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Contacts

- Need information?
 - Want an application form?
 - Have an address change?
- www.unidosencristo.com
unidosencristo@comcast.net

Please remember that you may contact any UEC Council member by email:
 (last name)@unidosencristo.com

Editor: sundeen@unidosencristo.com

Print your own color copy!

Sign up at our web site to receive the Palanca Press via e-mail.

Calendar

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| January 11 | Weekender applications open for March weekends. |
| January 15 | Team applications open for June weekends. |
| January 23 | Council Meeting 6:45 p.m. Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina |
| January 28 | Silver Anniversary A CELEBRATION!  UEC 25th Anniversary Celebration 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Church of the Open Door, Maple Grove |
| February 6 | Deadline for Weekender applications, March weekends. Late applications will be considered if space is available. |
| February 16 | Deadline for Team applications, June weekends. |
| February 27 | Council Meeting 6:45 p.m. Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina |

PALANCA PRENSA

Unidos en Cristo
Christ is Counting on You

News of Unidos en Cristo, Minnesota

Vol. 24, No. 1 January 2007

You Are Invited

UEC's 25th Anniversary Celebration

25th Anniversary Verse

"For you, O God, tested us;
You refined us like silver."

Psalm 66:10

Please Come to the Silver Celebration!

Church of the Open Door
Sunday, January 28 3-6 p.m.
Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

Directions to Church of the Open Door
9060 Zanzibar Lane N, Maple Grove 55311

From the east or south metro:

Take I-694 west or I-494 north to I-94. Go west on I-94 to Cty Rd 30 (it's the second exit after 694 / 494 becomes 94.)

Construction zone! Follow the exit ramp back over I-94, the road becomes 95th Ave. N. and then Dunkirk Lane N. Stay on Dunkirk, traveling between Target and Wal-Mart. About ½ mile from the commercial center, go left on 90th Place N.; continue to church.

From St. Cloud/the west:

Go east on I-94. Exit at Cty Rd 30 and merge onto Dunkirk Lane N. Stay on Dunkirk, traveling between Target and Wal-Mart. About ½ mile from the commercial center, go left on 90th Place N.; continue to church.

JOG ~ The Joy of Giving

All "silver" collected at the Celebration will be given to a local and/or international charity in grateful acknowledgment of God's abundant blessings. Baskets will be at the sanctuary doors, and you may add your gift as you exit the worship service.

Silver Celebration Prayers

Let us praise God for riches we receive in undeserving abundance: unending grace and love.

Please pray with glad thanksgiving that the 4th Day Community can celebrate 25 years of fellowship and the sharing of Christ's love with an ever-growing part of His church.

Please be in prayer for all of God's children... the teams that are working to make the Celebration a joyful and meaningful event.

the people who call Church of the Open Door "home." Cursillistas who will make it to the Celebration, as well as those who won't. the lost and disenchanted who do not know the depth of God's love.

Pray also about what you might give back to God. Examine your heart. May we care for one another; may we serve one another; may we remember that the joy of giving is giving joy.

May each of us be guided by the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ to do the will of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Silver Celebration information is continued on page 2.

Silver Celebration Details

Let's Be Open to Moments of Grace

Leaders of the Silver Celebration have planned a meaningful event that includes many of the elements of a weekend and an Ultreya. But they're not sharing much solid information. Does that sound familiar? Instead, they ask that you "Let go and let God" ~ right along with everyone else ~ because they (and we) know that things happen in God's time.

Two highlights of the program are known: a rollo on Psalm 66:10 will be given by Trace James, and the Communion devotion will be offered by Gary Downing, Spiritual Director for UEC #1. They have assured the curious that music and abrazos are included. Beyond that, pretend you're a weekender again. It's safe to say that there will be "this much time" to honor the joy and the wonder of grace-filled surprises. Thanks be to God.



A Potluck Banquet

You know that it wouldn't be a Cursillo event without plenty of food. The Kitchen Team will provide beverages but they ask that you help provide supper according to the alphabet:

A-G ~ Desserts
H-P ~ Hot Dishes
Q-Z ~ Salads

(Did you notice?
Somebody put the desserts first!)

From a rollo on grace:

A connection with God produces a purifying fire, rooted in the soul.

From a rollo on leaders:

A silversmith described his craft's process to a woman who wanted to understand why Christ was compared to a refiner of silver. He ended by saying, "the only way that he knows when he's done is when he sees his own image reflected in the silver."

Wear a nametag.

Actually, wear as many as you'd like.

Expect to see Cursillistas from UEC #1 (May 1981) to UEC #220 (Oct. 2006). This is a (dare we say it?) golden opportunity to find delight in the variety and beauty of nametag design. It's also your chance to find old friends by looking for familiar nametags.

Wear your cross.

Remember:
Christ is counting on you.
Keep it close to your heart.

The Silver Celebration Team

Typical of any UEC weekend, men and women have prepared for this event for several months, gathering for prayer and service. The typical four teams developed: Leadership/Rollo Room, Kitchen, Palanca, and 4th Day. When this issue of the *Palanca Press* was published, the Silver Celebration Team members represented twelve UEC churches:

Brooklyn UMC
Buffalo UMC
Burnsville Covenant
Christ Presbyterian Church
Church of the Open Door
Colonial Church of Edina
Faith Covenant
Faith Presbyterian
Hope Presbyterian
Normandale Hylands UMC
Rochester Covenant
St. Cloud Covenant

Volunteers are still needed on the Kitchen and 4th Day Team so it is still possible for you to serve. Please contact Paul or Carla Lorenz at 763-425-2003 or lorenz@unidosencristo.com if you are interested.



Calling All Chickens

The Kitchen Rector/a asks that all members of the Great Feathered Flock, come to the Chicken Coop before 3 p.m. Whether gallo or gallina (rooster or hen), it won't take long; you will be able to join friends in the sanctuary after just a brief fluffing of feathers. Consider it a bit of costume progression.



"Have you ever stood in the family,
with the Lord there in your midst?
Seen the face of Christ on each other?
Then I say, you've seen Jesus, my Lord."

Please come.

Feel God's love, and see the face of Christ.

Council's Quarters

The sun shines longer each day, but this is still a month known for long, cold nights. Perfect for curling up with a book. I finally got to read Anne Lamott's *Plan B*. She quotes a friend, "Our hearts are like diamonds because they have the capacity to express divine light, which is love; we not only are portals of this love, but are made of it...we are made of light, our hearts faceted and shining."

I like Anne's books. She recognizes hidden grace, she makes me think, she challenges my heart. She brings humor and full-throttle honesty to words that share her delight in, and her struggle with, a faith she came to as an adult. A recurring theme: it is necessary for us to be and live in community, to comfort one another, to let our lights shine out in beautiful patterns ~ even and especially when we feel like "those pierced tin lanterns that always rust." I pray that each of us will consider God's expectation for our lives, that we will flicker with divine light and remember to express great love. Always. All ways.

Inspiration for Meditation

Four pair of weekends brought 88 men and 134 women into the 4th Day Community in 2006. Host churches were Colonial Ch of Edina; Brooklyn UMC; Normandale Hylands UMC; First Presbyterian, Albert Lea. New UEC Church Communities are: Caledonia-Hokah-South Ridge UMC; Discovery, Hastings; East Immanuel Lutheran, St. Paul; First Baptist, Grove City; Wooddale, Eden Prairie.

Capital improvements: purchased and donated computer equipment (2 laptops, 2 projectors, a printer), a crate for the Christ chair, and 63 mattress covers.

Financial Summary: Income \$54,585
Expenses 56,194
Net \$(1,609)

A special Long Range Task Force (LRTF) of eight men and women completed the analysis of extensive interviews begun in the fall of 2005. Recommendations for Council consideration were presented in April. Council members have prioritized short and long-term goals in each of five areas: Revitalize the UEC image, Improve Council effectiveness, UEC database, Review/modify various policies, and Financial practices. To exemplify, proactive efforts to create vital communications are critical to reaching and encouraging participation of potential churches, pastors, sponsors, and weekenders. The redesign of the *Palanca Press* and a new logo are first responses; a testimonial DVD and a new brochure are expected in early 2007.

Fifteen lay persons and three clergy, currently representing 15 UEC churches, form the Council. Five persons finished serving and five new members officially began in Sept. (details on pg 6 of Oct. *Palanca Press*), yet almost all 20 attended special summer meetings to address the LRTF recommendations. Subcommittees to address specific projects are forming. Please contact a Council member if you want to help shape UEC for the years to come.

Reviewing 2006 and Looking Ahead

Volunteers Needed!

What's your skill? Your gift? Your passion?

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Comedy/acting | Writing/editing | Phone calls |
| Administration | Cooking/menus | IT/computers |
| "Desk work" | The law | Sewing |
| | | etc. |

Sign up at the Silver Celebration!

Or contact a Council member at
www.unidosencristo.com

Council knows that God brings many gifted people to weekends.
If you're ready to support UEC between weekends, it would help to know your interests. You might be called once a year, you might be asked to work on a short-term project.

Convenor's Corner

How are weekend Rectors and Rectoras selected? A large dartboard? Are names pulled from a hat? In reality, there's a process of prayer and an effort to match candidates to requirements and recommendations. And, it works well, as evidenced by the outstanding leadership that heads up virtually every UEC weekend.

The Council's Leadership Development Coordinators seek God's guidance while reviewing a computer printout of the men and women with the appropriate depth and variety of prior team experience. Persons on this printout have demonstrated continuing team interest/participation during the preceding five years, and they have served as an Assistant Rector/a in the Rollo Room, Rector/a or Assistant of the Palanca Team and of the Kitchen and/or 4th Day Teams.

Written recommendations of previous team leadership on weekend evaluation forms are given strong preference. Based on this and a review by the full Council, a list of candidates is prioritized.

Then, prayers focus on God's revelation of the willing servant who will respond as Isaiah did to God's call, "**Here I am, Lord. Send me.**" A number of primary candidates may need to be contacted for a particular weekend because of specific work and/or family conflicts with its timing. Being Rector or Rectora demands a major time commitment to plan and recruit team leadership, and to organize and run the five or six preparatory team meetings in addition to the weekend itself. An ideal candidate may be called for several weekends before the timing is right for him or her to respond, "Yes!" The bottom line is to discern and connect God's key servants with His timing.

Once selected, the Council continually prays for the Rector and Rectora, their teams, and the weekenders until long after the weekend.

Serving Him together,
Clark Duffey, Convenor
duffey@unidosencristo.com