

# Communigram

SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

VOL. 38 No. 14

## From the Desk of Rev. Mike Mulberry...

Well . . . with the length of this week's Communigram, everyone should get a feel for the church off and running. Excitement and anxiety are both high. Good work was already being done with the Vision and Discernment group and the Polity group (the Spiritual WWKA's) and their work continues. Both Sunday School and CODAC (our Adult Education process) will be on display this Sunday, the service will be taped for play on UPTV, and folks are ratcheting up the stewardship campaign.

With all this energy (and Communigram content), I don't want folks to miss some important initiatives for community building at our church. First, Sunday School is offering everyone in the congregation an opportunity to be a "secret pal" with one of our Sunday School children and youth. I think it would say quite a bit about our church community if we had so many "secret pals" that we had to do two or three per child. This opportunity is a chance to really be church—young and

old, long time member and newcomer.

Second, two of the CODAC offerings were put together this year based on feedback we received at congregational meetings. Jim and Kathy McGinnis arrive from the Institute for Peace and Justice in St. Louis **September 29 and September 30** to work with us in building children, families, and communities of justice and peace. Pick up one of the tan brochures found on the credenza at the back of the church and sign up for this event. Scholarships are available.

Our couple enrichment offering uses the good research found in the Prepare and Enrich resources ([www.lifeinnovations.com](http://www.lifeinnovations.com)) to build stronger and healthier relationships. We hope such resources will help us all do the hard work to build good foundations at home.

Finally, starting in October we will continue the justice feast

we had over the summer by offering a shopping trip to the Urbana market and a cooking class with Slow Food expert Laurence Mate. We will also offer major scholarships to people who might like to try a local, organic share for their family or to split one with another family for a year.

When I visited with Helen Crane over at Clark-Lindsey last week, I was reminded just how important it is to be United Church of Christ. Helen was grieved that she could not find a UCC presence in Killeen, Texas. Not every community has a congregation seeking to build justice and peace, stronger and healthier relationships, and lift up issues that go as basic to the food we eat. I hope we can celebrate through our participation that we do have this community.

Shalom,

Mike



## Farewell!

Our blessings go with Helen Crane who has recently moved to Texas to be with her daughter.

# Theological Ly Speaking. . . By Rev. Jennifer Little

I am an apologetic theologian. No, I'm not sorry I'm a theologian. Rather, I am pleased that I am a member of a denomination that has a rich theological heritage –a heritage that, historically, has been articulate about who we understand God to be, who we are as God's people, and what we are to do. In our tradition stand great voices of theology: Jonathan Edwards, Cotton Mather, Reinhold and Richard Niebuhr, to name a few.

The discipline of theology is an important part of our lives together as the church. Recently, however, I saw a church sign that said "Knee-ology is superior to theology." I disagree: One can't have prayer without some sense of who the God is that hears and answers prayers. It is important for us to say who we are and what we believe.

Thus, I am an apologetic theologian—I am a defender of, and advocate for, theology as an essential practice that sustains the church.

Technically, there are many kinds of apologetics. Apology is an argument made for belief. The apostle Paul used this form effectively, as have Paul Tillich, Hans Kung and countless others. Narrowly defined, apology is the area of Christian theology that defends a Christian faith to a non-Christian audience. I am not that kind of apologetic theologian. However, I believe it is essential that we are able to articulate our faith in a systematic way—in that sense I am a defender of Christian theology. God is Still Speaking, and we need to be able to speak about our faith, too.



## PROPOSAL TO AID THE DISCRETIONARY FUND

In attending **The Women's Event: Mix in '06, Dream On Sisters**, in Indianapolis, Jeanne Ward, Jan Wilson, Ellen Kordik and I made one of our goals to find some kind of "mission" we could bring back to the church. It didn't take too long for us to find a mission.

In a talk given by one of the Disciples' Ministers, she told how in the 1800's the women of the Church wanted to fund a Missionary to Africa. They asked each woman to give one penny a week for this cause. In 18 months they had met their goal of raising \$1,000.

There it was! The **Pastor's Discre-**

**tionary Fund** was the logical use for the money since a plea had recently gone out for contributions. We had the mission to bring back to Community UCC. A proposal was made to the Administrative Committee.

With a few modifications the following was decided. A special envelope will be placed in the pews once a month for so that everyone has an opportunity to contribute to the fund. Contributions could be made during other times using the regular envelopes.

It is important that members and friends know how the Fund is used. Since it is the "Pastor's" Discretionary Fund, Rev. Mike makes the decisions

on its use. He uses it on an ongoing basis for individual needs people have within the community (For example, rent, a meal, a bus ticket or counseling services). The Discretionary Fund also provides scholarships for others to wider church events, workshops, or activities. It is for mission activities within the community that rhyme with the mission and ministry of Community UCC.

As the women of the Disciples of Christ proved, it only takes a little bit from each one of us to make this mission succeed. I trust that your generosity in contributing to this fund will be blessed and greatly appreciated.

--- Pat Syoen



The Congregation is invited for a Cake Reception during Coffee Hour in the Parlor in honor of Elaine and Russ Pepper's 40th Wedding Anniversary. This celebration will be this Sunday, September 10 at 11:30 am.

## Moderator Musings

Welcome to September! I sometimes think that people say it too much, but I am definitely feeling it... where has the year gone? It is hard to believe that my older daughter is now three and attending Preschool. It is wonderful to believe that our church still has a lot of great work that it will do in 2006.

Of course, it takes resources to do great things. At our last Administrative Committee meeting, we spent a good amount of time discussing our financial picture and the next stewardship campaigns.

Please look around this Communion and keep your eyes and ears open for more specifics regarding this year's campaign. I think it is important to say that we have struggled the last few years bringing in enough pledges and offering to do all the great works that we want to do. Our last interim period (between our last

pastor's leaving and Mike's arrival) left us with a notable debt that we have been slow paying off due to the national economic downturn of a few years ago. I pray that you examine what this community means to you and what it will do in the future and then fill out the stewardship information when you receive it.

We are also hoping that a full year (~15 month) stewardship campaign can be done for 2007. Do you have a desire to see Community U.C.C. thrive?

Do you have questions about how much is right to pledge? Have you ever shot milk out of your nose (oh wait, that is the Big Brothers Program commercial, nevermind...)? We are looking for a few good people to take on this task; you will not be alone, we already have some interested people.

Please let me know if you have inter-

est.

Hopefully by time you read this, you will have received an email from the church office distributing the agenda for the next Administrative Committee meeting on September 17 at 7 p.m. Based on a suggestion from Jeanne Ward, I will be more proactive in requesting agenda items from the congregation and letting you know what the agenda for a meeting will be.

It made so much sense when I read Jeanne's email – not many people just want to come and watch us do "church business", but if you know that we will be discussing "painting the sanctuary blue and orange" you may just show up (for the record, that agenda item is NOT on the agenda).

We will have a great rest of the year – we still have a quarter of it left!

Peace, David Gerstenecker, Moderator

## Administrative Committee

The Administrative Committee met on August 20. The main points that might interest the Congregation are:

- We decided to have a regular monthly offering for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This will replace the "Food For the Needy" offering that we used to take each month.

- David Gerstenecker plans to make an agenda available to the Congregation about a week before each meeting. They can be emailed, and printed copies will be available. Members should feel free to submit agenda items to David, and to attend meetings to discuss items that interest them.

- We agreed to fund the Alice Elizabeth McClure Endowment Fund for Children and Youth Ministry from several existing funds.

- We discussed the approach for this fall's Stewardship Campaign.

- We approved a plan to make use of several of the smaller memorial funds, requesting approval of the families involved.

As always, the full minutes are available to anyone who asks. If you would like to get copies as they are emailed each month, email a request to me at [dwillcox@prairienet.org](mailto:dwillcox@prairienet.org).

David Willcox, Clerk





# September 2006



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

<p><u>*Sunday Schedule</u>            9 am Sunday School            9:30 am Choir Rehearsal            10:15 am Worship            11:30 am Coffee Hour            6 pm Sr &amp; Jr High Youth</p>	<p>Labor Day - Office Closed</p>	<p>10 am Communiongram Deadline</p>	<p>6:30 pm RE Meeting            7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><u>**Thursday Schedule</u>            9 am Bulletin Deadline            9:30 am Preschool Play Group            8 pm AA</p>	<p>9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>*See Schedule Above            No Sunday School            11:30 am Blood Pressure Screenings            NO YOUTH GROUP</p>	<p>4 Labor Day - Office Closed</p>	<p>5 10 am Communiongram Deadline</p>	<p>6 Noon Prayer Protest            6:30 pm RE Meeting            7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens            **See Schedule Above</p>	<p>9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p><b>10 Rally Day</b>  <b>Bible Sunday</b>            9 am Brunch            *See Schedule Above</p>	<p>11 Carpet Cleaning (FH and SS Rooms)</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Noon Prayer Protest            7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 **See Schedule Above            1 pm Women's Fellowship at Clark Lindsey Courtyard            6:30 pm Visioning/Discernment TF</p>	<p>16 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>17 *See Schedule Above            9 am Youth Sunday School            Begins New Rotation            11:30 am Confirmation Informational Meeting            11:30 am Bldg. Options Task Group            7 pm Admin Com Mtg</p>	<p>18 10 am Communiongram Deadline</p>	<p>19 6:30 pm Visioning/Discernment Task Force</p>	<p>20 Noon Prayer Protest            5:30 pm Worship Leadership Taskforce            7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 **See Schedule Above</p>	<p>23 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>24 *See Schedule Above            9 am CODAC Moment—Scriptural Study, "Who Wrote the Bible?"            LGBT Social Group</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Noon Prayer Protest            7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 **See Schedule Above</p>	<p>30 10 am &amp; 1 pm Visiting Scholar Series continues            10 am Visioning/Discernment TF            9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>

## Stewardship

Our congregation has a wonderfully rich heritage of providing Worship, Welcome, and Witness in this community. November is traditionally the time of stewardship Planning for the coming year. Each member and friend of the congregation is given an opportunity to think through what part he or she might play in the financial cost of maintaining this Worship, Welcome and Witness. Our Welcome is unconditional. It does not depend upon how much you choose to contribute. We don't charge rent for the pews. But many people simply have no idea how much it costs to maintain the operation of an organi-

zation of our size. So, here ( and in subsequent Communigram articles) we will share with you the facts and figures of the budget and how we hope to enhance it in the coming years.

The budget for 2006 is \$288,786

Of that, 206,000 comes from regular givers (pledge units/ regular givers). The rest comes from other income sources such as rental of 510 Daniel property.

There are 70 pledge units ( including a few who give regularly but do not

pledge). You can figure out that it works out to average giving of \$2943 per unit per year or \$245 per month.

We have said in our annual meeting that we want to "wean" ourselves from the income that comes from the CFC rental contract (\$19570 annually). In order to do that, each giving unit would have to increase their annual pledge \$280 or we would need to increase the number of pledge units by 7 if we hold the same pledge amounts.

Watch for more notes on our budget in coming Communigrams!



**Thank you**

Thank you to the youth group and adults who helped with the Sunday school clean up on Sunday, August 27. They were Jennifer, Grant, Dale and Jake Robbenolt, Kellee Weinhold, Tracy Heilman, Ellen Kordik, Paul Offenbecher, Jeff Offenbecher, Jessica and Trevor Bush, Julia Kara, Jake Mulberry, Paul Kordik, and Raymond Smith. Their help was critical in accomplishing the task at hand. Take the time to thank these young people personally if you get the chance.

We would like to extend our gratitude for the thoughtful cards, prayers, and other forms of witness and presence that have issued from the church community in the weeks that have passed since mom's fall. Thank you for holding her with such Loving Hearts. She has deeply appreciated them.

Lovingly,  
The Garrigus family

Many thanks to CUCC members who delivered Meals on Wheels August 14-18. Routes seem to be shorter now and we were usually through before noon. Those helpers were Helen and Jack Ritter, Pat Syoen, Diane Hines, Sally and Jack Paxton, Jeanne and Emily Ward, and Curt and Jan Wilson. CUCC has one route (Green) to deliver October 23-27. We will be out of town that week so we will need some volunteers to do the route. Please call 367-5783 if interested.

Jan Wilson

# You are invited to attend one of two small house meetings to work on answering...

\* Why did you come to Community? \*Why did you stay at Community? \*Where is God leading us/Community?

**Thursday, 14 September from 6:30-8 pm.** Hosted by Carla Barnwell and Eileen Gebbie in Savoy (505 Van Buren St), there is room for six more attendees. Please let them know if you need childcare.

**11:30am.** Hosted by Carla Barnwell and Eileen Gebbie in Savoy (505 Van Buren St), there is room for nine more attendees. Please let them know if you need childcare.

Treul, Eileen Gebbie and Carla Barnwell, there is room for 32 attendees. Childcare and lunch provided.

Contact the church office to choose which date you prefer (344-5091).

**Saturday, 30 September from 10-**

**Sunday, 15 October** immediately after worship downstairs. Hosted by Lisa

## CSA FEAST!

You are invited to join Laurence Mate for purchase of fresh, locally-grown, pesticide-free produce from the Urbana Farmer's Market 9 am Oct. 7th, for transport to Community United Church and instruction on preparation of a lunch at the Church by Laurence Mate of the Slow Food Group. Cost for this feast will be \$5. I hope all of you can join us for this fun and informative meal together.

RSVP Jack Paxton



## \*\*\*Building Options Task Group Meeting\*\*\*

The CUCC Building Options Task Group will meet on **Sunday, September 17** in the church conference room (downstairs). We will convene about 10 minutes after the worship service ends, and meet for approximately one hour.

This meeting is open to everyone - we welcome your input as we evaluate our options for future development of the church property!

If you are not able to attend, but still wish to provide comments, please contact the church office (344-5091)

## CODAC Moment – Scriptural Study, “Who Wrote the Bible?”

Beginning Sunday morning, **September 24**, before worship at **9:00 a.m.** we will begin a book study on Jewish scholar, Richard Elliott Friedman's book, *Who Wrote the Bible?* (245 pages) Friedman's work is foundational to understanding Scriptural study. He shares the history and the basis for Scriptural study in this work which lays out the basis for the Documentary Hypothesis. The basic premise of the Documentary Hypothesis is that five different writers were woven together to create the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch-Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). Friedman does an excellent job of sharing doublets, contradictions, and choices which help us see more

than one hand at work. For example, why does one telling of Noah and the ark have the animals coming into the ark two by two and another telling have seven of every animal coming into the ark? What values does each writer convey with their choices? Biblical stories open up before us as we begin to see the different writers at work.

If you are interested in the class, please order the book now from our local bookstore, *Pages for All Ages*. Our first class will discuss pages 9 through 88 (Preface through Chapter 3).

# Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Social Group

We are starting a LGBT Social Group at CUCC to help LGBT members, attendees and visitors to find friends and build community in our church. Our goal is to make CUCC Open and Affirming to gay and lesbian people in practice as well as in principle.

The first meeting will be at Noon on **September 24** at 4 pm in the Church Parlor.

For more information, please contact the church office (344-5091).

## Chime Choir

CUCC's Chime choir is planning to re-group and start practicing again. Our first practice is **Wednesday, October 4, from 6-7 pm** in the church sanctuary.

Anyone interested in joining us? We have a core group of folks of all ages, but could use a few new chimers. The ability to read music is helpful but not required. If you are looking for a

fun, unique way to enjoy music in the middle of the week, come join us and share your talents! Contact Elizabeth Easley or Linda Morgan if you have questions.

## Volunteer Delivery of Agricultural Shares

Drivers are needed every Wednesday during the growing season (May 3<sup>rd</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>). 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 the church office (344-5091).

## Fall Is the Perfect Time for Planting

Originally the plan was to finish the landscaping work on the South and West sides of our Church this summer, but now it is fall and the work is not finished. Luckily, fall is the perfect time for planting and all the garden centers have plants on sale!

You may be wondering with all the talk about changes to our building why we are working on the landscaping. There are several reasons. First, renovations to the outside of the building make it more pleasant and inviting for all of us as well as for those passing by, and in the event that we decide sometime soon to make major building renovations, most of the plants should be transplantable. Second, the grass and shrubs that we currently have are extremely high maintenance, requiring weekly care that most of the Congregation simply does not have time to give. It always looks unkempt, because it is. The new landscaping is designed to be drought tolerant and low maintenance. Third, new plantings may actually discourage those passing our building from using it as a trash can. I have noticed a marked decrease in the amount of trash that is

thrown on the finished portions of the garden.

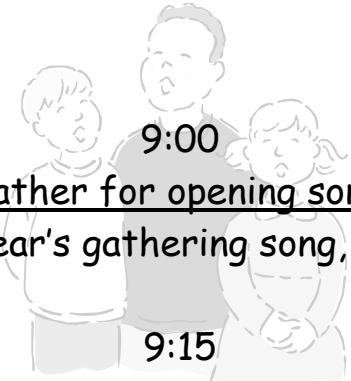
To finish the remaining areas, we will need 9 Green Velvet Boxwoods, 6 pink or white groundcover-type roses, 3 Pink Knockout Roses, 4 Judd Viburnum, 5 Dwarf Fountain Grass, 1 Karl Foerster Grass, 1 Prairie Fire Crabapple Tree, and 8 cubic yards of Hardwood Bark Mulch. If you would like to contribute plants, please let me know which you intend to buy so that we will not have too many of one and not enough of another. If you would like to make a monetary donation, there is a landscaping line item in the Treasurer's Report so that your contributions can be directed there.

As always if you have sun or shade perennials from your garden that you would like to pass on, they will be very much appreciated.

Thank you for your help,  
Vicky Robertson  
Contact the church office if you have  
questions. (344-5091)



**Rally Day 2006  
Schedule of Events  
Sunday, September 10, 2006  
9:00 am until 10:00 am**



9:00

Gather for opening song.

We'll all learn this year's gathering song, "Dance in the Circle"

9:15

The breakfast bar is open!

Enjoy something to eat, as well as something to drink.



9:15—10:45

The fun continues...

During this time, parents are invited to escort their children through a variety of centers.



1. Registration Desk

Please complete a registration form

3. Photo Booth

Get your picture taken for our Photo Wall

2. This Year's Stories

An introduction to some of the year's stories, as well as your new story tags

4. Secret Pal

Fill out a form to be in our Secret Pal Program



9:45—10:00

Gather for closing song.

We'll all learn our first theme song, "Go Down Moses"

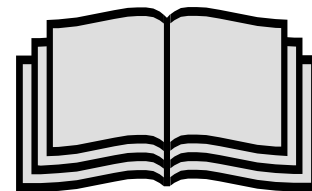


## Bible Sunday is September 10<sup>th</sup>

During the Worship Service, we will be presenting Children's Bibles to our new Kindergarten students, and Youth Bibles to our new 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. In addition, we will present Bibles to children and youth who have joined our community over the last year and have not already received a Bible.

Currently, we are planning to present Children's Bibles to:

Katie Bell	Sophia Heilman
Annemily Hoganson	Sieji Iwata
Georgia Kundrat	Blake Lannesskog
Orion Myers	Sydney Reilly-Treat
CeCe Allan	Aidan Reilly-Treat



And Youth Bibles to:

Paul Kordik	Melissa Melvin
Kaila Simpson	James Boyle
Trevor Bush	Julia Kara
Raymond Smith	

If your child would like to receive a Bible, and they are not on this list, please contact Rev. Tracy Heilman.

### Youth Group

From Ballroom dancing to Kickball, we've had some great fun the past few weeks! We have more in store in the weeks ahead. Plan to join us on Sunday evenings from 6-8 pm in the Tower Room. All 6<sup>th</sup>-12 grade youth are welcome!

Sept. 10: Let's celebrate fall by heading over to Hardy's Reindeer Ranch. We'll meet at the church at 5:30 to carpool over. Once there, we're going to do the corn maze, go carts, and hayride. The cost is \$8 per person. You can bring a little extra if you want to buy a hot cider or a soda. We'll leave there at 8 pm, and return to church by 8:30.

Sept. 17: Pizza and Planning. Bring your school calendars and let's get a plan for the coming year. I'd like to think about doing an

overnight retreat at Pilgrim Park, and I know that some of you would love to have a Lock-in. We also need to be thinking about service projects and fundraising. What about reading another book for discussion, or starting a Bible study? The youth groups at McKinley and Urbana First Presbyterian are interested in getting together sometimes for joint activities. What do you think?

Sept. 24: Let's plan a Harvest Festival for the children and families of the church!

Don't forget, 6-8 pm, 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, Tower Room, Sundays.

## 2006 UCC Women's Retreat

September 29 - 30, 2006 at Pilgrim Park

**"SPEAK TO MY HEART, LORD ---Messages of Healing, Wholeness and Abiding Love---  
FOR THE FEMININE SPIRIT"**

led by Rev. Marsha Thomas, UCC Minister and Holistic Life Coach

Early Registration (\$65) Deadline: August 15th, Late Registration (\$70): After August 15th

More information contained in brochures can be found at the back of the sanctuary.

## CWS EMERGENCY APPEAL: LEBANON CRISIS

Dear Hope Shall Bloom Covenanters:

The response during this year of work groups participating in disaster response has been fantastic. Groups from UCC congregations and church-related institutions are still signing up to offer service and accompaniment. Thank you.

However, people along the U.S. Gulf Coast are still in need of our commitment to long-term recovery. Your support and participation in disaster response not only assists in the physical acts of helping people rebuild their homes, but is an act of presence that indicates the commitment to walk beside people as they seek to rebuild their lives. Such acts also offer work group participants the opportunities to experience new realities, to be moved out of a comfort zone and encouraged to ask new questions and seek deeper faith responses. Materials for orientation, on-site reflection, and after-the-trip engagement are available from the particular disaster ministries sites upon registration.

You can find registration information for short term group volunteer opportunities on-line: [www.ucc.org/ministries/volunteer/hurricane.htm](http://www.ucc.org/ministries/volunteer/hurricane.htm). You can

also find this information along with descriptions and contact information for many other mission trip sites in the publication *Mission Trip Opportunities*. This publication guides you to sites that help your group engage with social and economic justice issues in a variety of settings. Mission trips can be inspiring, learning and potentially life-transformative opportunities. You can find the up-dated 2006 version of *Mission Trip Opportunities* on-line: [www.ucc.org/ministries/volunteer](http://www.ucc.org/ministries/volunteer) or call United Church of Christ resources for multiple copies 800-537-3394.

Keep a look out during the next couple of months for the *2007 Mission Trip Opportunities* with a UCC 50th Anniversary Theme.

We can surely "Let It Shine...." through engagement in group mission trips.

Blessings,

Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss  
Executive for Volunteer Ministries  
United Church of Christ , 700 Prospect Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44115-1100  
1-216-736-3214 or 1-866-822-8224 x-3214 (toll free)

The Eastern Association of the United Church of Christ and Park Street Congregational United Church of Christ joyfully request the honor of your presence at the ordination/installation of

**Christie Ann Taube**

September 10, 2006 at 4 pm at Park Street Congregational UCC, 806 Park St, Mazon, IL 60444

In lieu of gifts, please send a contribution to: Student Scholarship fund, Chicago Theological Seminary, 5757 S. University Ave., Chicago, IL 60637

RSVP acceptances (815) 448-5514. Light Supper to follow.

## A Personal Testimony on Global Exploitation

I have asked that this note be shared in the Communigram as a way to share my own thoughts on the question of my own participation as a participator in global Oil Exploitation. Several weeks ago I popped up at announcement time and put forward my thesis. I stated that I believe that our current entanglement in the mid East is completely driven by those who think that they are safeguarding American power by extending American control over global oil supplies. Given how totally opposed I am to our role in Iraq, I posed the question as to what degree am I benefiting from my countries control of global oil supplies. If I cannot effect this policy by usual political routes of writing to my Congressman, could I at least operate in a mode of conscientious objection to its aims by refusing to use any imported oil?

This was a pretty good thesis, but I was seriously stuck on the practical issues of figuring out just how much Oil is produced within the US so that I could figure out what would be my fair share.

The opportunity to speak to Royce Williams at the Williams anniversary event proved very helpful. Royce just knows that the US produces about 8 million barrels a day, that there are 42 gallons to a barrel, or 336 million gallons. With a US population verging on 300 million, my daily fair share would be about 1 1/3 gallon. However, I don't get to put all of that in my gas tank. We also use oil for things like making plastics, fertilizer, and asphalt. So as a rule of thumb, I can talk about conscientiously objecting to use of international oil by getting my personal consumption down

to a gallon of gas a day.

Wow! I'm in a lot of trouble here. My twice a month commute to Southern Illinois is going through about 24 gallons each trip. So even if I only used my bike for the rest of my travel, I would be 15 gallons a month over my limit. That doesn't count gas that I would use as part of any trips I take by air to visit my new grandson. I would get closer to my goal of using no imported oil if my wife Ruth and I combine our allocations – only fair since she benefits from the income of the trip. But I still have to come to the conclusion that my current life choices are made possible only by virtue of my countries ability to control global oil and insure steady importation of oil. So what is next for me? If I am benefiting from this policy, can I continue to pose as opposed to this war? This is a conversation that I don't want to undertake on my own.

And what about your own calculations? Could you control your oil consumption to a gallon a day? What would you be willing to do to get your oil consumption under control? Is this a conversation we want to have in person or by e-mail? I noticed that the Stuff Group did decide to do their conversation in person, and it turned out to be a multi month spirit conversation. It seems like figuring out how to wean ourselves from foreign oil may well be every bit as complex as figuring out how to separate ourselves from our excess personal belongings. But it's either that or deciding that we need to support the war.

Ken Gilbert.

### This Plug's for you:

Phantom loads generate carbon dioxide which generates global warming and generates strip mining scars in Illinois which generates water pollution and generates wars around the world and generates charges to your bank account. It's all tied together, every-

thing is connected - even at your plug! Please read Amerenlines which comes with your power bill to better understand how you can reduce your impact on God's earth and your wallet. According to Ameren the average U.S. home has 25 phantom loads and the

number is growing rapidly. Reduce and conserve, that's your charge. Let Jack Paxton know if you want to join Egods! and find ways to treat God's gift to us like we appreciate it.



### 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.



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](http://www.community-ucc.org)

Email: [info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org)

Office Hours: Mon-Thu 9 am-3 pm

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor:** Rev. Michael Mulberry  
[mike@community-ucc.org](mailto:mike@community-ucc.org)

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**UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF**

**Campus Minister:** Rev. Karen Bush

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# Communigram

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

The next Communigram will be mailed out on September 20.

## Sunday Schedule

9:00 am ~ Sunday School (Begins September 17)

9:30 am ~ Choir Rehearsal

10:15 am ~ Worship

11:30 am ~ Coffee Hour

6-8 pm ~ Youth Group

## Rally Sunday is September 10

Join us at **9:00 am** for an introduction to the coming year in Sunday School. We'll have a breakfast buffet to energize you, a craft station to get your creativity going, and a chance to sample the stories for the coming year. **We hope that all children and young people, parents and seniors, middlers, teens and college students will join us for the morning!**



## Sunday School Resumes September 17

**Sunday School ~ 9:00 am**

**CODAC** (Community Observes, Discerns, Acts, and Celebrates) is the Adult Education process of Community United Church of Christ. Rally Day will also provide an opportunity for people to leaf through some of the materials that will be used for adult education experiences for this fall. Look through Who Wrote the Bible?, the "Empowering Couples" marriage enrichment materials, and the Open and Affirming identity curriculum, "Claiming the Promise."