

WELCOME MAT

United Campus Ministries

Serving the campuses of Indiana State, Rose-Hulman, and St. Mary-of-the-Woods

Fall 2014

Events Calendar

- **Table Talks**
Every Wednesday night
5:00-6:00 pm
- **Food Pantry**
Every Wednesday
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
5:00-7:00 pm
- **Faculty & Friends**
Book Group
Every Friday morning
8:00-9:00 am
- **Food Pantry Open House**
November 21, 2014
10:00 am - Noon

Welcome Sharon Smith!

In July, Sharon Smith took the helm of UCM as our new campus minister. Sharon's undergraduate studies were completed at Taylor University, where she carried a double major in Psychology and Christian Education. She went on to earn her master's at CTS and attended seminary at Princeton.

"My calling to ministry came over time," Sharon explained. "I have found that two questions continue to guide me in all I do: Who am I to God? And who is God to me?"

During her career, Sharon served for a time as an associate pastor for a

church in Nevada and was a minister to the Sisters of Providence. She has also worked as a mental health counselor at the Indiana Women's Prison and DePauw University.

"I am thrilled to be back in campus ministry," she said. "I think one of the great things about UCM in particular is the attitude of acceptance.

"Students are seeking. They have questions. They have a need for spirituality. But they don't look for it in the structure of the organized church. That's



where UCM really fills the gap."

Sharon looks forward to increasing the programming at UCM. "I want students to explore their faith here and know that this building — no this ministry — is a safe haven."

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Major Grant Helps Launch New Food Pantry

Over the course of our 70 years of service, we have witnessed many changes in the student bodies of our 5 local colleges. One of those changes is that college students are now experiencing food insecurity.

To address this issue, UCM opened a food pantry for students with

a soft opening on Oct 29. With no publicity, five students showed up in the first hour.

The launch of the pantry was made with only \$200 and one food collection from the HolyPALOOZA event held by Centenary Methodist, St Stephan's Episcopal, and Central Presbyterian

last Sept. We opened our doors in the certain knowledge that this pantry is needed by the students in our community, as well as with the utter faith that the community would support us. A week later, 100+ Women Who Care met for their fall meeting

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Food Pantry *continued from page 1*



Pictured is Michelle Miller, a student worker who helped organize our new food pantry for our first distribution day October 29.



We accept: peanut butter, almond butter, nuts or trail mix, canned beans, canned meat or fish, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, sauce for pasta, condiments (in small containers), spices, dried fruits, rice, and crackers.

We also accept hygienic products including toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, detergent, shampoo, deodorant, disposable razors, small cans of shaving cream and other grooming aids.

and selected our food pantry as the recipient of their grant. We were awarded \$20,900!

“This grant allows us to expand our ministry significantly to college students in the Wabash Valley,” said UCM Board President Patricia McIntyre.

The grant seeds the growth of our food pantry and gives us time to find ongoing funding from other donors. Since this grant is program specific, we cannot use the funds for any other expenses of our ministry.

Food insecurity is present on all 5 of our campuses. In the college world, a student who receives a Pell grant is, by definition, poor. 43% of ISU students are on Pell grants; this is the highest percentage of

any 4-year public institution in Indiana. In addition, 25% of ISU students are 21st Century Scholars, meaning they are the first in their family to attend college. Again this is the highest percentage in the state. A bright, motivated student, who is poor, has a 40% chance of graduating. An average to below average student from an economically secure family has a 65% graduation rate. Students with limited resources buy the smallest meal plan of only 10 meals a week and then hope to get by somehow. We are proud to say that UCM is taking action to combat this problem.

The official launch of our Food Pantry on November 21. ISU’s Center for Public Service and Community Engagement is hosting an Open House

from 10:00 am to Noon. The check presentation from 100+ Women Who Care will be made at 10:30 am. We hope to have many of our supporters attend and help us bless our new project.

How can you help?

(1) You can donate money to the Center and designate it for the Food Pantry. (2) You can bring nonperishable food or hygienic products to the Center at any time the Center is open (call 812-232-0186). Unfortunately, we cannot accept any item that is perishable, outdated, or in a glass container.

This student food pantry is another way we can help our students to stretch their meager college money.

*- Linda Peters & Jane Morse,
UCM Board*

Fall Fund Raiser Joins Holypalooza

It’s hard to believe it’s been 26 years since UCM had its first Pig Roast! This year, we joined with Centenary United Methodist Church, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church and Central Presbyterian Church as they celebrated their 2nd annual Holypalooza event on September 21.

The 3 congregations met in the Centenary parking lot and “marched” to Central Presbyterian where the joint worship service

was held. It was phenomenal and the 3-choir music was glorious. A special offering was taken to benefit UCM. Following the service, it was time to eat.

This year, for the first time, we had 2 sites serving the meal, St. Stephen’s and Centenary. Another first, instead of our usual set ticket price, we accepted a free will offering for the meal. This was a leap of faith for some of us but it worked out great.

We’ve also re-named the event **UCM Barbecue** to reflect the expanded food offerings. We had great help from the UCM board, the 3 churches and ISU sorority Delta Gamma. They sent 31 sisters to help. Amazing!

We’re already planning for next year so stay tuned and thanks to all who supported this important fund raiser for UCM!

UCM Workshops Draw Students, Faculty, Townspeople

Three workshop events hosted at UCM this fall attracted some one hundred students, faculty, and townspeople. One was co-hosted by the Economics Department at ISU. The other two were part of the annual Campus & Community series, which this year changed its start time from noon to 4:00 pm.

At noon on October 15 the annual Economics Workshop luncheon, funded by the Economics Department of ISU, was held at the Center. For the past 20 years, the Economics Department has joined with UCM to offer this luncheon workshop devoted to economics and ethics. The topic this year was Immigration.

At 4:00 pm on the same day the first of two Campus & Community workshops was held, under the auspices of the UCM Program Committee. The topic was Medical Ethics, which dovetailed with the campus-wide reading of the book "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks." The topic drew a large group of students from ISU as well as interested persons from the Community. A student essay contest on medical ethics generated a number of entrants and two winners, who were given \$50 gift certificates awarded by the Barnes & Noble Campus Bookstore.

The second Campus & Community workshop, at 4:00 pm on November 7, concerned "Hunger

in the Terre Haute Community." Stephanie Jefferson, director of the African-American Cultural Center at ISU, addressed the problem of student hunger. John Etling, director of Catholic Charities in Terre Haute, laid out the role of his organization in serving as a central repository for food donated by local stores as well as government surplus commodities. Catholic Charities works closely with local food banks and food pantries – including the one for students opened this fall by United Campus Ministries.

We need your support to keep our ministry going strong!

**Mail your donation to
United Campus Ministries
321 N 7th St
Terre Haute, IN
47807**

Center Hosts Bread for the World Chapter Meetings

The Terre Haute chapter of **Bread for the World**, an organization that advocates for the hungry, is now meeting at UCM the first Monday night of the month at 6:00 pm. You can join a lively discussion on the issues of hunger and how to be an advocate for change.

On November 3 the former national board president, David Miner (pictured) of Indianapolis, spoke to the group at UCM.

Everyone is welcome to participate. For more information, visit the group's website at <http://www.bread.org/>





United Campus Ministries

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Where Everyone is
Welcome



Who We Are

Comprised of people from many faith backgrounds, United Campus Ministries [UCM] is a safe and nurturing community where people wrestle with questions of life and faith and meaning. It is an open forum for those who want more than catch phrases and simple answers. It is a harbor in the confusing storm we call life.

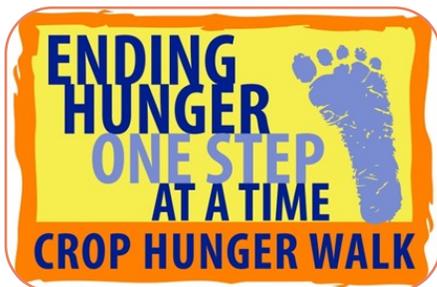
Our mission is to provide space and support for students and the community for discovering, understanding, growing in and living out a faith journey in a multi-faith world.

We sponsor programs for students and the surrounding community of Terre Haute. From service projects to learning opportunities to social networking, UCM offers something for everyone. So come on in, the welcome mat is out.

Like us on
Facebook.



Come join us for Table Talks, every Wednesday evening during the school year. We enjoy a meal, talk about topics that matter, and share joys and concerns.



UCM Brings CROP Walk Back to Terre Haute

CROP Walk/Run 2014 was hosted by UCM on October 19. The CROP Walk was an annual fall event for the Terre Haute Community, but had been on hiatus recently. The event raises money for Church World Service Missions all over the world, as well

as for local ministries such as Catholic Charities, 14th & Chestnut Community Center and Salvation Army.

UCM stepped out in faith to bring this important event back to Terre Haute. Hosting needs sponsors and we are grateful for Terre Haute Savings Bank and 14th &

Chestnut. The bank provided water and the non-profit provided a rest stop on the 5k walk/run. Though we were small with only one runner, 17 walkers and three dogs, we raised nearly \$800!

Part of the money has been designated for UCM's new food pantry for college students.



Pictured are the participants from Memorial United Methodist Church Youth Group that raised \$250!