

# COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 18      OCTOBER 10, 2007

## MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Recently I had a chance to have dinner with Iris Swanson, Becky Duffield, and Jan and Curt Wilson. The dinner was terrific, but it also had a constructive purpose. We were there to discuss revamping the way our Sunday Fellowship Coffees are prepared and served and to find ways to make the time we spend together more reflective of who we are as a congregation. The main topics we covered were how to get more people involved in the preparation of the refreshments and how to make the actual food and beverages provided reflective of our values as a just peace church.

Over the past few years, as people have come and gone from our congregation, the Fellowship Committee has become Iris Swanson, just Iris Swanson. While Iris is happy to continue in the role as organizer of these coffees, she needs just a little help from the congregation. First, we need someone who can take charge of periodically restocking the supplies. Becky Duffield buys all of our coffee for us, but we need someone who can keep an eye on the food and paper products and shop for more as needed. We prefer to buy our supplies from Meijer, so if you are a Meijer shopper this would be an easy way to help out. Second, we need more individuals, couples, and families to volunteer to help with the weekly preparation and clean-up. Right now we have a small squadron of veterans doing all the work. We would like to have enough volunteers, so that no one is asked to help out more than once every three months. That's only 4 times a year. There is training available as well as written instructions and the possibility of being paired with one of those veterans to help get you through it the first time.

To make our time together more reflective of who we are we covered several areas. As a just peace church, we feel that supporting retailers who do not practice fair labor practices is unethical, so we will not be purchasing supplies from Wal-Mart or Sam's. This means our costs will probably go up, but Becky Duffield who is the Just Peace Identity Team Leader will be working on a list of acceptable retailers. For now, we will be shopping at Meijer. As a church that believes in protecting the environment, we will be eliminating the use of Styrofoam cups. We have a back-stock of Styrofoam cups, but once these are gone they will not be replenished. If your ceramic mug has been lost or stolen, please let Iris or me know,

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### I Love My Church Because...

**I love the United  
Church of Christ be-  
cause we're giraffes not  
turtles; we aren't afraid  
to stick our necks out.  
We ordained the first  
African-American in the  
18th century, the first  
woman in the 19th  
century, and the first  
gay man in the 20th  
century! That helps me  
stick my neck out and  
take a risk  
every now and then.**

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED

On October 8 during the Mission Moment, Susan Requa spoke of the 1/3 of Neighbors in Need collection that goes to the **Council for American Indian Ministry**. This became very dear to Susan's heart when she was given the opportunity to visit a Navajo school in Rock Point, Arizona.

I would like to write about the other 2/3 of **Neighbors in Need** collection that goes to the **Justice and Witness Ministries** which is very dear to my heart. In fact it has become my main focus in this Church.

I have learned at Community when I go to a Church Conference I should find something to bring back to **CUCC**. When I went to **General Synod** in June, I didn't know what it would be, but it was soon made clear to me what it was---the **Just Peace Ministry**. I had done some work in that area like the **Just Eating?** and the **Prayer Protest** each Wednesday, but I felt that we were alone. At Synod I realized that there were hundreds of Churches, that in their own way, were working on these same issues. Further, I had a **Justice and Witness Ministry** issue that I felt I had to take action on and Synod gave me just the push I needed.

A few years ago I read about Sister Kathleen Desautels from St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana who spent 6 months in prison for crossing the line at the School of the Americas. Over its 59 years, the **SOA** has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency techniques, sniper training, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence and interrogation tactics. These graduates have consistently used their skills to wage war against their own people.

Among those targeted by **SOA** graduates are educators, union organizers, religious workers, student leaders, and others who work for the rights of the poor. They were also responsible for the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero in a Catholic Hospital Chapel in Guatemala while he was saying Mass. Hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans have been tortured, raped, assassinated, "disappeared", and forced into refugee camps by those trained at the School of the Assassins. On January 17, 2001 the name was changed to **The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation** or **Whinsec** for short. The name is different but the tactics are the same.

Since learning this I have wanted to go to Fort Benning for **the National Protest**, but never had the courage. After Synod I knew I had to take action. The first thing I did was to volunteer to serve on the **Just Peace Identity Team**. The next thing was to put my money where my mouth was and get myself down to Georgia. November 16<sup>th</sup> Becky Duffield, our Just Peace Identity Chair and I are flying to Columbus to take part in the Orientation, Vigil and Rally at Fort Benning on Saturday and the Solemn Funeral Procession on Sunday.

By going to the **SOA Protest**, Becky and I are giving witness to our **Just Peace Identity of Community United Church of Christ** and supporting **Our Neighbors in Need**. You also can support the **Justice and Witness Ministry** within the **United Church of Christ** by giving generously to **Our Neighbors in Need**.

**Pat Syoen**

*(Continued from page 1)*

so that we can get you a new one. Lastly, as a church that believes in food justice and that has recently gone through a huge baby boom, we would like to hear from parents about what sort of snacks and

beverages should be served and in what size proportions.

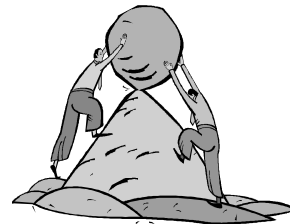
As you can see, there is something that anyone and everyone can do to help make our time of fellowship meaningful and fun, so if you

are able please find a way to help out. And just to show that I'm not a complete hypocrite, I will be helping my mother, Pat McQuillen, make the coffee next Sunday.

Vicky, CUCC Moderator

## WE NEED A BIG ROCK

Seriously, we need a big rock. After months of trying and failing to find a plant that will withstand the foot traffic on the southwest corner of our building, Jim Carnahan and I have decided that what we need is a boulder; a boulder small enough that it can be moved by 2 or 3 sturdy people and a cart, but large enough that it can not be thrown by 2 or 3 alcohol impaired people with dubious intent. If you have a boulder that you would like to donate, please let me know. We've already figured out how to move it! Please call the church office (344-5091) if you can be of help.




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## FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

**October 14:** Baptism; Usher training after worship

**October 28:** UCC Higher Education Sunday - Campus Ministry leading service

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## GOD IS STILL SPEAKING MINISTRY TEAM

Greetings from the God is Still Speaking Ministry Team! We know that you already know about the nametag table in the narthex and hope all of you are well into the habit of putting your nametags on each Sunday. But have you ever noticed the friendly people behind the nametag table? These are our nametag hosts, and are responsible for refilling nametags if need be, sending a list to Cindy of people needing permanent nametags printed, greeting visitors, and making visitor nametags. It involves standing at the table 15 minutes before the service

begins and remaining there for a few minutes into the service in case of latecomers. We have an opening for someone to take responsibility for the 5th Sunday of the month, on the months that have a 5th Sunday. We also would like to put a few more names on our substitute list, so that if one of our regular nametag hosts can't be there, they could call a substitute. If you could fill either of these needs, we would be most grateful! Please call the church office (344-5091) if you are interested.

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## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

The Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team is working to address the pest control issues that have recently been reported to us. If you have any questions or would like information on how we're handling these issues, please contact Deirdre Lanesskog at 353-0080 or mcglonedc@yahoo.com.

Also, do not forget that on **Saturday, November 3, from 9:00 am until noon is our All Church Workday**. Please mark your calendars and plan to help. **It is helpful if you bring cleaning supplies and equipment.**

## CUCC YOUTH GROUP

All youth in 6th—12th grade are welcome! We gather to have fun, to support each other and to learn about God's world. Please join us!

**Oct. 14, 6-8 pm:** In preparation for the corn maze..we'll view a movie!

**Oct. 21, 4-8 pm:** Hardy's Reindeer Ranch! We'll have a weenie

roast, conquer the corn maze, go on a hayride and race the gocarts.

**Oct 28, 6-8 pm:** We're having an All Hallow's Eve party. Details to come...

## JOIN CUCC CHIOR FOR CHRISTMAS OPERA

We would like to invite singers to join us for the "Amahl" choruses as we need lots of Shepherds. Families are particularly encouraged as we need some different ages including children.



The follow rehearsals are scheduled to rehearse to choral parts:

Wed., Oct. 24th, 6:30-8:30 pm

Wed., Nov. 7th, 6:30-8:30 pm

Wed., Dec. 5th ~ Final Dress Rehearsal ~ 6:30-9:00 pm

Sat., Dec. 8th ~ Performances ~ 1:30 pm & 4:00 pm

Sun., Dec. 9th ~ Final Performance ~ 10:15 am

Please contact the church (344-5091) by Sunday, Oct. 14th.

## Campus Ministry Events

Campus Ministry Choir

**Mon** 10 pm

Rev. Bush's Drop In Hours:

**Mon and Thurs** 11-noon

**Tues and Wed** 11-1 pm

Sanctuary

**Wednesdays** 9 pm

Open House

**Thursday** 2-4 pm

Chapel & Program

**Fridays:** Chapel 5 pm ~ Program 6 pm

For further program or other information please email Rev. Karen at [ks-bush@uiuc.edu](mailto:ks-bush@uiuc.edu)

## Coming Attractions!!



The Campus Ministry  
will bring to your church parlor....

Texas Grapefruit and Oranges  
from the Red River Valley.

**Sales begin in October**

Tell all your friends and family

Fruit that tastes

the way nature intended!

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
JUST PEACE, LGBTQ OPEN AND AFFIRMING

805 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820  
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**Church Staff**

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**Parish Nurse:** Linda Morgan  
**Community Life Calendar Keeper:**  
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**Child Care Providers:** Laura Czopek,  
Jessica Bush, Julia Kara

**UCC Campus Ministry Staff**

**Campus Minister:** Rev. Karen Bush  
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The next Communigram will be mailed out on October 24.

**Information for Any Scheduling at CUCC**

To schedule any meetings or events to be located at CUCC please contact Jennifer Kelleher at jlk208@gmail.com.

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## Sunday Schedule

**9:00 am** Sunday School

**9:30 am** Choir Rehearsal

**10:15 am** Worship

**After the Children's Time**, children up to four years old are welcome in the nursery.

Children in first grade and younger are invited to attend our yoga class.

**During Closing Hymn** the children are dismissed to go with Audrey Vallance for children's choir

**11:30 am** Coffee Hour

**6:00 pm** CUCC Youth Group