



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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From the Study

There have been several news articles on the controversial resolutions before our denomination's General Synod in early July. One resolution that has received little notice was entitled "Reaffirming Jesus Christ as Our Lord and Savior and Reaffirming Our Historic UCC Cross, Crown, and Orb with Motto Symbol." This statement reminds us why we are the United Church of Christ. This resolution in its totality may be read at the United Church of Christ web site: www.ucc.org

The summary of the resolution read: "This resolution reaffirms (1) that the United Church of Christ continues to claim as our own the ecumenical faith that Jesus Christ is both human and divine, our Lord, Sovereign and Savior, and (2) that the Historic UCC Cross, Crown, and Orb with Motto continues to be the official symbol of our Church."

The background of the resolution read: "The Constitution of the United Church of Christ affirms that we stand in the great tradition of the universal Church, the Body of Christ. The Preamble includes the words that the UCC, 'claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. The UCC affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.'"

The next session of the resolution includes Biblical, Theological and Ethical Rationale: "While the United Church of Christ has always been a theologically diverse community, our diversity has a center—Jesus Christ, in whom God became a human being, who lived and died and rose again from the dead, who is both human and divine. This center is not merely a theological opinion or standpoint, but is inherent in the UCC's identity as a part of the Body of Christ, Holy Scripture, the

ancient testimonies of faith, our constitutional texts, our Statement of Faith, our inclusive-language liturgies and hymnals, our ecumenical commitments, and our Christ-centered witness for justice and peace all testify that this faith is still foundational for our Church."

This witness then led to the Resolutions: (that the United Church of Christ) "celebrate and reaffirm our Church's faith in Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, whose true humanity and divinity are declared in our Constitution, our liturgies, our hymnals and our ecumenical commitments."

(The United Church of Christ) "encourages all who proclaim the Sovereignty of Jesus in their words to discern the implications of that proclamation for the way they live their lives." I would encourage you to read this entire resolution along with the other resolutions. It is important to see the Biblical, Theological and Ethical Rationale for the other pronouncements, some of which we would label controversial. However, it is important to stress that all resolutions were written from a particular faith perspective.

One of the great leaders of our church in England prior to the Pilgrims coming to this country was John Robinson. When he bid good-bye to the Pilgrims, he told them "God has more truth and light to come from his Word." We have that same spirit today as we affirm "God Is Still Speaking."

Over a decade ago, I felt one of the major themes in scripture was hospitality and the lack of hospitality. On July 10th, I preached a sermon on the Parable of the Sower. The key message is that God's word will bring forth a great harvest because of the great response of the persons who are like fertile soil. Jesus began and ended his message to the crowd "Listen." May we continue to listen to our God who is still speaking.

Sincerely,

Pastor Glenn

Consistory Highlights – July 2005

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.



Jeff Hallett reported that the “Christian Leadership University” in Orlando exceeded all expectations and that it was a very positive experience for all who attended from St. Peter’s. The youth are planning fundraisers with the hope of going to a fellowship conference in Washington, DC and again to Orlando next summer.

The WINN program is still recruiting cooking teams for the new season. The teams will probably be responsible for a month each. The contemporary worship services will last about 45 minutes and there will be a four-month trial period. *Tranquility* will dance at the contemporary services and the praise team will be responsible for fellowship between the two services.

Jim and Jill Acheson are having a garage sale on August 12th and 13th. The youth of the church will help in the sale and all the proceeds will be designated for future youth trips.

Members needing to use a computer in the Church Office should use the Volunteer computer instead of the Office Manager’s computer.

Needed – Helping Hands for Fellowship Time

Please take note of the sign up sheet on the bulletin board. If you’re able to make or purchase a snack for fellowship, please sign up. If you aren’t able to provide a snack, perhaps you could make a donation to help buy snacks. We need volunteers to prepare and clean up coffee and to bring a snack. Volunteers may sign up for coffee, snack or both. If you have any questions, please call Stuart Yoos at 469-7108 or call the Church Office. Please help however you can. Thanks!

Note: During the months of September, October, November and December, Fellowship Time on Contemporary Worship Sundays (third Sunday) will be held between the morning worship services.

Shalom! Shalom! Shalom!



THANK YOU St. Peter’s for your support of Jerusalem Marketplace. 73 participants and over 50 volunteers made this year’s VBS the best yet! Many of you gave countless hours of your time, shared your talents, and donated hundreds of dollars worth of materials to our program. This year’s program raised the bar on what we can accomplish together when we work for the glory of God. I am so grateful for the blessing we were given to fellowship together, learn about Jewish traditions and the love of God during the week of Jerusalem Marketplace.



Highlights included the nightly dramas, inter-generational participation, the marketplace shops and shopkeepers, the costumes, our annual trip to the river (a.k.a. Sholem waterslides and kiddie pool) and of course . . . the food! Please help me recognize the following people who made this year’s VBS possible and an outstanding success! – Jim Acheson, Jill Acheson, Bernice Benn, Omer Benn, Shirley Casey, Frank Clark, Velma Clark, Geoff Dahl, Kellie Dahl, Linda Dahl, Zoë Dahl, Doris Drake, Fern Eheart, Lee Eichhorst, Sandy Eichhorst, Jeff Hallett, Kitty Hallett, Lindsey Hallett, Carolyn Hamrick, Julie Healy, Maura Healy, Gladys Hemp, Celeste Honn, Bonnie Joop, LiAnne Kitchen, Susie Kuhne, Cheryl Lehmann, Chris Lehmann, Mike Lehmann, Steve Lessaris, J. C. Lynch, JoAnn Malloch, Bill Malone, Debbie Malone, Katie Malone, Cara Marcum, McKenzie Marcum, Sierra Marcum, Kymberly McCarthy, Alena Ornelas, Karlene Ornelas, Barb Schultz, Nicci Shoudel, Rhonda Shoudel, Ben Sterrett, Mark Sterrett, Maurine Sterrett, Ann Swearingen, Bonnie Taylor, Vera Wachter, Carolyn Yoos, Stuart Yoos!



Thanks again!

Lisa Lynch

Bring a Little Sunshine Inside



If you have blooming flowers or shrubs you would like to share, feel free to bring them to adorn our altar table. A Flower Sign-up Sheet is located on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the Pastor’s office.



In the Spotlight this month —

News Flash New this Fall — Contemporary Worship Services

Join us this fall, on the third Sunday of the month at 8:45 a.m. for uplifting and inspirational

worship services led by our newly formed Worship Praise Team. These contemporary services will include an inspirational message based on Scripture. A variety of dramatic techniques, such as Reader's Theater, puppets, dramatic readings, dance and movement (the ever-popular lyrical dance ensemble, *Tranquility*) will be used to enhance the worship services. These contemporary services are intended for people of all ages. Come . . . NOW is the time to worship!

September 18 "Ready For Service, Here I Am Lord"

October 16 "It's A Matter of Time"

November 20 "Pay It Forward"

December 18 "From the Heart or From the Store?"

Student Leadership University

Student Leadership University 101 was incredible! Professional and power-packed, inspiring and thought provoking – SLU proved itself to be an excellent Christian leadership opportunity for each of the eight participants who attended in Orlando, July 4-7. We are excited to share our experiences and favorite highlights with you at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 28. We will provide fellowship following worship and show a slide presentation during that time in the Lounge/Adult Library. We gratefully and deeply appreciate everyone's support of SLU and the generous gifts that were donated to help finance our delegation. Thanks, with all our hearts and hope to see you in church on the 28th for an uplifting, energizing SLU worship service!

*Kellie Dahl, Jeff Hallett, Lindsey Hallett,
Maura Healy, Cheryl Lehmann,*

Courtney Lehmann, Lisa Lynch, Maurine Sterrett

A Big Thank You . . .

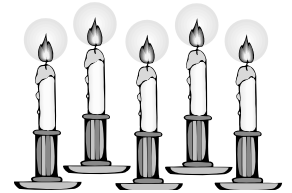
to our Nursery Attendants – Linda Dahl, Cheryl Lehmann, Cara Marcum and Jackie Vaiden!

Champaign Regional Office of Lifelink Celebrates 20 Years

Please attend the church service on September 25, 2005 so that we can personally thank all of you for the generous support of our International Adoption Program over the years. Lifelink will sponsor a reception immediately following the service for St. Peter's members and for adoptive families. Carl Zimmerman, President of Lifelink/Bensenville Home Society, will be in attendance. We all look forward to seeing you!

Acolytes and Liturgists Needed

If you'd like to serve as an acolyte or liturgist for Sunday worship, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the Pastor's office.



With Deepest Sympathy

St. Peter's is saddened by the death of long time member, Wayne Kobel. Wayne died July 9, 2005 at the age of 76. Wayne was born August 28, 1928, a son of Harry and Florence Price Kobel. He married Mary Jane Lunger on March 14, 1948 in Champaign. She died January 4, 1998. Survivors include a son, Randall Kobel; a daughter, Kassandra Nudo; one sister, Doris Drake, all of Champaign; five grandchildren and a great-grandchild. Mr. Kobel graduated from Champaign High School and served on the Champaign Police Department for 25 years as a detective and arson investigator. Mr. Kobel was a member of the Champaign Police Benevolent and Protective Association and served on the board of directors of East Lawn Cemetery for many years. He enjoyed carpentry and home building. Our thoughts and prayers are with Wayne's family.



Summer Senior High Events

Here is a list of all the summer activities we have planned. We know that all of the dates will not work for all of you. Please do your best to try to make as many as possible and please let us know whether or not you can come as soon as possible. If you have questions or for your response, please call Rhonda @ 352-2253 or Lisa @ 352-4694.

Friday, July 22 - 7:00 p.m.

Drive-in Movie

Harvest Moon Theatre, Gibson City

Meet at St. Peter's - For those who do not want to drive or can't drive, Bonnie and Rhonda will drive from the church and return you to your home after the movie. Please bring \$5.00, a drink for yourself and a snack to share, as well as a blanket or lawn chair.

The events listed below are open to incoming freshmen.

August 8, August 9, August 11 - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

August 12, August 13 - 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Garage Sale!



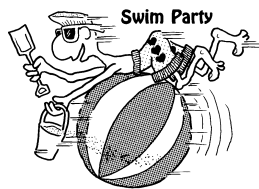
Jim and Jill Acheson have generously offered to donate all proceeds to the Senior High Group in return for us pricing and running this event at their home (915 W.

Clark, Champaign). Pricing will be done August 8, 9 and 11 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The sale will be held August 12-13 from 8:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. You should all attend as often as you can to help price and run the sale.

Sunday, August 14 - 3:00 p.m.

Swim and Fun in the Sun @ Zahnd Pond

Parents drop kids off at the Pond. Leaders will deliver them home by 10:00 p.m. Bring \$10.00 for dinner out and your swim stuff.



Sunday, August 21 - 3:30 p.m.

Faith for Life Progressive Dinner

Theme: Building Christian Character

Meet at the Sterrett's home. Leaders will drive from there and return kids home by 10:00 p.m.
3:30-5:00 p.m. Sterrett's home for appetizers

5:00-7:00 p.m. Drive to Mahomet Arby's, pick up dinner and go to Joop/Burr home to eat dinner and swim

7:30-9:30 p.m. Drive to Champaign to Lehmann's home for dessert and activities. Please bring \$\$ for Arby's, swim stuff and an item for ice cream sundae bar (call Rhonda for which item).

Friday, August 26 - Saturday, August 27 Hallett's Habitat Lock-in Overnight Retreat



Drop kids @ St. Peter's at 5:30 p.m. on August 26. Bring sleeping bags and attire, necessities, swim stuff, Bible, bug spray and an item of food to deep fry (again, call Rhonda to discuss item). We will drop kids at home on Saturday by noon.



Splash into WINN!

When: Sunday, August 28 - 3:30-7:30 p.m.

Where: Zahnd Pond, Bondville, Illinois

What: WINN Registration and Swim Party

Who: You, your family, your friends, your neighbors - as many people as you can fit in your vehicle!

Why: To fellowship together, enjoy the beauty and refreshment of Zahnd Pond and to register for the 2005-2006 year of WINN (Wednesday Inter-generational Nurture Night)

Scheduled Events

3:30-7:30 p.m. Swimming

5:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner

6:30 p.m. WINN Parent

Meeting and Registration

7:30 p.m. Dismissal

Please bring your bathing suit, towels, goggles, floaties, flip-flops, lawn chair, dry clothes, hat, sunscreen, bug spray, water bottle, camera, a dish to share and your own drink to enjoy at the potluck. Please call Rhonda, Kitty or Lisa for further details or questions.





Church Mailbag

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter's,

I would like to thank those who sent cards during my recent hospitalization. The many cards and prayers were greatly appreciated.

Joyce Trost

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter's,

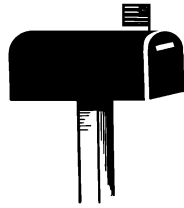
We would like to thank you for the cards we received for our 40th wedding anniversary. We would also like to thank the anonymous person or persons who placed the beautiful red bouquet on the altar on Sunday, June 12th in honor of our anniversary.

Pastor Glenn and Joyce

New Addresses

Marilyn Rayburn
6303 E. Dallas Street
Mesa, AZ 85205

David Ho
Winfield Village Apartments
371 B4 Paddock Drive West
Savoy, IL 61874



Newsletter Deadline

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

August Greeters

- 7 Barb and Ed Kobel
- 14 Howard and Felice Rhodes
- 21 Lee and Sandy Eichhorst
- 28 Millie Luther

August Ushers

- Pam Bostwick
- Lee Eichhorst
- Sandy Eichhorst
- Jeff Hallett
- George Malloch
- Barbara Schultz
- Larry Zahnd

August Birthdays

- 3 Alena Ornelas
- 5 Grant Pointer
- 8 Amy Schaeffer
- 10 Marguerite Zahnd
- 11 Charles Zahnd
- 12 Charlotte Joop
- 14 Ronald Schaeede
- 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
- 29 William Beck
- Bryan Malloch
- Christopher Lehmann
- 30 Alberta West
- Merwyn Zarbuck
- 31 Betty Matlock



August Anniversaries

- 9 Richard and Ann Swearingen (1957)
- 13 Robert and Judy Vaiden (1983)
- 14 John and Rebecca Bishop (1993)
- 18 Kurt and Fern Eheart (1978)
- 21 William and Esther Lyons (1955)
- 22 William and Kathryn Luther Henderson (1953)
- 24 Doth and Pooh Sysouvanh (1996)
- 30 Ferdie and Eileen Walters (1964)
- 30 Heinrich and Paula Schmidt (1969)

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!**