

CUCC

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Highlight

Increasing Our Love for God & Neighbor

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

St. Charles (Campton Hills) • cuccstc.org November 6, 2014 • Issue 12



Your Pastoral Search Committee

For only the second time in more than forty years, our church is in the process of searching for a Senior Pastor. Two weeks ago, the Church Council identified the following people as members of the Pastoral Search Committee:

Joy Barker
Dave Beckman
Kelly Gagne
Bob Graham
Ted Hardison

Allison Kurtz
Mike Linder
Meredith Reber (GF member)
Jan Roman

Nancy Scorby
Steve Sidor
John Speck
Chelsey Trembley

(As Council Presidents, John Speck and Nancy Scorby will serve as ex-officio members.)

I was honored to be asked to chair this committee.

Our committee will be guided by the established protocols of the Illinois Conference of The United Church of Christ and the [“Shared Ministry Plan”](#) (approved by our membership) for the selection process of our Senior Pastor. Our capable and motivated committee has begun our time consuming effort by meeting with Rev. Jonathan Knight, our Association Minister, on Monday, November 3rd. Soon, we will seek input from you, the members of our church, as to your priorities and questions. We ask for your patience and prayerful support. We will keep you informed, mindful of the confidential requirements of this responsibility.

Respectfully,
Bob
Robert Graham - Chairperson



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

5pm Family Service

8 & 10pm Candlelight Worship Services
with Lessons and Carols

Nursery at 5 & 8pm

Sunday, Dec. 28, One service at 9:30am

NO Sunday School, No nursery



**Pray for each other so
that you may be healed....**

James 5:16 (NIV)



Please Pray for

Richard Begalka

Janet Zohorsky & Marc DeSilva

Marla Hecht

Katelyn Keck

Ron Koeppel

Judy Legat

Jim Lorenz

Dee Zimmerman

I would to thank everyone from church for the cards, phone calls, visits and for food brought to my home, as well as the help at visitation following the death of my son David. It was greatly appreciated by me and my family.

Barbara Fairbairn

**Men's Fellowship Walking Group
3rd Saturday of each month, 7am
Contact George Mohn for information
and location. 847-488-9179,
sangeomohn@att.net**

Intentional Travel
"Treasures of Northern Italy"
Sign Up Now - Group Gathering Soon

Brochures are now available for the September 2015 Intentional Travel experience to northern Italy. The dates are September 20 - October 3 and will include Milan, Verona, Venice, Lake Maggiore and the Cinque Terre area. Pick up a brochure in the church office or on the Intentional Travel bulletin board. Speak with John or Susan Rodgers if you have questions.



Volunteers are needed each Saturday at 8:30am.
#13, 1620 S. 13th Ave, St. Charles.

BOOKS FOR SALE

We have 3 new copies of the book *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening* by Diana Butler Bass available for sale in the office for \$10 each.

This book is about the movement that is remaking the faith. Diana Butler Bass offers a fresh interpretation of the "spiritual but not religious" trend and shares a hope-filled vision for a renewed faith that stays true to the real message of Jesus.

Brunch Bunch



The Brunch Bunch will meet on Sunday, November 16th after church at Mother's Pancake House & Restaurant in St. Charles (3755 East Main St.)

The Brunch Bunch is for singles, age 50 and over. Please let me know if you can come – I need to make a "firm" reservation. Email: chatwpat@att.net or phone 630.584.1205. Thanks! -Pat Kitner



Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Wow – thanks for all the pop tabs, and keep them coming! They help provide a "home away from home" for many families – or will, as soon as the new Ronald McDonald House in Winfield is completed. You can bring them to me on Sunday morning, leave them in the church office during the week, or drop them in the little green bag on the hutch just outside the church office. Remember, the collection goes on "to infinity & beyond".....it's never too late to donate, and no amount is too small. Many, many thanks!

-Pat Kitner



Food on the 4th NOVEMBER 23 – Pasta

The theme is pasta. Please bring ramen noodles, macaroni & cheese, dried pasta, rice, spaghetti sauce for the St. Charles Salvation Army Food Pantry and the Elburn Food Pantry.



Patti Molloy, RN
Parish Nurse
nurse@uccstc.org

“Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for.”
~Zig Ziglar

So here we are. It’s November with Thanksgiving right around the corner. This is the month where we are supposed to focus on gratitude. What would happen if we extended the tradition of giving thanks throughout the entire year? Researchers say such gratitude may be rewarded with better health.

Grateful people---those who perceive gratitude as a permanent trait rather than a temporary state of mind--have an edge on the not-so-grateful when it comes to health. In what ways, you ask?

Grateful people tend to be more optimistic, a characteristic that has been shown to boost the functioning of the immune system. As many of you know, I order the Care Notes that are on the hutch outside the office. They range in topics from cancer, to aging, to death and grief. The ones I find that are taken most frequently deal with the topic of stress. It is a real problem with real health risks. Feelings of thankfulness have been shown to have a tremendous positive value in helping

MEAL MINISTRY



If you could provide an occasional meal for a church member, please contact Patti Molloy at nurse@uccstc.org or Mary Lou Bracken at marylou1206@att.net or sign up on the Parish Nurse bulletin board.

people cope with daily problems, especially stress. By taking time out to appreciate the good things in life you may feel less stressed, which means you may also be less at risk for high blood pressure, heart attack and stroke.

Here are some tips to grow your feelings of gratitude.

~Maintain a gratitude journal. I know I have said this before but read on. There is some pretty impressive research that shows that people who keep gratitude journals on a weekly basis, exercise more regularly, feel better about their lives as a whole, and maintain greater optimism about the future. Intentionally expressing gratitude in a journal form has also been shown to decrease depressive symptoms by more than 30%, increase sleep quality by 25% as well as other measurable health benefits.

~Talk to yourself in a creative, optimistic, and appreciative manner. This could entail simply reflecting on things for which you’re grateful for, if you’re facing a challenging situation, seeing what it can ultimately teach you. I read a quote recently that says, “Whoever is happy will make others happy, too.” Simplistic? Maybe but that’s OK because it was uttered by a child-- a child that knew the definition of a challenging situation and chose to make the best of it. This is a quote by Anne Frank.

Simply stated: gratitude can make you more optimistic, less materialistic, more spiritual, less self-centered, and give you more self-esteem.

Not convinced that becoming intentional about expressing gratitude can improve your overall health and well-being? Try it out for yourself! I double dog dare you!!



AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR
located near office door. Look for overhead AED sign.
Phone is on the adjacent wall.
To call for help, press an outside line and dial 911.



With an open heart and an open mind, The Night Ministry provides housing, health care and human connection to members of the Chicago community who are struggling with poverty or homelessness.

On Thursday evening, October 16, eight people from our church went into Chicago to help distribute food and clothing to the people of the Humboldt Park and Pilsen neighborhoods through the Night Ministry Program. In addition to 75 cups of soup and 95 sandwiches, members of our congregation also provided 65 tee shirts and 150 sweatshirts. Everything we brought with us in the van was easily and quickly distributed and very much appreciated.

Ann Richards does a great job organizing all the various parts of our Night Ministry Program and making the trip to Chicago so interesting and a “feel good” experience.

If you would like to work with other members of our congregation in a very rewarding and yet fun activity, consider signing up for the Night Ministry Program next year. Future dates include January 27th, April 21st and July 14th.

Joanne Diorio

Manna News

Manna is a gift card program our church participates in. You may purchase a variety of gift cards for your personal use or as gifts for others. A percentage of total sales goes to our Mission Committee. These funds are used for non-budgeted mission related items, such as support for our adult and youth work trips.



Manna sales take place each Sunday in Fellowship Hall after the 9:30am service. Some gift cards are available from our own stock, some will be ordered and will be ready for pick up by the following Sunday. You may pick up an order form on the bookcase just outside the church office anytime or at the Manna table on Sundays.

Your Manna team is looking for a volunteer willing to take orders once a month. This would require being available at the Manna table one Sunday a month, placing the order online the same day, making the deposit at the bank also the same day, and sorting the gift cards when they arrive at church on a Wednesday or Thursday. If you can help, please contact Carol Ludemann at 630-377-2564.

Thanks for your support.
The Manna Team

Thank You for Supporting Manna with Meaning

Thank you to everyone for purchasing Manna gift cards on October 19 and 26. The profit was \$356.00. Our Adult Work Tour participants leave this Saturday and will be able to give this check to Back Bay Mission for their Housing Rehabilitation Program! Many thanks for supporting this project.

The Mission Committee

Marklund Christmas Blanket Project

A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to make a blanket or contribute to the cost of a blanket. The fabric has now been completely distributed. For those of you who are making a blanket, please have it completed and returned to church by November 15th. We will be blessing the blankets during the 9:30 service on November 16th.

Even though the fabric is gone we can all participate in this project by keeping the residents of Marklund in your prayers.

Questions or comments: please call Grace Caldwell at 630-762-1347 or 630-886-3482 (cell), or email gracecaldwell@comcast.net.



Can You Help Us Serve Lazarus House?

During the past year, individuals or couples or church groups have coordinated our monthly dinner donation to our friends at Lazarus House, the local shelter for those needing assistance with housing. The Mission Committee needs one more coordinator for this year, for the month of December. The coordinator decides a meal plan, i.e. meatloaf dinner, taco dinner, etc. and creates a sign up sheet. Then our church members are invited to sign up to make and deliver one of the dishes in the plan. The coordinator can use the Highlight, e-blast, and/or Sunday morning announcements to publicize the date. The Guidelines for coordinating the meal are written in detail and posted on the Mission Bulletin Board. Our date for December is Wednesday, the 17th. Would you be interested in coordinating? I would be happy to answer questions and give assistance. Thank you!

Susan Rodgers for the Mission Committee



Please pray
for them
on their
birthdays.

Kathy Hardison	1	Kristine Stoner	15
Madison Jurcenko	1	Dee Zimmerman	15
Linda Mandat	1	Marsha Campbell	16
Charlie Bell	2	Dylan Caprini	16
Emily Miller	2	Ethan Churchill	16
Don Beck	3	Gayle Degnan	16
Norma DeMaar	4	Brian Geni	16
Mallory Hecht	4	Cindy Kathe	16
Morgan Skowronski	4	Bill Ludemann	16
Hanna Williams	4	Garrett Andersen	17
Shirley Green	5	Barbara Fairbairn	17
Ed Kurtz	5	Lauren Klopmeier	17
Emma Schopen	5	Nancy Nelsen	18
Judith Burgholzer	6	Kim Oeltgen	18
Kathryn Kiesel	6	Mandy Kanter	19
William Kress	6	Tracey Harding	20
Hanne Livermore	6	Ronald Hilliard	20
Robert Melton	6	Chase Krukenberg	20
Fred Norris	6	Joanna Brylka	21
Brenda Zielezinski	6	Emma Drommerhausen	21
Russ Zielezinski	6	Nate Shank	21
Tony Milhousen	7	Molly Barber	22
Cullen Morton	7	Dominic Bondi	22
Carol Robbins	7	Loren Nagy	22
Carter Kurinsky	8	Teri DeBates	23
Morgan Mroz	8	Tom Skowronski	23
Dave Schave	8	Kaylee Wessel	23
Lily Chapman	10	Damon Lilke	24
Kristy Gibson	10	Katie Roots	24
Ella Bradley	11	Steven Vining	24
Edy Findlay	11	Richard Caldwell	25
Tessa Giamberdino	11	Walt Murtaugh	25
Rob Beal	12	Dudley Pankoke	25
Jeanne Humke	12	Catrin Reyes	25
Morgan Rerko	12	Jordan Burke	26
Heather Wainwright	12	Jordan Lutz	26
Amy Wisdom	12	Marianne Shank	27
Alex Diorio	13	Nicole Burke	29
Ken Fry	13	Henry Juszczyk	29
Anne Bishop	14	Abby Landgraf	29
Donna Burg	14	Jim Breunlin	30
Emmalie Gibson	14	Dennis Kleckner	30
Nick Hoepfner	14	Charlie J. Peterson	30
Max Schif	14	Scott Urban	30
Rich Stewart	14	Richard Westman	30



Novel Approaches 2014-2015

November 7 – “*Edge of Dark Water*” by Joe Lansdale.
Location – Kathy & Jim Mizgalski.

Edgar winner Lansdale channels Mark Twain in this chillingly atmospheric novel set in Depression era East Texas. “Mark Twain meets classic Stephen King.” “Nonstop adventures that edify, terrify and deepen the bond between Sue Ellen and Jinx.”

January 23 – “*Benediction*” by Kent Hauf.
Location – Susan & John Rodgers.

From the beloved and best-selling author of *Plainsong* and *Eventide* comes a story of life and death, and the ties that bind, once again set out on the High Plains in Holt, Colorado.

When Dad Lewis is diagnosed with terminal cancer, he and his wife, Mary, must work together to make his final days as comfortable as possible. Their daughter, Lorraine, hastens back from Denver to help look after him; her devotion softens the bitter absence of their estranged son, Frank, but this cannot be willed away and remains a palpable presence for all three of them. Meanwhile, the town’s newly arrived preacher attempts to mend his strained relationships with his wife and teenaged son, a task that proves all the more challenging when he faces the disdain of his congregation after offering more than they are accustomed to getting on a Sunday morning. And throughout, an elderly widow and her middle-aged daughter do everything they can to ease the pain of their friends and neighbors.

Despite the travails that each of these families faces, together they form bonds strong enough to carry them through the most difficult of times. Bracing, sad and deeply illuminating, *Benediction* captures the fullness of life by representing every stage of it as well as the hopes and dreams that sustain us along the way. Here Kent Haruf gives us his most indelible portrait yet of this small town and reveals, with grace and insight, the compassion, the suffering and, above all, the humanity of its inhabitants.

March 6 – “*Crossing to Safety*” by Wallace Stegner.
Location – Anne & Bob Graham.

Called a “magnificently crafted story . . . brimming with wisdom” by Howard Frank Mosher in *The Washington Post Book World*, *Crossing to Safety* has, since its publication in 1987, established itself as one of the greatest and most cherished American novels of the twentieth century. Tracing the lives, loves, and aspirations of two couples who move between Vermont and Wisconsin, it is a work of quiet majesty, deep compassion, and powerful insight into the alchemy of friendship and marriage.

May 15 – “*Pearl*” by Mary Gordon.
Location – Marilyn & Dave Schave.

On Christmas night of 1998, Maria Meyers learns that her twenty-year-old daughter, Pearl, has chained herself outside the American embassy in Dublin, where she intends to starve herself to death. Although Maria was once a student radical and still proudly lives by her beliefs, gentle, book-loving Pearl has never been interested in politics—nor in the Catholicism her mother rejected years before. What, then, is driving her to martyr herself?

Shaken by this mystery, Maria and her childhood friend (and Pearl’s surrogate father), Joseph Kasperman, both rush to Pearl’s side. As Mary Gordon tells the story of the bonds among them, she takes us deep into the labyrinths of maternal love, religious faith, and Ireland’s tragic history. *Pearl* is a grand and emotionally daring novel of ideas, told with the tension of a thriller.



Mystery Mixer

December 6th

6:00 PM



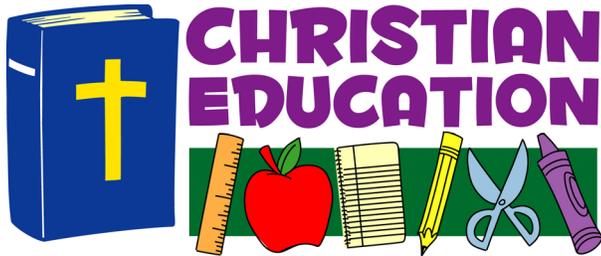
Want to get to know members of the Congregation over appetizers and cocktails? Three members of the congregation have volunteered to host, but mums the word! A week before the party, you will receive a letter in the mail stating the address of the party you will be attending and directing you to either bring an appetizer or a dessert! Please sign-up on the Congregational Life Bulletin Board. If you have any questions, please email Kim Barth at connections@cuccstc.org

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• **Highlight Newsletter Copy Deadline** •
• **Monday, November 17, BEFORE NOON** •
• • • • •

Get Your Taste On!



This Sunday, November 9, in Fellowship Hall, immediately following the conclusion of the worship service, you’re in for a treat! It’s the 7th Annual “Taste of the Congo”. We have lots of cooks & bakers lined up to dazzle your taste buds. You simply buy tickets from Joy Barker or Jane Harland, only 50 cents each. Each ticket buys you a “taste of deliciousness.” There are always items you wish you had the recipe for, aren’t they? Do not dismay! There will be cookbooks for sale, with all the recipes tucked inside. See you Sunday! And don’t plan to “go out for brunch afterwards.” Trust us, you’ll be stuffed by the time you leave, and that belt can only loosen so much! Questions? Email Joy at jbarker@ballhort.com



Tassie Brautigam
Christian Education Coordinator
 christianed@cuccstc.org



SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT: To date we have \$550 toward our goal of \$600 to purchase 5 pigs from Heifer International. A couple of weeks ago, in my box in the office I found a red bandana with a knot tied in it. When it was opened up, inside was found a crisp \$100 bill and a \$1 coin. The card attached said "In honor of Pat Kitner!" Thanks to this anonymous donor to help us reach this goal and give 5 families in need, somewhere in the world, a chance at a better life. So what will a pig do to help a family? More than one would think. First, pigs need little space and can thrive on crop and garden byproducts. Up to 16 piglets can be produced each year. This means that the owner can sell the piglets and use the money for education for their children, buy food, clothing, and medicine. And the new owner of a piglet will get the same benefit. They also produce fertilizer for the family's crops. Think of it as a pyramid with it starting with just one pig at the bottom and then having 16 piglets and each of those piglets having 16 piglets. The effect is enormous!! Our offering will continue to go to this mission project through December 21st. The kids are looking forward to purchasing 5 pigs!!! Maybe more!

HELPING HANDS: Reminder - all 4th & 5th graders are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall from 5 - 6 PM on November 19th to stuff stockings for the Night Ministry.

Followers Of God Puppet Troupe to begin!

We are excited about our new puppet troupe season, and invite all 5th graders and older to join us. Rehearsals are on Monday nights from 5-7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Call, email or text Jeanne at: 630-229-3494 or humkegrp@aolcom

Followers Of God



Looking forward to seeing all of you! -Jeanne Humke

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTREACH: During the Sunday school time on November 23rd & 30th, all the kids in Sunday school will be making cards to give out to the residents of The Holmstad and GreenFields of Geneva, both facilities for seniors.

PSALM READERS - Sign ups for Psalm reading during the worship service are now posted on the bulletin board in the Sunday school hallway. This is open to all children through 7th grade who can read. New at this? We can do a "practice" time at the pulpit to get a feel for what it feels like.

ACOLYTES - Sign ups for acolytes are also posted on the bulletin board in the Sunday school hallway. This entails arriving at 9:20 to meet with the head ushers located just outside the center aisle of the sanctuary. The ushers will let you know when to walk down the aisle to light the candles on the altar. This is also open to all children through 7th grade.

COMMUNION SUNDAYS: On the first Sunday of each month the 3rd through 5th graders will be brought up to participate in communion and stay through the remainder of the service. They may either sit with their parents or with Tassie Brautigam.



SAVE THE DATES: All Church Advent Faire - Fellowship Hall - Sunday, December 7 in Fellowship Hall from 4PM - 6:30PM

On Sunday December 14th, for the second year in a row, we will be caroling for the residents at The Holmstad and, new this year, for the residents of GreenFields of Geneva. Sign ups will be on the CE board. But best of all, CE will be providing a hot cocoa bar with all the fixins in Fellowship Hall before we leave. Caroling will begin at 11:30.

CHRISTMAS HAPPENING
2014

YOU'RE SOMETHING WORTH MELTING FOR!

(Formerly the Advent Faire)
All are invited for games, crafts, dinner, and a puppet show
Sunday, December 7
4 PM - 6:30 PM
Fellowship Hall
Please sign up in the Sunday School hallway or on the CE board





Stuffing Stockers for Night Ministry

The Night Ministry is a non-profit organization which “offers housing and healthcare to members of the Chicago community struggling with poverty or homelessness.” We are collecting stocking stuffers for Christmas Stockings that the Night Ministry will distribute. The following is the list that they are requesting:

- Toothbrush/toothpaste (small size)
- Pair of adult thermal socks
- Small first aid kit (99 cent size)
- Small pack of tissue
- Full size deodorant
- Lip balm
- Hand cream
- Hand warmers
- Pair of magic gloves (these are the knit “one size fits all” gloves)
- Small memo pad/pens
- Assorted candy, chocolates, breath mints & gum
- Deck of cards

Hints: The thermal socks can be really warm winter socks. Most, if not all, of the items can be found at Target.

Please create a kit which includes one of each item on the list. Package these in a Zip Lock Bag and return them to the collection box in the hallway near the Mission Bulletin Board by Sunday, November 16. Our Helping Hands Youth Group will be putting the items into the Christmas Stockings that Gale Mack has made for this project. (Thank you Gale!) If you can't fill a whole kit, no problem. Please bring the bag with what you have. Thank you very much for supporting this Christmas project for the Night Ministry!

The Mission Committee

Women's Fellowship Annual Pie Sale



Women's Fellowship annual pie sale will be held Nov. 23 after the 9:30 church service in Fellowship Hall. Homemade pies of all kinds will be for sale for \$10.00. Bakers are needed. The sign up poster is in the entry hall. Martha says, “A pie sale is a good thing”. All proceeds will go to mission projects. Thanks for your support!



NEW BOOKS IN THE ADULT LIBRARY

The Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama. The author writes this book after conversations with voters as he campaigned for his first term in the U.S. Senate and sworn in as senator from Illinois in January 2005. Senator Obama explores how we can move beyond our divisions to tackle concrete problems and examine the growing economic insecurity of American families, racial and religious tensions and transnational threats. Reading this book almost nine years later, consider what has happened in the author's life, the lives of all U.S. citizens and the world surrounding us.

The National Parks. An Illustrated History by Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns. “Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike. This natural beauty-hunger is made manifest . . . in our magnificent National Parks.” John Muir

The Novel by James A. Michener. “The author was forty before he decided on writing as a career. Prior to that, he had been an outstanding academic, an editor, and a U.S. Navy lieutenant commander in the Pacific during World War II. This book rich in character, detail, and suspense, will delight readers who love books and the writing of James A. Michener.” Random House Books.

The Purpose Driven Church by Rick Warren. The author shifts the focus away from church building programs to emphasizing a people-building process. Warren says, “If you will concentrate on building people, God will build the church. My hope is that this book has strengthened your faith, stretched your vision, and deepened your love for Christ and his church.”

Warming Up by Mary Hutchings Reed. “This story speaks to everyone who's ever wondered, ‘what's it all about?’ Or who find themselves doing something they never thought they'd do. Reed offers a unique perspective on a homeless teen using his innate abilities as a con man to help his sister and her baby escape their damaged childhoods, and sympathizes with a perfectionist's struggle to express himself creatively in a medium in which he is a mere amateur.” The author has one sister, Donna C. Steele, born eleven months and two weeks after her, skipped first grade so that the “Hutchings girls” were very much like twins. Mary believes in community service and donates 10% of all proceeds from her books to The Night Ministry (TNM), a nonprofit organization assisting Chicago's homeless. Our church also supports TNM by preparing and serving meals four times/year, making and filling Christmas stockings, donating sweatshirts, t-shirts, socks, toiletries, hats and gloves.

What's So Amazing About Grace? by Philip Yancey. The author begins, “As I look back upon my own pilgrimage, marked by wanderings, detours and dead ends, I see what pulled me along was my search for grace.” The publisher writes, “I believe that this is Yancey's most personal and provocative book ever; he offers compelling, true portraits of grace's life—changing power.”



CAN YOU HELP US FINISH 2014 IN THE BLACK???

As communicated over the past few months, our church is having difficulty balancing the 2014 budget. We are currently behind \$34,000 (even while saving \$14,000 in expenses)!

Our budget shortfall is a direct result of fewer member contributions. We have approximately 460 giving units, generally defined as households, in our membership. Of those, 221 members have pledged approximately \$423,700. With 75% of the year gone, we have received 66.7% of that pledged income.

We also budgeted \$88,000 for non-pledged and non-member contributions. As of September 30, 2014, we have received 65% of those contributions. If these trends continue, our total revenue could be as low as \$515,600, well below the budgeted \$580,000. That's a 13% revenue shortfall over the original budget. This would likely cause a deficit for the year of over \$50,000, AFTER expense savings.

As a result, funding for worthwhile activities planned by Christian Education, Congregational Life, Missions or Worship may be limited or cut in the last few months of the year. We are fortunate that the Fall Fest raised \$12,700 this year which goes directly to our Missions budget. The total budget for mission is \$22,000. The remaining budget comes from our giving. When we don't receive enough to support our budget for these activities, we limit ourselves to something less than what we expect from our church.

We are in the midst of our 2015 stewardship campaign. We have many costs that we expect will increase in the future. In addition, we need to get into the habit of building reserves for major repairs as they occur. Thus, the stewardship campaign is called *15 for 15*. We need a 15% increase for the year 2015. We need a 15% increase over last year's pledged and un-pledged contributions totaling \$538,000. So we have a conundrum. We are 13% short for 2014 and need an increase of 15% for 2015.

We have three things to ask of all members:

- We ask that all members that pledged for 2014 catch up on their pledges over the next 3 months. We do desperately need the funds.
- We ask that non-pledging members please give what you can for the balance of 2014 and make a pledge for 2015. We need to be able to budget more accurately for the next few years.
- If you are a pledging member that has met their pledges faithfully for the year, please consider an additional donation and exceed your pledge.

Finally, there are a group of members that have generously agreed to implement a matching contribution program. On behalf of those matching members, we have a proposal outlined below that we are hopeful will attract more giving members. Our proposal is for all members, or non-members, that have not yet pledged or made a contribution during 2014, (approximately 160). While we know and understand that some members cannot afford to give financially, I hope and pray that MANY can. Our group has set up the following:

CONTRIBUTION MATCHING PROGRAM:

For members, or non-members, that have not yet pledged or contributed in 2014:

If you will contribute \$50.00 or more in 2014 and, if a member, make a pledge for 2015, a group of members in our church has offered to match 15% of the first \$15,000 for the 2014 contributions. We encourage you to take advantage of this rare opportunity to make your money go farther!

This will be handled solely through Rosemary, our financial manager, WHO IS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHAT MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE.

Remember, this is not just our church, it's God's church, and we are its stewards. We need everyone to participate and contribute. No donation is too small. There are a number of ways for you take advantage of the above matching program or make an additional contribution. You can contact the Financial Manager, and ask for a 2014 pledge card to fill out or instruct her to complete for you. You can also make contributions on-line by going to our website and hitting the "Make a Donation" button on the home page.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tim O'Brien - Treasurer



Who's in the Pews? Jeanne Humke

By Sue Peterson

Jeanne (Hyde) grew up in Chicago on the south side. She credits her mother for not only teaching her how to sew and cook but also for giving her a good work ethic. Her mother believed it was important to keep busy. Jeanne learned not to say she was bored or her mother would give her a chore. So today on airplanes or even on long car rides you'll find Jeanne knitting - no idle hands. Her father was influential as well. He taught her how to stand up for what she believes and not be afraid to express her opinion despite what others might say. Carter and Helen Hyde (her parents) moved to St. Charles, lived near Rett and Jeanne and were also members of our church.

In Chicago, her family attended the Lutheran Church which was within walking distance of their home. They didn't have a car. It was a diverse neighborhood so, early on, Jeanne was accepting of differences in other people whether it was looks, religious beliefs, or their cultural events. She had Jewish and Catholic friends and spent time talking with and learning from them. Her Missouri Synod Lutheran Church had a more conservative view on relationships but Jeanne believed God loved all her friends the same.

Her brother went to Ripon College in Wisconsin and Jeanne decided to attend there as well - good scholarships and funding. She met one of his fraternity brothers who one day was looking for someone to paint his ice boat. Two other ladies had already turned him down but Jeanne said yes - she would paint it. Whether it was the work ethic or the handsome young man, Jeanne did the painting and soon started dating her new friend, Rett Humke.

After Rett graduated in economics and business, he went to Indiana University for his MBA and Jeanne transferred there as well to finish her degree in elementary education. They married in 1966, their last year of school. Since Rett was in ROTC, the service and his jobs took them various places. They moved seven times in eleven years. But no matter where they were, (Washington, D.C., Texas, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois) they always found a church to attend. It was a way to find friends in the community. One time when Jeanne broke her leg, Rett was doing the cooking and cleaning. After three days of baked beans, Jeanne was thankful for meals from our church family.

Rett and Jeanne have three children and seven grandchildren. Daughter Kristen and her husband Eric live in Geneva with high school junior Nicole and freshman Amy. Eric owns the Geneva Dry Cleaners and Kristen has worked there as well as teaching in an elementary school. Daughter Cammie just moved back to Illinois from Alabama with her three children - Gus in 7th grade, Mia in 5th grade and Soren in 3rd grade. Cammie works with Rett as a financial analyst. Son Ryan and his wife Carly took their two boys and moved to Eastern China for two years. Carly is a high school counselor and Ryan home schools another family's three boys. Their home in the States is in Vermont.

Rett joined a friend in his Geneva business to become a financial planner. That's when Jeanne and Rett moved to St. Charles with their family. They met their new neighbors, Charlie and Janet Bell who invited them to attend the Advent Fair at the Congregational Church at our downtown St. Charles building. They loved it. They felt welcomed and found activities for the children. When Ryan was four years old, Jeanne remembers one Christmas Eve when he crawled under the pews toward the front of the church. She soon saw him appear in Rozella Nagy's lap where he spent the rest of

the service. What a welcoming congregation. They joined in 1975 and Jeanne has been involved in several areas - teaching Sunday school, CE Committee, Bible Study, Women's Guild, Women's Fellowship including being the treasurer, night ministry, Mission Committee, helped write VBS materials, and much more. Jeanne remembers early on when Kristen was young being asked to help out in the nursery. She thought maybe teaching older kids would be a nice change of pace. She and Rett taught 5th grade Sunday school for several years. Back then when you taught, it was for the whole year. They also taught 7th and 8th grade Sunday school for 6 years when their children went through those grades. They had the kids write and act out the pageant for the Advent Fair using real animals and many interesting props- quite a creative couple!

Rett and Jeanne have always camped and enjoyed the outdoors with their children. Jeanne loves the water parks and skiing. So when she heard about Grandparents and Me Camp at Pilgrim Park (one of our two church camps) they took each of their grandchildren who were able to go. They have also traveled each year with the grandchildren, taking them to a variety of places. A special event is "cousins" camp where they spend time with her brother's grandchildren at their cottage in the Upper Peninsula.

Speaking of this cottage, you may know about their famous maple syrup. They own 11 acres with maple trees near Eagle River in the Upper Peninsula. Rett grew up in Wisconsin near Sturgeon Bay where he helped his grandfather milk cows and tap maple trees. So when he heard about this property it was right up his alley. Jeanne learned how to tap trees, make the syrup and has many maple syrup recipes. They won third place in the international maple syrup contest one year. Quite a feat! Of course, the school classes who had their grandchildren were fortunate to hear all about the process.

Jeanne taught school in Texas. When they moved to Illinois, she got her para financial planner license and worked for Rett for 5 years. She was missing being with children and went back to school to get her Masters in Special Education. She taught Special Ed at Thompson Middle School for 10 years.

After retiring, she did a lot of volunteering. In the summer of 2004 she worked with the helpers from VBS in the afternoon with puppet activities. That fall, she and I found a puppet festival in Rock Island and attended. At the festival we decided to start a puppet troupe at our church, and so it began. She is beginning her 11th year leading the FOG Puppet Troupe. She has had the puppeteers perform for the church and community for several events and locations - Marklund, Pineview Nursing Home, Brighton Gardens, Delnor Glen, Down's Syndrome Christmas Party, HIV victim's family Easter celebration, Advent Fair, our church service and many more.

Jeanne does find time for hobbies and other interests. She loves to garden, hike, canoe and be outdoors. She knits and is part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. She enjoys cooking and sewing (that helps with the puppet costumes and props). She and Rett like to travel and have been to a variety of places not only for business trips but also for pleasure.

Jeanne credits both Rev Bill Nagy and Rev John Rodgers for her faith as it is today. The retreats, sermons, and Bible studies have helped her learn and grow and apply her beliefs to everyday living. Both ministers know how to take you from where you are to a deeper understanding of God - increasing our love for God and neighbor.

As you can see, Jeanne still remains busy and productive. Thanks for your service and support of so many ministries. You are a special lady!



Sarah Baxa, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, with CASA Kane County will join us for worship and a second hour presentation on new developments at CASA on Sunday, November 16, 2014. She will share important information about this non-profit volunteer organization that advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the Kane County juvenile court system. Our church has supported the work of CASA for many years and a number of our members are active volunteers. We'll gather that morning, following worship, from 10:45-11:30 a.m. in the Education Rooms, 115-117.

Here is a snapshot of what CASA is about:

For a moment, imagine a child who lives in a home with domestic violence, substance abuse, physical abuse or sexual abuse. Imagine how sad, lonely, and frightened that child must be.

Now imagine that same child has been taken from his or her home, only a few of their belongings haphazardly packed in a garbage bag, and placed with strangers; their lives still in turmoil. Decisions are being made for their future by people who don't know their history or what they want.

Is this child getting the help and services they need? Is he or she in a safe and stable environment? Are the people in this child's life supportive and willing to be a positive part of that child's life? For children without a CASA/GAL, we may never know the answers.

Luckily, there are dedicated CASAs that will have those answers. A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained volunteer who is appointed by the Juvenile Court Judge to represent the best interest of an abused or neglected child. CASA Volunteers are appointed as Guardian ad Litem (GAL) for these children and act as the eyes and ears of the judge by documenting each child's circumstances and making recommendations for services and permanency. The ultimate goal of the CASA advocate is to help ensure that every child lives in a safe and permanent home. This could mean reunification with their parents, placement with relatives or adoption by a loving family.

Please make plans to join us on November 16 to learn more about this fine organization. Childcare will be provided.

To learn more about CASA, please visit www.casakanecounty.org

BARNES & NOBLE



**Swing Set's Night Out
November 14, 2014**

Activities from 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M at Barnes and Noble

Stop by Barnes & Noble to decorate a book mark, listen to the teachers read stories aloud and see Swing Set art show, then head to Pot Belly or Taylor Street for dinner!

Don't forget your Christmas Gift List.

If you plan on attending Swing Set's Night Out, think ahead and order a Barnes & Noble gift card from our Manna program. Thanks for all your help and support of our wonderful school!



Kiwanis Holiday Party

The Campton Hills Kiwanis is hosting a FREE Holiday Party in Fellowship Hall Saturday, November 22, 12:30-2:30.

Santa Claus will join us for kids activities that include a bouncy house, face painting, and games. Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, our local fire department and others will lead activities as well.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle and and silent auction.

Please bring a canned food item for the Elburn Food Pantry.

The Congregational United Church of Christ Calendar

November 2014 Visit cuccstc.org for current calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 Communion Daylight-Saving Time Ends Women's Retreat (Pilgrim Park) 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Brief Worship (S) 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Happy Hearts Choir Practice (Rm. 111) 9:30 AM Sunday School through 7th Grade 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH)</p>	<p>3 Highlight Newsletter Deadline NOON 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM Yoga with Donna Burg (S) 2:00 PM - 8:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM F.O.G. Puppet Troupe rehearsal (FH) 7:00 PM Pastoral Search Committee (115-117)</p>	<p>4 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM POLLING PLACE (FH) 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Bible Study (P) 3:30 PM - 8:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 7:00 PM Mission Committee (O)</p>	<p>5 9:00 AM Women's Fellowship (P) 3:30 PM - 8:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM GF Youth Group (119) 7:00 PM Swing Set BD Mtg (114)</p>	<p>6 9:30 AM Mail Highlight (O) 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 6:00 PM Bellissimo Bell Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM NAMI (114) 7:30 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>7 9:00 AM - 5:45 PM Language Stars-Spanish (112 & 115) 3:30 PM - 8:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 7:30 PM Novel Approaches (Kathy and Jim Mizgalskis')</p>	<p>8 Back Bay Mission, Adult Work Camp, Biloxi, MS Daylight Savings ends 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 12:00 PM Landgraf Wedding (S)</p>
<p>9 Back Bay Mission, Adult Work Camp, Biloxi, MS Confirmation - YURS Funeral Home Stewardship Sunday Taste of the Congo (FH) 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Brief Worship (S) 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Happy Hearts Choir Practice (Rm. 111) 9:30 AM Sunday School through 7th Grade 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH) 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Mental Health Meeting (115/117)</p>	<p>10 Back Bay Mission, Adult Work Camp, Biloxi, MS 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM Yoga with Donna Burg (S) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (P) 2:00 PM - 8:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM F.O.G. Puppet Troupe rehearsal (FH)</p>	<p>11 Back Bay Mission, Adult Work Camp, Biloxi, MS 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Bible Study (P) 3:30 PM - 8:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 7:00 PM Search Committee meeting (115/117)</p>	<p>12 Back Bay Mission, Adult Work Camp, Biloxi, MS 3:30 PM - 8:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM GF Youth Group (119) 6:30 PM Worship Committee (O) 7:00 PM Christian Education Committee (114) 7:00 PM Congregational Life Cm (P)</p>	<p>13 Back Bay Mission, Adult Work Camp, Biloxi, MS 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 6:00 PM Bellissimo Bell Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:30 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>14 9:00 AM - 5:45 PM Language Stars-Spanish (112 & 115) 3:30 PM - 8:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111)</p>	<p>15 Back Bay Mission, Adult Work Camp, Biloxi, MS 7:00 AM Men's Fellowship Walking Group 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111)</p>
<p>16 Blessing of the Blankets Brunch Bunch TGIJ Scavenger Hunt 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Brief Worship (S) 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Happy Hearts Choir Practice (Rm. 111) 9:30 AM Sunday School through 7th Grade 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 10:30 AM CASA Presentation 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH) 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Confirmation (P)</p>	<p>17 Swing Set Vision & Hearing (115/117) 8:30 AM Building Maintenance 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM Yoga with Donna Burg (S) 2:00 PM - 8:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM F.O.G. Puppet Troupe rehearsal (FH) 7:00 PM Church Council (P)</p>	<p>18 Swing Set Vision & Hearing (115/117) 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Bible Study (P) 3:30 PM - 8:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 7:00 PM Mom's Group (114)</p>	<p>19 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Circle of Friends (P) 3:30 PM - 8:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Helping Hands (FH) 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM GF Youth Group (119) 6:45 PM Lazarus House Homeless Shelter</p>	<p>20 Swing Set Thanksgiving Feast (113) 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Fox Valley Justice & Witness(P) 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 6:00 PM Bellissimo Bell Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:30 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>21 Steel Beam Theater 9:00 AM - 5:45 PM Language Stars-Spanish (112 & 115) 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Swing Set Thanksgiving Feast (113) 3:30 PM - 8:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111) 6:00 PM - 8:00 AM F.O.G. Puppet Troupe LOCK-IN</p>	<p>22 Kiwanis Holiday Event (FH) 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S, 111)</p>

The Congregational United Church of Christ



CUCC

-1837-

No matter who you are, or where ever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30am Brief Worship Service (1/2 hour)

A hymn, prayers, scripture and reflections on the scripture. Communion offered the first Sunday of each month. Nursery care. No Sunday school.

9:30am Worship Service with Sunday School

Sunday School for children through 7th grade. Nursery care. Communion offered the first Sunday of each month.

cuccstc.org



YOU ARE WELCOME

Striving to increase our love for God and neighbor, we welcome persons of every age, health condition, race, marital status, economic status, sexual orientation and religious background.

We encourage you to become an active member of our church, sharing your God-given gifts in all areas of church life: worship, education, mission and ministry.



**Handicapped
Accessible**

MISSION STATEMENT

We, as a community in Christ, shall provide and administer a continuum of opportunities for worship, education, fellowship and outreach. It is our mission to serve individual, local, national and world needs.



CUCcStCharles

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Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8:30am-3pm, Fri 9am-12



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Rev. Patricia G. Kitner—Assistant Minister
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Susan Klopmeier—Congregational Life Chair
Steve Sidor—Christian Education Chair
Susan Rodgers—Mission Chair
Ginny Minard—Worship Chair
Bob Brautigam—Facilities
Carol Ludemann—Women's Fellowship President
Jeff Graham—Youth Director
Rev. William L. Nagy—Pastor Emeritus
All Members—Ministers



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