



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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August 2004

From the Study

Recently, I saw the following news item in a parish newsletter from Faith U.C.C. in Wichita, Kansas entitled:

The Next Time You Feel Like God Can't Use You, Remember...

Noah was drunk. Abraham was too old. Jacob was a liar. Leah was ugly. Joseph was abused. Moses had a stuttering problem. Gideon was afraid. Samson had long hair and was a womanizer. Rehab was a prostitute. Jeremiah and Timothy were too young. David had an affair and was a murderer. Elijah was suicidal. Isaiah preached naked. Jonah ran away from God. Naomi was a widow. Job went bankrupt. John the Baptist ate bugs. Peter denied Christ. The Disciples fell asleep while praying. Martha worried about everything. The Samaritan woman was divorced more than once. Zacchaeus was too small. Paul was too religious. Timothy had an ulcer...AND Lazarus was dead! No more excuses now, God can use you to your full potential. Besides, you aren't the message; you are just the messenger.

God can use any of us if we are open to hearing God's call to service. Jesus set a beautiful example of discipleship and service to demonstrate ways in which we can be faithful. We do have the gift of the Holy Spirit who provides guidance for us.

In the fall, we will provide opportunities to use a book by Rev. Rick Warren, which is entitled: *The Purpose Driven Life*. On Thursday, September 16th at 10:00 a.m., we will meet in the church lounge to study and discuss this book. I am hopeful that we can have another group meeting at a time convenient for those who have day jobs.

I encourage you to purchase this book even if you cannot attend any of the study groups. It is not a book to be read in one sitting. Instead, it is better read one chapter a day. It would also be good to

have a partner with which to share your thoughts, your questions and your feelings. I am hopeful that our use of this book might help us answer how God can use us no matter who we are. See you in church!

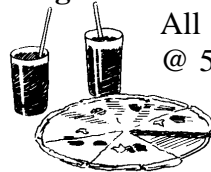
Sincerely,

Pastor Glenn

St. Peter's Late Summer Activities

Below are dates for our remaining summer activities. Please make note of the event date and what age group it is for and mark your calendars now. Hopefully most of you can attend these events!

August 14th – Pizza and a prayer path



All youth 8th grade thru college. Arrive @ 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will make our own pizzas and experience a personal and powerful faith journey.

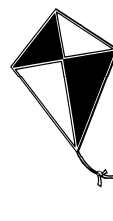
August 28th – Zahnd Pond All-Church Potluck/ Swim Party/WINN Registration & Informational Meeting

Bring a covered dish, swim gear and a friend. 3:00-7:00 p.m.



September 8th – First night of WINN

Theme: Let's go fly a kite @ Zahnd's Pond, 5:30-7:30 p.m.



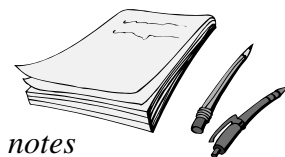
September 12th – First Celebration of Youth service for the fall

If you have any questions or to RSVP, please contact Lisa Lynch at 352-4694 or Rhonda Shoudel at 352-3353.



In the Spotlight this month — **We have a hole in the basement floor!** As part of our continuing repair problems with the heating system, A & R Mechanical Contractors started searching for a leak in the system. The leak has been found and repair work is in progress.

Consistory Highlights — July 2004



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

The majority of the Consistory meeting was a discussion of reports from the Directory Committee and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Carolyn Yoos, Co-Chair of the Directory Committee reported that the committee had its first meeting on July 6th and will meet every Monday afternoon until the directory is completed. The committee members have contacted other church congregations to find out about their choices for companies to do their directories. The committee's recommendation is to use Life Touch Church Directories. The pictures will be taken during the week of November 17-20 and Life Touch guarantees that families will have their photographs in time for Christmas and the directory will be available in February.

LiAnne Kitchen, Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee explained the changes the committee has suggested. A congregational meeting will be held after worship on July 25th for the congregation to hear the committee's report. The congregation will be asked to study the changes and give input so the Constitution and Bylaws can be finalized in October.

Shirley Records, General Treasurer, handed out a Memorandum regarding her recommendations for a Financial System for St. Peter's. The implementation of this system will eliminate duplicating paper work and streamline the current method of accounting. Shirley reported that the cash balance 6/01/04 was \$4,424.96 – additions during the month were \$17,598.40 and expenses were \$12,750.57 leaving a cash balance on 6/30/04 of \$9,262.79.

A report from the Board of Christian Education stated that the Vacation Bible School was a huge success.



Thank You, Donors!

The Stewardship Committee is grateful to the families who have made special contributions to the General Fund and the Building Fund during the recent financial crisis. Due to unexpected and unbudgeted problems, shortfalls have been experienced in these funds. Response to this need has been gratifying, with individual gifts ranging up to \$1,000. If you have not taken the opportunity to contribute, your gift is welcome at any time. We do appreciate the generosity that has been extended to St. Peter's Church. Thank you, donors.

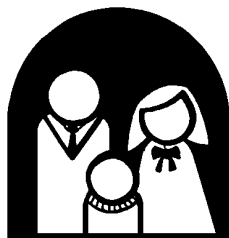
*Stewardship Committee
Jim Acheson, Gladys Hemp, Shirley Records*

Mid-year Giving Statements Ready

The mid-year Giving Statements for 2004 contributions to St. Peter's have been printed and are available on the table at the north end of Fellowship Hall. If you do not find your statement, please contact Bonnie in the Church Office.

Say Cheese!

Life Touch Church Directories will be taking directory photos at St. Peter's on November 17-20, 2004. Additional information will be available in future issues of the newsletter and bulletins.



Attention Children's Library Readers

We are missing our copy of *The Buddy Book* by Nancy Rue. The card was not removed and signed so we have no idea who may have it. If you have the book, please return it promptly. Thanks. (Note: All books and tapes are due **now**.)

*Dorris Baumann
Children's Librarian*



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September issue of *Connections* is Monday, August 16. 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!

Liturgist Sign Up

If you are interested in being a liturgist (Lay Reader) on Sunday morning, please sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. The Pastor will contact you with bulletin information prior to the Sunday you will be Lay Reader.

Summer Music

If you would like to share your musical gifts, please contact the Church Office or sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We are looking for volunteers to add their musical touch to our summer worship services.



Share the Beauty of Your Yard

We would love to have fresh flowers on our Altar table each week. If you have flowers in your garden that you would be willing to share, please sign up on the Flower Chart.

New Addresses

Shirley and Bill Records
301 W. Curtis Road, #2-106
Savoy, IL 61874
217/355-6092

August Greeters

- 1 Shirley and Bill Records
- 8 Gladys and Paul Hemp
- 15 Judith Maloney and Elvira Ebs
- 22 Beverly and Phil Sandidge
- 29 Mark Muller and daughter

August Ushers

Bruce Bostwick	Lee Eichhorst
Pam Bostwick	Sandy Eichhorst
Denton Brown	George Malloch
Joan Brown	Larry Zahnd

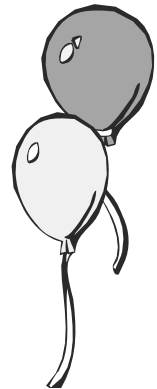
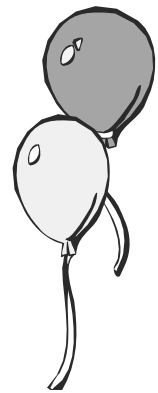


August Anniversaries

- 9 Richard and Ann Swearingen (1957)
- 13 Robert Vaiden and Judy Moller Vaiden (1983)
- 14 Rebecca and John Bishop (1993)
- 18 Kurt and Fern Eheart (1978)
- 21 William and Esther Lyons (1955)
- 22 William Henderson and Kathryn Luther-Henderson (1953)
- Stephen and Becky Kesler (1970)
- 30 Ferdie and Eileen Walters (1964)
- Heinrich and Paula Schmidt (1969)

August Birthdays

- 3 Alena Ornelas
- 10 Marguerite Zahnd
- 11 Charles Zahnd
- 12 Charlotte Joop
- 14 Ronald Schaede
- 15 Kathy Kuipers
- 16 Ed Kobel
- 17 Virginia Zindars
- Virginia Lewis
- 18 Mildred Holleman
- 20 Mildred Luther
- 21 Emma Kidd
- Jackie Vaiden
- 22 David Wentz
- 25 Amy Stahl
- 26 Leah Muller
- Stuart Yoos
- 27 Howard Rhodes
- 28 Wayne Kobel
- 29 Christopher Lehmann
- 30 Alberta West
- Merwyn Zarbuck
- 31 Betty Matlock



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!*