



# Sharing The Mission

“Making Disciples...Developing Leaders...Transforming The World”

## From The District Superintendent

### *Charge Conferences*

*So, brothers and sisters, because of God’s mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. Don’t be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God’s will is- what is good and pleasing and mature. (Romans 12:1-2, CEB)*



It won’t be long before Charge Conference season will be upon us and we, in the United Methodist Church across the country will gather as local congregations and charges to inquire about the life and ministry of the Church. It is time for us to ask ourselves some tough questions. Are we attending to the mission and ministry of God? Are we working towards the reign of God? Is the community better off because our church is in the area?

Are we “conformed to the patterns of this world” as Paul warns us against, or are we fashioning ourselves according to the transformation of this world according to God’s will? Is it God’s will or ours that is guiding our decision-making in the life of the church and in our own lives?

Christ’s agenda for us is clear; that we be transformed both inside and out! Are you being transformed? Changed? Renewed?

Our focus during Cluster conferences this year will be the Annual Conference focus of making new places for new people.

Some questions for your congregation to ponder as we prepare for your annual church conference meeting:

- What process are you using for making disciples of Jesus Christ?
- What stories can you tell about how your process or method is working?
- What are your plans for making new disciples of Jesus in the future?
- Where have you seen God working in the lives of persons in your church and/or community?

Are you willing to present your bodies (that’s ALL of you, including your personal preferences) as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God? Are you willing to be transformed by the renewal of your mind so that you can know and do the will of God?

My prayer is that we will ALL be changed,

*Brian*

# Message from the SW District Disaster Response Coordinator...

Despite what you are hearing (or not hearing) on the news, the flooding continues at epic proportions on the Missouri River. There are families and communities affected for hundreds of miles in at least 7 states. Here in Southwest Iowa, there is despair and hope, impatience and perseverance, anger and compassion all at the same time. The Lord's blessings and comfort to those of you who are directly affected. Hang in there. Please know that you are not alone in your journey.

I would like to thank everyone who has been helping on the flood support efforts. Our district staff members are incredible! Also, many thanks to the pastors, congregations, laity and community members who have been so helpful along the way. I am extremely grateful for the help and support as I learn and grow in this endeavor.

Here are some of the things that have been happening as summer has passed. We received a shipment of 1440 cleanup buckets from the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, and have started distributing them as a few people are getting back into homes with flooded basements. We are working on housing for volunteer teams, so we will be ready to receive help when the waters do go down. Programs have been implemented to comfort and support people who are displaced by both mandatory and voluntary evacuations.

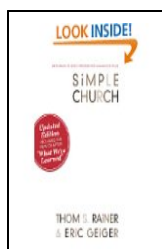
Personally, I have been busy traveling up and down the river for public information meetings, trying to support local VOAD's (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) as they form their community response networks, and also have been doing a lot of training including UMCOR training in July for Basic Disaster Case Management and The Ministry of Caring (emotional and spiritual care in disasters.) As this flood continues for the next couple of months, please ask yourself and your congregation what YOU can do to assist in this effort. It will take all of us working together as Christ's body to show an effective response to our brothers and sisters in need.

Vicki Wedemeyer, SWI District Disaster Response Coordinator

## Ed Kail (Field Outreach Minister)



### Simple Church: What's Your Process?



In their book *Simple Church*, Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger contrast the program/activity-centered church with the church that is focused on faith development for discipleship. They paint the vision of congregations who are all about changed lives as they help people grow through the stages of spiritual life to maturity as disciples of Jesus. For them, churches should be as simple as possible in this life-changing discipleship focus.

Leaders of simple churches "have skill-

fully designed an environment where life change is likely to occur. They have designed a simple process that moves people through stages of spiritual growth. To have a simple church, you must design a simple discipleship process. This process must be clear. It must move people toward maturity. It must be integrated fully into your church, and you must get rid of the clutter around it." (*Simple Church*, page 26.) This emphasis on clarity, movement, alignment and focus provides a helpful and needed corrective for churches caught up in a culture of busy activities in the midst of decline.

Why are such ideas important to us in the SW district? It's because the future for the church lies with people who are not yet disciples of Jesus Christ, and are not part of our congregations. We must have some process for making new disciples, or we will simply die off as churches. This fall, we will be raising this issue at our cluster charge conferences through three questions:

What process do you use for making new disciples of Jesus Christ? I suspect that for many of us, biological reproduction has been the predominant method: birthing

children and raising them in the family of the church.



What stories can you tell that illustrate the fruitfulness of this process? As long as you are having babies, biological reproduction will work and seems to proceed naturally. But how does this bear fruit in the long term?

What process will you use in the next few years to make new disciples of Jesus? Your answer to this question will shape your mutual life and work in coming months. And, your answer will indicate whether you are committed to growth or you have settled for decline.

Continued persistent decline is not acceptable to me! *Simple Church* is one among many resources available for pursuing spiritual resurrection and revitalization. It has got to happen – so, what's your process?

*Ed Kail*  
Field Outreach Minister

# Fair Trade Festival

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## CREATE PEACE, GO SHOPPING

"If we can turn the act of consumption into an act of grace and goodwill, then we're really onto something." Paul Rice, President & CEO of Fair Trade USA



*We're really onto something in Atlantic, IA!!!*

**WHAT:** Fair Trade Festival

Fair trade products are a market-based solution to ending poverty through sustainable development. By buying fair trade products you support the work of those on the margins. Individuals who are typically underpaid and trapped in a cycle of poverty, can have their lives transformed when given the opportunity to sell their products at a fair price. Items are handcrafted by artisans from all around the world. Food products such as coffee, tea and chocolate will also be available.

**WHEN:** October 8-22, 2011; Hours: Mon.—Sat. 10 am—5 p.m.

**WHERE:** 408 Chestnut St., Atlantic, IA (next door to Aunt B's)

**WHO:** Local Volunteers, Shoppers and YOU!

A planning team of persons representing local churches has been formed. Our vision is for community-and even district-wide participation. We will be looking for passionate volunteers and interested shoppers. We hope you will plan to visit the store.

**WHY:** Connecting our needs and resources with needs and products of people across the world is just reasonable stewardship. Artisans and farmers around the world have a desire to improve their lives through their own hard work and quality products. We have the opportunity to purchase products to use and enjoy without compromising our values.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Please contact Myra Kail at 712-243-4265 or myrakail@q.com if you have questions or are interested in being a part of this exciting event.

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Exploration 2011, an event for young adults who feel God's call to ordained ministry as a deacon or elder in The UMC, will take place Nov. 11–13 in St. Louis, Mo. The event provides a chance to explore the call to ordained ministry through worship, prayer, workshops, networking and small groups. Sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Exploration 2011 is open to young adults age 18–26. The registration fee will cover a two-night stay at the Millennium Hotel, meals, and program fees. See updates and registration information on the event website: [www.gbhem.org/exploration](http://www.gbhem.org/exploration)

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## True Vine Ministry

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Fall 2011

*True Vine Ministry*

*A Ministry of Encouragement for the Clergy Spouse*



October 8, 2011

Living Water UMC, 1155 Grand Avenue, Marion, IA 52302

9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$25.00 (Covers your meals and materials for the day)

Deadline: Tuesday following Labor Day – September 6, 2011.

Late Registration Fee Will Apply.

For more information, or to register, contact: **Mrs. Betty Kiboko**, 515.981.4585 ([bkiboko@gmail.com](mailto:bkiboko@gmail.com)), or **Mrs. Lynn Louk**, 515.276.7900 ([jimlynnlouk@mac.com](mailto:jimlynnlouk@mac.com)).

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# From Your Missions Chair...

Friends of Mission:

I received a copy of the Rainbow Covenant book to review and now am waiting for the final/completed copy to be sent out. I encourage you to go to the Iowa Annual Conference website and look for it and copy it off as soon as it is ready. Then, you will be ready for your fall's planning. I have been checking to see where my church is in the scheme of things and have a list of where we need to be looking and working. I hope you are doing the same. It is time to be working on the kits for the fall Ingathering at Greenfield on November 5th. Walmart has an abundant supply for school kits and at very reasonable prices. It is time for shopping!!! I didn't find many changes in the kits, but be sure and check them out before buying. Schools are starting in August and it is time for you to sit down as mission people and plan for fall and your work as the mission committee.



Your church has received the new Ingathering booklets. Ask your pastor about them. How are you doing on your Special Offerings to the Church? Know when these are and suggest to the Pastor participating in the special offering.

Romans 8:28—We know that all things work together for good for those who love God...

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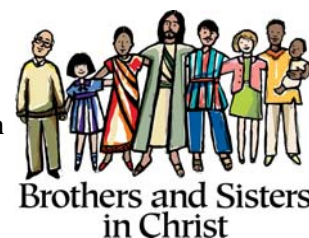
## Southwest District Apportionment Status—As of 7-31-11

Adair—33.34%	Council Bluffs (Trinity) - 58.39%	Wesley Chapel—49.85%	Stratton—0.00%
Casey—50.00%	Cumberland—50.00%	Manning—50.04%	Tabor—50.00%
Anita—84.84%	Pine Grove—33.31%	<b>Manilla, United Church—100.00%</b>	Randolph—27.79%
Wiota—66.67%	Denison, First—25.00%	Maple Grove—49.74%	Villisca—41.67%
Atlantic, First—66.23%	Dunlap, First—58.37%	Marne—58.33%	Nodaway—0.00%
Audubon, First—33.33%	Dow City, First—58.33%	Buck Creek—58.33%	Woodbine, First—24.67%
Bedford—55.00%	Emerson—0.00%	Massena—33.32%	
New Market—50.00%	Farragut—29.27%	Bridgewater—80.31%	
Brooks—58.33%	Summit—58.33%	Avondale—58.33%	
Carbon—58.33%	Glenwood, Grace—8.33%	Missouri Valley—35.86%	
Carl—58.33%	Glidden—3.85%	Modale—17.46%	
Carroll, First—55.31%	Greenfield—14.90%	Noble—49.98%	
Carson—58.33%	Griswold—25.00%	Grant—41.65%	
Mt. Hope—58.33%	Guthrie Center—10.42%	Oakland—50.01%	
Carter Lake—33.48%	Bowman Chapel—58.33%	Orient—50.14%	
Charter Oak—9.72%	Hamburg, First—5.01%	Fontanelle—58.35%	
Clarinda, First—50.00%	Hancock—58.33%	Panora—58.30%	
Coin—0.00%	Silver Creek—50.00%	Pisgah—58.34%	
Norwich—94.87%	Harlan, First—18.61%	Mondamin—41.67%	
Braddyville—58.33%	Monroe Chapel—85.49%	Little Sioux—0.00%	
Shambaugh—59.56%	Hastings—80.65%	Red Oak, First—16.20%	
Northboro—58.47%	Bagley—58.33%	Ross, Calvary—50.00%	
Blanchard—58.33%	Yale—58.33%	<b>Gray—100.00%</b>	
Locust Grove—58.33%	Linden—58.33%	Shelby—50.00%	
Clearfield—12.80%	Dawson—58.33%	Persia—29.17%	
Lenox—67.78%	Cooper—58.39%	Shenandoah, First—66.02%	
<b>Mercer Center—100.00%</b>	Bayard—58.33%	Sidney—3.57%	
Sharpsburg—58.34%	Irwin—3.27%	Thurman—0.00%	
Coon Rapids, First—2.43%	Kirkman—50.00%	Riverton—58.33%	
Corning—1.24%	Defiance, Salem—58.33%	Silver City—58.33%	
CB (Broadway) - 58.33%	Lewis, United Cong.—0.00%	Pacific Junction—0.00%	
CB (Epworth) - 1.78%	Logan—55.85%	Hillsdale—31.74%	
CB (Fifth Ave.) - 8.33%	<b>Macedonia—100.00%</b>	Stuart/Mt. Vernon—50.00%	
CB (Hazel Dell) - 75.02%	Henderson—0.00%	Menlo—50.03%	
CB (Salem) - 50.00%	Malvern—58.33%	Elliott—50.07%	
CB (St. Mark's) - 58.33%	Strahan—33.33%	Hawthorne—50.02%	

## Want to Help With Flood Recovery?

In the Southwest District, we're still waiting for the Missouri River to go down to see what work will be needed. But Minot, North Dakota needs help now!

The following information comes from Rev Debra Ball-Kilbourne pastor of flood ravaged Faith UMC in Minot:



"Work teams are very much needed, particularly those who come self-contained because housing is at a premium. Schools, camps, churches were all impacted in this flood and there are no motel rooms--survivors are in them. However, we have a large farm in Max (somewhat close to Minot), owned by the Trustee Chair of Faith, where we have an open invitation to house self-contained teams working either on homes or our church. You would find it quite easy to commute to and from Max. Snow falls early in this part of the world and people will soon be ill from our flood conditions once cooler weather sets; please come as soon as possible, John. We have more than 4,000 homes and Faith Church that need to be gutted. Most teams come and work during the week days and travel on the weekends. Five days of hard work is about what a team can really do; but if you want to stay longer we will surely welcome you. Tetanus and Hepatitis A shots should be up-to-date before coming. Bring tools with you, such as hammers, crow bars, good, filtered masks, gloves (include surgical gloves to wear inside work gloves), work boots, and long pants. This is very dirty work."

We do have to be badged. There is a way to take an online course and get a temporary badge in order to work alongside someone that has been through the training. If you are interested in serving on this flood recovery team please contact [John Windell](#) , 812-499-3849 or 812-536-2332.

Note: If you cannot go to Minot, to help you can collect the following for Minot and other areas flooded throughout the Dakotas: Kids Comfort Kits, School Backpacks, Quilts. Many thanks!

## Are You Willing To Share Your Gift of Music???



The 2011 Cluster Conferences will include some time for special inspirational music. If you are interested in sharing your gift of music, or know of someone who might be, please contact the District Office with contact information. We would be glad to have you share your praise offering with others during the Cluster Conference Gathering!



## Happenings in Hispanic Ministries

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next opportunity for you to take part in the bilingual worship service at Broadway UMC in Council Bluffs will be on Sunday, September 25, 2011, from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. This service, offered in Spanish language with English interpretation, is especially designed for guests to experience worship in Latino culture in a welcoming, friendly environment. It is a wonderful opportunity for youth groups, Sunday school classes, fellowship or study groups or mission groups to experience the diversity of expressions of faith within the United Methodist Church. The Rev. Ruben Mendoza is the pastoral leader of this service, as part of the Hispanic ministry of our district and of the Broadway congregation.



## In Mission with Cletus David

Members of the former Creston District will recall our pledge to support Nigerian Cletus David financially and with prayers on his journey of a college education at Africa University with a degree in ministry.

Our support was well directed as Cletus graduated in June 2011 having attained both a four-year degree and a Master's Degree. He was active in organizations on campus and often elected president or chairperson of those organizations.

Now back in Nigeria in the United Methodist Nigeria Conference, Cletus has reunited with his daughter, Delight, who was four years old when he left for AU. He has been hired at the United Methodist Conference Junior/Senior high school to teach Christian religious knowledge and to counsel students. On Sundays, he is engaged in preaching assignments and has been the lead person of three/four-day ministry training retreats for adults. Cletus is held in high esteem with a degree from African University.



**Cletus David with Beverly Nolte**

In closing I quote Cletus, "In my service, I remember your Iowa sacrifices toward my education and I continue to say thank you for all your efforts. Extend my special regards to Rev. Mel Ammon and all my Iowa family for standing with me all through my academic career and for your support."

Doris David, Cletus' younger sister, graduated from AU in June with a three-year accounting degree. She was supported by the Iowa Nigeria Partnership.

God has been at work in all of our lives as we serve him and each other as He has instructed us.

I have Cletus' e-mail address if anyone would like to have it.

Jim Tussey ([jim\\_w\\_tuss@yahoo.com](mailto:jim_w_tuss@yahoo.com)), Orient United Methodist Church  
INP Interpreter, Southwest District

## "Intersections: God and Us"



- **Southwest District United Methodist Women—Annual Day**—Thursday, September 29, 2011—First UMC, 428 Washington St., Audubon, IA. For more information, please contact Marilyn Petersen at 712-563-4374.
  - **Southwest District United Methodist Women—Mission Studies**—Thursday, November 12, 2011—9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.—Griswold UMC, 100 Cass St., Griswold, IA. For more information, contact Kathy Bergstrom at 712-778-4188.
  - **Charge Conference and Professional Interview Forms** are now available on the Iowa Annual Conference website...[www.iaumc.org](http://www.iaumc.org). Please have your forms in to the Southwest District Office **at least one week prior** to your Professional Interview or Cluster Charge Conference.
  - There will be a **Lectionary study group** that will meet in the District Office on Tuesdays, from 11 am— 12:15 pm. The group will share in a time of prayer and community building and studying the Scripture lessons for the Sunday 12 days from then. For those interested, lunch will follow—going to a local restaurant. Leadership will be shared by those in the group. If you are interested (or think you might be) please contact Dwight Grosvenor at [dwrights-nestings@me.com](mailto:dwrights-nestings@me.com) or call on cell phone 712-789-1985.
  - Please note that the **Creighton Retreat Center** has rooms available for overnight stays. Room fees for one night's stay ranges from \$28—\$30 per person depending on the room. If staying more than one night, the rates drops to \$23—\$33 per person per night. For more information
- mation, call Terri Lou Duggan at 712-778-2466.
- All Clergy are encouraged to participate in the **Southwest District Days Apart for 2011-2012**. Please put the following dates on your calendar and plan now to attend: **September 12, 2011; November 7, 2011; January 9, 2012; February 20, 2012; March 12, 2012; and April 16, 2012**. All of these will be held at the Creighton Retreat Center, located at 16493 Conrail Avenue, Griswold, IA.
  - **Training for Flood Response Team Leaders** will be offered in September and October. If your church is organizing a work team, please select a leader and help them attend one of these events. We want teams to be prepared to take an assignment once the water has receded. Watch for more details.

## Upcoming “District” Events!

- **September 1, 2011**—Deepenings Book Study—10:00 a.m.—Noon—District Office
- **September 5, 2011**—Happy Labor Day! - District Office Closed
- **September 6, 2011**—RIM Group—9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.—District Office
- **September 6, 2011**—Lectionary Group—11:00 a.m.—12:15 p.m.—District Ofc.
- **September 8, 2011**—Healthy Church Initiative (HCI)—9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.—Atlantic, First
- **September 8, 2011**—Superintendency Committee Meeting—3:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.—District Office
- **September 12, 2011**—A Day Apart—10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.—Creighton Retreat Center
- **September 13, 2011**—Lectionary Group—11:00 a.m.—12:15 p.m.—District Office
- **September 19, 2011**—District Hispanic Ministries Team Meeting—6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.—District Office
- **September 20, 2011**—Lectionary Group—11:00 a.m.—12:15 p.m.—District Office
- **September 26, 2011**—Orders Event—10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.—Marshalltown, First UMC

## Upcoming “Conference” Events!

- **“Next Step Conference”** - October 28th-29th at Ankeny First UMC—This event offers presentations and workshops which describe successful approaches to local church ministry. Ankeny FUMC and other Iowa UMC churches share their positive experiences in a wide variety of church activities, from sound system operation to church-wide ministry structures. The event begins with a banquet and keynote address on Friday evening and continues with break out sessions on Saturday. The keynote speaker this year is Dr. Lovett Weems, Director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary. For more information, please visit [www.nextstepankeny.com](http://www.nextstepankeny.com).
- **Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Coming Out on the Side of Grace** is a study for Youth that is being offered by the United Methodist Women, October 28-30, 2011, at the Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center on Hwy 14 in Marshalltown, IA. This study is open to girls and guys ages 13-19 years old (who have completed grades 7-12), and will help them discover how their faith in Jesus Christ can guide them through the processes of forgiveness and reconciliation. One requirement...an adult sponsor must accompany the participants. Scholarship funds are available for the teens. For more information, contact Gladys Alvarez at 515-277-7337, or [gkna2001@aol.com](mailto:gkna2001@aol.com). You can also go to: [www.iaumc.org/socm](http://www.iaumc.org/socm).

## Please Pray For...

- **Rev. Jud Stover (Audubon, First)**, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- **Rev. Clark Christian (Dunlap-Dow City)**, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- **Rev. Dwight Grosvenor (Griswold)**, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- **Rev. Karen Berg (Stuart/Mt. Vernon-Menlo)**, who is recovering from knee surgery, and having melanoma removed.
- **Rev. Clarence (Retired) and Lillian Landis’ family**, as their Great-Granddaughter, Kayleen (21 years old) died in a car accident the morning of August 9, 2011 near Griswold.
- **Pastor Clara Dvorak (Menlo)** who is suffering from back pain and fibromyalgia.
- **Rev. Lowell Schaaf (Maple Grove)**, whose grandson, Joel Keiser, is recovering from surgery to remove a mass in his neck.
- **Rev. Bob Dodder (Retired)** who is struggling with health issues.
- **Sally Hohl (Rev. Dick Hohl’s wife)** who is recovering from knee surgery.
- **Pastor Carol Owen (Churches of Faith and Hope Circuit)** who is recovering from health issues.
- **Rev. Dean Surface’s (Retired) wife**, Beth, of Tabor, Iowa, passed away Thursday, August 18, 2011.
- **Pastor Kim Brouse (CB—Fifth Ave.)** who is recovering from knee surgery.
- **Mark Lewis (Churches of Faith & Hope Circuit)** who is struggling with health issues.
- **Rev. Jack Hofmockel’s (Logan) wife**, Melissa, who is recovering from gall bladder surgery.
- **Rev. Annette Ruhs Kruse’s (Guthrie Center-Bowman Chapel) brother-in-law**, Emmert, who is recovering from cancer surgery.
- **Denny Meyer—Member of Atlantic, First UMC**, who is in intensive care at Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, NE.
- Congratulations go out to **Rev. and Mrs. Marion Sindt (Noble-Grant)** who became Grandparents of a beautiful little girl, Heidi Matton (8 lbs, 20 1/2” long). Heidi is the daughter of Emily and Kent Matton.



*The United Methodist Church*

*Southwest District Office  
1201 E. 7th Street, Suite 300  
Atlantic, IA 50022*

***Southwest District Newsletter***

***Sent With a Prayer To:***

Feel free to cut out the following contact information and place in a convenient location.



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## **Southwest District Office Contact Information!**

**The United Methodist Church  
Southwest District Office  
1201 E. 7th Street  
Suite 300  
Atlantic, IA 50022**

(Located on the corner of  
7th & Plum, Next to  
The Rolling Hills Bank)

**Office Hours:**  
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  
Monday thru Friday

**Telephone Number:**  
712-243-8573

**Fax Number:**  
712-243-8574

**Office E-Mail:**  
Shirley.Lewis@iaumc.org

**Brian Milford—Conference  
Superintendent:** To reach the  
Superintendent, please call or  
e-mail Shirley Lewis, DAS.

**Ed Kail—Field Outreach  
Minister (FOM):**  
Ed.Kail@iaumc.org

**Shirley Lewis –District  
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