

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

WORSHIP

Saturday, May 5
5 p.m.

Worship in the Chapel

Sunday, May 6
8:30 & 11 a.m.

Traditional Worship

(SANCTUARY)

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion

'Wiping Tears'

The Rev. Tom Babler
preaching

Text: Revelation 21:1-6

11 a.m.

OnCenter

Contemporary Worship
(TENT)

Saturday, May 12
5 p.m.

Worship in the Chapel

Sunday, May 13
8:30 & 11 a.m.

Traditional Worship

(SANCTUARY)

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion (8:30)

'Those Who Love Me
Will Keep My Word'

The Rev. Haeran Kim
preaching

Text: John 14:23-29

11 a.m.

OnCenter

Contemporary Worship
(TENT)

'Hospitality'

Youth Director Jim Best
preaching

Text: Acts 16:9-15

Sunday School

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

**Child care
at all services**

Pastor's Note

Being persuasive

The following is a bit of dialogue from the Academy Award-winning film, "The Last King of Scotland."

IDI AMIN (played by **Forest Whitaker**): Yes, you are my adviser. You are the only one I can trust in here. You should have told me not to throw the Asians out, in the first place.

NICHOLAS GARRIGAN: *I DID!*

IDI AMIN: But you did not persuade me, Nicholas.

You did not persuade me!

- The following is found in the *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church under the heading "Faithful Ministry":

The people of God, who are the church made visible in the world, must convince the world of the reality of the gospel or leave it unconvinced. There can be no evasion or delegation of this responsibility; the church is either faithful as a witnessing and serving community, or it loses its vitality and its impact on an unbelieving world. (¶128)

- The following is the response of King Agrippa to Paul's defense of his faith: "Agrippa said to Paul, 'Are you so quickly persuading me to become a Christian?'" — *Acts 26:28*

Multi-faith world

In this multi-faith world, we wonder if we are really called to be persuasive on behalf of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are hesitant in public to share our faith in Jesus Christ, let alone to make a convincing defense of the Gospel before an "unbelieving world."

In this multi-faith world, we wonder if we are really called to be persuasive on behalf of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yet the powers of persuasion are being practiced all around us every day: in the barrage of advertising, in the rhetoric of political campaigns, in the ideologies of various causes. Passionate persuaders are working hard to get us to buy, and to vote and to believe a certain way.

"Should we not also be ready and willing to stand up amidst these many voices to make a defense of the hope that is in us?"

— *1 Peter 3:15*

Again this week, I believe that Jesus weeps over the city, especially the city of Blacksburg, longing for us to recognize the things that make for peace. (See article on this page, "Rhodes involved ...")

Make a bold witness

There must be a time and a way for us as Christians to make a bold witness of the grace and peace of God that we know in Jesus Christ. We must not evade nor delegate this responsibility.

Finally, Jesus taught us that our witness of words and deeds will be most persuasive and convincing because of the love we show to each other and to the world.

By
The Rev.
Tom Babler
Senior
Pastor



Rhodes involved in Virginia UMCs' response to tragedy

Community UMC member, **Linda Rhodes**, who now serves as the Director of Communications for the Virginia Conference, was recently interviewed by United Methodist News Service on that conference's response to the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech University.

The region surrounding Virginia Tech received a faith-based message of comfort and hope from the people of the United Methodist Church through television and radio spots and newspaper ads addressing the campus massacre. Beginning the last week of April and running for one week, more than 300 television spots and radio tags reminded listeners and viewers in the southwestern part of the state that the United Methodist Church in Virginia is praying with them.

"In this time of local and national tragedy," said the TV narrator, "we are all filled with questions. Why did this happen? What do we say to our children? How will we heal? We may never find answers, but we can comfort one another as we seek peace and understanding."

The spots invited people to visit the Roanoke District Web site (www.roanokeumc.org) for suggestions about how to talk with children about the shooting to help them feel safe in a sometimes violent world. The site also helps visitors search for a local United Methodist church.

The message also encouraged seekers to visit United Methodist churches or other congregations in search of spiritual understanding and hope. "People are searching for comfort and looking for answers in a time like this and often come to church to find those answers, even when they normally don't attend," said **Linda Rhodes**, director of Communications for the Virginia Conference who started her job on the day of the shootings. "We think it's important to help people find a local church quickly."

The media response has included a full-page ad that ran Sunday. See **Virginia** on back page



Rhodes

Foundation donates to church

By Bob Smith

PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY UMC FOUNDATION

Thanks to your gifts, memorials and bequests and favorable investment results, the Community UMC (CUMC) Foundation has made the following gifts to the church this year:

- **From the Endowment Fund:** \$6,000 for general use in support of CUMC programs.
- **From the Music Endowment Fund:** \$1,000 for use in our music program.

Since its incorporation in 2001, the Foundation has distributed almost \$40,000 to CUMC from its permanent endowment funds. CUMC has used these funds for purchases of equipment, to provide additional funding for various capital improvement projects, and as "seed money" in support of new ministry projects.

Contact any Foundation board member if you have questions on how you may make a gift to the Foundation that will help CUMC grow. Members are **Bob Atcheson, the Rev. Tom Babler, Brenda DeGeer, Bob Kinsman, Jean Morris, Elmer Schirmer, Bob Smith and Lauralyn Theodore.**

What is a 'Steward'?

"Steward," translated from the Greek New Testament word *oikonomos* and sharing the root for economy, referred to the servant responsible for purchasing supplies, overseeing the other hired hands, keeping the books and administering the operation of the household. Literally, *oikonomos* means "manager of the household." More than once, Jesus told a story that began, "There was a steward who ..."

From biblical images then, we are all stewards of God's household. There are ecological, economic and geopolitical implications to God's call to be stewards of all that God has created.

Christian stewardship is a relational issue. It begins with God's love. It affirms God's ownership of our possessions, which are really a trust from God. It celebrates God's partnership with us, and it grows on God's hope.

Christian stewardship helps us discover meaning for our lives, and it changes the church's focus from money to people.

In relation to finances, stewardship has as much to do with how church members earn and give their money as with how the church uses its funds after they are placed in the offering plate. An annual pledge of 10% does not make individuals faithful stewards unless they discover the joy of managing faithfully the other 90% of their personal finances.

Purpose of giving in the church has two dimensions:

- It is part of an individual's personal journey towards wholeness.
- It is essential to the mission of the ministry of the gospel through the church.

Registration open for VBS

Theme for this year's United Vacation Bible School (VBS), which is a cooperative venture involving Community UMC, Wesley UMC and First Congregational Church, will be "Lift Off! Soaring to New Heights with God." The VBS will be Monday to Thursday, June 25 to 28.

Registration has begun. Besides students, volunteers are also being sought to help.

Registration forms are available in the hall outside the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, and in the church office.

Registration opens to the public May 16 and closes May 21, or until program capacity is reached.

For more information, contact **Beth Elders** at belders@communityunitedmethodist.org or (630) 355-1483, or call the VBS Hotline, (630) 355-1834, ext. 12.



Our Community

offers condolences to ...

... **Sue Lippencott** and her family on the death of her mother, **Margaret Howison**, on April 3.

... **Carl Gilmore** and his family on the death of his aunt, **Carole Gilmore**, on April 15.

has learned that ...

... **Dave Cobbel**, relative of **Mary Markwell**, 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**.

■ Virginia continued from front page

April 22, in *The Roanoke Times*, proclaiming that "fear is not the only force at work in the world today" and reminding readers that the church is praying with them.

The 30-second television spots ran throughout the Greater Roanoke area during network and cable news programming. The 15-second radio tags began running April 23 throughout most of southwest Virginia surrounding Blacksburg, where 33 people, including the lone gunman, died in the April 16 campus shooting rampage.

The church's \$32,000 media response was expected to reach approximately 378,000 households, or 83% of the Roanoke area market. The ad response was funded by various sources within the Virginia Conference and grants from United Methodist Communications and the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

It comes on the heels of a United Methodist media campaign during the season of Lent that sprinkled the Roanoke District with billboard messages such as "for all the days that end in 'why'" and "another force but fear."

"It was interesting that those [messages] ... were selected because they're certainly very appropriate now," Rhodes said.

The Roanoke District and Virginia Conference are working with United Methodist Communications to purchase more media placements for the spots, according to Rhodes. "We think it's a very powerful message, and we want to reach out to as many people as we can who were affected by this tragedy and are truly hurting," she said.

12th Pass-Along Plant Sale is June 2

Community UMC's 12th Pass-Along Perennial Plant Sale is Saturday, June 2. Nearly \$80,000 from proceeds has been donated so far to fight hunger worldwide.

If you have perennials in your garden that need thinning or dividing, please consider sharing them with us. We have lots of pots and soilless dirt.

Drop off the plants at the Benton St. garage next to the church. Please include a slip telling the type of plant(s) you are leaving.

Sunday Group to discuss *Unwise Passions*

Sunday Evening Book Discussion Group will meet May 13 to discuss *Unwise Passions* by **Alan Pell Crawford**. The book group meets from 7 to 9 p.m. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to participate.

Contact **Connie** and **Deane Manbeck**, (630) 778-1220 or dmanbeck@aol.com, for more information.

Leaders needed for summer Sunday school

Volunteers are needed to lead this summer's children's Sunday school, which takes place during the 10:30 a.m. service from June 10 to Aug. 19. Curriculum and all material preparation is provided.

Openings are available that fit your schedule on a per Sunday, per month or every Sunday basis.

Call **Stephanie Hild**, (630) 548-0927, or **Michele Chandler**, (630) 289-2759, for more information or to sign up. You may also sign up to help by using the volunteer form outside children's Sunday school classrooms.

Graduates' pictures, bios sought

If you or someone in your family is graduating soon, Community UMC would like to recognize your accomplishments. Graduates will be recognized at all worship services on June 3.

Send photo along with graduation details and anticipated next steps to **Beth Elders**, also be a graduate this spring, no later than May 21. Send them to 20 N. Center St., Naperville, IL 60540 or belders@communityunitedmethodist.org.

Mother/Child Dessert is May 14

The United Methodist Women Mother/Child Dessert will be Monday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. in fellowship hall. If you are a mom or you have a mom, you are invited — which means everyone!

Entertainment will be provided by the Hosanna and Joyful Noise children's choirs of Community UMC.

Bring a dessert to share.

Spring Garage Sale is May 19

The United Methodist Women Spring Garage Sale will be Saturday, May 19, in fellowship hall. Drop off of donated items starts Sunday, May 13. Bring gently used toys, electronics, tableware, books, CDs, videos, games, small appliances and furniture. No adult clothing will be accepted. Pick up is available by contacting **Kay Lawson**, (630) 420-0977 or kay@lawsondome.org.

Church Women United meet May 4

Church Women United's Friendship Day will be Friday, May 4, at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 1500 Brookdale Rd. Theme for this year's event is "Friends Under God's Wing."

Bring a salad to share. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., with lunch, Bible study and worship to follow.

'Doubt' will be subject at Book Circle

The United Methodist Women Book Circle will be discussing the Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Doubt" by **John Shanley** on Wednesday, May 16. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. **Pat Shanower** will lead the discussion.

The play may be ordered at Anderson's Book Store.

Nancy Whittington will host the meeting at 6368 Greene Rd. in Woodridge. Call her, (630) 961-5244, if you plan to attend.



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

United Methodist Church
Open hearts. open minds. open doors.

20 N. Center St., Naperville, IL 60540
(630) 355-1483 • www.communityunitedmethodist.org

Pastors	
<p>The Rev. Tom Babler / The Rev. Haeran Kim</p> <p>Christian Education Director Beth Elders</p> <p>Lay Ministry Mary Jacobs</p> <p>Music Ministries and Worship Planning Director Stephen Edwards</p>	<p>Contemporary Worship Director Joel Janis</p> <p>Youth Director Jim Best</p> <p>Administration Lauralyn Theodore</p>

Missionaries
<p>Dr. Lahi and Yema Luhahi, <i>Kenya</i> The Rev. Nkemba and Mbwizu Ndjungu, <i>Senegal</i></p>

A Stephen Ministry Church

As 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.