



United Congregations of Metro-East
a peace & justice institution

The Newsletter of UCM

Winter 2009



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MARCH to put AMERICA back to work

UCM is encouraging all congregations, leaders, allies, and friends to show your support of an economic recovery plan to put **AMERICA** back to work by joining in an historic **MARCH** on February 10 sponsored by the United Steel Workers in local Sub District 2.

This **MARCH** is part of a national campaign initiated by USW President Leo Gerard calling for Congress to pass, and for President Obama to enact, a substantial, strategic and sustained **Economic Recovery Plan**. This plan calls for a minimum public investment of \$900 billion to create jobs, to build a much stronger infrastructure, and to develop a sustainable source of dependable energy. This plan is supported by economists, labor organizations, and public policy experts.

MARCH to put AMERICA back to work
Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Starting at 11 a.m. on the U.S. Steel Granite City Works parking lot – Lee Avenue and 20th St., Granite City, IL 62040

Ending at Amsted Rail (American Steel Foundry, 1700 Walnut) parking lot on Niedringhaus Ave. across from plant entrance

These two plants are representative of the current general plight of manufacturing in the United States. The U.S. Steel plant is virtually shut down due to a

collapse in steel orders. American Steel has made major cuts in production. More than two thousand workers have been laid off as a result, causing a ripple-effect impact in the Metro-East communities.

Bring your banners, signs and American flags in support of this **MARCH**. A large turn-out at events nation-wide is needed to demonstrate to Congress how urgent it is to act now.

Questions? Contact the UCM Office.

FUNDRAISING FOR UCM You Can Help!!

Fundraising for UCM is a necessity for the organization to continue to work for social justice in our communities and region.



Our major fundraiser for 2009 will be our **Ad Book**. This spring UCM will be selling ads for its 2009 ad book. Please ask businesses that you patronize, your faith community, your friends, or your relatives to buy an ad. When you sell an ad and collect the money (UCM will not send bills), fill out the receipt so that you and/or your congregation gets the credit. You can also ask groups to donate as “Friends” of UCM.

It is very important that we have a successful ad book campaign. We are doing this at the first of the year in order that businesses still have funds for advertising. Please sell ads or join the Individual Donor Campaign. UCM receives most of its money from these two sources. (Article continued on page 2.)

The **Individual Donor Campaign** is for those who support us with a regular monthly, quarterly, or yearly tax deductible donation. These “sustainers” are the backbone of UCM. To find out more about this campaign and how you can contribute, go to the UCM website: <http://www.ucmetroeast.org> and click on the “Make a Contribution” button.

In addition, UCM members are participating in the receipt program at **Denny’s restaurants** and the e-Scrip Community Card program at **Schnucks**. There is no cost to you, but UCM receives a small donation each time you eat at Denny’s or purchase anything at Schnucks grocery stores.

Three Denny’s restaurants will continue to donate 10% of receipts, before taxes and after discounts collected by UCM. These restaurants are located at:

4111 Timberlake, off Rt. 111 in Pontoon Beach

27 Junction Drive, off Rt. 159 in Glen Carbon

737 West Highway 50 in O’Fallon

Please ask for the original receipt (not credit card receipts) and give to the UCM representative at your church or send to:

Mary Trimmer
106 Lenox, Mitchell, IL 62040

To participate in the Schnucks e-Scrip program, pick up an e-Scrip card at the service desk then:

1. Activate the card by calling this number – 1-800-931-6268 and indicating UCM as recipient.
2. Have the cashier swipe the registered card each time you make a purchase at Schnucks. e-Scrip provides for a donation to UCM that equals 3% of your monthly purchases.
3. Visit www.escrip.com for other participating merchants and locations.

Please do your part. The economy may get worse and UCM will need funds to help the less fortunate get jobs, or housing, or health care. We are a faith-based organization and we care about all God’s children.

Thank you, **Mary Trimmer**, UCM Treasurer

ALTON AREA CLUSTER “JUMP START” for 2009



The UCM Alton Area Cluster has been instrumental in mobilizing area congregations to work together on social justice issues of special interest to Alton and its neighbors.

Cluster accomplishments to date include holding a “*Caring for Creation*” workshop to promote environmental sustainability among people of faith; working with the Sierra Club to make Alton the first “*Cool City*” in the Metro East; and promoting ecological awareness through the *Green Academy* of study and discussion series. A *Martin Luther King Commemoration Service* was sponsored on the 40th anniversary of Dr. King’s assassination. Participants pledged to work intentionally during a decade of reconciliation to build mutual understanding among peoples of different cultures in our community.

Initiatives for 2009 will build on these past accomplishments. Efforts to encourage an increase in the number of area communities becoming *Cool Cities* will be ongoing. The second *MLK Commemorative Worship Service* is being planned for April. It is in response to commitment for a decade of racial reconciliation in the Alton area. Plans for an *Economy and the Environment Workshop* in the Fall. The Cluster recommends “*Voluntary Simplicity*” – a discussion series offered by the LaVista Ecological Learning Center located at 4300 Levis Lane in Godfrey, on Mondays, March 2 through March 30, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. To register call 618-466-5004.

The next Alton Area Cluster meeting will be on March 23. Contact **Jan Hines** jhines519@charter.net for more information.

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