

Community  
United Methodist Church  
Open Hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

## WORSHIP

**Saturday, March 10**  
5 p.m.

*Worship in the Chapel*

**Sunday, March 11**  
8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

*Traditional Worship*  
(SANCTUARY)

*Third Sunday in Lent*

The Rev. Haeran Kim  
preaching

Text: Luke 13:6-9

11 a.m.

*OnCenter*

*Contemporary Worship*  
(TENT)

**'Dead or Alive —  
Only God Knows'**

The Rev. Tom Babler  
preaching

Text: Luke 13:6-9

**Saturday, March 17**  
5 p.m.

*Worship in the Chapel*

**Sunday, March 18**

8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

*Traditional Worship*  
(SANCTUARY)

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

*One Great Hour of Sharing*  
Sacrament of Baptism (11 a.m.)

**'Witnesses to Christ'**

The Rev. Tom Babler  
preaching

Text: II Corinthians 5:16-21

11 a.m.

*OnCenter*

*Contemporary Worship*  
(TENT)

**'The Hiding Place'**

Jim Best preaching  
Text: Psalm 32

### Sunday School

- 9:30 a.m. (All ages)
- 11 a.m. (Elementary only)

Child care at all services

## Pastor's Note

### Call to confession

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.* — I John 1:8

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington has launched a marketing blitz in this Lenten season calling the faithful to confession. Begun on Ash Wednesday, this campaign is being promoted with signs on buses and subway cars, brochures and radio spots. The slogan, "The Light is On for You," intends to call Catholics back to the confessional booth where the priest has the light on.

We Reformed Protestants have a lot of issues with the Roman Church's ritual of confession. But there is also a lot for us to gain by paying attention to that community's renewed emphasis on repentance.

It is called the "Sacrament of Reconciliation." In short: Confession. It involves telling one's sins to a priest, who stands in the place of Jesus. It involves expressing contrition or regret with a desire to change. From the other side of the "booth," it involves receiving assigned penance — acts of discipline and devotion — and finally the words of forgiveness and absolution.

According to the *Washington Post* article (Feb.22) by Michelle Boorstein in which I read of this campaign, attendance at Confession has declined drastically since the 1960s. The long lines at the confessionals have dwindled to just a few visits with priests often made by appointment.

The reasons for the decline must be many in the changing American Catholic Church. According to the news story, church leaders speculate about the cause in terms of these questions: Are people just too busy to make the traditional Saturday confession? Is it because we have learned from our culture how to avoid responsibility for the wrongs of the society and even of our own lives? Have we lost the understanding of sin and the ability to recognize sin in our lives? Hence, no need to confess.

On the Protestant side of the Church, we too have de-emphasized confession. The "Service of Confession" is seldom included in our Sunday worship. We preachers speak at times about "institutional sin," but seldom about personal sins. We have been persuaded by a therapeutic culture that focuses on behavioral modification rather than repentance and forgiveness of sin. I remember a *Christianity Today* article chiding we "modern" Christians for seeing sin merely as a "Fly in the Ointment" rather than a "Poison in the Well."

### Wednesday Lenten Communion Services

*Weekly meditations on the Seven Last Words of Jesus and Holy Communion*

7 to 7:30 a.m. in the chapel



## Wiley College A Cappella Choir, drama group to be at Community March 23



The Wiley College A Cappella Choir from Marshall, Texas, returns to Community UMC on Friday March 23. The choir and the college's drama group will perform after a potluck supper at 6 p.m.

Friday, March 23, at 6 p.m., members and friends of Community UMC (CUMC) will have an opportunity to experience an evening of music and drama from Wiley College's A Cappella Choir and Encore Players drama group. The college students, who will be in Northern Illinois on a spring break tour, will perform after a potluck dinner.

The performance will include selections from "God's Trombone" by the drama group and lively music from the choir.

The main course at the supper will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring a salad or dessert, and to call the church, (630) 355-1483, to reserve space.

The Wiley College A Cappella Choir has visited Community UMC for more than two decades during Sunday worship.

Wiley College, located in Marshall, Texas, is one of the 11 historically black colleges related to the United Methodist Church. CUMC has a long history of supporting Wiley College having raised nearly a third of a million dollars for the institution. CUMC member, **Linda Rhodes**, sits on the college's Board of Trustees. Other members have provided service to the college through work trips.

In 1897, the Wiley Jubilee Singers was organized, providing an art  
*See Wiley College on back page*

## Children's Lenten workshop will combine pretzels, prayer April 7

Children from kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us on Saturday, April 7, from 10 a.m. to noon as we explore pretzels and prayer.

Children will have an opportunity to learn about the prayer-centered history of the pretzel and get a chance to make their own homemade pretzels, all while learning about prayer and discovering other ways to pray. For more information, or to volunteer to help with this activity, contact **Beth Elders**, (630) 355-1483 or belders@communityunitedmethodist.org.

# Community presenting film festival on Saturdays, Lenten Lunches on Sundays

Lenten activities at Community UMC (CUMC) include two firsts, a film festival on Saturdays in March, and lunches to explore scripture and other readings following the 11 a.m. worship services.

• **A Lenten Communion Service** will be offered every Wednesday through April 4 from 7 to 7:30 a.m. in the chapel.

• **Lenten Lunches** will take place each Sunday in Lent through April 1. From 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., we'll enjoy a light soup and sandwich while exploring and discussing scripture and other readings from a Lenten study book.

For more information and/or to RSVP for lunch, contact **Beth Elders**, director of Christian Education, at [belders@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:belders@communityunitedmethodist.org) or by calling the church office, (630) 355-1483.

• **CUMC's Lenten Film Festival** will look at the themes of Sin/Alienation and Reconciliation in films to be

shown on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. in fellowship hall during March.

March 10, Kairos Class will host the viewing of "The Color Purple"; March 17, Community Forum will host the showing of "The Days of Wine and Roses"; March 24, Sojourners Class will present "North Country"; March 31, OnCenter and the Fidelis Class will host **Al Gore's** Academy Award film "An Inconvenient Truth." Child care will be provided by calling the church office early in the week of the showing, (630) 355-1483.

## Ad Board approves budget

On Jan. 10 the Administrative Board passed the 2007 Operating Budget as presented by the Finance Committee. This is a "faith budget" as was the 2006 budget.

Projected income of \$905,035 is up 2.8% from the 2006 actual receipts.

Projected expense of \$955,094 is up 5.6%. The deficit is \$50,059 or 5.2% of expenses.

Our assigned apportionment from the Northern Illinois Conference is down 4.4%

Salaries and benefits are up 5.1%. Office operation is up 3.2%. Ministry programs are up 43.4%. Trustees are up 5%.

\$71,879 was pledged to Rainbow Promises (Advance Specials).

\$30,723 was pledged to the Church Mortgage.

— **Elmer Schirmer, Finance Chairman**

## IRS requires records, receipts for charitable donations

As of Jan. 1, all charitable contributions, even small ones, must be substantiated with official receipts or official financial records. In the past, the IRS has allowed personal notes, diaries or bank registers as sufficient proof that a person actually placed those \$5, \$10 or \$20 bills in the collection plate at church. If you give by check, credit card or in an assigned offering envelope,

your contributions will be included in your official statement from the church at the end of the year. You will not be legally able to claim cash that is placed in the offering plate anonymously. If you do wish to give cash, you should write your name on an envelope when you place it in the offering plate so it will appear on your financial statements.

## ■ Confession *continued from front page*

Strangely, as the Christian community has de-emphasized the rituals of confession, our secular culture has given much attention to the baring of the soul. In tabloids and on the Internet, people "go to confession" telling all and then some. On television with Oprah and Dr. Phil, guests confess terrible personal truths to a large audience.

I was deeply moved by a recent episode of "Grey's Anatomy" that dealt with confession and absolution. In this medical drama series located in fictional Grace Hospital, Seattle, George O'Malley, a surgical intern, was caring for his father who was dying after cancer surgery. George shaved his dad's face as an act of intimate communion, and then bowed for confession. Holding his forehead next to the forehead of his unconscious father, he said: "I told you I didn't hit the neighbor boy in the face with a stick. I lied. I lied to you, Dad. You took my side and got in a big fight with his dad."

We who were listening in felt the great release in this confessional by the hospital bed at Grace. In the words of

Archbishop Wuerl of Washington, D.C., this fundamental ritual is meant to keep us holy and close to God. It's about getting free of awful burdens.

The "Call to Observe a Holy Lent" is a call to confession: telling the truth of our lives for the purpose of repentance — turning from sin — and renewal of life in Christ. Where can we find a confessional? Who will be our Confessor? What sin must we dare to confess?

George was moved to confess in the love between his father and himself. The scripture promises, "If we confess our sins, [the One] who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Amen.

## Our Community

### offers condolences to ...

... the family and friends of **Jeanette Schendel**, a former member of Community UMC who died on Feb. 3 in Fort Collins, Col.

... **Todd Purdy** and his family on the death of his father, **Dallas Purdy**, on Feb. 7 in Port Huron, Mich. Dallas is the grandfather of **Garrett** and **Grant Purdy**.

... **Sally Schuck** and her family on the death of her cousin, **the Rev. Leigh Schuck**, on Feb. 16 in Port Huron, Mich.

... **Bonnie McLaughlin** and her family on the death of her cousin, **Elizabeth Erfmeyer**, on Feb. 21 in Galesburg.

... **Ralph Davis** and his family on the death of his mother, **Alice Netzley**, on Feb. 22. Alice is the grandmother of **Danielle**, **Justin** and **Michael Davis**.

... **Sarah Turner** and her family on the death of her father, **Philip Turner**, on Feb. 28. He is the grandfather of **Emma Rueth**.

### congratulates ...

... **Stephanie** and **Tom Fanthorpe** on the birth of their son, **Carson Thomas Fanthorpe**, on Jan. 31. Proud grandparents are **Pat** and **Jim Fanthorpe**.

... **Derrick** and **Emily Swistak** on the birth of their son, **Logan Zbigniew Swistak**, on Feb. 7. Proud grandparents are **Betsy** and **Joe Roche**.

... **Brian** and **Cindy Parks** on the birth of their son, **Sawyer Paul Parks**, on Feb. 21. Proud grandparents are **Joyce** and **Paul Parks**.

### has learned that ...

... **Joe O'Neill**, nephew of **Carol** and **Charlie O'Neill**, is now stationed in Iraq.

### continues to pray for ...

... our troops and their families: **John Atchison**, **Christopher Coyle**, **Tyson Crosby**, **Ryan Gray**, **Joshua Moore**, **Joe O'Neill**, **Bryce Pope**, **Vincent Simonetti**, **Betsy Weiner** and **Brad Woltman**.

## ■ Wiley College *continued from front page*

form that offers this country's gift to world culture, Negro folk music, spirituals, blues and jazz. Today, the choir performs tasks of fundraising, recruitment and public relations for the college.

The choir is directed by **Stephen Hayes**, currently in his second year as Visiting Lecturer and Director of Music at Wiley. He has conducted or prepared choirs to sing with many well-known performers, including **Barry Manilow**, **Melba Moore** and **Michael Bolton**. In 1999, Hayes made his conducting debut at Carnegie Hall.

**Babette Reid**, assistant professor of Music, accompanies the choir. She served as accompanist for the St. Mary's Women's and the Collegiate choirs. She holds a BA in Music from Spelman College and Masters of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Notre Dame.

The Encore Players are the official performance troupe for Wiley College. The troupe comprises students enrolled in Theater and Speech and other interested students committed to excellence in theater arts.

The Encore Players are under the direction of **Paul Osborne**. He received his bachelor's degree in Theater from Prairie View A&M University and Master of Fine Arts degree from Southern Methodist University. His television credits include "The Jesse Owens Story," "Dallas," "See You in the Morning" and "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Osborne has worked alongside such artists as Avery Brooks, Larry Hagman and Jeff Bridges.



**Our purpose is to be a dynamic community of thinking and caring United Methodist Christians.**

20 N. Center St., Naperville, IL 60540  
(630) 355-1483 • [www.communityunitedmethodist.org](http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org)

### Pastors

The Rev. Tom Babler / The Rev. Haeran Kim

### Christian Education Director

Beth Elders

Lay Ministry

Mary Jacobs

### Music Ministries and Worship

Planning Director

Stephen Edwards

### Contemporary Worship

Director

Joel Janis

Youth Director

Jim Best

Administration

Lauralyn Theodore

### Missionaries

Dr. Lahi and Yema Luhahi, Kenya

The Rev. Nkemba and Mbwizu Ndjungu, Senegal

### A Stephen Ministry Church

**A**s a congregation with open hearts, open minds and open doors, we fervently live into the words of John Wesley: "If thou lovest God and all humankind, I ask no more: Give me thine hand."

Our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability.