



Tidings from Community United Methodist Church

August, 2008

For more information about Community United Methodist Church please call the church office at 630-355-1483 or visit www.communityunitedmethodist.org. The church calendar is also on-line now – visit www.communityunitedmethodist.org and click the “Calendar” link in the lower-right corner.

Staff Note



Meet Nick Giannasi
Community UMC's Director of Youth Ministries

Beginning in ministry August 19, 2008

My wife, Melissa, and I have been married for four years. We have no children but we have a pet dog, cat and three baby turtles. We live in Naperville, pretty close to the church.

I was called to youth ministry pretty early on. I was a student leader in my youth group and trying to decide on what college I should attend when it all started for me. My youth pastor, my dad, and a few other mentors in my life kept suggesting that I look into working to become a pastor. At first, I thought it was a dumb idea. During this time I was reading through the book of Acts and I was intrigued by normal guys like Peter and John changing the world through their bold statements of faith. So I started applying to Christian colleges with a Biblical Studies program because I didn't think there was such a thing as a youth ministry major.

I wanted a school that was big, had a football team and was far enough away from home that I would have to live on campus. I ended up at Judson University - 700 students (less than my graduating high school class!), the only “football” team was soccer and worst of all, it was close to home, so close that I commuted to school my freshmen year to save money.

God had something bigger planned for me though. I wasn't 100% sold on the idea of being a youth pastor and was planning on transferring out of Judson after my freshmen year when I had a life-changing conversation with a friend. We were talking about majors and he asked me what I was planning on doing with my life. I told him how I was thinking about transferring and becoming a youth minister. He looked at me funny and asked me why I would want to transfer if Judson had a youth ministry major that was regarded by many to be the best in the nation. For me, that sealed the deal and I knew my calling.

My wife and I have had a few ups and downs in regards to ministry, but I love what I do. I love building relationships with students and bringing families closer to Christ. We are excited about being part of this community and I am excited about working with the youth and their families as we grow together in our journey towards Jesus.

Worship News

Kickoff Sunday is August 24!

Community UMC returns to its Sunday schedule of worship and Christian Education for all ages on August 24. Worship services will be at 5:00 Saturday in the Chapel; at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday in the Sanctuary; and at 11:00 a.m. Sunday in Meiley-Swallow Hall (see the related article **On Center On the Move**). Christian Education for all ages will be at 9:30 a.m., and for age 2 through grade 5 at 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion will be shared on the first Sunday of each month, and on those days there will not be 11:00 Sunday School for children. Child care will be available at all services.

Preaching Schedule

Chapel Worship (Saturday at 5:00 p.m.):

- Saturday, August 16 – Rev. Lynn Pries
- Saturday, August 23 – Rev. Haeran Kim
- Saturday, August 30 – Rev. Thomas Babler

Sanctuary Worship (Sunday at 8:30 and 10:30/11:00):

- Sunday, August 17 – Rev. Lynn Pries
- Sunday, August 24 – Rev. Haeran Kim (returning to 11:00 a.m.)
- Sunday, August 31 – Rev. Thomas Babler

OnCenter Contemporary Worship (Sunday at 10:30/11:00)

- Sunday, August 17 – Rev. Haeran Kim
- Sunday, August 24 – Rev. Thomas Babler (returning to 11:00 a.m., at Meiley-Swallow)
- Sunday, August 31 – Rev. Haeran Kim

Weekly Prayer Gathering

Our Prayer Gathering is still meeting during the summer months, and what better time to slow down and join together in prayer for our world and our church? We meet in the chapel every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. to sing and to pray silently or aloud. It's great to be together in the presence of God – come and see!

Joys and Concerns

Births

- † Rylee Darlene, daughter of Kari and Craig Christiansen and granddaughter of Peggy Gaskins, on July 3.
- † Emily Rain, daughter of Lacey Marcucci and Jeremy Lawson and granddaughter of Garth and Kay Lawson, on July 20.
- † Kathryn Elizabeth, daughter of Meg and Ryan Bunting and granddaughter of Roger and Cindy Bunting and Dick and Liz Bradley, on July 27.
- † Henry Bryce, son of Amy and Jason Graunke, on August 9.

Deaths

- † Izora Erickson, grandmother of Mary Elliott and Sue Frankson, on June 27.
- † Monie Kinney, sister of Herbie Naumann, on July 12.
- † Thomas Wu, father of Mike Wu, father-in-law of Mary Wu, and grandfather of Matthew and Mandy Wu, on July 13.
- † Linda Dillman, cousin of Betsy Roche and niece of Vince Hurd, on July 14.
- † Signe Giese, sister of Sue Mack, on July 22.

Other Concerns

Bonnie McLaughlin and family express their sincere appreciation for the outpouring of thoughts and prayers for Don and his family.

We continue to pray for our troops and their families: Christopher Coyle, John Ferrin, Joseph Pitonyak, Bryce Pope, Andrew Dean Russell, Erik Schultz, and Vincent Simonetti.

Jim and Prudy Sheldon have arrived at their new home in Ohio. Their new address is 4167 Killdeer Ct. Lebanon, OH 45036-8177 Drop them a note. They would love to hear from you.

Special Events and Fellowship

The Community Swingers

The CUMC Sluggers had a great year, with 6 wins and 3 losses. Thanks to our cheering section, especially the kids, the Sheldons and the Krazinskis. And a great big thank you to our loyal ump, Rich Fleming, with tips of our hats to subs John Klein-Collins and Dave Hollander. Can't wait 'til Spring Training!

UMW Book Circle

The United Methodist Women's Book Circle will begin the fall season with a potluck on Wednesday, September 17, at the home of Sally Hines. "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini is the selected book. If you enjoy reading and discussing the book afterward, you are warmly invited to try us out. Cindy Bunting or Marty Schwab will be happy to answer any of your questions about the book circle. More details will follow.

Senior Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will meet at Mimi's Café at Naperville Crossings (95th Street and Rt. 59) on Tuesday, August 19 at 11:30 a.m. Come and share good food and fellowship. Please RSVP to Gertie Brown by August 17.

Ministry Reports

Finance

We have figures for the first 7 months of the year for the First Mile – Operating Budget. The first 6 months produced a surplus of \$15,155.

July produced a deficit of \$20,217 so our balance for the 7 months is \$(5,062). July income was expected to be less due to the "Sundays in the Park" services. Of, course the expenses continue. Most of this "lost" income should be made up in August when we return to the Sanctuary.

Through July our envelope giving was about 2% ahead of the budget. This is very encouraging since we need about 3% for the rest of the year. (Is there any stimulus money left?)

With giving above the budget, the Finance Committee is hopeful we can pay some more of our Apportionment during the remainder of the year.

Elmer Schirmer
Chairman of the Finance Committee

A Word about Apportionment

Our church is in the Northern Illinois Conference which covers the area bounded by the Mississippi River on the West, the Wisconsin line on the North, Lake Michigan on the East, and I-80 on the South. There are 19 counties.

The Conference has about 400 churches and 125,000 members. The conference is divided into 6 Districts, and we are in the Aurora District, which has about 65 churches.

The Conference assigns its budget to each District which then apportions this amount to its churches by a Board of Stewards. How they do this will be discussed next month.

Elmer Schirmer
Chairman of the Finance Committee

Missions

Youth Work Trip

Community UMC's Youth Work Trip to Washington DC has returned safely. Thirteen youth and five adults spent the week working with local ministry programs. Shareholders will get the first report (watch for your invitation), and the youth will also be giving presentations to several of the adult Sunday School classes.

Flood Buckets

The 145 flood buckets and extra supplies donated by many churches in the area were picked up by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Davis from Libertyville UMC. They arrived in a 24 foot truck to load the buckets to take to the Midwest Distribution Center near Springfield, IL. On hand at Community Church to greet them and help load the buckets were Ken Cox, Al Streyffeler, John Klein-Collins, Jonah, Luke and Seth Klein-Collins, Bob Atcheson and Tom Babler. Thanks to the help of these guys, the buckets were loaded in a short amount of time and the Davises were on their way.

Plant Sale Results

The final monies are in and our PassAlong Plant sale total is an amazing \$13,283! That makes the efforts from washing pots to helping on sale day seem very worthwhile. Thank you for your purchases and support. We hope your plants are flourishing. When you look at them, think of a hungry child being fed because of you.

The Hunger Commission and
Open Circle Sunday School Class

Mailing List

If you would like to be on Missions email list and receive up to date information on mission progress and activities at Community UMC please email Dave Korb at korbd@yahoo.com.

Christian Education

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES!

CUMC is still in need of several volunteers in our children's Sunday school and children's chapel ministries! We need your help in order to make Rally Day (and our children's ministries throughout the upcoming year) happen!

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- 2's and 3's Sunday School at 11:00. We currently do not have enough volunteers in this room to fully staff it for the upcoming year.
- Middle School Sunday School (9:30). We need 1-2 more people to volunteer to be a lead teacher in this class for the upcoming year. The more people we have in the classroom, the fewer times you'll teach!
- Worship Assistants (11:00 - OnCenter & North Center St.). We need MANY more people to volunteer to lend a hand in our new children's chapel ministries on Sunday mornings. Worship Assistants assist with overall "crowd control" during opening and closing worship and are in charge of the 10-12 minute small group activity.
- Assistant Teachers are still needed in several of our 9:30 children's classrooms!

Stop by Fellowship Hall after 10:30 worship services this Sunday to sign up to help our children grow in their faith (or contact Beth Elders or any CE Committee member). It can't happen without your help!

Beth Elders
Minister of Christian Education

Adult Christian Education

Disciple I and III will be offered this fall. Register your interest on the sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards, or by contacting Beth Elders in the church office.

OnCenter On the Move

At a June 11 Special Charge Conference, Community UMC elected to move our Sunday morning contemporary worship service from the tent to expanded and enhanced facilities at North Central College's Meiley-Swallow auditorium. This state of the art facility will house the worship service and children's chapel.

The reasons for the move include the fast-approaching end of our permit for the tent from the City of Naperville, as well as continuing our efforts to expand our vision of inviting witness to Christ in a contemporary environment. Having watched On Center grow from a small start of 15-20 attendees worshipping once a month to a powerful weekly service where the tent is often full, we are very excited about this opportunity for On Center and Community UMC.

To accomplish this is not without a cost. Our goal is to raise \$70,000 in seven weeks, which will cover our obligations under the first year of our lease. Please join those who have already pledged support of this exciting opportunity! Information will be coming to you after August 18th. Included will be an informational brochure, a pledge card and return envelope. On Sunday, September 28th, we will celebrate the gifts for this special appeal.

We have seen God's hand touch On Center in so many ways, and with his blessings we will open new doors ... New Doors for Community UMC. Thank you for joining us with your prayers, support and giving.

Bill and Nancy Snell

Lay Ministry

Lay ministry is full of opportunity – for serving, for praying, for caring, for witnessing. I'm privileged to participate in the caring ministry of so many wonderful outreach and inreach programs, helping to facilitate in their formation and observing them as gifted and dedicated volunteers breathe life and energy into carrying them to others.

Presently, there is a need for new members in three areas – on the Prayer Team, Caring for Inactives and the Lay Communion Team. **Prayer team** members pray daily for a list of prayer concerns, at a time and place that is convenient for each member. **Caring for Inactives** members meet monthly to share three vital issues: preventing inactivity, relating to inactive members and welcoming them home. As the name implies, the emphasis is on caring! **Lay Communion Ministry Team** members share communion monthly with those in our congregation who are homebound or in the hospital, unable to be in worship.

Each of these teams trains and equips new persons to share in ministry. And there is a place for you! Please contact Mary Jacobs at mjacobs@communityunitedmethodist.org or at 630-355-1483 ext. 17 to find out more about these ministry areas.

*We are created for Christ and for community –
to pray, to care, to show and receive compassion,
to witness to all the wonder of God's grace.*

--Roberta Porter, Alive Now, May/June 2006

Mary Jacobs
Director of Lay Ministry

Conference Report from Church Administrator

It has been my privilege to attend NACBA conferences for some time now, always returning filled with amazing ideas from the workshops and good ideas for saving Community UMC valuable monetary resources. The National Association of Church Business Administration (NACBA) is an interdenominational, professional, Christian organization which exists to serve the church by promoting the highest level of professional competence in individuals serving Christ through administration in local churches. This past July was no exception. The conference was held at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. This is the 52nd annual conference. Nearly 1000 Church Business Administrators (CBAs) were in attendance. I was proud to represent CUMC – the United Methodist Church is on the role as having the third most CBAs in NACBA membership.

The conference agenda includes worship every morning along with special music, workshops, time with vendors (over 300 this year), key note speakers, and networking opportunities with other CBAs.

I attended:

Developing a Year-Round Culture of Generosity (sponsored by the UMC) given by David Bell, who is the incoming president of the Michigan UMC Foundation. He addressed the often overlooked spiritual discipline of generosity, the debilitating impact of hyper consumerism on giving and the positive cycle of abundance-focused communities. He spoke on discovering the key church leaders' spiritual role in cultivating generosity and shared some 'best practices' for effective year-round stewardship.

Leading from the Second Chair – the workshop was to equip church leaders who are not the “lead-leader.” Mr. Bonem spoke on what it means to be a subordinate and a leader, to be “deep” and “wide” in thinking and expertise, and to practice contentment without giving up on dreams.

Developing Church Strategies, Structure and Mission – presented by Dr. Ed Stetzer, who currently is the director of Lifeway research and Lifeway's missiologist in residence. Dr. Stetzer expounded on the “missional” church and the challenges all churches face as they approach this concept.

Winning Grants to Strengthen Your Ministry – where the speaker shared where to search for grant funding available for churches, and helpful tools for applying for grants. The speaker was Joy Skjeggstad. Author of *Winning Grants to Strengthen Your Ministry* – (Alban Institute 2002).

The Labyrinth: Walking a Path of Prayer – presented by UMC pastor, Rev. Beth Luton who serves as the director of church ministries education at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. We experienced who the labyrinth offers three movements in which one can release ourselves to God, receive from God and unite our will with God's will for work in the world.

You better watch out – you better be nice – a workshop presented by Dick Baggert owner of RGB Human Resource Solutions, an expert in human resource management and church risk management. The workshop was about human resource management, OSHA/Safety issues, risk management, Ministry administration, child abuse preparedness, forms and posters, youth ministry and hiring processes.

Legal and Tax Developments for Church Administrators – presented by Richard Hammar, JD, LLP, CPA, well known presenter – the two rooms were packed. This session provided a review of legal and tax developments of

most relevance to church administrators. It emphasized the identification and management of significant and emerging risks as well as a summary of statutory and regulator developments, litigation trends and case studies.

Church Administration: 14 Core Competencies – presented by Dr. Judy Stamey, church administrator and Christian educator, currently a church consultant. The workshop presented the basic tenets common to business and religion and then the remainder of the workshop provided an overview of the 14 core competencies: Personnel/Human Resource Management; Staff Development/Congregational Leadership; Theology of Stewardship; Office Management; Information Management; Property Management; Communication and Marketing; Strategic Planning; Financial Management; Stewardship of Self; Legal and Tax Matters; Christian Perspectives and Theology of Church; Theology and Ethics of Church Administration.

The keynote speakers were outstanding.

Thom Rainer, PhD., spoke at the first Ecumenical Worship Service. Rev. Rainer spoke to serving God together – being on mission. You don't have to look for a mission – God has given you a mission. It does no good to have a mission without getting out the message. Professional to passionate – professionalism has been emphasized and there is a need to reinstate passion (in ministry). “Be – do and tell good news.”

Tim Sanders – former executive with Yahoo!, “How to Save the World at Church” - presented case studies, statistics and specific examples providing proof that a positive work environment and positive customer dialogue always produces better “customer/employee” satisfaction. His theme is that happy employees and satisfied customers drive business.

Dave Ramsey – “Releasing Today's Generous Givers?” – Mr. Ramsey is a personal money management expert, radio and TV personality and author. His presentation centered around debt retirement methods for members of congregations.

Dr. Roberta C. Bondi, named professor of church history at Candler School of Theology spoke on “Being a Christian Community.” Dr. Bondi shared both theological and personal examples of Christian love and acceptance, tolerance and patience.

The conference also allows time for valuable networking opportunities with church business administrators from across the country, as well as ample time to talk with 200 vendors. Prior to going to conference, I checked with staff if there were specific items they wished to me to check out while there. CUMC will reap the benefits of this personal contact for several items for the ministry.

I am privileged to be a part of NACBA at both the national and local Chicago Chapter level, serving on the Conference planning committee for the 2009 conference, and on the board for the Chicago Chapter. But nothing gives me greater satisfaction than serving this church, working with a gifted and committed staff, continually learning excellence in administration, and being a part of this church family.

It is a privilege to attend the annual NACBA conferences – I am blessed with the knowledge and experience attendance enables.

Lauralyn Theodore
Church Administrator