



Monday Musings

March 1, 2010

Rose M. Blank

Conference Superintendent

Southeast District

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Greetings,

In Paul's first letter to Timothy he writes in chapter 4, verse 12, "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." Paul valued and honored Timothy despite his young age, as a person of God's creation, worthy of respect and encouragement.

Many of the church leaders I visit express their desire for more young people in their congregations. That concern is what spurred me to attend a recent discussion led by Carol Howard Merritt, author of the book, *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation*. As a pastor in her mid-thirties, she recognizes what congregations have to offer young people as well as what young people have to offer congregations. So why are the two so often disconnected from each other?

She uses the metaphor of a tribe to describe the close bonds that form when people of all ages decide to walk together on their spiritual journeys. In fact, the church is one of the few remaining places for people from different generations can interact and connect. She suggests that we sometimes create artificial barriers that keep young people away from our churches. She casts a vision of the church that embraces the gifts of all members while reaching out to those who might otherwise feel unwelcome or unneeded.

Her basic assumption is that congregations can provide a space for all people to connect with God, each other, and the world. Isn't that what Paul was saying to Timothy so long ago? I recommend the book for your consideration. If you would like to visit further about the ideas in *Tribal Church*, please be in touch.

Grace and peace,

Phil

Phil Carver
Field Outreach Minister

Upcoming Events

March 6, 2010 -- For those interested in organizing short-term mission teams, and especially for Haiti recovery efforts, Rev. Mike Druhl of Belmont UMC will provide TEAM LEADER TRAINING Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Grace UMC, Central and Angular in Burlington. The session is aimed at people who want to organize and lead teams of approximately 10 volunteers. Potential leaders may recruit from more than one church, but Rev. Druhl asks that each church represented at the training purchase one handbook at \$20. So he will know how many to prepare for, prospective team leaders should contact training organizer Don Henry by noon Friday, Feb. 26. Call Don at 319-752-2357 or e-mail him at thewriteidea@mchsi.com and mention "UMCOR Training" in the subject. We're asking your help in spreading the word and inviting people from Southeast Iowa UMCs – the nearest other training is in Sibley, 380+ miles from here!!!

March 7-9, 2010 – 29th Annual Rural Ministry Conference, Nurturing Generosity, will be at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA. Register on-line at 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.

April 11 and 15, 2010 -- "NESTING" Workshop/Writing Retreats

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. 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.

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. Cost: Freewill offering. For more information about Bethany House, please visit www.bethanyhousefd.org

April 24, 2010 – The 1st 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 to register. To learn more about Pictured Rocks retreat options, summer camps and facilities, visit www.picturedrocks.org.

Announcements

First United Methodist Church in Mt. Pleasant is in need of 20 copies of the "Faith We Sing" hymn books. If your church has extra copies not being used that you would be willing to donate, please contact Jon at (319) 385-1740.

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ALERT! TIME IS SHORT! SIGN UP BY APRIL 6 TO ATTEND OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

Even though the departure date is Aug. 3, 2010, for Iowa United Methodists to attend the Oberammergau Passion Play with Bishop Trimble, registrations with full payment are due April 6.

This world-famous Passion Play has been presented every ten years since 1634 by the grateful villagers of Oberammergau, Germany, as a "thank you" for being spared from the plague.

In addition to attending the day-long play, we will also tour Salzburg and Innsbruck in Austria, the Brenner Pass in Italy, and will view the splendor of Renaissance and Baroque churches, castles, and abbeys.

Our group will stay in a quaint Alpine village. This venture will be a unique opportunity not only to experience the leadership of our Bishop, but also to get to know both him and his wife, Racelder Grandberry-Trimble.

For further information you may contact Ron and Ruth Anne Petrak, tour coordinators, at ronruthanne1507@msn.com or by phone at 515/262-3691.

You may also view a brief video of the tour itinerary at the Educational Opportunities website, <http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/gallery/videos/Oberammergau.aspx>, and selecting "Alpine Wonders".

2010 Beje Clark Justice Award – Nominations are now being received for the 2010 Beje Clark Justice Award. Because of Beje Clark's initiatives, particular priorities will be given to work in restorative justice. *Restorative Justice* is an approach to restore all those involved in a crime – offender, victim(s) and society – in processes of reconciliation and the rebuilding of community with one

another. The honoree will be an Iowa individual, group or congregation whose efforts have had an impact in Iowa – to restore all to wholeness and community, change attitudes, educate and encourage others to work for justice. Honorees need not be United Methodist. Please [click here](#) for the 2010 nomination form. Questions should be directed to Jim Pemble (515.250.5063 / mjp150@msn.com).

Ingathering -- It is time to recommend projects, programs, etc for the 2009 Thanksgiving Ingathering district hunger grants. This year we have \$4000 to distribute across the district. If you know of programs, etc that might qualify for some money, please fill out the application and return it to me. You can send the information to me by email (and obviously, there won't be a written signature--just your name). I need these applications by March 15. The money should be distributed within a month after the deadline (I can't make promises for the conference treasurer's office). Last year we had some really good projects recommended and funded. They included food pantries, children's meal programs, urban meal sites to name a few.

If you have questions, or want to receive an application, call or email me at:

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