

The

December 16, 2010

Vol. 41

Issue 16

# Communicator

Connecting People



**Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation**



**Bev Shirbroun, Team leader of the Workshop keeps the goodies stocked.**



**Advent Workshop on 12/4 was fun for everyone!**



**Collegiate Bell Choir at the 8:30 service on 12/12.**



**Thanks to Donna Butler and Jane Haahr for helping with the Advent Workshop in the sewing**

## Contact Us

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For more information please visit our website:

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

## Bulletin and Weekly Email Announcements Deadline

Send Bulletin submissions to  
[natalie@cwames.org](mailto:natalie@cwames.org)  
by 9:00 a.m. Wednesdays

Send Weekly Email submissions to  
[natalie@cwames.org](mailto:natalie@cwames.org) by Friday at  
10:00 a.m.

Front cover: The Gossett family as  
Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the  
Manger Gifts Service.



## Inside This Issue

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## Pictures

Please help us have pictures of the happenings here at C/W for the *Communicator*. If you would like to share what your group(s) is/are doing we would like to have the opportunity to put it in this newsletter. Email your pictures to [natalie@cwames.org](mailto:natalie@cwames.org)

## About *The Communicator* and deadline submission dates

*The Communicator* is a bi-weekly 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. To submit articles please email them to [natalie@cwames.org](mailto:natalie@cwames.org). If you have any questions please feel free to contact Natalie in the office at 292-6936. **Next deadline dates are 1/6/2011** (covering material from 1/16/2011–1/30/2011) and **1/20/2011** (1/30-2/13).

# “Christmas Expectations”

By Rev. Kathy Harrington-Taber

My husband Paul and I wanted wonderful Christmas memories for our children so we took advantage of the opportunities at church – Advent Festivals, Christmas Pageants, and Christmas Eve Worship services plus we had Christmas rituals at home such as Advent candles. There is something about a child’s eyes lit with wonder as candles are lit during “Silent Night, Holy Night” that just melts my heart. I have many wonderful memories of Advent and Christmas from when I was a child and youth. We read the Advent lesson together, we lit the Advent candles in our home, we made Christmas ornaments, and we attended worship together on Christmas Eve. Our pastor would take the youth group Christmas Caroling on Christmas Eve between the 7 pm and the 11 pm services. We would end up with cookies and cocoa at a member’s house. I find these memories more sustaining than memories of shopping crowds and gifts. We wanted our children’s Christmas memories of church to sustain them, so we made them happen.

Christmas memory making was not just limited to our family. We would encourage our children to invite their friends to church, but to especially invite them to special worship services such as Christmas Eve and to Vacation Bible School. For some of them it was the first church visit in memory.

Many people get depressed over the Christmas holidays. For some, it is their first Christmas after a loved one’s death. Some are affected by the lack of sunlight because our shortened daylight hours and tendency to stay inside when it’s bitter cold. But according to “All Things Considered” much of the Christmas blues is related to unrealized expectations. People dream of elaborate preparations surpassing those they grew up with, forgetting that they work 50 hours a week instead of the 35 to 40 hours a week their parents did. But magazine spreads and TV shows display the decorating that their advertisers sell. People fantasize that they will be able to get along with difficult relatives for four hours when they could not cope with each other for 15 minutes during the rest of the year. People long for, buy, and receive wonderful gifts that far exceed their means. If they purchase them anyway, the January bills will cause suffering. If they don’t, they may feel they will disappoint their families. I know a number of people who can pull off a Christmas that would make Martha Stewart proud, but that’s not where I am at. But Christmas at the Harrington-Taber house will be wonderful for us.

Let’s think back. Didn’t Baby Jesus receive three gifts in Matthew’s gospel? When my grandparents were young in 1908, children received a stocking full of treats for Christmas. If they got an orange, that was extra special. In the Nutcracker ballet, Clara receives one gift, even though the family is obviously well off. Growing up, my friend Brenda got one gift each Christmas from her family. When I heard it at first, it sounded weird because my parents were of the “same number of packages for each child” camp, but Brenda and her brother were happy. They expected one gift. It always had the same wow factor and cost as all my parents’ gifts for me combined. But I was happy at Christmas time and so was Brenda. When our children were young, I read in our local paper about a family giving

each child three gifts for Christmas. We tried a variation of that – three fun gifts plus socks and underwear. Our children were content; they had Christmas.

Christmas is a perfect time to make a difference. It is hard for an American child not to have any Christmas gifts, even if the parents told them ahead of time what to expect, so we always give to a needy child. When our children were at home, they helped select those gifts. Our extended families are participating in more and more alternative gifts that benefit hardworking people that have less. Just being polite to people in long lines can brighten someone's day. Praying for those who must spend Christmas away from their families makes a difference.

I hope that you expect a wonderful Christmas full of memories. I encourage you to share yourselves in ways that help others with their Christmas memories. If you do not have little ones living in your house, invite your young neighbors to church and invite them to sit by you. Let those who have lost loved ones know about our Blue Christmas service. Share your favorite Christmas memories. Smile at the overworked clerks at the store. Drop something into the Salvation Army bucket and thank the ringer. You might even tell them that we like good ringers in our bell choir. Let everyone know that they would make a positive difference here at Collegiate/Wesley, because we need good people like them. If they have a church family, they will be flattered. If they don't, they will still be pleased you think that well of them, even if they are not interested. If they are looking for a little Good News, they know that you will be part of it.

Merry Christmas!

## Christmas Special Offering

This years Christmas Special Offering will support AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) of which Collegiate/Wesley is a member. This offering will be held on **Christmas Eve, and Sunday, Dec. 26**. For your convenience, look for the special offering envelopes in your bulletin.

“My soul magnifies the Lord” says Mary upon the revelation that she has been chosen to carry the son of God. She goes on to proclaim that God has “filled the hungry with great things.” Mary realized that justice would be brought about by her son, and she understood that she too was an instrument of that justice.

Through AMOS we continue to fulfill the promise of Christ. AMOS is currently focused on Economic and Environmental Justice, workforce development, and Mental Healthcare to name a few.

# Christmas Eve Services



## A Christmas Family Celebration

**4:30 p.m.** Annex Worship Space  
(130 South Sheldon)

Rev. Jim Shirbroun, officiating

Special Music: Accordion duo  
Roger Volker, Jonah DeGeest

Krystal bells will also be playing.

Meditation time in Nichols Chapel,  
Communion Elements  
Available, 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

## A Service of Carols and Candlelight

**7:00 p.m.** CUMC/WF Sanctuary

Rev. Scott Grotewold, officiating

Special Music: The Kaizer Family  
(Ed, Lynn, Alex, Drew & Nick)  
Organist: Dr. Carl Bleyle

## Candlelight Communion Service

**11:00 p.m.** CUMC/WF Sanctuary

Rev. Melissa Warren, officiating

Special Music: Alumni Bells  
Organist: Dr. Carl Bleyle

**NOTE: There will be only one service  
on Sunday, December 26 at 9:30 a.m.**

# Collegiate/Wesley



# Events



## Calendar for Dec. 19, 2010—Jan. 16, 2011

### Sunday, December 19, 2010

Hymn Sing	8:15 AM	Sanctuary
Worship Service	8:30 AM	Sanctuary
Nursery	8:30 AM	
Sunday School Classes for all ages	9:45 AM	
Hymn Sing	10:45 AM	Sanctuary
Worship Service	11:00 AM	Sanctuary
Kids Korner	11:15 AM	
"The Longest Night" Worship Service	4:00 PM	Nichols Chapel
HS Youth Group	6:45 PM	ANX 301 HS Yth Rm

### Monday, December 20, 2010

Office Volunteers	9:00 AM	123
Disciple Bible Study III	6:00 PM	Norman Room
Aftercare Team Meeting	7:00 PM	44
Advent Study	7:00 PM	123

### Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Staff Meeting	8:30 AM	Fireside Room
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### Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Library Team	9:00 AM	Wesley Hall
UM Men's Coffee	9:30 AM	Fireside Room
Holy Club	12:00 PM	123
Chancel Choir rehearsal	7:00 PM	Music Room

### Thursday, December 23, 2010

Devotions at the Waterford	10:00 AM	
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### Friday, December 24, 2010

#### Christmas Eve

Office closed		
A Christmas Family Celebration	4:30 PM	Annex Auditorium
A Service of Carols and Candlelight	7:00 PM	Sanctuary
Candlelight Communion Service	11:00 PM	Sanctuary

### Saturday, December 25, 2010

#### Christmas Day

# Merry Christmas!

**Sunday, December 26, 2010**

Worship Service	9:30 AM	Sanctuary
Nursery	9:30 AM	
Kids Korner	9:45 AM	

**Monday, December 27, 2010****Office closed**

Raymond Russell Open House @ Northcrest	2:00 PM	
Disciple Bible Study III	6:00 PM	Norman Room
Aftercare Team Meeting	7:00 PM	44

**Tuesday, December 28, 2010**

Office Volunteers	9:00 AM	123
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**Wednesday, December 29, 2010**

Library Team	9:00 AM	Wesley Hall
Chancel Choir rehearsal	7:00 PM	Music Room

**Friday, December 31, 2010****Office closed****Saturday, January 1, 2011****New Year's Day****Sunday, January 2, 2011**

Worship Service	8:30 AM	Sanctuary
Nursery	8:30 AM	
Sunday School Classes for all ages	9:45 AM	
Worship Service	11:00 AM	Sanctuary
Kids Korner	11:15 AM	
Chapel bell choir rehearsal	6:00 PM	Music Room

**Monday, January 3, 2011**

Office Volunteers	9:00 AM	123
Caroliers Choir bell rehearsal	4:30 PM	Music Room
Disciple Bible Study III	6:00 PM	Library
Aftercare Team Meeting	7:00 PM	44

**Tuesday, January 4, 2011**

Staff Meeting	8:30 AM	Fireside Room
Staff Parish Meeting	7:00 PM	123

**Wednesday, January 5, 2011**

Library Team	9:00 AM	Wesley Hall
Holy Club	12:00 PM	123
Crusaders bell choir rehearsal	5:30 PM	Music Room
Choristers choir rehearsal	5:30 PM	Fireside Room
Soup Supper	6:15 PM	Wesley Hall
Chancel Choir rehearsal	7:00 PM	Music Room
Chancel bell choir rehearsal	8:30 PM	Music Room

**Thursday, January 6, 2011**

Sunday School Teacher Meeting

**Communicator Deadline 8:00 a.m.**

7:00 PM 123

**Friday, January 7, 2011**

Hope Blankets

1:30 PM Wesley Hall

**Saturday, January 8, 2011**

Confirmation class

9:00 AM Fireside Room

**Sunday, January 9, 2011**

Worship Service

8:30 AM Sanctuary

Nursery

8:30 AM

Sunday School Classes for all ages

9:45 AM

WF FaithLink

9:45 AM

Worship Service

11:00 AM

Kids Korner

11:15 AM

*faithspring*

5:30 PM

Chapel bell choir rehearsal

6:00 PM

Sunday Supper

6:30 PM

HS Youth Group

6:45 PM

Collegiate bell choir rehearsal

7:15 PM

ANX 301 HS Yth Rm

Music Room

**Monday, January 10, 2011**

Office Volunteers

9:00 AM

123

Caroliers Choir bell rehearsal

4:30 PM

Music Room

Disciple Bible Study III

6:00 PM

Library

Aftercare Team Meeting

7:00 PM

44

Welcome Team meeting

7:00 PM

Wesley Hall

Faithful Families Loving LGBTQ kids

7:30 PM

**Tuesday, January 11, 2011**

Staff Meeting

8:30 AM

44

Holy Tearers

9:00 AM

Wesley Hall

Contemporary Books

9:15 AM

Fireside Room

PFLAG Meeting@420 Kellogg-Paul Room

7:00 PM

**Wednesday, January 12, 2011**

Library Team

9:00 AM

Wesley Hall

WF Lunch @ the Union

11:30 AM

WF midweek chapel @ Mem. Union

12:15 PM

Crusaders bell choir rehearsal

5:30 PM

Music Room

Choristers choir rehearsal

5:30 PM

Fireside Room

Soup Supper

6:15 PM

Wesley Hall

MS Youth Group

7:00 PM

MS Youth Room

Chancel Choir rehearsal

7:00 PM

Music Room

Chancel bell choir rehearsal

8:30 PM

Music Room

### Thursday, January 13, 2011

Communicator Volunteers	8:30 AM	123
Hope Fellowship	9:00 AM	Fireside Room
Roundtable	12:00 PM	Wesley Hall
Faith Fellowship	1:30 PM	Fireside Room
WF <i>faithspring</i> planning	5:30 PM	Student Lounge
Grace Fellowship	7:00 PM	Fireside Room
WF <i>faithspring</i> band rehearsal	7:00 PM	Annex Auditorium

### Saturday, January 15, 2011

Pre-marriage Workshop	9:00 AM	Fireside Room
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### Sunday, January 16, 2011

Worship Service	8:30 AM	Sanctuary
Nursery	8:30 AM	
Sunday School Classes for all ages	9:45 AM	
WF FaithLink	9:45 AM	Student Lounge
Worship Service	11:00 AM	Sanctuary
Kids Korner	11:15 AM	
<i>faithspring</i>	5:30 PM	Annex Auditorium
Chapel bell choir rehearsal	6:00 PM	Music Room
Sunday Supper	6:30 PM	Annex Auditorium
HS Youth Group	6:45 PM	ANX 301 Yth Rm
Collegiate bell choir rehearsal	7:15 PM	Music Room

## Celebration of Ministries—January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Come, join with us in 8:30 and/or 11:00 worship as we celebrate the **many and varied** ministries that makes CUMC/WF such an exciting, vibrant, and interesting place to be! Who have we been in the past year? What have we accomplished? Who are we hoping to become? What will we accomplish?

We will answer these questions and many more with much pageantry and joy.

God continues to do good things through and with us. **Let's Celebrate!**



The staff would like to wish all of you a very  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

L-R , Natalie Rekemeyer, Joyce Rasmussen, Roger Lawrence, Kathye Harrington-Taber, Melissa Warren, Scott Grotewold, Lisa Larson, Larry Stevenson, Jim Shirbroun, Wil Ranney



Merry Christmas from the  
Wesley students.





## Christmas Giving Projects

### Gift Cards for ERP

(Emergency Residence Project)

Anytime in December, you and your family can participate by purchasing gift cards, in increments of \$25 or less, for families in need. Grocery (particularly Aldi), telephone, gas, Cy-Ride, Target, K-Mart, etc., are especially needed.

Please bring your gift card to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate by Sunday, December 26.

## 90th Birthday Celebration

The family of Raymond Russell invites you to join us for an Open House to celebrate his 90th birthday. It will be held at Northcrest Retirement Community, 1801 20th Street on December 27 between the hours of 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. No gifts please, cards welcomed.



## Food at First Team

Thanks to Jane Jacobson and Darra Johnson for helping direct Lutheran Services of Iowa at Food at First the Friday after Thanksgiving. Sandy Baker and Eleanor Ostendorf from our team also contributed their services. Giving their time on a holiday week-end is greatly appreciated.

## Lunch on the Landing

In an effort to increase interaction between students and the congregation on Sundays after the 11 a.m. church service the Wesley Foundation will be having Lunch on the Landing starting on January 9th. It will be held in the Student Lounge. We are in need of **help** to make this happen. All you need to do is provide a loaf of bread and some sandwich meat (we will have everything else that is needed at the church including salads, desserts, and beverages), if you would like to, you may bring some veggies (that is optional) set it up on Sunday, and join us for lunch (it's always great to meet new people). To sign up, call or email Lisa at 515-292-6936 or [lisa@cwames.org](mailto:lisa@cwames.org).

## Contributions for 2010

Donations to C/W must be received by the church office by noon on Friday, December 31 in order to qualify as a charitable donation for 2010. Checks that are placed in the church offering on the first Sunday in 2011 will not qualify as a charitable contribution deduction in 2010, even if the check is predated to 2010 or was actually written in 2010. However, checks that are mailed and postmarked by December 31, 2010 will be deductible in 2010 even though they are not received by the church until 2011.

## Save the Date

The Endowment Board will be presenting their annual two week financial literacy workshops for the benefit of us individually and as a congregation.

February 6—Barb Wollan, Iowa State

University Extension Family Resource Management Specialist "All About Credit: Credit Scores, the CARD Act, and Avoiding Problem Debt"

February 13—Kevin Gowdy, Director, Iowa United Methodist Foundation

## Donations Needed for Philippine UM Churches

Gerry Kennedy, Jane Kennedy and Bev Kruempel will be going on a Volunteer in Mission (VIM) program to the Philippines Jan. 24 to Feb. 9. They are requesting donations of multi-vitamins (especially for women and children) and money to buy construction materials in the Philippines to repair the Bishop's office and residence. Please drop off multi-vitamins in the church office and/or make a cash/check donation to CUMC/WF with notation for VIM Philippines. For every contribution of \$10 or more you will receive a free CD of Pastor Noah, the VIM director, singing religious songs. (He's good!) Thanks!

## UMW Information

**Contemporary Books**—January 11 at 9:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room of the church. Ruth Provow and Shirley Snell will serve as the co-hosts and Lucy Futrell will present the book, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

**Holy Tearers**—January 11 at 9:00 a.m. Please meet in room 123

**UMW Circle Meetings:** January 13

**Hope** will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. at Northcrest with Marian Solomon serving



as the hostess. Elaine Johnson and Donna Butler will do the Pledge Service as the program.

**Faith** will be meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room of the church. Shirley Snell will serve as the hostess.

**Grace** will be meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room of the church. Fran Berger and Maureen Wilt will serve as co-hosts. There will be a soup supper.

## Nothing but Nets

You are invited to participate in the Table Tennis Tournament to raise money for Nothing but Nets on Monday, January 17, 2011 starting at 10 a.m. in the Annex Auditorium (130 S. Sheldon) sponsored by our Wesley Foundation campus ministries. *Nothing But Nets* is a global, grassroots campaign to raise awareness and funding to combat malaria, one of the largest killers of children in Africa. There is an entry fee of \$10 for an individual or \$20 for a team and you will receive a free lunch. Just \$10 buys a net to help prevent malaria. 100% of the money raised from entries will go to the cause. To sign up contact Lisa at [lisa@cwames.org](mailto:lisa@cwames.org) or call 515-292-6936.

There will be a concession stand at the event. Baked goods are needed for this. All proceeds from the concession stand sales will be donated to Nothing but Nets. If you would be able to bake something contact Lisa at [lisa@cwames.org](mailto:lisa@cwames.org) or call 515-292-6936.



## The Longest Night" Worship Service

Sunday, December 19,  
4:00 p.m. in Nichols Chapel

Join with us as we hear and share prayers, scripture, and music that help us to remember that God's presence is in all seasons and God's word comes to give light to all darkness.



## 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 Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving and Celebration of CUMC/WF for being the first church in Iowa to raise \$10,000 for CropWalk. C/W raised \$12,002 of Ames' \$34,700 total. (2nd place church in Ames was \$3,600.)

Philip Dykema is thankful for healing to family members.

Shawn O'Hare, Eryn Shriver's brother, has returned safely from Iraq and has completed his deployment and Ian's hernia surgery went well and he is recovering quickly.

Paul Brackelsberg's friend has returned home after stomach cancer surgery.

### Prayers of Concern

For Ben Hucker and his family as his grandfather, Manly, died on 12/4.

For the people of the Ivory Coast during the disputed election controversy.

For Dorothy Schwieder as she recovers from a fall, where she broke a few ribs.

For comfort and healing for the family of Rev. Larry LaVelle, who died on Thanksgiving Day and his funeral was on 12/5.

Paul Brackelsberg's friend is having surgery for bladder cancer on 12/16.

For Naomi, a 5 year old girl struggling with health issues. She is seeing new doctors. Safe travels for her and her parents.

To the family of Jared Dolch. Jared is receiving treatment for Leukemia.

For the family of Emily Kadera who died on 12/11.



## Personals

(Personal Announcements)

Our family has been overwhelmed and humbled by the condolences and kindnesses from so many of you since George's death. Our Koinonia Group's help at the visitation and service, Scott's visits and meaningful services, United Methodist Women's serving of the reception lunch, the food brought to the house, and all the offers of help have certainly honored George's memory. Thank you and God bless you all!

Nancy Wylie; Pamela, Jeffrey, Nicholas, and Christopher Spangler; Eric, Krista, Nathan, and Rachel Wylie



## Manger Gifts Service



The Shriver family lights the first Advent Candle on 11/28 at the 11:00 a.m. service.



Lucy Futrell & Joyce Rasmussen at the Church Staff Open House on 12/9 at Northcrest



Sunday School children visit the Faidley Nativity scenes set up in the Library.



# 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: Manger Gifts Service

