



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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April 2005



From the Study

“It is your job to protect the unity of your church.” These are the beginning words of Chapter 21 of Rick Warren’s book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, which is entitled “Protecting Your Church”. Pastor Warren cites two scripture texts as background for this important chapter: *Ephesians 4:3* “You are joined together with peace through the Spirit, so make every effort to continue together in this way.” And *Colossians 3:14* “Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony.” Our Thursday morning study group agreed that this is one of the most important chapters in this significant book, which has been on the bestseller list for quite some time. It is not simply a chapter to read but rather a chapter that describes a process to live in order to protect the church as the body of Christ. We have discovered that the paragraphs that have bold headline sentences are very significant. In this chapter, the following paragraph headings describe how we can protect the unity of the church. I have made my personal comments in parentheses. If there is no parenthesis, the sentence is close to what Pastor Warren wrote.

1. Focus on what we have in common, not our differences. Pastor Warren reminds us that we share “one Lord, one body, one purpose, one Father, one Spirit, one hope, one faith, one baptism, and one love. We share the same salvation, the same life, and the same future—factors far more important than any differences we could enumerate . . . Conflict is usually a sign that the focus has shifted to less important issues, things the Bible calls ‘disputable matters’.”

2. Be realistic in your expectations. Once you discover what God intends real fellowship to be, it is easy to become discouraged by the gap between the ideal and the real in your church. Yet we must passionately love the church in spite of its imperfections.

3. Choose to encourage rather than criticize. It is always easier to stand on the sidelines and take shots at those who are serving than it is to get involved and make a contribution.

4. Refuse to listen to gossip. (There is a difference between “information sharing” that enables ministry and gossip, which is idle talk at another’s expense. Gossip seeks to tear down someone rather than enable a process to help them.) If you listen to gossip, God says you are a troublemaker. *Troublemakers listen to troublemakers. These are the ones who split churches, thinking only of themselves.*

5. Practice God’s method for conflict resolution. Jesus gives a three-step process in *Matthew 18:15-17a* “If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him—work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you’ve made a friend. If he won’t listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won’t listen, tell the church.”

6. Support your pastor and leaders. There are no perfect leaders, but God gives leaders the responsibility and the authority to maintain the unity of the church. During interpersonal conflicts that is a thankless job. Pastors often have the unpleasant task of serving as mediator between hurt, conflicting or immature members. (Pastors) are given the impossible task of trying to make everyone happy, which even Jesus could not do.

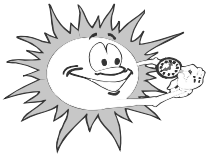
At the end of the chapter, Pastor Warren presents this question to consider: “What am I personally doing to protect unity in my church family right now?” Hence, I rewrite the sentence that began this chapter: “It is (our) job to protect the unity of (our) church.”

I hope you find rich meaning in these words, as did the Thursday morning Study group. We meet at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings and you are welcome to join us. See you in Church.

Sincerely,

Pastor Glenn

Daylight Savings Time Begins



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, April 2. It's time to "spring forward".

Calling All Women of St. Peter's!

Sunrise Cluster Women's Fellowship will meet on Monday, April 4, for our spring gathering at the United Church of Atwood. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., with program beginning at 9:30. **Ladies of St. Peter's will provide coffee and snacks.** The program will be given by the new pastor of the United Church of Atwood, Pastor Veronica Walsh-Don. She comes to Eastern Association from Nebraska. She will tell us about the Emmaus UCC home for handicapped adults at Marthasville, Missouri. Pastor Veronica has worked at Emmaus as a caregiver, and after her graduation from Eden seminary in May 2003, as Assistant Chaplain.

P.S. Lola will need help with coffee hour!

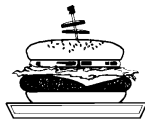
April Showers bring WINN Fun!

Jump into spring with tons of WINN fun! Check out the schedule and menu listed below. If you have any questions, please call Rhonda Shoudel at 352-3353 or Cheryl Lehmann at 398-4817.

April 6 Pajama Party
featuring breakfast casserole, fruit salad, pastries



13 Fiesta Night!
featuring taco bar, salad



20 "Bee"-Attitudes
featuring cheeseburgers, chips, baked beans



27 "Bravo" Night
featuring BBQ from Longhorn Smokehouse



Newsletter Deadline

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



In the Spotlight this month — Don't miss the **All Church Meeting** following worship on Sunday, April 17, 2005. If you wish to be added to the agenda, please contact the Church Office.

Tuesday Circle Potluck

Don't miss the Tuesday Circle All Church Potluck at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26 in Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be from the Urbana Library Genealogy department. See you there!



Merci Beaucoup!

Have you seen the new St. Peter's 140th Anniversary Edition Directory? It's beautiful! Many thanks to the Directory Committee for an amazing job in putting together a truly beautiful directory. Kudos to Carolyn Yoos, committee chair and her committee members Phil and Beverly Sandidge, Ruth Schloz and Virginia Zindars. St. Peter's would also like to thank Kris McCarthy for designing the page layout and Carol Pointer for researching the member data. We would like to extend special thanks to Stuart Yoos for his beautiful photography throughout the directory. St. Peter's is truly blessed to have such wonderfully talented and committed people!



A Reminder —

Extra copies of the Treasurer's monthly reports are placed on the credenza in the south hallway. They are usually placed there about mid-month for the previous month. If we need more copies, I will be happy to make them.

Shirley Records, Treasurer

Sausage Available

One pound packages of frozen cooked sausage are still available for purchase (\$3.00/lb). You can pick-up sausage during office hours or at church on Sundays.



Coming This Summer!



VBS 2005 features **Jerusalem Marketplace** – an inter-generational fellowship and faith-filled event sponsored by the Board of Christian Education. This summer's event will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on June 13-17, 2005. Registration fee of \$10 per participant age 5-adult (\$40 cap per family) includes dinner, activities and field trip to Sholem Kiddie pool and waterslide on Friday evening, (7:00-8:00 p.m.).

Jerusalem Marketplace

Step back in time . . . You are invited to experience Jerusalem Marketplace. The hustle and bustle of this busy setting will take you back to Jesus' time. You will experience His last week on earth before His crucifixion and resurrection on Easter day. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of this awesome opportunity. Everyone is encouraged to participate and enjoy this wonderful event together.

We need your help to create Jerusalem Marketplace. Many of our material needs and resources may be in your closets or shelves at home. Please, look through the list. You may have an item you'd like to donate or let us borrow for this year's VBS. Please make sure your name and phone number is on any item you'd like returned. Thank you for your help!

Needs:

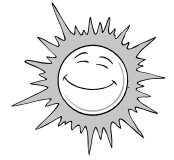
- YOU – we need volunteers and participants to make Jerusalem Marketplace a success.
- 1 potter's wheel
- earthen clay for writing tablets and pottery activity
- 1 weaver's loom
- baskets for table centerpieces
- large standing baskets
- textiles such as blankets, tablecloths, throws
- faux fruit, especially grapes and apples
- stems such as wheat, cattails, papyrus, reeds
- leather and hemp lacing/cord
- 2 menorahs and candles
- 3 frisbees
- bricks to make a water well



- mortar and pestle stones
- large salt lick block for cows
- costumes and fabric for costumes *continued*
- building supplies: wood, nails, screws for the construction of two shops in our marketplace
- shofar (ram's horn)
- live, potted herbs such as aloe vera, cumin, coriander, basil, oregano, mustard plants

Spread a Little Sunshine

A card, visit or phone call would bring a bit of joy to:



Julius Demlow
Jessie Dereng
Ione Douglas
Bernice Mueller

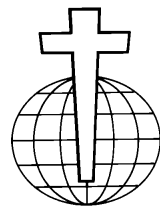
Betty Myers
Edna Nimmer
Jessie Schlorff
Bertha Woller

Kindness, if you show it to others, will radiate from you like the warmth of the sun over the hilltops.

— Source unknown

Welcome New Members

St. Peter's received two people into membership on Palm Sunday, March 20. Jocelyn Spitzer is an administrative assistant at the U of I. Nick Voss works as a research programmer at the U of I Fire Service Institute. Please join us as we welcome Nick and Jocelyn into membership at St. Peter's!



MISSIONS

One Great Hour of Sharing Collection Sets New High

All members of the congregation deserve congratulations and sincere thanks for giving \$1,248 to the OGHS appeal. This is a new high for our congregation and proves we do respond when properly informed about the need and how the money will be used.

I am reminded of our recent Tsunami Relief collection of \$2,000. Now you have shown incredible compassion again. **"Thank You"**. The members of the Mission Committee are most pleased and we can be sure the Conference office personnel will be too.

Charles Luer, Chairman



Consistory Highlights – March 2005

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.



A proposal was discussed to replace and add trees and shrubs on the church property using the money available from memorials designated for this purpose.

The senior high group is sponsoring a blood drive from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. on April 2. Anyone able to donate blood, please support this endeavor. Cabaret has been postponed until the fall. *Tranquility* will dance on Palm Sunday and Mother's Day. The Praise Choir will sing on March 20 and April 24. The new Confirmation class will consist of 5 or 6 members.

It was reported that the sausage supper was a huge success.

The Treasurer's report showed a deficit of \$535.12 for the month of February.

Glenn reported that Christie Taube will be in the pulpit on April 10 as he will be on vacation at that time.

The next Consistory meeting will be on April 12 and a congregational meeting will be on April 17.

2005 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
- Financial Secretary..... Geoff Dahl
- Benevolence Treasurer..... Linda McCarthy
- Trustees Jim Acheson
Mike Lehmann
Lloyd Phipps
- Music..... Barb Kobel
- Board of Christian Education..... Linda McCarthy
- Endowment Trustees
- Hospitality..... Stuart Yoos
- Building and Grounds..... Jim Acheson
- Church and Ministry Bill Malone



Well Done Sierra!

Congratulations to Sierra Marcum for her First Place award (grades 7-9) in *The News-Gazette's* Design An Ad 2005 contest. Sierra's ad for Andrae's Harley Davidson was featured on page T-19 in the Friday, March 18 issue of the paper.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The Women's Fellowship Board extends many thanks to all who helped make this year's Sausage Supper a great success!

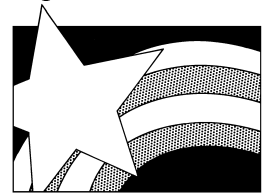
We all realize it takes a lot of heads and hands to plan, prepare and produce such an event, and with the leadership of Kurt and Fern Eheart and Larry and Marguerite Zahnd, St. Peter's pulled off another wonderful dinner.

We served 430+ and made over \$2,800 (to date).

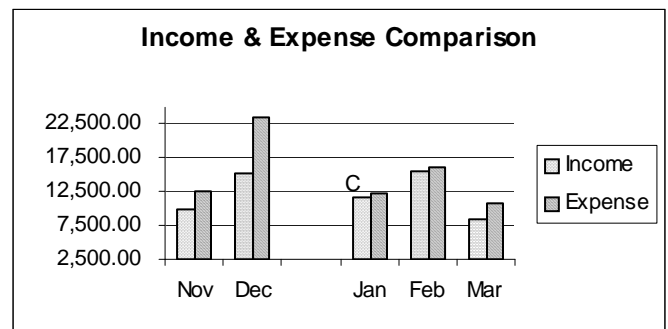
So again, many thanks to all who helped in whatever way you could. Big hugs to Kurt, Fern, Larry and Marguerite for all of your hard work. Also special thanks to the students of Campus Ministry for their help.

The monies earned (at this and other dinners and events sponsored by Women's Fellowship) are used for special projects or needs in or of the church and missions in our community and beyond.

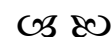
In Christian Love –
The Women's Fellowship Board



Financial Update



Figures for March are as of 3/18/2005.



Happiness is contagious – be a carrier!



Church Mailbag

*To Our Friends at St. Peter's,
Many thanks for your wonderful cheering card – we so enjoyed receiving it and recalling special memories when we read each name. You are in our hearts always.*

Lovingly,
Mary Sue and Bill O'Neill

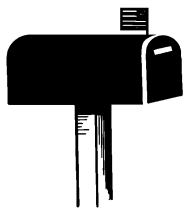
A Note of Concern

In the past two months, my children and I have noticed an absent face in the Sunday morning service at St. Peter's. Lisa Lynch and her very thought-provoking children's sermons have been dearly missed.

She is blessed with a special gift to connect with the youth in our congregation through song, skits and scripture. Lisa brings a tangible uniqueness to our services that many congregation members truly enjoy, even though we are no longer kids. In fact, sometimes her message is the topic of discussion at our dinner table or at bedtime.

We have enjoyed the stories shared by others in the past weeks for the children's sermon, but dearly miss the spark and energy that Lisa Lynch brings with her to our services. Could we please have her return to Children's Time?

Sincerely,
Cara, Sierra and McKenzie Marcum



New Address

Wayne Kobel
Manor Care Health Services
309 E. Springfield Avenue, #224
Champaign, IL 61820

April Greeters

- 3 Gladys and Paul Hemp
- 10 Cheryl and Mike Lehmann
- 17 Ed and Carolyn Hamrick
- 24 Evelyn Weber and Alberta West

April Ushers

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

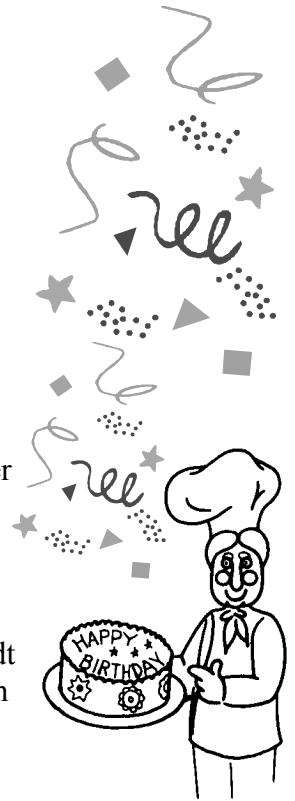


April Liturgists

- 3 Cara Marcum
- 10 Melissa Records
- 24 Katie Malone

April Birthdays

- 2 Dale Sebens
Marcella Nance
- 3 Marie Mayer
- 4 Phyllis Jones
John Bishop, Jr.
Kate Martinie
Laura LeBaugh
Sharon Conatser
- 5 Tracie O'Neill
Lizzie O'Neill
Tesslyn Dahl
Bonnie Taylor
- 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



April Anniversaries

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

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 12:00 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!**