

The

Communicator

Connecting People

Annual
Conference
Highlights
p. 12

The Plight of the
Hummingbird

p. 4

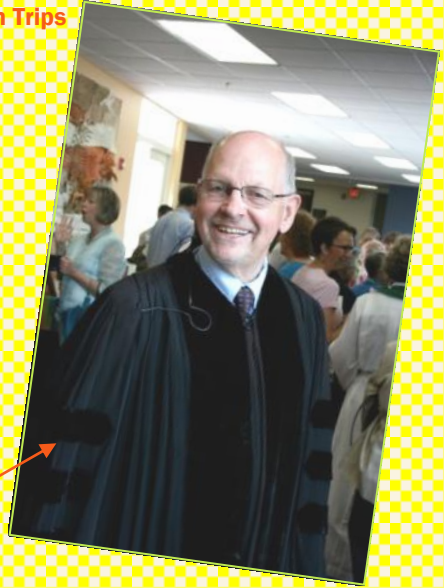




Picture Page



Taylor Palensky working as an Assistant Server during the Middle School Youth "Valentino's Night" fundraiser for Summer Mission Trips



Rev. Jim Davis after preaching his first sermon at Collegiate/Wesley. His sermon was titled "A Tale of Two Talks"



The Rust College Choir performing to a packed house in the Sanctuary for the Annual Conference Clergy Session on June 4

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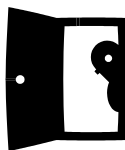
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Bulletin and Weekly Email Announcements Deadline

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 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 usually the first Wednesday of every month, but will be moved to the second Wednesday in July due to the Fourth of July Weekend.

For your convenience, *The Communicator* has its own email address: communicator@cwames.org. This is the preferred method for submissions to *The Communicator*.

Cover: Wesley Foundation Highway Cleanup on Hwy. 69 South of Ames. Pictured (left to right): Chris and Tammy Hockley, Ben Hucker, Jim and Bev Shirbroun, Cathy Cooney, Jenny De Tar, and Evan Schnabel.

The Plight of the Hummingbird

By Rev. Jim Shirbroun

My spouse Bev and I have embarked on a bit of a “back to nature” journey this Spring.

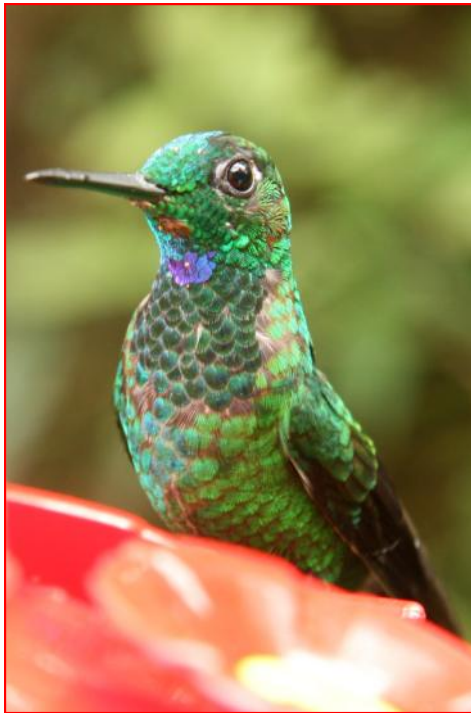
Neither of us come from “gardening families”, yet we built a raised bed garden and filled it, spade by spade, with a ton of dirt. We’re not planning to become self-sufficient with the produce from our 4 x 8 foot box, but we hope to not kill everything and enjoy SOME fruits (and vegetables) of our labor.

We purchased a white peach seedling (with the guarantee that we’d see fruit in three years and more than we can eat in 5 years. We’ll see!)

We also decided to put in a bird-feeder. While struggling with the momentous decision about which seed-feeder to buy we noticed the wide variety of hummingbird feeders. I’ve long been fascinated by these tiny dynamos. Each infrequent sighting in the past made my heart beat nearly as fast as a hummingbird’s (ok, maybe not quite!). The thought of attracting them to our backyard was too

great to resist.

There are a LOT of hummingbird feeders out there...flat, tall, glass, plastic, ornate, plain, big, small but mostly bright red with silly little yellow fake flower petals surrounding each feeding station. THOSE feeders would definitely blow the feng shui of our garden! We decided to go with the feeder which was prettiest to



us, a hand-blown glass sphere (purple, which won’t surprise those of you who know Bev well) with a small, red-tipped spout extending from the bottom and a burnished copper hanger.

While researching the recipe for hummingbird nectar I began to learn LOTS about the birds themselves. I’ll spare you the statistics (wing beats per second, the amount of insects and spiders these voracious creatures consume each day, etc.) but

several sources pointed out hummingbirds literally live on the edge of survival. The typical hummer is only hours away from death by starvation!

The birds need nectar from flowers (or sugar water from feeders) for the calories they burn in flight seeking bugs for

protein. One article asked would-be nectar providers to consider that a resting/perching bird uses far fewer calories than a hovering bird. Therefore feeders with perches are much better than feeders which require the birds to hover as they lap up the nectar.

Alas, our lovely, hand-blown (purple) glass feeder with the burnished copper hanger had no perches.

That feeder MAY have attracted the little jewel-toned beauties, but I couldn't deal with the thought of them expending more calories than necessary when they have SO few to spare! Back to the store went the lovely, hand-blown (purple) glass feeder with the burnished copper hanger. Home came the bright red plastic feeder with silly fake flower petals...sigh.

As ugly as it is to me, this feeder is apparently quite attractive to hummingbirds. This morning I felt the exhilaration of that rare, fleeting sighting in our flower garden...yes, that MUST have been a hummingbird! Then, a few minutes later it happened. A tiny bird examined that ugly, red, plastic feeder, slid its beak into one of those slots surrounded by silly, fake, yellow flower petals and began lapping up the nectar which I had made and provided for it. Victory for me and calories for my new little friend.

Few of us are just hours away from death by starvation physically, but it seems many people live on the edge spiritually, emotionally or relationally. We push the envelope, expending precious energy in areas which ultimately provide us little of real value while our connections with

God, our emotional health and our interactions with people wither.

The writer of Isaiah knew about this, asking (in chapter 55), "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?" Eugene Peterson phrases the question this way, "Why do you spend your money on junk food, your hard-earned cash on cotton candy?"

Even the healthiest of us can little afford living in ways which ignore or even threaten these precious aspects of life... Spirit, emotions and other people.

Unlike hummingbirds we needn't live precariously simply to survive. We can... we NEED to spend some of OUR precious energy and time pursuing these things which truly satisfy. Fortunately for us, we know a place where we can find all three.

This community of faith offers us an ever-deepening relationship with God, opportunities to share and receive guidance and support with the struggles of life and relationships with so many great people of all ages.

We won't candy-coat things (or offer sugar-water) and our facilities, while beautiful, are fully functional, even providing a "perch" or two when you need it.

It's my prayer that, at Collegiate/Wesley, you're finding or will find the nourishment, support, inspiration and insight you need and that you're telling others where they might find the same.

WELCOME

New Members

Marijke Hodgson—Marijke (pronounced mah*RAY*kah) comes to us through a transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Shellsburg, IA. She is a graduate student in Accounting at ISU working on her Master's Degree. She likes to cook, paint, run, read, and spend time with her nieces.



Angela Doss and Duane Huffer—Angela and Duane are engaged to be married this Fall. Angela grew up in Appleton, WI and Duane is from Story City. They both attended Luther College though they didn't meet until after they were finished with school. Angela is a Lawyer for Nationwide Insurance and Duane works for Huffer Law, PLC. Duane enjoys running, gardening, cooking, and reading, while Angela enjoys singing, reading, and being outdoors.

Philip Dykema and Peter Lundeen—Peter and Philip both come to us by transfer from Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Des Moines. Peter is Research Associate at ISU in Plant Pathology/Agronomy. Philip works for the USDA as a Scientist/Laboratory Diagnostician. They are both avid gardeners with over a third of their back yard reserved for their vegetable garden. They like finding excuses to get together with friends and eat good food.





All Church Summer Picnic



Reaching and Receiving

On Wednesday, June 24, 2009, come to the All Church Summer Picnic! We'll meet at the shelter in Moore Memorial Park (3050 Northridge Parkway in northwest Ames) rain or shine. Games and time to gather will be available starting at 5 p.m.; supper will be served at 6 p.m. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Bring your own place setting(s) as well as a potluck dish if you can; if not, there will be plenty of food, so come anyway. Plan to spend some time in fellowship and recreation with friends old and new. There are two playgrounds and a basketball hoop as well as walking paths and space for soccer, frisbee, and lawn games (equipment provided.) The shelter and restrooms are also handicapped accessible. All--members, visitors, and community members--are welcome, so spread the word and bring friends!



Blurbs

Coffee House on the Terrace

On June 17th, the Reaching and Receiving Cluster will be hosting a "Coffee House on the Terrace Night" from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The event will be held rain or shine. The featured musicians will include Collegiate Brass and Scott MacDonald. Delicious desserts and drinks will be provided at no cost. Hope to see you all at this fun gathering. Please bring friends, neighbors, and relatives!

We Donated Animals!

The Children's and Middle School Youth Sunday School classes have been saving their weekly offering money throughout this school year. Each section recently voted on where to donate these funds. All groups decided to send their offering to Heifer Project International. The Three's/ PreK class voted to buy a flock of chicks, and a flock of ducks and geese. Both Lower and Upper Elementary groups voted (independently) to purchase a pig. The Middle School class decided to buy four flocks of chickens. Nickels, dimes, and quarters added up over time and allowed us to gift animals that will make a difference to several families worldwide.

Trustees/Property Needs Volunteers

Do you have a little extra time this summer? Trustees/Property is looking for some volunteers to help with upcoming projects. Don Loupee has volunteered to block out the weeks of June 22, June 29 and July 6th to work on pew respacing and other T/P projects around the church/annex. His blocks of time would be 9-12 a.m., 1:30 to 4 p.m. and 6:30 to 9 p.m. If you are able to help out in some of those times, please contact Patty King at 515-292-3831 (pjking@netins.net) or Don Loupee 292-2297.

New Emotions Anonymous Meeting

Emotions Anonymous (EA) announces the beginning of a new chapter and meeting in Story County. It will start on Saturday June 20, 2009 and meet each week thereafter. Meetings will be held on Saturdays from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames at 1015 North Hyland Ave.

Emotions Anonymous is a twelve-step program to help people with stress in daily living and to live a healthier emotional life. EA is not affiliated with any other organization. The program is open to anyone who has a desire to become emotionally well. Members attend for various reasons, among them depression, anxiety, relationship problems and other emotional difficulties.

If you need further information, please contact Kelly at (515)509-4874.

Looking for Mentors

We need you! The Reaching and Receiving Cluster is starting a new team, the Mentoring Team. The mentors will help our regular visitors transition to feeling at home and involved at Collegiate UMC/WF. Mentors, placed with individuals or families, will act as guides to knowing more about our church and also may be spiritual companions.

Responsibilities of a mentor:

- Make initial contact with a visitor after being assigned by Welcome Team.
- Meet in person with the visitor, for coffee or at a church service or event.
- Make a monthly contact with the visitor.
- Invite visitor to different types of events/discipleship activities.

Training and more information will be provided on July 26th at 6:30p.m. in the Fireside Room. Please call Bev Shirbroun (233-3799 or 231-7530) or e-mail (bnerv1@yahoo.com) to participate in this exciting new ministry. You will be glad you did!

Help Needed With CFUM

Sending to Serve requests your assistance in providing the meal for the needy in Des Moines on June 27th. This is a commitment CUMC/WF has made for the last Saturday of every other month. If you could assist in donating a food item or assist with serving the meal, please respond to Sandy Meeks at sandymeeks@mac.com or Don and Helen Drake at 292-3258.

Bob Farr's 85th Birthday Celebration

You are invited to come and help us celebrate Rev. Robert "Bob" Farr's 85th birthday. We will be holding an Open House for him.

When: June 21st, 2009

Where: In the Fireside Room

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Come and help his family celebrate his life and the love he has offered to so many throughout the years.

Helen E. Farr and his family



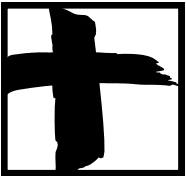
Personals

(Personal Announcements)

Thanks to all my many friends at CUMC/WF for the beautiful cards and words of comfort on the death of my husband, Loren. We've been so blessed with friends from this church. Thanks Jubilee Singers for all your support.
~Mary Pevestorf

We are pleased to announce the birth of our first grandchild, Ildri Jane, who was born on May 26th in Chicago to our daughter and her husband, Kari and David Weaver. ~Bill and Barb Holt.

If you have an announcement of a personal nature, such as a thank you, a birth, an engagement, a goodbye, etc., send it to communicator@cwames.org



Sending to Serve

Updates From Katherine Parker In Cambodia

The Following information comes from emails from our missionary Katherine Parker, and from her colleagues at CHAD (Community Health and Agriculture Development) in Cambodia. Stories about CHAD and more can be found on their blog:

chad-cambodia.blogspot.com

[Recently], my sister Janet, Piseth, Irene and I went down to Kantebopa Children's Hospital to donate blood. In order to get a transfusion, the family of the patient has to supply donations of blood equal to what is transfused. When school is in session, CHAD facilitates students at the Methodist Bible School to volunteer to help needy families.

You can read more about the young boy, Viriak, that CHAD has been helping to get quarterly transfusions in a story by Irene Marputsa [below]

This week on Thursday my telephone rang. It was Viriak, a 15-year old with Thalacaemia (a disease where the body makes abnormal red blood cells. Periodically, therefore, Viriak must come to Phnom Penh to receive blood transfusions of healthy red blood cells.) from Angkro Sang Methodist Church in Takeo. He needed help.

He told me, "We have no food. I cannot go to school." (Sometimes, when the food runs out, parents keep children at home to help find food. Normally Viriak's mother, a widow

who owns no land herself, works on other people's land for food.)

I was thinking, "How can I help?" Usually I help this family with transportation-to-hospital money, but this time they are asking for food relief. Then I had a sudden idea. In February when Viriak came to Phnom Penh in crisis, he was transfused and we sent the family home with \$50 for food because he was so undernourished. (So now was he needing another transfusion?)

I asked, "How are you feeling?"

"I'm not well."

"Ok, you come to Phnom Penh on Monday and I will give you some food money, but can you go to the hospital and get checked first?"

Can you see what was happening? The family had used up all the food money we had given them in February and now (May) it was gone. But now Viriak is unwell again. Because he was calling me, I was able to inquire and discover his need for medical attention.

I am so happy because our new Medical and Welfare Relief Advance is bringing the resources to help people like Viriak. Slowly with our help he is learning to manage his illness and to use the hospital services. The church has set up a safety net to assist his family. It is health

You Can Depend on Us

Spring Mission Offering Results

- Justice for Our Neighbors
\$711.33
- Women at the Well
\$1061.33
- Emergency Residence Project
\$1161.34
- Undesignated
\$488.00

Thanks to everyone who gave to missions this Spring. During this offering we surpassed our yearly commitment to Women at the Well. Your generosity is a blessing to those in need. They CAN depend on us!

development in its finest hour.

It makes me happy to share this story with you, both because you can see how important your prayers are, but also how significant simple money support can be in making a difference for a family and their sick child.

There is also a story by a volunteer from the recent UVMIM Medical Team from Colorado (that can be found on the blog). Thanks to the whole team!

It has been great to have my sister Janet volunteering here for the last month. We've been working with the small-business development at Mau Bourn's church, and following up on some of the recommendations in the mid-term evaluation of the CHAD program by our partners in the Methodist Church in Finland.

Katherine Parker



**Variak
and his mother**

Annual Conference Highlights

By Wil Ranney

Collegiate/Wesley had several people involved in Annual Conference this year, including our clergy, our retired clergy, three youth pages, three lay delegates, many lay visitors, a conference journal volunteer, and several “equalization” delegates (delegates that help balance out the ratio of clergy to lay people). Amidst all of the legislation, appointments, and worship, was a conference centered around the theme “Radical Hospitality.” In addition, our new Bishop, Julius Trimble, focused on keeping the conference “in house,” meaning the speakers and worship leaders came from within the conference.

One of the most talked about issues was UMC Constitutional Amendment I., commonly referred to as the “ALL Means ALL” amendment. This amendment seeks to change a list of persons who are included in the church with the words “ALL persons.” The amendment passed with 53% of the vote, but needs 2/3 of all the annual conferences worldwide in order to be ratified.

It was also decided that that Annual Conference will move to Des Moines, starting next year. This move will be less convenient for us, and will take revenue out of Ames, but the decision was made

largely due to accessibility of Hy-Vee Hall.

A third issue, that is particularly important to our Wesley Foundation, is that the Iowa Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry funding for 2010 was approved in full with little debate. Member Janet Stephenson, who chairs the Board of Higher Ed. says, “This means we will be able to continue the current level of programming and maybe even expand it, along with offering more scholarships.” Chris Hockley, our Campus Ministry Associate (who was serving as a lay delegate) said, “We are grateful that the conference sees campus ministry as a priority, worthwhile.”

I asked many of our folks what their favorite part about the conference was. Several stated that they were impressed with Rev. Jeremiah Wright. Janet Stephenson was skeptical at first but she thought that he was “intelligent, informed, moderate, humorous, and that the [concerns about him] were taken out of context.” Rev. Linda Butler was impressed that our Bishop was not afraid of controversy, and stood with Wright at the MFSA banquet.

Chris was really impressed with the Reconciling Communion service that is organized by the Rainbow Vision team here at C/W. He described it as



“Fantastic! Getting to meet a bunch of people that are about inclusivity...folks who were trying to live out the theme of the conference.” Rainbow Vision also made crosses, like the one pictured above, in support of “ALL means ALL.”

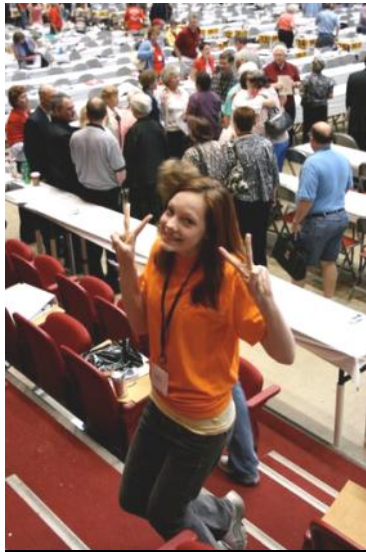
Doug Bates, one of our Lay Delegates, was also struck by the message of Radical Hospitality. He said, “I find it fascinating how diverse our conference is, the different opinions, rural, urban, the debates over the amendments, and in the legislative sessions. OUR church is really more diverse than what we often appreciate [it to be].”

It is also noteworthy that this was John Jacobson’s 10th time representing Collegiate/Wesley at Annual Conference. He was particularly impressed with how smooth the legislative sessions went.

One final note: Conference is also the time that itinerant clergy are appointed and reappointed, and as Janet put it,

“We are blessed that all three pastors at Collegiate/Wesley will be returning for another year.”

Here is the list of C/W folks who served at Annual Conference (I apologize in advance if I missed anyone): All four C/W



Page-in-Training Sydney DeGeest

Clergy, Rev. Scott Grotewold, Rev. Jim Shirbroun, Rev. Linda Butler, and Julie Wehner; Retired Clergy Rev. Les Moore, Rev. Bob Farr, and Rev. Jim Davis; Lay Delegates John Jacobson, Doug Bates, and Chris Hockley; Wesley Foundation Delegate Jenny De Tar; Equalization Delegates Marian Solomon (Peace and Justice Advocate for the Board of Church and Society), Janet Stephenson (Chair of the Board of Higher Education); Diaconal Minister Paul Lundy; Conference Journal volunteer Patty King; Pages

William Rekemeyer, Lauren Ossian, and page-in-training Sydney DeGeest.

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

Joy for the upcoming marriage of Melissa McElvain and Adam Blank on 6/13 here at CUMC/WF and for the 36th wedding anniversary of Jeanie and Marv McElvain

For the children, teachers and helpers at VBS the week of 6/8-6/12

For Irma Matchett visiting with us

For the birth of Ian Shriver, son of Eryn and John Shriver on 6/4

For Amy Olson and Joe Doolittle who were married on May 30

For the opportunity of the Wesley Foundation Highway Service Project on May 31

Blessings on all Ames High graduates and their families

For RaeAnna Rekemeyer's 18th birthday May 23

For Mike King, Steven Schroder and others on the crew who worked to grace the sanctuary with the Easter "rays" from the cross this season

For Scott MacDonald's work on planting and upkeep of the courtyard (Eagle Scout project)

For David Waggoner's service as director of the Jubilee Singers; May 24 was their last performance under David's direction

Prayers of Concerns

For the Ames High Western Civilization students as they travel through Europe touring the sites they studied this past academic year. Among the students are Brett Steelman and Jonathan Beavers. They are traveling from 6/5-6/19

For Allen G. Lang, whose father Allen N. Lang, died on 5/17 in Solon, IA

For Lois and Emmett Dreeszen and family on the death of Lois' brother, Dean Royer on 6/7

For Kaylee Brown, niece of Eric & Dawn Cowles, who has a tumor that has reformed. Kaylee will be going to Mayo Clinic for evaluation/treatment

For Cindy Happel, ISU Alum, who is having serious medical problems

FOR FUMC – Ames friend Kathy Obrecht who has been undergoing medical testing and will begin cancer treatment soon

For Food at First friend, Jeannie Randall who is dealing with challenges from a recent job loss

For Rebecca Davis' aunt, Nellie Scoville, who is having liver problems and gallbladder surgery on June 4

For Marti & Scott Elston, Marti's father died on May 28

For the flowers on May 31 were from the Memorial Service of Jerry Jarnagin, prayers for Carolyn Jarnagin and family

For Bill Shrum and his family on the death of Bill's aunt, Hazel Jones of Dadeville, Mo. who died two weeks ago

For all those affected by economic distress

For Dale Westergreen, father of Mary Ann Lundy, who had a pacemaker put in on May 22

For family of Bob & Helen Farr's brother-in-law, George, in North Carolina, who died May 19

For Georgia Webb, hospitalized in Iowa City (now at Riverside Manor in Ames) following knee surgery

For those serving in the armed forces, especially in hotspots such as Iraq and

Afghanistan

For a dear friend of Kay Craig, Lyn Terrill, who is having back surgery at the Mayo Clinic

For all the service men and women who have given their lives, and a prayer for their families



A BANNER SUMMER

Over the next couple of months, Sunday morning worship at Collegiate/Wesley will be celebrating "A Banner Summer." Beginning June 14, and continuing until mid-August, the sermons will each focus on the symbols depicted on the banners which decorate the sanctuary during the season after Pentecost. The series begins June 14.

The banner sermon schedule is as follows: June 14 (Linda Butler: beehive); June 21 (Scott Grotewold: shell); June 28 (Jim Shirbroun: fish); July 5 (Scott: globe); July 12 (Scott: vine); July 19 (Jim: rainbow); July 26 (Linda: ship); August 2 (Scott: wheat & grapes); August 9 (Linda: pitcher & towel).

The banners will be in their second summer of use and are given in memory of long-time member Janice Schloerke, who died in 2005.

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: Wesley Hall Jazz Ensemble

Thanks to the Wesley Hall Jazz Ensemble for showing us that Traditional Jazz has a place in Worship. Pictured (left to right): John Busart on drums, Paul Lundy on sax, Dick Grieve on banjo, Paul Anderson on sousaphone, Paula Anderson on clarinet, Orville Berbano on guitar, John Burns on trumpet, Max Morris on trombone, Mark Blaedel on guitar, and Mark Snell on piano (not pictured).

