



## THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, UNION

All who seek and serve the love of God are ministers of Union Church

Rev. Kent Gilbert, Pastor

Mark Pettis, Intern  
Associate Pastor

Jean Boyce, Moderator

Joan English, Church Secretary

Carla Gilbert, CE Director

Jennifer Durham, Youth Director

Loretta Mountjoy, Woman's Industrial Director

Jennifer Shelton, Dora Chasteen, Childcare

Erik Reinhart, Custodian

### Sunday Mornings

Christian Ed., 9:30  
Worship, 10:30 am

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# Consider...

UNION CHURCH: A GRACE PLACE!

JANUARY 2009

## Upcoming Christian Education Events!

### Mark your calendars!

#### Sundays 9:30 am

Sunday School Unit Ages 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Learning More about and Using the Bible  
Remember to bring Bibles!

#### Adult Book Discussion

Where God Was Born: A Journey by Land to the Roots of Religion by Bruce Feiler  
For info see Steve Connelly.

#### Noon- Confirmation /Youth Classes

#### Wednesday Night Live will resume Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule:

5:00 pm - Middle School Youth Group  
5:45 pm - Supper  
6:15 pm - High School Youth Group & Kids' Activities  
6:30 pm - Bob Berger continues his class on St. Luke, except on these

#### Special Event dates:

Jan 23 - Renewal Presentation by Sustainability Work Group

Feb 4 - Community Event Ecuador Mission by Maureen Capillo (more info following)  
6:45 pm - Union Church Ringers

#### Union Church Family Skating Party

Saturday, January 24, 4-6 pm

Club Arena Skating Rink

211 N. Broadway, Berea

Cost is \$2.00/person, which includes skate rental (regular cost is \$4.00),

No charge for watchers.

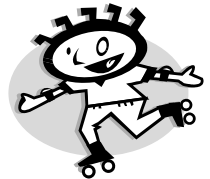
Bring your friends! 30 skaters needed.

Questions: Call Tina

Parker at 985-8719

or Rev. Carla at 985-

1144



## Report of actions taken at the Annual Budget Meeting December 9

In addition to consideration of the 2009 budget, we heard a report from the Long Range Planning committee, approved Rev. Kent's 2009 Terms of Call, and elected board members to fill unexpired terms.

**Deacons:** Laurinda Pool, Maurice Hibbard, Bob Boyce

**CE:** Tina Parker, Tom Manning-Beavin

**Trustees:** Gail Wolford

**General Committee-at-Large:** Jeff From

Budget lines for projected income and faith challenge (deficit of \$14,083) were recorded and the congregation passed a provisional budget that

reflects economies on the part of all Boards, no cost of living increases for our staff, and draws additional monies from the Lambert Fund for the general operating budget. This action calls for quarterly review and further directs the Trustees to return to the March Annual congregation meeting with either a balanced budget or one with a deficit not to exceed \$7,000. Copies of the Terms of Call and Budget will be available in the office or at the website, [www.union-church.org](http://www.union-church.org).

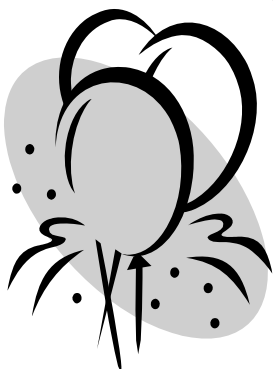
Since passing the provisional budget, our Financial Secretary reports

that additional pledges have begun to appear, and for that we are thankful. In the meantime we will be counting on the Trustees to consider any changes in our financial condition as recorded at the budget meeting and report to us at our Annual Meeting in March.

What a joy it would be to be able to restore the cost of living increase to our staff! Please join me and all the officers of the church in prayerfully considering how we can manage the monetary shortfall that we all are facing.

Jean Boyce

## January Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthdays!

1 Jerry Cooper  
 4 Mark Nigro  
 5 Loyal Jones  
 5 Mia Shaffer  
 6 Harrison Brownrobie  
 6 Dorothy Chao  
 7 Luther Center  
 7 Bob Shaffer  
 7 Eliana Saderholm  
 9 Lynne Spencer  
 9 Karen Edwards  
 10 Josa Harl

10 MacGregor Lakes  
 11 Kiersten Shaffer  
 11 Nathan Rhodes  
 13 John Chrisman  
 13 Chloe Gravitt  
 13 Dorothy Crandall  
 13 Peggy Pollard  
 14 Elizabeth Crowe  
 16 Larry Shinn  
 16 Kent Gilbert  
 18 Kevin Burke  
 21 Sally Hindman  
 21 Jamie Neal

21 John Stephenson  
 22 John Thomas  
 22 Gloria VanWinkle  
 23 Bob Boyce  
 24 Gail Wolford  
 26 Sarabeth Brownrobie  
 30 Bhana Deaver  
 31 Steve Bolster  
 31 Michelle Tooley

### Anniversaries!

1 John & Keila Thomas  
 11 Kelly & Teri Mehler

## News of the Family...

**Union Church** is a place where your faith can grow and deepen. We are actively looking for those who would like to explore discipleship with Jesus in this congregation.

*"Union Church welcomes all followers of Christ and works with all who work with Him; respecting each person's conscience; working by love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."*

### **Serving as Worship Leaders in January are:**

Jan. 4 John Culp  
 Jan. 11 Katie Basham  
 Jan. 18 Sally Hindman  
 Jan.. 25 Cheyenne Olson

If YOU would like to serve in this way, please call Jenny Bromley at 623-5007.

### A Conversation with Jennie Kiteck ...

Graduation from college is an acknowledged achievement not easily obtained and the result of many hours of dedicated work focused on one goal: obtaining a degree. A member of the Berea College class of 1981 was Jennie Kiteck, who epitomized the focus and work required to obtain her degree at the age of 55! For this she credits Bill Stolte for his encouragement and support.



Born and raised in Louisville, the flood of 1937 took all the family's possessions. The school system delayed the opening of school, but the positive aspects of this experience remain with Jennie even today. The Louisville Orchestra, which volunteered to stimulate the interest of the children to return to school, sent musicians to the schools to give lessons in various instruments. The children had to provide their own instruments, however. Jennie wanted to take violin lessons and her father, who worked at Ford Motor, paid \$15 for a violin he found in a pawn shop. She realized that her father had sacrificed to purchase the violin and Jennie was determined to learn, although she did have to practice in the basement!

Secretarial classes in high school enabled Jennie to secure a civil service job. It was there she met her husband. They were married for forty-seven years and raised three sons and three daughters before his death in 1972.

Jennie's husband was employed by Churchill Weavers and the family moved to Berea in 1957. Her husband constructed the looms used by the weavers and Jennie was employed there to do secretarial work, eventually becoming Mrs. Churchill's secretary. She has many memories of working with Mrs. Churchill.

Although raised as a Southern Baptist, Jennie's family transitioned to Union Church, beginning with her

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## From the Intern Associate Pastor

The view from the cheap seats...

What a joyous holiday season it has been! To begin with, I would like to thank all of you for making me feel so welcome and so much a part of the Union Church family this year. It is sometimes difficult to be so far from my family out in Southern California, but being a part of Union Church has really made this year much easier, and very special!

As we all look forward to 2009, I wanted to share with you a little bit about the work you all have allowed me to do here at Union, as well as a couple of things your faithful support allows me to in the rest of my ministry...

The College/Young Adult group had a wonderful first semester, as

we explored interfaith issues, and discussed how to understand our own faith, and allow it to guide our way in the world. I am looking forward to expanding the group this coming semester, and exploring additional ways we might engage the world as faithful Christians.

One expression of ministry that I am lucky enough to be a part of back in Southern California is a camp that I co-direct for middle-school aged youth. This camp, called Jr. High JANboree, welcomes about 100 young people for a four-day camp experience at the UCC Camp and Conference Center in the San Bernardino Mountains.

I will be headed back to Southern California for MLK Jr. Weekend for this camp, where we will be exploring interfaith issues,

and discussing how our faith instructs our interaction with the wider world. Sound familiar? This seems to be a theme that follows my ministry lately. I truly appreciate your willingness to allow me to be away for this camp, as it has become a very meaningful experience for me over the last few years.

As I enter my final semester at LTS, I am truly honored to be able to be a part of the work and life of Union Church. You have all given me such an important perspective on the life of a church, and have gifted me with your friendship and support. I look forward to this next semester with all of you.

Shalom...Mark

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daughter joining the choir. Jennie taught Sunday School while her children were growing and, later, substituted the choir for her Sunday School duties. Each Sunday you can hear her sing with the choir. She is proud to say all six of her children were baptized at Union Church.

Music is an important part in the family's life. All the children played an instrument and one granddaughter plays in the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra.

Jennie, who "always has something to do," teaches violin one day a week at Berea Community School and

uses the Suzuki program. She feels that stringed instrument lessons should begin at a young age. Jennie also plays in a quintet, which is often seen at Berea events.

Having a "strong faith in God and prayer," she is the matriarch of a family which, besides her children, now includes sixteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren and she leads a busy life as she looks forward to the new year, being very thankful for all God's blessings.

by Leslie Berger

### Bible Reading for January

Bible Study is held every Thursday at noon in the Conference Room next to the office. Everyone is welcome!

- Jan 4 - Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12
- Jan. 11 - Mark 1:4-11, Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7
- Jan. 18 - Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 1 Samuel 3:1-20, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51
- Jan. 25 - Mark 1:14-20, Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31



## From Carla Gilbert, Director of Christian Education

# From our Boards

Dear Ones,

This past month, in our Sunday School classes downstairs, we have been studying Mary and Elizabeth's first Christmas. We had visits from all three main characters in the story: Mary, Zechariah, and Elizabeth, parents of John the Baptizer. In review yesterday, they could tell me the whole story, I shudder to that I didn't know that Jesus and John were cousins until an adult. I just remember that when Mary spoke to Elizabeth, the baby in Elizabeth's womb jumped! I also didn't get the significance of the Magnificat, Mary's hymn of response until much later in life. Hopefully they will continue to remember this very important story as they continue their Christian education and spiritual formation for it is one of the most important segments of the Christmas story, and God's gift to humanity.

I recently received a sermon by Mary Swain, a member of the Loretto Community and was once again reminded of Mary's situation and its relevance to each and every one of us. In her sermon, she pondered the question "What is it about Mary that I need to hold on to?" Her conclusion: *Mary's willingness. To be willing... I lived and worked in El Salvador during years of social upheaval. Among those working for social change, no characteristic was more highly valued than "willingness." I remember one of the leaders of a social movement commenting that it doesn't matter how qualified people are because, if they aren't willing to use their gifts for the cause, then all is wasted. "Willingness" he said, "is everything."*

I'm inclined to agree, especially as I reflect on the educational ministry of the church, and espe-

cially during the busy Advent season which has more than enough competition..

*Willingness* on the part of pastor, intern, and teachers and others who work with our youth, rousting them out of bed and then trying to get them to bed during Confirmation retreats.

*Willingness* on the part of teachers and shepherd for Sunday Morning leadership.

*Willingness* on the part of those willing to cook Wednesday Night Live suppers.

*Willingness* to be ones who refused shelter when the kids did their version of *Las Posadas* and then finally opened up their doors and home for warmth and hot chocolate.

*Willingness* to work with our Wednesday Night Live kids who made a wreath for BUURR and caroled a couple of our church members.

*Willingness* to participate in the Christmas Pageant and especially on the part of the choir who sang the same music a total of 36 times during the Christmas pageant on behalf of the many refugees seeking shelter, including Mary and Joseph.

*Willingness* on the part of parents and congregation to ensure that we all experience the true message of Mary's willingness to say Yes! Just like that!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! ALL!  
Peace and Blessings,  
Carla

## From Jennifer Durham, Youth Group Director

I can not believe I've been the Youth Director for an entire year! The time has just flown by. I guess that is what happens when you're having fun with fundraising; trips to Costa Rica; lock-ins; movie

nights; Baha'i, Catholic, and Pentecostal church services; French toast breakfasts at Cracker Barrel; ski trips; retreats; and Confirmation classes! Whew...what a year! It has truly been a pleasure and

I'm going to savor these last few months with our seniors (Miles, Riley, Silas, Ben L., Neil, & Danielle) who will graduate in May and move on to change the world!

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These last few weeks have been busy ones as Pastor Kent and I kicked off Confirmation Class! It started with a very early wake up call as we (about 20 of us!) entered the bedrooms of this year's confirmands and woke them up yelling, "It is the will of God that you rise and come with us!" Every one was very surprised to say the least, but very gracious! After we had successfully apprehended all of our victims (!) we met the confirmands'

mentors at Dinner Bell for a yummy breakfast.

Many, many thanks go out to the folks who have agreed to sojourn with these 11 young people on their journey of faith: Annriette Stolte, Gina Chamberlain, Betty Hibler, Megan Purcell, Carla Gilbert, John Culp, Gary Dillion, Steve Rhodes, Mark Pettis, Bob Shaffer, and Tom Manning-Beavin.

Our Youth retreat at cleftRock Retreat Center in Mt. Vernon was a

huge success! All 23 of us stayed in a cozy cabin, had wonderful meals, fun community building activities, and of course...lots of learning about God's Call.

We have amazing, intelligent, and talented youth in our church family and I can't believe it is my job to hang out with them! I look forward to all that 2009 brings.

Peace to you and yours in 2009.

Love,  
Jennifer

## Trustees' News

At their December meeting, the Union Church Trustees

Worked on and presented a provisional budget for '09.

Worked on and presented terms of call for Rev. Kent.

Worked on letters of employment for Union Church employees.

Voted to let the KY. River Foothills present a class on Financial Peace class starting in January.

Adjourned to attend the Congregational Meeting.

Respectfully presented,

## Union Church's Mission Board Funds at Work

### Update from El Salvador

Last year, almost 20 years after the signing of the 1990 Peace Accords following the civil war in El Salvador, members of the Beltran family, one of the "fourteen families" who have traditionally owned most of the wealth in the country, came forward in court to claim that land which the Santa Marta community purchased in good faith was in fact sold using false ownership documentation. The Beltran family took their case to the Salvadoran court, and obtained an eviction order which affected some 65 families who live in the Santa Marta community. In response to this threat, Co-Community Development Alternatives (CoCoDA) formed a "Grupo de Amigos" here in the US.

This group collectively pledged \$26,400 over 5 years so that the Santa Marta Community could put up a trust

fund in order to stop the threat of eviction until the matter of the disputed claim could be resolved in court. The Union Church Mission Board has committed to being a part of this group. What follows is a brief summary of the history of the situation, and an update on the events of the past year.

1. El Salvador experienced a 10 year long civil war in the '80's because at that time most of the land was owned by the "14 families," and the majority of the people were landless with no means of survival.
2. The Salvadoran people have strong indigenous communal roots; ideally, land is owned by the community and farmed collectively.
3. Following the civil war, legal agreements were reached and funds were made available for

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community purchase of land. **The land was not expropriated.**

4. In 1994, the community of Santa Marta entered into a purchase agreement with Sigfredo Pleytez – which transferred this land to them. Santa Marta leaders say that the Beltran family was involved, informed, and in agreement with the transaction.

The Santa Marta community is a very politically aware and politically active community. Their heritage includes survival of the massacres, flight to Honduras, and repatriation with international accompaniment. They have been following a plan for legal redress through the Salvadoran court by seeking the involvement of the Procurator for Human Rights of the Salvadoran Government. They saw this is a way to ensure transparency and to seek international support.

Since August of 2008 this case has been winding its way through the court system. The Procurator General for Human Rights did, in fact, hear the case. The Santa Marta Community offered to break the impasse by paying again for the land – giving the Beltran family the amount (\$25,000) that they paid Playtez for the land originally. At this point, the Beltrons (who currently live in the US) have refused to accept anything less than \$74,000 and are demanding immediate eviction.

By the end of September, the court in Cojutepeque determined that Santa Marta had a legitimate case against Playtez, and promised to issue a verdict soon. Since that time, there have been at least 5 dates

## UNION CHURCH: A GRACE PLACE!

announced for the issuance of the final verdict. Each time 75 to 100 community members have traveled to San Salvador to be present, and each time the verdict has been postponed – several times with no reason given. The situation continues in this state of limbo.

Members of the community fear that the court is engaging in foot dragging on purpose. This may not be the case; it may simply be just the state of the court system. But given the Salvadoran history of the campesinos – often violent – losses in any sort of conflict with the upper class, they have reason to be apprehensive. Just last week CoCoDA sent a letter to the Salvadoran Procurator of Human Rights in order to express the concern of the “Grupo de Amigos” over the delays. Letters were also sent, including one from Union Church, to our senators and representative asking that they check with the Salvadoran embassy about this matter.

If the Salvadoran government orders eviction, it is likely that it will not be accomplished without physical violence, and certainly the eviction would do violence to the families who have made that land their home for the past 15 years. Many eyes are watching this case. If this eviction goes through, more evictions in other communities may follow. Either another civil war will erupt, or the number of people who emigrate will dramatically increase. Already estimates are that 700 people a day leave El Salvador for the US. How tragic if people who have constructed viable lives for themselves and their community are uprooted and forced to join the exodus!!

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## Woman's Industrial News

Woman's Industrial has been informed that they were approved for a grant in the amount of \$9,500 for 2009. The grant came from the Berea College Appalachian Fund, and has funded Woman's Industrial for a number of years. Money from this grant supports Industrial's health and welfare fund, and supplements the general fund.

The Berea College Appalachian Fund was established through a gift from Herbert Faber and Ruth McGurk Faber. Since 1950, the Fund has supported nonprofits working to improve the general education, health and physical well being of people living in the Appalachian Mountains and surrounding areas.

In addition to the support of Union Church, financial support for Woman's Industrial comes from craft table at the Bazaar, Holiday Sale and Chili Luncheon, quilt sales, lunch money, donations and contributions from the congregation to fill the Christmas wish list of the participants. We are grateful for the help given in support of our Christmas event, but we were short of the needed funds to cover all expenses. Our gift expenses ran just over \$600, and to date we've received \$350 for gifts. Any additional support will be greatly appreciated.

## The Church of Christ, Union

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to improve.



### Take Our Survey

The Mission Board's Sustainability Taskforce asks you to take our home sustainability survey. The survey asks about your home sustainability practices and gives you the option of asking for more information. The survey gives us information to start thinking about what we, as a congregation, are doing to preserve God's creation and how we might like



Completing the survey takes about 15 minutes and is anonymous (unless you ask for more information).

The survey is available online (to minimize paper). Just go to [www.union-church.org](http://www.union-church.org) and click on "Take Our Survey". If you don't have an internet connection, you can pick up a paper copy after church or by calling Doug Hindman at 859-985-0022.