

Kairos Oversees UMCOR Layette Kit Collection

The Kairos Sunday School Class is organizing the completion of UMCOR Layette Kits. These are essentially gift bags for new mothers, and include items basic to a newborn baby's care and comfort. So many children around the world lack the basics and we at CUMC have the resources to offer this small token of Christian love. We have learned just recently that the local UMCOR distribution center has NO Layette Kits in inventory. That makes this work not only useful, but timely. Please consider helping in some way. This is not a Sunday School class activity, but a CUMC project. We are asking for gifts of prayer, time, resources, and skills. Anything you can offer is appreciated and needed.

UMCOR requires all items to be new. Please also make purchases of items exactly as listed. Items can be dropped off in the Kairos class in the box marked "UMCOR Layette Kits," please by January 20, 2008. If you have questions about any of this, please contact one of the co-chairs (June Green at 630-820-2513, Kathy Beitzel at 630-898-1745 or Laura Denklau at 630-637-1712).

The UMW Knitting Circle members, led by Mary Markwell, are making baby sweaters on Monday nights (starting on January 7th) at the church. If you have some skills in that area, or even if you are just learning, you would be welcome to join them there.

Monetary donations are completely welcome. We'll use the money to round out partially completed kits and purchase items for additional kits, as available. Each kit also incurs a shipping cost of about \$1. If you would like to make a donation to the Layette Kit project, please deliver it to the church office (checks made payable to Community United Methodist Church) and clearly marked for the UMCOR Layette Kit.

On Saturday, January 26th, starting at 4 p.m., any and all are welcome to join Kairos class members in Fellowship Hall at CUMC in the assembly of the Layette Kits. Afterwards, we'll be sharing pizza and playing board games. This promises to be an evening of great satisfaction in serving others and having fun. Please join us. Childcare can be arranged for those who would like to take advantage of that. Please contact Jim Cowan for childcare requests (815-293-2903 or jimcowan@mac.com by January 19, 2008).

Lastly, please offer prayers for this endeavor that it might minister to those who are in need. We hope that our collective efforts contribute to the United Methodist impact in the world and make a difference to mothers and their children.



Devotional shared

Gifts of the Heart

The last verse of Christina Rossetti's beautiful poem ends with the line "What I can, I give Him: give my heart."

Give Him my heart. I thought about what it means to give my heart. How do I give that gift? I have seen examples of others giving their hearts and the ripple and reciprocal results that occur.

We were walking down the street in Chicago and passed one of the many bell ringers with the red bucket. A Mother gave her young son money to put into the pot. He walked back and clanked his money in. Then he stopped and hesitantly touched the bell. The lady showed him how to ring it. He started shyly and quickly graduated into unbridled enthusiasm. The bell rang loudly and he was laughing, the lady was laughing, his Mother was laughing, and we, on the periphery, were laughing as he gave the bell back and took his Mother's hand and walked away in the snow. So much heart giving in this exchange, so much receiving. The boy and his Mother will not soon forget and we haven't either. All from a simple gesture.

I am up early to go to PADS. It's cold and dark and I would like to sleep at least until its light out. I get up anyway, of course, because I have said I would be there. Cooking the French toast, pouring juice and helping serve breakfast I think I am probably giving my heart. But then the real moment occurs when the homeless person says to some of us "Thanks for the hot breakfast. It is so nice of you to get up so early and cook for us". Wow!!, have I ever received a gift of the heart in this thanks. I, who have a warm home, soft bed and a kitchen full of food have just been warmed and fed by a simple statement.

Our church has a little girls' dance group. Some of them have special needs. It is rehearsal and here they come with their flashlight candles, crowns and shiny costumes. They dance in the glow of the lights and their faces look angelic. Donna has given her heart to these little ones and in so doing has spread joy to proud parents whose faces are also glowing. They are gifted with the heart of Donna's generous gift of patience and love so these little ones can shine. The performance comes and these precious ones dance, save for one. She is upset by the change in routine and cries. Donna puts her on her lap for the performance and she watches from there sobbing. Her wonderful Mother then holds her as she calms down. There are no harsh words for this child, only love. When the entire program is over and people are leaving the other girls remain and they ALL dance for each other and for family videos and pictures. Little girls giving a heart gift.

To me these are three examples of how we "Give our hearts". How others are affected we may never know but ripples have been started. Something larger than we can imagine may grow from these simple acts.

— Rosemary Zimmerman


God's People Book Group celebrates Love Feast

The Tuesday morning women's book group God's People ended 2007 with a Love Feast in the Wesleyan Tradition. Through their reading and discussion of the book "Plain Truth" by Jodi Picoult, the group grew to learn a great deal about the Amish, Mennonite, and even Moravian faiths. This exploration grew to encompass how the United Methodist faith was deeply influenced by the Moravians, a German religious sect that deeply influenced John Wesley. A historic component of the Moravian (and thus also the United Methodist) faith is the Love Feast. The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expresses the koinonia (or community of fellowship) enjoyed by the family of Christ. During a Love Feast, participants share food and drink with one another and while doing so also share expressions of love or thankfulness to one another; witnessing to the Love of Christ exhibited in each person's acts of kindness.

A large thank-you goes to Carol Cotner for providing the delicious sweet coffee and rolls for our Wesleyan Love Feast! They were delicious!

God's People meets in the Parlor every Tuesday morning from 9:15-10:30. This is a group that is always open — women of every age are invited to join us as we read and discuss various books. The conversation, the laughter, and the love are always flowing with God's People! (For more information, please contact Beth Elders belders@communityunitedmethodist.org or by calling the church office.)





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

Pastors	
The Rev. Tom Babler / The Rev. Haeran Kim	
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Lay Ministry	Youth Director
Mary Jacobs	Kate Walker
Music Ministries and Worship Planning Director	Administration
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Missionaries

Dr. Lahi and Yema Luhahi, *Kenya*
The Rev. Nkemba and Mbwizu Ndjungu, *Senegal*

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.

Tidings

an edition of
The United Methodist Reporter

Two sections • Section A • 037710 • January 11, 2008 • Volume 154, Number 36

Community

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

WORSHIP

Chapel worship 5:00 pm—Saturday
Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
8:30 and 11:00—Sunday
On Center/contemporary Worship
in the Tent—11:00—Sunday
Holy Communion served
on the first Sunday of the month

Sunday School
Sunday School at 9:30 am
Child care—At all services

Saturday, January 12
5:00 pm Chapel
Rev. Tom Babler preaching

Sunday, January 13
The Baptism of our Lord
8:30 am and 11:00 am
Sanctuary
Tom Babler, preaching
Title: Baptized and Bound
Text: Matthew 3:13-17

On Center
Contemporary Worship
Rev. Al Streyffler preaching
Title: Flashers and Floaters
Text: Isaiah 42:1-9

Saturday, January 19
5:00 pm Chapel
Rev. Tom Babler, preaching

Sunday, January 20
Human Relations Sunday
Martin Luther King Sunday
Rev. Tom Babler, preaching
Title: Lamb and King
Text: John 1:29-42

On Center
Contemporary Worship
Rev. Haeran Kim, preaching

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CELEBRATION
A DuPage County Interfaith Observance
Held at Wheaton College
Edman Chapel
Monday, January 21, 2008
7:00 p.m.

The United Methodist Reporter (USPS 954-500) is published weekly by UMR Communications, 1221 Profit Drive, Dallas, TX 75247-3919. Periodicals Postage Paid at Dallas, Texas and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to The United Methodist Reporter, PO Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275.

Pastor's Note

"Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch." — Luke 5:1-11

"Lord, as your disciples caught a lot of fish in the lake of Gennesaret, we catch a lot of fish every day and pull them up in the lake of our hearts. Very much alive as they flop around, those fresh fish's names are hope, joy, humility, and patience — all are beautiful gifts from you.

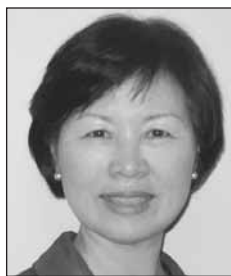
As you said, the disciples put out the boat into deep water and then let down the nets and caught such a lot of fish that they were filled with awe as their nets began to break. We, as fishers, are also in awe of your wondrous love and capability.

Lord, sometimes not knowing what to do in the midst of despair and mending the empty nets, you tell us in a quiet voice, "let down your net into deep water."

If we put out our net of prayer into the depth of our hearts, fresh fish of hope and joy are caught. We gain humility and patience necessary for life.

Let us not live according to our own will, but by your will, God. As the disciples left nets and boats and followed you, help us prepare even though we live comfortably, but we are still joyful.

The New Year is wide open before us. My prayer for you is that hope, joy, humility and patience would be with each of you and your families, through the love of God.



New Members Classes

Community UMC offers Inquirers Classes for members interested in joining CUMC. The classes begin Jan. 13 and continue January 20, and 27 and will join the CUMC fellowship February 10. Classes meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel. If interested in joining or in attending the class, please contact Mary Jacobs, (mjacobs@communityunitedmethodist.org) one of the pastors, (tbabler@communityunitedmethodist.org/hkim@communityunitedmethodist.org) or the church office (info@communityunitedmethodist.org).

United Methodist Men

Baseball fans, young and old – spring training is just three months away. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 12. Join Phil Rogers, baseball guru, for another fun-filled night talking about the national pastime sponsored by the UM Men.

January 20, 2008: Human Relations Day is one of the opportunities for United Methodist Churches to celebrate our connective work. It supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service (UMVS), and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. The first two programs are administered through the General Board of Global Ministries.

In the United Methodist Church calendar, Human Relations Day happens the Sunday immediately following the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday. The juxtaposition of these two very special days is not a coincidence. The United Methodist *Book of Discipline* describes the purpose of Human Relations Day as a call to "the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other."

Our Community

Continues to pray for our troops and their families: Christopher Coyle, Blake Crosby, John Ferrin, Alex Palmer, Tyler Paulus, Bryce Pope, Andrew Dean Russell, Vincent Simonetti, Betsy Weiner, and Brad Woltman

Extends sympathy to Don and Bonnie McLaughlin on the death of their daughter, Beth Neuman. A memorial service was held at CUMC on December 14.

To Stephen Ports and family on the death of Stephen's mother, Carol Ports. A funeral service was held at CUMC December 13, 2007.

To Rod Mack, on the death of his mother Nell Mack on December 10, 2007.

To Stephanie Hild and family on the death of Stephanie's grandmother, Mary Ruth on December 10, 2007.

To Valerie Geisendorfer on the death of her father, Edward Geisendorfer December 11, 2007

To the family of Margaret Dahlberg, a longtime member of Community Church, on December 11 in Missouri. Services will be held at Community UMC at a later date.

To Isabelle and Ellen Bartel, who have had two deaths in their family. Rose Bartel, the wife of Nathan Bartel's cousin Ed, died on December 15; and Jimmy Crawford, Isabelle's nephew and Ellen's cousin, died on December 17.

Celebrates with Tom and Marianna McCauley on the birth of their first grandchild, Finn Thomas Martin, son of Maribeth and Trevor Martin on December 19 in St. Louis.

Carrie Kuefler and Jeff Ray who were married December 28, 2008 in Ft. Myers, Florida.

Altar Flowers

The sign-up sheet for 2008 is now available. The cost remains \$45, thanks to the kind folks at Amlings Flowers.

CUMC children's Advent Party is a HUGE success!



This year's Children's Advent Party took place on the first Sunday of Advent (December 2nd) from 3:00-5:00. Approximately 60 children and their families took part in baking cookies, creating Advent wreaths, and making ornaments, bracelets, and many other festive holiday crafts. The afternoon ended with a brief child-friendly worship service that consisted of joyful song and re-telling the Christmas story. Mark your calendars now for next year's party — November 30th!



Here's what we look like . . .

In the last issue of Tidings, the following new members were profiled. If you see them in church, be sure to welcome them as part of the CUMC family.



Roger, Alana and Steve Shuma



Dan and Alex Schaeffel, Lauren, Audrey and Katherine



Jim, Jill and James Morrow



John, April and Xander Oh



John, April and Xander Oh