

# Communigram

Community United Church of Christ

A Just Peace, Open and Affirming Congregation

*"Cherishing the Past. Challenging the Future" ... (1853-2004)*

VOL. 37 No. 1

JANUARY 5, 2005

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

To say the least, January will be a busy month at Community United Church. So let's give front-page billing to the continuing mission and ministry of our church.

### **Tsunami Disaster Relief**

First, the incredible devastation experienced by all of creation in Asia due to the world's largest earthquake in 40 years and the resulting tsunamis deserves our utmost attention. Such tragedy reminds us how important the quarterly mission offerings to our wider church are at this time. One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering collected during the spring and because of historical offerings we were able to send \$100,000 within the first five days. As you have probably heard, the need will continue to be great over the next several years. You can continue to the relief by praying for all of creation in south and south east Asia. To assist those affected, make gifts payable to Community UCC, marked for "Asia Tidal Waves" in the memo portion. We will then send that offering to the Illinois Conference Office to be

passed along to the wider church. You may also make gifts payable to Wider Church Ministries, marked in the memo portion "Asia Tidal Waves" and send to Wider Church Ministries; 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

### **Saturday, January 8, 6:00 p.m. Twelfth Night Feast in Fellowship Hall**

Lord Michael and Lady Emily have limited licensures available (spots are filling up fast) for an incredible feast (wassail, Cornish game hens, garlic potatoes, glazed carrots, etcetera) and mirth and merrymaking put forward by our youth. Receive your yearly fortune as a gift, guess the riddle for a prize, and watch out for the Herald and his "p's." Our junior and senior high youth will use the proceeds for a special civil rights journey to General Synod in Atlanta or a work trip with border ministry in San Antonio.

**Sunday, January 9, Worship**  
Community United Church celebrates the baptism of Matthew Avery Isaacs!

### **3:00 p.m. Ecclesiastical Council for Jennifer Little in Sanctuary**

We continue to walk with Jennifer Little as she journeys toward ordained ministry. Through an incredible in-care committee of Deborah Townsend, Michael Trout, Edie Knipple, and Becky Duffield, we have cared for Jennifer, held her accountable, and now present her to the Eastern Association for its **first-ever** Ecclesiastical Council. We invite you to come be part of the wider church and support Jennifer through this important process.

### **Sunday, January 16, 5:00 p.m. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration at Krannert**

We invite you to continue to participate in a continuing ministry and mission of Community United Church. Rev. Ben Cox will be the keynote speaker. Much of the focus this year will be on the historic death of Emmitt Till, a young African-American boy who was murdered for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Though Emmitt was beaten and disfigured beyond recog-

(Continued on P. 2)

...nition, his mother refused to have a closed casket funeral. The ugliness and violence of racism were laid bare. See <http://www.admin.uiuc.edu/mlk/calendar/calendar.html> for further information about events beyond the community celebration.

**Thursday, January 20, Inauguration Day, "Not One Damn Dime Day"**

On "Not One Damn Dime Day" those who oppose what is happening in our name in Iraq can speak up with a 24-hour national boycott of all forms of consumer spending. During "Not One Damn Dime Day" please don't spend money. Not one damn dime for gasoline. Not one damn dime for necessities or for impulse purchases. Not one damn dime for anything for 24 hours.

On "Not One Damn Dime Day," please boycott Walmart, KMart and Target. Please don't go to the mall or the local convenience store. Please don't buy any fast food (or any groceries at all for that matter). For 24 hours, please do what you can

to shut the retail economy down. The object is simple. Remind the people in power that the war in Iraq is immoral and illegal; that they are responsible for starting it and that it is their responsibility to stop it.

"Not One Damn Dime Day" is to remind them, too, that they work for the people of the United States of America, not for the international corporations and K Street lobbyists who represent the corporations and funnel cash into American politics.

Not One Damn Dime Day" is about supporting the troops. The politicians put the troops in harm's way. Now 1,200+ brave young Americans and (some estimated) 100,000 Iraqis have died. The politicians owe our troops a plan -- a way to come home.

There's no rally to attend. No marching to do. No left or right wing agenda to rant about. On "Not One Damn Dime Day" you take action by doing nothing. You open your mouth by keeping your wallet closed. For 24 hours, nothing gets spent, not

one damn dime, to remind our religious leaders and our politicians of their moral responsibility to end the war in Iraq and give America back to the people.

**Sunday, January 30 All Church Meeting in Fellowship Hall**

Culminating so much work by our church over the past year, we will have our all-church meeting in Fellowship Hall. We seek out long-time and new members, singles and families (yes, child care will be provided with a meal) to attend this meeting to talk about the past year and the future of our church. We need every person's presence and contribution! Special thanks to Scott Bush, Ruth Gilbert, David Gerstenecker, Jean Nanney, and Denise Oligney-Estill for all their weeks and weeks of work to put an interim polity before us!

Shalom,  
*Mike*



**Need Firewood?**



**Hardwood, seasoned, split, delivered.**

**Call Tom Dean 762-5602.**

**All proceeds go to Habitat to Humanity.**

**Tom has donated \$12,00 just this year.**

**Questions: Call the Church office 344-5091**

**The Prayer Protest Continues**

The Prayer Protest continues each Wednesday at noon. Bring your sack lunch and we will sit out on the northeast front stoop of the church. If you are interested in providing "gorp" or "trail mix" please drop it off in the church office. We will be providing campus ministry folk "food for thought". "Gorp" or "trail mix" will be offered to those passing by the church. These goodies will contain words of compassion for those suffering in Iraq.



## Moderator Musings

If you were in church on Sunday you have heard this invitation already. But maybe a reminder isn't such a bad thing.

This month of January is a very important month for us. We have our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>. I expect the meeting to last 2 hours as we have so much to do!. Child care and lunch is being organized. Please plan to attend. We need you.

During our Annual Meeting we will:

- Launch the new organizational plan that we approved in November
- Approve the slate of people who will fill key roles in our

church life

- Approve the budget to which our congregation has pledged itself
  - Focus our church mission for the coming year (or several?)
- Ready ourselves to move on building and space care priorities

The activities to get ready for the Annual Meeting are numerous. Everyone is involved in either preparing for this meeting or perhaps praying for it. Which brings me to subject of prayer. I don't know when you do your prayers at home – Are they in bed before you rise? At the breakfast table? In the car on the way to work? After the eve-

ning news?

Whenever it is, I invite you to focus your prayer life each Wednesday of this month on the work of our congregation – what it is doing, where it is going, and how you are engaged with this community.

Along with the community's prayer life, Church Council will be meeting twice this month – on January 9 and January 23. We need to review budget decisions and ensure that task roles are filled. If you are interested, please join us in the Conference Room at 7:00pm to sit in and hear your church at work.

Ruth

## Preliminary results from the church building questionnaire (Full report will be given at the Annual Meeting)

Remember those building questionnaires that you filled out last fall? Well thanks to the tabulating efforts of Tei Barnhart and some analysis by the Schnuer team, we presented a full report to the Church Council in November. We want to share some of the preliminary results with the congregation now but expect to make a full report at the Annual meeting.

46 people completed the questionnaire. 19 areas of the church were noted as needing some type of work. Areas most mentioned for improvement were our entryways, the downstairs kitchen, the sanctuary, and the parlor.

Almost everyone who responded to the questionnaire agreed that our entryways need major improvement. Given the nature of our congregation, we were amazed at the consensus of opinions. The appearance of our entryways was described as boring, unwelcoming and unappealing, while their functioning as points to navigate

to other parts of the church was described as confusing. On a related note, inside and outside signage were also mentioned as problem areas.

The appearance and functioning of the sanctuary and parlor were generally rated fair. However, access to the parlor and around the coffee table is considered poor, while the sanctuary radiators require painting (or covering) and plaster requires repair. Many respondents provided input on other areas of the church, but there was no clear agreement on how to improve the areas, except for the downstairs kitchen. Everyone agrees that it needs renovation, including people who do not use it frequently.

We look forward to giving everyone a full report at the Annual Meeting.

Building Questionnaire Team – Richard and Susan Schnuer

## For the Week of...

### January 9

#### Sunday ~ First Sunday after the Epiphany

- 9:00 am Sunday School (R1-5, FH, CR)
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
- 10:15 am Worship Service (S)
- 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)
- 3:00 pm Ecclesiastical Council and Ms. Jennifer Little
- 6:00 pm Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group (TR)
- 7:00 pm Church Council (CR)

#### Monday

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)
- 5:30 pm G-CAP Meeting (CR)

#### Wednesday

- Noon Prayer Protest
- 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)

#### Thursday

- 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
- 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
- 1:00 pm Women's Fellowship at Clark-Lindsey
- 8:00 pm AA (FH)
- 8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

#### Saturday

- 9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Espresso Royale*

### January 16

#### Sunday ~ Second Sunday after the Epiphany

- 9:00 am Sunday School (R1-5, FH, CR)
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
- 10:15 am Worship Service
- 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)
- 6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group (TR)

#### Monday

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)

### Wednesday

- Noon Prayer Protest
- 6:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal (S)
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)

### Thursday

- 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
- 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
- 8:00 pm AA (FH)
- 8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

### Saturday

- 9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Espresso Royale*

### January 23

#### Sunday ~ Third Sunday after the Epiphany

- 9:00 am Sunday School (R1-5, FH, CR)
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
- 10:15 am Worship Service
- 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)
- 6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group (TR)
- 7:00 pm Church Council (CR)

#### Monday

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)
- 10:00 am *Communigram* Deadline

### Wednesday

- Noon Prayer Protest
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)

### Thursday

- 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
- 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
- 8:00 pm AA (FH)
- 8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

### Saturday

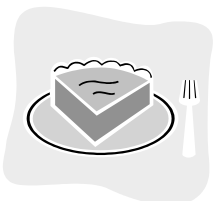
- 9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Espresso Royale*

Key: FH=Fellowship Hall, CR=Conference Room, S=Sanctuary, P=Parlor,  
L=Library, T=Tower Room, R1...5=Lower Level Classrooms

## Martin Luther King Jr Celebration - Community Choir Rehearsals

MLKJr Community Choir meets from 2-4 pm on Saturdays at the Salem Baptist Church 500 E. Park St., Champaign. Next rehearsal January 8, 2005. The [MLKJr Community Celebration](#) is on Sunday afternoon January 16 at the Krannert Center.

## Women's Fellowship



The Women's Fellowship will meet Thursday, January 13 at 1 pm at the Clark-Lindsey Village. The program entitled "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate" will be led by Maryann Fugate. Hostesses are Jean Due and Mary Forbes and devotions will be given by Pat Barnhart.

**ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL**

and

**Ms. Jennifer Little**

Sunday, January 9 at 3:00 p.m.

Community United Church of Christ

You are invited to attend the Ecclesiastical Council to be held in our church by the Eastern Association of the Illinois Conference of the UCC to determine in covenant and mutuality the ability, growth, preparation and readiness of Jennifer Little for call to ordained ministry. She will be recommended by her In-Care Committee of CUCC and by the Eastern Association Committee on Ministry. This will be a time when the whole of the Association is invited to hear a presentation by Jennifer and then ask questions ranging from theological understandings to practical experience as she prepares for full-time ministry in the UCC.

Following Jennifer's statement, examination, discussion, and the vote on her readiness for call to ordained ministry, there will be a reception in the parlor. We hope you will attend.

Deborah Townsend, Convener, In-Care Committee for Jennifer Little

**Words of Appreciation**

Because of you, "supporters and volunteers," El Centro was able to give, for Christmas, to the workers/families: 6,000 lbs of clothes; 312 new stuffed animals; Toiletries for over 120 persons; Candy and treats to over 255 persons and their families; 26 "live" Christmas trees and wreathes

El Centro helps make some difference in their lives! Without you, El Centro can do nothing!

Special thanks to:

- Dan Breen for donation of fresh Christmas trees and wreathes
- Joan Nelshopen of the Peace Bazaar, students of Spanish

and French classes of central high school--Betty Van Es--for all the stuffed animals (clothes also)

- Mike Mulberry, Tracy Heilman and the people of community united church of Christ and many others (churches and individuals) for all the wonderful---timely and usable clothes, and..... Eastern Illinois food bank for all the treats

El Centro is indeed blessed to have so many dedicated "friends" helping us to survive-----all this time----as of December 31---ten years!

Feliz Navidad 2004 y Feliz Ano Nuevo en 2005

Hugh

**Some Offerings in January on WILL****Monday, January 10 at 8pm**

American Experience: Citizen King

An examination of the last five years in King's life--from his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963 to his assassination in 1968.

**Wednesday, January 12 at 9pm**

Meeting Osama bin Laden

A biography of religious extremist and terrorist bin Laden as told by those who have actually met and talked to him.

**Sunday, January 16 at 9:30pm**

Jim Crow's Museum

Frequently enlightening and at times disturbing, this flow of images and commentary is designed to help create understanding of the causes and effects of racism.

**Wednesdays, January 19 and 26, and February 2 at 8pm**

Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State (3-part series)

While many survivors of the period have documented what happened, how it happened has never before been televised. With the fall of Communism, archives that held Third Reich files, diaries, and architectural plans became available for review. They reveal with startling clarity the decisions that were made and the people who made them.

**Friday, January 21 at 10pm**

Women of Islam: Veiling & Seclusion

Filmmaker Farheen Umar travels across the Muslim World to find out why some Muslim women take the veil while others don't.

**Tuesday, January 25 at 8pm**

Frontline: Al Qaeda's New Front

The new front in the war on terror: Europe. Now home to 20 million Muslims the continent is a challenge to intelligence services on both sides of the Atlantic, exacerbated by political divisions over the Iraq War.



## Acolyte Party and Training Sunday, January 9, 12-2 pm

If you are in Kindergarten through 8th grade, then you can be an Acolyte! Please join us this Sunday for a pizza party and practice session.

We'll feast on pizza, find out what the Bible has to say about light, and then practice lighting and extinguishing the candles. Even if you know how to do it, please come so you can help teach the younger children.

Parents, we'll need you to join us at 1:30 so we can make out a schedule for the coming months.

Please RSVP to Tracy today at [tracy@community-ucc.org](mailto:tracy@community-ucc.org).



## Sunday School in January and February: The Baptism of Jesus

During the months of January and February, we will be exploring the stories of Baptism, of Jesus' baptism and our own. This would be a wonderful time to share any special memories you have of your child's baptism with your child.

We are looking for February teachers. If you would like to help the children build a miniature Palestinian village, or craft beautiful Baptism cards, or create personal Baptism banners, please contact Tracy!

## Community United Youth Group

All Junior and Senior High Youth are invited to join us on Sunday evenings from 6-8 pm in the Tower Room.

Jan. 9: How about a relaxing evening? Bring a snack to share and we'll play some games and plan the upcoming schedule!

Jan. 16 Let's go bowling!

Jan. 23 Mission Trip/General Synod Discussion

Jan. 30 Super Bowl Party/ Sub Sandwich Sales. Would anyone like to host a Super Bowl Party for the Youth?



## Sunday School Wish List

Simple computer games,  
especially for pre-readers

Empty juice boxes

Teachers for the month of  
February!

## January 9 The story of Jesus' Baptism

All classes will join together to hear and tell the story of Jesus' baptism.  
We'll respond to the story by making rainsticks, baptism cards and baptism mobiles.

Eat your way through the Bible  
Mary Anderson

Puppetry  
Jeanne Ward

Moved by the Spirit  
Clare Rahm

The story of Stone Soup helps us to see how we are all tempted, just like Jesus. We'll make our own Stone Soup that we can offer to families at the church.

We'll hear the story of John the Baptist, and then create a puppet show to the song, "Bugs for Lunch." Yumm!

We're playing a giant-sized game of Chutes and Ladders, as we make decisions about the things that tempt us.

1/16: K-2,  
1/23: 3-5,  
1/30: 6-8

1/16: 3-5  
1/23: 6-8  
1/30: K-2

1/16: 6-8  
1/23: K-2  
1/30: 3-5

## February 6 Our Lenten Offering

We'll welcome Ms. Jean Due to our class to learn how Heifer Project is helping the people of Africa.  
We'll learn what we can do to help, and we'll also learn how people from Africa help us every day!

Faith Today

Where in the World

Created by the Spirit

We'll make baptism cards to use when babies, children and adults are baptized at our church.

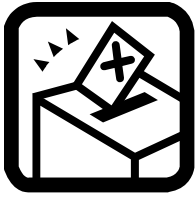
What did the river look like? What did his city look like? After exploring the terrain of Jesus' surroundings, we'll make our own village!

What do you know about your own baptism? Today, we'll create our own Baptism Banners to display in the stairwell!

2/13: K-2,  
2/20 3-5,  
2/27: 6-8

2/13: 3-5  
2/20: 6-8  
2/27: K-2

2/13: 6-8  
2/20: K-2  
2/27: 3-5



## The Election's over, now what?

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### **January 9 – Media Matters**

Bob McChesney, host of WILL's Media Matters and research professor in the Institute of Communications Research and the Graduate School of Information and Library Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will be with us to discuss the role of the media in our society, and especially in light of the current administration's policies.

### **January 16<sup>th</sup> – Gay Marriage**

Kimberlie Kranich is a Champaign resident and co-founder of C-U at the Altar, which began under the 85 Percent Coalition, a direct-action group that bases its name on the claim that 85 percent of the population supports marriage licenses granted to all couples, regardless of biological sex.

"Same-sex couples will eventually be allowed to legally marry, it's just a matter of when. Our job is to educate the public and to get the word out ... if we don't do that work, then we're not going to get that legal right."

### **January 23 – Medicare Reform**

Beatrice Stratton will walk us through the process by which the new Medicare Bill was passed by Congress and signed by George W. Bush. We'll have an opportunity to look closely at this new piece of legislation, and what it will cost us through the years.

### **January 30 – Public Schools**

### **February 6 – Health care**

## Re-Keying of Interior Doors

If you haven't heard, the interior doors of the church were re-keyed on November 22 & 23, 2004. The theft of the churches two newest computers in August prompted this action. When asked by the investigating police officer about who had access to the office from which they were taken, we had to admit that there were many keys out and that we weren't exactly sure who had all of these keys. His reply was to recommend an immediate re-keying.

Our touch pad lock system on the outside doors covers the two doors which are used to enter the building. It does not cover the door at the south entryway, so we did have that door re-keyed that same day, and a very limited number of these keys have been issued.

In discussing the scheme of the re-keying, it was decided that even though many people needed to get into the main office to make copies, to check mail boxes etc., these people didn't nec-



essarily need access to the many other rooms of the building. We therefore chose a plan in which the rooms are grouped by the function which they serve, and were keyed such that only the people involved with that function would have keys to them.

With the issuing of the new keys to people identified as needing access to each area, there has been concern voiced about the limited access given to people who formerly had very broad access. Our decision to go this way was intentional with the thought that all areas of the church would be more secure. As the need arises, showing that access should be loosened up for a certain area, additional keys for these areas will be issued.

If you have any comments on the keying system please send an e-mail or letter to Bob Scaggs. All comments will be considered and acted upon appropriately.

# Community UCC ~ January 2005

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 Fellowship Coffee                      6 pm Sr &amp; Jr High Youth</p>				<p><u>**Thursday Schedule</u>                      9 am Bulletin Deadline                      9:30 am Preschool Play Group                      8 pm AA                      8 pm Alanon</p>		1 Happy New Year!!!
2 *See Schedule Above Blood Pressure Checks after worship in the Library	3 10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Communion Deadline	4	5 Noon Prayer Protest 6 pm Chime Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 **See Schedule Above 7 am Men's Breakfast at Ken Gilbert	7	8 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale 6 pm Twelfth Night Feast
9 *See Schedule Above 3 pm Ecclesiastical Council and Ms. Jennifer Little 7 pm Church Council	10 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm G-CAP Meeting	11	12 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 **See Schedule Above 1 pm Women's Fellowship at Clark-Lindsey Village	14	15 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale
16 *See Schedule Above	17 10 am Staff Meeting	18	19 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 **See Schedule Above	21	22 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale
23 *See Schedule Above 7 pm Church Council	24 10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Communion Deadline 11:30 am UCF Board Mtg	25	26 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	27 **See Schedule Above	28	29 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale
30 *See Schedule Above 1 pm Annual Church Meeting Youth Superbowl Party	31 10 am Staff Meeting					

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of Christ  
A Just Peace,  
Open and Affirming Congregation



805 S. Sixth St.  
Champaign, IL 61820

### **Sunday Schedule**

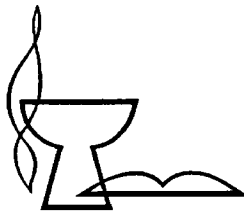
Sunday School ~ 9 am  
Worship ~ 10:15 am  
Coffee Fellowship ~ 11:30 am  
Jr & Sr High Youth Group ~ 6 pm

**Next Communigram**  
will be mailed out  
on January 26.

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.community-ucc.org](http://www.community-ucc.org)

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

## *Community United Church of Christ*



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)  
**Religious Education Director:** Rev. Tracy Heilman.....[tracy@community-ucc.org](mailto:tracy@community-ucc.org)  
**Choir Director:** Robert Smith.....[bobsmith@community-ucc.org](mailto:bobsmith@community-ucc.org)  
**Organist:** Linda Vaughn.....[lindavaughn@community-ucc.org](mailto:lindavaughn@community-ucc.org)  
**Facilities Manager:** Robert Scaggs.....[bobscaggs@community-ucc.org](mailto:bobscaggs@community-ucc.org)  
**Parish Nurse:** Linda Morgan  
**Office Manager:** Cindy Dodd.....[info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org)  
**Nursery Care Providers:** Elizabeth Austermuehle, Catherine Ioseliani

### **UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF**

**Campus Minister:** Rev. Karen Bush.....[Karen@community-ucc.org](mailto:Karen@community-ucc.org)