



June 2009

East Central District Connection

Iowa Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

East Central District
2200 Heritage Green Drive
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Bishop Julius C. Trimble



Rev. Dave Crow,
Conference Superintendent
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Rev. Jill Sanders
Field Outreach Minister
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Annual Conference 2009
June 4-7, 2009
Hilton Coliseum, Ames, IA

The East Central District Office will be closed during this time. If you have an emergency and need to reach Rev. Dave Crow, please call Hilton Coliseum at 515-294-8222.



East Central District T-Shirts have arrived

The T-shirts for Annual Conference are here. Please see Dave, Jill, or Ann in Ames on Friday, June 5 to pick up your T-shirt. Our plan is to have everyone wear their shirt on Saturday, June 6.

Recently Named Appointments

The following appointments effecting the East Central District have been announced by Bishop Julius Trimble. Please keep them and their families in your prayers and thoughts as they continue their faith journey.

Andrew Bardole has been appointed to Indianola, First (Associate). Andrew has been attending Seminary.

John Caldwell is leaving St. Mark's in Iowa City to accept an appointment in the Nebraska Conference.

Timothy Frasher has been appointed to Calamus, Wesley-Grand Mound, St. Paul's. Tim is coming from a secular position and is attending school.

Bonnie Koeppen has been appointed to Malcom-Sheridan. Bonnie has been attending school.

Judy Wadding has been appointed to Easton Place in Des Moines. Judy has been serving in Extension Ministries at Hillcrest Family Services in Dubuque.

The following clergy are retiring.

Timon Davison from Extension Ministries at VA Hospital in Iowa City.

James Dotson from Grand View in Dubuque.

James Hanke (March 1) from Superintendent of the EC District.

Susen LeBlanc from Incapacity Leave (Calamus, Wesley-Grand Mound, St. Paul's).

Thomas Parrott from Christ Community in Marion.

Dave's June Calendar

- 1 AM Staff meeting
- 3 Des Moines - Cabinet
- 4-7 Ames - Annual Conference
- 8 AM Staff Meeting
- 10 Des Moines - Conference Center
- 12 Dave Family Day - out of the office
- 14 Special Charge Conference at Olin Community
- 15 District Office Closed: Staff Retreat
- 16 Des Moines - Cabinet
- 18 Frontier Sub-district Meeting
- 18 District Stewardship Meeting
- 19 Dave Family Day - out of the office
- 22 AM Staff Meeting
- 23 Des Moines
- 25 Iowa City Meeting
- 26 Dave Family Day - out of the office
- 28 Camanche, St. Mark's - Bishop Trimble
- 29 AM Staff Meeting

June 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Jill's June Calendar

- 1 AM Staff Meeting
- 4-7 Ames – Annual Conference
- 8 AM Staff Meeting
- 15 District Office Closed: Staff Retreat
- 16 Des Moines
- 18 District Stewardship Meeting
- 22-24 San Antonio: Continuing Education
- 29 AM Staff Meeting



East Central District Office Summer Hours

Beginning in June the District Office will be closed on Fridays.

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 4 pm

For emergencies call 319-389-7138

August 14:
2010 Matthew 25 Grant Application due in District Office

August 17-20:
Spiritual Leaders Conference

October 13:
Mandatory Workshop for all clergy and diaconal ministers and retired clergy and diaconal ministers who are employed by a local church or volunteering their time for pastoral work.

December 6:
Christmas dinner - Cornell College



Retired Clergy Group

Wednesday, June 10, 2009
 Ryan's Family Steakhouse
 230 Collins Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Several of the United Methodist retired religious professionals and their spouses 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 am and 11:30 am at Ryan's Steakhouse in Cedar Rapids. No need to worry about reservations.

Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century

June 20, 2009

The Iowa Annual Conference Older Adult Ministry Council is sponsoring a workshop entitled "Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century" on Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Walnut Hills UMC, 12321 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Rev. Dr. Richard Gentzler, Director of the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministry with the General Board of Discipleship will keynote the event.

A \$25.00 registration fee (due by June 1) includes all materials, lunch and breakout sessions. Contact Christine Anders at 515-244-6209 or Christine@dmfirstchurch.org for more information.

Bishop Trimble at St. Mark's UMC, Camanche

Sunday, June 28, 2009

Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble, will be making an Episcopal visit to Camanche St. Mark's Church for the dedication of their \$185,000 fellowship hall, Sunday school rooms and offices on Sunday, June 28. The 2,866 square feet addition was constructed in 2003 during the ministry of Rev. Dory Callogen. The current minister of the 131 membership congregation is Dr. Donald L. Batz, retired Illinois Area Great Rivers Conference pastor that has been serving the Camanche congregation for the past four years.

10th National Gathering of United Methodist Men

The 2009 tenth national gathering of UM Men will be held at Belmont University in Nashville on July 9-12, 2009.

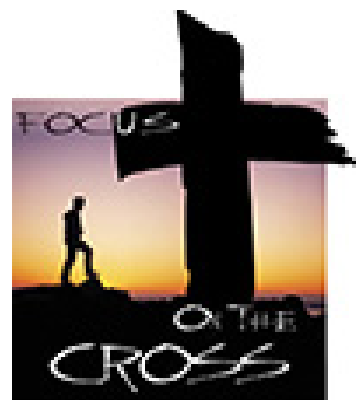
If you would like to speak with someone regarding this event, please call 866-297-4313.

For more information about this event, check out the website: <http://www.gcumm.org/site> and click on 10th National Gathering of UMMen, Belmont University, Nashville, TN under the heading Events and Training.

Bi-lingual Worship Service

Dos Lenguas, Un Fuego (Two Languages, One Fire)
 Sunday, June 28, 2009
 5:00 pm Worship Service
 Lovely Lane UMC
 2424 42nd Street, Cedar Rapids 52402

All are invited! Services are held the last Sunday of each month. Please continue to pray for this outreach effort! Please direct any questions to Jill Sanders at Jill.Sanders@iaumc.org



Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

God of Many Names

August 9-14, 2009

American Martyrs Retreat House
Near Cedar Fall IA 50613

The Academy for Spiritual Formation is open to laity and clergy, of all denominations - to any person searching for a deepened faith. It is sponsored by the Spiritual Formation Steering Committee of the Board of Discipleship of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Presenters: Dwight and Linda Vogel, clergy members of the Iowa Conference. Details and application materials are available at www.iowa5day.org or contact Jerry Oakland, Retreat Leader 712-732-5458; jerryoakland@iw.net.



Matthew 25 Grant Applications - Due August 14, 2009

Matthew 25 funds provide grants to local church or related ministries that address specific, tangible needs in their communities. The purpose of the grant is to assist in developing outreach ministries that care for the needs of the poor and marginalized in their communities. An application form is available online at: www.iaumc.org/ecdist

Applications must be postmarked or hand-delivered to the district office no later than August 14, 2009.



Healthy Relations Workshops

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

The Iowa Conference Ministerial Ethics Committee is currently preparing for the next workshop for clergy and diaconal ministers.

Please mark Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on your calendar. This is a mandatory workshop for all clergy and diaconal ministers in the Iowa Annual Conference. Included are retired clergy and diaconal ministers who are employed by a local church or volunteering their time for pastoral work. Also, persons appointed to extension ministry who are serving part time in a local church must also attend.

There are two locations available that day in the East Central District; Grand View UMC in Dubuque and First UMC in North Liberty.

You will be notified as additional information becomes available.





Brigadoon in Ames or Thy Kingdom Come

Once again, out of the mists of central Iowa comes a community of United Methodists to gather in Hilton Coliseum where just weeks ago, none stood. It could almost be the UM version of Brigadoon. The story of Brigadoon talks of a Scottish village that made a covenant with God to protect it from change from the outside world. The village would appear for one day every one hundred years. Though a hundred years would pass between when the villagers would go to bed and when they woke the next day, to them it was only one night. For a day the life of the village and those who lived in it would go on normally followed by a one hundred year sleep. That was the case until two Americans came along during one of the days Brigadoon was “in session.” One of them falls in love with a resident of the village. He learns that he could join the community because of his love, but if he stayed he, like everyone else of the village, could never leave without breaking the covenant and forever sending the whole village into the “mists.” Sometimes we are tempted to treat annual conference as a Brigadoon. Here for a while with incredible music and worship, deep and lively discussions, stretching of ideas and hopes. Only on the Monday and the days and months following have it fade away into the “mists” of daily routines, responsibilities, and frustrations. Did it really happen? Was it a dream? Though we still feel its touch, did the time we spend together really matter? Did it, will it make a difference?

Though he is convinced by his friend and traveling companion to leave Brigadoon and treat it as only a dream, this man and his love can never forget. One of the wise men of the village had told him that “when ye love someone deeply, anythin' is possible. Even miracles.” He is so consumed by his memories and the love that is still alive, he insists on returning to that vale in Scotland. He and his traveling friend stood looking at the empty vale for a bit. As they were preparing to leave, suddenly there is the sound and music of the village and out the mists walks the village wise man who welcomes the traveler to the place his love has made home. As the mists recede, his traveling friend is left standing there with only his amazement and his memories.

When the annual conference is present as a community of love, it is not constrained by time or place. The Wise One we follow told us: *“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another... This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing.; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”*

Through ministries, committees, taskforces, and the work of our apportionments the annual conference is present year around. Wherever people are gathered in the love of Christ, the power and wonder of our time together as a Christian community of faith is visible. If annual conference is a once a year event, we have no one to blame but ourselves. So rather than resign ourselves to a 365 day sleep that protects us from change, prepare yourself to bring home the Spirit of conference. Prepare yourself to bring home the energy of God's gathered people. Prepare yourself to bring home the challenges and opportunities to grow and be. Because when you love deeply, as deeply as Christ loves us, anything is possible. Even a miracle or two.

Along Jill's Journey

Dear Friends:

As I write this, I am enjoying the luxurious privilege of spending two full weeks in a seminary library where I am still studying and starting to write my thesis for my Doctor of Ministry project. On Monday, while reading several books and sermons about the life and ministry of the founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley, I was reminded that from the beginning the journey of the people called Methodist was a missional one. Wesley may not have grasped it at first, but God eventually urged him to embrace his calling to reach beyond the walls of the church to bring a holistic gospel to those on the periphery of society who would not have been welcome in the "respectable" Anglican church of his day.



This wasn't an easy "conversion" for Wesley. In fact, when noted evangelist George Whitefield urged Wesley to begin preaching in the "open-air" or what came to be known as "field preaching," Wesley balked. In his journal, he wrote:

I could scarce reconcile myself at first to this strange way of preaching in the fields—of which he (Whitefield) set me an example on Sunday; having been all my life—till very lately—so tenacious of every point relating to decency and order, that I should have thought of saving souls almost a sin, if it had not been done in a church. (Wesley's Journal, March 31, 1739, II.167)

Wesley was suffering from the common misunderstanding from which many of us today still suffer---that if people are going to be reached by the gospel, they need to come to church! Not so! God's people have been entrusted with the gospel so that we can bring the gift of the good news to the world!

And so, after much inner struggle and turmoil as was typical of John Wesley, he read the Sermon on the Mount and believed it to be "one pretty remarkable precedent of field preaching." Finally convinced, although clearly not pleased, he came to this conclusion:

At four in the afternoon, I submitted to 'be more vile' and proclaimed in the highways the glad tidings of salvation. (Wesley: Journal: April 2, 1739)

United Methodist Bishop William Willimon, former dean of the Chapel at Duke University, describes the cutting edge of the Methodist movement as "reaching out in the name of Christ to the unreached." He asserts:

Papa John was very conservative, very happy with the Church of England and all of its doctrines and worship—but he got mixed up with a God who would not let him be. I love the entry in his diary where he says: "And today, I submitted to be more vile; I descended to the level of field preaching." You can just imagine this proper little pastor's son, this Oxford graduate out there in the field—screaming at people! Here is a man who got grasped by a God who just wouldn't be contained in the contemporary structures of the Church of England.

(continued on page 10)



Happy
Father's Day

June 21, 2009

Staying Connected Through Prayer

Please lift up the following congregations and clergy during worship and or in your newsletter.

- June 7: 166th Session of the Iowa Annual Conference
 June 14: Tiffin, Grace - Beverly Marshall-Goodell
 June 21: New Covenant Parish - James R. Davis
 June 28: Cedar Rapids, Asbury - Ed Powers
- July 5: Cedar Rapids, Faith - Kathleen Moore
 July 12: Cedar Rapids, Bertram and Buffalo - Marilyn Buchanan
 July 19: Stanwood Union - Philip Leipold
 July 26: Springville - John Keizer



The district website is located at:
www.iaumc.org/ecdist



June

- 1 James and Helen Parks
 7 John and Melinda Howerton
 7 Nick and Cass Needham
 9 Dave and Dorothy Higdon
 10 Jennifer and Bill Filter
 17 James Dotson
 19 Judy Wadding
 19 Ben and Susanna Wilson
 20 Beverly Marshall-Goodell
 20 Jim and Mim Hanke
 20 Dorothy Gerr
 20 Rollin and Loraine Oswald
 22 Jennifer Filter
 22 Robert and Juanita Dennert
 23 Paul Frederiksen
 23 Karen and Michael Young
 24 Bonnie Koeppen
 24 Jennifer and Dale Seylar
 28 Nick Needham

**Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?
 Do you have family news to share?**

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, or if you have family news you would like to share in the newsletter, please contact the District Office.

Ann.Zeal@iaumc.org

District Stewardship Blog

Please check out---and interact with---the new District Stewardship blog--

www.generousineveryway.blogspot.com.

Let's start a conversation that helps us all to grow as faithful stewards of the gospel and all of our other gifts. If you would like to post content on this blog, send your post to Jill Sanders, FOM, at Jill.Sanders@iaumc.org. To respond to what is posted, simply click on "comment."

East Central District Happenings

Does your church have an event coming up or a request? Would you like to get the information out? Email the information, including contact name or number to the District Office **at least 2 weeks in advance of when you would like the information sent out**, and it will be included in the weekly East Central District Happenings.



Apportionment Status - As of 4/30/09

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

		Clinton, Trinity	00%	Ohio	57%
		Clover Ridge	25%	Koszta	49%
Alburnett	09%	Coggon United Parish	00%	North Liberty, First	25%
Prairie Chapel	25%	Coralville	34%	Oxford	00%
Champion Hill	47%	Coralville, New Horizons	09%	Palo	00%
Pleasant Hill	00%	DeWitt	30%	Van Horne, Salem	33%
Anamosa	06%	Delmar	33%	Elberon	33%
Baldwin/Monmouth Faith	25%	Elwood	00%	Blairstown, Calvary	44%
Belle Plaine, Christ	01%	Dubuque, Center Grove	25%	Norway	33%
Brandon	25%	Dubuque, Rockdale	39%	Preston	30%
Mt. Auburn	00%	East Dubuque, Wesley	33%	Sabula	33%
Calamus, Wesley	100%	Dubuque, Grand View	16%	Sherrill	33%
Grand Mound, St. Paul's	00%	Dubuque, St. Luke's	00%	Shueyville	17%
Camanche, St. Mark's	33%	Epworth	33%	Solon	00%
Cedar Rapids, Asbury	05%	Iowa City, First	16%	Rochester	33%
Cedar Rapids, Bertram	33%	Iowa City, Hope	08%	Springdale	33%
Cedar Rapids, Buffalo	33%	Iowa City, Korean	00%	Springville	17%
Cedar Rapids, Faith	00%	Iowa City, St. Mark's	32%	Stanwood Union	31%
Cedar Rapids, Kenwood Park	33%	Kalona, Sharon Center	33%	North English	00%
Cedar Rapids, Lovely Lane	25%	Lisbon	25%	Millersburg	27%
Cedar Rapids, New Creation	00%	Maquoketa, First	07%	Tiffin	00%
Cedar Rapids, St. James	01%	Marengo, First	33%	Tipton, First	08%
Cedar Rapids, St. Mark's	33%	Marion, Christ Community	13%	Vinton Stewart Memorial	00%
Cedar Rapids, St. Paul's	05%	Marion, First	27%	Garrison	25%
Cedar Rapids, Salem	33%	Marion, Living Water	31%	Vinton, Wesley	33%
Cedar Rapids, Sharon	33%	Martelle	34%	Viola	25%
Cedar Rapids, Trinity	32%	Mechanicsville	33%	Walker	33%
Center Point	09%	Morley, First	33%	Olin Community	00%
Central City, First	00%	Monticello Yoke	07%	Oxford Junction	00%
Clarence	34%	Mount Vernon, First	25%	West Branch	33%
Clinton, First	33%	Victor	03%	Williamsburg St. Paul's	34%
Clinton, Lyons	10%	Ladora	37%	Wyoming	11%
Low Moor	00%	Guernsey	33%		



HELP, please.

I arrived as the site director of Pictured Rocks UM Camp in late February of this year unaware to much of the details, issues, and difficulties of camping ministry and its transitions in the Iowa UMC Conference. I arrived looking for the “Pictured Rocks Family”, a group of pastors, people, youth, volunteers, etc. who just love camp and simply feel God’s presence while being here. I am still looking for the “Pictured Rocks Family,” people who believe in camping ministry; its mission, its values and its history.

Despite any rumors, opinions and/or impressions many of you may have had or may have heard about Pictured Rocks Camp potentially closing up its doors and/or being on the decline, I want to assure you that is not the case. We are cleaning up, organizing, improving, planning and preparing for summer camp while we continue the long tradition of ministry and partnership with UM churches in Eastern Iowa. Pictured Rocks UM Camp is in need of a family to love it, to support it, to nurture it and most importantly to believe in it and cover it in prayer.

Pictured Rocks Camp 2020 is a vision plan to promote and build up your church ministries through the camping ministry program. It is a plan built around people experiencing God as families, as individuals, as adults, as youth, and as children. This vision plan involves purposeful planning while driving out the concept mode of camp survival and driving in the concept mode of a living ministry. Pictured Rocks 2020 is a step by step plan that involves people and programs, not just money and facilities. Pictured Rocks 2020 involves increased partnership and personal ownership from local church groups in regards to programs/projects/prayers. Pictured Rocks UM Camp is in need of your help if it is going to continue and move back into being a strong ministry center for our Eastern Iowa United Methodist churches.

If you, or anyone in your church would like to hear more about Pictured Rocks 2020, and how they could be involved please contact the camp office at 319-465-4194 or email me directly at gary.wilson@iowaumc.org

Gary Wilson, Site Director at Pictured Rocks

Exploration 2009

November 13 - 15, 2009

The Sheraton Hotel

400 North Olive Street, Dallas, Texas

A gathering for young people (high-school seniors through age 24) considering ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. You will learn that all baptized Christians are called to ministry, and that some people are called to ordained ministries of Word, Sacrament, Order and Service through the church.

Learn more by going to their website: www.gbhem.org





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please call the EC District Office at 319-365-6273.

Along Jill's Journey *(continued from page 7)*

Some of us are moved by images more than words. Consider this from a sermon by Dr. Leslie Griffiths, Dean of the Wesley Chapel in London, preached at Charterhouse on May 22, 2003.

*From John Wesley's pulpit, I can see the 1891 Adams-Acton statue of the great man dominating our forecourt. He's **not** looking back fondly at the Chapel he built, but out into the great heaving metropolis. On the plinth of the statue are carved his well-known words: "The world is my parish." And its out there in the Peabody residences and the High Rise flats, in the schools and offices, amid the economic, financial, and political life of the nation, in the media and together with all of good will, that the kingdom has to be announced **and worked for**.*

Friends, this time of study has been a call to prayer for me. May we as United Methodists be stirred by the same God who stirred our founder, the One who will not let us be, so that we would know beyond a shadow of a doubt that our God cannot be contained in our churches---but must be proclaimed to the very periphery of society, to all who would not darken the door of any church for fear they might not be welcomed. May this same God work within us that we, like Wesley, would "submit to be more vile", by recommitting ourselves to taking the good news to the streets for the sake of all! After all, even though there are times when the pressures of ministry in the world today lead us to live as if "my parish is my world," John Wesley's life and example reminds us that "the world is our parish!" May it be so!!!!

On the Journey with You!

Jill