

# COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 13      AUGUST 2, 2007

## PROGRESS REPORT BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE INITIATIVE

The next step of the CUCC building and facilities evaluation involves implementing the collective recommendations of the Visioning and Discernment Task Group, the Building Options Task Group, and the Synthesis and Sustainability Committee. Three congregational information and input sessions were held during May to provide an opportunity for open discussion of these issues. The basic premises of this initiative strive to:

- Encompass the diversity, ministries, and future sustainability of the congregation
- Undertake action needed to address the aging condition of our building
- Provide a basic level of financial stability
- Remain in the current campus location

At the CUCC meeting held on June 3, the congregation approved to (1) undertake a condition audit of current CUCC building and facilities; (2) obtain an independent appraisal of CUCC property; (3) develop a project assessment and mixed-use development feasibility study; and (4) allocate an initial funding commitment of \$25,000. Bids were subsequently solicited from appropriate firms for these aspects. On July 12, the Church Life Board approved to accept the bids submitted by the following firms:

### Condition audit

GHR Engineers & Associates, Inc., Champaign

### Appraisal

Karen K. Miller Appraisal Agency, Ltd., Urbana

### Feasibility Studies

Business Districts, Inc., Evanston

Karen K. Miller Appraisal Agency, Ltd., Urbana

The total cost of the accepted bids noted above is \$7,190. These projects will begin as soon as possible and will hopefully be completed by the end of October. A presentation to the congregation will then be scheduled in November to review the results of these evaluations and discuss the next steps.

On behalf of the Task Groups, Committees, and Ministry Teams involved in this endeavor, thank you for the tremendous involvement and support of the entire congregation for these projects.

Howie Guenther  
Building for the Future Ministry Team

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**Our In Care  
Student from  
Eden Theological  
Seminary, Sarah  
Bloesch will be  
preaching this  
Sunday, August 5.**

## GOD IS STILL SPEAKING MINISTRY TEAM NEEDS YOU

Greetings! Are you trying to figure out where you might fit into the new church structure? Have I got a deal for you! According to the polity handbook, The God is Still Speaking Ministry Team is responsible "to help everyone feel welcome from new visitors to longtime members". The specific actions include having a comprehensive plan from the time visitors walk in the door until they are fully participating in the church (if they feel it is the right match for them). It would include things such as keeping the nametag program

going, updating and developing visitor materials and signage for inside and outside, helping with new member classes, making a photo poster of new members, and working on publicity.

I am having some difficulty finding folks that are not already serving on one of the other task forces to help out with this group. I know you are out there!!!! If you think this might be something you'd like to help with, or want to hear more, I would love to talk to you! Please call the church office (344-5091) or

e-mail the church at [info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org) to get my contact information. We will meet on the regular church meeting night when possible (the 2nd Thursday of the month - August 9th this time - and you would only need to stay for the first hour of the meeting time - dinner at 5:30, meetings 6:00-7:00). Please help! This is such an important job for the life of our church!

Thanks for your consideration!

Jeanne Ward



## NOTES FROM THE WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

On Sunday, August 6th, we will be celebrating the sacrament of communion by intinction during morning worship.

Our final outdoor service for the summer will be held at the front pavilion of Crystal Lake Park on **August 19th at 9:30 AM**. Susan Requa will be preaching. After worship we will share in a potluck lunch. Please bring sand-

wiches, salads or desserts to share!

We will return to our normal fall schedule for worship (10:15 AM) on Sunday, September 2nd. During the months of September and October, we will be holding a series of training workshops to introduce or refresh folks on service opportunities within the church. Training sessions will be brief (30 min-

utes) immediately following worship. We encourage you to come to learn more and to share your gifts. Please also bring your calendars!

September 30: Liturgists

October 7: Communion servers

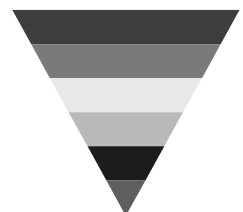
October 14: Ushers and greeters

Mike Allen

“WE WILL BE HOLDING A SERIES OF TRAINING WORKSHOPS TO INTRODUCE OR REFRESH FOLKS ON SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE CHURCH”

## LGBTQ FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Pack a picnic and join the LGBTQ Fellowship group at Hessel Park for Music in the Park on August 12, 2007 at 5 pm. The music is set to run from 6:30-8 pm. Look for the rainbow umbrella. For more information please contact the church office.





# AUGUST 2007

*What I love most about my church is that it's a place where we feel free to "think out loud together."*

## Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar

<p><b>*Sunday Schedule</b>                  9:30 am Worship                  9:30 am Nursery &amp; Big Kids                  10:30 am Coffee Hour                  6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>CUCC Office Hours</b>                      Monday-Thursday                      9 am-3 pm                 </div>	<p>1                  11:45 am Prayer Protest                  7 pm War Made Easy in the Parlor</p>	<p>2                  **See Schedule Below                  7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4                  9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>5 *See Schedule Above                  Communion                  9:30 am Worship with Sarah Bloesch preaching                  11:30 am Blood Pressure Checks</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8                  11:45 am Prayer Protest</p>	<p>9                  **See Schedule Below                  Monthly Church Meeting Night</p>	<p>10                  11                  9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert                  10 am CUCC Youth Group practice for worship</p>
<p>12 *See Schedule Above                  9:30 am CUCC Youth Group let worship service                  5:00 pm LGBTQ Fellowship Group at Hessel Park</p>	<p>13                  10 am Communiongram Deadline</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15                  11:45 am Prayer Protest</p>	<p>16                  **See Schedule Below</p>	<p>17                  18                  9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>19                  9:30 am Worship at Crystal Lake Park with Potluck afterwards</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22                  11:45 am Prayer Protest</p>	<p>23                  **See Schedule Below</p>	<p>24                  25                  9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
Rev. Tracy Heilman & Rev. Mike Mulberry on Vacation					
<p>26 *See Schedule Above                  New Sanctuary Movement House Party after worship</p>	<p>27                  10 am Communiongram Deadline</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29                  11:45 am Prayer Protest</p>	<p>30                  **See Schedule Below</p>	<p>31                  **Thursday Schedule                  9 am Bulletin Deadline                  9:30 am Preschool Play Group                  8 pm AA</p>

## WE'RE GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rally Day is set for **September 9**, and we hope that you will join us for the fun. The Religious Education Committee is excited about the new year, the stories that we will explore, and the classes that we will offer. Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings, before worship, from **9:00 until 10:00 am**.

### Classes

**Preschool Class:** This class is for our youngest "students." Three and Four year old children gather in classroom 4 with their teachers. This year the Preschool class will use the same Rotation Model as the older children, but they will stay in their own classroom. Each week, their teachers will present the story through a different activity, just as the older children experience. Two teachers are needed for this class

### Rotation Classes

**Level 1:** Kindergarten/First Graders: This class is for pre-readers, those entering Kindergarten and First Grade. We will be looking for 2 Shepherds for this class.

**Level 2:** Second/Third Graders: We will be looking for 2 Shepherds for this class.

**Level 3:** Fourth/Fifth Graders: We will be looking for 2 Shepherds for this class

**Middle School:** 6th-8th Graders will be invited to their own class in the Tower Room. We will be looking for 2 teachers for this class.

### Curriculum

During the 2006/7 Sunday School year, we will be focusing on 4 stories.

Sep. 9- Oct. 7

Family Ties: The adventures of Abraham and Sarah and their descendents.

We will explore the stories of Genesis 12-50, of Sarah and Abraham and their family.

Their story, and our story, is about struggle, joy, deceit, faithfulness and love that we experience in families – our own families and God's.

Oct. 14- Nov. 25

God Calls Abraham and Sarah

Journey with Abraham and Sarah as we learn to trust God as they did.

Dec. 2- Jan. 20

Jesus is Born

What does it mean for God to come into our world and our lives?

Jan. 27- Mar. 23

Meals of Blessing

As we share the Passover meal with Jesus and his friends, we join an ancient tradition and experience a new meal of fellowship.

Mar. 30 – May 11

Pentecost: Wind and Fire

God's gift of the Holy Spirit brings us together!

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## LEARNING CENTERS

We will encounter each of these stories through a variety of Learning Centers. Learning centers help children relate the Bible story to their own experience as the Bible story takes on meaning and significance. It is no longer a "story from the past" but has become a focus for decision-making, spiritual growth, and theological reflection. These are complex tasks for children as they are for adults.

**Community Life:** Connections to the world through helping and serving activities

**Brain Teasers:** Puzzles, writing challenges, and activity sheets

**Time Out:** Reflecting on the story working independently: journals, prayers, wondering and reading

**Fun and Games:** Active learning with your whole self

**Show and Tell:** Acting out stories through roll plays, dramas, puppets, and more

**Hands-on:** creating art, building things, and science experiments

**Food and people:** Learning about cultures and customs by making and sampling foods

Learning Center Leaders will present their activity 3 times, to each of the 3 Rotations Classes. Would you like to be a leader?

**Learning centers help children relate the Bible story to their own experience as the Bible story takes on meaning and significance.**

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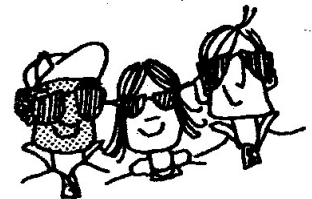
## COMMUNITY UNITED YOUTH GROUP!

We hope that you will join us on Sunday evenings (6-8 pm) in the Tower Room for more fun, opportunities to explore our faith, and time to grow closer to one another. If you are in 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, then you are invited!

August 5: We'll be preparing for the Youth-led worship service on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Bring your assignments, and we'll get down to work!

August 11: We'll be meeting from 10-11 am to practice for the worship service.

August 12: We will be sharing our experiences from General Synod with the congregation during worship. Then, in the evening, we'll kick back and relax. Join us in the Tower Room as we talk about the coming year.



2007/2008 Sunday School Registration for  
Community United Church of Christ

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Adult Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Grade Entering \_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Grade Entering \_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Medical Issues:

Allergies or Medical Issues:

3. Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Grade Entering \_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Grade Entering \_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Medical Issues:

Allergies or Medical Issues:

## THE COVENANT OF COMPASSION

### WE'RE NOT JUST REBUILDING WE'RE JUST REBUILDING

Dear Signer of the Covenant of Compassion:

At the General Synod in Hartford last month, John Thomas described disaster recovery efforts of the United Church of Christ as not just rebuilding but **JUST** rebuilding.

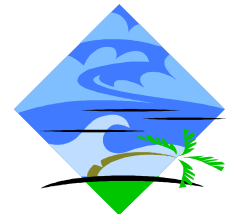
Following the 2005 hurricanes of Katrina, Rita and Wilma, on the U.S. Gulf coast, you responded in many significant ways, including signing up to be part of the UCC Covenant of Compassion. In this Covenant signers promised to take concrete steps to be involved in alleviating suffering, particularly during the next three years. The text of this Covenant written in September 2005 is below. As we near the two year mark of these hurricanes, we want to share with you some up-dates on the continuing long-term response of the United Church of Christ.

As of mid-July 2007, we give thanks for the 5000 week-long volunteers who have served in disaster recovery through the South Central Conference program in New Orleans and through Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS. We give thanks for the 31 long-term "Partners in Service" volunteers who have served in disaster recovery positions since 2004 through the Florida Conference, South Central Conference in New Orleans and Back Bay Mission. We give thanks for the 650 plus homes gutted in New Orleans; the 4 churches being repaired in New Orleans; the 140 plus homes repaired or rebuilt in New Orleans and Biloxi area. We give thanks for **your** continuing involvement.

A "Hope Shall Bloom" video on the breadth of UCC response to the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes was shown to delegates and visitors at the General Synod meeting. Synod delegates each received a copy. A copy is available at your Conference media center for borrowing. You can also view it on-line at <http://www.ucc.org/disaster>.

Back Bay Mission has recently printed a compilation of sermons and reflections written by Rev. Shari Prestemon, Executive Director, from September 2005 through March 2007. "Hearts Wide Open: A Journey from Disaster to Hope..." is available directly from Back Bay Mission at 228-432-0301.

Keep telling the story. Keep recruiting work groups for disaster recovery mission trips on the Gulf Coast. Keep living your faith as **JUST** rebuilding continues.



**"...YOU  
RESPONDED  
IN MANY  
SIGNIFICANT  
WAYS.."**

*(Continued on page 8)*

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## THE COVENANT OF COMPASSION

Because my faith and conscience call me to respond with prayer and action on behalf of hurricane survivors and others impacted by disaster, I offer my personal promise - in partnership with thousands of United Church of Christ members - to take the following five steps during the next three years to alleviate suffering.

1. I promise to pray for victims and survivors of Hurricane Katrina, for those still recovering from other disasters and for victims and survivors from natural and human-caused disasters that will occur in the future.
2. I promise to contribute to the UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering, especially its "Hope Shall Bloom" hurricane recovery initiative as well as other One Great Hour of Sharing special appeals created to respond to the needs of survivors.
3. I promise to participate in and/or support locally based efforts to temporarily house survivors of Hurricane Katrina or other disasters, support an initiative to assist in resettlement of Hurricane Katrina evacuees which is being pursued by Church World Service, and participate in the UCC's ongoing refugee resettlement program for those fleeing civil war, famine, or ethnic violence around the world.
4. I promise to participate in and/or support mission trips now available through the Florida UCC Disaster Response Ministry or available in the future for Hurricane Katrina recovery or other disasters, as well as involvement through service in my local community, UCC Mission Trip Opportunities and/or Global Ministries' People-to-People Pilgrimages.
5. I promise to support the UCC's Neighbors in Need special mission offering and other justice initiatives that work to ensure that our government adequately serves all people, including the most vulnerable, the disabled, the poor and the elderly.

*Holy God, bless and confirm my commitment to join with others in a deepened spiritual discipline of compassion. Help me to serve my brothers and sisters affected by disasters, both nearby and far away. Fill me with the urgency to aid those devastated by Hurricane Katrina, but instill in me a commitment to serve all affected by natural/human disaster. By making this covenant, may our collective effort sustain a long-term Christian commitment to relief, recovery and rehabilitation. AMEN.*

Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss  
 Executive for Volunteer Ministries  
 United Church of Christ  
[blaufusm@ucc.org](mailto:blaufusm@ucc.org)  
 Phone: 866-822-8224 ext. 3214



“By making this covenant, may our collective effort sustain a long-term Christian commitment to relief, recovery and rehabilitation.”

## SIDNEY DAIRY BAR RIDE II

Join us on the second annual Ride to the Sidney Dairy Bar on Saturday, August 18 (rain date September 1). We will meet at the Meadowbrook Park Prairie Play playground parking lot at the corner of Vine and Windsor in Urbana at 12:30 PM. We will then pedal our bikes to the Sidney Dairy Bar on the back

roads of Champaign County for a deserved reward. It is about a 10.5 mile ride to Sidney. We will ride back and return between 3:00 – 3:30 PM. Families welcome. Helmets required. Talk to Tom Ward for more information or contact the church office.



## A THANK YOU FROM HUMANE BORDERS

Dear Friends at Community United Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$538.15 for Humane Borders in May. I apologize for the delay in expressing our gratitude. Your contribution is significant help in purchasing gasoline that averages \$100 per day this year during the summer.

The U.S. Senate killed any hope of immigration reform

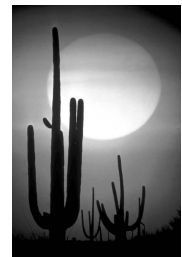
legislation this year. Senators as well as commentators say there is no hope for an immigration bill until 2009 because of the presidential election year political dynamics that have already begun to influence processes on Capitol Hill.

The Arizona Daily Star reports the number of deaths for the year is equivalent to the same period last year. No change in the status quo. We will no doubt be servicing

water stations for at least three or four more years. Prayers for migrants and their families are in order.

Thank you for blessing our life-saving efforts with your support.

Sincerely,  
Sue Goodman  
Director



“Your contribution is significant help in purchasing gasoline that averages \$100 per day this year during the summer.”

## ARE YOU CONNECTED?

Mike has been preaching about connectedness of the church members for some time. Last Sunday at the end of the service I reported about an illegal Mexican girl who has just graduated from high school and wishes to attend Parkland College. Her father has been deported leaving the family with nothing. In a letter to the editor I

suggested we should try to raise funds for her at Parkland. That has been arranged and we now have enough for her 1<sup>st</sup> year. In hearing this, one of our new members followed me into the coffee area and told me he was a councilor/teacher at Parkland and if we would just send her to him, he would direct her to the courses at her

level. He gave me his card. He is Joseph Omosagie. I thanked him; now we are connected in a joint endeavor; when I asked him from whence he came, and learned it was Nigeria, we are twice connected as I am an Africanist.

Jean Due



COMMUNITY UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

**Facilities Manager:** Robert Scaggs

bobscaggs@community-ucc.org

**Office Manager:** Cindy Dodd

info@community-ucc.org

**Parish Nurse:** Linda Morgan

**Community Life Calendar Keeper:**

Jennifer Kelleher

calendar@community-ucc.org

**Child Care Providers:** Jessica Bush, Julia

Kara, Abe Mulberry, David Robertson

**UCC Campus Ministry Staff**

**Campus Minister:** Rev. Karen Bush

Karen@community-ucc.org

The next Communigram will be mailed out on August 15.

**Summer Sunday Schedule**

9:30 am Worship

9:30 am Nursery

10:30 am Coffee Hour

6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group

**Information for Any Scheduling at CUCC**

To schedule any meetings or events to be located at CUCC please contact Jennifer Kelleher at [calendar@community-ucc.org](mailto:calendar@community-ucc.org).

**BELOW IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT CHURCH  
POLITY MEETING ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 9TH.**

5:15 – 6:00 pm – Dinner

6:00- 7:00 pm – Identity Teams and Ministry Groups meet

7:00 – 7:30 pm – Chairs of Ministry Groups meet with CLB Co-coordinators

7:30- 9:00 pm Church Life Board meeting

All members of the Congregation are welcome to attend the Dinner as well as the Church Life Board Meetings. If you have an item for the CLB Agenda, please contact the church office know in advance of the meeting so that it may be added, and board members informed of the change. Due to time constraints, items not on the CLB agenda will not be discussed until the following board meeting.