



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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CONNECTIONS

March 2004

From the Study

It was good to share in the experience of this year's Robert H. Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership toward the end of January. I want to thank the congregation for enabling this continuing education opportunity.

It is impossible to choose only one highlight. Many of the persons at the institute were present for the first time, and many of them came from outside the United States. (I learned later that the fees for International participants were less than those for us from the United States.) There were many inspiring moments, but I was also aware of the significance of some of the silences. Joyce and I had been at the 1999, 2000 and 2001 Institutes. Since we had not been present for a few years, I was struck how some of the leaders had aged in a few years.

In 2001 at the Institute, we heard comments about the Middle East and Dr. Schuller's personal efforts. There was a member on the staff assigned to Muslim relations. This year there was no mention of the conflict in the Middle East. I believe the reason is that the moderates on all sides of this difficult dispute have been squeezed out of the process of trying to bring peace to the Middle East.

The Rev. Bill Hybels who is head pastor at the Willow Creek Church in Barrington, Illinois did one of many good presentations. His theme was "The Value of Personal Evangelism." His provocative question was: "Are you willing to just walk across the room?" In other words, are you willing to leave your "comfort circle" and reach out "to the zone of the unknown"? In these encounters, what is God up to? (Sorry for the poor English, but that is how Bill phrased the question.)

Rev. Hybels' point was that it is hard for us to leave our circles of comfort and go into the zone of the unknown in order to be where God wants us to be. At the end of his presentation, he made the

statement: "Jesus walked across the cosmos, can we walk across the room?"

He mentioned that we have to avoid two extremes in our personal evangelism: the Erupters and the Avoiders. The Erupter is the person who confronts others in a very aggressive manner. Rev. Hybels does not believe that is what God intends us to do.

The other extreme, which I think represents many of us in our United Church of Christ tradition are the Avoiders who miss the great opportunities that God provides for us. Our being Avoiders is a reaction to the other extreme of the Erupters. We are avoiders because it is hard for us to walk across the room and leave our circles of comfort.

Rev. Hybels asks us to allow God's Spirit to work with us and through us. How do we know it is the Holy Spirit helping us as we reach out to other people? Rev. Hybels gave four indications of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our efforts.

1. The proximity principle in which we allow ourselves to be around those who need our help.
2. Our efforts are congruent with a God given personality.
3. The Holy Spirit is present in a Commonality Principle in which we build bridges, not walls.
4. We are happy as we focus on others rather than ourselves.

If we are serious about being disciples of Christ, I believe we need to recognize the value of Personal Evangelism. Indeed, if Christ walked across the cosmos, can we walk across the room?

Obviously, this report of Rev. Hybels' presentation is limited. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to share. In the meantime, I will see you at worship.

Sincerely,

Pastor Glenn

Sausage Supper . . .

Come join the fun!

The St. Peter's Annual Sausage Supper is Saturday, March 6. Serving time will be 4:00–7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 5–12 and children under 5 are free. Call the Church Office 356-3635 to make reservations.

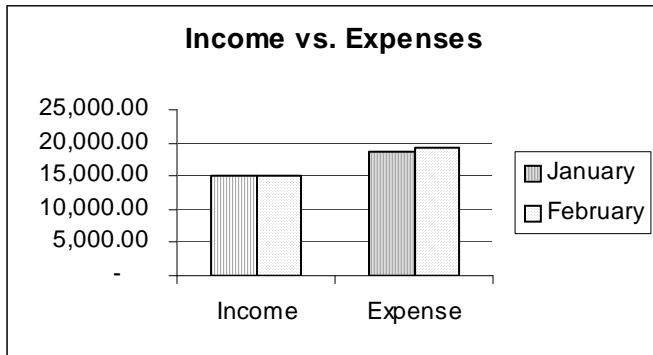


In the Spotlight this month —
Don't miss the

All Church Meeting

following worship on Sunday,
March 21, 2004.

Financial Update



Souper Bowl of Caring – Thank you!

Thank you! Thank you!

Your support of the Souper Bowl of Caring was outstanding with over \$375 raised for Ronald McDonald House – a home away from home for families who have traveled far distances to reach medical treatment for their children. Ronald McDonald House provides families with accommodations, meals, entertainment, support and encouragement during their week, month or even year-long stay. Thank you for your giving spirit and concern for families in need. God bless you!



March Madness with WINN

Wednesday nights in March are going to be real WINNers! Check out the schedule listed below. On the 31st, the WINN Crazy T-Shirt Night will be held at Ants in Their Pants. If you have questions regarding WINN, please call Rhonda Shoudel at 352-3353 or Cheryl Lehmann at 398-4817.

March	3	Ash Wednesday
	10	Orange and Blue Night
	17	“Saints” Night
	24	No WINN – Spring Break
	31	Crazy T-Shirt Night

Consistory Highlights – February 2004



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

Vice President Bill Malone led the meeting in Omer Benn's absence.

Larry Zahnd reported that some plasterwork has been done in the kitchen and in Fellowship Hall. Painting of these areas will take place later in the month of February or the beginning of March.

Bill Records has completed an inventory of the contents of the church. It was suggested that we take pictures of everything for insurance purposes. We will get estimates on the value of each item and then up-date our insurance coverage.

There have been some major heating problems during the past couple of weeks. It was reported that the heating system has been repaired again and that there is a leak under the floor in the downstairs area that will have to be repaired also.

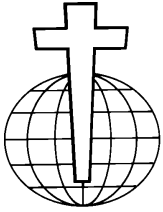
A postal scale has been purchased for the office to facilitate putting the proper postage on oversized mail.

Bonnie Taylor has updated the list of members, staff and friends of the church. A motion was passed to make more copies of the list for the rest of the congregation.

Glenn reported on his trip to the Schuller Institute and suggested that some of the lay people of the church think about joining him next year. He also said that the annual Lifelink church service will be on November 14th.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Please circle Sunday, March 21, 2004 on your calendar. This is the date for our annual One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) mission offering. Last year we gave \$862. This year let's accept a challenge of no less than \$1,000. We can achieve



this goal if everyone will contribute generously. Instead of simply making a donation decision, let our commitment be a matter of faith that represents your sense of God's calling in your life. OGHS helps

people around the world combat malnutrition, illness, natural disasters, illiteracy, displacement and many other needs.

Begun in 1949, the following ecumenical partners have cooperated in this tradition of giving to great humanitarian needs.

American Baptist Churches USA • African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church • Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) • Church of the Brethren • Church World Service • Cumberland Presbyterian Church • Presbyterian Church (USA) • Reformed Church in America • United Church of Christ • The United Methodist Church

In 2001, UCC congregations contributed \$3,386,824 (a new high). In 2002, UCC congregations contributed \$3,125,549. 2003 figures were not listed in the information packet.

Special envelopes will be in Sunday bulletins prior to March 21. Your gift may be mailed to the church office, designated for OGHS, if you are unable to attend services. We need an offering from everyone to make OGHS a success for this year.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Your Mission Committee



A Word of Thanks

To my wonderful friends and members of St. Peter's: I want to thank you one and all for your thoughts and prayers during my recent surgeries. I am healing nicely and I am sure after my

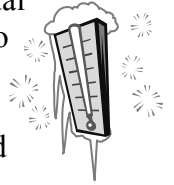
radiation treatments, I will fly from my cocoon and become a butterfly in the spring. Thanks again – your caring has been greatly appreciated.

Fondly, Barbara Schultz

Heating and Air Conditioning Expenses



At the Annual Meeting last October when the expenses for running the church were discussed, several people made the comment that the Consistory should keep the church informed when additional expenses were incurred. The consensus was that, if members were aware of unusual expenses, they would be willing to contribute extra funds in order to cover these expenses. With that in mind, I am listing some of the unbudgeted expenses we have incurred.



2/13/03	Repair to leaking coil in Sanctuary	635.92
6/28/03	Thermostats and air dryers	2,353.00
7/23/03	Repairs on Fellowship Hall A/C	158.00
12/10/03	Install rebuilt condensate pump – Furnace	334.45
12/15/03	New air conditioner for Fellowship Hall	7,283.00
12/19/03	Replace condensate pump – Furnace	775.00
	Repaired leaking valve	150.00
1/30/04	Repair on heater coil	<u>211.25</u>
	Total to date:	\$ 11,900.62

There are still some major problems with the heating system. We seem to swing between raging heat and freezing cold. It is likely that additional expenses will need to be incurred—somewhere in the \$2500 range or more—in order for the system to function properly.

Shirley Records, Treasurer



With Deepest Sympathy

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

Reynold "Ronnie" Schloz died on January 4, 2004 at the age of 83.

During his lifetime, Ronnie served in the Army military police (1942 to 1945) and was a meat market manager at Eisner's for more than 40 years. Mr. Schloz is survived by his wife, Shirley; a daughter, Sheryl Sue Jones of Homer; a brother, William Schloz of Pana; and a sister, Carolyn Hamrick of Champaign.

(continued)

On January 7, 2004, **Robert H. Schindler** died at the age of 86. Mr. Schindler was a self-employed farmer and did tractor testing for John Deere in Moline. Robert was a lifetime member of the Sidney Masonic Lodge 347, Valley of Danville Consistory Lodge Council Chapter and Champaign County Farm Bureau Lodge Council. Mr. Schindler is survived by his wife Aileen; a daughter, Kathy Schindler of Champaign; and two sisters, Ruth Lattman of Champaign and Ione Douglas of Urbana.



Letha B. Cook Cochran Taylor died February 9, 2004 at the age of 92. Letha was a homemaker and worked as a stenographer/secretary in Chicago and California. During her lifetime, Letha lived in Chicago, California and Decatur. Mrs. Taylor enjoyed sewing, oil painting, photography, knitting, crocheting and traveling the West. Survivors include a son, William Cochran, Jr. of Champaign; a stepdaughter, Sally Taylor Barber of Bullhead City, Arizona; six grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; five step-great-grandchildren; and three step-great-great-grandchildren.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Ronnie, Robert and Letha during this time of grief.



Lost & (hopefully) Found

Carolyn Yoos is missing several wicker baskets. There are several small oval baskets and one large rectangular-shaped brown basket. If you have seen these baskets (her name is on the bottom), please call her at 469-7108. They have been missing for several months. Thanks for your help!

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April issue of *Connections* is Monday, March 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!



2004 Consistory Officers

The following slate of Consistory officers was approved at the January Consistory meeting.

- President Omer Benn
- Vice President Bill Malone
- Recording Secretary..... Barbara Schultz
- General Treasurer..... Shirley Records (non-voting)
- Financial Secretary..... Sandy Eichhorst
- Benevolence Treasurer..... Kris McCarthy
- Trustees Paul Hemp, Mike Lehmann, Phil Sandidge
- Revitalization Committee Kris McCarthy
- Music..... Barb Kobel
- Board of Christian Education..... Gladys Hemp
- Endowment Trustees
- Hospitality..... Larry Zahnd
- Building and Grounds..... Larry Zahnd
- Church and Ministry Bill Malone
- Health and Wellness LiAnne Kitchen
- Nominating Committee.....Outgoing President, Women's Fellowship, Trustee



Church Mailbag

On behalf of the families of the Crisis Nursery, we wish to express our gratitude for your donation. Over 50% of our support comes from

charitable giving such as yours. Thank you for the affirmation of our work with your support.

Ginny Dewar
Executive Director, Crisis Nursery



When I stop to think about it, the Lord has been so good to this Ministry, and to all of the people that it touched this past year! Your contribution to Restoration Urban Ministries has made a major difference in many lives. I am sorry we cannot measure your compassion, as I'm sure the figures would be even higher. Thank you so much for caring. If each heart you touched could express what your gifts have meant, this would no longer be a letter but a magazine. With love from the multitudes we serve, I ask God to richly bless you and I look forward to partnering with you again this year!

Ervin T. Williams
Director, Restoration Urban Ministries



Thank you so much for your recent contribution. It's a new year, and thanks to your support, we will be here every day and every night to help survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Our doors never close, and someone is always available to answer the hotline or meet a client in the emergency room. We wouldn't be here – ending violence every day – without your support.

Tami Tunnell
Executive Director
A Woman's Fund, Inc.



Thank you for the financial support you have provided for Matthew House, Inc. during 2003. Every gift, of any size, helps to further our mission. We do our best to use all funds with prudence so that you can be sure that your donation is used well. We hope to have your continued support in the future. It is a great joy to be able to serve children and this would not be possible without people like you.

Jennifer Lugardo
Matthew House, Inc.

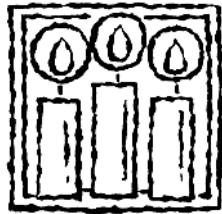


We would like to thank you for your support during our 6th Annual "Warm-A-Kid Drive." The kindness that you extended to our children reflects well on the holistic approach to educating our children. The clothing and monetary gifts that were collected will keep many of our children warm this winter.

Hattie Paulk, Director
Champaign Unit 4 School District
Family Information Center

March Acolytes

- 7 Sierra Marcum
- 14 Kellie Dahl
- 21 No Acolyte
- 28 Chris Lehmann



March Greeters

- 7 Linda and Geoff Dahl
- 14 Cleo and Ed Pelg
- 21 Karlene and Alena Ornelas
- 28 Jeff Jewett Family



March Anniversaries

18 Larry and Marguerite Zahnd (1972)

March Ushers

Carolyn Hamrick
Ed Hamrick
Phil Sandidge

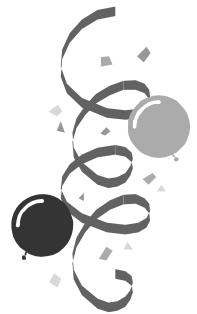
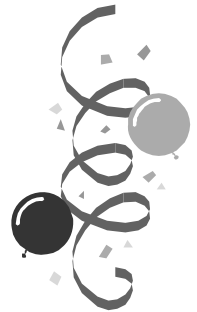
Mark Sterrett
Ann Swearingen
Richard Swearingen

Evelyn Weber



March Birthdays

- 1 Robin Limp
- 4 Jessie Dereng
Andy Eheart
- 6 Al Shoudel
Robert Heller
Shirley Casey
- 9 Joyce Trost
- 10 Dorothy Zahnd
Sierra Marcum
- 11 Mike Lehmann
Erin Durukan
- 12 Maurine Sterrett
- 13 LiAnne Kitchen
Mike Berbaum
- 15 Susan Kesler
Sarah Malone
- 16 McKenzie Marcum
- 17 Marilyn Rayburn
- 18 Rhonda Shoudel
- 24 Betty Voigtlander
- 25 Charles Luer
- 26 Sharon Van Grinsven
- 28 Paul Hemp
- 31 Anna Gerth
Fern Eheart
Kris McCarthy



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!*