

# COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 20      NOVEMBER 14, 2007

## MODERTATOR'S MUSINGS

If you think there is a lot going on at CUCC right now, you are right, and just in time for the holidays too! Fortunately for us, these are all good things. Right now, we are simultaneously working on the Stewardship Campaign, the Building Renovation Campaign, and although still in its infancy the God Is Still Speaking Campaign. Although it would be easy to think that we are traveling in three different directions at once, I think that we are traveling three roads to the same place. Stewardship, membership, and building renovation are all part of the same whole; the chicken and the egg.

Throughout the month of November, we will be experiencing a completely new idea in stewardship for our church. Thanks to the imagination and courage of Kellee Weinhold, with the use of email, we have all become the Stewardship Team and have finally found a way to share our stories with another. Everyone is invited to participate. If you have thoughts that you would like to share, please let Kellee know. She is planning to have at least 30 messages, but will publish all that are submitted. Stewardship emails and Sunday Stewardship messages will continue until Stewardship Sunday on

December 2<sup>nd</sup>. I am looking forward to hearing more of your stories.

Hand in hand with stewardship is membership which under the new polity is the responsibility of the God Is Still Speaking Team and its team leader Jeanne Ward. The job of GISS is to bring people to the church and lead them all the way through to membership and beyond. In the same way we have all become the Stewardship Team, we all need to join the GISS Team. We have a lot of big dreams in this church, which means we need more people who share our core values as a progressive, just peace, open and affirming congregation; not a mega-church number of people, but enough that we can fill the pews and move forward with hope and joy. As GISS goes about their work, you can be supportive of them by being yourselves; talk about CUCC when you are out in the community, invite a friend to worship, and welcome every new face that comes through our door.

Which is where the Building Resources Management Team lead by Howie Guenther comes in, figuring out how we can fix our doors and everything else that needs work in our

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## STEWARDSHIP

Jesus spoke frequently in the Gospel about our relationship with things and money – two of the most serious and ongoing spiritual challenges for every human being. These challenges shape every aspect of our lives: our relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and strangers, the type of work we do, how we value our environment, our regard for power and influence, our response to suffering and need. Ultimately, in order to gain a sense of peace and proportion about things and money and the spiritual challenges they present, we have to decide what carries more weight in our hearts and lives than anything else.

The annual budget process is the time when the Identity Teams put forth those things that demonstrate for them the “meaning” of Community United. This budgetary self-reflection quantifies and weighs the Church’s mission and reminds us that when we join together to perform that mission, we are in relationship and communion with the world. Our stewardship, then, is the outward and visible sign of supporting that communion.

In the broadest sense, stewardship is the “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.” For Community United, that “something” is more than the church and the denomination; it is the world around us, those people in it who struggle, who long for respite, who deserve our care. Our stewardship is made manifest in a life of acts that demonstrate our ability to love, give and receive.

We learn these things in our church and through our interactions with our church family. It is here that our relationship with God is nurtured and we are sustained as we take those lessons of loving, giving and receiving out into the world. It is here that we become aware of all the gifts God gives us and develop the practice of thankfulness and generosity in response. To that end, supporting CUCC through proportional giving is a significant act in your life as a steward of God’s creation.

Proportional giving begins with the question, “How has God blessed me?” This is a question that each of us can answer only for ourselves. This is not always an easy thing particularly when tied to some monetary value, but it is a struggle that we can address over time as we grow spiritually.

If everyone who worships here were to, at a minimum, adopt a tithe, Community United would be set free from any number of impediments to God’s call to us. Wouldn’t it be a wonderful thing if instead of being hampered by a fear of limited resources, our whole community could step out in joy and confidence knowing that we have the resources to meet all of our obligations without struggle, give significantly to those in need, and restore and maintain the space where we worship and build community. But even more, if we received something beyond the minimum we need to carry on our life, we could be generous in ways that we haven’t even imagined. Our stewardship would be a truer measure of our thankfulness for all that God has blessed us with.

Please pray about your annual gift to Community United. Fill out the enclosed pledge card and join us December 2, 2007, when we lay our cards on God’s altar in thanksgiving for all God’s blessings.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Dec. 1: Advent Workshop (Saturday)  
 Dec. 2: Communion and Stewardship Sunday  
 Dec. 9: *Amahl* during worship  
 Dec. 16: *Unfriendly Beasts* during worship  
 Dec. 24: Christmas eve (5:30 and 7:30 services)

The worship leadership team includes Mike Allen (chair), Colie Huppertz, Sarah Issacs, Pat McQuillen, Elaine Peppers, Mary Ellen Schroeder, Raymond Smith, and Peggy Wade (Church Life Board). Feel free to contact any of us with feedback about worship!

## ADVENT CELEBRATION ~ COME ONE, COME ALL!

This year's Advent Workshop and Carol Sing will be held on Saturday, December 1st, 4:00 - 6:00 pm. This is a delightful afternoon for young and old, and fills our church with lots of laughter and good fellowship. YOU and your friends and family are invited to come and be a part of the fun and festivities. Downstairs, participants of all ages can create crafts

such as advent wreaths, ornaments and small gifts that will assist in keeping a focus on the true meaning of Christmas during the Advent season. Upstairs, take a break from the crafts and help decorate the church and sanctuary. Then grab some treats and snacks at our pot-luck style smorgasbord. We will wrap up the event with a Carol Sing beginning

at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. While we belt out our favorite carols, all are welcome to place our beautiful and beloved Chrismon ornaments on the BIG tree in the sanctuary. Put this great event on your calendar today! If you are interested in helping by hosting a craft table, see Sarah Isaacs.

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Once again at this year's Advent Workshop, there will be an opportunity for you to make your own beautiful advent wreath with live greenery! These wreaths come with hands-on instruction and so are easy for even the craft-challenged to make. The cost of materials which include a circular wreath form, wire, green-

ery, candle holders, and candles is only \$5. Because the materials have to be purchased ahead of time, please let me know via email or sign-up on the sheet at the back of the Sanctuary if you would like to participate.

The Advent Workshop is December 1<sup>st</sup>!



## GOT GREENERY?

At this year's Advent Workshop, we will once again be making advent wreaths with live greenery. Unfortunately, the Heilman-Mulberry white pine is not dropping branches like it usually does, so we need some new sources of evergreen boughs. If you have an evergreen tree that is in need of some light pruning, we would really like to have those branches. I would be happy to do the pruning myself, if you'll trust me with your tree! The branches need to be cut as close to December 1<sup>st</sup> as possible, so that they will stay fresh until Christmas. Please contact the church office if you can help.

## CHANGES IN THE LECTIONARY

As Rev. Mulberry did last year, he is offering alternative Advent lectionary verses as a way of trying to correct some historical problems within the lectionary. The lectionary has a tendency to use “super-sessionism.” Super-sessionism is an attempt to see the Gospels and Jesus as total fulfillment of Hebrew Scripture prophecy. Gospel writers crafted their writings to appear in this light.

As a Progressive Christianity church, however, reason and dialogue help us discern that continuing this understanding is not in keeping with “recognizing the faithfulness” of other faith traditions. The Jewish tradition certainly understood the fulfillment of Isaiah prophecy in myriads of ways, but particularly within the historical context of the Assyrian and Babylonian Exile, a fulfillment that would have been closer to that time and place and within those empires. So passages from Isaiah do offer comparisons for how the Gospel writers saw similar things happening within the Roman Empire to offer a critique of Rome and a hope for salvation amidst so much warfare, violence, and bloodshed. Code Pink recently offered that Isaiah critique when they confronted our Secretary of State, Condoleeza Rice, with red hands.

Last year Rev. Mulberry grouped primarily the writer from Trito-Isaiah (a thought to be third writer continuing Isaiah’s prophetic tradition) to group with the Lukan Gospel narrative. This year the verses all come from the prophet Isaiah himself grouped with the passages from Matthew. Rev. Mulberry is trying to group the passages not based on prophecy/fulfillment but based on contexts that both writers might have seen as similar. Hopefully this approach helps us to see the content and context of these passages rather than reading the Gospel passages with an eye toward their fulfillment “truthiness” (thank you, Stephen Colbert).

Rev. Mulberry did this last year as well so this is not so much a departure as it is a continuing attempt to be theologically faithful. Below are the revised lectionary choices.

	<u>Hebrew Scripture</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	
Advent 1	Isaiah 1:10-28	Matthew 3:1-12	JB announces who Jesus shall be
Advent 2	Isaiah 2:1-5; 11:2-9	Matthew 1:1-17	The genealogy
Advent 3	Isaiah 9:1-7	Matthew 2:1-15a	The context of his coming
Advent 4	Isaiah 12:1-6	Matthew 5:1-11	The content of his ministry

*(Continued from page 1)*

beloved old building, so we can finally have a building that works for us and reflects to the community the vital and devoted congregation that we are. The feasibility studies that we funded this summer are finally finished and the BRMT is busy boiling them down to digestible form. Once they have had time to do this, they will be sponsoring another series of small group meetings to give us a chance to become familiar with the material and ask questions. These meetings should be taking place early this winter. There will then be a Congregational Meeting to decide where we want to go next.

Stewardship, membership, and building renovation are big tasks in themselves, but they are also intricately linked, so we have to work on them all at the same time. I am very excited about the possibilities of what we can achieve as a congregation if we are successful and I hope that you are also. Please do whatever you can to support Kellee, Jeanne, Howie, and their teams as we go forward this winter.

Vicky Robertson

## COMMUNITY CARES

**Touby Kurtz** is doing well after surgery.

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## THANK YOU

By the time you read this we will be well on our way to the School of the Americas Vigil and Protest. We are most grateful to the Church, our families and friends for helping us to raise the \$1350 we needed to make this possible. Also we would like to express our gratitude to Anita Stein for her fundraising through The Body Shop which netted us \$220. You all will be in our thoughts and prayers during this weekend as we give witness to the atrocities toward the people of Central and South America and Mexico.

Becky and Pat

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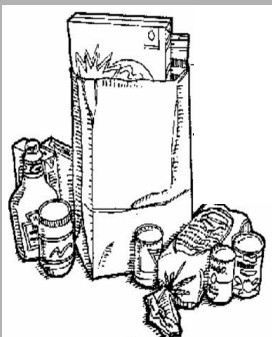
## FAREWELL TO LAURA

Hi everyone! My name is Laura Czopek and I've had the privilege of working with many of your children as Head Child Care provider in the nursery for the past year and a half. As some of you know, I'm currently a junior in Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Illinois. I plan on becoming a Certified Child Life Specialist after I earn my degree. A Certified Child Life Specialist is a person who works in hospitals with children and their families and, in essence, helps kids be kids while in a hospital setting. This is done through co-

ordinating different developmentally appropriate therapies and activities for the children. In order to reach out to more people, I'm also earning a Spanish minor. As it is next to impossible to earn a Spanish minor degree while staying on the UIUC campus because of limited class openings, I will be traveling to Granada, Spain this January to study abroad! Unfortunately, that means I won't be around to continue working with the children, however I look forward to seeing everyone again next fall! ¡Adiós!

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## PLEASE BRING IN THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:



**November 18:**  
boxed meals or jars of peanut butter.



## THANK YOU

Sat. Oct. 20, 2007

Dear Friends at Community,

You will never know how much I appreciate all your well wishes. My basket of blessings runneth over. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I read the Communigram with eagerness each time it arrives, and wish I were there to participate in your "Living the Questions" seminars. I have no idea how one could choose just one group to join. I know the groups will be stimulating and the discussion rewarding.

We have enjoyed Pilgrim UCC's 50th anniversary year which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the U.C.C. It's been interesting here as their 1st minister, Gordon Baker, now 92, is still an active and participating member of the congregation. He is an amazing man. He was called to build a new church, and he did just that. The woman who was chairman of the search committee told me, "As soon as we met Gordon, we knew he was the one to lead us. But he had just finished a building project at his church and wasn't sure he needed to do that again. However, he liked our enthusiasm and energy. So he and his wife decided to come." Many people are still members who were here at the beginning. Many are still very active.

Jack and I were members of St. Andrews when Community Church had its beginning. I was on the committee to choose which church building of the three we would use, of course, St. Andrews was out—way too small. But there was quit a tussle deciding between 1st United Church of Urbana, and 1st Congregational of Champaign. Finally 1st Congregational was chosen. A big part of the decision hinged on the fact that it was the only church of the three with an historic link to the University. We decided students probably wouldn't seek us out if we were tucked back in a corner of Urbana. People campaigned for their choice, some feelings were hurt, but in the end most folks decided, once the decision was made, to stay and make the most of the situation. I'll name a few I remember from 1st United who became energetic members of the merger. There was Ron and Margie Veach, John and Frances Hodson and Sheldon and Mildred Williams. Community has been blessed with exceptional people now and back then. Keep up the good work.

Blessings to you all,

Sally Paxton

## YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE FOR NOV/DEC

**Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>:** We'll be in the Fellowship Hall practicing for 12<sup>th</sup> Night

**Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>:** No Youth Group

**Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>:** We'll meet on Saturday this week and join the church family for the Advent Workshop from 4:30 -6:30

**Dec. 9:** more 12<sup>th</sup> Night rehearsals

**Dec. 16:** more 12<sup>th</sup> Night rehearsals

**Dec. 23:** more 12<sup>th</sup> Night rehearsals

**Dec. 30:** no youth group

**Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>:** Plan to be at church!

We'll have dress rehearsals, decorating, cooking, and who knows what else.

### The 12<sup>th</sup> Night Feast is coming!

Mark your calendars now, purchase your tickets, and get ready to be entertained! The annual 12<sup>th</sup> Night Feast will take place **on Saturday, January 5, 2008**. Your evening of delicious food, fanciful entertainment, and delightful company can be reserved for just \$20 for adults, \$10 for children. Tickets will be available following worship.

Your support of this Youth Group Fundraiser will help us raise the money we need to spend a week this summer on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, working among the Lakota people. We will be participants in the Wawokiye project. Wawokiye means "groups helping people stand". We will be helping elders and disabled people on the reservation with home repairs and cleaning projects. Most importantly, we will be working side by side with residents, learning with them and from them.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH

We have completed "God Calls Abraham and Sarah", and now we're ready to celebrate what we've learned! So, on **Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**, there will be no Sunday School classes. Instead, families are invited to accompany their children to the Fellowship Hall for an opportunity to walk the labyrinth, play in the sandbox and create our own star gallery. We'll even have a movie going for those who want to see how the story of Joseph turns out! Remember, there are no classes,

no teachers and no shepherds on the 18<sup>th</sup>. A family member or friend will need to accompany all children.

There will be no Sunday School on **November 25<sup>th</sup>**.

On **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, we will begin a new session, "Jesus is Born". We need your help. We will be making Christmas Stockings to give to the men at the Time's Center. Can you help us fill the stockings? We need small bottles

of shampoo, soap, razors, etc. If you travel, collect the bottles from your hotel and bring them in.

We'll also be making salt dough nativity scenes. Can you make a batch of salt dough for the kids? I have the recipe!

We still need a few volunteers to lead the rotations. Check out the schedule, and let Tracy know if you can help.

## ROTATION SCHEDULE FOR DEC. 2 THROUGH JAN. 20

### Jesus is Born



	Refugees K/1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Migrants 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	Sojourners 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> grade
Dec. 2	Community Life Ellen Kordik	Hands On <b>NEED A VOLUNTEER</b>	Time Out Susie Kundrat?
Dec. 9	Time Out Deirdre McGlone	Community Life Ellen Kordik	Hands On Jen and Grant
Dec. 16	Hands On Jen and Grant	Time Out Deirdre McGlone	Community Life Ellen Kordik
Dec. 23	Food & People Susan Schnuer	Brain Teasers Kristin Hoganson	Fun and Games Vicky Robertson
Jan. 6	Brain Teasers <b>NEED A VOLUNTEER</b>	Fun and Games Vicky Robertson	Food & People Susan Schnuer
Jan 13	Fun and Games Vicky Robertson	Food & People Susan Schnuer	Brain Teasers <b>NEED A VOLUNTEER</b>
Jan 20	** Celebrating the Rotation**		

Community Life: (Green Room) make stockings that can be filled and given to men at the Times Shelter.  
**Ellen Kordik**

Hands On: (Yellow Room) Evergreen Tree Nativity Mural: **Jennifer and Grant Robbennolt**

Time Out: (Orange Room) Play Dough Nativity **Deirdre McGlone**

Food and People: (Yellow Room) Popcorn and cranberry garland. **Susan Schnuer**

Brain Teasers: (Orange Room) Variety of puzzles, codes, etc.:

Fun and Games: (Green Room) Active games: **Vicky Robertson**

**We are looking for Volunteers. Can you Help? If so contact Rev. Tracy Heilman  
at (344-5091) or [tracy@community-ucc.org](mailto:tracy@community-ucc.org).**

Both Performances at 1:30 PM & 4:00 PM  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

Also Amahl on Sunday, December 9th at the 10:15 Worship Service  
The Unfriendly Beasts on Sunday, December 16 at the 10:15 Worship Service

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# The Unfriendly Beasts

(No Room in the Stable)

A Christmas Musical for Children

Written & Arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram & Scott Schram

Recording Orchestrated & Produced by Alan Billingsley

Performed by the Children of Community United Church of Christ

**AND**

# Amahl and the Night Visitors

By Gian-Carlo Menotti



Performed by the CUCC Chancel Choir with Soloists

Suggested Donation ~ \$10

## Poinsettia Order Form

The Advent Season approaches, and the sanctuary will be adorned with poinsettias donated by individuals, families or groups. You are invited to make a gift of one or more plants to be used during this holiday time. Two sizes are offered this year. Please mark which size and color you wish to purchase, make a check payable to Community UCC marked "poinsettia" on the memo line, fill out the form below and place this in the offering plate or mail it to the church office (805 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820). **Deadline for orders is December 2, 2007.**

- I will donate \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) to the church.  
 I will pick up my poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve Worship Service.

Poinsettias not claimed will be donated to those homebound or in the hospital, or nursing home.

- |                          |   |        |          |         |         |
|--------------------------|---|--------|----------|---------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6-inch pot (5-8 large blooms, pinched plant)                | ( )Red | ( )White | ( )Pink | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8-inch pot (2 poinsettias/pot, 10-16 blooms, pinched plant) | ( )Red | ( )White | ( )Pink | \$22.00 |



Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

## CAMPUS MINISTRY



Over the last few weeks the Campus Ministry has been busy with all sorts of activities. One of our most recent activities was on All Saints Sunday when the group split into 3 groups and traveled to nearby UCC congregations to worship with them. We visited Decatur, Minonk, and Danville and were graciously welcomed by all congregations. We also helped out on church work day and took on the task of repainting the parking lot, as well as helping out wherever needed throughout the day.

### CAMPUS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**Mon 10 pm** ~ Campus Ministry Choir

**Thurs 11-noon & Tues and Wed 11-1 pm**

Rev. Bush's Drop In Hours:

**Wednesdays 9 pm** ~ Sanctuary

**Thursday 2-4 pm** ~ Open House

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

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



**COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

JUST PEACE, PROGRESSIVE  
LGBTQ OPEN AND AFFIRMING



805 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: (217) 344-5091 ~ FAX: (217) 344-5008

**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

**Office Manager:** Cindy Dodd

info@community-ucc.org

**Parish Nurse:** Linda Morgan

**Community Life Calendar Keeper:**

Jennifer Kelleher

jl208@gmail.com

**Child Care Providers:** Laura Czopek,

Jessica Bush, Julia Kara

**UCC Campus Ministry Staff**

**Campus Minister:** Rev. Karen Bush

karen@community-ucc.org

**Information for Any Scheduling  
at CUCC**

To schedule any meetings or events to be located at CUCC please contact Jennifer Kelleher at jl208@gmail.com.

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**The next Communion will be mailed out on November 28.**

**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

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

If you are interested in becoming a new member or affiliate member of Community United Church of Christ, please join us for New Member Orientation beginning **Sunday, November 25, at 9:00 a.m.** in the Conference Room. Full orientation lasts for four successive Sundays on **December 2, December 9, and December 16.** Please contact the Church Office (344-5091) if you are interested in attending New Member Orientation. Full membership at Community United Church of Christ will culminate with a New Membership worship service early in 2008.

