



## ***Monday Musings***

***December 14, 2009***

***Rose M. Blank***

***Conference Superintendent***

***Southeast District***

***319-986-2095***

Greetings,

In her book *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, Ann Weems shares a selection entitled, "In December Darkness." Her opening words are "The whole world waits in December darkness for a glimpse of the Light of God." (p. 17) As I write this it is a dreary December day, another day forecasted to include that infamous 'wintry mix' of precipitation. The days continue to succumb to the shortening of daylight hours. And we long for the light. It seems to be a yearning and a deep desire that is inherent within us.

As we long for the light of longer daylight hours, do we also long for the Light of God, for the Light of the World, for the incarnate God who became flesh and dwelt among us? In our waiting we come to know God, come to know ourselves and one another. Our waiting is not a passive experience, but one in which we watch with hopefulness for the signs of the Light of God. Do you see what I see? Do you see this Light of God in the face of another? Do you catch a glimpse in the lives of those who labor with love for the bringing about of God's kingdom, not only this time of year, but throughout the year? How are you bringing the Light of God into the people and places around you?

In our waiting, may God's Light, the Light of the World who is the incarnate God, the Christ child, fill your waiting with hopeful anticipation and joy. Keep your eyes open for the glimpses of this Holy Light.

Grace and peace,

***Rose***

### ***Upcoming Events***

**January 5-7, 2010** –"Hospitality: the unopened gift" is an event offered by the North Central Jurisdiction Town & Country/Urban Network. Registration deadline is December 18, 2009. For further information, contact:[williamballard@iowatelecom.net](mailto:williamballard@iowatelecom.net).

**January 18, 2010 – Southeast District Clergy and Spouses Winter Party** at Iowa Wesleyan College, Social Hall, Mount Pleasant, IA. Our entertainment this year will be the Broad Street Singers from Iowa Wesleyan College. Deadline for RSVP is January 7, 2010.

**January 31, 2010 – Southeast District Church Leadership Training Workshop** will be held at First UMC in Mt. Pleasant, IA. Registration will start at 2:00 PM. The workshops will be from 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM. A brochure has been e-mailed to each pastor and each church in our district. To view the brochure, click here: [http://www.iaumc.org/console/files/oWebsite\\_Page\\_Files/Brochure\\_JQFRER7C.pdf](http://www.iaumc.org/console/files/oWebsite_Page_Files/Brochure_JQFRER7C.pdf)

**February 5-7, 2010 – Youth Strike for Christ 2010** is just around the corner. It will be at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Des Moines and the Polk County Convention Center. We will have Kelly Croy, Inspirational Speaker, Bob Stromberg, Comedian and the band Harlend. Bishop Julius Trimble will be the guest speaker. Please visit [www.youthstrike.com](http://www.youthstrike.com) for more information and download registration forms. The early bird deadline is January 1, 2010.

**February 26, 2010 –** For next “A Day Apart for Ministry Professionals”, our speaker will be Phil Jamieson whose topic will be about ministry and money. More details will be given later.

**March 29, 2010 –** The Van Buren County Cooperative Ministries will present a reenactment of the Last Supper at the Farmington United Methodist Church (part of the Two Rivers Parish) on Monday, March 29, 2010, at 7:30 PM. Contact: Pat Shaw, Coordinator, at 319-293-3899 or by e-mail at [patshaw@netins.net](mailto:patshaw@netins.net).

### *Announcements*

The **Ministry Appraisal forms** were due in the Southeast District office on May 1. The Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees from the following churches have not yet submitted their forms:

Burlington, Grace  
Keokuk, Emmanuel

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IRS has announced its reimbursement rates for 2010. They are as follows:

50 cents per business miles  
16.5 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes  
14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations