



Volume V5

# Lovilia Circuit Writer

Pastor Jill Leveck



May 2006

## ..:In This Issue:..

■ Pastor's Column.....	1
■ Reader's Corner.....	2
■ LUMC News.....	2
■ Birthdays and Anniversaries.....	2
■ Youth Group.....	2
■ Parish News.....	2
■ Bible School.....	2
■ Bible Study on Revelation.....	3
■ United Methodist Men .....	3
■ May Fellowship Day.....	3
■ Chicken Noodle Supper.....	3
■ Parish Youth.....	3
■ Thoughts and Prayers.....	3
■ Beyond the Local Church.....	3
■ Need For At-Large Members.....	3
■ Ottumwa District Conference....	3
■ Habitat Building.....	4
■ Report on Listening Session.....	4
■ Mission Minute.....	4

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

Right after Easter, Kevin and I attended a Pastors and Spouses Conference at Northwestern College in Orange City. We were surrounded by Dutch men and women of the Reformed tradition and were probably the only United Methodists in attendance. But it didn't matter for we had in common the fact that we all claimed the same Lord and seek to serve Him using the gifts we've been given. It was a wonderful experience! Daniel Block, the author of a number of Old Testament commentaries and a consultant on one of the most recent translations of Scripture, was the featured speaker. His enthusiasm for the Old Testament was contagious. In his three lectures, he talked about the law, the joy of worship and Moses as a paradigm of leadership.

The second lecture took place as part of the college's regular weekly chapel service. Getting to the chapel a bit early, we had a chance to soak up the atmosphere. The ceiling that reached for the sky had metalwork rafters that looked like giant tinker toys connected together. The balcony that wrapped around three sides and the various levels and layers were reminiscent of the box seats in old time theatres.

Students sporting Mohawk hairdos and wearing everything from sweats to their 'Sunday best' slipped in close to the 11:00 starting time. When the first sounds poured forth from the praise band (drums, guitar, violin and baby grand) the sanctuary was literally wall-to-wall people. And you know, we really worshiped. Dr. Block spoke/preached on the nature of true worship and focused on Moses' final address to the Hebrew people. At the very heart of worship is God; our task is to praise Him as our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

All of life should be an expression of worship, but we set aside special times to gather and, in community send our praises and our prayers heavenward. If we are absent from that fellowship, there is something missing from the rest of the week. Without that time together, the other six days seem somehow out of tune and we are out of step. Moses knew that when the people settled in the Promised Land they would be tempted to forget about worship in the clamor of other things demanding their time and their energy. He sought to impress this need for worship on the hearts and minds of his people.

We are starting the last leg of the school year. In a few short weeks, summer begins. Many will be taking vacations from work and from home. Our need to maintain the Sabbath rhythm and to fellowship with other Christians does not, however, go on hiatus and God, thankfully, never takes a vacation. If you go away, visit another community of faith and worship with them. If you stay home, remember that this day and every day is a day to praise the Lord. See you at worship.



## Reader's Corner

About one hundred and fifty years ago, Ralph Waldo Emerson observed, "things are in the saddle and ride mankind." That hasn't changed all that much in the twenty first century except maybe in the variety and multitude of 'things' available to us. Many labor to have those things and then are working so much that they don't have time to enjoy them. We live by the Puritan work ethic - but it's not working. Too often, we're tired, stressed out and wondering when things will change.

Embracing the fact that we cannot live by bread alone, returning to an understanding and renewed appreciation of Sabbath can help us regain a balance for our roller coaster lives. Donna Schaper, a United Church of Christ pastor married to a Jewish man, goes back to the Old Testament roots of Sabbath to explore what it would mean to live by a "Sabbath Sense" which is, in fact, the title of her book.

On the seventh day of creation, God rested thereby stamping the importance of Sabbath on the very beginning of things. Laws were instituted making every seventh year a time to rest the land and, after every seven times seven years, a Jubilee was proclaimed that would signal new beginnings and second chances for one and all.

Sabbath instills within us a rhythm that has been lost in our fast-paced world. One illustration that brought back the 'good old days' was Rev. Schaper's discussion of a woman's workweek in bygone days. On Monday, the clothes were washed and hung out to dry. That was the routine, the rhythm of life. There was a sense of ownership of time that has slipped from our grasp.

As the book progresses, more and more petals are added to the flower of Sabbath and areas such as the strategy of 'unplanning' and the need to 'unclutter' both our homes and ourselves are unfolded. There are many little gems of wisdom in this book, which is from a recent UMW reading list. Why not read it and shed some light on some of those jewels.

## LUMC News

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### MAY

- 1 ~ Sharon Waters
- 3 ~ Aaron Lennie
- 13 ~ Lisa Gilkerson, Lisa Weldon
- 16 ~ Thomas Dunkin, Kenny Ross
- 17 ~ Frieda Davis, Hunter Hastings
- 24 ~ Ashley Allison
- 25 ~ Gloria Owens
- 30 ~ Lily Hastings
- 31 ~ Norma Barnes

## YOUTH GROUP

Our youth group was very busy during April. We went roller-skating in Oskaloosa, helped folks in the church clean up their yards, led the Easter Sunrise Service and helped with the Outreach committee's Easter egg hunt for all the children of the community. Special thanks to Bill & Connie Barnes and Pastor Jill for participating in all four activities and to Dawn and Kevin Maughan for helping with the clean up and roller-skating. Support of parents is crucial to having an active and thriving group. Thank you again!

## Parish News

### Bible School

Watch your bulletins and the June newsletter for details about our parish Bible School this summer. Sarah Williams will again take charge and has arranged for a meeting for those interested on May 11th at 7:00PM at the Bussey church. If you would like to be a part of Bible School, contact Pastor Jill at home or leave a message on the machine at the office in Bussey.

## Bible Study on Revelation

If you're not attending the parish Bible Study on the book of Revelation, you're missing good thought provoking discussions and a strong fellowship opportunity. It's not too late to come on Sunday evenings at 6:00PM to the Lovilia Church. However, we will not meet on mother's Day or graduation Sunday.

## United Methodist Men

Ward Bonnett has ordered enough wood to make parts for about eighty PET mobiles. So we'll soon be able to begin construction. What an incredible opportunity it will be for us to show Christian love and concern to folks in need.

A big thank you to the Dale Barnhills for their powerful presentation at the April meeting to which the women were invited. The pictures and commentary about the situation in the New Orleans area was a real eye opener.

Remember, the special treat for the May meeting will be freshly picked and cooked mushrooms.

## May Fellowship Day

Church Women United will meet for May Fellowship Day on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> for a potluck meeting/luncheon at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia (Noon). Bring your own table service. Program will follow. All churches are invited to attend.

## Chicken Noodle Supper

Thanks to everyone who made our Chicken Noodle Supper a great success. Our profit totaled around \$1200. Thanks for all the wonderful help from so many people including the youth. Our apologies to the three ladies who came after we had run out of food. God richly blessed our efforts.

## Parish Youth

To get our parish youth group (grades 7-12) off and running for next fall, we will be having several events this summer which may include an Iowa Cubs baseball game with a peek behind the scenes at the stadium (pastor Jill's daughter Anne is an intern in the TV/radio booth there) and a barbeque to 'get acquainted.' Watch your bulletins and the mail for further information on times and dates.



Thelma Smith, Warren Jones, Donnie Tucker, John Waters, Scott Hugen, Lyle Hugen,

Rylee and Olivia Haas, Margaret Conner, Ralph Bryant, Lois Walter.

## Beyond the Local Church

### Need for At-Large Members

There are still several openings for at large district members to Annual Conference in Ames in June. If you would like to apply, call the district office at 641-682-9655 or email [barbara.Kiple@iaumc.org](mailto:barbara.Kiple@iaumc.org) This would give you a vote and a chance to see how our denomination functions.

### Ottumwa District Conference

The District Conference will be held on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00AM-1:00PM at the Willard Street United Methodist Church in Ottumwa. All pastors are expected to attend and lay members to annual conference are encouraged to do so. Some of the proposed legislation will be discussed and the District Committee on Ordained Ministry, of which pastor Jill is a member, will give a report.

## Annual Conference Habitat Building Project

If you would like to participate in the construction or donate funds for the building materials for the Habitat for Humanity house that will be built in Ames the week of Annual Conference, contact Pastor Jill or Rick Hoy (who is a conference delegate).

## Report on Listening Session

On April 2nd, Pastors Kevin and Jill attended one of the listening sessions that were held to give information and provide an opportunity for discussion about what the task force established to study apportionments has discovered.

They looked at annual conferences throughout the nation to get ideas on how we can make our annual conference fairer in terms of apportionments. It will be interesting to see what comes of this research in the next few years. Pastor Jill has been giving info that is more detailed at the monthly Board and Ad Council meetings. If you want more details or have questions, contact Pastor Jill.



## Mission Minute

### A Little Bit About This and That

Are you saving your shoeboxes and watching for sales on children's items to fill them for our Operation Christmas Child activity? I have about 20 empty boxes in my office if you need one and, if you have some, leave them outside my door. I think our parish can fill at least one hundred this year - don't you?

I receive newsletters regularly from a number of missionaries around the world. Some are United Methodist, some are Quakers and some are with the World Gospel Mission - but they are all serving the Lord.

When I was growing up, I thought of missionaries as men and women who carried Bibles around and figuratively, at least, hung out a shingles advertising 'missionary in residence. Very often, I am learning, that is not the way it is. For instance, Andrea Byrne is doing mission work in Aguascalientes, Mexico. After fixing up and then moving into an apartment in the city, she started becoming a part of the community. A new acquaintance heard her play on her horn and suggested that she meet the conductor of the town's symphony orchestra. She was invited to become a part of the group and for her the most exciting part is the ministry potential. One of the other musicians for example asked if Christians were allowed to play Classical music that was not specifically Christian. That opened the door for Andrea to share her Christian witness.

In many cases, individuals or families are planted in various settings and called upon to bloom, to reach out to those around them by being Christ like in word and deed. When you think about it, we can do that right here in Southern Iowa. I guess that makes us all missionaries. How are you fulfilling your mission?