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Rebecca Welzenbach

Illinois Wesleyan University

Recommended Citation

Welzenbach, Rebecca, "Local Reverend to Lead at Annual Ash Wednesday Chapel Hour" (2006). *News and Events*. Paper 70.

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February 14, 2006

Contact: Rebecca Welzenbach, (309) 556-3181

Local Reverend to Lead at Annual Ash Wednesday Chapel Hour

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – In accordance with annual tradition, the Rev. Howard Bruce Bowlin, rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Bloomington, will join Dennis E. Groh, Illinois Wesleyan University chaplain and professor of humanities and archaeology, at the University Chapel Hour Ash Wednesday service on March 1 at 11 a.m. in the Evelyn Chapel (1301 N. Park St., Bloomington).

Sponsored by the University Chaplain's Office and the Evelyn Chapel Advisory Board, University Chapel Hour is free and open to the public.

In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent, a 40-day period of repentance before the remembrance of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection on Good Friday (this year on April 14) and Easter Sunday (April 16). Ashes from the burnt palm fronds of the previous year's Palm Sunday are sometimes placed by clergy on the foreheads of Christians as a sign of penitence, humility and human mortality.

Bowlin has a master of divinity degree from The Protestant Episcopal Seminary in Alexandria, Va., and served in the Marine Corps for more than 20 years as head of the music staff for the U.S. Marine Corps band.

For additional information, contact the Illinois Wesleyan University Chaplain's Office at (309) 556-3005.