

District Askings

Your Mission Dollars at Work

Several ministries of the Southeast District are supported by district askings from our local churches. Justice for Our Neighbors is featured on the front page of this issue. As a reminder to you, here are the others:

Mobile United Methodist Missionaries, directed by Peg Egbert, offers a variety of opportunities for ministry, including work team trips and Vacation Bible Schools.

The Southeast District **Latino Task Force** coordinates outreach to Hispanic persons.

The **St. Paul's Hispanic Worship Center** in Muscatine provides weekly inspirational worship in Spanish and English.

Iowa Wesleyan College recently hired the Rev. David Bracht-Wagner to serve as chaplain.

An **Emerging Ministries** fund is available to provide grants to local churches starting new outreach projects.

All together our district askings amount to a mission contribution of \$2.40 per member. We invite you to reprint articles from *Thanks to You* in your local church newsletters, bulletins, and websites.



Southeast District Stewardship Team

Tom Bates
Sigourney UMC

Rose Blank
Conference Superintendent

Joyce Proctor
Hedrick-Martinsburg UMC

Phil Carver
Field Outreach Minister

Laverne Hueholt
Spring Grove UMC, Burlington

Mike Metz
First UMC, Fairfield

Norma Morrison
Wesley UMC, Muscatine

Julie Poulsen
Washington UMC

Bruce Ursin
Wesley UMC, Muscatine

Lori Walsh
Christ UMC, Davenport

The purpose of the Southeast District Stewardship Team is to cultivate extravagant generosity within the people and congregations of the district through practical emphasis on prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Thanks to You...

*A Newsletter from the Southeast District Stewardship Team
Volume 3, Issue 2
April, 2011*

Justice for Our Neighbors Legal Services to Low-Income Immigrants

Gary Walters is an attorney working with Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON). He tells about Sofi, a Nigerian woman who came to the United States after marrying her husband.

Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) gave Sofi a two-year conditional residency status since their marriage was less than two years old. When the time came for Sofi and her husband to renew her residency, CIS returned their applications several times for corrections.

They were told her if

she did not file the forms correctly, CIS would deport Sofi back to Nigeria despite her husband's citizenship in the United States.

They were afraid for themselves and their two children. Sofi told their pastor about their immigration problems, who referred them to JFON.

JFON was able to help Sofi and her husband file the paperwork correctly. When they received word of their appointment, Gary helped them prepare and accompanied them to their interview. In February 2011 Sofi

received her permanent residency, grateful for all the help that JFON was able to provide.

JFON is one of the mission projects supported by Southeast District churches. In 2010 Gary had 225 clients with pending cases including family petitions and residency and naturalization applications.

Administrative decisions were made for 106 clients with only 6 denials. Residency was granted to 40 clients and 8 became citizens. New clients came from 39 countries around the world. Learn more at www.iowa-jfon.org.

A Newsletter from the
Southeast District
Stewardship Team

507 North Broadway Street
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641
Phone: 319.986.2095
Fax: 319.986.2098



Postage

Name
Church
Street Address
City, Iowa



Best Practices: Narrative Budgets with Lori Walsh

A line item budget is a management tool, not a fund-raising tool. Think about it. No other organizations (Red Cross, American Heart Association, Habitat for Humanity) promote a line-item budget to get people to give. They tell stories of changed lives.

The narrative budget is one way to give people — especially those in leadership positions — an opportunity to experience the mission and ministry that are achieved through the various line items. It focuses less on the financial numbers and more on what the income accomplishes.

It is a one- to two-page presentation that explains:

- (1) what the church hopes to accomplish, and
- (2) why the funding is needed to reach and exceed its goals.

Narrative budgeting doesn't replace the numbers. It supports them. Normally budgets are presented to assist departmental reporting. Having done that, try recasting the budget in terms of goals. Encourage support for the budget with a narration that describes how everyone's contributions add up to achieving those goals.

Compare the line-item budget to the right with the sample narrative budget on the next page. They report the same data, but the descriptions of ministry make

a more compelling story for people less interested in the numbers themselves.

People give when they are moved by needs and causes. Try this approach with your next budget cycle and see the results for yourselves. Find out more information at gbod.org/stewardship.

Lori Walsh is the Business Administrator at Christ United Methodist Church in Davenport.

Anytown UMC Line-Item Budget

INCOME	
Pledges	\$150,000
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$30,000
Sunday School Offering	\$5,000
Christmas Eve	\$5,000
<u>Interest</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
TOTAL	\$200,000
EXPENSES	
Missions	\$12,000
Program	\$3,000
Pastoral Support	\$68,000
<u>Building & Grounds</u>	<u>\$117,000</u>
TOTAL	\$200,000

Sample Narrative Budget Anytown United Methodist Church

Missions

Our mission involvement has increased greatly in the last three years. We support H.E.L.P., a local community-based ministry offering emergency food and clothing assistance to needy families, and we are beginning a second year with our thrift shop and soup kitchen. Apportionment gifts of \$7,500 support Church World Service, Africa University, and the Black College Fund, and we contribute \$3,200 to the six designated United Methodist Special Sunday offerings annually. We can continue this work next year with \$12,000 in support. Our hope is that we can exceed that goal by another \$2,000 in order to send a representative from our church on the mission trip in July. For an additional \$2,000, we will be able to train crisis counselors to work with the shelter and to build a library to teach men, women, and children how to read.

Program

The church council hopes to continue providing high quality opportunities for spiritual growth, learning, and worship in the year to come.

In education, we fund our curriculum and resources with \$1,600 each year. An additional \$2,500 will allow us to purchase a television and DVD player for the church school and Disciple Bible Study materials for a new group.

The worship ministry group needs \$500 for the coming year for worship supplies. A \$900 memorial gift allowed us to purchase new paraments for Lent, Easter, Christmas, and Advent. We also plan to replace 50 hymnals. With \$200 already designated, we need another \$400 for the hymnals.

The membership ministry group is developing the Stephen's Ministries program, using \$900 for training and resources in the church. Another \$350 would purchase visitor packets and commemorative mugs to give to guests.

Pastoral Support

We are grateful for the fine leadership of our pastor. The staff-parish relations committee has recommended a three percent increase in salary for the coming year that we joyously support. With increases in hospitalization coverage, pension, continuing education, and travel expenses, the pastoral support for the coming year will be \$68,000.

Building and Grounds

We estimate needs of \$117,000 for the coming year, including utilities, repairs, lawn care, snow removal, and insurance on the church and parsonage.

A detailed line-item budget is available in the church office for any who wish to review it. Thank you for your support.