

The Communicator

Connecting People



**Making *faithspring*
Happen** p. 4



Picture Page

All Church Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19 in Wesley Hall. Pictured (left to right): Pat Girton, Tom Wickersham, Sue Scott, Dolores Brown, and Janet Netusil, all members of SOLOS.



Elsie Prater (right) helping herself to a fine assortment of Thanksgiving fixins.



Helping out Magician Keith West at the Camp Courageous Benefit which was held in Wesley Hall on Sunday, November 15

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Bulletin and Weekly Email Announcements Deadline

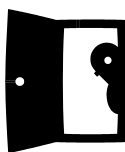
9:00 a.m. Wednesdays

Send Bulletin submissions to

natalie@cwames.org

Send Weekly Email submissions to

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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 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. This is the preferred method for submissions to *The Communicator*.

Cover: ISU Student, Cathy Cooney, going for a strike at the Wesley Foundation Thanksgiving Party. Turkey Bowling was one of the highlights of this event.

Making *faithspring* Happen

By Rev. Jim Shirbroun

“Born” nine years ago, *faithspring* is Collegiate/Wesley’s alternative worship experience. *faithspring* happens each Sunday evening (when classes are held the next day) at 5:30. Students have at least three other opportunities for worship each week at Collegiate/Wesley (8:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays and “midweek chapel” in the Memorial Union Chapel, Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m.).

Each Thursday evening at least four students join Campus Ministry Associate Chris Hockley, music director Jason Janssen and Campus Pastor Jim Shirbroun to evaluate and plan *faithspring* worship.

The schedule for the *faithspring* planning team meetings typically goes like this... Each person is invited to respond to John Wesley’s classic question (asked at gatherings of the Holy Club which John and brother Charles started while students at Oxford), “How is it with your soul”. Following a prayer, the group discusses the worship experience of the previous Sunday. Everything, from the quality of the popcorn (available free throughout worship at the *faithspring* café), to the light level in the room, to the song selection to the videos used in the sermon, to the sermon itself is “fair game” for evaluation.

Next, the group turns its attention to the upcoming Sunday. The topic for the sermon is reviewed along with scriptures,



songs, ambience (room set up and decor). Final plans for slides which accompany announcements, call to worship, songs, sermon, etc. are discussed. Finally, details for worship in the weeks farther along are shared.

The *faithspring* team has produced three sermon series so far this semester with one to go.

“God As Seen on TV” looked at the way God is sometimes portrayed on television, focusing on four areas: God in the Everyday/Secular, God and Relationships, God and Vocation, God and Science.

“G’ology” (Godology) dealt with the study of God through lenses of academic subjects we encounter on campus...topics included Geology, Music, Math and Fisheries and Wildlife Biology.

“Conversations” covered conversations with ourselves (“The Inner Dialogue”), conversations with others (Interfaith Dialogues) and conversations with God (“Prayer”). The final worship experience in this series featured nine members and friends of Collegiate/Wesley, varying in age from 11 to 85, sharing their responses to questions such as “When/where/how do you pray?”, “Who taught you to pray?” and “How have your prayers ‘matured’ through the years?”.

Our final series of the semester is entitled “Conspiring Toward Christmas.” Week one (Nov. 29) found Jim Shirbroun preaching on “Worshipping Fully” during Advent. Linda Butler and Scott Grotewold shared, on Dec. 6 and 13 respectively, ways we might better prepare ourselves to once again receive Christ into our lives and world by “Giving More and Spending Less” and “Loving All.”

The *faithspring* planning team enjoys using technology in creative ways as well. In addition to lyrics, images and video clips, the three large screens in the worship space have, just this Fall semester, displayed robots reading scripture and “Person on the Street” interviews featuring some rather interesting characters (go to <http://www.youtube.com> and search for “ISUWesleyFoundation” to see what we’re talking about).

We’re looking forward to Spring semester with new sermon series and many new opportunities to design, lead and participate in exciting worship experiences at *faithspring*.



Thanksgiving Ingathering-a large group effort!

Thanksgiving Ingathering was our conference wide effort to raise donations and awareness for local, national, and global missions. Thank you to all who were part of the Ingathering this year:

- Sunday School Children who purchased 30 Health kits, 30 Layettes for Nigeria, 40 School Kits
- Chancel Choir and Bell Choirs who gave money for bees and a pig as part of Heifer International
- Donna Butler, Karen Klaiber, Marian Solomon, Laura Cook, Laura Shank, and Shirley Snell who sewed 30 baby kimonos and blankets
- Givers of 5 New Book Kits
- Givers of 2 Tailoring Kits
- Givers of 3 Knitting Kits
- Givers of 2 Birthing Kits
- Givers of money for postage and toothpaste
- Givers of money for Self Help International seeds
- Sue Griffith who made purchases for health kits
- Holy Tearers (Laura Cook, Donna Butler, Virginia Anderson, Bertlyn Johnston, Joan Lane, Maralee Shadle, Pat Benson, Darlene Walker) who made 8 quilts that were auctioned to our members and to those attending the Ingathering in Webster City. The quilts sold for \$516 and one was ultimately purchased by someone from CUMC/WF. (Next year we will give members a better chance to bid on the Holy Tearers' wonderful quilts!)
- Sewers of book bags (Jackie Manatt, Jane Kennedy, and a mystery person)
- Middle School Youth who helped shepherd younger shoppers
- High School Youth who clerked the Mission Store.
- Donna Niday, Dianna Nelson, and all others who helped make the Mission Store and purchasing a reality. It takes many working behind the scenes to make things go smoothly.

We appreciate what every person did to make a meaningful presentation from CUMC/WF to the Iowa Conference Thanksgiving Ingathering.

Carolyn Cornette



Well, it's Christmas time. I was trying to think about how the Relating People to God Cluster contributes to Christmas at Collegiate/Wesley. I don't know if it's the season or just me being silly, but I thought of an acrostic poem. Please bear with me as I took liberty with some of the letters to make it work.

Have a very Merry Christmas!

Amanda Heeren

Amanda is finishing her term as Cluster Chairperson for the Relating People to God Program Cluster. We would like to thank her and all the outgoing leaders for the dedication and hard work. Amanda will be working more with United Methodist Women in 2010.

C

is for Carols sung before worship

H

is for the Hanging of the Greens; didn't everyone do a great job?!

R

is for the Rings of all the bell choirs

I

is for Inspiring hope and joy

S

is for all the Special music from the choirs; they are fantastic

T

is for Trying to find the lost wreath

M

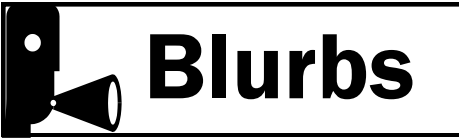
is for the Manger Gift Service

A

is for A time of anticipation

S

is for Scrooge and the Ghosts



**Announcements worth
blurting and blabbing!**

Thank You Apple Pie Makers

Another great year for apple pies! We couldn't have done it without your help! A big thank you to all who ordered pies, made dough (especially Kris Meinhard), helped make pies and donated supplies, money and ingredients! It was a huge success due to your help. The preliminary estimate is that we will make approx. \$1,400 for upcoming intergenerational mission trips. We had at least 45 persons that contributed their time on Sunday, 10 people who made pie dough ahead of time and 27 persons who donated supplies, money or ingredients or loaned us utensils in order for us to make 182 pies. If you have not yet picked up your pie(s), please contact the church office or Patty King (292-3831). Thanks again!

Patty King

Children and Family Urban Ministries

We are asking for donations to prepare a meal for Children and Family Urban Ministries in Des Moines on December 26th. Our church has made a commitment to feed the needy every other month at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Des Moines and need donations of food items and/or volunteers to serve. If you are able to help us fulfill this commitment, please call Sandy at: 515-984-6887 or email at: sandymeeks@mac.com.

Journeys a big Success

Journeys is our process for promoting service and discipleship at Collegiate/Wesley. Over 135 people submitted Journeys forms this year, which is approximately twice last years total. We hope that this great response will carry us into a year of vibrant ministry in 2010. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Wil Ranney
Coordinator of Discipleship

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 **Sunday, Dec. 20 and Christmas Eve.**

“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 working on the following issues: healthcare, mental health, criminal justice, the environment, immigration, youth and education, transportation, economic justice/workforce development, and resolving community conflict/civility in public life. Get involved today and give generously as you are able.

Bells and Brass Concert

Thursday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Enjoy the Chancel Bell Choir and Collegiate Brass who will present a selection of Christmas music including both sacred and secular music for your holiday enjoyment.

Library Update

HISTORY OF THE UPPER IOWA CONFERENCE -1856-1906 has been donated to our library. It's a great history of Methodism in Iowa. In order to preserve this book, it is not on the regular shelves. Please check with the office or visit the library on Wednesday morning between 9 and 11 a.m. and the committee will help you.

The library committee has noticed a number of books have been checked out over a year ago. Please check your shelves, closets and anywhere else they may be. Please return the books so others may enjoy them also. Thank you.



God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action

A Pastoral Letter from the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church

God's creation is in crisis. We, the Bishops of The United Methodist Church, cannot remain silent while God's people and God's planet suffer. This beautiful natural world is a loving gift from God, the Creator of all things seen and unseen. God has entrusted its care to all of us, but we have turned our backs on God and on our responsibilities. Our neglect, selfishness, and pride have fostered:

- pandemic poverty and disease;
- environmental degradation, and
- the proliferation of weapons and violence.

Despite these interconnected threats to life and hope, God's creative work continues. Despite the ways we all contribute to these problems, God still invites each one of us to participate in the work of renewal. We must begin the work of renewing creation by being renewed in our own hearts and minds. *We cannot help the world until we change our way of being in it.*

We all feel saddened by the state of the world, overwhelmed by the scope of

these problems, and anxious about the future, but *God calls us and equips us to respond*. No, death and destruction do not have the last word. Paul taught that through Jesus Christ, God offers redemption to all of creation and reconciles all things, "whether on earth or in heaven" (Colossians 1:20). God's Spirit is always and everywhere at work in the world fighting poverty, restoring health, renewing creation, and reconciling peoples.

Aware of God's vision for creation, we no longer see a list of isolated problems affecting disconnected people, plants, and animals. Rather, we see one interconnected system that is "groaning in travail" (Romans 8:22 RSV). The threats to peace, people, and planet earth are related to one another, and God's vision encompasses complete wellbeing. We, your bishops, join with many global religious leaders to call for a comprehensive response to these interrelated issues. We urge all United Methodists and people of goodwill to offer themselves as instruments of God's renewing Spirit in the world.

First, let us orient our lives toward God's holy vision. This vision of the future calls us to hope and to action. "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with

To read more about the Council of Bishops' call to hope and action, visit UMC.org and choose "Our Church"

hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). Christ's resurrection assures us that this vision is indeed a *promise* of renewal and reconciliation. As disciples of Christ, we take God's promise as the purpose for our lives. Let us, then, rededicate ourselves to God's holy vision, living each day with awareness of the future that God extends to us and of the Spirit that leads us onward.

Second, let us practice social and environmental holiness. We believe personal holiness and social holiness must never be separated. John Wesley preached: "The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social. No holiness but social holiness." Through social holiness we make ourselves channels of God's blessing in the world. Because God's blessing, care, and promise of renewal extend to all of creation, we can speak today of "environmental holiness" as well. We practice social and environmental holiness by caring for God's people and God's planet and by challenging those whose policies and practices neglect the poor, exploit the weak, hasten global warming, and produce more weapons.

Third, let us live and act in hope. As people in the tradition of John Wesley, we understand reconciliation and renewal to be part of the *process* of salvation that is already underway. We are not hemmed

in to a fallen world. Rather we are part of a divine unfolding process to which we must contribute. As we faithfully respond to God's grace and call to action, the Holy Spirit guides us in this renewal. With a resurrection spirit, we look forward to the renewal of the whole creation and commit ourselves to that vision. We pray that God will accept and use our lives and resources that we rededicate to a ministry of peace, justice, and hope to overcome poverty and disease, environmental degradation, and the proliferation of weapons and violence.

We beseech every United Methodist, every congregation, and every public leader: Will you participate in God's renewing work? We are filled with hope for what God can accomplish through us, and we pray you respond: "We will, with God's help!"

May God's grace purify our reason, strengthen our will, and guide our action. May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit be among you, everywhere and always, so that you may be a blessing to all creation and to all the children of God, making peace, nurturing and practicing hope, choosing life and coming to life eternal. Amen.

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

For Theresa Gibson's sister, Lee Gibson, who has lupus

For Shawna Murphy's co-worker's husband, who is hospitalized with liver and kidney failure

For Malissa, one of Tom Barton's students, after one year of chemo, radiation and surgery, Malissa is cancer free.

For Debby & Mark Wilson, who celebrated their 30th anniversary on Nov. 17

For LaRue & Martin Clark's 17 yr old grandson, who played the violin as a member of the New York Youth Symphony in Carnegie Hall on 11/22

For Sue Griffith and others who helped make the wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner possible

Thanksgiving for all of our blessings and a prayer that we might, as a community of faith, share these blessings with others

For Roger and Bette Coulson, on the birth of a great granddaughter to Kristin Sullivan, their granddaughter and her husband

For Natalie and Dan Rekemeyer, who celebrated their 21st anniversary on 11/12

Prayers of Concerns

For the family of Dale Long, who died in a car accident on Nov. 25. There was a service at Story County Medical Center on Nov. 30 and the funeral was held on Dec. 1 in Sac City at the United Methodist Church.

For Phyllis Long as she mourns the loss of her husband Dale, and for continued recovery from hip surgery she had earlier in November. Phyllis is at the Story County Medical Center.

For Bob Tarbox's brother, Jude, who spent Thanksgiving in the hospital recovering from heart surgery.

For those living with HIV/AIDS; we pray for a cure.

For Jon Holtman's brother, Steve, and his family, as he recovers from having a stroke on Nov. 27.

For Patrick, a 16 mo. old In New York. Patrick fell into a rain barrel and is in an induced coma to help him heal. Patrick and his family are friends of Martin and LaRue Clark's adult children.

For Megan Schroder's aunt and uncle, who are both having health problems.

For Gene Olson's brother-in-law, Rev. Verner Strand, who passed away; prayers for his family.

For Patty Grove's mother, as she adjusts to her new home at Ballard Creek Assisted Living

For all those who are travelling

For victims of war

For everyone who is sad, ill, broken, confused and alone

For Paul Lundy's brother, Alan Lundy , who is hospitalized in Madison, SD

For Annie Arbuckle's Uncle Bob who was given three months to live

Remember those who are at risk of hunger or homelessness this holiday season

For Jean Humphrey, who is recovering from surgery

For Georgia Webb who is home recuperating from knee surgery

For the ISU students travelling home for Break in the upcoming weeks

For Martin Clark on the death of his cousin, Maurice Clark. Maurice had a heart transplant 21 years ago

For Ruth Smith, who is in hospice care

“Blue Christmas - Hard to be Merry” Worship Service

Sunday, December 20, 5:00 p.m. in Nichols Chapel

Christmas is a time for memories and remembering. For some, our memories are of beloved family members who have died, and the pain of their loss is still real.

For others the memories are of happier times than we know now, as the anguish of broken relationships or the anxious insecurity of unemployment and poor health cloud this season. We can feel very much alone in the midst of all the celebrating and spending. We need to remember, and we need the space and place to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know we are not alone.

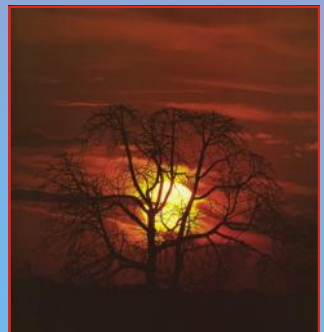
For all these reasons we need a separate time of being together to receive the words of strengthening hope that speak to us in the midst of sorrow.

Collegiate UMC/Wesley Foundation therefore offers a special service at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 20 in Nichols Chapel. It is a time to acknowledge a “Blue Christmas.”

Be with us to hear and share prayers, Scripture, and music that helps us to remember that God’s presence is for those who mourn, and God’s word comes to give light to the darkness. The short service will be followed with a simple supper in the adjacent Fireside Room.

Please accept this invitation to be with us.

In Advent hope, Rev. Linda M. Butler



2010 Stewardship Campaign Update

The central theme for this year's stewardship campaign was "Enough – Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity". After a five week sermon series on topics relating to this, Consecration Sunday was celebrated on November 8 at both services. Members brought forward their estimate of giving cards for 2010, and their completed "Journeys" forms (see p. 8) indicating which ministries they wanted to dedicate their time and energy to in 2010. The response to both the gifts of money and time shows that CUMC/WF is indeed a very generous church!

As I write this article, on December 2, it is about four weeks after Consecration Sunday. We are continuing to receive estimate of giving cards each day; by mail, internet, and by personal delivery. As of today we have received 224 estimate of giving cards for 2010 for a total of \$574,288.19. Of these, 81 households' estimate of giving remained the same, while 83 people increased their estimates of giving over 2009 by a combined total of almost 18%. 15 people decreased their estimates by an average of 17.5%, and 45 estimates were made by people who had not turned in an estimate of giving card in 2009 (about half of the 45 had never turned in an estimate of giving at CUMC/WF previously). Last year we ended the year with a total of 228 estimates of giving for 2009 for a total of \$511,414.

It is not too late to turn in your estimate of giving cards. We are happy to receive them at any time. The Finance Committee will be working on the budget for 2010 in the next few weeks, and it really helps to have an accurate idea of what our income will be for the year when this is done. There are extra estimate of giving cards in the church office. Call or stop by if you need another one. You can also make your estimate of giving with an e-mail to Joyce Rasmussen, our financial secretary, at joyce@cwames.org, or online at www.cumc-wf.org/enough.cfm. Finally, be sure to contact me if you would like more information about giving through EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer).

Thank you for your generosity!
Joyce Rasmussen

The Advent Celebration Workshop

The Advent Celebration Workshop was held on Sunday, December 6th in Wesley Hall. The theme was "Hearts Come Home at Christmas." Those in attendance had a great time making masterpieces.



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: Church Conference

Church conference was held at First UMC in Ames on November 16. District Superintendant Dennis Tevis (right) presided.

