

# COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 8      JUNE 30, 2008

## MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

I remain amazed by all of your efforts to continue to make CUCC a wonderful place. During this time of transition, so many of you have contributed in significant ways. Thank you.

Shortly, we should have an interim minister. This will be an exciting time and provide a great opportunity for us to move forward.

On a personal note, I am very much looking forward to joining the youth trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and sharing that experience with you.

I hope all of you are enjoying your summer.

Take care,

*Stig Lanesskog*

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## IMPORTANT OFFICE INFORMATION

### COMMUNIGRAM DATES

Deadline for the next Communigram is **Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**. The newsletter will be mailed out on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

### OUT OF OFFICE

I will be out of the office between August 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Please direct any urgent phone calls to Rev. Karen Bush or Stig Lanesskog. Otherwise, your calls will be returned on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank You!

### CLEANING HOUSE

I have a variety of interesting objects that need to depart from the office. Some of these objects include: Random CD's (including the Death of Ivan Ilyich and others), several t-

shirts, a ball of yarn, books (The Fortunate Ones by Jack Good, a Promise to Remember by Kathryn Cushman), random trays, a tray of batteries, and stacks of paper that just don't belong here, etc.. I will keep these things in the office, next to and on top of the mail boxes, until August 17<sup>th</sup>. After that they will be sold at the church garage sale.

If you feel the need to leave something in the office, ***please, clearly label what it is, what or who it is for, and contact information in-case it does not leave***, even if you think this information is obvious. Any unlabelled, random objects will be thrown out or given away.

Thanks so much for your cooperation!

*The Office Manager*

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Memorial service for Sally Paxton will be held at CUCC on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm, and will be followed by a reception in the church parlor. Sally passed away peacefully at home in Lake San Marcos, California on July 7th. Her joy in life, her passion for the environment, and her compassion for others will be missed by all of us, here at church and in the wider world community.

If you wish to help with, or contribute to the reception, please call Jean Creswell (359-1877). There will also be a sign up sheet in the parlor for the next few Sundays, following Sunday service.

It was Sally's wish, if you wish to make a memorial contribution, that you consider Interfaith Coastal, in lieu of flowers. There address is:

**Interfaith Coastal**  
2195 Oceanside Blvd.  
Oceanside, CA 92054

*A favorite phrase of Sally's: "There is always music amongst the trees in the garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it."*

## PASTORAL CARE AT CUCC

Rev. Karen Bush and her family will be out of town from July 26th - August 10th. Rev. Keith Harris, Campus Minister at McKinley Presbyterian Church, has graciously agreed, again, to provide CUCC with emergency pastoral care through those dates. This will last until Karen returns or our interim pastor is in place, whichever comes first.

### Contact information for Rev. Harris is as follows:

- 217-344-0297 - McKinley Church, during regular daytime office hours
- k-harris@mckinley-church.org - Email

## BREATHING SPACE AT CUCC

**Thursdays**

**7:00 pm in the Parlor**

*Come sit in Community.*

*Meditation is a practice.*

*There is no one way.*

*But* in the midst, maybe your breath will come more easily and your jaw will relax and you will find yourself in your body, in the rich moment that is every moment of your life. No homework, no preparation, no commitment required. Come get some breathing space. We will begin with a short poem or meditative guide to center ourselves, followed by a period of quiet meditation. We will close with a candle prayer and chime.

**Karen Bush & Eileen Gebbie**

Please come a few minutes early so we may begin together, promptly at 7:00 pm.

*Enough.*

*These few words are enough.*

*If not these words, this breath.*

*If not this breath, this sitting here.*

*This opening to the life*

*We have refused*

*Again and again*

*Until now.*

*Until now.*

*~ David Whyte*

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, Eileen Gebbie gave a wonderful sermon based on the parable of the Sower and the Seed (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23). As someone who finds great joy and solace in the world of plants I like this parable very much and unlike some other parables, in this one I find clear meaning. This time though I listened to the story with church stewardship in mind and two things struck me: the first is that many seeds not just one or two fell on the good soil and flourished, and the second is that while not all the seeds produced the same amount, the harvest was one of great abundance. This is a story about community and not individuals. The Sower is not picking and choosing where the seeds fall. The Sower is throwing them everywhere and whether or not the seeds flourish depends on the soil.

As individuals we are all on our own journeys through life and are all in different places within that journey. We all have the individual responsibility to care for our relationship with God, to prepare the soil for the seed, but as members of a community of faith we have a larger responsibility as well. We must also prepare the soil for one another.

Not all of us are able to give the same amount in either our time or our treasure. There are those of us who are able to dedicate many hours a month to the life of our Congregation and those who are grateful to be able to attend worship and pass the peace with their neighbors. There are those among us who are able to tithe their wealth to the church and those who are not. Not all the seeds yield the same amount, but every seed contributes to the whole. Every contribution has value and in the end the harvest is abundant.

For the FRDT/Stewardship Committee, the first goal is to build community among the membership of CUCC, to nurture a sense of belonging and connection, to help prepare the soil for the seeds. In the coming weeks, you will be asked to think about where you are on your spiritual journey and what role CUCC plays in that journey. How does your journey connect you to the rest of our community and help build that community? How can you help prepare and nourish the soil for yourself and others? In what ways can you contribute to an abundant harvest?

*Vicky Robertson*

[victoriarobertson1@comcast.net](mailto:victoriarobertson1@comcast.net)

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." Peter 4:10*

God is the Sower and the Word of God is the seed and whether or not the seed flourishes depends on the soil where it lands; the soil we prepare for it.

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## ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2008

We have five more Sundays open for sponsorship of Altar Flowers. There's a sheet in the Parlor for signing up. Pick the Sunday that you wish to sponsor in 2008. Open dates: **August 24; November 2, 23; December 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.*

# ALL CHURCH PICNIC

**Sunday, August 17th!**

Let's all plan to get together after our August 17th church service at Hessel Park. Please bring your own lunch and drink and stay to enjoy fellowship and eat lunch with your CUCC family. We'll have the Pavilion that Sunday until noon.

## ADOPT A SUNDAY!

During the month of August, the Choir is on Vacation but, we will still be having special music. If you would like to "adopt a Sunday" to provide special music during August, please call the Music Director, Bob Smith. Also,

if you play an instrument and would like to volunteer to play during the summer or later in the year, please let Bob know.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In the next few weeks the Church Life Board will be forming a nominating committee to identify members and friends of the congregation to fill the 2009 CLB and Polity positions. The nominations will then be approved by the entire membership at the January 2009 Annual Meeting. If you have questions about the work of this committee or are interested in serving on it, please con-

tact Stig Lanesskog (Moderator) or Vicky Robertson (Past-moderator).

Stig Lanesskog  
[slanessk@uiuc.edu](mailto:slanessk@uiuc.edu)

Vicky Robertson  
[victoriarobertson1@comcast.net](mailto:victoriarobertson1@comcast.net)

## THANK YOU

*Dear CUCC,*

Thank you for your many prayers and good thoughts for our Erin! Thanks, also, for all the goodies and the support for Julia!

*The Karas, Dave, Laura and Julia, and Barbara Decker*

## 2008 CROP RESULTS

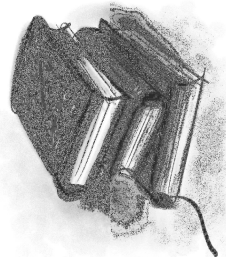
Our CROP WALK on April 13 was a great success. Last year our goal was \$30,000 and we did not quite make that. In 2008, with the help of on line contributors, we surpassed our goal and final amount was \$32,395.64. That involved over 20 local churches. The walk started and ended at Sinai Temple. They were excellent hosts.

CUCC had 6 walkers and we raised \$1563. We can do better next year!! We had several who did raise money on internet and I hope more will use that method next year (walk is May 3 so should be warmer). One can reach friends and relatives from distant places. Our local CROP walk has a website on which you can contribute. Church World Service, where most of the money goes, has been responding to disasters in many countries for many years, with the help of local partners. This past year has seen more disasters than usual so our money is being used.

Church World Service has a website, [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org), where you can view some of their work.

Anyone wanting to help with 2009 walk is welcome. Please let us know, we are looking for some younger people for the planning committee. 25% of the money we raise stays in local community, so this year we gave checks for \$2700 to TIMES center, Catholic worker House, and Eastern Illinois Food Bank.

**Questions??** Call Jan or Curt Wilson at 367-5783.



# AUGUST 2008

## Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar

A child comes home from his first day at school. Mother asks, "What did you learn today?"

The kid replies, "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>CUCC Office Hours</b> Monday-Thursday 9 am-3 pm Arrows Indicate period not in office</p> </div>				1	2
<p>3 *Sunday Schedule 8:45 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Nursery 10:30 am Coffee Hour 6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group Free Blood Pressure Checks</p>	4	5	6 Noon Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chime Choir 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 7 pm Breathing Space 8 pm AA	8	9
10 *See Schedule Above	11	12	13 Noon Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 1 pm Women's Fellowship 6 pm Identity Teams and Ministry Groups meet ~ 7 pm Chairs of Ministry Groups meet with CLB Co-coordinators ~ 7:30 pm Church Life Board meeting 8 pm AA	15	16
17 9:30 am Service at Hessel Park - Church Picnic following service	18	19	20 Noon Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chime Choir 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 Noon Communion Deadline 7 pm Breathing Space 8 pm AA	22	23 Parking Lot Sale!
24 *See Schedule Above 2 pm Memorial Service for Sally Paxton	25	26	27 Noon Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30
31 *See Schedule Above						

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posted!

Label

The next Communigram will be mailed out on August 27<sup>th</sup>

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

### **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

8:45 am Choir Rehearsal  
9:30 am Worship  
9:30 am Nursery  
10:30 am Coffee Hour  
6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group

**August 17th:** Outdoor service which is the last **Summer Service** which begins at 9:30 am at Hessel Park



### **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](mailto:jlk208@gmail.com).

### **Church Staff**

**Choir Director:** Robert Smith  
[smithrob@champaignschools.org](mailto:smithrob@champaignschools.org)

**Organist:** Linda Vaughn  
[lindavaughn@community-ucc.org](mailto:lindavaughn@community-ucc.org)

**Office Manager:** Katie Eden  
[info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org)

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

**Community Life Calendar Keeper:**

Jennifer Kelleher  
[jlk208@gmail.com](mailto:jlk208@gmail.com)

**Child Care Providers:** Laura Czopek, Elena Houseal, Julia Kara, Jessica Bush

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