
This Month's Top Stories

Church Conference, May 21

A special church conference has been scheduled for May 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to approve the purchase of a new parsonage and a mortgage loan. All members have voice and vote.

One Community Service

Remember that May 23 and 24 are our "One Community" services, with a Sunday potluck after the 11:00 service. See pages 2 and 7 for information.

Forty Days of Prayer

Starting May 23, 2009 at the 5:00 pm Chapel Service, members and friends will begin 40 days of prayer and faith sharing. See Rev. Percell's Pastor's Note on this page.

Pass-Along Plant Sale

The 14th annual Pass Along Perennial Plant Sale is June 6. Members of the Hunger Commission have been potting and tending beautiful plants, and they're now garden-ready. See the story on page 6.

OnCenter Relocation

OnCenter is moving from Meiley-Swallow Hall to Ss. Peter and Paul. See page 7.

Pastor's Note

There are two possibilities for new beginnings for Community UMC this month. First, due to a scheduling difficulty, OnCenter will not be able to meet in Meiley-Swallow on May 24. This could be a major difficulty; or, it could be the occasion of something creative.

The creative solution is a OneCommunity weekend beginning with the Saturday evening service at 5:00 pm on May 23 in the Chapel; and, extending to the 8:30 and 11:00 am services on May 24 in the sanctuary. Cindy Lytle and Stephen Edwards have taken great care to develop a worship format which recognizes the strengths and preferences of both traditional and contemporary modes. We do have much to celebrate together!

The move of OnCenter to Meiley-Swallow last year was controversial and developed a conflict with deep and multi-layered issues. While we cannot solve many of these, we can begin to recognize the deep love we have for each other and begin to listen to and learn from each other. The OneCommunity weekend can be a time in which we rejoice in that which brings us together; a time of new beginnings.

Second, because we are expecting new pastors on July 1, we are starting "40 Days of Prayer" on May 23 and extending to the arrival of Rev. Mark Jacobs and Rev. Melissa Hood on July 1. A letter has been sent to each family unit explaining the "40 Days of Prayer" and a prayer on the tent card which will make it possible for all of us to pray the same prayer every day during the 40 days. The discipline of prayer is essential for us. It opens up our lives to the creative possibilities God has for us. We will be praying for new beginnings for Community UMC with our two new pastors and for the mission of Community UMC in Naperville and the world. It is a powerful exercise: to pray together daily for 40 days!

Additionally, boards and committees will be submitting their program joys and concerns to be included in a daily calendar of prayers. These will be published and distributed also. The labyrinth, introduced during Lent, is still in place on the floor of Fellowship Hall for the "40 Days of Prayer." The daily prayers for programs and missions of our Church would be most appropriately said in the labyrinth.

We have had a year of many changes and challenges. It is a time for new beginnings; and, it is a time for us to be in prayer together so that the will of God can lead us as One Community.

Worship News

Preaching Schedule and Lectionary

May 16 and 17: Confirmation Witnesses, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Lynn Pries, OnCenter.
Confirmation Sunday for eighth grade
Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Ascension of the Lord, Thursday May 21

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

May 23 and 24: Jeff Haake, All Services.

One Community services and potluck lunch.

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Pentecost, May 30 and 31: Rev. Haeran Kim, Chapel and Sanctuary; Jeff Haake, OnCenter.

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Trinity Sunday, June 6 and 7: Rev. Emery Percell, Chapel and Sanctuary; Jeff Haake, OnCenter.

Peace With Justice Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

June 13 and 14: Rev. Beth Elders, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Haeran Kim, OnCenter.

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20 or Psalm 72; 2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34

One Community Services, June 23 and 24

On June 23 and 24, Community UMC will worship as one community. Jeff Haake will preach, and musicians from the traditional and contemporary services will be helping to lead in worship at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday service and the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary services (no service will be held at Meiley-Swallow Hall, as it is not available). A One Community potluck will be hosted by the Evangelism Committee after the 11:00 service. Sign up for the potluck at the tables outside the worship services on Sunday.

Peace With Justice Sunday, June 7

The Peace With Justice Sunday offering allows United Methodists everywhere to care for the environment, eradicate poverty, feed hungry people, mediate conflict, model peace, supply health care, and provide affordable housing. On June 7, half of your Peace With Justice offering stays within the local community, and half goes to the General Board of Church and Society to allocate for programs that promote a just and peaceful world.

One such program brings solar ovens to Haiti. Drinking dirty water and cooking over open fires, because one has no choice, are justice issues. Solar ovens help poor families pasteurize drinking water and cook healthy meals in a safe environment. Missionary Rick Jost and other United Methodists, supported by Peace With Justice funds, build and take the ovens to Haiti. To learn more about Peace With Justice, visit www.umcgiving.org/PWJS.

Summer Worship Schedule

Summer worship services will be at 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays, with 11:00 worship in both the Sanctuary and Meiley-Swallow Hall.

Summers in the Park will be held in July. The 8:30 services will be held in Central Park just south of the church. Bring a lawn chair and worship in this beautiful outdoor setting. It's also a great opportunity to invite a friend to church.

Summer Children's Ministries

The summer Sunday School schedule begins June 7 and runs through September 6.

✠ At 9:30, no children's Sunday School will be held.

✠ At 11:00, children ages 2 and under will be in the nursery. Children's chapel is provided for preschool children 3, 4 and 5 years old in room 207. All other ages are invited to join their families in worship.

Volunteers are needed in the preschool room and nursery during the summer months. Sign up to lend a hand on the sheets located outside of rooms 205 and 207 and in the nursery.

Joys and Concerns

Invitation to a Celebration

- ✝ Jim and Prudy Sheldon invite their Community UMC friends to share the joy of their 50th wedding anniversary with punch and cookies. The reception will be on Sunday, June 14 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

Our Congratulations

- ✝ On the birth of Lorelai Isabelle Bucheger on April 26 to Kelly and Adam Bucheger. Proud grandparents are Zink and Martha Sanders.

Our Sympathy

- ✝ To Rev. Lana Sutton after the death of her mother, Anna E. Thompson, on Sunday, April 26.
- ✝ To Russ Frees and his family after the death of his Grandpa Taggart on April 6, at the age of 93 in Ohio. He is the great-grandfather of Luke and Garrett.
- ✝ To Michele Vass and her family after the death of her father, and the grandfather of Alex and Matthew.

Our Troops and their Families

We continue to pray for our troops and their families: John Aitchison, Christopher Coyle, Scott Radunz, Vincent Simonetti and Brad Woltman.

Community News

Celebration of Wisdom

On Sunday April 19th Community marked the new and the old, with new members received and a celebration of members who are going to be 90 years old or older this year. These special eleven people range in age from 89 to 102 years young. One of the eleven is a new member, one joined in 2007 but others have been life-long members, with one who has attended since 1918! Ask Ken Cox if you need a copy of the Honoring Wisdom booklet which contains their life stories. It's great reading. Special thanks to Suzanne Wills for this photo she took on her I-phone. From left to right: June Shiffler, Olive Hadden, Pearl Thoman, Myrtle Bensema, George Bradshaw, Irene Schindel, Louise Hyman (seated) and Marian Olsen (Judy Allen's mom). Winchell Faucett, Eleanor Hartwig, and Jean Henning were unable to attend.



PADS Bowlorama

On Saturday, May 2, the Community Alleycats joined 21 other teams at the Wheaton Fox Bowl for the annual PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) Bowlorama. Bringing home the second place team trophy were: Keith Selin (dinner shift), Barb and Jack Dabrowski (dinner), Scott Shallcross (3rd Sunday supervisor), Phil Rogers (3 am shift), and Anne McElaney (3 am).

For the first time, participants from the PADS Permanent Supportive Housing program joined the many volunteers bowling in this major fundraiser.

Recruited and cheered on by Jim Rainwaters (midnight shift leader and 5th Sunday supervisor), Scott bowled a 171, Phil, 168, and Barb and Jack, 157. Keith was the big raffle winner, taking home a certificate for a round of golf for four, plus the use of two motorized carts. Bob (3 am) and Nancy Schroeder (CUMC PADS coordinator) arrived in time for the ice cream and a few hints for success from Bob, who ran an intramural bowling program during his teaching years. Congratulations to these dedicated volunteers for bringing home our first trophy.

Sit-N-Knit

Saturday April 25th, the CUMC knitting circle attended the second annual Sit N Knit event in Oak Park. Over fifty knitters came from as far away as Evanston to attend this all day knitting for charity event. We got great tips, had wonderful conversations, and renewed friendships with people we met last year.

The Community United Methodist UMW knitting circle meets Monday 7-8:30 p.m. in the church parlor and welcomes anyone who knits or crochets, or wants to learn. The CUMC knitters have made hundreds of small items such as baby blankets and dishcloths, and they've completed 244 prayer shawls which are given to anyone who has need of healing – body, mind or spirit. Come and join the knitting group.

Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held on Wednesday, June 3 in Fellowship Hall. Contact Joan Uebele, (630)983-8937, to make an appointment to donate.

Conference News

Sharon Rice Commissioned as Deacon

Sharon E. Rice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Rice, and a lifelong member of our congregation, will be commissioned as a Deacon by Bishop Jung at a special service on Sunday, June 7, at the annual meeting of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church. The service will be held at the Pheasant Run Expo Center on Rt. 64 in St. Charles, and it is slated to begin at 7:30pm. This is the final step before ordination in 2011. The public is invited to attend the service, but the Conference requests that you reserve space by May 19 if possible in order to assure that sufficient seating is available. Contact Fran or Forrest or the church office to do so. There is no charge for the event.

Sharon graduated from North Central College in 2003 and received her M.A. in Christian Education from Garrett Evangelical Seminary in 2005. She is currently the Christian Education Director and the Youth Minister at New Hope United Methodist Church in Des Moines, Iowa. She wishes to thank all those at Community who have taught her and shared her journey, from JoAnne Chase, Nick Nicholas, Tom Babler, Jamie Geiger, Gene Winkler, and Bill Kirk among others on the CUMC ministerial team, to Howard Mueller, Lynn Pries, and Tom McFaul at North Central, and also the many volunteer teachers and counselors during her childhood and youth at Community.

Jim Best Certified as Candidate

On Thursday, May 14, the Board of Ordained Ministry certified Jim Best as a candidate for Deacon in the United Methodist Church. Jim is currently serving as Youth Director at First UMC in St. Charles.

Northern Illinois Conference, June 6 through 9

The 2009 session of the Northern Illinois Conference will be held June 6 through 9 in St. Charles. Rev. Haeran Kim and Rev. Beth Elders, together with Community UMC's lay delegates, will be in attendance.

Ministry Reports

Christian Education

Confirmation Meeting for 7th Graders

On Monday, May 18th at 7:30, there will be an informational meeting for all 7th graders and their families interested in taking part in CUMC's Confirmation Class.

Confirmation is an important rite of passage in the Church, the time when the youth give prayerful thought to joining the body of Christ, The United Methodist Church, and the local congregation. It is the time when, in the eyes of the church, they move from being children to full adult members of the church.

Beginning in the 2009-2010 academic year, Confirmation will move to a 7th and 8th grade ministry. Students will begin Confirmation in the spring of their 7th grade year with activities and conversations designed to build trust among the class members, and help them get to know one another better before beginning the core Confirmation classes in the Fall. Confirmation classes will end at the close of their 8th grade year. Another important change of note is that, beginning in the fall of 2009, Confirmation classes will take place during the Sunday school hour (9:30-10:30 on Sunday mornings).

All 7th grade youth and their families are invited to join us and explore more information about CUMC's Confirmation program on May 18th from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in Room 307 for a Confirmation Orientation Night. The

purpose of this gathering is to help youth and parents gain a greater understanding of what Confirmation is and to discuss scheduling and any other questions you may have as you enter into this exciting ministry. If you are unable to make it on May 18th, or if you have further questions regarding CUMC's Confirmation Ministry, please contact Beth Elders (belders@communityunitedmethodist.org).

Community of Parents

Are you a parent looking for a way to connect with other parents – sharing ideas, stories, or just some laughter together? If so, then CUMC has just the group for you! Come to the first gathering of “Community of Parents” on Tuesday, May 26th from 7:30-8:30 in the parlor and find out more about this new ministry for parents (of children of all ages). This group will focus on the support of the mother and/or caregiver in all of their roles through regular monthly meetings, playgroups, park days, parent-child outings, moms only outings, and family outings to include the entire family as a whole!

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

To honor and celebrate the dedication of those who have volunteered in children's ministries during the 08-09 program year, the Christian Education Committee hosted a volunteer appreciation luncheon on April 26th. During the luncheon, a special tribute was paid to Bette Barkdoll for her 40+ years of teaching/volunteering in CUMC's children's ministries. She has touched the lives of many children in her loving care (and several generations!), and she looks forward to spreading that love to generations to come! Thank you, Ms. Bette, and ALL of our volunteers who continue to help guide and nurture our children on their journeys of faith.

Teacher Recruitment

The Christian Education Committee has begun recruiting volunteers for the 9:30 children's Sunday school classes and 11:00 children's chapel ministries for the 2009-2010 academic year. Stop by the Children's Ministries table, located next to the doughnut table, just before or after Sunday school on May 31st and June 7th to volunteer. We need the help of adults and Sr. High youth to make CUMC's children's ministries a positive experience for our children. There's a place for you! Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- ✝ **9:30 Children's Sunday School LEAD TEACHER** – alternate Sundays with other adults based upon their schedules and are responsible for direct classroom instruction and lesson preparation.
- ✝ **9:30 Children's Sunday School ASSISTANT TEACHER** – responsible to lend a hand to the lead teacher during the class period. This includes activities such as material distribution, discipline, helping with bathroom emergencies, as well as overall “crowd control.” (*Basically, just like home!*).
- ✝ **11:00 Children's Chapel WORSHIP LEADER (OnCenter and Sanctuary)** – Rotating with other worship leaders, these volunteers lead children's chapel worship at *either* of our ministry locations (OnCenter and Sanctuary services). Worship leaders are responsible for leading the worship experiences for the children (consisting of music, prayers, Bible stories, etc.).
- ✝ **11:00 Children's Chapel WORSHIP ASSISTANT (OnCenter and Sanctuary)** – Rotating with other leaders, these volunteers are responsible for assisting the worship leaders during Children's Chapel. This includes activities such as material distribution, discipline, helping with bathroom emergencies, as well as overall “crowd control.”
- ✝ **11:00 2's and 3's Classroom Teachers** – In groups of two teachers per Sunday, these volunteers will assume primary leadership for our 2 and 3 year-old classroom during the 11:00 worship services.

Community UMC's children's ministries operate within a Cooperative Model of Ministry. The Cooperative Model, as the name implies, invites parents to become active participants in their child's faith formation. Not only does this help the parent understand what's going on in their child's Sunday school class/Children's Chapel experience, but it also helps the child see that their parents are truly vested and involved in their “world”. When parents and children explore matters of faith *together* in Sunday school, it opens them up to exploring these and other spiritual matters at home and throughout their lives. As implemented at CUMC, it invites parents of children from 2 years old through 8th grade to donate a minimum of eight Sundays throughout the school year in CUMC's children's ministries during either the 9:30 or 11:00 hours, serving in either an *assistant* or *lead* capacity. Each room will be staffed by a minimum of one lead, and one assistant. In this way, we also ensure that our children's ministries are staffed with the minimum number two people as outlined in our church's Safe Sanctuaries Plan.

United VBS, June 22-25

Registration for Camp E.D.G.E, the 2009 United Vacation Bible School, is now open to members of Community UMC, Wesley UMC, and First Congregational UCC. Registration opens to the public on April 26. Registration is \$25 per child, or \$40 for a family (rates go up May 18). Registration forms are available in the church office and at <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/UVBS/uvbs.html> and in the office.

Camp E.D.G.E. needs volunteers, so please prayerfully consider donating your time. Volunteer forms are also available in the office and on-line. As a thank-you for volunteers, there is a \$5 discount from the child's registration fee for every volunteer form attached to the child's application

Decorations are needed for Camp E.D.G.E. to give the feeling of a camp setting. The steering committee is looking for the following items: undecorated artificial trees, large clean rocks, stuffed wildlife animals, tents (of all sizes), sleeping bags, adult hiking backpacks, outdoor folding chairs, coolers, canteens, lanterns, flashlights, binoculars, maps, large inflatable rafts, kayaks and canoes, compasses, and life-vests. If you can donate any of these items for the week of June 21-25, please mark your name on the items and bring them to Beth Elders' office no later than June 15. All items will be used for decoration only and will be available for pick-up after the camp closes on June 25.

Hunger Commission

Fourteenth Annual Pass-Along Plant Sale Slated for June 6

Be sure to mark your calendar for the first Saturday in June, the 6th, the date of our PassAlong Plant Sale (PAPS), sponsored by the Hunger Commission! The sale will take place from 8 AM until 1 PM in the church parking lot off Benton Av., rain or shine, and offers a wonderful opportunity to purchase a wide variety of perennials while helping feed hungry people near and far.

The PAPS had humble beginnings in 1996 with Darrell Voitik's idea to purchase small plants from nurseries and use volunteer help under Hunger Commission sponsorship to repot them for a local climate head start. This would hold down costs while insuring the sale of healthy plants, able to grow under the care of green and not-so-green thumbs alike! Sales from the first year generated less than \$2500. for contribution to various causes and projects selected by the Hunger Commission. Each year the sale has grown in size and revenue generated with contributions over the last 13 years totaling \$98,391. Expenses are held to a minimum with zero labor cost, the reuse of pots from year to year and, as suggested by the sale's name, significant contributions of plants from the yards of church members and friends of the sale.

This year's sale will feature both new varieties and old favorites - over 2,000 in total - representing some 125 species. Take a minute to visit www.cumplantsale.org and check out what will be available on the day of the sale. Since all plants are perennials in this climate, you can look forward to enjoying beautiful flowers and grasses in your yard at the same time each year.

One more word about how the proceeds from the sale are used. Your Hunger Commission carefully considers opportunities to feed the hungry from various United Methodist charities. Commission members take turns researching and reporting on projects under consideration to spend PAPS dollars wisely.

Please let your friends, neighbors and business associates know about the sale; fliers are available from the church office for bulletin board use. If you have questions, contact Nancy Abernethy at (630)420-2170.

Missions

Visit from Rev. Joseph Bleck of Senegal

Rev. Joseph Bleck from the Senegal United Methodist Mission came to Community UMC to say 'thank-you' for supporting women's prison work, the children's feeding program, and congregational development. Joseph was hosted at a luncheon at the Streyffeler's and a dinner at the Uebele's on May 1. We were all blessed to hear him speak passionately and powerfully about the life of the Church in Senegal; the joys and the persecutions; the baptisms and the sorrows. Community UMC can rejoice that we had a small part in helping get this flourishing ministry started.



Pictured are Rev. Bleck, Joan Uebele, Rev. Lynn Pries, Akaki Kikama (Yema and Lahi Luhahi's daughter), Elmer and Mari Schirmer, Jennifer and Wally Calloway, and Clyde Uebele.

Thank-You from Kenya

Kenya Methodist University (KEMU) thanks Community UMC for the donation of teaching materials to the Department of Nursing Science. The items were delivered by Clyde and Joan Uebele on a recent visit. The KEMU letter may be viewed at the Missions bulletin board in the first-floor hallway, along with a selection of newspapers from Nairobi.

Health Kit Collection

The Kairos class, with support from the Missions Committee, is collecting supplies for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) health kits. Supplies for these health kits are currently very low and are desperately needed at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham. Health Kit items include: 1 washcloth; 1 hand towel (15x25" to 17x27" – no kitchen towels); 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers); 1 toothbrush (single brushed only in original packaging – no child-sized brushes); 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages; 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. or up); 1 comb (large and sturdy – not pocket-sized); and \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (UMCOR Sager-Brown buys in bulk and can control the expiration date) .

Please purchase items exactly as requested, or items cannot be used. Any donated items can be dropped off on the church stage (room 202) in a box marked "Health Kit Items." Monetary donations are also appreciated and can be dropped off in the Kairos mailbox in the church office marked "UMCOR Health Kit". The collection begins Sunday, April 26. **Donation deadline is Sunday, May 25th.**

A Green Win-Win

Did you notice the addition of a green collection bin for clothes, linens and shoes in the back parking lot at church? The Kairos Sunday School class invites you to support one of their ongoing service projects. This year, Kairos identified additional ways to support organizations in service or donation. This green bin is another way to support DuPage PADS. The donations from the bin are given to the Unique Thrift Shop which pays DuPage PADS for the potential merchandise for their store. Any items that are not sold are NOT sent to a land fill. The main organization works with many national & international companies that purchase the merchandise in bulk for use in commercial rags or for distribution in Third World nations.

You can help by putting donations of shoes, clothing, bedding, toys, jewelry and books in clean bags in the bin. The organization is *not* able to take computers, monitors, TVs, a/c units, car seats, paint or chemicals.

In case you missed the triple win situation consider that (#1) you have a place to donate clothes at a place you come to regularly, (#2) DuPage PADS gets funds from your donation, and (#3) nothing goes in a landfill but is recycled again for other uses. For more information, see <http://fundraiseandrecycleclothesnow.com>.

OnCenter – Cindy Lytle

Update

We've had a few more "firsts" since the last e-Tidings:

- ✚ We've had some newer singers join in the band. Thanks to Luke Frees, Megan Lapham, Jack Burke, Sarah Hollander and Alek Guettler for joining us and sharing your talents!!
- ✚ We've also added a few instrumentalists. Joel Heffner from NCC has joined the band as a drummer and Mary Elliott has joined as a keyboard player. Many thanks to both of them!!
- ✚ We had some new people involved in Children's Moments – thanks to Beth Buffington, Joy Sobczak and Courtney Edwards for providing some inspiring children's moments for kids of all ages to learn from!
- ✚ We've had our first sermon series! Nick Giannasi helped us understand more about conflict: what it is, how we think about conflict, the actions we can take as we move through conflict (remember one, two, church?) and how we learn to live with conflict. Nick provided us with some very thought provoking messages and good practical examples to help us live a more Christian life.

You can become involved in On Center! Sign up now to be a grusher (greeter + usher) and /or communion server. Please let Melissa DeCamp or Cindy Lytle know how you want to be involved.

As we look forward, we will see a few different things at On Center. Below are some upcoming events:

May 17 – Lynn Pries will be preaching on The Eleventh Commandment. This will be a thought provoking message about love and how our secular society today often conflicts with the examples of Jesus' teachings.

May 24 – Our One Community Service! As you may recall from previous announcements, we will not be able to use Meiley-Swallow on May 24th, and this will be a great opportunity to join all of CUMC in One Community services for all of our services that weekend. Musicians from both the traditional and contemporary services will be helping to lead in worship and Jeff Haake will be preaching. Don't forget that we get to continue the fellowship with a One Community potluck, hosted by the Evangelism Committee after the 11:00 service. Come join the fun and great fellowship with all from CUMC. Also, for those of you interested in becoming part of the drama team, Graham Wills will be available for a short meeting just after the service and before the potluck.

May 31 and June 7 – Our second sermon series! Jeff Haake will be bringing us our second sermon series. The focus of this two part series will be how we help others when we ourselves are hurting.

Thank you for the feedback you have been providing during the last couple of months. As always, I'm open to any new ideas you might have....just e-mail me at clytle@communityunitedmethodist.org, call me at the church, or catch me after a service. See you at On Center!

OnCenter on the Move Again

It is with very mixed emotions that I write this article for e-Tidings. As many of you know, the church is having some trouble meeting financial obligations. After much deliberation, the On Center Planning Team decided to recommend to the Administrative Board that we move the location of our service to a large room in the St. Peter and Paul school. The Administrative Board voted Wednesday night to approve this recommendation.

The St. Peter and Paul space will be more child-friendly with the use of a children's classroom for Children's Chapel, a more convenient storage area for the band (and easier set up) and will allow for flexible set up of our worship space. In addition, we will have the opportunity to bring back hospitality in our new space with a kitchenette adjacent to our worship space. However, the space will be much more simply furnished and won't have the same acoustics as Meiley-Swallow. The costs of the space at St. Peter and Paul will be 1/2 to 1/3 of the cost of the Meiley-Swallow lease. We will still need to raise funds to pay for the lease, but the figures will be significantly less than required for Meiley-Swallow.

This was a difficult decision for the entire On Center Planning Team. There are so many great things about the Meiley-Swallow space including a nice, new space with a great sound system and on the campus of North Central College. However, there are also things that make worship at Meiley-Swallow difficult, in particular for the volunteers who make the service possible, including location and set up of Children's Chapel and set up and storage of the band equipment in a space downstairs.

The plan going forward is to finalize the lease with St. Peter and Paul and give official notice to Meiley-Swallow of intent to terminate the lease. Our hope is to be into our new space by Rally Day on Sunday, September 13th.

Below, we have tried to address some of the questions you might have. If you have any further questions about the decision and its implications, please feel free to contact me at clytle@communityuntiedmethodist.org or call me at the church. I'll look forward to your continued support of On Center.

Q&A

Q: Who is on the On Center Planning Team?

A: The team is made up of Emery Percell, Haeran Kim, Beth Elders, Nick Giannasi, Al Streyffeler, Lynn Pries, Jeff Haake, Katie Lapham, Beth Buffington, Mary Wu, Amy Hollander, Dean Craig, Ed Green and Cindy Lytle.

Q: Was the On Center Planning team vote to move to St. Peter and Paul unanimous?

A: No. There 8 votes to move to St. Peter and Paul, 2 votes to stay at Meiley-Swallow, and 2 people abstained. While the vote was not unanimous, everyone did agree that they could support the move to St. Peter and Paul - even those who voted against the move.

Q: Why are you making this move now when we are getting new pastors in such a short time? Shouldn't they be involved in the decision making process?

A: Our new Senior Pastor, Mark Jacobs, has been staying informed of our process throughout, and is very supportive of our decision.

Q: Did you look at coming back into the church building?

A: Yes. We looked at three options for coming back into the church. We looked at the parlor, but the good news is that we are too big now to fit into the parlor. We also looked at Fellowship Hall, but the noise between Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary would disturb both services. We also addressed the possibility of changing around service times to allow On Center to worship in the sanctuary. This would cause much more disruption to all services and the space is not very suitable for contemporary worship. In addition, studies show that 65 to 70% of people looking for contemporary worship are looking for it in a non-traditional church setting.

Q: What other options did you investigate before deciding to go to St. Peter and Paul?

A: We did have conversations with North Central College to try to reduce their rates, but there is more demand for their space and they too need to consider their financial situation. We spoke with First Congregational (across the street) about using some of their space, but that didn't work out. In addition, we spoke with Calvary church about using the old church about 5 blocks west on Benton, but they were not leasing the space. It was also important to the team that we be able to stay close to the church building to facilitate Sunday school attendance and other combined activities.

Stewardship

Note: This is the first of a five part series in which we will discuss an expanded vision of the traditional notion of "Stewardship". While the financial aspect of Stewardship cannot be overlooked, the giving of gifts should be seen as a result rather than an end in itself. This week we will reflect on the Stewardship of Prayer.

An ancient proverb says, "God looks for us often, but most of the time we are not at home." Busy, complicated lives do not readily lend themselves to moments for quiet contemplation. Some of you may even find that the hour spent at church is the only time you have set aside for prayer all week. Yet, Steve Harper in his [Prayer and Devotional Life of United Methodists](#) proclaims, "What God wants most from us—is us! Prayer and the devotional

life rest on this unshakable fact”, and all persons who follow Jesus are called to grow spiritually through prayer. Clearly, this is a mandate for a renewal of prayer and the devotional life.

What does this have to do with stewardship? Fundamentally, stewardship starts with one’s relationship to God. The good steward is one whose actions are in alignment with God. Thus, the beginning point of being a good steward is for us to listen to the call of God...through prayer and discernment, to seek alignment with God’s hopes for us, our church, the community and the whole world. And, just as each of us benefits from the prayers of our church members, the church and its leaders need the prayers of all of us if we are to discover the power to be who God calls us to be and to do what God calls us to do. As John Wesley said, we need to “watch over one another in love.”

One noted cleric has said that he begins each day with this prayer: “God, what are you doing in the world today that I can help you with?” It’s a stewardship question and one worth asking.

Next Month: The Stewardship of Presence

One of our greatest concerns as a congregation (as expressed in the survey responses in April) was about growth and attendance. On May 31 the Evangelism and Stewardship committees will band together to introduce an exciting opportunity for all of us to address these issues. Get ready for some fun!

Trustees

Caring For Community – All-Church Workday June 13

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 13 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Come and help at the Caring for Community all church workday. It’s a great place to see your friends and meet new people. All are invited and welcome; there are opportunities for all ages and skill levels. There will be indoor and outdoor work at 20 N. Center and exterior work at the 707 Sara parsonage. Let’s get the place in great shape to welcome the new senior pastor. Look for the sign up tables at On Center and 20 N. Center or e-mail trustees@communityunitedmethodist.org. We’ll start and end the morning with refreshments. Childcare is available. Your help is important and appreciated!

United Methodist Women / Church Women United

The **UMW Garage Sale** is Saturday, May 16 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Garage sale proceeds help the UMW meet their pledge to mission projects benefiting women and children around the world.

UMW Evening Outreach Circle will meet May 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mari Schirmer, 7s348 Baltusrol Lane, Naperville. Rev. Lana Sutton will lead the discussion of *God's Mission God's Song*. Give Mari a call at (630)355-8532 if you can join us and/or need directions.

UMW Book Circle, please note that the location for the May 20 meeting has changed. We will meet at the home of Mary Babler, 1200 Piccadilly Circle in Naperville, at 7:30 p.m. Pat Shanower will lead discussion of *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder. This will be the last meeting before summer break. Please call Mary at (630)416-8696 if you plan to attend.

Youth

Work Trip Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for the evening of June 6. The Senior High youth will be holding a dinner and auction to raise funds for their summer work trip to Costa Rica (see the April e-Tidings for information on the trip). \$10 covers your entrance for the dinner, auction, and entertainment. Auction items include tickets for the Bulls, Michigan State Football, White Sox, and Cubs. Contact Nick Giannasi, ngiannasi@communityunitedmethodist.org, for information.



Graduate Recognition Sunday

On June 7, Community UMC would like to honor all graduates of High School, College, Graduate School, and Seminary. Please send a picture (digital, if you can) and a brief bio to the office. All information must be received no later than May 29. Drop off your bio and picture in the office, or e-mail to info@communityunitedmethodist.org.

Administrative Notes

Memorial Day

The church and church office will be closed on Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day.

Web Site, Church Calendar, and E-Tidings

The church web site is <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org>. If you have updated information for existing web pages, or requests for new pages to serve the needs of your committee or ministry team, contact Lauralyn Theodore. We can also set up a special login so that your tech-savvy committee members can create and update your own web pages on the site.

The church calendar is available on the web site. Click the "Calendar" link in the lower-right corner. To schedule events and reserve rooms, contact Lauralyn Theodore.

E-Tidings is published monthly, generally around the 15th of the month and covering through the next month of events. It is e-mailed to households and placed on the church web site. If you have news for e-Tidings, please send it to Lauralyn Theodore. To receive e-Tidings, e-mail Ken Cox, kcox@communityunitedmethodist.org.

Staff Directory

Rev. Emery Percell, Senior Pastor (epercell@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Rev. Haeran Kim, Associate Pastor (hkim@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Rev. Beth Elders, Minister of Christian Education (belders@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Nick Giannasi, Director of Youth Ministries (ngiannasi@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Stephen Edwards, Director of Music and Worship Planning (sedwards@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Cindy Lytle, Director of Contemporary Worship (clytle@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Mary Jacobs, Director of Lay Ministry (mjacobs@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Lauralyn Theodore, Church Administrator (ltheodore@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Marianna McCauley, Administrative Assistant (mmccauley@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Robert Brinck, Church Treasurer (rbrinck@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Ken Cox, Office Assistant (kcox@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Lorna Jansen, Church Organist (ljansen73@comcast.net)