

GIVE \$101 FOR OUR 101ST YEAR!



A Vibrant Episcopal
Presence: Still at the U of
M because of your
support.

Thank You!

The Chaplain's Thoughts

This summer we changed our name to the University Episcopal Community. It has the same initials as our old name, whose last "C" represented "Center." We are no longer at the center and our new name better describes who we are in the university community. People from all over the Twin Cities come to the UEC because the University of Minnesota brings them together. We minister to the people who study, work, and live around the university. We gather as this community for worship and include all of you as well. Each Wednesday at noon we meet for noonday prayers, and each Sunday we meet for Eucharist at 4:30 p.m. You are all welcome.

We have a special service for Advent on December 14th that we call an Advent Vigil. It consolidates the meaning of Advent as waiting and watching for the coming of the Lord in our own lives.

One of the things that I have found my ministry is that students and people in general hunger for a deeper relationship with Christ. This is the focus of a class I will be teaching on Thursday afternoons at 4 p.m., January 22nd through April 30th. The Christians of the early church believed it was possible to literally experience the presence of God through prayer. In class we will learn this mystical teaching of the early church that is rarely taught today. You can join the class at any time. Hopefully, the class will lead to a new awakening to God in your life that will continue for years to come.

As we begin a new year at the UEC, we need your help to continue this all-important ministry. We raise all of our own funds. The students and community at the U literally need your gifts to continue this ministry. The mission team, board, and committees volunteer their time and give to the community, but it is not possible to do it all. We rely upon your generosity. If you or your parish have not yet given \$101-- a dollar for each year of the University Episcopal Community-- we urge you to do so. Campus Ministry cannot happen without you.

All of us at the UEC wish you a fruitful Thanksgiving and Advent season!

-The Rev. Dr. Jerry C. Doherty,
Chaplain



The Leadership Incubator aka Campus Ministry

An update from an alum about life
after the UEC

“Whoa, I’ve been an alum for about six months now,” I thought as I sat down to write this article about the University Episcopal Community. What have I been up to? Well...a lot. And has the UEC prepared me to succeed at this? Well...a lot.

I’m currently working as the Director of Development at the Miguel Angel Asturias Academy and worshipping at Iglesia Episcopal San Marcos (St. Mark’s Episcopal Church) in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. During the workday I’m busy building the networks of support to make sure that the Asturias Academy has the necessary resources to continue to offer education to its 300+ low-income students. Outside of the school I’m looking to build leadership with and among the young people in the Quetzaltenango area through the Episcopal Church.

The practice of Gospel Based Discipleship (a way of reading and reflecting upon the Gospel) has helped me immensely during this process. GBD focuses on everyone sharing their experiences and perspectives to come to a deeper understanding. I’ve applied part of this to my community organizing and will be starting a GBD group at San Marcos in January. Where did I learn to practice GBD? I learned it at the University Episcopal Community.

The UEC’s impact does not stay in Minneapolis—it is spread worldwide. Through my time at the UEC I was able to learn a lot and am now taking the leadership I’ve amassed to other parts. Hopefully, the folks that I work with will do the same, and we’ll have a tidal wave of pay-it-forward style good happening. Please invest in the UEC! It is Minnesota’s leadership incubator for college age (and beyond!) folks.

-Steve Mullaney

*If you’re interested in learning more about what Steve is doing in Guatemala, please visit www.asturiasacademy.org. **He and 5 Guatemalan teachers will be in Minneapolis Nov. 16 & 17.** To find out where they will be, please call the UEC or email steve@asturiasacademy.org*

A Living, Breathing Community of Christ

A Student Reflects on Lessons from the UEC



This past month I had the opportunity to share with my home congregation, Gethsemane Cathedral in Fargo, ND, some lessons I had learned over my three years with the University Episcopal Community. While some of the things I have learned may seem obvious, they are worth noting and I will share them with you now.

The UEC is a small group of people that is very unlike any other church I have ever been a part of. We don't count the number of people that walk in the door, we "peace" every single person, we make a genuine, thoughtful effort to understand scripture *together*, and finally, we don't pass an offertory plate. I do realize, with great gratitude, that the UEC enjoys a very unique situation. We are all broke college students and we have been so blessed with contributions from the board, other congregations, and people who believe in the ministry we are sharing. I do realize money comes from

somewhere, but the fact that most of the funding can't come from our pockets allows us to share in our own personal ways. This perspective has allowed me to realize that God truly does give us all gifts and that we are all expected to share them. The focus on each student's unique talents and insight has allowed me to find comfort and community in the UEC, more so than I had ever experienced within a church. We hold each other accountable to be present and to really contribute. This focus on community allows us to see each other's strengths and weaknesses; to celebrate our strengths and nurture the weaknesses. Trust me; this accountability can be annoying 30 minutes before a TV show or when you're staring at a daunting pile of homework, but the truth is I have never walked away from church regretting I had gone, nor have I ever gained more insight from my homework than I have from simply talking and *listening* to my fellow members

of the UEC. The UEC has shown me how it feels to be part of a living, breathing community in Christ. To truly share in fellowship with each other, and in turn share in Christ.

This will be my last year as a student at the University of Minnesota, but I know I won't leave it behind. I feel so blessed to have been welcomed into this community and it has left a lasting impression. As I move beyond the campus I know I will take the lessons I have learned here about really focusing on the community within a church. I've learned you must occasionally look away from the numbers and celebrate the people who you are with, and the many blessings that have been sent our way. More than anything, I have learned that creating a strong community with a genuine concern for each other in Christ is one of the most valuable things we can offer each other.

-Lauren Hegg

Jean Westberg
UEC Board President

In this economic time of ups and downs, let us pause to look at what really matters to us as Christians. We have been richly blessed! Let's all count those blessings now at Thanksgiving!

We have a small, dedicated board. I am thankful for each and every one of the board members who are continually lifting up the ministry of the UEC. I want to welcome Ann Olson to the board and thank her for taking on the role of treasurer. We are so happy to have her join us. Tony Morley has been our treasurer for several years and created financial reports that we all could understand and use in the managing of the financial resources of the UEC. We thank you very much Tony for your dedication and expertise that you have shared. You have made a major difference at the UEC!

The University Episcopal Community has had a rebirth in 2008. Many prayers were answered. We have shifted from being a center with a building to a community grounded in faith in Jesus Christ and fellowship with members of the University and surrounding areas. Father Jerry, our wonderful chaplain, was an answer to prayer. It was clear to the Board that the consistent presence of a chaplain was critical. We needed to have permanence for U students who are facing lots of changes in their lives. Father Jerry has brought consistency along with hope, excitement, new learning, and he has enlivened the University Episcopal Community. I am also thankful for the mission team of volunteers who meet monthly to plan the worship services, and our redeveloping peer ministry program. How exciting!

It's November and the month of Thanksgiving! We have much to be thankful for here at the University Episcopal Community!

Fall Newsletter 2008

101 years at the University of Minnesota

university episcopal community

a ministry of the people who study, live and work at the university of minnesota

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