

JULY, 2010 MFSA Iowa Chapter MEMO

Banquet and March are Highlights of 2010 Annual Conference:

Well over 200 people were challenged, inspired and entertained by Dr. Barbara Lundblad's address at MFSA's Annual Awards Banquet at Annual Conference. Her topic, "They Say You Can't Command People to Love, (except, Jesus Did)" included comments on many of the issues facing followers of Jesus today. (Transcript of her address is on MFSA's web site at: www.mfsaiowa.org.) Social Action Awards were presented to Doug and Rita Swan, of Bronson, and to Paul and Janet Linn, of West Des Moines. On Monday of Annual Conference over 300 people joined in the March for Peace and Social Justice, sponsored jointly by MFSA and the Board of Church and Society. Led by Bishop Trimble, 12-year-old peace activist, Frankie Hughes, and Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie, the march began at Hy-Vee Hall and proceeded to Nollen Plaza in downtown Des Moines, where a brief prayer service was held. There the Bishop reminded us that we have a "script" to follow in determining our position on issues such as immigration, war and peace, and others. A video of the Bishop's remarks can be viewed at:

http://www.ourchurchvideos.com/50321/iaumc/view_video.php?viewkey=71ff252c1903e7132cd6

A story about the March can be found at: <http://www.iaumc.org/news/detail/379>. Pictures of the Banquet and March can be found at: <http://www.iaumc.org/galleries/detail/35>. More information about these exciting events, along with the quotes from the service at Nollen Plaza, can also be found on MFSA's web site: www.mfsaiowa.org. **DVD's of both the Banquet and the March will be available in mid-July from Communications Services, 2301 Rittenhouse Street, Des Moines, IA 50321, Attn.: Darci Hartman.** Cost for each is \$20.00.

MFSA North Central Jurisdictional Gathering in Madison:

The Wisconsin MFSA will be hosting the **August 27-28** gathering of the North Central Jurisdiction MFSA in **Madison, Wisconsin**. The meeting will start early Friday evening and conclude by early afternoon on Saturday. It will be held at Trinity UMC, 1123 Vilas Avenue (608-257-4591), <http://tumcmadison.org/> There is much to see and do in Madison and Dane County, so you may want to bring along your family or partner for the entire weekend. A block of rooms has been reserved in the Super 8 Madison South for the nights of August 26, 27, 28 at a cost of \$62.99 plus tax. **Reservation cutoff date is July 26, to receive the special rate.** Please indicate that you wish to reserve a room in the "MFSA Group." To register, please contact Steve Zekoff at: szekoff@charter.net. Let's have a good delegation from Iowa!

Pastors for Peace "Cuba Caravan:"

Pastors for Peace will be traveling through Iowa July 9th and 10th on their way to taking humanitarian aid to Cuba. They want to call attention to a bill in Congress which would completely end the travel ban to Cuba. They are scheduled to be in **Sioux City on Friday, July 9th at 7:00 pm at First Unitarian Church, 2508 Jackson St.** Refreshments will be served, and a free will offering will be taken. For more information, go to SiouxlandPeaceCoalition.com or PastorsforPeace.org. They will be in **Ames, at Brookside Park, Linden Shelter at 1:00 PM on Saturday, July 10th, and in Des Moines on Saturday, July 10th, at 7:00 pm at Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting House, 4211 Grand Avenue.** Contact DM Valley Friends for more information at 515-274-4717.

"Papers" To Be Shown: The documentary, "Papers," will be shown on **Wednesday, July 14th, at 6:30 PM at Grace UMC, 3700 Cottage Grove, in Des Moines.** It will include stories of undocumented immigrants and emphasize the urgent need for comprehensive and compassionate immigration reform. MFSA is a co-sponsor of this event.

Siouxland Peace Coalition: The monthly planning meeting of the Siouxland Peace Coalition will be held on **Saturday, July 17th, 10:00 – 11:30 AM** at **Clare House**, 1918 Douglas, in Sioux City.

Look. Don't Look: A prose reading by national and state award winning writer and Lakewood native, Paula Bosco Damon. It will be held at **Open Door United Church of Christ**, 511 S. Lewis Blvd., in **Sioux City** on Sunday, **July 18th, at 7:00 PM.**

Kathy Kelly to Speak: Kathy Kelly will speak at **Grace UMC**, 3700 Cottage Grove, in Des Moines on **Friday, July 30th, at 7:30 PM.** She is the co-coordinator for Voices for Creative Nonviolence in Chicago and a Nobel Peace Prize nominee. She recently returned from Pakistan and Afghanistan. Her topic is, "Ground the Drones, Lest We Reap the Whirlwind."

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Observance: The Annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Observance will be held on **Monday, August 9th, at 7:30 PM** at the **Japanese Bell** on the Capitol grounds in Des Moines. MFSA is a co-sponsor of this event.

Dialogue on the Serious Decline of the US Economy: Philip E. Wheaton, Episcopal Priest and Latin American Historian, Director of EPICA (Ecumenical Program on Central America and the Caribbean), and author, will join Gil Dawes, UM pastor, Missionary to Latin America, Director of Renewing Rural Iowa project of PrairieFire Rural Action, and author, in a dialogue on the "Serious Decline of the US Economy: Corporate Greed, Speculative Betrayal and Banking Deceit." The event will be held in the **Winterset Public Library**, 123 North 2nd St, on Monday, **August 9th, at 7:00 PM.** For more information, contact Gil at: gildawes@aol.com.

Coming This Fall! MFSA's Fall Regional Gatherings will focus on the Council of Bishops' Call to "Hope and Action for God's Good Creation." Where are the signs that creation is in crisis? How are they related? Where are signs of hope? What is our role in renewal? Watch for dates and locations in the August E-Mail Memo and join us at one of the gatherings for a discussion of these urgent questions.

Check It Out! MFSA's web site, www.mfsaiowa.org, contains articles, links, actions to take and places to go. Watch for news of the 2010 Annual Awards Banquet, and the March for Peace and Social Justice at Annual Conference. Check it out!

Please Send Information: We want to publicize **events around the state** that might be of interest to MFSA folk. Please send information about events in your area by the last week of each month for the next month's E-Mail Memo. You can contact me at: ecranke@mchsi.com

Questions about Membership? Contact Mike Biklen at 515 East Eleventh St., Muscatine, IA 52761, or by phone at: 563-263-1439, or by e-mail at: wmbiklen@juno.com. Memberships can be sent to Mike at this address. Other contributions should be sent to Brian Carter, 7218 El Rancho Ave., Windsor Heights, IA