



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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From the Study

On June 11th of this year, I began my 38th year as an ordained minister. In these years, there have been many changes in the life of the church of Jesus Christ. The other day, I reflected on the changes in the average church office since the 1960s. These changes are, for the most part, good but the office changes have also brought a possibility for bad consequences. I would like to share these changes to illustrate the fact that not all change is automatically good, nor is it automatically bad. Changes have to be judged good or bad depending upon their consequences.

One big change has been replacing the mimeograph of the late 60's, with quality copy machines that collate and staple. In the sixties, we did not print as much material as we do now because mimeograph stencils required a lot of time and care. Today, we simply put a copy of what we want printed on a glass surface and push the number of copies we want. The good: we have the ability to share much more information than we could in the sixties. The bad: we probably make a lot of unnecessary copies. In the near future, I believe we will have color copiers that enable us to print newsletters, brochures, etc. We will be able to communicate more effectively the mission of the church in photographs and exciting texts that will be a big plus.

Another big change was moving from the typewriters of the late 60's to the computers of today. Twenty years ago, we thought we had arrived when we purchased an executive typewriter with different balls of type. Today, computers have given us many options for a newsletter. Rather than type reports and then mimeograph, we are able to type materials into a computer and manipulate data in an easier format. I can remember the frustration of typing a stencil for a mimeograph, making a mistake and then having to use blue fluid to correct the mistake. The good of this technological change

is obvious, and frankly, I am not aware of any negative to this change.

And let us not forget the creation of the Internet. In the 60s, the emphasis was on advertising in the Yellow Pages; now it is important to have a presence on the Internet. The web site is an important tool. People searching for a church often search the Internet more than looking in the Yellow Pages. The good of having a presence on the Internet is obvious. The bad is that we have to keep material up to date and be aware that information we put on the Internet is available to everyone who has a computer. We would not want to publish someone's cell phone number, for instance.

E-mail enables us to communicate. As postage costs have risen, we have curtailed some of the increase by using e-mail. Once, I sent out first class letters to pastors regarding an activity for our Sunrise Cluster Pastors. Today, I e-mail the notice to the pastors.

Telephone answering machines help us communicate. We must keep the announcement appropriate at the beginning. They also have to be monitored. Please do not use the answering machine on Friday afternoon expecting a quick reply.

The folding machine is just one of several tools which help the efficiency of a church office.

I believe that we live in exciting times in the church. The positive changes in a church office represent some of the positive changes at our disposal to communicate the gospel in our world today.

These developments are no substitute for the primary focus of the church, which is our relationship with God. These developments are no substitute for spiritual disciplines such as worship attendance, Bible study, small groups and private meditation. The changes do help us promote these spiritual activities. I hope you have as much fun reading this article as I have in writing it. See you in church!

Sincerely,

Pastor Glenn



In the Spotlight this month —
Don't miss the Annual Congregational Meeting! This year's meeting will be held on Sunday, October 17 immediately following worship. See you there!

Chicken Noodle Dinner — It's Here!

You won't want to miss the best meal in town . . . St. Peter's Chicken-Noodle Dinner. Join us from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 2 in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are available by calling the Church Office at 356-3635. Adults are \$7, children age 5-12 are \$4, and children under 5 are free. Carry-outs are available.

We hope you can come join us for good food and fellowship. If you are interested in helping, please sign-up in the hallway outside the Church Office. There are many varied opportunities to lend a hand with the dinner. There's no need to work all day . . . as long as you can commit to one shift, we can use your help!



Happy Birthday Lola!

Please join John Tennyson and Joyce (Tennyson) Billing in celebrating Lola Tennyson's 90th birthday on Sunday, October 3. An Open House in her honor is scheduled for 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Rev. John Tennyson (Lola's son) will be our guest speaker during worship.



WINN "Falls" into Autumn

October looks to be full of fall fun for the WINN Program. Check out the schedule listed below. If you have any questions regarding WINN, please call Rhonda Shoudel at 352-3353 or Cheryl Lehmann at 398-4817.

- October 6 Pirates in Paradise!
- 13 "Out of this World! (dinner features alien legs, monster mash and monster brains...yummm!)"
- 20 Smile!
- 27 Trick or Trunk (don't miss the pumpkin stew!)



Mark your Calendar!

o VBS 2005 — June 13-17th o
 5:30-7:30 p.m.



For a "Howling" Good Time, Join Us!

Whoooo: Friends and Families of St. Peter's

What: WINN's 1st Annual "Trick or Trunk"

When: Wednesday, October 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 (If you don't want to join us for dinner, the event begins promptly at 6:30 p.m.)

Where: St. Peter's UCC Fellowship Hall

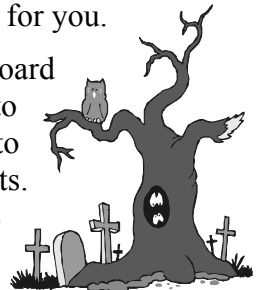
Why: As part of WINN, our mid-week youth program, we would like to incorporate a fun intergenerational Halloween activity.

We need your help! We need you to bring treats to hand out to approximately 35 kids as they circulate amongst the trunks (rear end of vehicles). We would like you to have as much fun with this as possible!

- d Dress up
- d Decorate your vehicle
- d Be prepared to interact with children and youth in a short activity (easy for all) we will provide for you.



Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway. Our goal is to have a minimum of 20 vehicles to fill the front and back parking lots. We would be chilled and thrilled to have more than 20 to sign up.



Please see Rhonda, Cheryl or Lisa for further information. Thank you!

It's Time to Fall Back!

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night October 30. Daylight Savings Time ends on October 31.



Come Join the Craft Club!



Do you love to craft but can't find the time . . . or the space? Come join the St. Peter's Craft Club! The group will meet from 5:00-9:00 p.m. on the **third** Thursday of every month (this month: October 21). Anyone who would like to work on stamping or scrapbooking is invited to bring their projects for an evening of fun. The club is open to any church member, family member or friends. You may bring a snack and beverage if you wish. If you can't make it at 5:00 p.m., don't worry. Just come when you can and leave when you need. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office or Rhonda Shoudel.

Cookies and Crafts and Treasures – Oh My!



On Saturday, November 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, the Women's Fellowship will be hosting its annual Cookie and Holiday Craft Sale. Start baking cookies now! While the cookies are in the oven, clean out a closet or two and bring your gently used items for the Attic Treasures sale. Please bring your items – **no clothing please** – to the church between 4:30-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10 or from 4:30-7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 12. You may donate gently used or new items, for example: books, purses, jewelry, decorative items, dishes. Questions? Call Rhonda Shoudel at 352-3353.

Thank You Donors

Special contributions continue to come in. The Stewardship Committee is pleased to report that another \$1300 has been donated in the past month from five pledging units. This money is being used to cover the unusual expenses incurred from unbudgeted maintenance projects that had to be dealt with over the summer months. Progress is being made at correcting these problems and improving our facilities. The leak on the lower level has been discovered and repaired. If you have not taken the opportunity to contribute to this fund, it is certainly not too late to do so. Please mark your donation "Special gift". Thank you very much.

Your Stewardship Committee

Jim Acheson, Gladys Hemp, Shirley Records

Say Cheese!



St. Peter's will be celebrating its 140th anniversary in 2005. We are in the process of producing an anniversary edition pictorial directory. There is no cost to you or the church to have your photograph taken and you will receive a complimentary 8" x 10" portrait and directory for participating. The photographers have been booked for November 17-20, 2004. Any pictures ordered should be ready in time for Christmas. Posters and price lists are posted in different areas in the church.

Help make our directory a big success! To do this we need volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help during photography sign-ups, to schedule appointments and to serve as hosts during the photography sessions. Phil and Beverly Sandidge are coordinating the volunteers. Please call them at 398-6705 or the Church Office at 356-3635.



Church Mailbag

Thank you for your visit and calls during my hospital stay. Also for cards and calls from others of our church. I really appreciated it. Thanks again!

Dorothy Woller

Thanks so much for all your help. The church is a great place for our classes and meetings so we really appreciate being able to meet there. Thanks again.

Karen Moon

Land of Lincoln Quilt Guild

Thank you all so very much for your prayers, cards, phone calls and concern over Sean's recent surgery. He has rebounded with the energy of a typical three-year-old!

Bonnie S. Taylor

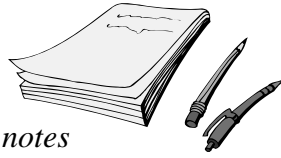
St. Peter's Office Manager

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November issue of *Connections* is Friday, October 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!



Consistory Highlights – September 2004



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

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee reported that it has reviewed suggestions and comments from the congregation and is working on revising the proposed documents. One possible revision may be to institute a dual membership category.

The Consistory viewed photos of the new furnace installations. The leak under the basement floor has been fixed; the Bride's bathroom flooring has been replaced and new carpet has been installed at the parsonage entry. The total cost for the furnace repair project may be under budget.

The WINN program got off to a great start at Zahnd's Pond. Many activities are scheduled for the coming year: another Prayer Path (first one was held on August 29), a devotional night at the Hallett's in Mahomet on October 3, a Halloween "trick or trunk" event, a lock-in for the senior high group in November in addition to activities such as the Praise Choir, Hand Bells and the *Tranquility* lyrical dance troupe. The WINN worship service will be held from 6:20-6:50 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The August General Treasurer's report showed an income of \$192.59 over expenses.

The Chapel will be used as an election polling site for the following elections: November 2, 2004; April 2005 and March 2006.

The Nominating Committee's recommended slate of candidates for 2005 was submitted. Consistory candidates: Geoff Dahl, Cheryl Lehmann, Linda McCarthy (one year term), Shirley Records; Trustee: Lloyd Phipps. Board of Christian Education candidates: Kitty Hallett, Alena Ornelas, Carolyn Yoos.

2005 Nominating Committee Members: Sandy Eichhorst, Chair; Carolyn Hamrick; Ed Kobel and Rhonda Shoudel.

Note: According to the Constitution, notice of the slate of officers should be published 30 days prior to any action. Currently this slate is scheduled to be

voted on during the Annual Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, October 17. The Consistory was not able to meet this 30-day requirement. If this is a problem, we will need to schedule an additional congregational meeting in November.

No Vacation for the Mission Committee

During the past year, the Mission Committee has sponsored several projects, which resulted in providing food and clothing to needy families.

As this article is being written, we are asking for a special financial offering to go to people affected by the hurricanes. On September 5, \$310 was freely given during worship; on September 12, \$528 was



given; on September 19, \$352 was given. We appeal to all members who were not present in church on these Sundays to quickly respond to this appeal. Please send your check (designated to the American Red Cross) to the church office. The money will be sent through the Conference Office to the Red Cross. This is the greatest catastrophe the American Red Cross has ever faced, and the request is that sending money now instead of food and clothing will help them the most. We must move quickly on this one; will you help? Please do.

These other projects of the committee are brought to mind. The month of August was designated "Food Month" and by the end of the month our food box was full to overflowing. A special thanks to committee member Carolyn Hamrick for taking this food to the Eastern Illinois Foodbank. Carolyn is ready to do this at any time.

We remember with pride the call for summer clothing and you responded so graciously. It went to Empty Tomb and we received a note of appreciation. More children were comfortable during the summer than we will ever know.

And remember the hundreds of pounds of food gathered just before last Thanksgiving? It was shared by two agencies and they gave it to needy families.

There is still work to do; helping people we will never know or meet – but God knows!

*Mission Committee Members
Carolyn Hamrick, Bill Records,
The Luers (Co-chair)*

October Anniversaries



- 1 Ed and Barb Kobel (1955)
John and Sharon Van Grinsven (1977)
- 20 Walter and Genevieve Claussen (1945)
- 25 Bill and Shirley Records (1958)

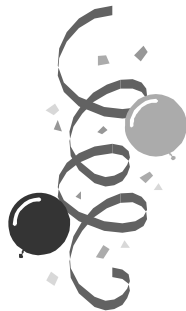
October Ushers

Ken Baumann Barb Kobel Patty Kobel
Kurt Eheart Ed Kobel Mark Williams

October Birthdays



- 1 Marie Kuhlman
Jill Acheson
- 3 Lola Tennyson
John Colson
Amy Durukan
- 4 Betty Smith
- 5 William Henderson
- 8 Jim Acheson
- 10 Mark Sterrett
- 12 Denton Brown
- 13 Karlene Ornelas
- 15 Bernice Mueller
- 17 Mike O'Neill
- 18 Marilyn Foster
Cory Rolfe
- 19 Glenda Smith
- 21 Robert Lewis
Susie Kuhne
Lee Eichhorst
Dale Pelg
- 23 Wilma Bennett
Maralena Taube
- 24 Jessica Jewett
- 28 Mary Ziegler
- 30 Ed Pelg
Daniel Wingler
- 31 Phil Sandidge



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!*



October Greeters

- 3 Kurt and Fern Eheart
- 10 Nancy and Patty Kobel
- 17 Jim and Dorothy Woller
- 24 Jeff and Kitty Hallett
- 31 Jim and Doris Hershbarger

The Jack O'Lantern

A lady had recently been baptized. One of her co-workers asked her what it was like to be a Christian. She was caught off-guard and didn't know how to answer but, then, she looked up and saw a jack o'lantern on the desk and answered, "It's like being a pumpkin." The worker asked her to explain that one.

"Well God picks you from the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt that you got from being around all the other pumpkins. Then he cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff from inside. He removes all the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then he carves a new smiley face and puts his light inside of you to shine for all to see."



Healthy Congregations Workshop

Eastern Association Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 23 St. Peter's UCC
310 N. Meadow • Grant Park, Illinois
Registration – 8:00 a.m. Business Mtg – 8:30 a.m.
Program – 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

This workshop will help you . . .

- Learn how you as a leader can influence the health of your congregation – how to detect and avoid unhealthy patterns of living together in community.
- Learn how to keep anxiety from becoming infectious.
- Gain confidence in responding to challenges and opportunities.
- Learn how to put limits on invasive behavior, manage reactivity and overcome sabotage.
- Discover how leaders can function as the congregation's immune system
- Learn to focus on strengths, resources, options and the future.

Who will benefit:

- Pastors and other church staff, Church Council, Personnel Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee members, all congregation members and leaders

(continued)

