

WinCHIMES



Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

MARCH 2010

We live in a world of contradictions. In class the other day we talked about some cultural sayings that seem to contradict each other. For example: “many hands make light work” and “too many cooks spoil the broth.” Of course a goal is to have the wisdom to know which holds meaning for the time we are at in our lives. But this is part of the contradiction in which we live.

To be totally honest, most of us aren't comfortable with contradictions in our lives. We like to believe that things are one or the other. We like to think that things are either right or they are wrong. Brennan Manning in his work *A Ragamuffin Gospel* wrote, “When I get honest, I admit I am a bundle of paradoxes. I believe and I doubt, I hope and I get discouraged. I feel bad about feeling good, I feel guilty about not feeling guilty. I am honest and I still play games—Aristotle said I am a rational animal; I say I'm an angel with an incredible capacity for beer.” And when we get honest with ourselves, we may find we can say the same thing (perhaps leaving off the last part). We can do both good and evil, we are both sinner and saint.

Lent is one of those times that lives in a paradox. It is a time of preparation for when the God of glory, who made the heavens and earth and all that are in them with just words, the God

who comes in power, clouds and fire, will choose to die. It's one thing to have God be human, but for Jesus to choose the cross? It doesn't make a whole lot of sense. It doesn't fit into people's understanding of God. They see the power, sometimes even control. But Jesus, on the way to Jerusalem, on the way to the cross, was God moving to give up that power.

See, God is both. Jesus is both the God of power and the God on the cross. Life in the contradiction is part of what it means to be Christian, to believe in the God of power and servitude. And maybe if we remember that we can find a way to live in the contradictions of our own lives. Might it be possible to find comfort in both belief and doubt, to know that both will always be present? That maybe we can forgive ourselves for the guilt we carry, or the guilt we think we should?

Lent is a time of preparation, of forgiveness and reconciliation. I think sometimes, we need to remember that we have to forgive ourselves as well. That we need to give ourselves the grace to be the contradictions. May we remember that the great paradox of Jesus on the cross and Jesus of power in the resurrection has already forgiven you.

Pastor Leanne

Lessons From the Saints

6-week Bible Study begins Tuesday, March 16 at 10 a.m. at Winfield UMC. We will be studying *Lessons From the Saints* by Maxi Dunham. The study will be led by Jan Ong.

Our Choir rehearsals on Monday nights at 7 p.m. All are welcome to join us.

Please continue to check the bulletin boards for ways in which you can serve in different areas of the church. We are always looking for Sunday School teachers, readers for scriptures and prayers, fellowship and flowers.

Fellowship host/hostesses. Our new format for fellowship continues with a different family hosting a Sunday or even an entire month. Duties include making coffee, lemonade or other cold drink, bringing goodies and cleaning up afterwards. Contact Fran Miller to volunteer. Below is a list of those already scheduled. Thank you for your service.

March - Sweeney/Wang

April - Fran Miller

May - Victoria VanBortel

June - Gloria Dorich

July - Denise Carlson

August - in need of host/hostess

September - Aliga's

Easter Lily Sign Up

Members and friends are invited to share an Easter Lily plant with the church. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. The sign up sheet is in the kitchen where you are asked to list if the plant is in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The deadline to order is Sunday, March 28. The plants may be taken home after the Easter Morning Service. If you have any questions, contact John or Kris Taylor.

Lost & Found

Winfield UMC has an orange canvas bag with a girl's dress and several bathing suits. Contact Winfield UMC to claim. Gary Church's lost and found also has many items in it. It is located in Gary's Resource Room (lower level). Smaller items such as gloves, keys, earrings, etc. are located in Gary's Church office.

Needing transportation to church? Jim Wiggins will be happy to provide transportation to anyone who needs a ride to church. Please call him at (630) 293-7324. If anyone is able to help provide transportation on days that Jim is not available, please contact him directly.

f i n a n c i a l u p d a t e

The tithes and pledges for January 2010 were \$9,474.00 and we received funds from the South Asian United Methodist Church in January along with the United Methodist Foundation totaling \$980.52. With other giving the total receipts were \$11,599.52 which included \$535.00 for the collection for the Haiti relief.

Operating expenses including snow removal and a large heating gas bill were \$6,279.32. Our payment for apportionments of \$659.00 was made as was the payment to UMCOR for the Haiti gift. The ending balance in the operating account was \$14,869.41. Please contact John Taylor if you have any questions.