

The

# Communicator

Connecting People



**Wise Talk for the  
New Year** p. 4



## Picture Page

# Christmas Celebrations



1. The Music Men making a special appearance at the annual Bells and Brass Concert. 2. Caden Olson, son of Mandy and Grant, a future bell player in the making. 3. Collegiate Brass. 4. The Kaizer family offering special music during the Candlelight and Carols service. 5. The Murphy family and the lighting of the Christ candle on Christmas Eve. 6. The Alumni Bell Choir offering special music at the Candlelight Communion service.

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**[cwames.org](http://cwames.org)**

## Bulletin and Weekly Email Announcements Deadline

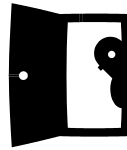
9:00 a.m. Wednesdays

Send Bulletin submissions to

[n\\_rekemeyer@qwest.net](mailto:n_rekemeyer@qwest.net)

Send Weekly Email submissions to

[wil@cwames.org](mailto:wil@cwames.org)



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## About *The Communicator*

*The Communicator* is a monthly publication of Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation. The goal of *The Communicator* is to inform and involve people in the life and work of the church.

The Lead Pastor of Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation is Rev. Scott Grotewold.

The Communicator is compiled and produced by Wil Ranney, the Coordinator of Discipleship, Technology, and Communications. It is reviewed by members of the church staff, and printed and distributed by the office staff and a team of dedicated office volunteers.

### **The deadline for *The Communicator* is the first Wednesday of every month**

For your convenience, *The Communicator* has its own email address:

[communicator@cwames.org](mailto:communicator@cwames.org). This is the preferred method for submissions to *The Communicator*.

Cover: "The Three Wise People" from our Re-Gifting Epiphany Party. They were portrayed by (from right to left) Amanda Heeren, Mike King, and Bob Farr.

# Wise Talk for the New Year

## Interview by Wil Ranney

I interviewed Linda Butler about her dreams for the church in 2009. She started by telling me about a book, "Testament of Devotion" by Thomas Kelly. She reads a passage from it every time she faces transition in life.

*There is an experience of the eternal breaking into time, which transforms all life into a miracle of faith and action. Unspeakable, profound, and full of glory as an inward experience, it is the root of concern for all creation, the true ground of social endeavor. This inward Life and the outward Concern ...ought to be described simultaneously, but linear sequence and succession of words is our inevitable lot, and (this) compels us to treat separately what is not separate: first, the Eternal Now and the Temporal Now, and second, the Nature and Ground of Social Concern.*

**Wil:** Do you have a special memory from 2008?

**Linda:** To me, it was marvelous when the church was full that one Sunday morning and we asked all those that participate in a ministry of the church to step forward, and nearly two-thirds of the people stepped forward (pictured below). Also, the discipleship fair was outstanding. And, despite all the bad financial news, the congregation continues to give - 63 people increased their pledges for 2009

and only 25 lowered their pledges. Also, there were 27 new pledges.

Another special memory was working with the Vision Scribes for the visioning process called "Now is the Time". They did an outstanding job and were faithful to the process and produced a useful document.

**Wil:** Where do you see the church being in terms of spirituality and discipleship

**Linda:** I see people craving closer, more spiritual relationships with self, God, and others. Because of that yearning, I see the congregation forming more small groups for growth, Christian community, and spiritual formation. They are "cared for people who care for people". Part of that is claiming your gifts, claiming God's call in your life. Everyone has a call.

**Wil:** What do you see as the biggest opportunity for this year?

**Linda:** I just got a flashback. I am reminded of when St. Luke's, the church I served in Newton, had just announced their campaign to start an afterschool program and hire a paid director when, five days later, Maytag announced they were closing. The church talked about it, but decided to move forward with their ministry in order to be a beacon to the town. I believe that's what we are called to do now—to be a beacon of hope in a frightened world. We need to keep in front of us that our portfolios are only paper and the needs are real. There are ministries in the world that we need to be a part of.



In the next year, I hope that we as a congregation will get behind the idea of a community health center and other AMOS initiatives.

The program clusters have had to reduce the dollars in the budget, but no program lines were eliminated. The ministry plan is still intact, and the motivation is even greater. I'm noticing a strong sense of pulling together and being more creative about where we need to be.

**Wil:** What about your work with Leadership Development?

**Linda:** The Committee on Lay Leadership is a wonderful team of people who gather together for spiritual formation and learning around the areas of leadership. We are using the book *Faithquest* and Gilbert Rendle's *Leading Change in the Congregation*.

**Wil:** What is the biggest insight you've gotten from Gil's book?

**Linda:** The rollercoaster of change and change management. We get the high of being very excited about new things and suddenly there is a sense of disorientation and loss, as we feel the loss of the "good ol' days." We are always on this rollercoaster. Recognizing that this is normal and natural and helps us in our spiritual journey. Leading through that change is helping people grow.

**Wil:** What about the Thomas Kelly book?

**Linda:** Faith and action—we have too long separated these two. The Committee on Lay Leadership used to be called Nominations – we would fill slots and wonder why people weren't growing spiritually. Committee on Lay Leadership's focus is on leadership development and sees every single group as a small group for spiritual formation. Each group is an opportunity for worship

and an opportunity to grow. For example, because a person is a trustee, s/he should have grown closer to God and grown in love of self, God, and the other. I don't think a lot of people even perceive themselves as spiritual leaders. That is, they don't perceive themselves as spiritual beings, and thus they don't perceive themselves as spiritual leaders.

**Wil:** Do you have a personal goal for 2009 that we (the congregation) can help you with?

**Linda:** I am enrolled in the two-year Academy for Spiritual Formation. My personal covenant is to spend more time journaling, writing the words, my conversation with God, down on paper. In the past it was very easy to journal about my transition from married life to divorced life, but lately I haven't done a lot of journaling. The congregation is supporting me in this through my continuing education fund.

**Wil:** So, I guess you would like to say "thank you" to the congregation for that.

**Linda:** YES, thank you. Thank you for the financial support and allowing me to have the time to do this.

**Wil:** Tell us a little about the Spiritual Academy. What do you do in addition to Journaling?

**Linda:** Our group of 50 will spend 40 days over two years –five days, eight times. We all have a covenant group, and I need to read 26 out of 32 books.

**Wil:** What are you looking forward to in your personal life?

**Linda:** I am looking forward to my vacation this summer tent camping in Cape Cod for two weeks and visiting my family in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Ohio.



# Nurturing in the Faith

## Praying for Enemies

**By Janet Stephenson**

Last May, in the Spiritual Formation Class, I circulated an interest finder that asked for suggestions of topics to work on next fall and winter. To my chagrin, “Praying for Enemies,” received several votes. I’ve been avoiding the issue ever since for at least two reasons: 1) I don’t know how to pray for my enemies; and, 2) I don’t WANT to pray for my enemies. Once I decided to pursue the issue I soon realized that I had opened a can of worms leading to such questions as:

- Who are my enemies?
- Why are they my enemies?
- Why do they make me angry?
- Why should I pray for them?
- Do I have to forgive them in order to pray for them?
- Why did Jesus insist that praying for enemies is essential for us?

Some scripture I can interpret in a variety of ways but not this one: Luke 6:27-36. *“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you...Do to others as you would have them do to you...But love your enemies, do good and lend, expecting nothing in return.”* That’s pretty plain. “To you that listen.”

Of course, loving our enemies requires much more energy than the transitory “high” we get from hating them. Frederick Buechner writes: *“Of the Seven Deadly Sins, anger is possibly the most fun. To lick your wounds, to smack your lips over grievances long*

*past, to roll over your tongue the prospect of bitter confrontations still to come, to savor the last toothsome morsel both the pain you are given and the pain you are giving back—in many ways it is a feast fit for a king. The chief drawback is that what you are wolfing down is yourself. The skeleton at the feast is you.”*

Wow! Could Jesus have been saying that unless we can recognize and name our anger and detoxify it and deal with it in a non-destructive way, we will be the ones consumed? That old self-interest thing again.

So, my enemies are the persons who make me angry. Anger arises when we feel we’ve been treated unfairly or when events don’t conform to our idea of how things are supposed to be. Sometimes we want others to change their behavior to conform to our preferences. When we’re ignored we get angry because we feel we are losing control, we are no longer in charge. Becoming angry gives us a sense of control again. In this context, anger is a reaction to our own limitations and powerlessness.

Anger keeps us from seeing things as they really are so we can make loving and good judgments and decisions. Anger can take away our freedom and ability to see ourselves, other people, the world and God as they really are. Our relationships are filtered through the anger.

It must be realized that there is no shame in anger—it’s a human response

Ministry Matters is our monthly article featuring the work of a Program Cluster of the Church.

## Ministry Matters

to hurt. It doesn't mean we're bad or have failed in some way. We shouldn't fear this natural emotion but we cannot ignore it. Anger can be overt or covert. Overt anger can be out of control, and physically and emotionally destructive; covert or suppressed anger can result in depression, cynicism, victimization and resentment. So, we need to think about how we handle this "part of being human" emotion.

How do we express anger? Just look around and you will see a myriad of responses ranging from sarcasm, ridicule, verbal abuse, physical violence, withdrawal, all of which result in negative outcomes.

Until we can deal with the strong feelings anger produces in a rational way it is important for us to release the energy boiling inside us. Have you read an imprecatory Psalm lately? The Psalmist vents his many frustrations on God knowing that God can take it. As E. Glenn Hinson says, "Go into your closet and cuss." Also, we need to keep our mouth shut until we have the capacity to deal with the emotion before we cause hurt to others.

Back to the class, we will work with identifying the various stages of anger ranging from irritation to rage. Briefly: irritations are annoyances that intrude in our lives but do not involve long term aggravations—dripping faucets, etc. Frustration is a more intense stage and results when our goals are blocked, when we are being taken advantage of or hopes are disappointed; hostility or resentment occurs when you are so

hurt that you withdraw or lash out—think of the elder brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son, at this stage there is a physiological reaction—rise in blood pressure, red face, change in voice, etc.; rage is the out of control, often violent expression of feelings.

Now, back to the question of whether or not we have to forgive our enemies in order to pray for them. Paul Jones in a *Weavings* article talks about the corruption of the word "Love" by our culture. Advertisements, TV shows, movies and Valentine's Day all convey the idea that love is a warm, fuzzy, always soft and cushy emotion. If we are to love our enemies in this manner it's a lost cause. Do I have to "like" someone to pray for them? Jones suggests that prayer for enemies can be hypocritical if we have this view of love. No, he says that praying for enemies can take the form of praying that they will have whatever they need to make them whole. This can be an honest and sincere prayer and does not pretend to be warm and fuzzy, only that whatever is keeping the enemy from wholeness can be healed in that person's life.

Glenn Hinson says that, "Praying for enemies is no picnic." Nevertheless, praying for the wholeness of those enemies is a path to our own wholeness.

*Janet Stephenson is the current leader of the Spiritual Formations Sunday School class and can be reached at [jdsteph@isu.net](mailto:jdsteph@isu.net)*



## Keeping Collegiate/Wesley Ready for Ministry

**Interview by Wil Ranney**

*I took some time to sit down with Patty King, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees and Property Committee (also referred to as Property/Trustees) to talk about our facility plans and needs for 2009.*

**Wil:** What is Trustees/Property ministry?

**Patty:** Our ministry is to maintain the facilities so that all other ministries can effectively and efficiently happen. Our job should be seamless so that are facilities look nice and usable for ministry to happen.

**Wil:** How does Trustees/Property work?

**Patty:** We are responsible for maintaining the facilities. As projects are brought to our attention we either volunteer our time to take care of them or we do the necessary process of getting venders and bids. They tell us how much it costs and we decide if we can afford it. We try to do as much [work] as possible inside the church.

**Wil:** Tell me about the specialized groups within Trustees/Property ?

**Patty:** There is a sign task team; furnishings task team, an Annex team and a gardening team of one. The Annex team hardly comes to Trustees/Property because they are so good at doing their job.

**Wil:** Who is the gardening team on one?

**Patty:** Jan Cummings, but I don't think she would mind some help.

**Wil:** What projects are you passionate about this year?

**Patty:** Replacing the nametag holders, but that is not our highest priority. Trustees/Property would like to replace or repair the concrete steps on the north stairs and the east sidewalk and the related issues.

**Wil:** What are Trustees/Property priorities for 2009?

**Patty:** You got my email right?

**Wil:** Oh, yeah (see the contents of the email on the next page).

**Wil:** So these are the projects?

**Patty:** Yes, though we only have \$1500 in our budget this year for major maintenance, so we will need a lot of help.

**Wil:** Besides funding, what are the types of help Trustees/Property need from the congregation?

**Patty:** There are always small issues that need to be dealt with. We need a small labor force to come in to shovel when it snows and the snow company doesn't make it in time (It snowed right before church on the morning I interviewed Patty).

We need someone to be willing to take on projects as they come; they don't necessarily need to be handy; they can help organize. We need help re-spacing

the pews. Mike (King, her husband) has a long list of stuff that hasn't been done, yet that anyone can do. It's hard to be specific; we always have issues. At some point, we could use someone to evaluate our insurance.

**Wil:** What accomplishment from last year are you most proud of?

**Patty:** The move back into the building and making the new spaces usable is a big accomplishment.

**Wil:** Is there anything else you would like people to know?

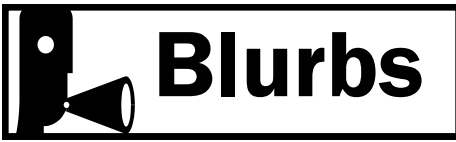
**Patty:** The more people that are willing to volunteer and give a small portion of their time exponentially increases the amount we are able to get done. This is what we are about. It is our responsibility to accomplish that. The level of volunteerism during the move in and move out was phenomenal, but we are back to the mundane, and it would be nice to get back that spirit of volunteerism.

*If you have questions about Trustees/Property or would like to get involved, contact Patty King at [pjking@netins.net](mailto:pjking@netins.net)*

## Trustees/Property 2009 Priorities

- 1. Concrete Work on Lincoln Way steps, and the East Entrance**
- 2. Drainage issues around the building (Spring will tell how much work is left)**
- 3. Wesley Hall kitchen renovation (some of this has been done)**
- 4. Sanctuary Lincoln Way door renovation**
- 5. Replace garage/bus barn**
- 6. Front landscaping**
- 7. Replacing the sanctuary roof**

Nuts and Bolts is our monthly article featuring an administrative function of the church.



## Thanks for Being Good Neighbors!

Collegiate/Wesley came through in a big way during the last part of 2008 for Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance. For the first half of their fiscal year (July - December), members of C/W had contributed over \$3600!

Thank you very much for your generosity. As you might expect, demand for emergency food, utility, and rental assistance is increasing greatly in Ames and in Story County, and this is certainly true at Good Neighbor. Donations are always welcomed at any time of year. Send them to Good Neighbor, 508 Kellogg, Ames, IA 50010, and be sure to indicate "Collegiate United Methodist Church" in the memo field so it counts toward our annual pledge. All contributions to Good Neighbor are tax deductible, but more importantly, they make a difference in the lives of your neighbors!

## Looking for Lighthearted Singers

Come try out Jubilee Choir, Wednesday Nights at 7 pm

If you can carry a tune and would like to glorify God in Song, but would like to sing more lighthearted fare in a laid back atmosphere, this is the group for you. Jubilee Singers sings once a month at the 8:30 service.

For more information contact Director David Waggoner at [dwaggoner@iastate.edu](mailto:dwaggoner@iastate.edu)

## Could you live by 3 Simple Rules in 2009?

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, encouraged his followers to live daily by three simple rules. They are:

1. Do no harm.
2. Do good.
3. Stay in love with God.

These simple, yet profound, rules will be the focus of Scratch Class on Sunday mornings, beginning Sunday, January 18 and continuing through February. The study features a DVD with former Iowa Bishop Rueben Job, and participants may purchase the short companion study book for just \$5. This insightful study calls us to mutual respect, unity and a deeper daily relationship with God.

To reserve a copy of the book, please call the church office. Everyone is invited to Scratch, the class that starts from the "stuff" of our lives each week, where we wrestle with the questions that cause us to scratch our heads and ponder more deeply our relationship with God and others. Scratch meets in the Fireside Room, 9:45-10:45 AM.

Tim Gossett  
[timgossett@mac.com](mailto:timgossett@mac.com)

# Personal Finance Workshops

**February 1st** – Jim Garnett from Consumer Credit of Des Moines

Presentation titled “8 Perceptions That Will Sink Your Financial Ship”

**February 8th** – Kevin Gowdy from the Iowa United Methodist Foundation

Presentation will cover basics everyone needs to know about estate planning

9:45 - 10:45 am in Norman Room (South Pine Room)

\* Although we hope you attend both workshops, attendance at the Feb. 1st workshop is not required to attend the Feb. 8th workshop.

This program will help each of us to be good stewards of the many blessings God has given us.

Sponsored by the CUMC/WF Endowment Board

## Many Chances to Give—and You Gave! Thank you!

We had many needs at Christmastime, and we asked you to give to the ones of your choosing. You chose to help with all of them, and you chose to help with them well!

Our Christmas offering focused on:

Justice for Our Neighbors—you gave \$2,125.

Katherine Parker, our missionary in Cambodia—you gave \$3,426.

Christmas Giving Project, Warm Hearts and Warm Hands gifts went to Emergency Residence Project and MICA and consisted of gift cards totaling \$1715, cash of \$195, and food and clothing. Some of the wonderful hand knit mittens and caps were sold for \$280, and some were sent to Bidwell/Riverside (they asked for them again this year) and a few were taken to Postville.

Manger Gift Service offering went to Postville. Giving was \$1,293 in cash and more than that in food, diapers, blankets, clothing, etc. Those were delivered to Postville during the week after Christmas.

Alternative Gift Market was another important opportunity for sharing, but the final numbers are not yet available.

Just before December you gave a Thanksgiving offering to Good Neighbor, \$3,970.

The end of the year is a time when many like to complete their giving for the year. You should know that UMCOR, Heifer Project International, and other missions supported by our congregation received wonderful gifts during December.

Thank you for caring about others, for sharing your resources and your time, and supporting the missions of CUMC/WF and UMC. Our mission as United Methodists is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Giving of our resources is a necessary part of fulfilling that mission.

Sending to Serve Cluster, Carolyn Cornette, 292-4344

## North Central District Laity Summit

CLARION, FIRST UMC  
FEBRUARY 21, 2009  
9:30 AM -3:00 PM

Bishop Trimble will lead us in worship.

A light lunch will be furnished by the North Central District Board of Laity.

A Study of Bishop Reuben Job's "Three Simple Rules."

This will be the topic in the afternoon break-out sessions. Bishop Trimble is quoted as saying, "Bishop Job, if you never did another thing in the service of the Church, this book was a tremendous gift that will have a monumental effect for spiritual growth for years to come!"

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss the opportunity to meet our new Bishop and discover the wealth contained in the "Three Simple Rules".

Please RSVP to the District office at 515-832-2784 or [alanna.warren@iaumc.org](mailto:alanna.warren@iaumc.org) so the Clarion volunteers will know how many meals to prepare for lunch.

Hope to see you there!

Members of the North Central District Board of Laity

## Divorce Support Group

The winter session of Divorce Support will be held the four Monday evenings in February from 6:30-8:30pm, at First United Methodist Church in the fireside/parlor. Facilitated by Dr. Ann Kennedy and Deanna Pullen, this is an opportunity for those who are already divorced or anticipating divorce; an opportunity to hear from others who understand the fears and share the frustrations. We use the book, *Rebuilding*, by Bruce Fisher (available at a reduced cost at the first session.) Cost for the four weeks is \$40, payable at the first session. Pre-registration is required before January 27, call 232-2750. Questions? contact Deanna Pullen @ 233-5910.

## SPRC Training

All members of Staff Parish Relations Committees are invited to attend a District-wide training event on January 24th at Faith UMC in Webster City from 1-5 pm. It is especially important for Pastors, SPRC Chairs, members of Annual Conference and Lay Leaders to attend. Practical suggestions for Pastoral evaluation will be shared as well as the role of the SPRC in the appointment process.

## Personals

Thank You to the people who planned the Manger Gifts Service—Tammy Hockley, Amanda Heeren, and Kelli Miller. I know they put a lot of time into the program, etc.  
~Brenda Allen

Please send a big THANK YOU to the large group of carolers who came to my house to sing and to Roger Volker who played the piano so beautifully! It was wonderful and heart warming. Thank you all very much. ~Bev Van Fossen

# Epiphany Sermon Series

“Living the Dream in  
Nightmarish Times”

**January 18**

*Learn to Soar*

Rev. Linda Butler

**January 25**

*Throw Open  
the Doors*

Rev. Jim Shirbroun

**February 8**

*Get Passionate  
About Your  
Worship Life*

Rev. Scott Grotewold

**February 1**

*Risk Yourself  
Boldly*

Rev. Scott Grotewold

**February 15**

*Unleash God's  
Extravagant Gifts*

Rev. Linda Butler

# Prayers



Thank you for sharing your prayers of joy and concern on the blue prayer cards each Sunday.

Here are some joys and concerns you shared with us since the last issue of *The Communicator*.

## Prayers of Concerns

For the family of Wesley Dreeszen who died Monday, January 4, two weeks before his 98th birthday. Wesley was the older brother of Emmett.

For Howard Shanks, who was discharged from the hospital and continues his physical therapy

For Jerry Jarnagin and his family. Jerry was recently hospitalized.

For the family of Deb Adams, who died on Friday, January 9

For the people of Gaza and Israel

For the students, may they have a great semester full of learning and opportunity

For Chris Hockley, our Campus Ministry Associate, who has been sick and misses work and everyone.

For Robert Lionberger, cousin of Darra Johnson. Robert is undergoing chemotherapy and radiation for throat cancer

For Steven Schroder's uncle, who ruptured his aorta on 12/26 but is joyful that he is recovering after surgery

For Jean and Darwin Graham, (sister and brother-in-law of Rosemary Moore) who are in the Good Samaritan nursing home in Red Oak

For a friend of Megan Harvey, who is being treated for a tumor

For George (brother-in-law of Bob and Helen Farr), who was hospitalized with heart and kidney failure in North Carolina

For a member's sister who was diagnosed with a very aggressive lung cancer

For Joe Jones, (brother of Gwyn Augustine) who was in intensive care at Mercy Hospital

## Prayers of Joy

For Collegiate Brass and all the glorious music at CUMC/WF

For the engagement of Steven Schroder and Megan Harvey

For the engagement of Sam Grotewold and Sabrina Tillman

For the Berbanos who give thanks for time spent with family from Australia over the holidays

For the Shirbroun's who celebrate the engagement of their oldest son Mark to Jen Dobson

We are reminded of the need to give thanks for everything good in our lives during difficult times

# Family Fun Night

(even sheep are invited)



**Where:** Annex Auditorium

**When:** Friday, Jan. 23, from 6 to 10 pm

**Why:** Winter is here in its finest. So, kick back, relax, have fun with friends and family

**What:** Ping pong, paper airplane contests (distance and accuracy), pool, foosball, music, table games, snacks (pizza slices, popcorn, drinks, etc.); bring a favorite activity to share if you wish

**Who:** Young, old, and in between; bring a friend

Questions? Contact Bruce Munson, 232-5077 or Bev Shirbroun, 233-3799

## You are Welcome!

Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation welcomes and affirms all persons without regard to gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical or mental ability, marital status, economic condition, or anything else which threatens to divide God's family.

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## Discipleship in Focus: Building Committee Recognized

We had a special visitor at Church Conference this year. Jerry Nelson (left) of Nelson Electric presented Collegiate/Wesley (represented by Rev. Scott Grotewold, Right) and Building Committee Chair Larry Cormicle (Center) with their Award of Excellence 2008, from the Associated Builders and Contractors of Iowa. This charge conference also marked the disillusion of the Building Committee at the end of a long successful journey.

