

The Poster

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 7

JULY 2011

The Poster is published monthly by Fort Des Moines United Methodist Church, 6205 SW 9th St, Des Moines Iowa 50315-5516. To contact us, phone 515.285.6545, fax 515.285.3740, or e-mail to church_ftdsmumc@msn.com
Pastor Kathy's phone is 515-201-3634

Vacation Bible School

Once again, we'll be sharing Vacation Bible School (VBS)/Day Camp with Christ Lutheran Church, 6411 SE 5th St. VBS will be held July 11 through the 14th. Students who will be in grades 1 through 6 next fall will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Preschoolers will meet from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$20 per 1st through 6th grade student and \$15 per preschooler. The maximum family fee is \$40.

Before and after-care will be available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a free will offering. Care for preschoolers is not available after the 11:30 a.m. pick-up time.

Students get to bring their own lunch. Morning and afternoon snacks will be provided. Those staying for after-care will also receive snacks.

This year's theme is RESTORED, based on Psalm 80. Daily themes are *Restore us!*, *Restored to God*, *Restored for Eternity* and *Restored for Community*.

Registration forms can be found on the table near the sanctuary doors, in Jane's office, or online at www.fdmumc.org. If you have questions, contact Janine Glodt at 280-1913 or the Christ Lutheran Church office at 285-6764.

Charge Conference

Our Charge Conference has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15, at 10:00 a.m., at Burns United Methodist Church. All committees will be given reports to complete as those reports become available. Mark your calendar and plan to be in attendance. All members of a congregation have voting rights at this conference.

Fun and Fellowship

The monthly Game Night will be held on July 16, at 4:00 p.m. Bring your favorite game along with a snack to share and your own beverages. This fun activity is open to all ages so pick up Grandma and bring the kids! If you have questions, please contact Debbie McCloney.

Trash & Treasure Sale

The annual Trash and Treasure Sale will be held Saturday, Aug. 6th. It's time to start gathering up those items you wish to donate. However, NO CLOTHES will be accepted this year. Set-up activities will begin on Aug. 4th. Please have your items at the church before that date.

Volunteers will be needed for set-up on Thursday and Friday. More volunteers will be needed for Saturday (the sale hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). Coralie Cherry is the contact person.

Mark your calendar...clean your closets...and plan to be a part of this annual fellowship fundraiser.

The I-Cubs and Food

Bringing 3 non-perishable food items to a home I-Cubs game will get a general admission ticket. If you're planning to attend a game on July 17, August 7, 21 or September 4, set aside three non-perishable food items to take with you. You'll enjoy an afternoon of entertainment and a local family will eat because of your generosity. All food items will be donated to the Des Moines Area Religious Council's Emergency Food Pantry.

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Calendars are on pages 3a & 3b

Information for *The Poster* should be in the Church office by the 29th of the month prior to being published.

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. -

12:00 noon

Monday to Friday

Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m.

Holy Communion is the first Sunday of the month

Iowa Annual Conference Report

Written by Jasmine Miller, Lay Member to Annual Conference

The 168th annual gathering of the Iowa annual Conference, June 4-7, 2011, convened with the Opening Worship service that included a baptismal renewal, the Sacrament of Holy Communion and a call from guest preacher, Dr. Mike Slaughter, to make disciples of Jesus Christ as a mandate for mission.

Dr. Slaughter spoke to the conference three times during the first day. He said that some see themselves as consumers, to receive the "products" of the church. He suggested instead, that Jesus can do something different, something better. He called the church to go back to being a movement, which may mean that there will be more, smaller churches in the future with its members being disciples who bring the sacrificial hands and feet of Jesus into the world.

"We have a story so compelling that it must be told", Bishop Trimble declared in his Episcopal Address. "We have a mandate so clear that it must be told...an invitation so strong that it must be pursued." "My challenge is that we go deeper and walk together attempting great things...we can change if we talk together, staying focused on things that matter most, caring for ourselves as we care for others, invest in new communities of faith, and tell the stories of Jesus." Bishop Trimble concluded with a witness about the church in Nigeria. It's growing because "we build a school and we worship; we provide health services at a clinic and we worship; we dig a well deep enough to get water and we worship; we preach the Gospel of Jesus and we expect something to happen; people join the church and the church joins the people...because we know where the water is!"

Dr. Karen Dugan, Assistant to

the Bishop for Connectional Ministries, said in her remarks to Annual Conference, "We can go deeper and walk further, attempting to do great things for God, we can handle change if we walk together and keep our eyes on Jesus Christ, and we can handle change if we are willing to love as Jesus loves."

The Service of the Ordering of Ministry continued the tradition of the United Methodist through the recognition, commissioning and ordaining of persons into ministry. Thirty-seven persons were urged by Philadelphia Area Bishop Peggy Johnson to have hospitality, acceptance, kindness and love be characteristics of their ministry.

The Memorial Service celebrated the lives of twenty-one clergy, fourteen clergy spouses and two diaconal ministers who have died the past year. Rev. Howard Eldrenkamp was one of the clergy remembered. The service also included a special time of remembrance and thanksgiving for the late Bishop James S. Thomas who died in October, 2010. Bishop Thomas was Iowa's Bishop from 1964-1976.

Rev. Robert Crandall was presented with the first Bishop James S. Thomas Leadership Award during the Memorial Service. Mrs. Ruth Thomas was present to see the inaugural award presented in her late husband's honor. Bishop Thomas was a strong advocate in the area of social justice, educational opportunities, and leadership development.

Dr. Charles W. Smith, Conference Treasurer and Statistician, in his report shared some numbers that he felt binds everything together and reflected how we "let the word of Christ dwell in us richly." Conference membership is 179,765, a decrease of 3,492 persons from 2009. Average worship attendance was 58,212, a

decrease of 1,003 from last year. Income reported for all causes showed a 5.13% increase. Congregations paid 81.57% of what was asked for apportionments. Dr. Smith said income was only one side of the coin of thanksgiving. Expenditures represent the other. For every one dollar that was put in the offering plate, 2.2 cents went to fund General Church apportionments, 10.6 cents went to fund the apportionments that support the ministry and mission of the Iowa Conference, 10.8 cents went to fund the pensions and health insurance for clergy and lay employees of the church, 3.7 cents went into church savings, investments or cash equivalent accounts. Local congregations had 72.7 cents to use at their discretion for their ministry.

Rev. Dale Batcheler was the preacher for the Retirement Celebration, representing his class of retirees. "Jesus says to clergy and laity, 'Get and go', 'love God, love the people,' 'learn and do'... 'love the people and leave the judging to God.'" Rev. Dianne Christopher and Rev. Mark Haverland were two of the twenty-eight pastors recognized.

Lay members and clergy each elected seven delegates to the 2012 General Conference, seven additional persons to be delegates to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference and six to serve as alternates to the regional gathering.

One of the final actions of the conference was to approve the budget for 2012 calling for a nearly two percent reduction, as compared to the 2011 projected expenditures.

Rev. Kathy Sides' appointment continues to be Fort Des Moines United Methodist Church.

Pastor's Ponderings

As so often happens, a song has been running through my head. It's one I learned a long time ago, and it's written in the form of a question that we all would do well to ask ourselves on a regular basis. It's by Mosie Lister, and it asks,

"How Long Has It Been?"

How long has it been

since you talked with the Lord
And told him your heart's hidden secrets?

How long since you prayed?

How long since you stayed

on your knees till the light shone through?

How long has it been

since your mind felt at ease?

How long since your heart

knew no burden?

Can you call him your friend?

How long has it been

since you knew that he cared for you?

How long has it been

since you knelt by your bed
And prayed to the Lord up in heaven?

How long since you knew

that he'd answer you

And would keep you

the long night through?

How long has it been

since you woke with the dawn
And felt that the day's worth the living?

Can you call him your friend?

How long has it been

since you knew that he cared for you?

As a pastor, I know how important prayer is. I believe deeply in the power of prayer, and that we ought to be praying constantly. In the Gospels, time and again we see Jesus praying, often leaving the demands of the crowds behind, because he knew he needed to get away and talk to God; to be guided, to be strengthened. I know all that, but as a busy, distracted person,

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to the Sides family for painting the secretary's office over the Memorial Day Weekend. It was a nice surprise to walk into on that Tuesday morning! And I do appreciate the amount of work that took to move all of the furnishings. (Members of the family also completed the painting in the Conference Room.) You do a nice job of supporting the secretary here.

I admit that sometimes I don't practice what I preach. I sometimes utter those brief "Help me God!" prayers and let too much time pass without spending quality time really talking and listening to God.

I think of my dad, who every night gets down on his knees by his bed to pray. At 99-years-old it takes him longer to get back up than it used to! But it's become such a deeply ingrained habit that he wouldn't think of not ending his day down on his knees. I'm embarrassed to admit how many times I fall into bed exhausted, telling myself I'll talk to God another time, after all, God understands! I'm sure God does understand, but each time I do that, I've lost out on an opportunity to draw close to God and be strengthened and renewed and encouraged.

So I need to have that song haunt me sometimes, asking its question, "How long *has* it been?" And maybe some of you do, too. If the answer is "too long," join me in committing yourself to finding time each day to talk to God. If Jesus could find time to do it, with all the crowds of people who were demanding his attention, I suspect that we can, too.

I leave you with a few thoughts on the subject of prayer from Oswald Chambers:

"The meaning of prayer is that we get hold of God, not of the answer."

"Prayer is the exercise of drawing on the grace of God."

"It is not so true that "prayer changes things" as that prayer changes *me* and I change things."

"We look upon prayer as a means of getting things for ourselves; the Bible idea of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself.

Pastor Kathy

Jane White



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*The Fort Des Moines United
Methodist Church:
a community of faith in worship
and action,
open to all in the Spirit and Love
of God.*

Education

**Classes held Sept. 11, 2011 thru
May 20, 2012
Sunday School 11:00-11:45 a.m.**

Staff

Rev. Kathy Sides
Pastor

Jane White,
Administrative Assistant

Mildred Zeliadt,
Organist

Benny Hotopp,
Custodian

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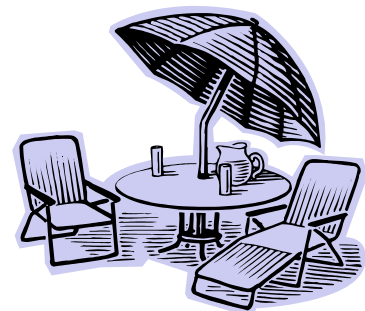
Lesson Texts

You are invited to come to worship prepared by reading the text ahead of time. You may wish to bring your own Bible.

10th Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119: 105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
17th Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
24th Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
31st Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21
7th Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Events:

17th Food Pantry Offering received
6th Trash & Treasure Sale
21st Food Pantry Offering received



July 2011

Monthly Planner

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|-----------|-------------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 8:00 PM AA | 2 6:15 PM NA |
| 3 9:45 AM Worship 8:00 PM AA | 4 Office Closed | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 8:00 PM AA | 9 6:15 PM NA |
| 10 9:45 AM Worship 8:00 PM AA | 11 10:00 AM Kitchen & Fellowship Hall in use | 12 | 13 10:00 AM Trash & Treasure Planning Meeting 6:00 PM Worship Comm. | 14 | 15 8:00 PM AA | 16 4:00 PM Game Night 6:15 PM NA |
| 17 Food Pantry 9:45 AM Worship 8:00 PM AA | 18 10:00 AM Kitchen & Fellowship Hall in use | 19 7:00 PM Radio Club 7:00 PM SPPRC | 20 | 21 | 22 8:00 PM AA | 23 10:00 AM SHARE Iowa 6:15 PM NA |
| 24 9:45 AM Worship 8:00 PM AA | 25 10:00 AM Kitchen & Fellowship Hall in use 6:30 PM Finance Comm. 7:30 PM Trustees | 26 7:00 PM Council | 27 | 28 | 29 8:00 PM AA | 30 2:00 PM Boat-right/Carlson wedding 6:15 PM NA |
| 31 9:45 AM Worship 8:00 PM AA | | | | | | |

August 2011

Monthly Planner

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| | 1 10:00 AM Kitchen & Fellowship Hall in use | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 8:00 AM Trash & Treasure Sale 6:15 PM NA |
| | | | | set up for Trash & Treasure Sale | | |
| 7 9:45 AM Worship 8:00 PM AA | 8 10:00 AM Kitchen & Fellowship Hall in use | 9 | 10 6:00 PM Worship Comm. | 11 | 12 8:00 PM AA | 13 6:15 PM NA |
| 14 9:45 AM Worship 8:00 PM AA | 15 10:00 AM Kitchen & Fellowship Hall in use | 16 7:00 PM Radio Club 7:00 PM SPPRC | 17 | 18 | 19 8:00 PM AA | 20 4:00 PM Game Night 6:15 PM NA |
| 21 Food Pantry 9:45 AM Worship 8:00 PM AA | 22 6:30 PM Finance Comm. 7:30 PM Trustees | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 8:00 PM AA | 27 10:00 AM SHARE Iowa 6:15 PM NA |
| 28 9:45 AM Worship 8:00 PM AA | 29 | 30 7:00 PM Council | 31 | | | |