



## ***Monday Musings***

***February 1, 2010***

***Rose M. Blank***

***Conference Superintendent***

***Southeast District***

***319-986-2095***

Greetings,

How are you making Lent fresh this year?

One intriguing idea is to have Vacation Bible School during Lent. Some churches are finding that children and adult volunteers are more available in February and March than in June and July.

The curriculum can be the same as you might use during the summer – even if they have warm-weather themes. It might be just the remedy for escaping the mid-winter blues! Here's a link to some of the materials available from Cokesbury:

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/curriculum.aspx?lvl=VBS&lnb=Curriculum&catname=Vacation+Bible+School>.

The schedule could be the week of spring break. Other churches hold the classes on each Wednesday or Saturday of Lent. Or maybe you can build it into your Sunday afternoon programming.

Even if Vacation Bible School is not a good choice for your Lenten ministry this year, see what other ways you can make this season inviting to church members and guests alike.

We hope our ministries will preach Christ in actions, and if necessary, as St. Francis said, in words. Remember how the apostle Paul wrote to Philemon in verse 7: "I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you." May we

reflect the same love for our neighbors as God's ambassadors in our communities.

Grace and peace,

*Phil*

Philip H. Carver  
Field Outreach Minister

### ***Upcoming Events***

**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.

**February 20, 2010** – Iowa Wesleyan College invites you to a special day of academics and athletics. You and your family have the opportunity to visit campus, talk with professors and coaches, and enjoy an afternoon of Iowa Wesleyan basketball. When you attend Tiger Spirit Day, you and your family will receive complimentary tickets to watch the Iowa Wesleyan Tigers battle the Waldorf College Warriors.

**February 26, 2010** – For the next “A Day Apart for Ministry Professionals”, our speakers will be Phil and Janet Jamieson whose topic will be “Ministry and Money”. It will be held at Washington United Methodist Church from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The cost of lunch is **\$7.00**. Please make your check payable to Washington UMC and send it to the church at 206 West Second Street, Washington, IA 52353-1925. Contact the district office **no later than** February 19 to let us know you are attending. For more information, contact the district office.

**March 7 to March 9, 2010** – 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Ministry Conference, Nurturing Generosity, will take place at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA. For more information or to register, go to: [www.ruralministry.com](http://www.ruralministry.com)

**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).

**April 15, 2010** -- “NESTING” Workshop/Writing Retreat – led by Dwight Grosvenor at Bethany House in Fort Dodge, IA on April 15 from 4-7pm.

“Nesting” is a new way to strengthen your Spiritual Disciplines through prayer and journal writing. It is a new discipline that will guide you, providing you with a way to be quiet and open to the Holy One. It begins with a single sentence/verse that is built upon. Participants will have an opportunity to write and an opportunity to hear from others and to share.

The first workshop will be held at The Soul of the Prairie on April 11 from 3-7pm. To reserve a place, please contact Dwight at [grosveno@evertek.net](mailto:grosveno@evertek.net) . Cost: \$15 Bring a sack lunch. There will be an opportunity to walk a labyrinth. For more information about Soul of the Prairie, please visit [www.souloftheprairie.com](http://www.souloftheprairie.com).

The second workshop will be held at Bethany House in Fort Dodge, IA, on April 15 from 4-7pm. To register for this event please contact Carol Joselyn at [cjj1024@frontiernet.net](mailto:cjj1024@frontiernet.net) Cost: Freewill offering. For more information about Bethany House, please visit [www.bethanyhousefd.org](http://www.bethanyhousefd.org)

**April 24, 2010** – The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth Rally Day will be held at Pictured Rocks Camp from 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the campground area rain or shine. Highlights include: Ultimate Frisbee Tournament, Live Youth Worship Bands, Free Food, Frisbee Golf Tournament, Bon Fire and Evening Worship. Contact the camp office at 319-465-4194 or by e-mail at [picturedrocks.camp@iaumc.org](mailto:picturedrocks.camp@iaumc.org) to register. To learn more about Pictured Rocks retreat options, summer camps and facilities, visit [www.picturedrocks.org](http://www.picturedrocks.org).

### ***Announcements***

Please consider making a donation for Haiti to the UMCOR International Disaster Response Advance #982450, memo line: Haiti. UMCOR will help us reach out to and through our Methodist connections in Haiti. Your response will help UMCOR gauge its response.

You can also give online [at the UMCOR website](#) Thank you.

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SE District Lay Speaking Training will be held on March 13 and March 27 at St. John United Methodist Church in Davenport. There will be a basic and an

advanced course "You Can Lead in Worship" on those days from 9 AM to 3 PM. Registration will be from 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM. Cost is \$30.00.

On April 10 and April 24, we will offer a basic course and an advanced course on "From Your Heart to Theirs". Classes will be at First United Methodist Church in Mount Pleasant, IA, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM. Registration will be from 11:30 AM to 12:00 noon. Cost is \$30.00.

Fall Advanced classes are expected to be held at St. John UMC in Davenport. For information about fall classes, contact Carolee Stanley at 563-322-6860 or e-mail: caroleestanley@msn.com.

Brochures will be e-mailed to your pastor.

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### Simple Living for Congregations: April 2010 Learning Event for Leaders"

Central District Field Outreach Minister, Martha DiSilvestro, and a team of Central Iowa ecumenical leaders have been working to bring high quality Alban Institute learning events to Central and South Central Iowa.

One part of that work has resulted in this series of events hosted by "The Center for Renewal" at Grandview College in Des Moines. Alban authors speak and engage in Q & A on contemporary topics for local church vitality. [Click here](#) for more information and an event brochure.

A second part of that work is "SPLASH", a 2-year continuing education immersion event for clergy and laity meeting for 6 overnight seminars covering a range of "Sacred Practices of Spiritual Leadership" in congregations. Twelve Alban authors are featured throughout. For more information about Splash: [www.sacredpracticeseries.org](http://www.sacredpracticeseries.org)

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The following churches have not yet turned in their 2010 Church Officer forms. Please send the original to the Treasurer's office and a copy to the Southeast District Office as quickly as possible. This information is urgently needed. Here are the churches that have not sent in this information:

Basal Faith Parish: Libertyville, Birmingham and Stockport  
Brighton United  
Burlington, Asbury  
Douds, Lebanon and Selma (Jill Stanton has received, but we have not)  
Eldridge (we've received but Jill Stanton has not)  
Fairfield, First (we've received but Jill Stanton has not)  
Fort Madison, First

Kalona  
Keokuk, Emmanuel  
Center Chapel  
Milton  
Keota U. C. of Faith  
Letts and Island  
Muscatine, Moscow  
Muscatine, Peace  
Muscatine, Wesley  
New London  
New Sweden  
SE Louisa County Parish: Wapello, Morning Sun and Oakville  
Walcott  
Washington  
West Chester  
West Liberty  
What Cheer and Delta