

CommuniGram

VOL. 38 No. 3
FEBRUARY 15, 2006



COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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



From the Desk of Rev. Mulberry...

In the summer of 2005, I began promoting the circle process as a way that we could begin to do small groups within our congregation. As I had sought out a path for how our congregation might do small groups in a way that provided structure, created intimacy, and helped us discern a path for important issues facing our congregation, Cristina Baldwin's circle process seemed to make the most sense and offer the best structure.

Serendipitously, I found out that one of our congregational members, Mary Koloroutis, already trained people to participate in the circle process.

Mary even has phone conversations with Cristina Baldwin about the process. Mary led out the process in fall of 2005 with about eleven members of Community UCC.

I am encouraging everyone to read the book *Calling the Circle* so that we might all develop a common language with circle process. I want everyone in the know. So please, please, please, read this book.

Mary is also leading out another group on Thursdays in April, and we want more and more folk to have first hand experience of this process. Call the church (344-5091) to

register or sign up on the board in the parlor that is behind our hospitality table.

I believe the circle process will develop intimacy that will allow us to grow as a progressive people and help us discern a path for how we shall be and work in our wider community. I want everyone to have a voice. I want everyone to be connected. I believe circle process can help facilitate that dream.

Shalom,

Mike



One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing: Sunday March 5 we will be collecting for one of the main UCC mission emphases of the year. OGWS channels resources for international programs in Health, education, agricultural development,

emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster preparedness and response. Administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

A Call to Create a Coalition of Illinois Peace & Justice Organizations

The Confederation of Northern Illinois Peace Groups is planning a state wide conference to take place on April 1st in Champaign.

Information concerning this conference can be found on the credenza the back of the church.

Moderator Musings

I guess that I didn't know what I was getting myself into being elected moderator - definition from Webster's dictionary: "a substance used for slowing down neutrons in a nuclear reactor". Of course this is the third definition in the list so I think I am safe going with the one that reads "presides over an assembly, meeting, or general assembly." I definitely don't want to be slowing down things happening in our church life. I am excited about our

new members, our financial picture, and the denomination's advertising campaign.

I will be presiding over my first Administrative Committee meeting on Sunday, February 19. You are welcome to join us for any of our meetings. Even if you choose not to come, I request that you pray for us as we meet. We have a big year ahead of us as we balance the examination of this last year of our temporary polity and moving the church forward in our core values.

One last thought – I am writing this the evening after being greeter with my family at church service and I still vividly recall the wonderfully exciting responses I received when I simply said "Welcome" to the members of our church family – whether old or brand new. I challenge us all to see God's wonderful power in that word "welcome".

Peace, David Gerstenecker



Attention all those who care about our building!

We are having a short but important meeting right after Church on Sunday, February 19th to decide what needs to be fixed and who's going to do the fixing. Please attend and let us know where to focus our maintenance dollars. We also need people who will be willing to take on some of the tasks to coordinate and oversee these jobs. See you in the fellowship hall right after Church on the 19th.



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

905 S. Russell St., Champaign, 356-36-35

Annual Sausage Supper

Saturday, March 11 ~ 4-7 pm

Adults/\$8 & Children 5-12/\$4

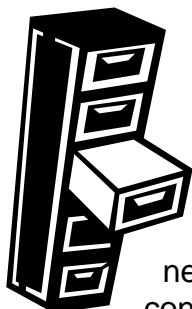
Under 5 are free

Carry-Outs Available

Reserve your tickets today, limited amount at door.

Meal includes: sausage, mashed potatoes, gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, salad, dessert, & drinks.

Wanted: good home for four drawer fire insulated legal size file case. This four drawer file has served for a long time to hold choir music. The choir music is now moved into the choir robe room, and this file drawer, because of its fire insulation, didn't fit in the new scheme. If interested, please contact Ken Gilbert or Scott Bush.



Wanted: good condition large wheel garden cart. We are considering the option of storing the chimes tables on a cart which will make them easier to move from the storage area to the place where they are played. We have the idea that a garden cart could be modified to hold them all, push easily, and be redesigned so that nobody would have to over exert to lift the tables onto the cart. If you have such a cart ready to donate, please contact Ken Gilbert or Scott Bush.

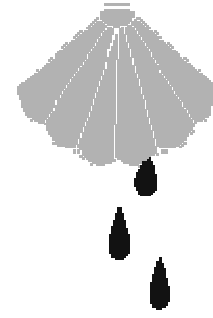
Our Little Blessings need some watching!



Sign up sheets are available in the Nursery and in the Big Kids room. You may also contact Rev. Tracy Heilman (344-5091 or

tracy@community-ucc.org. Please volunteer to help out in the coming weeks.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism



Congratulations to Charlotte Bevan Smith who was baptized on Sunday, February 12, 2006 at Community United Church of Christ. Charlotte is the daughter of Beth Robischon and Bruce Smith.



All ages are invited to the Sunday School Disciple Brunch
Sunday, Feb. 26
9:00—10:00 am
Everyone is welcome!

F.A.S.T.
2006 **ALDERSON, WV**
 COSBY, TN



Faithful Advocates Serving Together
Commission On Religion in Appalachia
Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ)
United Church Of Christ
Isaiah 58:6-12

Youth Group Summer Service Trip! Sunday, June 25—Saturday, July 1, 2006

Youth and adults will be traveling to Alderson, West Virginia for a week of learning from and working with friends in the Appalachian Region. We will have opportunities to help with the rehabilitation of homes, as we learn about the economic realities of the region.

We have 12 spots,
so get your permission slip in TODAY!

2/16, Thursday

- 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
- 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
- 8:00 pm AA (P)
- 5:30 pm Worship Task Force

2/18, Saturday

9:00 am Women's Book Club Espresso Royale by Krannert

2/19, Sunday ~ Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:00 am Sunday School for all ages (FH, R 1-5, CR)
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
- 10:15 am Worship (S)
- 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)
- 11:30 am Building & Maintenance Mtg (FH)
- 6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth (TR)
- 7:00 pm Administrative Committee

2/22, Wednesday

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

2/23, Thursday

- 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
- 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
- 7:00 pm Crop Walk Rally at Faith UMC
- 8:00 pm AA (P)

2/25, Saturday

9:00 am Women's Book Club Espresso Royale by Krannert

2/26, Sunday ~ Eighth Sunday after Epiphany

One Great Hour of Sharing

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School (CR)

- 9:00 am Sunday School host Disciples Brunch (FH)
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
- 10:15 am Worship (S)
- 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)
- 6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth (TR)

3/01, Wednesday

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

3/02, Thursday

- 7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens
- 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
- 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
- 8:00 pm AA (P)

3/04, Saturday

9:00 am Women's Book Club Espresso Royale by Krannert

3/05, Sunday ~ Ninth Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:00 am Sunday School for all ages (FH, R 1-5, CR)
- 9:00 am CODAC: A Song to Sing begins
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
- 10:15 am Worship (S)
- 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)
- 6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth (TR)

3/06, Monday

- 10:00 am Communigram Deadline

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

CODAC (Adult Education and Formation)

Beginning on Sunday, **March 5**, Rev. Mulberry will be leading a study on music as a spiritual practice. The text we will be using will be *A Song to Sing, A Life to Live*, a book co-written by Don Saliers, former professor of sacred music at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and his daughter, Emily Saliers, a member of the folk rock group *The Indigo Girls*. This text explores

the interplay of music on Saturday night and Sunday morning. A syllabus for the class will soon be available along with CDs in our church library which can be used to listen to the music mentioned in the text.

Sign up is in the parlor on the board kept behind our hospitality table (all the good food is kept there) or by calling the church office and leaving any necessary contact information.

Our second introduction to small group process will begin on Thursday, April 20. Led by Mary Koloroutis, this circle process offers our congregation an opportunity to explore how small groups can bring about intimacy and conversation. Reading the book, *Calling the Circle* is required before one begins this class. Copies are available from Rev. Mulberry.

Women's Activities

Interfaith Gathering

Interfaith gathering of women, sponsored by Church Women United, and is a continuing series of dialogs among Jewish, Muslim and Christian women. This one will be held at Urbana Free Library Sunday, **February 26, 3-4:30 PM**. Tea will be served and attendees may bring a snack to share if they wish.

World Day of Prayer

Church Women United Celebration, World Day of Prayer on **Friday, March 3** at Bethel AME church, 401 East Park, Champaign. Program emphasis will be on Africa, especially AIDS. CUCC is a host for this event, so if you could bring some fruit or sweet bread, etc, please see Jan Wilson. It would be good if several of us could be there to help during the program. This is an interdenominational program for women of Protestant and Catholic faiths. It will begin with coffee/tea at 9 and end by 11:30.

Women's Luncheon

CUCC Women's Fellowship (AND MEN WHO ARE INVITED TO THIS SPECIAL MEETING) will meet **SATUR-**

DAY March 11 at Clark Lindsey Village. Our Illinois conference minister, Jane Fislser Hoffman, will speak on the realities of wider church ministries in days of budget cuts. We invite the men of the church to join us to hear Jane. We are also inviting the men and women of St. Peter's to join us. She will answer questions you may have about Illinois conference.

You are invited to lunch at 12 noon, or you may come for the program only at 1 PM. Lunch will probably be chicken salad on pineapple. and will cost \$6.50. You must have reservations for lunch (men AND women). Contact the church office (344-5091) for questions or to reserve your place today. We need the reservations by Monday, **March 6**. You may pay on the 11th.

Lenten Breakfasts

CUCC Lenten Breakfast, sponsored by Illinois Women in Church and Society. There will be 5 breakfasts in the 5 associations, all with the same program. The theme is "Touching Jesus---Touched by Jesus. Eastern Association Breakfast will be held at

First Congregational UCC, Dwight, IL. Registration and information forms, including directions to the church, are in stacked black bins on the credenza at the rear of the sanctuary. They need registrations to get a count for the breakfast, but the fee of \$3.00 can be paid at the door.

National Women's Meeting

MIX IN 06--national meeting of women from UCC and Disciples. This will be a very large gathering of women with outstanding leadership in music, worship, and inspiration. **June 21-25** at Indianapolis Convention center, with rooms in several nearby hotels. Blue covered information packets are in the black stacked bins on credenza. Registration can be done at any time, the cheaper hotels are going fast. The gathering held 4 years ago got glowing reports from those who attended and it will not get any closer or more convenient for us than Indianapolis!

Questions or concerns on any of these, call the church office 9344-5091).

More Educational Opportunities

Organizations such as the Westar Institute (convener of the Jesus Seminars) and the Biblical Archaeology Society sponsor many interesting programs of travel and study related to religious topics. Some information about their current offerings is posted in the Conference Room downstairs. For example, a "Jesus Seminar on the Road" is scheduled for April 7--8 in Indianapolis. For further information on any of these offerings, contact the church office (344-5091).

Greetings from the Berhane Family

Tsigei Gebresilassie phoned us recently to send holiday greetings to friends at the church. Community UCC (through Church World Service) sponsored the family of five in the mid 80's. They were refugees from war-torn Eritria living in a camp in the Sudan. After their initial adjustment here, they moved to St. Paul, MN to be near a cousin and a larger Eritrian community. Tsigei continues to work at United Hospital in housekeeping ("time and a half pay for overtime!"), and Asefaw still drives a cab.

Recently Tsigei and Asefaw visited their relatives back home for six weeks. Tsigei's mother has been very ill and is cared for by her 86-year-old father. "He is very strong." One brother who was in the army was sent home with an injury.

The children have grown up! Michael, a mechanic, is married and has an 8-month-old daughter. Samuel had attended community college for a while and "has plans". Hana is doing well at the University of Minnesota. Sara (who was born in Urbana) graduated from high school in June and is attending a college.

The Berhanes are successful new Americans!

--Submitted by Ruth Fisher



Many Thanks

Campus Ministry...

CUCC is a Sweetheart!!!

The campus ministry students want to thank everyone at Community UCC for your support and encouragement. The attendance of so many of you at our Sweetheart Dinner this past weekend was no exception (almost 60 guests- this is a record for us!).

Thanks to your generosity we were able to raise over \$800 to help with campus ministry programs such as our BreakAway Service Trip to Jackson, Mississippi.

Thank you from a grateful
Campus Ministry

PS Thanks must also be expressed for Community's recent vote at the annual meeting

to increase your annual donation to us. Thank you so much!

Linda Vaughn...

Thank you all so much for the gift certificate to "Pages for All Ages"! I look forward to browsing through the store and trying to make a selection!! They have something for all of my interests - it will be fun and difficult to choose.

I so very much appreciate being part of a church family to whom music is important! It certainly makes my efforts to maintain high standards rewarding. My small portion is done with gratitude, dedication and commitment to continue an established tradition of excellence. But I couldn't do it as well without all of you. Thank you again for your support and

encouragement!

—Linda Vaughn

Rev. Karen Bush...

Thank you!!!!!!

I want to thank all those who contributed to the "staff- special-gift-Christmas-fund. In fact, my feet, my hands, my shoulders, my skin and my heart thank you for the generous gift card to the local spa. Wow!! If this could be turned into fishes and loaves and the feeding of the 5,000 I would take every single one of you with me! I feel loved.

—Karen Bush

Bob Smith

Thanks so much for the gift certificate to "Pages for All Ages". I can definitely use it. Best wishes to all!

—Bob Smith

THE CHURCH WORLD SERVICE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM

CWS/ERP PROGRAM BRIEFS
Feb. 3, 2006

CWS Awards Cash Grants from Funds provided by German Partner

Church World Service has awarded 13 cash grants to schools in Mississippi and Louisiana as part of the agency's overall response to the 2005 hurricanes. The funds were provided through a \$620,145 grant from Diakonie Emergency Aid (DEA), a German faith-based humanitarian aid agency and long-time CWS overseas partner.

Thirteen schools in Mississippi and Louisiana applied for the program designed to help support school re-opening efforts. CWS "Gift of the Heart" school and health kits and "Tools of Hope" blankets valued at more than \$110,170 were shipped to the schools. Financial grants of \$599,095 have purchased computers, library books, teacher supplies, athletic equipment, music program instruments and other equipment for use by a total of 15,673 students and 1,839 teachers and staff.

CWS Plays Key Role in ACT Donors Meeting

Donors to the Action by Churches Together (ACT) International appeal for the Pakistan earthquake met Jan. 30-31 in Geneva and three CWS Pakistan/Afghanistan staff - director Marvin Parvez, staffers Connie Cheung and Denny Hamilton - as well CWS Emergency Response Director Donna Derr attended the meeting. Among the topics discussed were accomplishments related to the current CWS and ACT appeals and to consider a possible rehabilitation/reconstruction appeal to be issued later this year.

CWS helps organize two special events for Hurricane responders in LA and MS

On Jan. 30-31, Church World Service in cooperation with the Louisiana Interchurch Conference, other partner organizations, and FEMA hosted a

meeting attended by more than 100 leaders from across Louisiana where the agenda was long-term recovery. Held at a United Methodist Conference Center (The Wesley Center) near Woodworth, participants discussed long-term recovery plans, case management, and emotional and spiritual care with time to network with one another. The FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer, the Executive of the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps, and speakers from Katrina Aid Today (the national case management consortium), and Camp Noah led discussions. CWS Disaster Response and Recovery Liaisons (DRRLs) Lura Cayton, Neil Molenaar, and Charlie Moeller were in attendance. CWS provided a \$3,500 grant as scholarship for housing and food for the long-term recovery interfaith coordinators and staff. Faith group representation came from Christian, Ba hai, Muslim, Buddhist and Jewish communities.

On February 1, a similar event for Mississippi groups involved in Hurricane Katrina recovery was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gulf Port. Hosted by the Mississippi Coast Interfaith Disaster Task Force, the event brought together more than 200 representatives to discuss the coordination of long term recovery throughout the MS Gulf Coast region. Break-out sessions covered five topics: 1) Case Management/Coordinated Assistance Network, 2) Construction/Warehousing; 3) Unmet needs 4) Long-term recovery; and 5) Advocacy. CWS DRRL Tim Johnson helped develop the curriculum for the event.

Other CWS Domestic Disaster Response Activities

On January 20, Tom Davis presented a workshop on the sequence of delivery of disaster services, to a joint meeting of Lutheran Social Service of Wisconsin and the Farm Services of Wisconsin. These organizations work together in federally declared disasters to provide mental health services. The workshop also focused on the development of long-term recovery organizations and the important

partnerships between the faith-based community, non-governmental organizations and government entities. The meeting, held in Wisconsin Dells, had over 50 present.

CWS DRRL Lesli Remaly will present sessions, including "Organizing for Recovery" and "Care for Caregivers", as part of a training entitled "Disaster Recovery Training and Tools" on February 8 in Clewiston, Florida. The training, held in the wake of Hurricane Wilma for long-term recovery leadership, also features a number of sessions on all aspects of long-term recovery to be led by FIND (Florida Interfaiths Networking in Disaster), United Methodist Committee on Relief, Southern Baptist, and Lutheran Services. The location is the Clewiston United Methodist Church and runs from 9:00 to 3:30.

CWS Sends Blankets, "Gift of the Heart" School Kits, and donated wheel chairs to Ghana

A shipment of 1,300 lightweight blankets, 1,500 CWS "Gift of the Heart" School Kits, 46 wheel chairs and 11 walkers, valued \$28,410, was sent to CWS partner Concerned Christian Community-Ghana in support of ongoing health and education programs which they are facilitating.

For further information about disasters to which Church World Service is responding, contact CWS Emergency Response.

Telephone: (212) 870-3151

CWS Emergency Response Program special contacts: (212) 870-3151;

International:
dderr@churchworldservice.org

Domestic: lreed-brown@churchworldservice.org

Tom Norwalk
Eastern Association Minister
Illinois Conference UCC
norwalks@comcast.net
ileastucc@comcast.net
(815) 836-0745

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



805 S. Sixth St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Weekly Office Hours

Mon.-Thu. ~ 9 am-3 pm

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School ~ 9:00 am

Choir Rehearsal ~ 9:30 am

Worship ~ 10:15 am

Coffee Fellowship ~ 11:30 am

Youth Group ~ 6-8 pm

Next Communigram
will be mailed out
on March 8.

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

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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 Robertson.....victoriarobertson@insightbb.com

Ombuds Person: Deborah Townsend.....dtown34@sbcglobal.net

Child Care Providers: Laurie Lyter, Jessica Bush, David Robertson

UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

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

