

Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, June 12th we welcomed our newest members at Grace, Jarred and Traci Kepley. They come to us by Certificate of Transfer from Collegiate Methodist in Ames. Jarred was raised and confirmed at Grace!

Baptism



Ryan David Kepley, son of Jarred & Traci Kepley was baptized by Rev. Ray Hampton at our June 12th worship service! Ryan's sponsors are Jonathan & Melissa Kepley, Ashlyn Kepley and Haley Barr. Proud grandparents are Vicki and David Kepley, Debi Barr and Roger Barr.

Our Sympathy to



....Bill & Dorothy Appelgate on the recent loss of Bill's brother, Harold
....Michelle & Ron Cook and family on the loss of Michelle's nephew.
....Kent & Karen Keech on the loss of Karen's mother in June.
....Pastor Medea and family on the loss of her stepfather, D'Are Mullet, in early June.
....Duane & Sharon Matson on the passing of brother-in-law, Paul Whipple

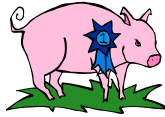
Thank you!

The members of the Doolittle-Brown family reunion want to say a warm "Thank You" to the members of Grace United Methodist Church for the use of your beautiful church for our reunion on June 5th. We had a good time and it is great not to have to worry about the weather, etc.

Thanks so much!
Doolittle-Brown committee

State Fair Opportunity!

Calling all Iowa State Fair Fans! Non-Stop Fun! August 11-21, 2011



The Iowa State Fair will be here before we know it and once again the Iowa United Methodist Church will have a presence in the air-conditioned Varied Industries Building.

We need volunteers to staff the booth from 9am to 9pm on a daily basis, and have divided those 12 hours into three 4-hour shifts, with a need for 4 people to work in the booth for each shift. Groups – we love you! Can you send 12 people for the day and take turns volunteering or just come yourself?

Shift times are:

9 am – 1 pm

1 pm - 5 pm

5 pm – 9 pm

In return for your time volunteering, we will provide free admission into the Iowa State Fair for the day you work.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Carol Harris at carol.harris@iaumc.org and provide the information requested below:

- Name, Address, City, State and Zip Code. Telephone number where you can be reached during the day.
- The date you are interested in volunteering.
- The shift you are interested in working (morning, afternoon or evening)

Please consider volunteering and sharing the love of Jesus Christ in a fun atmosphere!

Opportunity is Knocking!



If you are someone who enjoys children and has been looking for a way to get involved with worship at Grace, we have an exciting opportunity for you! We're looking for volunteers to be part of a cadre of folks willing to lead the Children's Message each Sunday morning. Pastor Jan has a resource available for you to use and encourages your participation in the worship leadership experience. Contact Cathy in the church office if this service ministry is one that is calling your name!

Volunteers are needed!



We continue to need people to mow the church lawns through the summer and fall months. If you would like to serve by mowing, please sign up in the Narthex.

The "U" in Jesus

Before **U** were thought of
or time had begun,
God stuck **U** in the name of His Son.

And each time **U** pray,
you'll see it's true,
You can't spell out Jes**Us**
and not include **U**.

You're a pretty big part of His
wonderful name,
For **U**, He was born;
that's why He came.

And His great love for **U** is
the reason He died.
It even takes **U** to spell cr**U**cified.
Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead,
with **U** in His plan?

The stones split away,
the gold tr**U**mpet blew,
and this word res**U**rrrection is
spelled with a **U**.

When Jes**Us** left earth at
His **U**pward ascension,
He felt there was one thing
He just had to mention.

'Go into the world and
tell them it's tr**U**e
That I love them all –
Just like I love **U**.'

So many great people are
spelled with a **U**,
Don't they have a right to
know Jes**Us** too?

It all depends now on what **U** will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with **U**.

**Deadline for submitting
Visitor information is the 20th
of each month. Information
for the weekly bulletin is due
in the office by noon on
Wednesdays**

Thanks!



The farewell reception was lovely and much appreciated by Pastor Medea. Thanks to the following people for working together to make it happen: Erma & Gene Schaeffer, Gloria Sampson, Sharla Mander, Cathy & Mark Hermanson, Bobbie & Ty Gustafson, Mike & Patsy Jensen, Denise & Kurt Carlson, Peg Muxfeldt, Chrissy Semler. Thanks also to all those who came to fellowship and wish Medea well in her new church.

Annual Conference Report

By Pat Danger, 2011 Grace Delegate

The 168th Session of the Iowa Annual Conference was held at the Iowa Events Center, Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines this year under the banner of "Radical Hospitality of Justice."

I'm a first timer at this and I did my best to keep my mouth closed and my eyes and ears open. I also had the help of three wise ladies, with whom I bunked for budget saving purposes, they kept me in line and answered many of my questions.

Dr. Michael Slaughter Pastor of the Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio was the Opening worship preacher. He shared his life-long passion to reach the lost and set the oppressed free, which had made him a tireless and leading advocate for the children, women and men of Darfur, Sudan. He also led a laity session and a teaching session.

Rev. Cynthia Wilson did a musical tribute to Bishop Thomas that was awesome, "Bowed on my knees and cried Holy" she also sang "A City Called Glory" for the Memorial Services. If you ever get a chance to hear her sing.....don't hesitate.

We took care of business also, voting on the budget, voted for people to go to the 2012 General and Jurisdictional conferences, and other items. It was interesting watching the pages, and I would encourage youth from our church to apply for the job, it would be a great experience. I brought home paperwork if anyone might be interested. You would need to be in 9th-12th grade. I will remind you again after the first of the year. They will pick four young people from our district.

We received much encouragement to rethink church, get creative and dream big. Love the Lord with all our hearts, reach out to others, and use small groups for our own spiritual growth to name a few. The next Conference will be held in the same place next June.

A Prayer Request



Please remember Mike & Chris Marti, July 3-7, as serve as part of a YouthWorks mission team at Leech Lake Reservation in Minnesota. They'll work with Native American children and do some home repair work.

Did You Know?

By Lynn Henricks



The United Methodist church is made up of several denominations. Our church, established in 1871, stems from the former Evangelical Church, then the United Brethren in Christ, which joined the Evangelical Association in 1946, and finally the Methodist Church with whom the EUB Church joined in 1968. Our church then became Grace United Methodist Church.

The first pastor, Rev. J.F. Yerger, visited homes and preached to groups of people. This was in 1870-1871. Services and Sunday school met at the Center School until 1876 and then met at the public school building in Story City (Fairview). The first Evangelical Church in Story City was a white clapboard church erected in 1883 on the site of the present church building. The second church was built in 1914. The Swan's Opera House known as Swan's Hall (upstairs in the Charlson building) was used for church services during the building of the new church. Then in 1961, the third and current church was built. Thirty-five pastors to date have served our church.

United Methodist Men News

"Victory in Jesus" By Bishop James R. King, Jr.

Every morning I pray for God's kingdom to fill me, every person and every nation.

Men of God, I truly believe that is the will of God for us to grow in faith as disciple of Jesus Christ that the world may be transformed. As people of faith, we look forward with hope and excitement as we are being propelled into a wonderful future knowing firsthand how much God loves us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God is good and merciful and those who receive Gods love have started their faith walk. Immediately the person of faith enters a war zone where the spiritual life is challenged by the ways of the world.

I find it interesting that as soon as Jesus starts his ministry on earth, following his baptism, he was tested by Satan. As we seek to do the work of God with joy and thanksgiving in our hearts, the ways of the world shout back with a loud voice, "We will not give up our ways;" thus begins the spiritual battle.

The Bible teaches us that after Jesus had risen, he met with the disciples and said:

Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

Luke 24:46-49

Jesus reminds us today — just as he did the first disciples — that we need the Holy Spirit to guide us, comfort us and give us strength for growing the kingdom of God (a Christ-like world) because it will not be easy.

A well-known author said, "The average person has 60,000 thoughts per day and of these more than 80 percent are negative." Hurt and pain are pervasive in the world today. The church must recognize that if hurt and pain are not reconciled by God's grace they will have a strong presence in the center of our Christian fellowships. What we are to accomplish as disciples of Jesus Christ cannot be done without the spirit of God empowering us.

The primary purpose of gathering as men of God is to highlight the importance of staying spiritually centered as disciples of Jesus Christ. For when we gather around the

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table or around a missional activity we will bear witness to the challenges of our faith as we point to our battle scars but also as we sing "Victory in Jesus."

Men of God, stay connected to God by practicing the spiritual disciplines of our faith. Gods will for us is good. We must do the rest.

With love,

James R. King, Jr., president
General Commission on UM Men
jking@sgaumc.com

2011 VBS Volunteers!

Leadership/Planning Committee:

Medea Saunders, Erma Schaeffer, Shelly Hart, Gloria Sampson, Christine & Mike Marti Marti, Bobbie Gustafson, Jennfier Haglund, Beckey Witthuhn, Gini Michel

Teachers, Assistants and Villagers

Beckey Witthuhn, Troy Turner, Gloria Sampson, Erma Schaeffer, Kori Crabb, Shelly Hart, Malinda Warwick, Mike Marti, Dan Webster, Julie Jacobson, Alex Gustafson, Caitlin Mander, Jennifer Haglund, Michelle Cook, Bobbie Gustafson, Cathy Hermanson

Kitchen help & Cookie makers

Sharla Mander, Shelley & Natalie Hassebrock, Patsy Jensen, Alyssa Loots, Gini Michel, Cheryl Semler, Leota Berg, Cindy Spurlock, Michelle Cook, Claudia Pauk, Marjorie Dale, Shirley Frandson, Diane Clayberg, Sharon Matson, Ruby Matheason

Offering for VBS totaled \$125.60. The money will go toward buying an animal for Heifer Project International!

NW IOWA RECOVER AND REBUILD

Since the April, 2011 tornados that caused storm damage along a path over 70 miles long, much clean-up and recovery has happened. Thousands of volunteers from all over the Midwest stepped up to help.



Now we are entering the rebuilding stage f recovery. Many families had insurance and are well on the way to rebuilding. However there are many who still need our help.

In Mapleton we have identified 19 families that will be needing help with all stages of rebuilding.

If you have the ability to: frame a wall, insulate, shingle, paint, hang siding, caulk windows, or run a power washer we have a place for you. If you are available to help for a day or more please contact Pastor Catie Newman 712-899-4067 or johnstruckfarm@wiatel.net

In the Nemaha/Varina/Ware/Fonda Tri-County Area there is a need for brush removal and a wood chipper. Several homes will be re-built and there is still a need for clean-up and moving larger debris. If you are able to volunteer for a day or several days please contact Pastor Carl Bengé 712-660-0546 or by email ckbenge@umc777.org

SEND A KID TO CAMP, The United Methodist Camp at Okoboji has offered that ANY children in any of the storm affected towns, can come to camp At No Cost. Children react to trauma in very different ways than adults. We want to help all the children who have lived thru the storm to find peace and put the fear of that night away. Please consider helping to Send a Kid to Camp. Donations can be sent to the camp with the notation "Send a Kid to Camp"

Financial support is still needed as we head into rebuilding. If you are able to support rebuilding financially please send your contribution to the Iowa Annual Conference, Advance Special #223. Any other questions can be directed to Judi Calhoun at the NW District Office 712-732-0812.

Blessings to you this summer, please keep the communities on the western edge of the state in your prayers.

John and Catie Newman
NW District Disaster Response Coordinators
712-899-4067 or 712-874-3247

Parsonage Preparation



Thank you to the many volunteers who found time to come help prepare the parsonage for Pastor Jan.

Thanks to our faithful Trustees Ty Gustafson, Ron Cook, Kurt Carlson, Shelley Turner, and Dave Baker for spearheading the project. A complete list of all helpers will appear in the August *Visitor*.

Think About This!



When I was younger, I wanted to change the world. I found it was difficult to change the world, so

I tried to change my nation.

When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as I got older, I tried to change my family.

Now, as an older person, I realize the only thing I can change is myself.

I've suddenly realized that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family.



My family and I could have made an impact on our town.

Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world. Author Unknown

June 13, 2011 Council Meeting

PRESENT - Chairperson: Gini Michel; **SPRC:** Denise Carlson; **Finance:** Candi Holm; **Mission:** George Sellers; **At Large:** Mark Hermanson; **Secretary:** Cathy Hermanson

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by chairman, Gini Michel. The minutes were approved.

Committee Reports

Lay Leadership/Nominations – Troy sent a report that Cathy Hermanson has agreed to serve as Sunday School Superintendent for one year.

Trustees – Ty was unable to be present at the meeting, but sent a report: 1) Planning is taking place on the parsonage change over. Bids are being accepted for kitchen updates, drywall repair, garage door replacement and main level washer/dryer setup. Fund raising may need to take place to help with costs. Cleaning days have been determined to be June 28th and 29th. Requests for help have been presented during worship on June 12th and sent out via email. 2) The second bid for A/V upgrades has been received. Once the parsonage changes are completed, the Trustees will put together the proposal for council review. Trustee investments need to be reviewed to determine funding available. The Trustees will be picking up donations of TVs and DVD players for use at the church.

Finance – Candi reported her committee's June meeting has been rescheduled for July 13 at 6:30 p.m. hopefully with Pastor Jan Burnett.

UMW – **Pie & Ice Cream Social** – Erma sent a preliminary report indicating a total profit of \$2,427.49. Just over a third of that money will go toward the Amazing Grace Fund with the remainder to UMW projects.

Mission – George reported Grace Church sent 2 complete flood buckets, 4 birthing kits and 38 hand towels to Annual Conference this year. In addition, through special giving in the months of May and June, enough money was received to purchase TWO (2) P.E.T. vehicles! School kits for the Thanksgiving Ingathering will be our mission focus beginning in July.

At Large – Mark reported PowerChurch 11 is up and running on both Cathy and Marcia's computers. An off-site back up service was added just three days before Cathy's computer died. A new computer was donated and has been installed to replace the dead computer.

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