



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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CONNECTIONS

April 2004

From the Study

The following motto was sent by one of our members recently via e-mail:

"True religion is the life we live, not the creed we profess."

– J. F. Wright

This is an excellent motto. What do you think?

Speaking of e-mail, I received the following article from Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church outside Los Angeles. He provided his thoughts as to why most churches have a problem attracting unbelievers to their church. Rick Warren wrote: "Most churches rarely attract unbelievers to their services because members are uncomfortable bringing them to church. It doesn't matter how much the pastor encourages members to bring friends or how many visitation programs are launched, the results are the same: Most members never bring any lost friends to church.

Why is this? There are three important reasons. First, the target of the messages is unpredictable. Members don't know from week to week if the pastor will be preaching an evangelistic message or an edification message. Second, the services are not designed for unbelievers; so much of what goes on in them would not be understandable to an unchurched friend. Third, members may be embarrassed by the quality of the service."

– Rick Warren



I have reflected on the dilemma posed by Pastor Warren's comments. The truth is that in most churches there is no great felt need for church growth. As a pastor, I wrestle with the style of worship and sermon that might be helpful. I have no definite conclusions but I know it

is a dilemma shared in all churches of all denominations. Our conclusion is partially based on how we answer the question: "Whose church is St. Peter's?" One choice would be to say it is "my church." Another choice is to say it is Christ's church. If it is Christ's church, true religion becomes the life we live which is open to church growth and considers church growth a priority.



I look forward to our worship during the month of April. On April 4th, we will have our Palm Sunday Service, which will include Communion. Our traditional Maundy Thursday Service will be Thursday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. with a service of Tennebrae and Communion. Our youth will provide the leadership for our Good Friday Service the following evening at 7:00 p.m. Our Easter Service will be Sunday, April 11th. On Sunday, April 18th, we will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation. Our April Contemporary Service will be Sunday, April 25th.

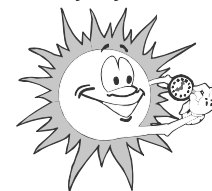


It is hard to believe that the school year will be over, and summer will be here. Our WINN program has had a great year. We look forward to the Cabaret on Saturday, May 1st. Next year, we will have important leadership needs. I hope that you will prayerfully consider our needs.

Sincerely,

Rev. Trost

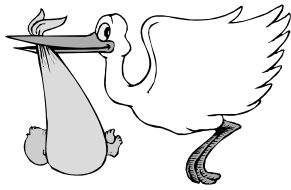
Daylight Savings Time Begins



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, April 3. It's time to "spring forward".

St. Peter's Welcomes New Baby!

We are proud to announce the arrival of Ian Richard Stahl, son of Jason and Amy Stahl. Born on Monday, March 1 at 12:59 p.m., Ian weighed in at 7 lbs 9 oz and 21 inches long. Ian has brown hair. Jason and Amy reported that Ian is already quite punctual – he arrived on his due date! Welcome Ian and congratulations to Jason and Amy!



WINN Springs into . . . Spring!

Wednesday night fun continues into April with good times at WINN! Check out the schedule listed below. If you have questions regarding WINN, please call Rhonda Shoudel at 352-3353 or Cheryl Lehmann at 398-4817.

April	7	Hallelujah!
	14	Around the World
	21	Flower Power
	28	Shining Stars



SHLURPEE Lock-in at the Drury Inn

What is SHLURPEE? I'm glad you asked! It stands for Senior High Lives Usually Require Pretty Entertaining Environments. The Senior High youth had a blast at the 3rd annual mid-winter – away from church – lock-in – retreat! On February 12, 2004, the youth and chaperones (Rhonda and Al Shoudel, Bonnie Joop) met at 4:00 p.m. at St. Peter's UCC. Events included dinner at Steak 'N' Shake, swimming (3 times!), a two-hour discussion on relationships, responsibility and commitment to ourselves, others and our church. It was a meaningful experience and we had a great time!



*Rhonda Shoudel, Bonnie Joop, Ben Sterrett,
Amanda Burr, Lisa Lynch*

April Showers bring . . . Dishtowels!

Our supply of dishtowels in the kitchen is beginning to dwindle, so we're having a Kitchen Shower! Dishtowels may be brought into the church office or left on the counter in the kitchen. Your dishtowel donations are greatly appreciated.



Easter Lily Time

It's time to order Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday! Lilies are \$8.50 each and may be given in tribute to those living or in memory of loved ones who are deceased. Order forms are available in the Church Office or in the Sunday bulletin. Please return completed forms to the Church Office with your payment no later than April 4. Easter Lilies may be taken home after the Easter Sunday Service.

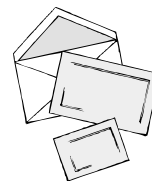
Women's Fellowship News

The Women's Fellowship Board would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone and most especially Fern and Kurt Eheart and Larry and Marguerite Zahnd for their work towards and at the Sausage Supper. Everyone's hard work paid off with the highest profit ever! Thank you all so much!

We would like to thank all the veteran dinner workers for embracing and nurturing new faces who helped in their areas. It's always encouraging and makes those new folks interested in helping with future events. Thanks again!



At the Board Meeting in March, we decided unanimously that everyone (even workers) should pay the full ticket price for our annual dinners. The two annual dinners are our main fundraisers for the year.



"We Care" Card Ministry

This expression of our concern for members continues every week. Pastor Glenn is consulted each week as to whom a card should be sent.

Each Sunday one or two cards (with recipient's name attached) are placed on the register stand in the Narthex. People in attendance are encouraged to take a minute before or after service to sign these. On Monday, they are mailed.

The number of signatures needs to be increased; there is always more room available on the cards. Please cooperate with this ministry.

We have received many expressions of appreciation for this thoughtful ministry.

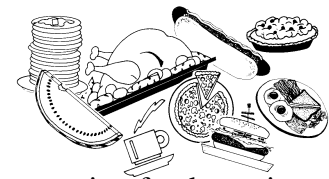
Since July of 2003, we have mailed forty-two cards. This ministry will continue but will be most effective if every possible space on each card is signed by someone. Will you help?

Charles Luer

Thank You, Kids!

Omer Benn said to me recently that it was interesting to notice how jobs in the church somehow always were accomplished, with many people operating behind the scenes and many church members not aware of whom they are. This month's focus is on the work that the young people do in the church.

Obvious to all is performance by the young people – as liturgists, dancers in *Tranquility*, actors in programs, puppeteers, singers in the youth and praise choirs, and participating in the bell choir. Remember that all these activities require practice time. Many children worked with their families to put up Christmas decorations and take them down again and WINN students put them away. They work on the Fellowship dinners, peeling potatoes on Friday night and helping in the dining room and kitchen on Saturday. The high school students worked with Rhonda Shoudel on the Attic Treasures booth for the craft fair – sorting



and cleaning items and helping with the sale. The work by the children at the Friendship Luncheon – preparing food, serving, cleaning up and performing – was outstanding! Many helped at Vacation Bible School last summer.

High on the list of activities is mission work. They made and delivered soup to a shelter. They raised money for UNICEF and Ronald McDonald House in Springfield.

I hope you all have had a chance to read Cheryl Lehmann's account of activities in the annual report. She gives a complete account of the year's activities that is very interesting to read.

Thank you, kids. What would we do without you and your parents who work with you and support you?

*Gladys Hemp
Secretary, Board of CE*



Consistory Highlights – March 2004



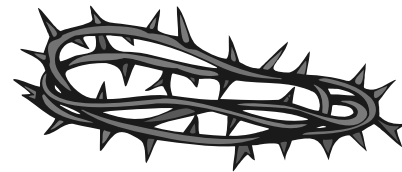
Editor's Note: *The following notes from the March Consistory meeting are for your information only. Minutes and actions of this meeting will not be approved until the April meeting.*

The Building and Grounds Committee reported that painting in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall has been completed. All fire extinguishers have been checked and placed throughout the building according to current safety codes.

The Board of Christian Education reported on upcoming events including Confirmation (April 18), Senior Sunday (May 25) and Vacation Bible School (June 21-25).

The Revitalization Committee will prepare a special newspaper ad promoting our Lenten Services.

The Women's Fellowship reported on the success of the annual Sausage Supper.

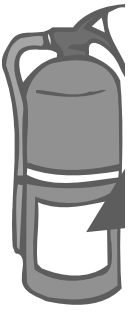


Board of Christian Education and WINN News

President of the Board of Christian Education for this year is Fern Eheart. Other officers are Judy Moller-Vaiden, vice-president; Kitty Hallett, treasurer; and Gladys Hemp, secretary and Consistory liaison. Other members are Glenn Trost, Lisa Lynch, Carolyn Hamrick, Rhonda Shoudel and Ben Sterrett, youth representative.

Cheryl Lehmann and Rhonda Shoudel are co-directors of WINN. Debby Malone and Fern Eheart have done the shopping and supervised the kitchen crew. Diana Pointer has served as Bible study teacher, and Rhonda and Bonnie Joop have worked with the high school students. Judy Moller-Vaiden is also the youth bell choir director. Lisa Lynch, with Bill and Kathryn Luther Henderson, have been in charge of the worship. Lynn Goodall has been in charge of childcare for the very young children.

*Gladys Hemp
Secretary, Board of CE*



Fire Extinguishers

During a recent visit by our insurance carrier's representative, it came to our attention that our church was not in full compliance with established fire extinguisher requirements. National fire safety and insurance standards require a minimum of one extinguisher per each 3,000 square feet of floor space and a maximum travel distance of 75 feet to the nearest extinguisher. Additionally, extinguishers must be wall mounted with signs on those not readily visible from all directions, and a centrally located placard showing location of all extinguishers.

To ensure compliance with the above standards, we have: purchased three additional fire extinguishers; relocated extinguishers to fall within maximum travel distance; placed extinguishers on permanently mounted wall hangers at appropriate heights; and added identification signs as required. Overall location placards are being installed in the central elevator area on both levels. We now comply with existing standards.

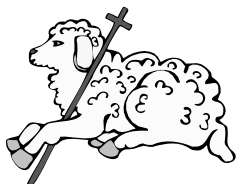
To help maintain compliant status, please do not move any extinguisher from its current location; except of course, to fight a fire. Also, periodically observe extinguishers as you pass them. All except the one in the kitchen are equipped with a pressure gauge. If you see a gauge reading that is not in the marked "normal" range, please notify the office staff or a member of the Building and Grounds Committee.

**Call
9-1-1**

In spite of all the requirements and effort to ensure adequate fire extinguishers, keep in mind that they are still only a "band-aid" type of extinguishing device, not designed to put out a large fire. In the interest of life safety, if you see a fire – anywhere – **CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRST**. Then, if it is much more than a piece of paper in a wastebasket, get yourself and others out of the building immediately.

Ed Kobel

Building and Grounds Committee



With Deepest Sympathy

St. Peter's is greatly saddened by the death of three church members.

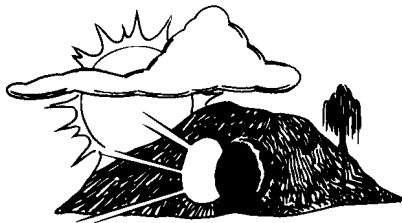
On February 21, 2004, **Joan Zarbuck** died at the age of 73. Joan enjoyed bowling and bingo. When she was younger, Joan worked as a professional roller skater and trapeze artist. Mrs. Zarbuck is survived by her husband, Merwyn; seven daughters: Kathleen Cullop, Joleen Anderson and Angeleen Crutcher, all of Champaign; Merleen Becker of San Leandro, California; Colleen Zarbuck and Taraleen File of Urbana; and Lorleen Davis of Savoy; three sons: Merwyn Zarbuck, Jr. and Preston Zarbuck of Champaign; and Parker Zarbuck of Urbana; 19 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Linnetta Parry died on March 3 at the age of 98. During her lifetime, Linnetta worked as a secretary at Texas Oil Company and at the University of Illinois (six years in the horticulture department and 17 years in the animal science department). During World War II, Linnetta worked at the Elwood Ordnance Plant. Mrs. Parry is survived by a son, James Parry of Louisville, Kentucky; a daughter, Nancy Swaney of Philo; six grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; six step-great-grandchildren; and four step-great-great-grandchildren.



On February 29, 2004, **Cleatis Lingreen** died at the age of 96. Cleatis married Ben Lingreen in 1925 in Champaign. He died in 1987. Mrs. Lingreen worked at Baskins Clothing in Champaign and Urbana. She is survived by her brother, Leo Osterdock of Belleville.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Bill Malone and his family following the death of Bill's father, **Frank Malone**. Mr. Malone died March 5, 2004 at the age of 87. Frank, who lived in Sycamore, enjoyed restoring Model T Fords and belonged to Model T clubs. He was involved in farming most of his life and worked at the Joliet Arsenal. He retired from the Will-DuPage (FS) Service Company after 27 years of service.



He is Risen!

April Worship Schedule

- 4 Palm Sunday – Communion
- 8 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Easter
- 18 Confirmation Sunday
- 25 Contemporary Worship

Change of Address



Hilda Roberts

2307A Melrose Drive
Champaign, IL 61820

Bernice Weipert

1002 S. Staley Road, Room 507
Champaign, IL 61822

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May issue of *Connections* is Thursday, April 15. Please submit your articles to the Church Office or leave them in the Office Manager's mailbox. Please include your name and phone number. Thank you!

April Acolytes

- 4 Ryan LeBaugh
- 11 Easter – No Acolyte
- 18 No Acolyte
- 25 Courtney Lehmann



April Anniversaries

- 3 William and Mary Sue O'Neill (1991)
Chris and Allison Wrobel (1998)
- 8 Denton and Joan Brown (1972)
- 16 Robert and Eloise Heller (1946)
William and Mary Limp (1967)

April Greeters

- 4 Christie and Rick Taube
- 11 Ken and Dorris Baumann
- 18 Evelyn Weber and Celeste Honn
- 25 Jim and Jill Acheson

April Ushers

- Bruce Bostwick
- Pam Bostwick
- Denton Brown
- Joan Brown

- Lee Eichhorst
- Sandy Eichhorst
- George Malloch
- Larry Zahnd

April Birthdays

- 2 Dale Sebens
Marcella Nance
- 3 Marie Mayer
- 4 Phyllis Jones
John Bishop, Jr.
Kate Martinie
Laura LeBaugh
- 5 Tracie O'Neill
Lizzie O'Neill
Tesslyn Dahl
- 6 Christopher Wingler
- 11 David Ho
Morgan Bishop
- 12 Joyce Krahlung
- 18 John Van Grinsven
- 19 Helen Schowengerdt
- 20 Richard Swearingen
- 21 Roger Pointer
- 23 Cal Twenhafel
Devan Bishop
- 29 Andy Zahnd
Courtney Lehmann



Editor's Note: We apologize for omissions or errors. Information for the newsletter mailing list, birthday list and anniversary list is taken from Church records.

Please report changes in writing to the Church Office (weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.). You may mail changes, place notes in the Office Manager's mailbox or send an email to trost@net66.com.

Thanks for your help!

