

The Communicator

Connecting People



A Letter from a
Worship Visitor p. 4

**"Faces at the
Cross"
Poster and
Lenten Guide
Enclosed**





Picture Page

Bill and Laura Cook have a lot of yummy salads to choose from at this years' first Spud Lunch. For more information about Spud Lunch see page 8.



On January 23, over 30 cluster and committee leaders and staff gathered for a leadership training event sponsored by the Committee on Lay Leadership and led by Rev. Linda Butler and Wil Ranney. The training focused on the General Board of Discipleship's guidelines for church ministries, and on how to lead a prayerful meeting. On the following day during worship, over 50 church leaders received a blessing to aid their important work this year.



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Bulletin and Weekly Email Announcements Deadline

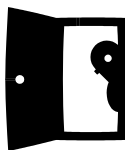
9:00 a.m. Wednesdays

Send Bulletin submissions to

natalie@cwames.org

Send Weekly Email submissions to

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 Communicator is compiled and produced by Wil Ranney, the Coordinator of Communications, and Lisa Larson, the Communications Intern. 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: 60 health kits were made to send to Haiti. This service project was organized by Stephanie Hamilton and was carried out by her Koininia group and aided by Sunday school families.

A Letter from a Worship Visitor

By Rev. Scott Grotewold

A fellow pastor told me the story today of the time he was asked to present a program about Heifer Project to a group that was meeting in the back room of the local tavern. Now, my friend had never been in the building before, and he says it took him a while to work up the courage to walk through the door. Finally, for the sake of sharing about this great ministry, he was able to do so. It seemed like everyone in the place knew one another and were the best of friends, and he definitely felt like an outsider. Then it struck him. I'll bet that's the way most of them would feel if they tried to walk through the doors of the church. I recalled at that moment a message I'd seen in several different resources. You might call it "A Letter from a Worship Visitor":

You cannot know the reason why I am here this morning. It may be as simple as a move to your community or as complicated as a personal crisis that leads me to seek strength from God. In either case, I am here. And I will probably remain here and come back to worship with you next Sunday and the Sunday after and the Sunday after that – if you will do some things for me. Would you, please?

- Smile at me as I walk in the door. You are my first impression of the church during the first few

moments I am in your building and this first impression will probably stay with me a long time.

- Help me find my way around your building. I will not find your help an intrusion. In fact, I will remember your kindness.
- Speak to me during the coffee hour. I know you want to see your friends and settle that piece of committee business, but I may find it hard that you truly care for each other unless I first see evidence that you care for “the stranger in our midst.”
- Tell me good things about your church and your ministries. I want to believe that I have come to a place where people love each other – and where they believe that they are doing something exciting and important for God.
- Notice me even if I am not a “family.” I don’t want to feel invisible just because I am unmarried, a single parent, a teenager or university student, or an older person.
- Talk to me again the second week when I come back, and the third and fourth. Please don’t feel you have “done your duty” by me just

because you made a point of greeting me that first week I was here.

- Invite me to become part of some church group. I need more than worship on Sunday. I need to know that I am accepted and affirmed by a group of people within the church who know me by my first name and who care about me as an individual.

If you can find it in your heart to do these things for me, I will come back – the second Sunday, the third, and maybe forever. I will worship with you, and I may join your choir; take a class; participate in your ministries; join a care group; teach Sunday School; mentor a confirmand; give sacrificially; or work on your mission project – and in so doing, I will find my own life immeasurably enriched.

What a difference you will have made!

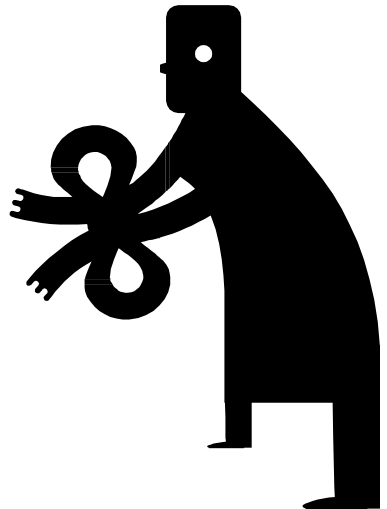
Not to absolve myself of all responsibility here, but studies have shown that people make up their minds about the church they are visiting within the first ten minutes. That is to say: long before the preacher preaches, most people have already decided if they plan to return.

Here are a couple of resolutions I'd like to see each person make:

THE CIRCLE OF TEN: Greet anyone – member or guest – who comes within 10 feet of you. Make a special effort to greet the people you don't already know within your Circle of Ten.

THE RULE OF THREE: Try not to talk to other members for the first three minutes after the service. Talk only to those you don't know and to people that you know are guests. It takes guests about three minutes to exit the church after worship so it's important to make sure someone has made contact with them before they leave.

Imagine the differences we can make in the lives of others if we make these resolutions our own!



The Vine



Church History

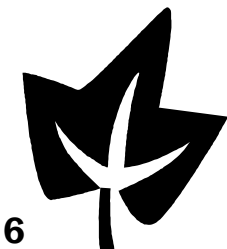
The project to update the CUMC/WF history is moving along. The Church History Committee is very grateful that many church members have agreed to contribute by writing about different activities and programs at CUMC/WF. Many articles have been completed and are now being edited.

We do need more assistance, however. As we continue to work on the writing phase, we're looking toward the next step, the publishing phase. The Committee will then need people to help with desktop publishing. We know there are many in our congregation who have such computer skills. If you are one of those talented people, and would like to work on the history project, the Committee would love to hear from you. Please contact Dorothy Schwieder, dschwied@iastate.edu or at 292-9238.

Good Neighbor Night at Lucullan's

A fund-raising dinner to benefit Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance will be held Sunday, March 7, at Lucullan's Italian Grill, 400 Main Street. The event organizers hope to raise \$3,000 for Good Neighbor's Healthy Food Voucher Program, which provides needy households with grocery vouchers for produce and meat. Demand for the vouchers rose 28 percent in fiscal year 2009.

Tickets are \$30 (\$20 of which is tax-deductible). To purchase dinner tickets, please contact Tim Gossett, 450-2858 or timgossett@mac.com, our congregation's Good Neighbor board representative, or stop by the Good Neighbor office, 508 Kellogg Ave. (across from the post office), from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. Good Neighbor is a consortium of member faith groups that help low-income people on a temporary, emergency basis with their rent, utilities and food.





Share Your Prayers with the Prayer Chain

In addition to sharing your prayers using the "blue cards" during Sunday Morning worship, you are encouraged to contact the Collegiate/Wesley prayer chain. The prayer chain is strictly confidential and is ready and willing to hold your prayers in their hearts and lift them to God. Submit your prayers by emailing prayerchain@cwames.org or calling the office at 292-6936.

Multi-Vitamins Needed

Bev Kruempel will be taking another Volunteer in Mission trip to the Philippines that will leave on February 23. She is collecting multi-vitamins especially for women and children. You can leave them in a specially marked basket in the church office or write a check to CUMC/WF with the notation "VIM Philippines" and turn it into the office.

Ticket to Hope

Ticket Hope Program: In light of the New Year, the Department of Human Services would like to remind you about the *Ticket to Hope* program, which provides professional counseling services to lowans dealing with the aftermath of Iowa's 2008 natural disasters. Department of Human Services has six months remaining to provide these important services to as many eligible lowans as possible.

As you know, the holidays can bring about additional stress for people still experiencing physical, emotional and financial hardships following the devastating storms. The *Ticket to Hope* program can help. One of our greatest challenges is establishing awareness of the program. No matter their individual situations, all survivors continue to work through the burdens associated with recovery.

In addition to reaching disaster survivors, our information will reach friends, family, co-workers and neighbors of survivors who may, in turn, pass along our message.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.tickettohope.org.



Spud Lunch Dates

Mark your calendars for the following spud lunch dates: **February 28, March 28**. Proceeds from these meals will help fund the youth summer service trips. High school youth will be participating in the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) and middle school youth will be traveling to Omaha, Nebraska.

“This I Believe”

The Wesley Foundation would like to invite you to a two-week study to take place during the Sunday School Hour (9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.) on **February 28** entitled “This I Believe”.

“This I Believe” will be based on the National Public Radio project of the same name. Kimberly Ferguson will lead us in learning to write our own “This I Believe” essay.

On Feb. 28th we will learn a little more about what “This I Believe” is and be encouraged to write our own “This I Believe” essay during the next week. On March 7th those who would like to will be invited to share their essay. Writing an essay is not required to attend.

It will be a good time to explore what things we hold true. We hope you will think about joining us. If you have any questions contact Kimberly Ferguson by email fergie@iastate.edu.



February is College Student Month in Worship

College students will serve as volunteers during worship every Sunday in February.

Personals (Personal Announcements)

The family of Helen Russell extends a big "thank you" to the members of the Collegiate United Methodist Church family for all the prayers, the words of comfort and every act of kindness that has upheld us during the days of her illness and especially during the recent days since her death. Your loving service will long be remembered. Thank you also for sharing in her memorial service. Your presence and your prayers were a great comfort. It's wonderful to be a part of such a "family". God bless you every one.

Thank you to everyone who offered words of comfort, sent cards, and supported our family while we grieve the loss of Pat Kain. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

~Janelle, Rob, Laura, Jim and families

If you have an announcement of a personal nature to share with the church, please send it to communicator@cwames.org

Letter from the President of the Methodist Church of Haiti

On behalf of the Methodist Church in Haiti and the Haitian people, we thank you. You have kept us in your prayers and we are grateful. You have sent donations through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). We thank you for your generosity. You have expressed your selfless interest in volunteering your time to come to Haiti to help with the recovery effort and we look forward to welcoming you.

UMCOR, requests that volunteer teams consider delaying their arrival into Haiti in light of the following:

The Methodist Church in Haiti and UMCOR are still undertaking assessments and evaluations in the 6 circuits most impacted by the earthquake, to determine the extent of the damage in church communities and beyond. Suitable projects and assignments for volunteer teams wishing to contribute to the recovery effort will not be identified until this process is complete.

The Methodist Guest House is currently being assessed for structural integrity, and will undergo some rehabilitation and reconstruction of the security wall before being brought to full capacity and security to host teams of volunteers.

Commercial flights into Haiti are currently suspended and all travel into Haiti must be done via the neighboring

Dominican Republic. Once in Haiti, transportation and logistics are further complicated due to the influx of international aid groups and the reality of debris and closed roads.

The emergency relief and debris removal phase may last at least another one or two months, depending on the severity of the impact to the communities. Volunteers wishing to work on the programs identified as priority by the Methodist Church in Haiti and UMCOR can begin to schedule trips for late March and April, once this initial emergency response and recovery phase is completed.

Volunteer teams with pre-existing travel plans to Haiti are urged to reconsider the timing and nature of their trip, in order to allow for re-assessment and prioritization of earthquake recovery programs.

Please continue to communicate with us your interest in volunteering for the recovery effort, and we will connect you with recovery projects and rehabilitation programs as soon as possible.

We thank you again for standing by us in this time of great need, and look forward to working in Christian partnership to build a better Haiti.

Blessings,

Rev. Gesner Paul

President, Eglise Méthodiste d'Haiti

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 Tim & Kathryn Gossett who share the joy that after four years of waiting, if all continues to go well, they will be adopting a newborn girl in early March. Prayers are also appreciated for the birth mother's health in these final weeks of pregnancy.

We celebrate that our CMA, Chris Hockley, has been accepted to the Pacific School of Religion, to begin his seminary education next fall.

For six year-old Garret Jordebek who is celebrating five years following neuroblastoma cancer treatment with no evidence of the disease. Mike, VaLinda and Meredith Parsons joined Garret's family at the University of Iowa Dance Marathon to celebrate this milestone.

Prayers of Concerns

For the family of Ruth Smith who died on Saturday, 1/16.

For Dick and Sally Wilson as they share the remembrance of their son, John, who died seven years ago on 1/24.

For Allison, a friend of Kallie Weinand, who has undergone some surgeries and is in the Intensive Care Unit. Prayers are for her, and her family and friends.

For the family and friends of Jonathan Lacina, the Iowa State student who has been missing since 1/22.

For the family of Helen Russell, whose funeral was here on 1/29. Helen was the wife of Rev. Raymond Russell.

For a high school friend of Megan Schroder's who died recently, prayers for his family during this hard time.

For Nancy Ruen, who had brain surgery at Mayo Clinic.

For the family of Bill & Ellen Shrum on the death of Ellen's father on 1/24.

For perfect healing for Connie's friend Randy.

Continued prayers for the people of Haiti.

For recovery and strength for Helen Drake who was recently hospitalized.

For Janet Wilson's co-workers' twin boys who were born prematurely, especially Braden who has spinal dysplasia.

For the family of Inez Loomis who passed away on 2/6. Inez is the aunt of Ed Augustine.

For recovery for Raymond Kanger, the uncle of Ashley Christenson, who suffered a major stroke in December.

For an ISU student named Kacy who is sick. Kacy's x-ray showed a growth which will be tested further.

For Helen Farr's cousin Larry Walters and his family whose 27 year-old daughter died.

The Sunday School Scene



Bill Boon, Shirley Snell, and Laura Shanks attend the Biblical Studies Class led by Mary Jean Baker.



Music time which is led by Tana Tesdall.



Kevin Gowdy, Executive Director of the Iowa United Methodist Foundation presents information about estate planning in Forum Class on February 7 as part of a program sponsored by the Endowment Board.



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: Food at First

Thank you to those who served at Food at First last month. Pictured (left to right) are VaLinda Parsons, Teresa Larson, Maureen Wilt, Pat Girton, and Bev Kruempel. Others that helped include: Dennis Byrne, Lynell Dougherty, Lucy Futrell, Sunny Hsu, Jane Jacobson, Karen Klaiber, Janie Lohnes, Jami Larson, Dave Matulac, Mike Parsons, Natalie Rekemeyer, Mary Stratton and Maureen Wilt. Thank you for helping in this meaningful project. The Food at First team served two meals in January.

