
ROYAL	58%	SERGEANT BLUFF	50%
EXCELSIOR	10%	SHELDON	50%
FOSTORIA	8%	SIBLEY	0%
GALVA, FIRST	0%	OCHEYEDAN	25%
SILVER CREEK	58%	SC, CHURCH ALL NATIONS	0%
GRAETTINGER	11%	SIOUX CITY, CRESCENT PARK	40%
TERRIL	42%	SIOUX CITY, FIRST	33%
HARRIS	34%	SIOUX CITY, GRACE	26%
LAKE PARK	58%	SIOUX CITY, RIVERSIDE	0%
HARTLEY	14%	SIOUX CITY, RUSTIN AVENUE	4%
HAWARDEN	58%	SIOUX CITY, ST. JAMES	42%
IRETON	16%	SIOUX CITY, TRIMBLE	50%
HINTON	6%	SIOUX CITY, WESLEY	33%
MERRILL, MELBOURNE	58%	<b>SIOUX CITY, WHITFIELD</b>	<b>100%</b>
HOLSTEIN	58%	SIOUX RAPIDS	0%
HOPE PARISH	28%	REMBRANDT	0%
HORNICK	43%	SMITHLAND	30%
SALIX	0%	SPENCER, GRACE	36%
HUNTINGTON	0%	SPIRIT LAKE	2%
IDA GROVE, FIRST	58%	STORM LAKE	25%
ARTHUR	58%	SUTHERLAND	33%
KINGSLEY	33%	LARRABEE	58%
LAKES	0%	VARINA	58%
LANGDON	50%	WEBB	24%
SPENCER, ZION	50%	GILLETT GROVE	50%
LAURENS	58%	DICKENS	58%
LE MARS	51%	WEST BEND	58%
SENEY	58%	MALLARD	50%
LESTER, SEEDS OF FAITH	33%		
MAPLETON, ST. JOHN'S	47%		
TICONIC	58%		
MARATHON	0%		
NEWELL	19%		
MARCUS, GRACE	29%		
MELVIN	26%		
MERRILL, FIRST	58%		
ADAVILLE, FIRST	58%		
		<b>District Total Paid as of July 31, 2010</b>	<b>35%</b>



## Northwest District Asking

At the 2009 District Conference, it was voted that the 2010 Northwest District Asking would be \$1.50 per member. The proceeds would be divided between New Church Start (60%), Shesler Hall (10%), Iowa Nigeria Partnership (10%), Hispanic Ministries (10%), and Justice for our Neighbors (10%). The total of the Northwest District Asking is \$35,958.

As of July 31, 2010 the following churches have contributed to the 2010 District Asking for a total of \$6731. This is 19% of the amount to be given for the year.

Aurelia	9%
Cherokee, St Paul's	58%
<b>Danbury</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Doon</b>	<b>117%</b>
<b>Dolliver</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Early</b>	<b>100%</b>
Emmetsburg	13%
<b>Gillett Grove</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Hartley</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Holstein</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Hope</b>	<b>100%</b>
Hornick	42%
Ida Grove	99%
<b>Lake Park</b>	<b>100%</b>
Laurens	58%
LeMars	45%
Merrill, First	58%
<b>Merrill, Melbourne</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Nemaha</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Peterson</b>	<b>100%</b>
Primghar	8%
<b>Rock Branch</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Royal</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Seney</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Sioux City, Crescent Park</b>	<b>100%</b>
Sioux City, St James	42%
<b>Sioux City, Whitfield</b>	<b>100%</b>
Spencer, Grace	2%
Spencer, Zion	51%
Storm Lake	8%
<b>Ticonic</b>	<b>100%</b>

Thank you for your support of these important ministries. If you have any questions or would like to know more about these ministries, please contact the District Office.

## Stouffer Trust Scholarships

Scholarships will be awarded for the Spring, 2011 semester from the Elsie Stouffer Trust. Please submit applications and letters of reference to the District Office by Friday, October 1st. Applications and more information is available on the District website.

## Charge Conferences and Professional Interviews

Just a reminder that Charge Conferences and Professional Interviews will soon be upon us. Forms are available on the Conference Website. Schedules are on the District website.

Please make sure that you fill out the forms completely, including signatures. If they need to be sent to the District Office via e-mail, please make sure it is in on time. Please download the forms as soon as possible, some of them have changed this year, so you will want to start working on them soon!

## Northwest District UMW Annual Meeting

September 16th, 2010

Mapleton, Saint John's United Methodist Church

212 S. 7th St. - Mapleton, IA

For more information, please read the District UMW newsletter on the District website.



## NEW ADDRESS

Just a reminder that the District Office has a new address:

**Northwest District Office**

**701 Seneca Street, Ste 2**

**Storm Lake, Iowa 50588**

Please make sure that your records are up to date and you mail things to the correct address.

# IT'S LAY SPEAKING TRAINING TIME!

## LAY SPEAKING MINISTRY IS MORE THAN JUST SPEAKING!

This ministry goes beyond filling in for the pastor or speaking in public. Lay Speaking Ministries, as defined in The United Methodist Book of Discipline, offer wonderful possibilities for serving in roles beyond what we have traditionally understood. Teaching, serving, training, leading, participating, caring, loving, and communicating are now integral parts of Lay Speaking Ministries. How lay speaking servants can help congregations and communities is limited only by your imagination and willingness to serve as a representative of Jesus Christ.



### There are two types of Lay Speakers

- 1) **Local Church Lay Speakers:** serve in and through their local churches. To be recognized as a local church lay speaker, one must be recommended by his/her pastor and church council or charge conference, and complete the Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course. Each participant must reapply annually, reporting on service rendered and learning achieved during the year. Every three years the lay speaker must complete a refresher course or continuing education course relating to his/her ministry.
- 2) **Certified Lay Speakers:** serve in their own churches, in other churches, and through district or conference projects and programs. This offers them the opportunity to expand their outreach and to enrich their ministry through the various advanced courses. To be recognized as a certified lay speaker, one must be recommended by his/her pastor and church council or charge conference and complete the Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course as well as one Lay Speaking Advanced Course. Each lay speaker must report and be renewed annually, and he/she must complete at least one Advanced Course every three years.

Several courses are being offered this fall in our 2010 Fall Lay Speakers Training. For more information on the classes scheduled for October 29-30 at the Alta UMC, go to the District website and click on NW District Lay



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### CHECK THE COURSE YOU ARE TAKING:

- Basic Course - "Basic Lay Speaking"
- Advanced Course - "Delivering an Effective Sermon"
- Advanced Course - "Lay Pastoral Care Giving"
- Refresher Course - "Concepts in Leadership I"

Send registration form and \$5 registration fee to Northwest District Office, 701 Seneca St, Ste 2., Storm Lake, IA 50588. **Deadline:** October 22, 2010 - MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLEASE PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Local Church \_\_\_\_\_

## Ministry for the Visually Challenged

This has been an exciting summer that has gone by way too fast. In June and in August, I assisted with a project to promote awareness among Spencer businesses to help them to look at how they deal with customers with disabilities. In August, I also attended one of several celebrations around Iowa of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Iowa Department for the Blind's Independent Living Program. The celebration I attended was in Storm Lake. The morning was supposed to be for professionals, care givers, and family members, and the afternoon was supposed to be for those living with vision loss, but it all ran together, according to people's schedules. This celebration displayed things that can be particularly helpful to people living with vision loss. Display items ranged from magnifiers and check writing guides to the Pen Friend labeling system, which labels objects around your home with the sound of your voice. There were ideas for marking appliances and ideas for measuring ingredients for cooking. The day ended with a video of program successes and cake.

In July, I also attended a couple of events. On July 3rd, Virginia and I took off for a great adventure in Dallas, Texas for the National Federation of the Blind Convention. It was one of the last places on earth I ever expected to be, but my classmate, April Enderton is President of the Des Moines Chapter, and I did have this new position to think about, and so I went. There were people from all over the world there. Some Orientation Centers brought all of their students. Some parents of blind children came and brought their children. Some of the children were literally running with their canes through lobbies and hallways, and Virginia said she had never been hit by so many white canes and sniffed by so many dogs in her life. Vendors were there with their technological gadgets from note-takers to magnification systems to cell phones that read. There was even a futuristic car there that a blind person can navigate. Blind business vendors were selling products ranging from cologne to coffee. Then there were gatherings and seminars for every interest imaginable. I wanted to see it, hear it, and do it all, which was impossible. The Faith Communities Association had devotions a few mornings during the convention, and the room where we met literally exploded with music, testimonies, and

preaching. At the General Sessions, people were excited. They were there with a purpose, and their purpose was to change the world. They weren't just there with a hope that they could change the world, they were there with the confidence that they can. I couldn't help thinking of our churches and of our Annual Conference. What if we approached every Sunday morning service and every gathering like that? One night, there was a talent show, and I was moved by the vocal encouragement and support that was given to each performer – not just when they finished displaying their talent, but during the time they were displaying it. It was much like what is done in some churches. As often happens when people travel, we came home with more than we took with us.

Later in July we took a woman from our Low Vision Support Group in Spencer to Des Moines for some hands-on training in use of the new digital talking book machines. These machines use cartridges that can hold a lot of material. The selection of available books is not very large yet, but it is possible to purchase cartridges, with a cable that hooks them to a USB port, and have access to all of the available books in the NLS system through the Library of Congress. We also had some training in downloading books to play on the Victor Reader Stream, a very portable device, put out by Humanware, which can play books, music in the MP3 format, and for recording.

It's been an exciting summer, and now it's time to meet those living with vision loss in the Northwest District, and perhaps have a gathering of those who are able later this fall for worship and discussion. In the meantime, I will be in contact with the churches of the District. Until next time, God's best to all of you.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Julie McCullough

P.O. Box76

Webb, IA 51366

Email: [j.mccullough@webbwireless.net](mailto:j.mccullough@webbwireless.net)

Phone: 712-838-7738; Cell phone: 319-361-0989



**Just a reminder that Charge Conference Forms and Schedules and Pastoral Interview Forms and Schedules are on the District website. Please check when yours is scheduled!!!**

# Clergy Day Apart

Saturday, November 13, 2010

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Sheldon UMC (506 8th Street, Sheldon)

District Superintendent Bernie Colorado will lead in this year's Clergy Day Apart. He will discuss what pastors wish members knew about pastors and their family and work. Based on the book of Denise George entitled "What Pastors Wish Church Members Knew"



## Shells Along the Beach... messages from pastors around the district

Our featured article this month comes from Paula Cripps who is the associate pastor at Storm Lake UMC.

Have you ever been given a seed that was planted in a small cup to tend? I recall countless times as a child and youth receiving such cups at Sunday School or VBS or during the Children's Message. The first week after I received the cup I was so excited and would water the plant and check for sprouts, but often my interest (and patience) would dwindle and the tending would be passed on to one of my big sisters or parents, or the tending would happen because of a reminder from someone in my family to me that it was my responsibility to take care of the plant.

As an adult, I have come to appreciate gardening, and with the help of friends (Chuck & JoAnn Olsen) I have a small garden in the parsonage yard this summer. Life is busy though, isn't it? And in the busyness of life I neglected tending my garden for a few days and somehow there are tomatoes and cucumbers and peppers growing, but there are also weeds, lots of weeds. And a squirrel, that has stolen some of those veggies, and left the remainder of what it couldn't consume on the picnic table. But, in the midst of this experience I have been asking myself, how have I been tending my soul?

How have you been tending to your soul? How have you been neglecting your soul?

As a child, I was blessed to attend worship, mission & justice projects, and Sunday School on a regular basis with my family. My parents helped me to tend my soul by reminding me these times of worship and service, learning and praying, were not optional. That I needed to take time each day, and each week to be intentional about tending my soul, to be nurturing my connection with Jesus Christ so that my soul can be healthy.

It seems that in my adult years, it is easy to neglect my soul tending. Many days I am tired and struggle to do devotionals in the morning and evening, though I know being in God's word tends my soul. Or I allow weeds to enter my soul through the anger and fear I hold in my heart, and my soul becomes constricted and cannot flourish because God's love is not fully in my heart. *How have you been tending your soul? How have you been neglecting your soul?* We are each blessed with the choice to live in the way of Christ, and must remember that no matter our age or life situation, we must be intentional about tending our souls. May God's peace be with you as you continue to tend your soul, and to weed out the things in life that are limiting you in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

## 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

## 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

Thursday, October 7  
10:00 am at Storm Lake UMC  
2:00 pm at Morningside College

## IOWA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### 2010 Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 2nd, 2010

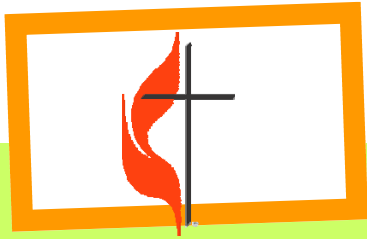
Sioux City, First UMC

Registration/Coffee 8:30 - 9:30 am

Faith - Hope - Love in Action

All God’s People Together in Mission

Keynote address by Racelder Grandberry - Trimble, BS, MA



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**IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Open Hearts. Open Minds.  
Open Doors*

## True Vine Ministry

A Ministry of Encouragement for the Clergy Spouse

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

**What:** “Prayer ...is About Relationship.” A day for Clergy Spouses to focus on Prayer—Featured Guest Speaker will be Sarah Wilke, Editor, from Upper Room Publications

**Save the Date!**

**When:** Saturday, October 23, 2010

**Where:** Greenfield, IA UMC

**Time:** 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 p.m.

Registration Cost: \$20 (After October 1, cost is \$25) Your registration covers both your meal & all materials for the day.

Prayer is an important part of who we are & how we cope with our roles within the church & our families. Join us for this day of sharing as we look at prayer as a necessary ingredient for our life & how we can encourage & support one another as a clergy spouse.

**Please send registration money to:** Betty Kiboko, P.O. Box 192, Norwalk IA 50211. **Please make checks out to Iowa Annual Conference. Check memo: True Vine Ministry** Questions may be directed to Lynn Louk ([jimlynnlouk@mac.com](mailto:jimlynnlouk@mac.com)) or Betty Kiboko.

## Teenager at Langdon UMC has a heart for Missions!

Jordan Hansen, daughter of Julie and Curt Hansen of rural Spencer, and a member of her local 4-H, is promoting mission giving by committing to supply materials for 50 school kits for this fall's Ingathering at Cherokee. Jordan, an active member of her church and local 4-H club decided to purchase supplies for the kits as her fall project. The 2010 Ingathering book states that the “*school kits provide tools for education, which change lives. In countries where children don't have books, school supplies or classrooms, a school kit may be their only educational resource*”. Jordan and several friends from the “Meadow Busy Bees” went shopping locally, supporting several area businesses and using the resources of sales, and coupons. Their shopping completed, the average price per school kit was \$2.80! The girls have collected \$40 so far to purchase fabric for the school bags. The Langdon UMW ladies have begun sewing bags on their own, and are planning on getting together in September for a “sewing day.” Thank you, Jordan Hansen, and the youth for expanding your hearts into fulfilling the UMW purpose “... to expand concepts of mission through the participation of global ministries in the church.” Congratulations on a mission well-done



Left to right: Emily Elliott, Jayden Naber, Elizabeth Glover, Jordan Hansen, & Carli Bryan