



Monday Musings

May 26, 2009

Rose M. Blank

Conference Superintendent

Southeast District

319-986-2095

Greetings,

“Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.” (Acts 4:32) This testimony of the life of the early Christians highlights our understanding of stewardship. God has blessed us with everything we have – our bodies, our minds, our spirits – and we are called to share those blessings with others.

Our membership vows remind us of this idea. We promise to give ourselves to the ministries of The United Methodist Church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We hope to instill this principle of stewardship in our new members and our confirmands and we all need reminders about the meaning of stewardship.

This summer is a good time to plan for an annual stewardship event in your congregation. Research from Denny Buwalda and Wayne Barrett suggests that merely taking the time to ask our members to make a financial commitment to the church doubles the level of response. Program suggestions for these events are on the conference website at [Annual Stewardship Education](#).

The Southeast District Stewardship Team is another resource available to your church. The team has a variety of materials to help your members deepen their understanding of stewardship. And team members are available to consult with your church as that may be useful to you. Be watching in the next few weeks for our new stewardship newsletter. We'll be featuring articles about our District Askings for 2009.

As faithful people we strive to develop evermore generous hearts in ourselves and others. That's one of the ways we reflect Jesus in our daily lives. Paul says it

concisely in II Corinthians 9:7b, "God loves a cheerful giver." May God grant us that spirit.

Grace and peace,



Phil Carver

Upcoming Events

June 5-7 – Annual Conference in Ames. Clergy session starts on June 4 and the 2009 Annual Conference officially begins on June 5.

June 5 -- Hi Everyone. Please come to the Annual Conference Rural Gathering Luncheon on Friday, June 5. Hope to see you there. For more information, contact me at:

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June 20 – 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 9:00-3:30 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.

Announcements

Matthew 25 Grant applications for 2010 are due **June 30, 2009**. For an application, click here: [Matt 25 Grant Application](#)

Unified Grant applications for 2010 must be postmarked or hand delivered to the district office no later than **May 30, 2009**. For an application, click here: [Unified Grant Application](#)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

June Birthdays

6/8 Jackie Bradford
6/12 Shirley Patrick
6/12 Linden Youngquist
6/29 Ann Donat

June Anniversaries

6/10 Goldie and Ralph Laymon
6/13 Dennis and Diana Hopes