



**St. Peter's United Church of Christ**  
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July 2005

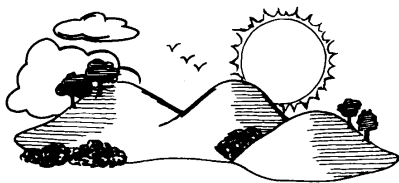
## From the Study

The deadline for this article has come amidst a difficult time. On Sunday, June 12, Joyce and I celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It was a special day with our daughters, Lisa and Beth, with us. Our son, Tim, still has school responsibilities until June 23, so he was not able to be with us.

Early Monday morning, Joyce became very ill, and I took her to the emergency room. They quickly discovered she had a bowel obstruction. It was removed a day later and now she is in the process of a slow recovery.

It is amazing how life's circumstances can change overnight. At one point, you are standing on the "mountain top" and then you are at the "valley of despair." Sometimes, life prepares us for future circumstances. Either we have a faith ready for these circumstances or we do not. When difficult circumstances come is not the time to seek to develop such a faith. For those troubling moments, I remember the words of *Psalms 121*:

"I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore." I live by the hope in the promises of this *Psalms*: "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. God will keep us."



In the midst of a difficult week, it was good to know that people in many places had Joyce and I in

their prayers. My colleague and good friend, Rev. Conrad Heisner and his wife, Marilyn, arrived at the hospital room 15 minutes before Joyce's surgery on Tuesday, June 14. Conrad had prayer as a pastor while I remained the husband. I was very clear that my role for this week, having celebrated 40 years of marriage, was to be a husband. I wanted to be at the hospital for Joyce to help as much as possible.

In my last church, a retired pastor, Rev. Paul Stock, had a saying in the midst of difficult times: "This too shall pass." Paul had had many difficult experiences in his life. His first wife died of cancer after a long illness. He was forced from an effective local church ministry when he began dating a member of the congregation following his wife's death. Today, his actions might or might not be a problem in a local church. In terms of a Boundary Training event I attended a few months back, it would be a big problem today for a pastor to date someone in his congregation following the death of his wife. Paul had to leave this particular church because of the circumstances, but he had significant ministries in the years that followed. Even in his 80's, he wrote a newspaper column, served as a Chaplain at a large funeral home in St. Charles and was the first Protestant Chaplain at a large Roman Catholic Hospital. He was a good colleague to me, and when difficult situations came and went, he would always remind me: "This too shall pass." He lived the words that he taught for many years.

I am aware that some of our members are having major health crises. Rev. Paul Stock would say: "This too shall pass." Paul and I shared the belief expressed in *I Peter 1:3f* "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in

the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” May this faith surround you as it has surrounded me.

Sincerely,  
**Pastor Glenn**

## Consistory Highlights – June 2005

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



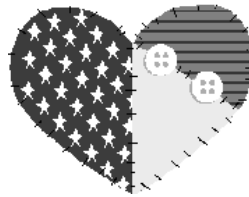
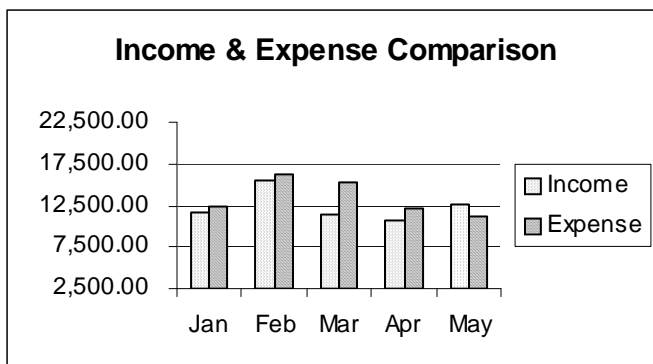
The Board of Christian Education reported the WINN program is being reconstructed and will resume September 14. Shopping and cooking crews will be recruited to serve one month at a time. Cabaret will be a Christmas Cabaret on December 3 followed by the hanging of the greens. A children’s program is scheduled for December 11 and March to the Manger will be held on Christmas Eve. Jerusalem Marketplace was a big success with 73 in attendance and over 50 volunteers helping out.

The Consistory voted to accept the Music Committee’s recommendation to hire Susan Rice as Choir Director and Teresa Kang as Organist.

The first new contemporary service will be at 8:45 a.m. on September 18.

The General Treasurer reported a deficit of \$5500 as of June 20.

## Financial Update



## With Warm Hearts and Cool Heads

Many thanks to Jim and Jill Acheson for purchasing the new air conditioner in the Church Office. Our grateful appreciation goes to the Building and Grounds Committee for installing the new air conditioner. The Church Office is again a “cool” place to be!

## A Huge Thank You . . .

to our Nursery Attendants – Linda Dahl, Kurt and Fern Eheart, Sandy Eichhorst and Kitty Hallett!

## Visiting our Members

Several members have talked about the need to have a group of people who regularly visit our members who are not always able to get to church. Many of you already do this on your own. I thought that it might be well to have a more structured group so that we do not miss people. Pastor Glenn cannot be expected to get to everybody every week. If any of you are interested in taking part in this ministry, please call me at my home (355-6092) or leave a message in the Church Office.

*Shirley Records*

## Congratulations Graduate!



St. Peter’s would like to congratulate Shirley Casey on her graduation this spring! Shirley graduated from Illinois State University with a master’s degree in education and reading (a.k.a. rocket science).

## Keeping it Clean

Please thank the Women’s Fellowship for having the carpet cleaned in the Lounge and south hallway. The carpet looks great!

## 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 in the Sanctuary. 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 —

## Needed — Helping Hands

Please take note of the little basket and sign up sheet on the snack table in the Lounge. Many hands make the workload lighter. So 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. Remember snacks do **not** need to be homemade and you can bring just **one or two** items . . . you don't **have** to fill the entire table. The point is to have something there, whether it's a feast or a light snack **does not** matter! 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!



## 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.



## Please Take Note

St. Peter's Music Committee is pleased to announce the hiring of a new Choir Director and Organist to start later this fall.

**Susan Rice** has been hired as Choir Director. Susan is pursuing a Doctoral degree in Musical Arts, Choral Conducting at the U of I. In 2003, Susan completed her Master of Music, Choral Conducting at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Susan received her Bachelor of Music in 1989 at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. During 2004-2005, Susan was the Interim Director of the University of Illinois Oratorio Society. She is also a past director of the University's Illini Women's Chorus.

In addition to her professional experience, Susan's administrative experience includes Choir Manager of the University of Illinois Oratorio Society; the University of Illinois Illini Women's Chorus; the Eton Consort in Kalamazoo, Michigan

and at the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music in Kalamazoo. Susan has received many honors including the University's incomplete list of teachers ranked as excellent and the Graduate Achievement Award for Academic Excellence from Western Michigan University School of Music. Susan enjoys working with adult church choirs and states, "my soul responds to helping to create music for worship".



**Teresa Kang** will fill our Organist position. Teresa is also a student in the Doctor of Musical Arts program at the University of Illinois, focusing on Vocal Coaching Accompanying. Prior to attending the U of I, Teresa received a Master of Arts degree in Music for Piano Performance in 1995 and a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Music for Piano Performance in 1993, both from Sung Shin Women's University in Seoul, Korea.

Teresa has numerous performance credits including performances at The Green Mill in Chicago; The Chicago Cultural Center; the Cho-Sun Press Young Artists Concert at the Se-Jong Cultural Center, Seoul, Korea; "Lunchtime Recital" at Bishopsgate Recital Hall, London, England. Teresa is also the 1992 Piano Concerto Competition Winner of the Sung Shin's Women's University, Seoul, Korea; winner of the Young Artists Program Competition "Musica di Pianoforte Press", Seoul, Korea in 1990; and winner of the Yuk-Young Competition in 1985, Seoul, Korea.

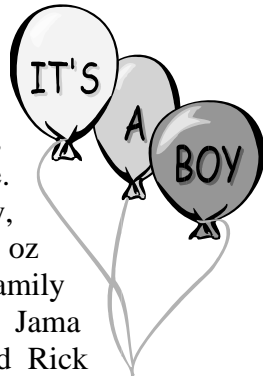
During the past two years, Teresa accompanied various operas at the University of Illinois (*Coronation of Poppea, Candid, Don Giovanni*), accompanied professors for numerous voice studios and played for students' recitals. At Roosevelt University in Chicago, Teresa accompanied professors for voice studios, recitals and master classes as well as accompanying operas and opera theatre classes. Teresa states "I have been playing at churches since I was ten years old. I love church music."

St. Peter's looks forward to the wealth of experience and talent Susan and Teresa will bring to our worship. Please take a moment to welcome them this fall.



## St. Peter's Welcomes New Pope Baby!

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Alexander Fager Pope, son of Rochelle and Ahren Pope. Alexander was born on Friday, June 17, weighing in at 7 lbs 8 oz and 20½ inches long. Proud family members include grandparents Jama Fager of Mahomet, Connie and Rick Pope of Mahomet and aunt Debbie (Fager) Cushing of Naperville. Happy Mom, Rochelle, says Alexander is "cute as a button!" Congratulations to Rochelle and Ahren on the arrival of their first child! (*Editor's Note: "Pictures! We need pictures!"*)



## UCC Support for Tsunami Relief Tops \$3M

(reprinted from the *United Church News*)

Congregations and individuals across the UCC have contributed more than \$3 million to the denomination's Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation Fund, according to new totals announced April 15.

The "compassionate and generous outpouring of gifts" are historic and unprecedented, says one church leader, but most importantly, they will enable the UCC to support global partners for 5 to ten years "on the long road to recovery."

"Thank you UCC!" exclaimed Susan M. Sanders, the UCC's minister for the global sharing of resources, in a statement announcing that donations had climbed just above the \$3 million mark.

In its April print edition, *United Church News* reported that, as of March 4, UCC contributions stood at \$1,526,082. However, as of April 15, that amount nearly had doubled as congregations, Associations and Conferences continued to process and pass along members' contributions to the tsunami-designated fund, which is part of the UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering.

"We are supporting the relief, recovery and rehabilitation efforts of 15 global partners in six countries in Southern Asia and Africa," Sanders



says. "Most of our partners are beginning to move beyond the relief phase to long-term rehabilitation."

In Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India the most heavily affected countries, Sanders says, the UCC's partner churches and agencies are using a comprehensive approach to recovery that includes psycho-social and pastoral counseling; education for children; establishment of clean water sources; reconstruction of homes, community centers, schools, churches and livelihood restoration through vocational training; gifts of boats and nets; and poultry and goat-rearing projects.

Note: To date, more than \$250,000 has been received throughout the Illinois Conference for tsunami relief.

(*Editor's Note: St. Peter's congregation contributed \$2,000 to tsunami relief.*)

## Newsletter Deadline

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



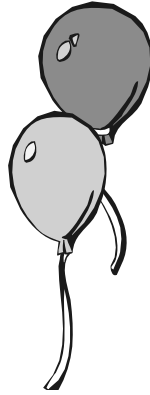
## All Things Work Out

Because it rains when we wish it wouldn't,  
Because men do what they often shouldn't,  
Because crops fail, and plans go wrong,  
Some of us grumble the whole day long.  
But, somehow, in spite of the dare and doubt,  
It seems at last that things work out.  
So bend to your trouble and meet your care,  
For the clouds must break, and the sky grow fair.  
Let the rain come down as it must and will,  
But keep on working and hoping still,  
For in spite of the grumblers who stand about,  
Somehow it seems all things work out.

*Author Unknown*

## July Birthdays

- 4 Geoff Dahl  
Steve Eheart
- 6 William Kuhne  
James Woller  
Nancy Kobel
- 8 Bertha Woller
- 9 Helen Phipps
- 10 Frank Clark  
Patty Kobel
- 11 Harold Zahnd
- 12 Kathryn Luther Henderson
- 13 Kathryn Gravlin
- 14 Genevieve Claussen  
Paul Crusius
- 16 Ann Swearingen
- 16 Alycia Marfongella
- 17 Carol Pointer  
Nicky Johnson
- 19 Vera Wachter  
Gladys Hemp  
Rebecca Bishop
- 20 Carolyn Yoos
- 21 Diana Pointer  
Heather Shoudel
- 24 John Martinie
- 25 Verna Finder
- 26 Bonnie Joop
- 28 Carolyn Hamrick
- 29 Rick Malloch
- 30 Michael Kobel



## July Greeters

- 3 Phyllis Jones
- 10 Marianne Hutcherson
- 17 JoAnn and George Malloch
- 24 Shirley Records
- 31 Barbara Schultz



## July Ushers

Carolyn Hamrick  
Ed Hamrick  
Mark Sterrett

Ann Swearingen  
Richard Swearingen  
Evelyn Weber

## July Anniversaries



- 2 Ronald and Barbara Schaede (1954)
- 4 Elton and Dorothy Roberts (1943)
- 16 Clayborn and Irene Lofton (1949)
- 24 David and Cassandra Wentz (2004)
- 27 James and Jennifer Crone (2002)
- 29 Cal and Mary Casey (1951)

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

## New Church Signs

