

Communigram

OCTOBER 4, 2006

VOL. 38 No. 16

From the Desk of Rev. Mike Mulberry...

This fall continues to be an exciting time for our church.

- ⊕ I am excited by children who are learning one of the foundational Biblical stories in the Exodus. I even hear our children repeating those Biblical stories to parents and during children's sermons. Other pastors drool when I share this information with them. Thanks to Rev. Tracy Heilman and all the Sunday School teachers and Shepherds who are making this happen.
- ⊕ I am excited by the evangelism that is sharing the good news about our church far and wide. Our Rally Day worship service will be broadcast on UPTV starting this Sunday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m. Thanks to Anita Stein! News about our "Just Eating" Feast was published in the national edition of our denominational newspaper, UCC News, and the Illinois Conference edition. Thanks to Pat Syoen, Susan Schnuer, and Jeanne Ward.
- ⊕ I am excited by our participation in CODAC (Adult Education). We have over twenty people participating in the book study, *Who Wrote the Bible?* On Sunday mornings and four couples participating in our Marriage Enrichment program meeting on Mondays. We have a number of people signed up for future classes! Thanks to all people participating.
- ⊕ I am excited by the hard work we are doing with the Pentateuch in CODAC and in worship. We were so blessed by five people in our congregation willing to share art work for five major Biblical stories. Thanks to Pat McQuillen, Raymond Smith, Karen Kelsky, David Robertson, and Megan Smith. Their gifts have helped to bring new dimension to our study of the Pentateuch.
- ⊕ I am excited by the continuing work we are doing to offer alternative food systems and structures through a tour of the Urbana Market, a cooking class, and scholarship shares. Thanks to Pat Syoen and Jack Paxton for organizing the tour and the class.
- ⊕ Finally, I am excited by the contributions made to Humane Borders by our children, how that story is being taught, and how that story links with the Moses story and so many stories found in the Pentateuch. Thanks to Jeanne Ward, Sophie Gerstenecker, and Rev. Tracy Heilman.

Shalom,

Mike



Moderator Musings

Everybody look at your calendars at November 19. Do you have it on there?

The exciting church event that you don't want to miss? While some of you are probably thinking that I am crazy and the others of you still wondering what I mean, I am referring to the Fall Congregational Meeting. I realize that the meetings are practically impossible to make truly exciting, but I hope all of you will attend. We will be hearing from the Visioning/Discernment and Building Options task groups that were created at the last congregational meeting. This is an exciting time to discuss who we are as a family and what we might do with our buildings and grounds. One of the important factors that I heard at the last meeting was momentum and not losing it. These task groups formed out of a proposal to build a student housing complex behind our church; my recollection is that we decided that there were many questions we wanted answered about ourselves and our options before moving too quickly into that proposal. I also heard that we wanted to move quickly enough

that we didn't lose momentum and have this end up as another dream that withered up and blew away.

Allow me to make sure everyone understands the two meetings that you hear me talking about: Fall Congregational Meeting - scheduled for November 19 and its purpose is to have the entire congregation meet.

Administrative Committee Meetings - scheduled once a month and its purpose is to have the Administrative Committee meet (while anyone in the church is welcome to attend).

So onto the second meeting type... our next Administrative Committee meeting is scheduled for October 15 and I am currently seeking agenda items for that meeting. If you have proposals or items that you would like presented to the Administrative Committee, please let me know (email: moderator@community-ucc.org).

Peace, David Gerstenecker

New Marriage Policy Proposal

For those interested in the Marriage Policy of Community UCC, take notice! A new written policy designed to be inclusive of all couples and clear in regards to cost and procedures will be proposed to the Administrative Committee in November. Anyone interested in reading the policy prior to the proposal is welcome to do so. Your feedback is also welcome. Please contact the church office (344-5091) to request an electronic or printed version of the policy. Feedback will be accepted until **November 1st**.

Administrative Committee Meeting

The Administrative Committee met on September 17. The most important items were:

- ⇒ There is a problem with our chimney. It is cracking, possibly due to a lightning strike. A section will have to be torn out and rebuilt. We are evaluating a couple of bids to do repairs.
- ⇒ We approved uses for several of the outstanding memorial funds.
- ⇒ We clarified the policy for use of the "church

only" parking spaces at the north of the church, and reaffirmed that church members have priority on the waiting list for rental spaces.

- ⇒ We agreed to have most of the downstairs carpets professionally cleaned.
- ⇒ We formed an Endowment Investment Group that will manage the investment of our reserve and endowment funds.

David Willcox, Clerk

Advent Workshop Planning Meeting

The first Advent Workshop planning meeting will be **Wednesday, October 11th at 7:00 pm.** We encourage anyone who has craft ideas to come to this meeting as we begin planning for this inter-generational activity. Childcare will be provided.

Parking Lot Questions

Several members of the Congregation have had questions about this policy or asked for clarification. Rather than address each question individually and risk miscommunication, I have been charged with the task of collecting all the information and then presenting it to the Admin. Committee. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the policy, please let me know by **October 11th.** We are also interested in knowing how many people regularly use the

parking lot for personal activities, and if so when and why. Our purpose is to find the most effective and efficient way to utilize our space; to do this we need input from all the interested parties.

Contact the church office (344-5091).

(see back page for more information)

Please Fill out a Form by October 15

What do you value in your faith community?

We encourage all CUCC members and visitors to participate in the design of a new CUCC governance by filling out a form. The form is available from the church office and needs to be returned by **October 15, 2006.** As always we welcome your thoughts



and comments as we embark on this journey.

Committee members: Denise Oligney-Estill and Susan Schnuer (co-chairs), Mike Mulberry, Martha Seif, Lisa Treul, and Tom Ward.

Volunteer Delivery of Agricultural Shares

Drivers are needed every Wednesday during the growing season (May 3rd to end of October). Shares are picked up between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. and delivered to Women in Transition, and A Women's Place. It takes less 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).

Additional Men's Breakfast

In addition to our regular breakfast on the first Thursday of the month, Tom Watembach will host another breakfast on **Saturday, October 14 at 8:00 AM.** Please let Tom know if you plan to attend, but if you forget to let me know, come anyway. There's always enough. There's no need to bring anything unless you have something special you want to share. Address and directions will be provided later.



Tom Watembach

Women's Fellowship



Members of Community UCC are invited to join with members of the Women's Fellowship on Thursday, October 19, 2006 at 11:30 am at the Clark-Lindsey Village dining room for lunch and a meeting with the Conference Minister, the Rev. Jane Fiser Hoffman. She will speak to us about Conference concerns. Becky Hanson and Frances Kurtz are hostesses. Luncheon fee is \$6.50 and reservations should be made by October 12, 2006. Please call the church office (344-5091).

New Member Orientation

We invite all those interested in new membership to contact the church office (info@community-ucc.org; 344-5091).

New member orientation will begin with a short meeting (ten to fifteen minutes) after worship on Sunday, October 15, right next to the pulpit. Please wait for Rev. Mulberry to greet people before he meets with you to hand out introductory information for the time we spend together on Saturday, October 21.

On Saturday, October 21, we will begin at 8:30 a.m. learning more about the United Church of Christ denomination, the Illinois Conference, the Eastern Association, and Community United Church of Christ. Breakfast, lunch, and child care will be provided. The orientation will finish at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 21.



Youth Group

I am making an adjustment in our schedule. Since most of you are either in the Mid High Sunday School class that is studying "Jesus and his kingdom of equals," or are going to be part of the Confirmation class, I am going to take Jeffy's suggestion that we wait until this summer to study "Way to Live." That leaves us with some open meeting times.

Oct 8: Okay, so I was thinking of doing a fall craft, and then thought, why not a duct tape craft!

Oct 15: Dinner Theater planning and practice.

Oct 22: Travel to Bloomington for the Creatures Crypt Haunted House. Cost is \$10, check out their website at creaturescrypt.com

Oct 29: I found it! We'll watch "Let's Scare Jessica to Death" in honor of Halloween.

Nov 5: Dinner Theater Performance

Nov 12: Dinner and Discussion

Nov 19: 12th Night Rehearsal

Nov 24: *Possible* Campout

Nov 26: No Youth Group, enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday with your families

Confirmation

We will be celebrating the beginning of the Confirmation process on Sunday, October 15th, for the following young people:

Brent Anderson
 Jessica Bush
 Julia Kara
 Jeff Offenbecher
 Nathan Smith
 Raymond Smith

This Confirmation class will be studying the Bible using Jack Good's "The Bible: Faith's Family Album." They will be learning about the identity of our congregation and the United Church of Christ denomination with the help of their Mentors. Please keep these young people in your thoughts and prayers as they begin the journey that is Confirmation



G C  P

Hello Every One,

This is Rob Glover, and I am writing every one letting them know that I will be walking in the GCAP Aids Walk for life here in Champaign, IL. This is a group that I have supported for several years now, and would like to know if you would like to make a donation to this wonderful group. The money goes for helping people that can't keep their place to live, or afford their medications, due to the cost of medications. GCAP has a house that they keep up, to have for any one with HIV that can't pay their rent due to medication costs. They can live there for free for a period of 6 months or longer, and while they are there, GCAP tries to help them find employment, and a place to live.

If you don't catch me at church, please contact the church office fore more information (344-5091).

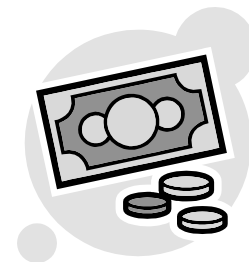
I almost forgot to tell you that the walk is on the **8th of October**. There is NO donation too small, or too large. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Thank you in advance,

God Bless,

Hugs,

Rob



Theological Speaking. . .

(Jennifer A. Little, M.A., M.T.S., M.Div.)

Religious Anthropology is an important key to interpreting religious statements – especially religious rhetoric. The question of religious anthropology is the question, “What is the nature of human beings such that they are religious?”

If we define “religious” as “seeking the holy,” then we can refine our questions about what it is in the nature of human beings that we seek a power greater than humanity; that we seek that which is sublime, or ultimate, the one who can save us from ourselves? And yet who are we that we are in relationship with God?

Prophets and theologians, when talking about God, or Christ, communion, or the

church, have a certain understanding of human beings in what they say. They are mindful of our human experience when interpreting God’s salvific work in the world. Reinhold Niebuhr’s best known work *The Nature and Destiny of Man* (sic) is a work of religious anthropology.

Prophetic witness has at its center religious anthropology: Consider the prophet Ezekiel, 37:1-14: the prophet was speaking about what it means to be a human being—to be “inspired,” “en-spirited”—to live is to be the breath of God. Consider Martin Luther King, Jr. whose non-violent resistance rested on the understanding of what it means to be human, on “satyagraha”

the force of love that is inherent in every human being.

To be human is to seek the holy. What is personhood such that it reaches its fullest potential in God? What happens to a person when she or he is excluded from full participation in the community that seeks the holy? These are questions of religious anthropology.

The statement “God is Still Speaking” is also a statement of religious anthropology. It suggests that human beings are able to “hear” and “respond” to God; that human beings are those to whom God speaks (although God speaks to creation as well). What are you hearing from God these days?

Prayer Protest Continues!

Each Wednesday at noon for the past two years members and friends have met at the northeast front entrance of the Church to provide campus folk with “Gorp” or “Trail Mix” containing Words of Compassion for those suffering in Iraq. Bring your sack lunch and join us in distributing “food for thought” and some lively conversation. If you are interested in providing “gorp” or “trail mix” please drop it off in the church office. You could also make a monetary contribution to help with the cost of the mix.

All Church Fall Work Day



Saturday, November 4 ~ 9:00 AM until Noon.

Inside and outside jobs planned.

Bring lawn tools & gloves for outside work.

Help Needed for Tail End of Landscaping

Because of everyone's ridiculously busy schedules, including mine, we have decided to finish the landscaping work on the South side of CUCC on Saturday, October 14th and Sunday, October 15th at 1:30 pm. We have a lot of plants to plant and mulch to put down, so if you have time please come out and help. The more people we have the less time it

will take. If you have perennials that you would like to donate at anytime this fall, please let me know. Thanks to everyone for their support in this project.

Contact the church office for any questions (344-5091) or email (info@community-ucc.org).

Human Rights Film Series

7 pm ★Free Admission and Snacks

Illinois Disciples Foundation (IDF)
NW corner of Springfield and Wright St.
in Champaign

Films followed by a facilitated discussion.

Thursday, October 5 ~ Bonhoeffer

Thursday, October 12 ~ Iraq For Sale

Thursday, October 19 ~ Ghosts of Rwanda

Thursday, October 26 ~ Sir! No Sir!

For more information:

<http://www.prairienet.org/idf/filmseries.html>

"The Ground Truth"

at the

Illinois Disciples Foundation

Wednesday, October 11, 2006

at 7 pm

"The Ground Truth" is a powerful film that documents the experiences of veterans who have served in the war in Iraq and the effects that service has had on their lives. It stunned audiences at the 2006 Sundance film festival, and this will be it's first public showing in Champaign-Urbana.

The Progressive Resource/Action Cooperative (PRC) is organizing this showing in conjunction with other public showings around the U.S. on October 11th, to mark the fourth anniversary of the Congressional authorization of "Use of Force Against Iraq". For more information about the film, check out <http://www.thegroundtruth.net>. This screening will be free and open to the public.

Campus Corner

Over the past couple of weeks, the Campus Ministry has been very active in the community, both in the Champaign-Urbana area and in our group. On September 8, we visited the TIMES Center for our Friday event. While there, we organized the pantry, prepared the meals, and talked with many of the occupants. We learned how great people come across bad fortune every day and are forced to live in a situation that our society looks down upon and ignores. Another highlight was our annual Fall Retreat.

Many of the Campus Ministry students came with us to Tower Hill, MI, where we got to know each other better. We grew spiritually, had lots of alone time with God, and we still had enough time to visit the dunes and play volleyball! It was a great time, and we're very excited about how many new Campus Ministry students we have this year.



COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

*A Just Peace, Progressive,
LGBT Open and Affirming Congregation*



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UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

Campus Minister: Rev. Karen Bush
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Communigram

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Permit No. 18

The next Communigram will be mailed out on October 18.

Sunday Schedule

- 9:00 am ~ Sunday School
- 9:30 am ~ Choir Rehearsal
- 10:15 am ~ Worship
- 11:30 am ~ Coffee Hour
- 6-8 pm ~ Youth Group



Parking Lot Policy

Recently the Administrative Committee published the following policy regarding use of the reserved spaces in our parking lot.

Parking Policy for the CUCC Lot

On the north side of our Church are 10 parking spaces (2 of which are Handicap Reserved) marked Church Use Only. Because our parking lot is rented during the work week, these spaces have been reserved to provide parking spaces for our Church Staff and those on Campus conducting the business of our Church. These spaces are not intended for those attending classes at the University or conducting personal business in Campustown. Unfortunately, there simply are not enough spaces for this to be permitted, so beginning October 16th any car found parked in the lot without an available owner will be towed. If you are parking in the lot to attend a meeting for CUCC but held offsite, please let Cindy Dodd know before you leave the premises.

Thank you for your understanding,
Administrative Committee

(see more information on page 3)