

Communigram

DECEMBER 20, 2006

VOL. 38 No. 21

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Staff at Community United Church of Christ

Wishes you and your loved ones

Blessings this Christmas

And a Happy New Year!

Mike

Bob Smith

Tracy

Cindy

Bob Scaggs

Karen

Linda

Moderator's Musings - Why We Need Money

I am hoping to draw attention to my moderator musings with the subtitle that I added this time. As is usually the case, we spent a large amount of time coming up with a balanced budget to present at the January annual meeting of the congregation. In these musings, I hope to give you an idea of what will be discussed at the January meeting and a "big picture" look at the budget that will be discussed there.

The January annual congregational meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2007 (not to worry, the Super Bowl is still scheduled for the following weekend - those of us that have been here long enough know that these dates used to coincide). I hope to start the meeting again at noon following morning worship service and a meal prepared by our wonderful "Hospitality" and "Care for Congregational Meetings" task groups (Becky Duffield and Paul Offenbecher respective task leaders). Our intention is to once again have not only child care, but a children's program to happen at the same time as the business meeting. As tradition holds, we will first approve the minutes of the last three congregational meetings. My current plan is that the 2007 budget will be next on the agenda (more about budget in the next paragraph). After approving a budget, we will have a constitutional amendment to decide upon. The amendment will go something like this (don't worry, we will follow the constitution and get the real wording out to you at least 10 days before the meeting): to replace the words that state the interim polity constitutional amendments will end at the January 2007 congregational meeting to say that they will be in effect until a new polity is approved or January 2008, whichever comes

first. The intention here is that we are able to discuss the next form of our governance without being pressured by the January 2007 deadline. It leads into the next agenda item which is the discussion and vote on the next form of polity for our congregation. More information will be forthcoming from the polity group very soon. We will wrap up the meeting with some time with the co-leaders of the Synthesis and Sustainability Committee (SSC) (assuming we haven't exhausted our time for the meeting).

As promised I will now try my best to give you a "big picture" look at the budget that will be presented at the meeting. At the meeting, you will have opportunity to discuss and propose changes to the budget. An important note is that our pledged giving is figured at \$205,000 which is based on current pledges and 15 giving units that have not pledged for this year yet. We cannot rely on all of these families to pledge the same amount and if we like the budget or want to do even more, you must consider giving more financially to have those things. So what are those things? The budget includes setting aside \$5,000 from Covenant Fellowship Church rent money as directed from last January's congregational meeting. Based on the Personnel Committee recommendations, the church staff are being given raises based on merit ranging from 2-5%. The exception is Reverend Mulberry who requested that his raise be removed from the budget in order to balance the budget and prevent other ideas being cut from the budget. The full cost of the choir section leaders is included (\$5,845 compared to \$3,755 last year). \$3,000 has been added to in planning for sending a youth dele-

gate to General Synod 2007. Another Personnel recommendation was to increase Reverend Heilman's appointment to 62.5% instead of 50% to more closely reflect the time needed for her position. A new line item is proposed funded at \$4,000 to hire a Religious Education Assistant to assist in our R.E. area. The nursery care budget item has also been increased to \$3,400 from \$2,000. The cost of a copier in the office has also increased to \$5,160 from \$2,500 due to leasing a new copier this year that is also a printer for the office and includes more functionality than the old copier (which we owned). And just like our personal utilities, the cost to heat and power the church is increasing in 2007. The budget reflects a 25% increase in power cost (\$14,500 to 18,125). There is also increased budget for maintenance including \$415 for fellowship hall carpet cleaning and \$2,500 to repair the church chimney that was damaged (possibly by lightning strike).

There are line items that are decreased and will help us do the above items. Our advertising line was cut in half (\$4,000 to 2,000) because we dropped the color from our yellow pages advertisement in favor of focusing advertising on our website. We cut our church insurance budget line almost in half (\$13,000 to 6,869) by switching insurance providers (previously we have used the U.C.C. coverage and now we are using our own policy). And our janitorial service line item was reduced more than half (\$17,600 to 7,000) with the intention of switching from a cleaning service to a janitorial contractor. So how are we doing? I think that this is a promising budget compared to the last few years. I

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Wassail Helpers Needed! Cookie Bakers Needed!



In order to serve our traditional wassail and cookies for our Christmas Eve service(s) we are requesting some helpers. No prior experience is necessary!

Cookies and our traditional hot wassail will be served in between the two evening services, from 6:15 -7:15 p.m. Cookie donations may be

brought to the church the week of the 18th and please label "Christmas Eve Service" and wrap or seal in containers to be placed in the upstairs refrigerator. You may bring cookies with you the night of the service as well. Cookies will be arranged on trays that evening- so there is no need to send on your best dish.

We also need 4-6 people to volunteer an hour or so to either help set up, serve, or clean up. You may choose

the time that is most convenient for you, and still attend either the 5:15 or 7:30 service. Set up will be after morning service from about 12-1:30. Serving will be from 5-7 and clean up will be from 6-8 (at the latest).

Please consider helping with this wonderful CUCC tradition. Your help is truly appreciated. Please contact the church if you would like to make cookies or help with wassail.

LGBT Potluck

LGBT Social Group Christmas Party
December 22, 6-9 PM ~ Please bring a sweet treat to share!

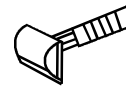
For address and directions, please contact the church office
(344-5091) or info@community-ucc.org

At the home of Michelle Franke and Michelle Chappell in Champaign.

♥ The "Heart of Christmas" Tree

Some of the Women's Shelters in our community have a need for items that support women and children in this area during the holiday season and the rest of the year. They range from clothing for children, pillows, sheets, ink pens, spiral notebooks all the way to holiday food. If you'd like to support this project please choose one or more of the labeled heart tags attached to the "Heart of Christmas" tree found on the bulletin board outside Rev. Tracy Heilman's office. Items wrapped in white tissue paper and labeled with the heart should be placed in the box found near the bulletin board **by Sunday, December 24**. Thank you for sharing.

Christmas Eve Service "The Gifts of Christmas" at 5:30 p.m.



White Gifts: One of the ways we will celebrate the gifts of Christmas is through white gifts each person brings to the manger to help support the TIMES Center, a homeless and transitional shelter for men and a soup kitchen for the community. Here are the needs the TIMES Center has at this time: **Hygiene Supplies** ~ lotion, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo & conditioner, soap, razors, and shaving cream; **Clothing** ~ Men's socks, undershirts L, XL, XXL and underwear L, XL, XXL; **Winter** ~ Gloves, scarves and hats. Please wrap each of your gifts in white tissue paper to present to the manger to be brought forward at the appropriate time during Christmas Eve worship. We will take over the White Gifts to the TIMES Center on Christmas Day.

Calendar of Events

12/21, Thursday ~ 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline; **8:00 pm AA** (FH)

12/22, Friday ~ 6:00 pm LGBT Potluck

12/24, Sunday ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:00 am Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant; **9:30 am** Choir Rehearsal (S); **10:15 am** Children's Christmas Pageant worship service (S); **11:30 am** Coffee Hour (P)

12/24, Sunday ~ Christmas Eve ~ 5:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service (S); **6:15-7:15 pm** Wassail Bowl Reception in Parlor; **7:30 pm** Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (S)

12/25, Monday ~ Office Closed ~ Merry Christmas

12/26, Tuesday ~ Office Closed

12/27, Wednesday ~ 9 am 12th Night Rehearsal

12/28, Thursday ~ 9 am 12th Night Rehearsal; **1:00 pm** Office Staff Christmas Party; **8:00 pm AA** (FH)

12/29, Friday ~ 9 am 12th Night Rehearsal

12/30, Saturday ~ 9:00 am Women's Book Club *Espresso Royale* by Krannert

12/31, Sunday ~ First Sunday After Christmas 10:00 am ~ Joint Service with McKinley & St. Andrew's Lutheran - at McKinley Presbyterian Church at the corner of 5th and John.

01/01, Monday ~ Office Closed ~ Happy New Year!

ADVENT WREATH GIVING

Advent is the season of light, the season of hope, the season of Justice.

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

The Christmas Fund Offering (formerly Veterans of the Cross Offering) will be taken at all three services on December 24. This is the last of the Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ. Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees

whose income make it to meet ing living Please



your gift in the red envelope in the pews, or write Christmas Fund on your check.

In 2006, Monthly Pension Supplements were given to 578 persons, totaling over \$100,000 per month. Quarterly Health Premium Supplementations were given to 306 per-

low-annuities difficult increas-costs. place

sons, totaling nearly \$155,000.

Christmas checks will be given to 828 persons, totaling \$228,000. Of the recipients of Christmas checks, 24 are over 100 years old!

Emergency aid was also given to 60-70 persons/families, about \$60,000 so far this year.

Please think of all of your blessings and fortune and give generously to these funds which are used effectively for those in need during this Advent season.

Financial Pledge Update

A couple weeks ago I sent green letters to people who I was expecting to see a pledge from, but had not yet received one. If you received one of those green letters and have not turned in a pledge since then, I still do not have one from you. The letters were sent to people who I had not received a pledge from, but who either pledged last year or donate regularly. If your cir-

cumstances are such that you cannot pledge this year, please let me know and I will check your name off.

We are trying to finalize our pledge amount for the budgeting process. We are currently about \$10,000 below our tentative budget amount. I have received 62 pledges so far, which is down from the 68 received last year. In addition,

we have had eleven new pledges, so that means we have actually received only 51 pledges from the 68 pledges received last year. If you have any questions you can contact me via phone or email.

Tom Watembach, financial secretary

Confirmation Class

Seven young people have made the decision to participate in this year's Confirmation Class. As participants, they are expected to read Jack Good's book, Faith's Family Album, which we then discuss at our monthly gathering. In addition, each has chosen one aspect of the United Church of Christ to explore. They have begun researching this piece of the identity of our congregation and our denomination to share with you...



Progressive Christianity by Jeff Offenbecher

Progressive Christianity is a new approach to the old ways. They say it is "an approach to Christianity that is inclusive, innovative, informed..." They have eight points to being a progressive Christian. By calling themselves progressive, they mean they are Christians who...

- ✝ Have found an approach to God through the life and teachings of Jesus.
- ✝ Recognize the faithfulness of other people who have other names for the way to God's realm, and acknowledge that their ways are true for them, as our ways are true for us.
- ✝ Understand the sharing of bread and wine in Jesus' name to be a representation of an ancient vision of God's feast for all peoples
- ✝ Invite all people to participate in our community and worship life without insisting that they become like us in order to be acceptable
- ✝ Know that the way we behave

toward one another and toward other people is the fullest expression of what we believe.

- ✝ Find more grace in the search for understanding than we do in dogmatic certainty - more value in questioning than in absolutes.
- ✝ Form ourselves into communities dedicated to equipping one another for the work we feel called to do: striving for peace and justice among all people, protecting and restoring the integrity of all God's creation, and bringing hope to those Jesus called the least of his sisters and brothers.
- ✝ Recognize that being followers of Jesus is costly, and entails selfless love, conscientious resistance to evil, and renunciation of privilege.

In a nutshell, Progressive Christianity is a way of looking at the faith community in a whole new way. They are looking for a way of faith that is more helpful to people, more inclusive, striving for peace and well-being, and looking for new ideas to better their community. They are looking for a community where anyone with any idea can make a better world for all.

Open and Affirming by Brent Anderson

Open and affirming is about Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people. To be open and affirming means you have confidence in saying, "I'm gay." This is important because it is not right to be scared of who you are. If you can say, "I'm gay" to anyone that means you are (in a safe place that is) Open and Affirming. If Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people (and those who stand with them) don't say anything, people will continue to be made fun of, abused, or used.

This is important to me because when others are saying Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people are bad, stupid or wrong, that is just not right. If we keep it up, the next generation of kids might treat gay people everywhere even worse. It is important to me because I know a gay boy who is yelled at, made fun of, and even threatened. I think that is wrong and want him to be treated as a normal human.

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God Is Still Speaking by Raymond Smith

God is still speaking is a slogan that proclaims that the words of God still have meaning, even to a high-tech, 21st century culture. The scriptures of ancient times can influence many different peoples from all across the world, over a course of centuries. I believe this is important because the people and stories in the Bible aren't so different from ourselves. In a time of war and uncertainty, as our generation is in, what can we have faith in? God is still speaking reassures us that we are not alone in this lifetime. There is hope, as there was for the Hebrews. This is especially important to me, to know the purpose of human life. We are not just here to die, but we serve a purpose in the Universe.

God is still speaking tells me that what I read in scripture is not just hollow words meant for some old guys ages ago, but still carries the same importance as it did to our ancestors. As the Bible was important to the early mid-Easterners, Europeans, Greeks, Romans, Colonists, African Slaves and others, it can still influence the actions of the modern society. The words of God echo and reverberate, standing the test of time.

Just Peace by Jessica Bush

I looked on the internet and asked several people but each one gave me a completely different answer for what Just Peace is so I concluded that Just Peace is an idea and not an actual thing. Here is my version of what Just Peace is. In geography we learned that there are several countries in South America that have

peace because everyone has equal amounts of everything, such as food and money. They are all poor but they live in peace because there is nothing to fight about.

An example of the opposite of Just Peace is the war in Iraq. George Bush, the guy who is destroying this country, claims he is trying to bring peace to Iraq. That way he tries to bring peace is by killing anyone who goes against the army and others so that what you're left with is a bunch of people who don't fight because they live in fear. Some could call this peace. But it is not a Just Peace.

Accessible to all by Julia Kara

There are a lot of ways that our church is accessible to all. Our church has elevators for people who are disables. We also have two rows of in the sanctuary for people in wheel chairs. We also have our microphone system set up so people with hearing aids can easily hear the service.

Our church has many options for all types of children. In the morning before church, we have a Sunday School program. There are different age groups so all ages can participate. Sunday School always welcomes all children no matter if they have a learning disability, are blind, or deaf. After Sunday School, the nursery is open for children from newborn to about 1st grade and older children can do Yoga with a yoga instructor.

We welcome every kind of race, gender, and sexuality. You also don't have to have a lot of money to come to the church or participate in any way.

Multi-racial, Multi-cultural by Nathan Smith

A multi-racial, multi-cultural church is a church that takes in all different kinds of people into their denomination and receives them as gifts to the community. The UCC declared itself a multi-racial, multi-cultural church at the General Synod at Saint Louis in 1993, which they have been striving to accomplish for sometime. But why is this necessary? How has race and culture come to drive people apart and cause violence and discrimination? It's amazing something as trivial as the color of our skin lead people to believe that people are less than human, when it all originates from how direct the rays of the sun are in different areas. Really all it boils down to, our environment, and continued tradition in different cultures.

From this springs one thing that has provoked probably the most violence in our past, our present, and most likely our future. This is religion. Throughout the ages so much blood has been shed over this aspect of culture, and it shows no signs of slowing down; people are willing to die for what they think God wants. Now the UCC has decided that to use religion as a healing force, so that we all might come together to form a diverse community, rather than an army.

We Need Volunteers for the Nursery



The nursery is in need of volunteers for each Sunday. There is a sign up sheet located down in the nursery. Your support in this endeavor is greatly appreciated!

You Can't Keep Jesus in the Nativity Scene

CUCC Sunday School
presents a Christmas pageant
Sunday, December 24 ~ 10:15 am



Enjoy the children as they sing the message of the Christmas story.
Find out what the characters
(and the congregation) will come to realize about Jesus and the season.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule

12th Night Rehearsals:

Wednesday, December 27, 9-10:30
Thursday, December 28, 9-10:30
Friday, December 29, 9-10:30
Thursday, January 4, 4-5:30
Saturday, January 6, 12:30–2:00

The Sunday School children have been spending much of the Sunday School hour preparing for this Sunday's Christmas Pageant. We'll have our final rehearsal this Sunday, December 24, at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary. Please gather at the back of the sanctuary at 9:00 am! We'll go through the pageant once or twice and then we'll all go down stairs to get into costumes. Remember, you can wear your favorite Christmas outfit, or you can dress as an angel, a shepherd, or a wise one!

Remember, join us in the sanctuary at 9:00 am for our final practice.



Your presence is requested!

Lady Eleanor and Lord Edwin

Invite you to the annual

TWELFTH NIGHT FEAST

Beginning promptly at 5:00 p.m.

On the 6th Night of January

Year of Our Lord 2007

Food and frolicking await you.

****Tickets on sale Now****

Adults: \$20

Children: \$10

Two Notes of Appreciation

November 28, 2006

Dear Cindy, Pastor Mike and Rev. Karen,

I'm writing to once more convey my gratitude for your help last month, not only in paying my power bill, but especially for making me (a complete stranger to you) feel welcome and comfortable in your presence. Thank you for your compassion and help.

Greetings and appreciation to all for your contacts and kindnesses. Hope to see you soon at church.

Best Regards,
Rachel Gushee

Olive Garrigus

Please Save Your Old Christmas Cards

Please save your old Christmas cards because the Advent Workshop Committee could use them for a craft

for next year. There will be a box labeled "Advent Workshop" in the old

narthex near the tables for you to put the cards in....thanks!



HELP NEEDED... we will be taking the Christmas decorations down on **Saturday, January 6th beginning at 10:30 a.m.** This job will go pretty fast if we have several folks willing to help. Questions - call the church office (344-5091). Thanks.

Flower Chart 2007

The Altar Flower Chart for 2007 can be found in the Parlor. If you wish to sponsor altar flowers for a specific Sunday in 2007 please sign up on the chart provided. Sponsorship is

\$20 per Sunday and a check earmarked "Altar Flowers" can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office.



“Don’t Miss Your Life!” “Celebrate Every Step of the Way!”

Women’s Wellness Workshop
Come join us for a “full day of health”

When: Saturday, January 20, 2007 ~ 9 am to 3:30 pm

What: Interfaith gathering for women of all ages

How: Interactive workshops with health experts...

Resource fair with exhibits and demonstrations

Numerous networking opportunities...

And more!

Where: First Church of Lombard, 220 S. Main Street, Lombard, Illinois.

www.firstchurchoflombard.org or check out brochure on credenza in back of sanctuary



Eight people joined the membership of Community United Church of Christ on Sunday, November 12, 2006. The following biographies are offered by each sponsor. Welcome!

Donna Hanke

She lives in Urbana and is currently a homemaker and takes care of her two big guys. She enjoys going to concerts, watching old movies and is a political junkie.

~ Mary Ellen Schroeder

Ian Hanke

He lives in Urbana and goes to Urbana High School. Ian is a hard working student, but also enjoys video games and sports. He especially likes to play basketball and enjoys beating his dad at Ping-Pong and Bocce Ball.

~ Tom Ward

Paul Hanke

He lives in Urbana. He is a biochemist and works at Archer Daniels Midland Co. in Decatur, Illinois. He enjoys playing chess and is interested in genealogy.

~ Bob Schroeder

Patricia McQuillen

Patricia McQuillen is the mother of Victoria Robertson and the grandmother of David Robertson. She recently moved to Savoy after spending several years in Destin, Florida. She was born in Chicago and after

many years as a military wife settled in Joliet with her husband Dean and their children. Patricia's daughter Pamela and grand-daughter Jennifer still live in Joliet with their families. She also has a daughter Jac-Lynn who lives near Peoria. All told, she has 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Patricia has always had a great love of art and music. She loves to paint and is a member of several quilt guilds where she spends a lot of time. She has always appreciated all forms of music and loves to sing. This fall she attended her first rock concert, the Blue Man Group, and has recently discovered Bruce Springsteen. Her children have vivid memories of coming home from school to find her singing along with the Rolling Stones at the top of her lungs!

Since arriving at CUCC, Patricia has put many of her talents to work and enjoyed many of the social aspects of our Congregation. She is very happy with her decision to move to Central Illinois in spite of the weather.

~ Victoria Robertson

Anna Mehl

Anna is a central Illinois native. Her parents have a farm near Stanford, Illinois (about 15 minutes west of Bloomington). She grew up there and attended the First Disciples of Christ church in her hometown. She moved to Urbana in 1994 to work in geriatric case management at Covenant Medical Center. She worked in health care for 10 years, first at Covenant and then at Carle Clinic Association. She is now at the University of Illinois doing marketing and development for a professional association called the Labor and Employment Relations Association, which is housed in the School of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Anna and Mark were married and had their daughter Dara in 2003. Dara is full of energy and attends Montessori preschool in Savoy. Anna and Mark are cyclists and both love riding bikes, although with raising Dara and work, they don't have quite enough time to ride the way they used to.

Anna loves the community at CUCC. She was looking for a place where her family could make a contribution and be apart of a greater whole. She believes that she has found that with the members of CUCC.

~ Kathy Vaaler

Bruce Roberts

Bruce Roberts was born in Davenport, Iowa and graduated from Davenport West High School. He met his wife Faith at Marycrest College in Davenport where they both were enrolled. Faith and Bruce married and moved to Missouri where he completed his studies and received a degree in Music in 1977 from Northeast Missouri State University.

They moved back to Davenport after college and started their family. In 1989 they moved to Champaign where Faith grew up as a child and her parents were still living. Bruce got a job with Bell Sports in Rantoul as a Quality Control Inspector.

He has been with Bell Sports for close to 18 years now and is a Quality and Research Test Lab Technician. Eldest son Grant is 28 and a student at Kent State University in Ohio. Their second son Blake is 25 and in the Air Force stationed in Great Falls, Montana. Their youngest child Brittany is a graduate student in Criminal Justice at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga.

~ Scott Bush

Faith Roberts

I am thrilled and honored to sponsor Faith Roberts for membership at Community UCC.

Faith and her husband Bruce live in Champaign and have three grown children: Grant, a student at Kent State in Kent, Ohio, Blake serving in the US Air Force and stationed in Montana, and Brittany, a grad student in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Faith grew up in Champaign, but met Bruce while she was going to nursing school in Iowa. They were married and raised their family there, then lived for a while in Kansas City, Mo. Feeling the need for a change, Faith put in her resume for one of those "Headhunter job searches", and ended up (where else?) back in Champaign-Urbana in 1989.

She worked at Mercy/Covenant Hospital before taking her current position at Carle as Coordinator of the Community Parish Nurse Program. This Parish Nurse program

started in 1997 and is now the largest program in the U.S. (Now you know why I'm so excited she is joining our church—Faith is one very special Parish Nurse!) She also serves as Magnet Hospital Coordinator for Carle. Faith is a frequent speaker for churches and conferences. Listening to Faith give one of her presentations is a joy; she has the incredible ability to bring her audience to laughter and tears within the same presentation.

Faith says she has "been watching the UCC" for the last couple of years and is excited about joining Community. She and Bruce especially love the music program here and also enjoy a church that has members of all ages.

And as for all of us here at Community—how can we go wrong with a Parish nurse named Faith?

~ Linda Morgan

Mark Althouse's biography will appear in our next *Communigram*.



**ATTENTION
TO ANYONE
WHO NEEDS
TO
prepare a report for the
Annual Congregational
Meeting to be held January
28, 2007.**

The office needs your report no later than January 11, 2007 so that we can prepare the booklet and get it mailed out.

Thank you.

The Serene Bean Café

Located on the corner of 5th and Daniel
Inside McKinley Foundation

**We serve only
organic fair-trade coffee**

Daily Soups, Sandwiches,
Pastries, Snacks, Drinks

Free WI-FI

Hours of Operation
Monday-Thursday ~ 8 am—11 pm
Friday ~ 8 am—4 pm
Saturday ~ CLOSED
Sunday ~ 11 am—11 pm

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think we still have financial work to do in order to have a "growing church"

budget. This budget still is lacking in regards to funds set aside to our "reserves" in order to cover building maintenance, office equipment (such as computers), and money owed ourselves. Intentionally not in this budget is the possibility of \$20,000 of building maintenance issues such as new roofing that will need to be a capital campaign depending on what we decide in March about our building. And most importantly, we need to be in a position to comfortably give our pastor a merit increase for helping us be the community we are. Wow. If you reading this line - thank you! Thank you for reading my longest moderator musings. I hope that I have given a good perspective on the upcoming meeting and budget that we will be discussing.

Peace, David Gerstenecker

Coming Soon to CUCC: the Many Gifts Polity

CUCC has been in a two-year transitional phase of moving from the previous polity (governance structure) to a new polity guided by responses of the Congregation. The Polity committee started working last August and began with a survey of CUCC individuals. The survey gave the committee great direction and in particular focused the committee on the top three values that should be reflected in the new governance. The values are community building, social justice, and inclusiveness.

We will be circulating a draft of the new polity by email and also by passing out copies at church the second week of January. We then hope that you will join us at one of the scheduled meetings for discussion and to tell us what you think. We value your input and will take your comments and suggestions under consideration.

Please join us at CUCC on:

Jan 14 - Parlor at 9:00 am

Jan 21 - Conference room at 11:30 am

Clark-Lindsay – To be determined

We are also delighted to be invited to come to other gatherings, formal and informal, of the CUCC community. You can also call or email any committee member with your suggestions.

Our hope is to present a polity for adoption at the January Congregation Meeting on January 28, 2007

We are looking forward to hearing from all of you.

Call the church office to get a listing of the Polity Committee members, their phone numbers and their email addresses.

CODAC OFFERINGS in 2007

We are ready to begin the first classes for the year 2007. Sign-up Sheets are on the bulletin board in the Parlor.

1. **Wrestling with God and Men: Open & Affirming Identity Series** Sundays, 9:00 am in the Conference Room, January 7 through the 28. Required reading: **Wrestling with God and Men**. Facilitated by Rev. Mike Mulberry
2. **The Five Wishes-Advance Directives in Health Care** Sundays, 9:00 am in the Conference Room, February 4 through the 11 Facilitated by Linda Morgan and Dr. Ken Gilbert
3. **With Open Hands** Sundays 9:00 am in the Conference Room, March 4 through April 1 Required reading: **With Open Hands** by Henri Nouwen
4. **Assimilating New Members and Hospitality** Sundays, 9:00 am in the Conference Room, April 29 through May 27. Facilitated by Rev. Mike Mulberry and Ms Eileen Gebbie



Ushers Needed for Next Year

Please consider participating in worship service as an usher. This is a service to the church that does not take a lot of time out of your busy schedule! In addition to duties during worship, usher service requires a few minutes of work immediately prior to and after service (cleaning loose materials from the pews, etc.).

We need some regular ushers for 2007. There are a few past ushers who would like to discontinue for 2007 so we

are in need of about four new folks. Regular ushers commit to one Sunday each month. Finally, we maintain a list of people willing to be substitute ushers, so please consider that as well.

If you are interested in participating or desire more information, please contact the church office (344-5091) or email at info@community-ucc.org.



**COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

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



805 South Sixth, Champaign, IL 61820

Ph: (217) 344-5091 FAX: (217) 344-5008

Website: www.community-ucc.org

Email: info@community-ucc.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thu 9 am-3 pm

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Michael Mulberry
mike@community-ucc.org

Religious Education Director:
Rev. Tracy Heilman
tracy@community-ucc.org

Choir Director: Robert Smith
smithrob@champaignschools.org

Organist: Linda Vaughn
lindavaughn@community-ucc.org

Facilities Manager: Robert Scaggs
bobscaggs@community-ucc.org

Office Manager: Cindy Dodd
info@community-ucc.org

Parish Nurse: Linda Morgan
Community Life Calendar Keeper:
Vicky Roberson

victoriarobertson@insightbb.com

Ombuds Person: Deborah Townsend
dtown34@sbcglobal.net

Child Care Providers: Laura Czopek, Jessica
Bush, David Robertson

UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

Campus Minister: Rev. Karen Bush
Karen@community-ucc.org

Communigram

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

Address Service Requested

The next Communigram will be mailed out on January 10.

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

December 24th & 31st Worship Schedule

December 24 ~ Three Services

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:15 am Children's Pageant for Sunday Morning Service



Christmas Eve

5:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service

6:15-7:15 pm Wassail Bowl Reception in Parlor

7:30 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

First Sunday After Christmas

December 31 ~ 10:00 am ~ Joint Service with McKinley & St. Andrew's Lutheran - at McKinley Presbyterian Church at the corner of 5th and John.