



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

905 S. Russell Street
Champaign, IL 61821
217-356-3635

E-mail: stpeters_ucc@msn.com

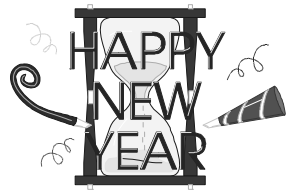
Web Site: stpetersucc.com

CONNECTIONS

January 2004

From the Study

It is the day after "Meet Me at the Manger" which was the theme for our Worship on Sunday, December 14th. Joyce and I commented to each other that it was the best Christmas program in our ministry in any church. This is not to take away from the meaningful March to the Manger programs in previous years, but it does acknowledge that yesterday was a very powerful worship.



In fact, as I look forward to the new year, I give thanks to God for the opportunities and blessings of this past year. Each of us would share different

highlights, but I thought I might share some of the highlights as pastor. January brings the annual MLK celebration, and I have been privileged to be the host for the program on Monday morning at Vineyard. This year, the program on Sunday evening, January 18th at 5:00 p.m. will feature the former Miss America, Erika Harold. On Monday morning, the breakfast program at Vineyard Christian Fellowship Church will feature one of our scholarship winners, Attorney Clyde Mize who graduated from the University of Iowa, College of Law and has become a lawyer in the Atlanta area. Last January, I was privileged to have dinner with Rev. Walter Fauntroy who had been the main speaker at the Sunday Krannert service and who was a prominent leader in our nation's struggle for civil rights for black people. I learned a lot about the civil rights struggle from someone who had been a great leader for many years in the Washington, DC area.

Looking back at 2003, there are many events that stand out as highlights. One was the celebration of Joyce's 60th birthday in Topanga, California with her two sisters and their husbands. Our adopted

daughters did a great job of hosting us at their home for this event. This month, we will attend the Robert Schuller Institute the end of January and we will stay with our son, which will eliminate a lodging expense for the Schuller event.

This past April, the Confirmation Service was a great highlight for the year. I am reminded through pictures and the Confirmation quilt of a very meaningful experience. This year, Confirmation will be the week after Easter on Sunday, April 18th. This year's class has been meeting following worship and we have another good class.

In July and August, we had worship in our air-conditioned Fellowship Hall. I enjoy our worship in Fellowship Hall, but I also then welcome our return in September to our beautiful sanctuary, which I find particularly meaningful at Easter with the lilies and Christmas with the poinsettias.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting in October was a big highlight of the year. It took a short time, but there was a lot of valuable information presented to the congregation. I believe many of us are united in a common vision of where we want St. Peter's to head in the future. Some of us realize that five years from now, we will not be here for various reasons, but we are grateful for the future generations who will become a part of St. Peter's. In my seven plus years as pastor, I am grateful for many of the positive changes that have occurred.

Like you, I do miss some of our faithful members who have died in recent years. I also miss some key members who have moved to other locations, but I rejoice in some of the new persons in our midst.



A major highlight is sharing in the WINN program. I believe this program is important to our church's future. I am grateful for the positive impact this program has on many of us. It does

require a lot of effort, and I hope everyone is willing to do what they can to support an important program in our church.

Included in the year's highlights has been our allowing the band and orchestra from Westview School to use one of our downstairs classrooms. Some concerns were expressed prior to their arrival at our church, but it has worked well for everyone. Like the WINN program, it is an attempt to be open to people beyond our membership.

Again, a big highlight was to work with other members of the St. Peter's staff and also good lay leadership. There is a lot of publicity about how the economy is improving, but my contacts at local levels of the church, contacts at church agencies, and contacts at the Conference level are telling me that they have yet to see positive results of an improving economy. A highlight is that we have real financial challenges at St. Peter's, but we have not been overwhelmed. We have many persons who financially support our ministry at St. Peter's. It is realistic to assume that finances will continue to be a big challenge not only in our church but in all churches for the foreseeable future.



My biggest highlight has been the sense of call I have experienced during this past year. I am learning continually about faith, hope, trust, love and the peace which passes our understanding. I am reminded

that my key role as pastor is to proclaim and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is easy to forget in the myriad of details that form the life of a congregation. I look forward to the New Year of 2004 and hope that we will share many high moments together.

With warm regards,
Pastor Glenn



In the Spotlight this month — During the Sunday morning worship service on January 11, St. Peter's will be installing the 2004 Consistory and Board of Christian Education members. Please mark your calendars to attend this special service.

WINN Starts 2004 with a Bang!

Start the new year right with Wednesday nights at WINN! Check out the January schedule listed below.

If you have any questions regarding WINN, please call Rhonda Shouder at 352-3353 or Cheryl Lehmann at 398-4817.

January	7	2004 Fiesta!
	14	Movie Madness
	21	SnoWINN!
	28	"Gopher" It!

St. Peter's 2003 Annual Report

Please turn your annual reports in to the Church Office by Sunday, January 11, 2004, or give them directly to Ann Swearingen. All committee chairpersons, treasurers and officers should make every effort to provide their reports since they will be a source of information for years to come.

2004 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2004 are on the tables in the church vestibule. If your name is not on a set of pre-numbered envelopes and you would like them, please contact the Church Office.

Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!



Thanks to all who supported our Bookfair promotion for our Youth Library. We received \$109 from Pages for All Ages book store which will be used to purchase more books and other supplies for the Library.

We have provided a display and check out system in the hall across from the lounge. We've also spent \$160 on award winning books and ask parents to encourage the young people to read. We would appreciate hearing any suggestions you might have.

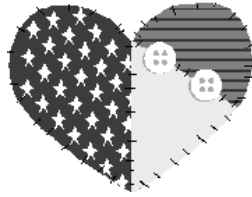
A person who can read and doesn't is no better off than one who can't read.

Happy Reading!

*Dorris Baumann
 Cara Marcum*

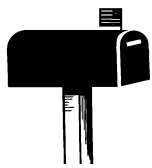
From the Heart

The Staff at St. Peter's would like to thank the members of the congregation for your generous contributions toward the staff Christmas gifts. We are grateful for your thoughtfulness in showing your appreciation to us. It is truly a joy to work at such a wonderful place!



Church Mailbag

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Just as the rest of us are preparing for an elaborate dinner with family and friends to celebrate the season and give thanks for our many blessings, we need to take note that not everyone has been quite as fortunate. The



Food for Seniors Program tries to address this fact for 228 very low income Seniors all through the year. At the holidays, however, we try to be just a bit more generous. You

have helped us do exactly that.

Being old in this country is difficult. Being old and poor is yet more difficult. Being old and poor and lonely around the holidays is really tough. Your concern means a great deal to those in need and to those who are trying to address that need. Thank you for caring and thank you for helping. May these be wonderful holidays for all of you!

Warmest regards,

Vicki Stewart

Director, Helen Mary Stevick Senior Center
Food for Seniors sponsor

It is my great pleasure to thank you for your generous gift to Provena Behavioral Health. We have received your gift designated to TIMES Center. Your charitable giving underscores your commitment to the families we serve and your belief in the power of philanthropy. Your generosity helps to set the standard that will inspire others. We are privileged to have your friendship and partnership as we build a tradition of giving that will serve our community for generations to come. Please extend our thanks to your congregation for their support of ministry to those who are homeless.

Sincerely,

Alexandria W. Lewis
Chief Executive Office
Provena Behavioral Health

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February issue of *Connections* is Thursday, January 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!

New Address

Edna Nimmer

401 Burwash, Apt. 225

Savoy, IL 61874

352-3931



With Deepest Sympathy

St. Peter's is greatly saddened by the death of long time member, Helen Hershbarger. Helen died on December 16 at ManorCare Health Services in Urbana. Mrs.

Hershbarger was the daughter of Harry and Grace Eichhorst. She married Charles M. Hershbarger in 1944. Our thoughts and prayers are with Helen's family and friends.

Martin
Luther
King, Jr.



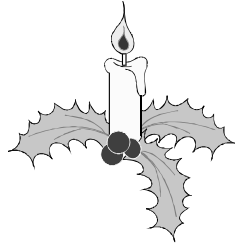
Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebrations

Two celebrations are planned to commemorate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A Service of Celebration and Scholarship Awards Program will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The Guest Speaker is Erika Harold, 2003 Miss America. On Monday, January 19, 2004 at 8:30 a.m., there will be a Prayer Breakfast at Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Urbana featuring Clyde Mize, a former King Scholarship Awardee. Both events are free and open to the public. These celebrations are sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Advocacy for Justice Committee.



January Acolytes

- 4 Chris Lehmann
- 11 Kellie Dahl
- 18 No Acolyte
- 25 Ryan LeBaugh



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!*

January Greeters

- 4 Bill and Mary Limp
- 11 Gladys and Paul Hemp
- 18 Carolyn and Ed Hamrick
- 25 Bill and Debbie Malone
- 28 Bernadine Helbling and Barbara Schultz

Hugs



It's wondrous what a hug can do.
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.
A hug can say, "I love you so,"
or, "Gee! I hate to see you go."

A hug is, "Welcome back again!"
and, "Great to see you!" or
"Where've you been?"
A hug can soothe a small child's pain
and bring a rainbow after rain.

The hug! There's just no doubt about it.
We scarcely could survive without it.
A hug delights and warms and charms.
It must be why God gave us arms.

Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,
sweet for sisters, swell for brothers,
and chances are some favorite aunts
love them more than potted plants.

Kittens crave them. Puppies love them.
Heads of state are not above them.
A hug can break the language barrier,
and make the dullest day seem merrier.

No need to fret about the store of 'em.
The more you give, the more there are of 'em.

So stretch those arms without delay
and give someone a hug today.

Author Unknown

January Ushers

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Jim Acheson | Kathryn Luther Henderson |
| Bernice Benn | Mildred Luther |
| Omer Benn | Al Shoudel |
| Bill Henderson | Cal Twenhafel |



January Anniversaries

- 1 Julius and Marie Demlow (1942)
- 29 James and Dorothy Woller (1960)
- 30 Paul and Gladys Hemp (1954)

January Birthdays

- 1 Roy Colson
Heinrich Schmidt
- 2 Judy Moller Vaiden
- 4 Celeste Honn
- 6 Jeff Hallett
- 7 Shirley Records
- 8 Doris Hershbarger
- 9 Lloyd Phipps
- 11 William Limp
- 12 Crystal Vowels
Cassidy Marcum
- 13 Henry Voigtlander
Roth Vowels
- 14 Blake Lehmann
- 21 Ted Eichhorst
- 22 Jama Fager
Paul Marcum
- 26 Sally Martinie
Jeff Jewett
- 27 Clayton Lehmann
- 31 Julius Demlow
Beverly Sandidge

