



**St. Peter's United Church of Christ**  
 905 S. Russell Street  
 Champaign, IL 61821  
 217-356-3635  
 E-mail: [stpeters\\_ucc@msn.com](mailto:stpeters_ucc@msn.com)  
 Web Site: [stpetersucc.com](http://stpetersucc.com)



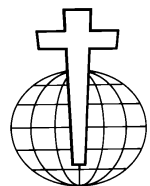
## From the Study

We begin the journey of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. The gospel reading is from *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*. This is a reminder that our expression of piety should be directed toward God rather than trying to make ourselves look super pious. I encourage you to read this text to prepare for Lent. The ending of the passage concludes in verses 19-21.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The epistle text for Ash Wednesday is *II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10*. The text begins:

“So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”



Even though the world wide church uses a three year lectionary cycle, these readings are for every year. The one holy, universal Christian church is saying through its lectionary that the entire Bible is important, and some readings such as these readings are extremely important. Read them and live your faith accordingly.

Lent has been an important discipline in our church year. Many of us remember the mid-week services during Lent, which helped us with our discipleship. Gradually, these mid-week services disappeared as modern life became more complex. I pray that you take time for spiritual disciplines during Lent which might include: regular church

attendance, prayer, Bible Study, reading devotions and materials from other sources such as the internet.

On the last Sunday of February in the heart of Lent, the epistle is *Romans 5:1-11* which begins:

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”



We are saved by faith. A simple statement that represents the truth of the gospel. Yet, all of us at some point fall into the trap of believing we are saved by our works and forget that it is only by the grace of God that we are acceptable. I believe spiritual discipline continues to be an important priority to remind us of this truth. We do not study the scriptures to become greater scholars but in order to better understand the good news of grace. May God help us as we begin our Lenten journey.

With warm regards,  
**Pastor Glenn**



## 2004 Giving Statements

Giving Statements for 2004 contributions to St. Peter’s have been printed and are available in the hallway outside the sanctuary. If you do not find your statement, please contact Bonnie in the Church Office.



Installation  
of Officers

## 2005 Consistory and Board of Christian Education

The **2005 Consistory** members installed during worship on January 23 are: Omer Benn, Geoff Dahl, Barb Kobel, Cheryl Lehmann, Michael Lehmann, Bill Malone, Linda McCarthy, Lloyd Phipps, Shirley Records, Phil Sandidge, Barbara Schultz, Stuart Yoos.

The **2005 Board of Christian Education** members installed on January 23 are: Fern Eheart, Kitty Hallett, Gladys Hemp, Chris Lehmann (Youth Representative), Linda McCarthy (Consistory Liaison), Alena Ornelas, Rhonda Shoudel, Ben Sterrett (Youth Representative), Carolyn Yoos.

Please give a hearty "Thank You" to the following members of the 2004 Consistory and Board of Christian Education whose terms ended at the end of December. They have all spent many hours in time and energy working for our church.

Retiring Consistory Members: Sandy Eichhorst, Paul Hemp, Kris McCarthy, Larry Zahnd.

Retiring Board of Christian Education Members: Carolyn Hamrick, Judy Moller Vaiden, Robert Vaiden.

Please give your thanks to our continuing Consistory and Board of Christian Education members as they embark on the continuing work of our church in 2005.

Each of us brings many gifts to St. Peter's. As we rejoice in the installation of these committees, let us keep in mind these words from *Romans 12:3-13*.

"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual

affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."

## Consistory Highlights—January 2005

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



Christie Taube gave an update report on her seminary classes and preaching. She said that Glenn's guidance has been beneficial to her the last 1½ years. She is working part time at the Lake Fork Church in Atwood preaching, working with the children and the Christian Ed Committee. In the 12 classes she has taken she has passed with A's and B plusses. She asked for the formation of an "In-Care Committee" at St. Peter's. Bill Malone and Gladys Hemp volunteered to serve. The suggestion was made to put a note in the newsletter asking for a couple of other volunteers for the committee.

New officers for the Board of Christian Education are: Fern Eheart, chair; Gladys Hemp, secretary and Kitty Hallett, treasurer. The youth have many activities scheduled and the Praise Band is growing and will perform February 6. *Tranquility* will dance February 20. Sadly, the Board accepted Lisa's decision to discontinue her children's sermons. She was a volunteer and this was not included in her job description. The Consistory members and officers were unanimously elected for 2005. Compliments, complaints or concerns regarding Christian Education should be directed to the Board of Christian Education.

The Church and Ministry Committee suggested that the church needs a Worship Committee to better organize the church activities.

The General Treasurer reported income for December was \$15,151.73 and expenses were \$23,639.36 for a deficit of \$8,487.63. The Treasurer also reported two estimates for a new color copier for the office and is trying to find a way that the church can afford to purchase or lease one. Any help in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

Omer Benn reminded everyone that the annual reports are due February 1.



## Sausage Supper . . . Come join the fun!

The St. Peter's Annual Sausage Supper is Saturday, March 12. 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. Everyone is invited. Ya'll come!

On Friday, March 11, the preparation begins at 9:00 a.m. with dining room setup, cooking and squeezing sausage patties. Everyone is welcome to come and help.

Friday evening, March 11, beginning at 6:00 p.m., potato peelers will do their thing. I bet we have a potato peeler that will fit everyone's hand. Come try us out. After all the potatoes are peeled, we'll go out for pizza.

Saturday afternoon and evening, we will need everyone's help. Jobs to be done include cooking, dining room busing, serving line, dish washing and serving dessert, salad and drinks. After the last guest is served, clean up will also need to occur.



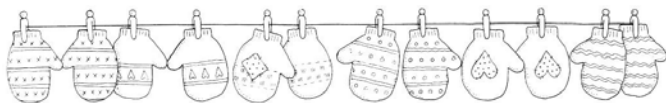
This is a fantastic opportunity to work together. Sign up sheets are available on the bulletin board in the church first floor hallway.



Since the sausage supper is a fundraiser, we would also like to encourage bulk sausage sales. We have ordered extra fresh mild blend sausage to be sold at \$3.00 a pound. Sausage must be ordered and paid for by March 7. Sausage orders can be picked up at the church on Saturday, March 12.

We have an opportunity for you to clean out your cupboards—we need plastic containers (butter tubs, etc.) for leftovers. Please leave containers in the church kitchen.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Marguerite and Larry Zahnd 359-3808 or Kurt and Fern Eheart 351-7997.

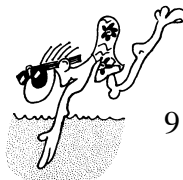


## In the Spotlight this month — It's February Fun with WINN!

Forget the frosty, frigid air of February – WINN is warm and inviting with lots of fun planned for everyone! 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.

February 2 The Swimmin' Hole at the Urbana Aquatic Center featuring chicken potpie, baked apples



9 Ash Wednesday featuring baked chicken, corn, rice casserole, rolls

16 Shake, Rattle n' Roll Eat out at Sonic!



23 Traffic Jam featuring pot roast with carrots, potatoes, onions, bread



## Everybody's a Sweetheart at the Campus Ministry Sweetheart Dinner!

Join us at 5:30 p.m. on February 12 as the Campus Ministry at Community UCC hosts their annual Sweetheart Dinner. The evening will include a fine Italian feast with entertainment through song and dance. Everyone is welcome! The Sweetheart Dinner will be held in the CUCC church basement. Cost: \$20 for adults; \$10 for childcare (includes meal).

## Mark your Calendar!

o VBS 2005 – June 13-17<sup>th</sup> o  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

## 25 – 52 – 59!

These are just a few of the numbered envelopes that we have left for 2005. If you would like to "adopt" one of these numbers, please contact Bonnie in the Church Office.

## Mission Committee Report

There has been an outstanding congregational response to every activity the committee has suggested; many thanks to everyone.

Mid-January (when this is written) puts us half way through the Tsunami Relief Fund drive. At this point, members have given \$1,628. By the end of the month we hope this doubles. We can, and should, meet this goal. A letter has gone out to the membership asking for everyone's contribution. At the end of January, the total offering will be sent through Illinois Conference to the Asia Tsunami Relief Fund. Watch for more details.



Just before Christmas we contributed \$682 to the Christmas Fund. This goes to help retired ministers and widows of ministers. Again, thank you for a good response. Watch for a complete review of the 2004 mission activities to be printed in the annual report. We can be proud of our record for helping others.

## Looking for a Winter Break?



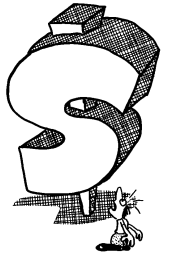
Are you ready to get out of the house for a few hours of crafting fun? Come craft with us! The Craft Club will meet on Thursday, February 17 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at St. Peter's. Bring your stamping, scrapbooking or other crafts and join us for an evening of fun. The club is open to any church member, family member or friends. 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.

## Were You Active at St. Peter's from 1941-1947?

Joseph Neidig, grandson of Ruben Bierbaum, has contacted the church office requesting any information or pictures St. Peter's may have from Rev. Bierbaum's time here. If you have stories or photos you would like to share, please drop them in the Church Office. Bonnie will scan the photos and send digital copies to Mr. Neidig. If you would like to email your stories to Mr. Neidig, he can be reached at [jneidig@tds.net](mailto:jneidig@tds.net). His mailing address is available in the Church Office.

## Stewardship Report

The declining membership at St. Peter's presented a challenge to the Stewardship Committee this year. In 1999, 241 letters were mailed and 114 pledges were received. In 2005, the mailing list was down to 169 and 70 responses were received.



From these 70 pledges, two were lower, 26 stayed the same and 42 increased a total of \$18,682. The generosity of members is truly impressive.

The total pledging to the general fund is \$97,378, down \$11,429 from 2004. Pledging to the missions fund is \$8,345, down \$1,312. Pledges to the building fund total \$13,703, up \$1,873. Total pledging for 2005 is \$119,426.

In 2004, 52 families who did not pledge gave in amounts of \$500-\$1,500 for a total of \$34,317. (However, this amount includes the \$7,500 gift from the Women's Fellowship.)

The Stewardship Committee would like to remind members and friends of the church that it is never too late to make a pledge. Some people fear that they will not be able to fulfill their commitment for financial reasons. Please remember that a pledge is not a bill, but rather an intent to give.

The members of the committee extend a very large thank you to the people of St. Peter's who continue to support the church in such a generous way.

Your Stewardship Committee,  
*Jim Acheson, Gladys Hemp, Shirley Records*



## With Deepest Sympathy

St. Peter's is saddened by the death of long time member, Bernice Weipert. Bernice died January 15, 2005 at the age of 90. Mrs. Weipert was a hairdresser in Champaign-

Urbana for many years and worked as a sales clerk at Robeson's department store. She was a member of the Women's Elks Club and the Champaign-Urbana Welcome Club. She is survived by her daughter, Connie Wikoff of Champaign; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bernice's family.



# Women Traveling with Jesus . . . Then, Now and Tomorrow

The Illinois Conference Women In Church and Society is offering a conference-wide Lenten Breakfast for Women at 9:00 a.m. on February 19. The breakfast will be held at Zion United Church of Christ in Gilman. Cost is \$3.00 per person (children 12 and under are free). Childcare is available for children five and under. You're invited to come hear the stories, sing some hymns and share a meal. Registration forms are posted on the bulletin board.

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March issue of *Connections* is Tuesday, February 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!



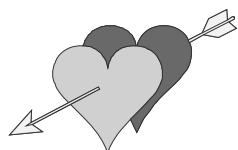
## February Birthdays

- 1 Loreen Bonnell  
Ruth Schloz
- 2 Irene Lofton
- 7 Eileen Walters  
Diann Wingler
- 9 Evelyn Kitchen  
Terry Woller

- 11 Jason Stahl
- 12 Lena Dowling  
Virginia Bryan
- 17 Eric O'Neill
- 18 Omer Benn  
Cassandra Wentz
- 20 Bob Reifsteck  
Tessa Vowels
- 21 William Malone  
James Martinie
- 24 Nigel Knop  
Ben Sterrett



## February Anniversaries



- 11 Bruce and Pam Bostwick  
(1961)
- 17 William and Diann Wingler  
(1979)
- 20 William and Joyce Krahling (1960)



## February Greeters

- 6 Emma Kidd and Mildred Holleman
- 13 Kurt and Fern Eheart
- 20 Joan and Denton Brown
- 27 Ann and Richard Swearingen

## February Ushers

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

**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](mailto:trost@net66.com). *Thanks for your help!*



## What It Means To Be a Christian

- Christians are slow to lose patience and quick to be gracious.
- Christians look for ways to be constructive, even when provoked.
- Christians restrain from trying to impress others with their own importance.
- Christians practice good manners.
- Christians are not "touchy", even when insulted.
- Christians think the best, not the worst, of others.  
They are wise as serpents and harmless as doves in dealing with others.
- Christians do not gloat over the wickedness of other people.
- Above all else, Christians exhibit the love of Christ in their heart and in their life.

— *Graceland Christian Church, Memphis, TN*

**When the going gets tough — laugh!**