

JUNE 2010 MFSA Iowa Chapter MEMO

MFSA Banquet and Awards Night

Don't miss this opportunity to hear **Dr. Barbara Lundblad**, Joe R. Engle Professor of Preaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Her topic will be, "**They Say You Can't Command People to Love (Except Jesus Did)**." The Banquet will be held on **Sunday, June 6th, at 5:30 PM at Scottish Rite Consistory**, 519 Park Street in Des Moines (easy walking distance from Hy-Vee Hall). **Awards** will be given to **Doug and Rita Swan**, members of Grace UMC in Sioux City and to **Paul and Janet Linn**, members of West Des Moines UMC.

Bishop Trimble and Frankie Hughes to Lead March!

Bishop Trimble will be joined by 12-year-old Frankie Hughes in leading the March for Peace and Social Justice, sponsored by MFSA and the Conference Board of Church and Society at the **Noon** break on **Monday, June 7th** of Annual Conference. In addition, Des Moines **Mayor Frank Cownie** and hundreds of others will join in lifting a voice on the many peace and justice issues impacting our local, national and world community. The March will begin at Hy-Vee Hall and proceed a short distance to Nollen Plaza (corner of Locust and 3rd Street) where a brief prayer service will be held. For those attending Annual Conference, there will still be time for folks to get a bite to eat and be back at Hy-Vee Hall in time for the afternoon session. We hope many others from churches and peace groups will bring signs of peace and justice and join us for this exciting event!

Just Partners:

Just Partners invites you to participate in the third annual "**Weekend Work in the City Project**" repairing homes in the inner city of Des Moines. Sponsored by ten UM churches and ministries in the greater Des Moines area, this project is making a difference in the lives of low-income homeowners who are members of one of the inner city churches. This **VIM mini-work trip** experience will be **June 25-27 in Des Moines**. Volunteers of every skill level are needed. They are asked to contribute \$25 to help purchase materials. Donations of materials and grants to purchase materials are also needed. For more information, and to receive an application form, please contact **Brian Carter** at briancar@dwx.com.

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**. 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. Please indicate that you wish to reserve a room in the "MFSA Group."

Discussion with Robyn Mills:

Robyn Mill, of the Iowa Board of Corrections (Des Moines) will lead a discussion on **Tuesday, June 8th**, at **Union Park UMC**, E. 12th and Guthrie, in **Des Moines**. A **meal** is served at **5:30 PM** with **discussion** to follow **from 6:00 – 7:00** (child care provided). Learn about the duties of the Board of Corrections, who they represent and how they influence Iowa criminal justice policy. Organized by Iowa CURE. Contact Jean Basinger at (515) 277-6292 or jabwab@msn.com.

Food Fair:

You are invited to a Food Fair, hosted by Masjid An-Noor mosque (Des Moines) on **Saturday, June 12th, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM** at the **Masjid An-Noor parking lot**, 1117 42nd St. in Des Moines. This is an opportunity to foster the inter-faith connection. The women from Masjid-An-Noor will appreciate the time you take to come to it, and bring as many friends as possible!

Immigration Reform & Iowa's Economy:

A talk by Raul Hinojosa and Dan Griswold will be held at **First Christian Church**, 25th and University in **Des Moines** on Thursday, **June 17th**. There's also a reception at Davis Brown Law Firm, 215 10th St, Suite 1300, 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Cost for the reception: \$50. The talk is free. Contact Geof Fischer at [\(515\) 471-8058](tel:515-471-8058) or info@iowaimmigrationinformation.org.

Public Forum on Torture: In cooperation with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), the Siouxland Peace coalition recognizes **Torture Awareness Month** with a public forum on Monday, **June 28th, at 6:30 PM**, in the Gleeson Room, **Aalfs Public Library**, 6th and Pierce, in **Sioux City**. The forum will include a 20 minute DVD from NRCAT and a n interfaith discussion. All are welcome to this free event.

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 **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.

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