

### Funding and the Decision Making-Process

For the past several years, the CUMC/WF Endowment Board has funded a special project to raise CUMC/WF awareness of the existence of the Endowment Fund and to make an impact on the visibility and effective ministry of the church/foundation. In recent years, the Endowment Board gift has funded new windows in the church apartment (occupied by the Campus Ministry Associate), a number of *The Faith We Sing* hymnals, one year's worth of color bulletin covers, and the landscaping in the courtyard.

This year, pending approval by the Board of Trustees/Property Committee, the Endowment Board intends to underwrite the bulk of the project for the new Gilgal landscaping and rain garden, as designed by Bill Boon. Other gifts and in-kind donations will pay for the balance. There are several opportunities for fitting memorial gifts within the space (for example, the engraved stone, wildflower and other plantings); if you have a loved one you would like memorialized in this way, please contact Rev. Scott Grotewold.

A Charge All-Church Conference is required for projects that cost more than 10% of the value of the church buildings and property. Because the total cost of the Gilgal project (\$10,000-\$15,000) is only about 0.08-0.13% of the value of the CUMC/WF building and property (estimated at \$11,590,000), no Church Conference is required. The Board of Trustees and Property Committee will make the decision whether to proceed at their regular monthly meeting on August 5; church members should let Trustees/Property members know of any input prior to that date.

If the measure passes, construction of the Gilgal will begin soon after. The typically dry month of August is considered the optimum time for this kind of work. The Endowment Board, which has expressed its general approval of the project, will officially release the funds at its August 18 meeting.

*The vision of Collegiate United Methodist Church/Wesley Foundation is to encourage, educate, challenge, comfort, support, and nurture person as they become disciples of Christ.*

# The Collegiate United Methodist Church/Wesley Foundation Communicator

## THE GILGAL

(A Gilgal means a ring of stones.)

**“Joshua then erected twelve stones in the mid-Jordan on the spot where the feet of the priests carrying the ark of the covenant had stood, and they are still there today.”**

— **Joshua 4:9**

commanded each of the twelve tribes of Israel to place a stone mid-river as a testament to God's power and goodness and as a place for future discussion and meeting. (Sometimes the river ran full of water, and sometimes it was a dry bed.)

At their August 5, 2010, meeting, The Board of Trustees and Property Committee of CUMC/WF will decide the fate of a landscaping proposal that will recall this ancient story while providing holy ground for remembrance and discussion, beautifying our property, and creating a rain garden — which the City of Ames encourages.

Because the CUMC/WF building sits on a natural spring, proper and efficient water drainage is important. The ring of stones sitting in a sometimes-wet, sometimes-dry locale seems especially apropos.

The design for The Gilgal was drawn by Bill Boon, retired Iowa State University professor of landscape architecture and member of CUMC/WF.

On the inside pages, you can become more familiar with The Gilgal plan details. If you have questions you wish to have answered, you are encouraged to contact Bill Boon or Rev. Scott Grotewold. Then, please contact Trustees/Property Members to express your support or concerns prior to their August 5 meeting.

The people of Israel had waited and wandered in the Sinai wilderness for 40 years before they could cross the Jordan River to move into their new home: The Promised Land. When, at last, they did, their leader — Joshua —



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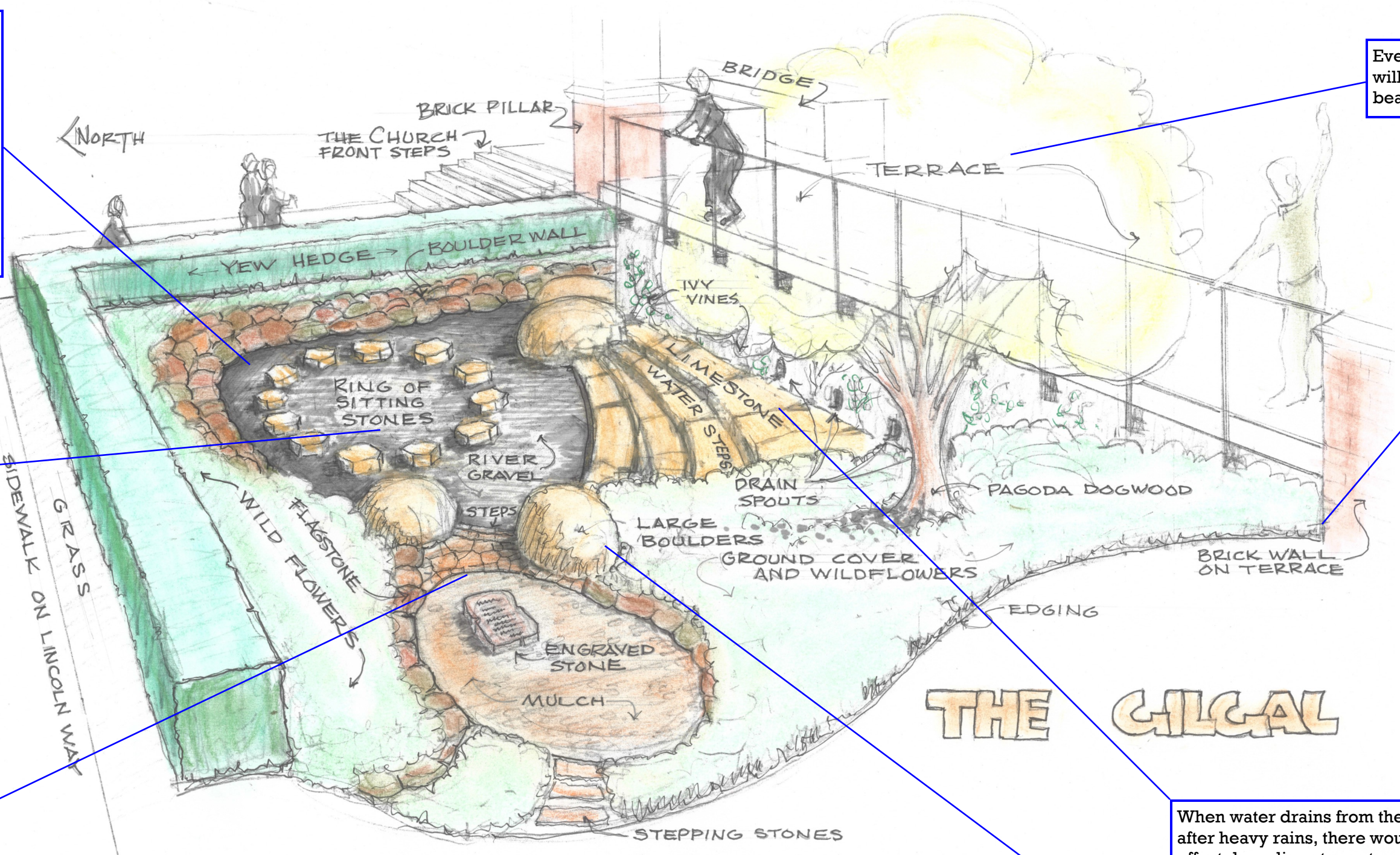
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For more information or to express support or concern, please contact one of the following people: Rev. Scott Grotewold ([scott@cwames.org](mailto:scott@cwames.org) or 292-6936); Bill Boon, Project Designer ([becre8v@mchsi.com](mailto:becre8v@mchsi.com) or 232-4392); Mary Jean Baker, C/W Watershed Team Leader ([bakerae@aol.com](mailto:bakerae@aol.com) or 296-0481); Patty King Board of Trustees/Property Committee Chair ([pjking@netins.net](mailto:pjking@netins.net) or 292-3831; or another of these Trustees/Property members: Jim Sheets ([jm2frames@aol.com](mailto:jm2frames@aol.com)), Ben Hucker ([bhucker@iastate.edu](mailto:bhucker@iastate.edu)), Jonathan Brand ([jonathan\\_brand@hotmail.com](mailto:jonathan_brand@hotmail.com)), Linda Church ([applecat42@yahoo.com](mailto:applecat42@yahoo.com)), Roger Ginder ([ginder@iastate.edu](mailto:ginder@iastate.edu)), Heather Morris ([hfoxmorris@yahoo.com](mailto:hfoxmorris@yahoo.com)), Carl Arbuckle ([arbuckle@mail.com](mailto:arbuckle@mail.com)), Bob & Bonna Pinneke ([bbpin2u@msn.com](mailto:bbpin2u@msn.com)), Peter Lundeen ([plundeen@iastate.edu](mailto:plundeen@iastate.edu)), or Devlin Ackerman ([dev@huxcomm.net](mailto:dev@huxcomm.net))

Mary Jean Baker, Team Leader of the CUMC/WF Watershed Team, says, "Rain gardens are very important in urban areas. They process storm water runoff from impervious surfaces. By infiltrating the water, they help prevent flooding, erosion and pollution. The proposed Gilgal garden would process runoff from the new addition, the courtyard and the terrace, as well as outflow from sump pumps."

In addition to the Joshua story about the circle of twelve stones — representing the twelve tribes of Israel — the number 12 has additional significance as the number of Jesus' closest disciples, and the number of persons John Wesley recommended within the earliest Methodist societies for prayer, discussion, and accountability.

There would be excavation to the current yard, so that there would be a sense of "going down into" the Gilgal garden. A yew hedge and wildflower plantings would give a feeling of protection and sanctuary, providing a setting for individual prayer or group study or discussion. An engraved stone would carry the verse from the Book of Joshua (see front page) informing newcomers of the purpose of the sacred space. Motion-detector lights would provide light and protect the space after dark.



Events on the terrace will overlook this beautiful new space.

Note that the planned landscaping extends across the front of the church from the front steps leading into the sanctuary on the east to the end of the iron railing toward the west end of the terrace. About half of the front yard is utilized; there will be green lawn from in front of the brick wall on the terrace to the sidewalk along Lincoln Way and west 45 feet to the sidewalk entrance into the west wing.

From the Ames Rain Garden Rebate Program document about Smart Watersheds for Clean Rivers and Streams: "A rain garden (storm water garden) is a garden that captures rain from roofs, driveways and yards and is planted to native and/or horticultural flowers. It is a depression or shallow bowl made in the landscape that is level from side to side and end to end, filled with soil and plants. Runoff that travels to a rain garden is temporarily ponded, but it doesn't stay for long. Capturing runoff in a rain garden allows water to infiltrate into the soil rather than run into streets and storm drains. Dirty runoff that enters storm drains is sent directly to your neighborhood streams, lakes or wetlands." The proposed Gilgal at CUMC/WF is environmentally valuable, while providing an aesthetically pleasing new space for worship and study.

There will be over fifty tons of stone and boulders in the Gilgal — almost all of which will be in pieces of a half-ton or more.

When water drains from the inner courtyard after heavy rains, there would be a waterfall effect down limestone steps into the area of the circle of stones itself. This would make the circle of sitting stones unusable as a meeting place for a while, until the water percolates or seeps safely into the ground or evaporates. The bed of the Gilgal garden will be a depth of several feet of gravel, river rock, and other permeable materials allowing for effective storm water management.