

COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 3 FEBRUARY 28, 2008

EASTER VIGIL

At Community United Church of Christ

In keeping with a tradition we have been practicing the last three years, we will celebrate the Easter Vigil beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Good Friday, March 21 until Easter Day, Sunday, March 23 at 8:00 a.m. in the Jack Good Library just off the Parlor. Each year more and more people have signed up to keep vigil throughout this time.

Devotional material is provided by Rev. Mulberry in the form of “An Order for Easter Vigil Prayer and Devotion”, books, music, votive candles, and charitable donations to One Great Hour of Sharing. Please feel free to sign up for multiple times or to sign up with a friend or partner who might enrich your experience in deep and thoughtful conversation and devotion.

Sign up sheets will be found on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary. We hope this time of personal devotion and contemplation will enrich your celebration of this important liturgical season.

History of the Easter Vigil

The celebration of *Pascha* (literally meaning “Passover”) was the earliest celebration of Christ’s crucifixion, death, and resurrection. The Easter Vigil is the earliest core of Christian liturgical celebration. In the third century, Christians practiced a strict fast which ended after sundown on Saturday evening before Easter. One of the early controversies in the Christian Church was whether this celebration centered in Saturday (based in Jewish worship celebrations) or Sunday. Though the tradition varied based on geographical location, as we know, Sunday eventually became the dominant tradition. After 313, the Vigil was the time for catechumens to be baptized. As such it also ushered in Christ's resurrection following Paul's association of baptism with Christ's resurrection and rebirth (cf. Romans 6:1-5).

In the earliest years of the Christian Church, the Easter Vigil was the only liturgy of the year in which people joined the Church. The Easter time is all about celebrating Christ's triumph over injustice, sins and death and our sharing in that victory through baptism. At the Easter Vigil, catechumens are baptized and confirmed.

The observance of Easter vigil dates back to the Roman times as the official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the Roman Catholic Churches, the vigil opens with the service of light (a practice introduced during the early Middle Ages); the lighting of the Paschal candle (Light conquers night); a service of lessons which is followed by the blessing of the font and baptisms and then comes the eagerly awaited mass of Easter.

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Having just recently taken on the role of Moderator, I am already struck by the amount of activity that is ongoing throughout the church.

As you know, we are still in the first year of the new polity structure. We are all continuing to learn our roles and how best to take advantage of the diversity of skills, experiences and knowledge that we all possess. The entire Church Life Board seeks your input on how to continue to make the polity work best for our church.

I would like to thank Vicky Robertson for her wonderful job as Moderator this past year. Building

upon her efforts, I am looking forward to assisting the church achieve its aspirations.

If you have comments, issues and/or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. A simple phone call can often work better than email. You can also find me before or after the church services. Look for parent chasing one or more of his four kids!

Thanks in advance for making this another wonderful year at Community United Church of Christ.

Stig Lanesskog

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Many individuals have contributed to the 2008 stewardship drive. The Financial Resources Ministry Team (FRMT) and the Church Life Board would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have pledged since the list was last published on January 9, 2008: Paul and Donna Hanke, Michelle Chappell and Michelle Franke, Paul Eubig, and those who wished to remain anonymous. These pledges will go to support our annual operational budget which includes funds for children and youth activities, salaries for church

staff, Just Peace-Open and Affirming-Progressive Christianity activities, heat and maintenance of our building, and many other CUCC events.

When combined with the pledges already received as well as those pledges that were increased after the annual meeting, we have been able to cover the budget deficit with an overage of approximately \$950. In the coming weeks FRMT will be meeting with other members on the Sound and Ethical Practices to make a recommenda-

tion to the Congregation on how the overage will be allocated.

If you would like to make a pledge to the 2008 operational budget or to any of the allocated or endowed funds, please contact FRMT Co-chairs: Michelle Franke or Vicky Robertson.

Thank you all for your generosity,

Vicky Robertson and Michelle
Franke
Financial Resources Ministry Team
aka Stewardship

UCC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Members of Community United Church of Christ Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at Clark Lindsey Village. Jan Wilson will discuss her experience with Medical

Tourism in Bangkok, Thailand. Frances Kurtz is hostess, and Marianna Janssen will lead the group in devotions.

NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP LEADERSHIP TEAM

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a Worship Survey. We will be presenting the results and our suggestions to the Church Life Board in April.

We are still looking for someone (or multiple people) who is interested in taking on the positions of usher and greeter leader. If you are interested, please contact the church office (344-5091).

We will again be hosting an Easter Vigil from Friday, March 21 at 7PM until Sunday, March 23 at 7AM in the Church Library. The Vigil provides time for quiet meditation and reflection during Holy Week. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

Upcoming events:

March 9: Amistad Sunday - Rev. Linda Jaramillo

March 23: Easter Sunday and Trial of Christ (immediately prior to worship on the steps facing Daniels)

March 30: Rev. Karen Bush Preaching

April 6: Communion during worship (Intinction)

For details on these services see article below.

WORSHIP FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 2, 2008

Fourth Sunday in Easter/One Great Hour of Sharing

The children's choir will return to offer their gift of music for this Sunday. This Sunday is also the traditional Sunday for receiving our special mission offering, One Great Hour of Sharing. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the relief, refugee and development fund of the United Church of Christ. It is one of the Special Mission Offerings received by the United Church of Christ and is a part of Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM).

Scripture for that Sunday: Ephesians 5:8-14

Sunday, March 9, 2009

Fifth Sunday in Easter/Amistad Sunday

Our Just Peace Identity Team welcomes Rev. Linda Jaramillo to the pulpit on this Sunday.

The Rev. Linda Jaramillo is Executive Minister of the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries, responsible for the church's work on human rights and social, racial, and economic justice. Jaramillo has been active in various UCC settings. She is a former president and vice-president of the Council for Hispanic Ministries and former co-convenor of the Council of Racial and Ethnic Ministries. She received a B.S. in Business Administration from Portland (Ore.)

State University and a Master of Divinity degree from UCC-related Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Calif. Fluent in both English and Spanish; she is the first Hispanic to serve as a member of the Collegium of Officers. Linda has two adult children is a member of Archwood United Church of Christ in Cleveland, OH.

Amistad Sunday celebrates the history of social justice work within the United Church of Christ. That history is remembered through the Amistad event. Like many ships sailing the Caribbean 150 years ago, the one ship named *La Amistad* was nothing unusual. It left Havana on June 26, 1839. The ship carried Spanish slave owners and 53 black Africans toward two very different futures—profit for one, slavery for the other. The Africans were chained, forced to lie in filth on a lower deck under a four-foot ceiling, fed rice and water, and disciplined with the whip. Three days out of port, this ordinary ship became the stage for an extraordinary event. Deciding to fight for their freedom, the Africans captured the ship and began to sail home—only to be recaptured and tried for murder and piracy in New Haven, Connecticut. At that time in history, the slave trade was in full swing as cargos of men, women, and children were sent to the Americas for sale. For the next two years, those Africans' quest for freedom became a cause and a commitment that swept throughout

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SUNDAY SCHOOL AT COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our children are really enjoying our Lenten rotation, "Meals of Blessing." As you can tell from the Children's Time, they are learning the stories of the Hebrew people's lives as slaves under the Egyptian Pharaoh. Now, we are challenging the children to see the story not just happening in the past, but to look for it in the future. Where are people today living under another's power? Where are people today being forced to labor with unfair wages? Where are people today being called by God to accompany others as they walk from slavery and oppression to freedom and redemption? Where are people today looking for signs of hope from God? Are we the brothers and sisters called by God?

As we continue to hear and tell and seek out this story, we will also begin to explore how Jesus and his community heard the story, and how they celebrated it. Many thanks to our session leaders for working with the children: Sophie Gerstenecker, Jennifer and Grant Robbennolt, Sarah Isaacs, Deirdre Lanesskog, Kristin Hoganson and Charles Gammie, as well as our Shepherds: Jennifer Kelleher, Jim Carnahan and Colie Huppertz.

If you are interested in being part of our Children's Sunday School program, we are seeking volunteers for our final story Rotation, Pentecost: Wind and Fire, which will begin on March 30 and end on May 11. Please see Tracy if you would be willing to lead a 3 week session (March 30, April 6 and 13, or April 20, 27 and May 4).

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New England and inspired our Congregational forebears. Their dedicated ministry and legacy gave birth to a faith-based liberation movement that informs who we are as a church today.

We will also display photos taken last summer by the General Synod delegation which participated in worship and celebration as the reconstructed *La Amistad* departed New Haven, Connecticut to mark Britain's end of the transatlantic slave trade route.

Scripture for that Sunday: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Sunday, March 16, 2008

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

We welcome Rev. Tracy Heilman to the pulpit on this Sunday.

Our Palm/Passion Sunday will begin outside (down in the Fellowship Hall if inclement weather) with the Trial of Christ at the glass door entrance facing Daniel

Street. Please receive a palm inside the sanctuary and then join us for that reading and processional. After the reading from the Trial of Christ, the palm processional will follow the cross through the parking lot (going north and then east) and around our church building to the entrance with the large wooden doors facing Sixth Street. Then we ask that you follow the cross and the acolytes to the altar and the stairs where you are invited to lay down your palm.

Scripture for that Sunday: Matthew 21:1-11

Sunday, March 23, 2008 Easter Day

Come, you faithful, raise the strain on the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Scripture for that Sunday: Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20.

Sunday, March 30, 2008

Second Sunday in Easter

We welcome Rev. Karen Bush, United Church of Christ Campus Minister, to the pulpit.

World Day of Prayer**Friday, March 7, 2008****9:30 - 11:00 am****Bethel A.M.E. Church****401 E. Park St., Champaign**

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of women and men who come together to observe a common day of prayer on the First Friday in March each year. The theme for the 2008 service, written by women of Guyana, is God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding, to express the awesomeness of God's creation and the understanding that we are called to care for it. Church Women United is coordinating the local observance.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

CROP WALK will be Sunday, April 13, 2008. This year the six mile walk will be in west Champaign, beginning and ending at Sinai Temple. CUCC always has a number of walkers--children, youth, adults, seniors. Sign up sheets for walkers and for sponsors will be available in the parlor after church services as we approach Walk Day. Wilsons will be gone March 26-April 9, so we need help as we prepare for the Walk. CROP was the original fund raising walk, beginning in 1946 when Europe was hungry. CROP raises money for

Church World Service, which helps people in all parts of the world who face hunger, disasters, and development needs. Last year 274 walkers from 20 congregations raised almost \$28,000. Help us top \$30,000 this year.

WALK or SPONSOR walkers. All can participate. New tee shirts, caps, walk sheets, brochures and other materials will be available after Rally Day, Feb. 28.

For more information contact the church.

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**

Got a sweet tooth or know someone who does?

" JUST DESSERTS "**Saturday, April 5 – 6 to 8 pm**

Our UCC Campus Ministry is having a major fundraiser on **Saturday April 5 at St. Peters UCC**. It is called "Just Desserts" and will be a wonderful opportunity for residents in the C-U area to have the chance to sample a wide selection of the premiere desserts of area restaurants and specialty shops for \$10. There will also be an amazing **auktion** at the end of the event whereby attendees get the chance to bid on their favorite dessert of the day unsliced (a whole pie/cake etc). Entertainment provided by U of I students and talent from our area high schools will also be enjoyed. Families will find the event very children friendly with special treats just for little ones included.

Tickets sold in advance and at the door.

All proceeds will go to help fund the UCC Campus Ministry.

For more information contact the church (344-5091).



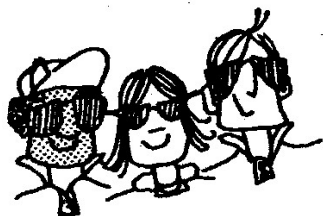


MARCH 2008

Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar

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 & Jr High Youth</p>						<p>1 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>2 *See Schedule Above 11:30 am Blood Pressure Checks</p>		<p>4 Noon Prayer Protest Noon Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5 Noon Prayer Protest Noon Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens **See Schedule Below 2 pm Invitation to the Journey at Clark Lindsey</p>	<p>7 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens **See Schedule Below 2 pm Invitation to the Journey at Clark Lindsey</p>	<p>8 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>9 *See Schedule Above 6 pm Reclaiming the World at Tom Wambach & Ellen Kordik's home</p>	<p>10 5:30 pm GCAP 7 pm Call to Covenant at Jeanne & Tom Ward's home</p>		<p>12 Noon Prayer Protest Noon Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chimers 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm New Sanctuary Movement</p>	<p>13 **See Schedule below 1 pm Women's Fellowship at Clark Lindsey 5:15 Dinner - 6 pm Identity Teams and Ministry Groups meet - 7 pm Chairs of Ministry Groups meet with CLB Co-ordinators - 7:30 pm Church Life Board meeting</p>	<p>14 1 pm Women's Fellowship at Clark Lindsey 5:15 Dinner - 6 pm Identity Teams and Ministry Groups meet - 7 pm Chairs of Ministry Groups meet with CLB Co-ordinators - 7:30 pm Church Life Board meeting</p>	<p>15 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>16 Palm Sunday *See Schedule Above</p>		<p>18 Noon Prayer Protest Noon Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19 Noon Prayer Protest Noon Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 Maundy Thursday **See Schedule Below 10 am Communion Deadline</p>	<p>21 Good Friday 7 pm Easter Vigil begins</p>	<p>22 Holy Saturday All Day and throughout evening Easter Vigil Continues 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
Holy Week						
<p>23 Easter Sunday 8 am Easter Vigil concludes 9 am Easter Breakfast 10:15 am Easter Worship No Coffee Hour No Youth Group</p>		<p>25 Noon Prayer Protest Noon Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chimers 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26 Noon Prayer Protest Noon Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chimers 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 **See Schedule Below</p>	<p>28 **See Schedule Below</p>	<p>29 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>30 *See Schedule Above</p>				<p><u>**Thursday Schedule</u> 8 pm AA</p>	<p><u>CUCC Office Hours</u> Monday-Thursday 9 am-3 pm</p>	

YOUTH GROUP AT COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



All youth in 6th-12th grade are invited to join us on **Sunday evenings from 6-8 pm**. We meet for discussion and activities, food and fellowship, service and sardines. You and your friends are always welcome!

In the coming weeks and months, we will be preparing for our summer trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Currently, we are watching the film, "Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee" so that we can see the historical context for the current situation. We were challenged at the beginning of the movie with the Sioux proverb, "It is easy to be brave from a distance, easy, and usually very safe."

Members and friends of the church are invited to support our trip by attending our Silent Auction and Dinner this April. We will have a dinner to include Indian tacos. You can expect to have the opportunity to bid on a variety of items and services, with all proceeds going towards the costs of our trip. If you have a service that you would like to offer, please contact Tracy Heilman or Paul Offenbecher.

Upcoming meeting plans:

March 2, 6-8 pm: We'll watch and discuss the 2nd half of "Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee." Pizza and beverages, also.

March 9, 6-8 pm: Silent Auction preparation. We'll do a taste test of the meal, make signs, etc.

March 16, 6-8 pm: Household of Faith. What is faith? We'll explore and create.

March 23: Easter Sunday, no youth group

March 30, 6-8 pm: More preparation for the trip. We'll complete skills assessment, among other things.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

All youth (Junior and Senior High) are invited to join Tom Ward in the library on Sunday mornings for a study of "The Last Week". You don't even have to read the book, as we have it available to download to your MP3 player! Come and give the class a try.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Questions about the church or new membership classes? Please call:

- Contact the church office (344-5091) or
- Info@community-ucc.org



BIRTH

Congratulations to Denise & Tony Oligney-Estill regarding the birth of Isabella Grace Oligney-Estill. She



was delivered at 6:34 am on February 8, 2008. Isa-

bella is 19 inches long and weighs 5 pounds and 12 ounces. We wish

them the best with their bundle of joy.

DEATHS

James Rogers Harlan, 90, died Thursday, February 7, 2008, at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie. A memorial service to celebrate Rogers' life was held at Clark-Lindsey Village, on Sunday, February 17.

Word was received that **Doris Reinhart** died January 27. Carol Moorehead, her daughter, called the church office to let CUCC know. The Reinhart's were members in the 70's.

Community United Church of Christ would like to express their condolences to both families.

NEW MEMBERS

Community UCC is pleased to welcome two new members, Jan and Wallace Dobson. Jan and Wallace joined the church during the February 17 worship service. Their sponsors are Grant and Jennifer Robbennolt.

Jan and Wallace come to our community from Missouri (most recently) and California before that. Their son, Noah, is a third grader at Yankee Ridge Elementary School in Urbana. Noah enjoys soccer, basketball, and wrestling.

Jan is involved with finance for Health Alliance Medical Plans. Jan spent much of her childhood in Buckley, Illinois before moving to Centralia for high school and Champaign-Urbana for college. Jan loved the U of I so much she stuck around an extra year after earning her bachelors degree in Accounting to get her Masters in Accounting. She enjoyed this area so much that she dragged Wallace back to CU one year on vacation to satisfy her craving for Papa Del's pizza! Her hobbies include playing the piano, cooking (particularly baking), spending time with Noah, and attending Illini basketball and football games.

Wallace is retired and spends a fair amount of time shepherding Noah to various activities. He spent many years as an insurance auditor for the State of Missouri and also, in retirement, ran a reservation business that made reservations at Bed and Breakfast inns in Sonoma, Napa, and Mendocino counties. Wallace enjoys fishing, board games, and cards.

~ Grant and Jennifer Robbennolt



“MEMOIRS OF A PROTESTER”

February 3, 2008

Becky Duffield

For me, the decision to attend the SOA was based on two things: one I was interested in the relation that the School of the America's had with Labor in Latin American countries, and, secondly I couldn't think of anyone else I would rather go with, than my dear friend Pat Syoen.

I wanted my long-term memories and a few facts I have researched to be what I shared with you today- key memories that will last me a lifetime and hopefully give you insight to how meaningful this experience was to me and as you just heard to Pat as well. I brought home not only feelings of a deeper commitment to social justice, but also a few joyous and funny moments that Pat and I ultimately shared on our travels together. Such as that Saturday morning, we headed down the four-lane highway to the gates of Ft. Benning. We had been cautioned that if you drove too far, you would eventually end up on Ft. Benning property- and possibly be charged with trespassing. So as I intently watched the road and tried to ascertain where I was and where I was going- Pat was having a good conversation over in the passenger seat. It was then, that I realized we were right in the middle of the “God Bless Fort Benning Parade” which we later found out always coincides with the protest weekend. Pat told me “matter of factually” to stay in the lane I was in- I had to tell her that I couldn't- as she did not see one of Columbus' finest was on a motorcycle- riding our bumper motioning me to get over and out of the way of the rest of the parade! We both had a good laugh over that.....

The protest that Pat and I attended was so profound to both of us. We were among a group of over 20,000 of the most peaceful humanitarians you could ever hope to meet. On Saturday, we heard speakers from several countries, who spoke of the violence that the persons trained at Ft. Benning perpetuate upon people in their countries. Every person spoke of family or friends or both that had been killed or “disappeared”. That evening, exhausted, we fell asleep knowing that some would be risking their freedom the next morning- by crossing over onto the grounds of Ft. Benning- a federal offense of trespassing- and they would receive jail time, as this has become the norm with those arrested in recent years. We realized the sacrifice these people would make and felt a deep sadness that night as we went to sleep.

Pat and I drew quite a bit of attention while carrying the Mayan Ministry Banner during the solemn funeral procession on Sunday afternoon. We heard from many persons affiliated with the UCC and Mayan Ministries as well as people we didn't even know how venerated our own Mike Mulberry is because of his dedication to the Peoples of the Latin American Countries. They were all abuzz at the prospect of Community Church possibly becoming a hub for the New Sanctuary Movement. I don't believe I have ever been so proud of Mike or to be affiliated with this church, as I was that day. While we processed to the chanting of names that Sunday morning as we did this morning, not one person shoved, or became unruly- this was in sharp contrast to the continual swooping of helicopters flying perilously close overhead and the heavy police presence. The names were read one by one for hours, our crosses were raised innumerable times- yet our arms never tired. I happened to glance up at one point and see a young man- about Carl and Travis' age- his cross held high and he was biting his lip so hard to prevent the tears that were in his eyes from spilling out. How *could* you hear the names of that many lives extinguished and *not* cry? Many asked me before I went to Georgia, why do you WANT to go? I answered with various reasons- but what I wanted to say was why wouldn't I want to go? Why shouldn't I go? Why shouldn't YOU go too?

What sets Ft. Benning apart from other U.S. military installations, is its training of Latin American soldiers and

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military personnel. Predominantly Latin American instructors conduct all training in Spanish. U.S. Tax dollars train these military personnel insurgency techniques, counter narcotics operations and military intelligence. Nearly 60,000 members of Latin American militaries have attended training at Ft. Benning since its inception in 1946. In her 1976 presentation to the Modern Language Association, the great feminist poet Adrienne Rich said "Whatever is unnamed, undepicted by images, whatever is omitted from biography, censored in collections of letters, whatever is mis-named as something else, made difficult-to-come-by, whatever is buried in the memory by the collapse of meaning- under an inadequate or lying language, this will become not merely unspoken, but unspeakable."

So it is with the School of the Americas, which underwent a name change in 2001 to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. Indubitably the name has changed, but its training tactics have not.

SOA graduates have a long history of violence against trade unionists in Latin American Countries. In 1996 workers at a Coca Cola plant in Carepa Columbia watched as assassins shot down their union leader at the main gate; assassins with links to the School of the Americas. In 2000 assassins murdered 153 of Columbia's trade unionists. In fact, at the height of the violence- three of every five unionists were killed in Columbia. As recently as 2006, 72 trade unionist were killed in Columbia- even though the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation was well in place by then- the name changed- the actions did not, and have not.

Because of Columbia's repugnant labor carnage, and human rights violations- most likely taught right here in the U.S., and also because of severe endangerment to India's environment, the Coca Cola contract at the University of Illinois was cancelled this past August. Sadly however, Columbia's military personnel continue to train at Ft. Benning, and the current 2008 Fiscal year budget shows our government is sending Columbia an estimated 560 million dollars. Our representatives, and future President, must be made aware of the continued atrocities that emanate from this Army Base. We must call it by its rightful name- it is a training camp of death for people living in Latin America. As a union organizer and activist I cannot ignore the fact others have paid for their actions with their lives and lives of their families. One cannot imagine the bravery of those who continue to organize workers in such an environment of terror.

You see, Pat and I are not braver than any of you- nor do we want to make anyone feel guilty. But as people sitting here today, within a Church and denomination with a legacy of Justice that runs deep- Amistad, Abolition, Open and Affirming to name just a few- Pat, Anita, and I, will be bringing more issues of social justice from our Just Peace committee and asking you to take part.

Bishop Desmond Tutu once said, **"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."**

Our hope is that Community United Church of Christ will *not* remain neutral in such things as the SOA and other justice issues, but will support and defend the people who need *more* than our neutrality. Innocent people in Latin America continue to be brutalized at the hands of those trained by our own tax dollars. Our military forces train others to silence them, stop them, kill them. We are their voice now. We are their hope now. We are Presente!

REFLECTIONS ON
THE PROTEST AT THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS
February 3rd, 2008 – Pat Syoen

“You can jail the resisters, but you can’t jail the resistance!” You might call that the battle cry of the School of the Americas Protest and Prayer Vigil.

Becky and I didn’t quite know what to expect when we arrived in Columbus, Sharon Hunter-Smith from the Chicago Religious Leadership Network and Martha Pierce from the Chicago Metropolitan Sanctuary Alliance and the UCC Illinois Conference Mayan Ministry were there to welcome us and show us “the ropes”.

Our first orientation meeting gave us a taste of what was to come. It was at this meeting that I was hit with the enormity of the situation. People from all over the country, various denominations and walks of life had come to protest the School. At one point I noticed a young man sporting a purple and pink Mohawk haircut in deep discussion with a Roman Catholic Nun! It was great! I was excited to see several Sisters of Providence from St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana including Sister Kathy Desautels. I was able to tell her that she and the time she spent in prison was the main reason that I had decided to come to the Protest. We stood and cried together. I saw her several more times during the two days we were there and found out that one of her good friends was Martha Pierce from UCC.

We spent two days hearing the stories from survivors or relatives of families that were assassinated by graduates of the SOA. Adriana Bartow of Chicago was there to place a cross on the fence in front of the school in memory of her children ages 9 & 10 who disappeared in Guatemala in 1985. Mary Lena Bustamante celebrated with music and dancing on Saturday. I watched her and thought that she was really having a joyous time. Later I found out that her brother who was last seen alive at Matamoros military base in Guatemala City in 1982 hasn’t been seen since. We sang out in both English and Spanish our opposition to the torture, massacres, rapes, murders and disappearances that come from the hands of the SOA graduates. We celebrated the life of Compañera Rufina Amaya, the sole survivor of the El Mozote massacre in El Salvador. Nine hundred people died that day. Rufina died this past year after a life time of working for justice. Struggles for life and justice in Oaxaca and Colombia and throughout the Americas continue to face ever more brutal repression at the hands of SOA-trained military and police forces. We sang in celebration of the countries that continue to take their soldiers out of the school. For over two and a half hours we remembered and mourned by name the hundreds of men, women and children who have suffered at the hands of the SOA just as we did here this morning. The impressive part was the number of high school and college students who were in attendance. I know there was a group from the U of I. I just was never able to catch up with them. As Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of the SOA Protest said: the crowd is getting younger and larger every year. We gathered together in a manner that reflects the world we choose to create.

As the time past I began to understand Mike’s passion and empathy for the people of Chiapas, Guatemala and Oaxaca. The suffering and injustice continues in these and other Latin American countries. The Protest and Prayer Vigil will continue each year in this country and I hope that in the future many of us will be a part of it. I would like to close with a short mediation/prayer from Nan Merrill’s Book **Lumen Christi ...Holy Wisdom:**

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Injustice of any kind is **NOT** a human right. Let me say that again: Injustice of any kind is **NOT** a human right.

She goes on to pray:

Beloved of all hearts, You call us
to become agents of reconciliation
in this, broken world;
To live according to our divine birthright:
as witnesses to the power
of light over darkness,
of love over fear,
of awakening over a robot life.
Let us humbly acknowledge our arrogance
as a people and a nation;
let us make reparation through sharing
our resources wherever needed.
Let us embrace self-sacrifice over greed,
and co-operation over competition.
Enliven our hearts, O Merciful Healer
and guide us
as we hasten to repair the world
offering ourselves into Your Hands,
our hearts into Your Heart.
Lumen Christi ... Holy Wisdom ¹
Injustice of any kind is **NOT** a human right.

¹Lumen Christi...Holy Wisdom Journey to Awakening, p 30-31 by Nan C. Merrill

JUST PEACE IDENTITY TEAM SPONSORS A FOOD JUSTICE FILM SERIES

Fight Back With Your Fork Film Series held at Community United Church of Christ. No charge but if you are able please bring a monetary or food donation for the Eastern Illinois Foodbank.

Saturday, March 1, 2-4 pm

Strong Roots, Fragile Farms (2002)

Produced by Farm Aid and the National Council of Churches, Strong Roots puts human faces on the complex problem of globalization as it looks at the struggles of family farmers in Iowa, North Carolina, as well as the Philippines and Mexico.

Saturday, April 12, 2-4 pm

The Future of Good (2002)

Genetically engineered crops have been a part of the landscape for over a decade. This film examines their impacts on the shoppers who buy them unla-

beled in U.S. grocery stores, as well as on farmers from Canada to Mexico, and the alternatives available for both.

Saturday, May 3, 2-4 pm

The Real Dirt on Farmer John (2005)

Moore Family Farm - WILL Prairie Fire (2008)

A moving look at a Caledonia, Illinois, community supported agriculture farmer's history and struggles amidst an ocean of conventional thinking and farming. And, a look at how our own community has come together to support Moore Family Farm through Prairieland CSA.

ALTAR FLOWER 2008 OPEN DATES

It's time to sign up for altar flowers. There's a sign up sheet in the Parlor if you would like to sponsor altar flowers for a particular Sunday in 2008. Open dates: **March** 23, 30; **June** 1, 8, 29; **July** 6; **August** 24; **September** 14, 21; **October** 12, 19, 26, **November** 2, 9, 23; **December** 7, 21, 28. Cost is \$25 per Sunday. A check can be dropped into the offering plate or sent to the church office. Be sure to write "flowers" into the memo section of your check. Thank you.

NEXT COMMUNIGRAM DEADLINE



Deadline for the next Communigram is Thursday, March 20. Thank you.

Easter Flower Order Form



The Easter Season approaches, and the sanctuary will be adorned with Easter Lilies and Spring Flowering Plants 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. Several choices are offered this year. Please mark which flower, size and color you wish to purchase, make a check payable to Community UCC marked "Easter Flowers" 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). Thank you for sharing. **Deadline for orders is Monday, March 10, 2008.** Thank you for sharing.

Lilies 4-7 Bloom White Easter Lilies ____ pots @ \$ 10.00 each

7 1/2" - 2 bulbs/pot 9+ Blooms ____ pots @ \$ 22.00 each

Hyacinths 6" pot (3 bulbs) ()Blue ()Pink ()White ____ pots @ \$10.00 each

Tulips 6" pot (6 bulbs) ()Red ()Pink ()Yellow ____ pots @ \$10.00 each

Daffodils 6" pot (6 bulbs) ____ pots @ \$10.00 each

Daisy Chrysanthemums 6" pot ()White ()Yellow ()Lavender ____ @ \$13.00 each

My total is \$ _____

Given by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

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

CENTER FOR HEALTHY AGING

Here are three good programs you could take advantage of, or share with your friends or neighbors, if appropriate, for their life situation. The programs are offered by the Center for Healthy Aging, sponsored by the Wellspring Health and Wellness Ministry of the First United Methodist Church. Brochures for each of these programs is available on our church bulletin board or from **Ruth Gilbert** (*I happen to know about these programs because I have worked more than three years with the third program of the Center for Healthy Aging -- a Support Group for Caregivers and those with Memory Loss. – Ruth*)

Program 1 - Lunch and Learn

When: Wednesday, February 6 – May 14th from 12:00 noon to 3:15 pm. (3+hrs)

Location: 1st United Methodist Church, 210 W. Church St.

Fee: \$90 for full semester (15 weeks). Spouses may attend at a reduced rate. Lunch is included in this registration.

Time Use :

- 45 minutes - Social lunch (provided)
- 75 minutes - College curriculum based on positive strategies for healthy aging and management of cognitive changes common in aging.
- 60 minutes – Taiji exercises including Qi-gong and relaxation therapies

Participants:

- Older adults who want to learn more about coping with the aging process, including memory loss
- Older adults who want to maintain mental and physical health in a fun learning environment
- Adults diagnosed with early memory loss

Program 2 - Minds in Motion

When: Tuesday, January 15 – May 26th from 10:00 noon to 3:00 pm. (5 hrs)

Location: 1st United Methodist Church, 210 W. Church St.

Fee: \$135 for full semester (20 weeks) or a daily rate of \$12.50

Spouses may attend at a reduced rate. Lunch is included in this registration.

A Range of Activities:

- “brain fitness” activities
- Exercises such as Taiji, dance, strength and endurance training
- Support group participation
- Creative arts such as art, writing and storytelling
- Social activities and community events
- Relaxation therapies
- Education programs

Participants:

- Older adults who want to maintain mental and physical fitness in a fun, safe, and relaxing environment.
- Adults diagnosed with early memory loss
- Family members of persons with early memory loss wanting creative interaction with their loved one as well as positive activities for themselves.

Program 3 - Two Support Groups

Group 1 Persons with memory loss (aging, Alzheimers, Lewy Body’s, vascular, etc.)

Group 2 Family members of those with memory loss

When: Tuesday, January 15 – May 26th from 3:00 – 4:30 (1.5 hrs)

Location: 1st United Methodist Church, 210 W. Church St.

Fee: No fee but voluntary contribution invited to sustain the program.

Time Use:

- 15 min - Both groups meet together for snacks, conversation and announcements
- 75 min - Groups meet separately for focused conversation and mutual support

Please contact First United Methodist Church, (217) 356-9078, and ask for the Wellness Program or call the director, Sandy Burgener, Ph.D., (217) 898-4251, to register or ask any questions regarding these programs.



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

Faith Community Nurses: Linda Morgan, Jennifer Kelleher, Faith Roberts

Community Life Calendar Keeper:

Jennifer Kelleher

jlk208@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 jlk208@gmail.com.

Has your address changed?



Keep us posted!

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Label

The next Communigram will be mailed out on March 26.

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.

11:15 am Children dismissed for children's choir

11:30 am Coffee Hour

6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group



Polity Meeting Thursday, February 28

5:15 pm Dinner

6:00 pm Identity Teams and Ministry Groups meet

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

7:30 pm Church Life Board meeting (CR);