



Communigram

Community United Church of Christ
A Just Peace, Open and Affirming Congregation

From the Desk of Rev. Michael Mulberry...

I know the committee working on the new polity must have been tired of hearing it from me. Almost every meeting I would say something about the need to meet intimacy and trust issues during the interim polity period. We needed to get people together. We needed to offer opportunities for the whole congregation to talk to one another. I am sure it sounded like one of those litanies where the congregation gets tired of repeating that same phrase over and over again: like the phrase, "Lord, have mercy." My catch phrases were: "Get people together. Build trust. Build intimacy."

Before I had even put that mantra into the minds of the Administrative Committee, I think it was Scott Bush and David Gerstenecker who suggested having three congregational meetings. So much to cover with so little time is an-

other reason more congregational meetings are needed. We need hard work to be done.

To get people together, to build trust, to build intimacy, and to work hard as a congregation cannot possibly be done, however, if few people show up for these meetings. We pride ourselves on an incredible diversity of opinions, viewpoints, and mission emphases. That means, *de facto*, when fewer people show up, we are that much less as a congregation.

So I ask for long-standing and new members, singles and families, couples and generations to show up for this congregational meeting on Sunday, April 24. Your presence, just your presence, makes all of us stronger. Your ears and your voice develop and strengthen us as a community. I personally think a sign of God's presence in a congregation is when we end up with a

decision that never sounds quite like any one individual's opinion or suggestion but represents multiple voices that are pieced together in a quilt of community love.

My belief is that we not only need everybody, but also voices and ears that have not yet arrived in our congregation. That spirituality allows us to build trust and build intimacy with those who will join our circle at a later time.

I am hoping that Sunday, April 24, we will get people together, built trust, build intimacy, and do the work God has appointed to this creative congregation.

Shalom,
Mike



Update from the CUCC Personnel Taskforce

We have just completed Pastor Mike Mulberry's review. We want to thank the 41 people (out of 53!) who took the time to complete the reviews. The comments were thoughtful, insightful, and many times heartwarming as the members of this congregation commented on

their support and affection for our minister. We used a scale with the following categories: learning, learning plus, successful, successful plus, extraordinary. We analyzed the responses to find the mean for each item. Out of 20 items listed in the review, Mike Mul-

berry was rated successful or above. In several items the participants gave Mike a review between successful plus and extraordinary. Here is a sample of some of the 20 items listed: leading of worship, capability at preaching, is a teacher that stimulates thought and discus-

A Quandary in Church Contributions

Recent monetary contributions to CUCC presented a dilemma to the Administrative Committee - - should it adhere strictly to a recently-adopted policy, or allow well-intended contributions to bolster an activity that faced reduction to balance the budget?

Some background information is in order. As one of its last acts, the recent Church Council adopted a "Policy on Endowment, Restricted, and Memorial Funds". The impetus for the policy was the recognition that people who consider contributing beyond their annual pledge want assurance that CUCC will provide good stewardship of the gifts they have transferred to the church. To provide that assurance, CUCC needed to establish sound policies and procedures regarding memorials, endowments, and other restricted funds. Curt Wilson's efforts toward this goal led former Moderator Ruth Gilbert to establish a task force to develop policies. The task force, which included Ruth, the Treasurer, and members of the Stewardship, Memorial, and Budget and Finance Committees, recommended a policy with the following main tenets:

- CUCC believes that it can

serve most effectively by concentrating its efforts on a limited number of goals. Therefore, we will identify several broad purposes for which we will actively solicit funds. (In separate action, the Council also established those purposes, recognizing that they might be refined in the future.)

- The corollary of the first tenet is that we must also discourage donors from targeting funds to other purposes.
- At least quarterly, CUCC's financial reports will include funds of all types so that readers will have a complete picture of CUCC's financial resources.
- When considering the allocating of funds, resources of all types should be coordinated. The process of raising funds will be separated from the process of allocating funds. Separate task forces will be established for these purposes.

Although established only recently, the policy faces its first test. Recently the church received contributions intended for choir soloists/section leaders, which is not among the purposes established by the Church Council. The Administrative Committee, which has the authority to allocate gifts received outside regular fundrais-

ing efforts, was of two minds. The committee believed that ongoing church expenditures should be authorized though adoption of the annual budget by the entire congregation. Accepting gifts targeted to specific budget line items could result in ongoing activities being determined by the largest donations as opposed to a community decision-making process. At the same time, the committee recognized that the music program had little time to adjust to this year's reduction in funding for soloists/section leaders.

After considerable debate (with some participants arguing both sides of the issue), the Administrative Committee voted to accept the contributions and authorize their use for the purposes their donors intended on this occasion only. (Since the gifts were made to a memorial fund, this could be done without technically violating the new policy.) At the same time, the committee decided to educate the congregation on the new policy and the importance of community-based decision making so that church members do not view acceptance of the contributions as a precedent.

-- Richard Schnuer

Prayer Protest Continues



The Prayer Protest continues each Wednesday at noon. Bring your sack lunch as we gather at the northeast front entrance of the church. If you are interested in providing "gorp" or "trail mix" please drop it off in the church office. We will be providing campus ministry folk "food for thought". "Gorp" or "trail mix" will be offered to those passing by the church. These goodies will contain words of compassion for those suffering in Iraq.

4/14 ~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
 6:00 pm Women's Fellowship Salad
 8:00 pm AA (FH)
 8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

4/15 ~ Friday

6:00 pm April Family Event ~ Movie/Pizza Night at CUCC ~ The Incredibles

4/16 ~ Saturday

9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Espresso Royale*
 9:00 am-3:00 pm Healthy Congregations presented at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 236 West Fifth Street, Minonk, Illinois

4/17 ~ Sunday ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Sunday School (R1-5, FH, CR)
 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
 10:15 am Worship Service (S)
 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)
 2:00 pm Crop Walk
 2:00 pm Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group
 7:00 pm Administrative Committee Meeting

4/18 ~ Monday

10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)

4/20 ~ Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest
 6:00 pm Chimes (S)
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)
 7:00 pm Children and Family Ministries

4/21 ~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

9:30 am Preschool Play Group
 5:30 pm Worship Committee
 8:00 pm AA (FH)
 8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

4/23 ~ Saturday

9:00 am Work Day
 9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Espresso Royale*

4/24 ~ Sunday ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Sunday School (R1-5, FH, CR)
 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
 10:15 am Worship Service (S)
 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)
 11:30 am Congregational Meeting (FH)
 6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group (TR)

4/25 ~ Monday

10:00 am *Communigram* Deadline
 10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)

4/27 ~ Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)

4/28 ~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
 8:00 pm AA (FH)
 8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

4/30 ~ Saturday

9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Espresso Royale*

Key: FH=Fellowship Hall, CR=Conference Room,
 S=Sanctuary, P=Parlor, L=Library,
 T=Tower Room, R1...5=Lower Level Classrooms



April & May Coffee Hosts

April 17 ~ John & Jean Due; **April 24** ~ Iris Swanson;
May 1 ~ Becky & Jack Hanson; **May 8** ~ Becky & Brian Duffield;
May 15 ~ Pat Syoen; **May 22** ~ Open; **May 29** ~ Open

Sunday, April 17, the Campaign-Urbana CROP WALK, with over 200 walkers, will be raising money for the worldwide programs of Church World Service.

Please support our walkers by contributing this morning at coffee hour. Don't linger. The walkers will be leaving to pre-

Walk With the World

pare for the 2 PM walk which is over 6 miles long.

CROP WALKERS help provide relief and development assistance in more than 80 countries, including the United States. One quarter of the money raised locally stays in CU, going to three local organizations, the Eastern Illinois

Food Bank, the TIMES center, and the Catholic Worker House. Last year 7 walkers from CUCC raised \$1,225.00. We hope to do better this year, the need is great.

Together we can make a big difference.



sion, responds with caring to persons in personal crisis, builds a strong sense of community within the congregation, deals with conflict in healthy ways, makes newcomers feel welcome, etc.

The review format allowed us to have a constructive dialogue as we explored strategies for moving forward in the coming year. Mike is working on a set of objectives that we will share with the congregation in the next few

weeks. Part of our discussions revolved around the concept of community support for the minister. Mike's comments were very helpful to the Personnel Taskforce. In the coming months we hope to articulate for you some of those issues and begin to discuss how we, as a congregation, might assess our reaction to change and new strategies.

The Personnel Taskforce will begin to implement a yearly re-

view process for all CUCC staff in the coming months. It is a great mechanism for understanding how individual positions operate in the church and for building congregational support systems for our great staff.

Personnel Taskforce
David Gerstenecker
Denise Oligney-Estill
Dawn Smith
Deb Townsend
Susan Schnuer (chair)

6th Annual CUCC 2005 Community Arts Camp

"Project Peace" by Roger Emerson

Directed by Bob Smith and Angela Schneider

June 13 through June 24
Monday-Friday ~ 9 am-3 pm

Tuition: \$125

Registration Deadline: **Monday, May 23** with Maximum enrollment is 25 students for ages 3rd through 8th grade students

For more information, call Bob Smith (352-2638)
(Limited, partial scholarships available)

Send \$125 Tuition payment to: Community Arts Camp—UCC, 805 S. Sixth Street,
Champaign, IL 61820

Name: _____

Grade Level 2005-06 year _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ and/or email _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

Thank You

Dear CUCC Family,

Peggy Wade recently sent us your new picture directory (Thanks, Peg!). What a flood of memories immediately came to mind...as happens too whenever we read "The Communigram". It's wonderful to see so many faces we know, as well as many we don't – which speaks well for the growth of the church.

We find it amazing that we have lived in the Ann Arbor area now almost two years. But we have adjusted well to our lives in Michigan (though we are cheering quite LOUDLY for the Illini!! – and Jamie always will). We enjoy our church here; (Ask Deb Townsend about it – she grew up in our church!). Dave and I enjoy the chancel choir, led by Dr. Willis Patterson, who has a great sense of humor not unlike our dear Bob Smith....the church school is using a rotating cur-

riculum as you do – we are helping to paint the downstairs hallways, creating an ongoing mural in keeping with a "City of God" theme. Jamie is in Confirmation classes and has a really nice young male mentor, as well as an active youth group. We are getting to know people, though it does take time.

Jamie is in track at school, and is signed up for men's chorus in high school next year, and most likely will be involved in drama there... Mark is finishing his first year at Grand Valley State University near Grand Rapids (where Mike Willcox goes to school!), Ryan is at Central MI University in Mt Pleasant, and David is in Champaign (we love it when he visits!) working at Provena and going to Parkland and soon to Illinois State. Dave is working hard but enjoying his job as well as some consulting and business work on the side. I have a part time job with a neighbor's

jewelry business – it is so much fun! And I run 25-30 miles a week – as well as keep up with Jamie and our pets....life is good.

Mostly I (we) have wanted for a long time to send our heartfelt thanks to all of you who for 24 years were such a big part of our lives....when Dave and I first arrived in 1979, and as our family grew through the years. You are an incredible church family and it took a lot to tear us away from such an amazing congregation of caring, loving, generous, inventive, and driven individuals! Thank you for your pursuit of the Spirit and Truth – always living out the word of God in amazing ways. We look forward to our next visit to Champaign!

In the meantime, we would love to show you around Dexter and Ann Arbor...

Nancy Munson and family

Interfaith Alliance Meeting Help organize a local chapter

Tuesday, April 26, 7 PM
Dean Clark Room
Mckinley Presbyterian Foundation
corner of Fifth & Daniels

Please come to the first local meeting of the Interfaith Alliance.

Help develop a central Illinois coalition of progressively-minded people of all faiths that can speak to a variety of moral and political issues currently dominated in the media by the religious right. Let's work to have our progressive voices heard!

Artists Against AIDS

2 0 0 5

Exhibition and Sale, featuring over 200 local artists' works at The Gallery, 112 W. Church Street, downtown Champaign. Proceeds go directly to the Greater Community AIDS Project (GCAP) a local non-profit agency providing support services for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Fri. April 22, 6-10

Sat. April 23, 1-10

Sun. April 24, 1-7

Mon. April 25, 1-4

www.gcapnow.com

Our Church Nursery

Catherine Ioseliani has been caring for our youngest children since the beginning of the school year. Beginning on April 3, Laurie Lyter joins her in the Nursery. These two young women provide a safe, nurturing environment for our youngest ones. On any given Sunday, you will find them rocking a little one, building a "hide-out" with the older children, making paper airplanes, getting snacks and making space for creativity.



If you would like to be a parent volunteer in the Nursery, please see Tracy Heilman or Jennifer Kelleher.

Sunday School Recognition

April 24th will be an exciting day for the Sunday School program. During the Education Hour (9:00 am till 10:00 am) the young people are inviting their parents and other adults to a battle of the wits! Let's see how well we all know the story. A continental breakfast will be provided.



During the Congregational Meeting, the young people will be both giving and receiving! We are going to invite you into the tent as we *give* you a glimpse of what we have been doing all year. Then, the children will *receive* recognition for their participation in the Sunday School program.

Please plan to attend!

Calling all Graduates!

The church office will be compiling a list of all High School and College graduates. If you or a family member will be completing a degree or graduating from High School, please call or email the church and give us the graduate's name, school and future plans.



Community United Youth Group

How do we begin to thank the congregation?

You were all so generous and creative in your donations to the Silent Auction. Not only did you help us to raise \$1800, but we discovered just how talented the members of this community are!

You were generous and aggressive in your bidding also. What fun it was to see normally amiable people rushing over to the table to ensure that their bid was still the highest!

The members of the youth group extend a huge thank you to all who donated, bid, cooked, ate and danced to make our Mexican Fiesta and Silent Auction such a success!

Youth Group Activities

Sunday, April 17th: We're going on the Crop Walk. Meet at church at 1:30, and wear your walking shoes!

Sunday, April 24th: Baking cookies in preparation for the trip to San Antonio! If you're going on the work trip, you need to be at youth group tonight.

Between Us and our Neighbors

I have a vision for our congregation. Please ask me about it!

But this message is not about my vision. It is about sharing **three reflections** from my recent Border Links trip.

1.) First, a word about our US-Mexico border policy.

- a. It is a **failed** policy. That is, it doesn't do what it set out to do – stop illegal migration across our border into the US.
- b. It is an **expensive** policy. The cost of personnel, buildings, technology, vehicles, etc is an unbelievable expense. The cost to put up ONE high cement post with underground sensors and overhead cameras and provide transmission of images to a central monitoring site is about \$1,000,000.
- c. It is an **inhumane** policy. That is, stopping migration through easy urban areas simply moved the migration to dangerous, desert areas, contributing to lonely, painful deaths. Additionally, the current policy is a major contributor to the breakup of family units. Instead of returning to their families, as most workers want to do, they are forced to remain in the U.S. in exile, away from their families because the crossing has become so difficult.
- d. It is an **unjust** policy. That is, 25% of the Southwest economic activity is dependent on the undocumented labor that is coming across the border. This includes work in industries such as agriculture, meat packing, hotels, restaurants, landscaping, nurseries, construction, roofing. So, with one hand the U.S. says, "come on, we need you" and with the other hand says, "no way José, you are not welcome."

2.) Then, an affirmation of the hospitality and welcome we received

- a. We had two dinners, two breakfasts and two nights with a host family in a Nogales, a neighborhood of mechanics,

truckers, and security guards.

- b. We had lunch served to us by three women in a small home -some might say hovel. It was made of tin and cardboard, about 10 x 10 in size. It was cozy seating all 15 of us and was one of the best meals we had! We learned how they manage family life and what a difference a micro-credit program can make.
- c. We had a dinner, breakfast and a night with a church community serving migrants and deportees on a 24 hr/day, 7 day a week basis. The woman with whom we stayed was also up the morning we left, to cook a huge pot of soup to take to the local prison.
- d. These three places are only **one portion** of what our trip was about, but in each of these places, we experienced being "**at home**". In each of these places, we came as strangers and left as friends. In each of these places, we encountered intimacy, shared concern, and a deep awareness that we live in one world, without borders.

3.) And finally, an encounter with the human face of **deep need, deep hope, and consequent resolve to migrate**. These two events had a profound impact on my life

- a. On Thursday evening, we had dinner with 8 migrants who had crossed, been captured and deported back to Mexico. To do this, they had traveled all the way from southern Mexico to the northern border. They managed to get across the border and during four days and four nights of walking; they managed to get as far as Phoenix, 80 miles north. Then they got caught. They were processed and deported. They ended up at this migrant center for the first meal they had had in 24 hours. They were tired. Two of them will return home. The other six will cross the border again in the next day or two. Their human need humbled us. Their drive to migrate emerged out of their family's need. It made you want to **cry out against** the injustice of NAFTA

Volunteer Opportunities! The Agricultural Shares Program is Underway

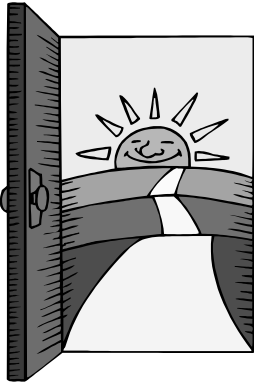
Drivers are needed every Wednesday during the growing season (from approximately mid April to mid November).



Shares are picked up between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. and delivered to Women in Transition, El Centro and A Women's Place.

It only takes about an hour for pick-up and deliveries. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Office Door. You will be provided with detailed directions. If you have any questions please call the church office (344-5091) or email Pat Syoen at PSyoen35@aol.com.

Eastern Association Spring Meeting “Visioning - Where Will It Lead Us?”



The Federated Church of Paxton

Sunday, May 1, 2005

2:30-6 pm ~ Dinner—Milestones Celebration at 6 pm

You are invited to join the Eastern Association for this Spring Meeting. There will be a presentation from the Conference Visioning Team and there will be opportunities for discussion of some important items coming before the General Synod. The business meeting will also be conducted. Rev. Jane Fidler-Hoffman our Conference Minister will also be on hand. Supper will be at 6 pm. The registration fee is \$20/Adult and \$10/youth.

In-Care Students, Retired Clergy and Spouses—no charge. Registration forms and the schedule for the day can be found at the back of the Sanctuary on the credenza. Registration **deadline is April 25.**

Continued from page 7—*Between Us...*

and other economic instruments of state, and to ask of God, **why** is this permitted in the universe of creation?

- b. On Friday morning, we had a walk in the desert. We went out with a local activist and walked in the scrub, felt the breeze and the heat on our faces and tried to imagine whether we could – or would dare – to try the crossing that thousands of migrants undertake each day. The activist said that if we had the eyes to see, that there were probably 500 people within our viewing range, tucked into and under the desert brush. We located 2 “nests” where migrants wait for pick up and transport further north. One was vacated sometime ago but was full of the human residue that

migrants shed as they transform themselves from dark, undercover, survival sleuths into “I’m just a worker going off to work” people. We also found an active nest under some brush that was currently inhabited. On our arrival, the occupants had slipped off to more distant brush. We left them some additional food, water, and medical supplies before we returned to our truck and back to civilization. We hope they made it.

Ken, Ruth, Mike, Jan and Curt have much more to say about all of this. We hope to do so together in the near future. I couldn’t avoid the need to share some initial reflections. Thanks for putting up with the length of this note. Ruth

Campus Ministry Notes

Campus Ministry Break Away Update

I am writing on behalf of myself and my 20 student companions to thank everyone at Community for your wonderful support of our Spring Break Service Trip, March 18-27 to New Orleans, Louisiana. Students spent a full day on Monday traveling to various social service and religious agencies with the coalition for the Homeless to learn from those who work first hand with the profound impact on poverty and the lack of affordable housing on countless individuals and families.



Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we roofed and sided a Habitat House side by side with Students from De Paw College, Indiana and M.I.T. in Boston. Friday brought a full day's labor at a transitional center which feeds 800 individuals daily and pro-

vides a full range of programs designed to empower those who have been so disempowered by a number of life circumstances, tragedies and injustices.

On Sunday morning, April 17 during CUCC's worship service the students will be "telling the story" of God's goodness in all things as witnessed time and again during our journey—a story so many who crossed our path, told us.

Thanks be to God for all of God's never ending love in our lives and in creation.

Thank you, CUCC, for the ways you continue to channel God's love, mercy and grace into and through this campus ministry!

In praise and gratitude!

Rev. Karen Bush
Spring 2005

Our Campus Ministry needs PJs!

Our Campus Ministry needs PJs! What?! That is right—PJs! Men's PJs, to be precise—all sizes! The staff at Ozanam Transitional Housing Center in New Orleans that our Break Aways worked at their share of the over whelming need they have to provide clean, light weight PJ tops and bottoms nightly for their 90 plus clients. Too often the men have no appropriate comfortable sleeping wear. The residents we spoke with shared how something most of us take for granted day by day can

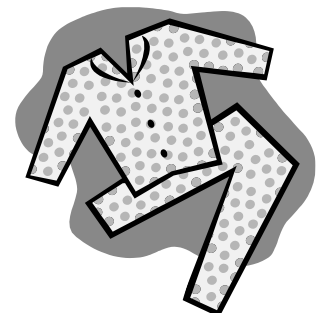
come to mean so much when one is homeless and is trying to make positive steps forward.

Please take a tag (they have various sizes written on them) off the board which sits right outside the north Sanctuary doors. Used clean men's PJs (no flannel please) may be dropped off at CUCC any Sunday morning or during regular office hours in April or May. Just look for the big box marked "Men's PJ". Monetary donations are very welcome and will be used to purchase hospital scrubs, which the men

find very comfortable. **Drive ends June 1.** For more information or for any questions contact Scott Banjavcic by email (sbaujv2@uiuc.edu).

Thanks.

UCC Campus Ministry



Community United Church
of Christ
A Just Peace,
Open and Affirming Congregation



805 S. Sixth St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School ~ 9 am
Worship ~ 10:15 am
Coffee Fellowship ~ 11:30 am
Jr & Sr High Youth Group ~ 6 pm

Next Communigram
will be mailed out
on April 27.

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY



SATURDAY, APRIL 23
9 AM-NOON

We're on the Web!
www.community-ucc.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Urbana, IL
Permit No. 18

Spring Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend the Spring Congregational Meeting.

When: Sunday April 24th, right after Church

Where: The fellowship hall. A meal will be provided. Please bring your own tableware.

Agenda:

1. Proposed changes to 2005 budget
2. Presentation on CUCC endowment policy
3. Update on Building issues
4. An inside look at the RE children's program.

