

# Communigram

JANUARY 24, 2007

VOL. 39 No. 21

## From the Desk of Rev. Michael Mulberry

With the incredible membership growth of some fundamentalist and evangelical churches, many mainline congregations believe the choice before them is to become more fundamentalist and evangelical and grow membership or to remain small and stay true to their values. Folks in mainline congregations are also very worried that a big church will mean less intimacy. We are either big and close to nobody or small and close to many people.

I have heard the worry in our own congregation when I have encouraged our church membership growth. "We don't want to be fundamentalist." "I don't know the people in my church anymore." "I don't want to grow for growth's sake."

I am not one that believes big numbers means fundamentalist or evangelical or less intimate. With all respect to Margaret Mead ("Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens . . ."), I have grown tired of seeing my progressive, faith-filled values losing ground in my community and nation because I am in the minority. I also believe that those values matter because they affect public schools, national policy on global warming, and how quickly our country should turn to war as a tool of international policy. Numbers matter—in either galvanizing those who share my values or transforming the values of those with whom I disagree.

Bill Moyers, who is soon to return to PBS and will be speaking at the UCC General Synod in Hartford, Connecticut this summer, gave an address at the media reform conference in Memphis, Tennessee last week. In his address he stressed the importance of building movements to build democracy. He recognized the loneliness many people feel in trying to lead out movements and said that is why he had to return to PBS—to show solidarity. He finished his address by sharing a poem from Jewish writer and poet, Marge Piercy. I share that with you to as a way to say that we hold values that our community, nation, and world need....and that numbers matter.

*What can they do  
to you? Whatever they want.  
They can set you up, they can  
bust you, they can break  
your fingers, they can  
burn your brain with electricity,  
blur you with drugs till you*

*can't walk, can't remember, they can  
take your child, wall up  
your lover. They can do anything  
you can't blame them  
from doing. How can you stop  
them? Alone, you can fight,  
you can refuse, you can  
take what revenge you can  
but they roll over you.*

*But two people fighting  
back to back can cut through  
a mob, a snake-dancing file  
can break a cordon, an army  
can meet an army.*

*Two people can keep each other  
sane, can give support, conviction,  
love, massage, hope, sex.*

*Three people are a delegation,  
a committee, a wedge. With four  
you can play bridge and start  
an organization. With six  
you can rent a whole house,  
eat pie for dinner with no  
seconds, and hold a fundraising party.*

*A dozen make a demonstration.  
A hundred fill a hall.*

*A thousand have solidarity and your own newsletter;  
ten thousand, power and your own paper;  
a hundred thousand, your own media;  
ten million, your own country.*

*It goes on one at a time,  
it starts when you care  
to act, it starts when you do  
it again after they said no,  
it starts when you say We  
and know who you mean, and each  
day you mean one more.*

I believe the values we hold at Community UCC matter not only to us, but to our community, nation, and world. It starts when you say, "We."

Shalom,  
Mike



## Constitutional Amendment to Extend Interim Changes For January 28 Meeting

As mentioned in Moderator Musings in the last Communi-gram, we will be voting on a constitutional amendment to extend the interim changes implemented in November 2004. This amendment simply gives us "breathing room" to decide on the next polity. The group looking at the next church structure has come up with a model called "Many Gifts Polity" that if everything is approved, will be implemented in March or April 2007. As defined in the constitution, written notice of this amendment is being sent to the membership of the church 10 days before the meeting; I

am using this article to do so.

### **Proposed Amendment:**

We, the members of the Community United Church of Christ Administrative Committee, hereby move that the interim changes approved to the Community United Church of Christ Constitution on November 14, 2004 remain in effect until a new polity is approved or the January 2008 Annual Meeting, whichever takes place first.

## Humane Boarders – a brief explanation

For many weeks our children's offering has gone to support the costs of Humane Boarders. Having participated in a Boarderlinks Immersion Event, the mention of Humane Boarders always triggers in me an urge to jump up and explain to everybody just why that program is such an important element for those who think that church is what you "do" rather than what you "profess". I decided that it was time to put some of this into writing and share it through the Communi-gram.

First off, what is the program, what is the context? About the time that Mexico signed on to NAFTA, the Mexican government decided to stop subsidizing maize subsistence farmers. (NAFTA itself does not require discontinuation of subsidies). Without the subsidy, peasant farmers can keep their families fed, but do not have enough cash to cover costs of school books, uniforms, or medications. The World Bank accurately predicted just how many farmers would leave their land once the subsidy was cut. It is largely those farmers (almost all of whom are Mayan by ancestry) who are looking for alternative work in the US. The US, unwilling to face the predicted influx of landless laborers, put together immi-

gration policy based upon the assumption that if the "easy" places to cross over the boarder were blocked, people would not attempt the dangerous desert crossing. Nonetheless there has been a massive movement of labor. Mexican government staff estimate a minimum of 3000 travelers every 24 hours attempting to cross over. Increased border patrol effort has resulted in people making choices to attempt more and more dangerous routes for crossing. This escalation of risk resulted in many deaths. By 2000 the confirmed death rate had climbed well over 300 annually (this count is the number of autopsied bodies brought out of the desert by Law Enforcement Services. Bodies that are not located are not counted in these official figures). Christians (led largely by Quaker and Presbyterian congregations) in the Phoenix area came to the conclusion that whatever we think about immigration, 300 preventable deaths a year constitutes something that God does not want. They initiated a series of water resource points along the routes where the most bodies had been found. These water resource points generally consist of a 30 gallon barrel raised up on legs next to a 40 foot high flagpole with a dramatic blue banner marking the

spot. Their installation immediately resulted in a drop in the annual death rate. Volunteers keep these barrels refilled by making daily rounds with a water tanker. The water is coming through the Presbyterian church meters so they have a huge utility bill. Gas money for the tanker has been raised by donations, including donations from our children.

As you think about this, you need to be aware that Mexico has benefited greatly from the decision which they knew would cause traditional maize raising peasants to leave their land. The land has been taken over by agro industry. Using agricultural systems more like those used in the US, corn production has increased in Mexico, helping them reach food self sufficiency for a growing population. The agro industry pays taxes into the government treasury whereas the corn raised by peasant farmers was costing the country because of the subsidy. Mexicans living outside of their homeland send earnings back to Mexico to such an extent that it now exceeds income from both oil exports and tourism as a source of hard currency for the Mexican economy. For all of these reasons, it is working out very well for Mexico to see these

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Community United Jr/Sr High Youth Group

We spent so much time preparing for the 12<sup>th</sup> night, and then so little time together after, that it was just nice to relax in the Tower Room last night! Remember, all 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited, welcomed and encouraged to join us each Sunday evening from 6-8 pm. We miss you when you're not with us!

Our attention last night was on our Summer Trip. We talked about some different travel possibilities, but the destination was clear. We're joining up with other Youth and churches across the US in Hartford, CT to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United Church of Christ!

Our plans are tentative right now, but here's the basic plan: We'll leave from Champaign on June 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>. We'll travel to Ohio or Pennsylvania on the first day. We are hoping to spend the night at one of the Church Camps in OH or PA, and to do some work for the camp (painting, clearing trails, etc.) We'll continue on to Hartford, and arrive by afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup>, with time to see the Amistad. (visit [amistadamerica.org](http://amistadamerica.org) for more information).

From then on, we'll be thick into the festivities of General Synod, youth style! We'll attend the Youth Kick-Off Rally on Thursday evening and settle in to our dorm rooms at the University of Hartford. We'll attend an orientation session for General Synod on Friday morning and we'll join with the

gathered churches for the opening worship on Friday evening.

Saturday is going to be the best day! Synod in the City will offer a variety of speakers and performers to choose from at different venues throughout the down town area, ending with a Birthday Bash at Bushnell Park. Sunday we'll be at Synod all day for workshops and worship, as well as time to find a little space apart to see how we're doing.

On Monday, we'll participate in a Service Project to Peter's Retreat, a shared residence and support program for people living with HIV/Aids. On Tuesday, we'll plan a bit of R & R, as we travel to the coast for a day at the beach. Wednesday is the long drive home. It's about 14 hours, so we'll arrive in Champaign sometime that evening.

I am estimating the cost at about \$600 per person. This includes General Synod registration of \$100 and housing cost of \$228. The remainder will cover van rental, gas, food, and service project. Our hope is to divide those costs three ways, with each family paying \$200, the Youth budget to cover \$200 and Youth Fundraising to cover \$200.

You'll be hearing much more about the trip to General Synod. For now, mark the dates on your calendar, and get ready for the experience!

## CODAC OFFERINGS in 2007

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

1. **The Five Wishes-Advance Directives in Health Care**  
(for details see article below)

2. **With Open Hands**

Sundays 9:00 am in the Conference Room, March 4

through April 1

Required reading: **With Open Hands** by Henri Nouwen

3. **Assimilating New Members and Hospitality**

Sundays, 9:00 am in the Conference Room, April 29 through May 27.

Facilitated by Rev. Mike Mulberry and Ms Eileen Gebbie

## It's something we ALL should think about!

We live in a time when advances in medical technology can artificially sustain life for extended periods of time. Due to legal understandings of the obligation to sustain life under all circumstances, the names of Karen Quinlan, Nancy Cruzan, and Terry Schiavo have become well known to us all. Think about how these women's lives might have ended differently if they had documented their preferences for end-of-life care.

Does your family know YOUR preferences for end-of-life care? It's a discussion that many people never have, so

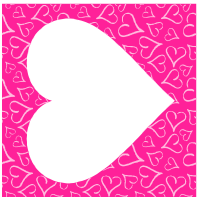
family members are put in the awkward position of making crucial decisions without the benefit of knowing the patient's wishes.

The February CODAC sessions on "5 Wishes – Advance Directives for Health Care" will provide an opportunity to start the discussion process. Come learn, discuss and yes, even document your wishes.

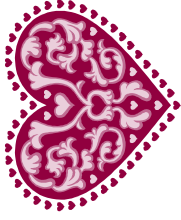
5 Wishes – Advance Directives for Health Care

Feb. 4, 11, and 18

Facilitated by Linda Morgan, Ken and Ruth Gilbert



# February 2007



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>1                      **See Schedule Below                      7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3                      9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>4 *See Schedule Above                      9 am CODAC: The Five Wishes-Advance Directives in Health Care                      11:30 am Blood Pressure Checks</p>	<p>5                      10 am Communion Dead-line                      10 pm Campus Choir                      6 pm CODAC: Empowering Couples Program/Marriage Enrichment</p>		<p>7                      Noon Prayer Protest                      5:30 pm Worship Leadership Taskforce                      7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>8                      **See Schedule Below                      1 pm Women's Fellowship at Clark Lindsey</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10                      9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>11 *See Schedule Above                      9 am CODAC: The Five Wishes-Advance Directives in Health Care                      4 pm Confirmation Class                      7 pm Admin Com Meeting</p>	<p>12                      6 pm CODAC: Empowering Couples Program/Marriage Enrichment                      10 pm Campus Choir</p>		<p>14                      Noon Prayer Protest                      7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>15                      **See Schedule Below</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17                      9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>18 *See Schedule Above                      9 am CODAC: The Five Wishes-Advance Directives in Health Care</p>	<p>19                      10 am Communion Dead-line                      10 pm Campus Choir                      6 pm CODAC: Empowering Couples/Marriage Enrichment</p>		<p>21                      Noon Prayer Protest                      7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22                      **See Schedule Below</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24                      9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert                      8 am New Member Orientation</p>
<p>25 *See Schedule Above</p>	<p>26                      10 pm Campus Choir</p>		<p>28                      Noon Prayer Protest                      7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>**Thursday Schedule                      9 am Bulletin Deadline                      8 pm AA</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>CUCC Office Hours</b>                              Monday-Thursday                              9 am-3 pm</p> </div>	

## To members, friends, and visitors:

In order to promote greater community at the church—especially as we grow in size—the God Is Still Speaking (GISS) committee and CODAC propose that they coordinate small groups (about 8-10 people) who would meet together regularly for a year. GISS proposes coordinating small dinner groups, something like the Fireside Dinners, but which would allow people to get to know others in the church more deeply through eating together every month or two for a year. CODAC would be interested in coordinating small-group Bible studies.

Please let us know your thoughts on these proposed initiatives and whether you would be interested in participating in either or both of them by filling out the form below BY FEBRUARY 11, 2007. You can leave it in the church office or return it to Patricia Brady, 701 West Healey Street, Champaign IL 61820.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in participating in a small Bible Study group that would meet regularly for a semester or a year?

Not at this time

Yes (Please fill out Section 1 below)

Would you be interested in participating in a small dinner group that would meet monthly or bimonthly for the next year?

Not at this time

I prefer the bi-annual Fireside/Springside Dinner format

Yes (Please fill out Section 2 below)

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### Section 1 (Questions on regular small-group Bible studies)

Please read the following statements and check all that apply to you:

I would like to meet with the same small group for a year

I would like to meet with the same small group for a semester

I would like to meet bi-monthly

I would like to meet monthly

I would like to meet weekly or bi-weekly

I am interested in a serious commitment (e.g. getting through the entire Bible, involving doing much reading and preparation outside of the meetings)

I am interested in doing some reading and preparation before our meetings

I would prefer to just show up and do the reading for that week together

I am interested in following a set Bible study curriculum with prepared materials

I would like the Bible study topics to grow organically out of participants' interests

I would like to learn about the Bible, its historical context, and its interpretation by various Bible scholars

I would prefer to focus on connecting the message of the Bible to my life and our contemporary world

I would like to learn about the other members of the Bible study and engage in deep discussions that enable us to grow as a small community

I would like the groups to be as heterogeneous as possible

I would like the groups to be coordinated by different demographics (e.g. the young singles group; the young couples group; the GLBT group; or whatever).

If yes to above: what group do you see yourself a part of? \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the groups to meet in participants' homes, with the host rotating each month

I would like the groups to meet at the church, with childcare provided

Are there specific days of the week that you cannot meet or that you prefer? (e.g. Wednesday evening is out; weekends are preferred)

## Section 2 (Questions on regular small-group dinners)

We plan to compile the results of this questionnaire and then assign people to a small group based on compatibility (per this survey). We will let you know what group you are in by late February, and then ask one person in each group to coordinate the first dinner; each group will determine for itself when and how often to meet.

Would you be most interested in holding the dinners:

At the church, with (optional) childcare provided

At the members' homes, with the host rotating each month

If you checked the above: How many people would you be comfortable hosting, including yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like the dinners to be:

Casual potluck (host providing something like a chili; guests providing simple side dishes)

Take-out or order-in (e.g. pizza), with expenses shared by the group

Would you like the groups to be:

As heterogeneous as possible

Coordinated by different demographics (e.g. the young singles group; the young couples group; the GLBT group; or whatever).

If yes to above: what group do you see yourself a part of? \_\_\_\_\_

What particular accommodations do you need or would you be willing to provide in your home?

I need:

a vegetarian dinner

a wheelchair-accessible location

a home that will allow toddlers or preschoolers

I can provide:

a vegetarian dinner

a wheelchair-accessible location

a home that will allow toddlers or preschoolers

If you have small (or bigger) children, what would be your preference?

I want my children to accompany me to the dinner

I want my children to accompany me to the dinner, and I would prefer to be in a group with other children as well

I will leave my children home with a babysitter

I would like the church to provide childcare (even if the adult dinners are at individual homes)

Will other people in your household (e.g. your life partner or children) will be accompanying you to the dinners? Please provide a number and, if you have children, their ages:

Are there specific days of the week that you cannot meet, or that are better than others? (e.g. Wednesday evening is out; weekends are preferred)

Please let us know if you have any other comments or preferences related to this proposal:

## Synthesizing and Sustainability Committee (SSC) Requests Input

The SSC has begun to integrate the recommendations from the Visioning/Discernment and Building Options Task Groups. The initial determination has been made to further consider and more fully define only alternatives that involve CUCC remaining at the current campus location.

A summary presentation and vote is projected for the congregational meeting in March. Input from everyone is welcomed and may be submitted to any member of the SSC: Karen Kelsky, Richard Schnuer, Bob Schroeder, Jeanne Ward, and Howie Guenther (Chair)

### Flower Chart 2007

The Altar Flower Chart for 2007 can be found in the Parlor. If you wish to sponsor altar flowers for a specific Sunday in 2007 please sign up on the chart provided. **Dates Open:** March 11, April 29; May 20; June 3, 10, 24; July 1, 8; August 12, 19, 26; Septem-

ber 16, 23; October 14, 28; November 4, 11; December 2, 9, & 30.

**Beginning February 1st sponsorship is \$25 per Sunday** and a check earmarked "Altar Flowers" can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office.

### Sympathy

CUCC holds Linda Vaughn and her family in their prayers following the death of her father, Edwin Bush.



## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The first community-wide celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was held in our church in 1984. The program is now sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Advocacy for Justice

Committee. Rev. Jack Good served as vice-president of the committee for many years, and a number of members of our congregation have given to help make the Dream a

Reality. This year over 40 students are studying at over 20 colleges and universities with the help of \$1,000 annual scholarships. Support this program by making a check out to : Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund and put it in the offering next Sunday, or mail to MLK Advocacy Committee, Salem Baptist Church, 500 E. Park Ave., Champaign, IL 61820.

—Curt Wilson

*(Continued from page 2)*

peasants leave the land. These peasants are largely of Mayan ancestry, a group that holds a very low place in Mexican society. It is possible to suggest that the immigration of Mayan people off of their traditional lands towards cash employment in the North has many parallels to the immigration of Black Laborers out of the South after the automation of Cotton growing. The dominant cultural group in Mexico feels no more connection to these now landless peasants than did the dominant white community feel connection to Black immigrants after World War II.

I hope by sharing this information with you, I have given you context to

understand the important symbolic gesture it is to have our children supporting Humane Borders. But there is another perspective that I feel is even more important as we think about Mission in the context of our own congregation. . This Humane Borders group has gone beyond traditional strategies such as Conscientious Objection or Civil Disobedience. They have put together something that they call Civil Initiative. Not able to match either the power of the economic forces driving Mexico's decisions, or the military power of the boarder patrol, they invented a strategy that allows those who are weak in the eyes of the world to nonetheless hold human beings as precious. Human beings who happen to be of a disadvantaged racial group, human

beings who are not able to perform economically, are nonetheless treated as precious and worth saving. It would take an article longer than this one to share with you the David and Goliath story of what happened when the Director of the Boarder Patrol threatened to arrest volunteers of Humane Borders for the "crime" of abetting illegal immigration by filling the water tanks. It is an excellent example of what we might mean when we think of a Christian Community that turns the world's expectations on its head.

All of this rushes through my head every time our children put their offering in to the bucket. Now I hope it will be rushing through your head as well.  
—Ken Gilbert.

## McKinley Presbyterian Church to Show UCC Film

On Saturday afternoon, McKinley Church and the University of Illinois Office of LGBT Resources will screen the documentary *Call Me Malcolm* at 3:00 p.m. in 192 Lincoln Hall on the UIUC campus. This film follows the journey of a young man who transitions from female to male while in

seminary. *Call Me Malcolm* is a film produced by the United Church of Christ. Ms. Lisa Larges will also be present. Lisa is nationally known for her work to change Presbyterian policies to allow the ordination of openly LGBTQ people. Ms Larges will be a part of the question and answer ses-

sion following this movie and will discuss the different ways in which queer identities and Christianity can and do intersect both in the film and in our world today. Pizza and soda will be provided after the film.

## First Mennonite Church (902 W. Springfield, Urbana)

**Hosts Peace and Justice Initiative, Saturday, January 27 at 7 pm**

The Peace and Justice Initiative of the CU First Mennonite Church is sponsoring an evening with local Christian Peacemaker Team members Char and Michael Smith. Between them, they have served in four different locations

in the last year: Hebron, West Bank; Barranca, Colombia; Kenora, Ontario and Bear Butte, S. Dakota. They will talk about non-violent participation in violence-prone situations.

## Wednesday, February 7, 7:15 pm

Peter Rohloff to speak on  
**Re-Evaluating International Aid Work: A Medical Case Study from Guatemala**  
at Channing-Murray Foundation 1209 W. Oregon, Urbana.

## Campus Ministry Retreat

The Community UCC Campus Ministry has started out the spring semester with a great time of spiritual fellowship. We spent our first weekend back to school at Tower Hill Retreat

in Michigan. Retreat is always a highlight for campus ministry members and we had a wonderful time enjoying one another's company, growing in our spiritual journey with

Christ and exploring in the great outdoors. We look forward to the events planned for the month of January, which include a Movie and Discussion and ice skating on campus.

The Campus Ministry Presents:

The Lesser Known Sequel to *The Maltese Falcon*

# THE MASKED LOVEBIRD!

Join Harry Heart, second cousin of Sam Spade, as he solves the mystery behind  
*The Masked Lovebird*.



You, your friends and your loved ones are invited to a special dinner engagement **Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** for entertainment, fellowship and of course a delicious meal in the Community Café (Located in the basement of Community UCC).



Reservations can be made through any Campus Ministry student or by contacting Karen Bush. Proceeds from the dinner go to supporting the Campus Ministry

**Cost: \$20 ~ adult; \$10 ~ kids ten and over; free ~ kids under 10**



**COMMUNITY  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

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



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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

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**Religious Education Director:**

Rev. Tracy Heilman

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**Choir Director:** Robert Smith

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**Office Manager:** Cindy Dodd

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**Parish Nurse:** Linda Morgan

**Community Life Calendar Keeper:**

Vicky Robertson

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**Ombuds Person:** Deborah Townsend

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**Child Care Providers:** Laura Czopek, Jessica Bush,

David Robertson

**UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF**

**Campus Minister:** Rev. Karen Bush

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

# Communigram

Non-Profit Organization  
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The next Communigram will be mailed out on February 7.

## Sunday Schedule

9:00 am ~ Sunday School

9:30 am ~ Choir Rehearsal

10:15 am ~ Worship

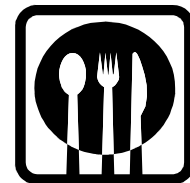
11:30 am ~ Coffee Hour

6-8 pm ~ Youth Group

## January 28th Annual Lunch at 11:30 am & Meeting at 12:30 pm

A meal will follow immediately after worship on Sunday, January 28th down in the Fellowship Hall. A main dish and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share. Because we want to

be good stewards of the earth we are also asking you to bring your own table service and utensils. After lunch we will have our Annual Meeting. Thank you.



The Annual Meeting of Community United Church of Christ is called for Sunday, January 28th at 12:30 pm, following lunch.

The agenda will include:

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting, and of the May 21 and November 19 Congregational Meetings.
2. Reports from the Pastor, church officers, task groups, etc.
3. New Business:
  - A. Adoption of the 2007 proposed budget.
  - B. Report of the Nominating Committee and election of officers.

- C. Extend the existing polity
- D. Approval of the Many Gifts Polity
- E. Report from Synthesis and Sustainability Committee
- F. Other items as may come before the congregation.

Copies of the Annual Report will be mailed and available prior to the scheduled meeting.

Sincerely,  
David Willcox, Clerk