

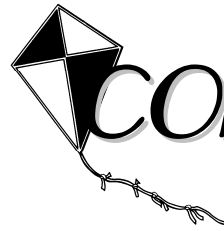


St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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CONNECTIONS

June 2005



From the Study

On June 25, 1957, our United Church of Christ came into being. Two major groups came together on that day that had widely different forms of church government, but shared a common faith. Our predecessor denominations were important to the history of the larger church and to the history of our country.

I was reminded of this history when a member of our church shared a bulletin from a church in Iowa that talked about the significance of the United Church of Christ. I have edited some of this article for this column.

Our spiritual ancestors were involved in their church and in their world. They hosted the Boston Tea Party at Old South Congregational Church in 1773; hid the Liberty Bell beneath the floor in Zion Reformed Church in Allentown, PA when the British took Philadelphia in 1777.

Our spiritual ancestors established the first university in the New World when they founded Harvard in 1636. They began home missions work early as three of the Mayflower pilgrims went immediately to work among the Indians, and by 1653 had printed a catechism book in the Indian language. In 1808 they established the first regular religious publication in the world, the *Herald of Gospel Liberty*. They were the first to enter into organized foreign missions with the founding of "The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions" in 1810. Not only was this the first foreign missions society in this country, it was also interdenominational.

We know for sure that they celebrated the first Thanksgiving (Pilgrims were the earliest Congregationalists) and we can only guess the influence our German Reformed and German Evangelical Church had on the celebration of Christmas in this new land. At the end of the Civil War when some were wondering what to do, our folks went out and founded over 500 schools and colleges for the newly freed slaves, now declared citizens.

This kind of list could go on and on. The point is, we are a unique church with a unique heritage.

While we believe we have been entrusted with a sacred truth, we do not believe we are the only ones who hold it.

We believe and teach that Christians can think differently about matters of religious belief and still worship and live harmoniously in a church fellowship.

We have every race, color and culture in our membership. Our buildings come in every architectural style possible and our liturgies reflect our varied backgrounds.

This means that as a church, we are not a melting pot where all become the same. Rather, we are more like vegetable soup where each one brings to the pot that which he or she is, and contributes it. The flavor comes from our differences.

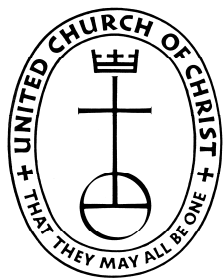
In fact, we are a uniting church more than a united one. The United Church of Christ brings local people and churches together with all their differences and encourages them to maintain their unique differences under the Lordship of Christ.

We of the United Church of Christ are united only in our loyalty to Christ, and in our belief that this loyalty can be expressed in different ways, by different people. Since our beginning in 1957, we have had some significant ministries. As a church, we were prophetic during the Civil Rights era even though we were largely a Caucasian church. Our recent God is Still Speaking Campaign demonstrates the important ministry of inclusion that we have in front of us. I believe when Jesus prays for the church to be one in *John 17*, Jesus' desire is that we work together for unity at all levels. As a United Church of Christ, we continue to work toward the vision in Christ's prayer "that all may be one."

For 145 years our congregation has been a part of this history. First, we were St. Peter's Evangelical Church, then St. Peter's Evangelical and Reformed Church and now St. Peter's United Church of Christ. As we give thanks for the blessings of the past, we anticipate a glorious future under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. See you in church.

Sincerely,

Pastor Glenn



The emblem of the United Church of Christ is based on the ancient Christian symbol known as the Cross of Victory or the Cross Triumphant. Traditionally, this symbol – the cross surmounted by the crown and all of it atop the orb – signifies

the kingship of the Risen Christ over all the world. The orb, representing the world, is divided into three parts to signify Jesus' command to his disciples: "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." For the United Church of Christ, this emblem, rich in the traditions of the past and alive with hope for the future, is particularly appropriate. For this reason, there appears on the perimeter of the emblem both the name of the church and the text: "That they may be one."

Consistory Highlights – May 2005

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



The Board of CE reported a contribution of \$689 was made as a result of eight walkers and three drivers participating in the Crop Walk. Kitty Hallett has replaced Cheryl Lehmann as co-chair of the Board of CE.

Kitty Hallett is organizing a summer Bible study group to meet at her home at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings. The first meeting will be on June 1 and there will be a cost of \$8.00-\$12.00 for supplies.

There will be five girls and three adults attending the Student Leadership University in July. The group will hold fund-raising projects to help cover some of the costs. They plan to have baskets of goodies of varying kinds to auction off at the Strawberry Festival on June 26.

The General Treasurer reported a current deficit of \$1352.00.

Help is needed to continue the Fellowship Time after worship service on Sundays. There are many weeks that no one has volunteered to be the host.

Consistory members voted to hold summer worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday and to have the worship service in the sanctuary all summer.



Congratulations Graduate!

St. Peter's would like to congratulate Dan Wingler, son of William and Diann Wingler, grandson of George and JoAnn Malloch. Dan graduated this spring from Monmouth College with a bachelor's degree in physical education.

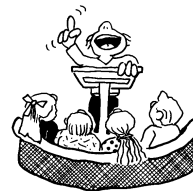
An Opportunity for Giving . . .

Several youth of St. Peter's (Kellie Dahl, Lindsey Hallett, Maura Healy, Courtney Lehmann and Maurine Sterrett) along with three adult chaperones will be attending the **Student Leadership University 101** held in Orlando, Florida on July 4-7. Student Leadership University 101 is a four-day Christian leadership conference for junior and senior high school students. It is a leadership training program designed to equip, motivate, enable and empower youth for leadership in the 21st century!



The cost for the trip is \$800 per person. Women's Fellowship has graciously agreed to help fund a portion of that cost, however, we are looking to the congregation to further assist us financially.

The congregation has two opportunities in which to help. We are asking members of the congregation to help with a special offering and/or to attend the Strawberry Festival Luncheon on Sunday, June 26, 2005 and purchase one of the lovely baskets the girls will be putting together for a silent "Basket Auction".



Your special offering may be placed in an envelope marked "Student Leadership Training". We will be collecting special offerings for this trip during our Sunday morning worship services throughout the month of June. The chaperones for the trip, Jeff Hallett, Cheryl Lehmann and Lisa Lynch will also be collecting special offerings.

On the Cutting Edge

Many thanks to Charlie Zahnd for his generous donation of a new riding mower!



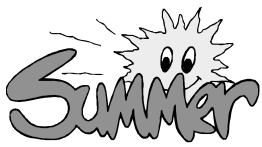
In the Spotlight this month —
 On Sunday, May 22, St. Peter's welcomed three people into membership. Please help us welcome **Pooh and Doth Sysouvanh**. Doth is an accountant (CPA) and Pooh works fulltime as Mom. They have two beautiful daughters, Dao and Latsami.

Tamara McArdle is a student at the U of I. Tamara and her husband, Tim, were married at St. Peter's in March.

To all of our new members . . . Welcome to St. Peter's! We are pleased to have you as members!

Women's Bible Study

Kitty Hallett is hosting a summer Women's Bible Study. It will begin Wednesday, June 1, meeting every Wednesday for eight weeks (excluding the week of Jerusalem Marketplace). We will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Hallett's home. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please sign up by May 22 so the books can be ordered. We will be studying *Women Facing Temptation* by Cindy Bunch. Topics include low self-esteem, gossip, worry and materialism.



Summer Office Hours

Beginning the week of June 6, our Office Manager Bonnie Taylor, will be taking Tuesdays off. The summer office hours will be Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Rev. Trost will be in the office on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon, however, regular business with the office should be scheduled during the Office Manager's hours.

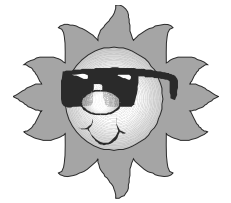
The Sweet Taste of Summer

Mark your calendars – on Sunday, June 26, St. Peter's will hold a Strawberry Festival. Join us in Fellowship Hall following worship for a sweet taste of the season. If you have any questions, please call Patty Kobel.



Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning Sunday, June 5 and continuing through August 28, worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. for the summer. Worship will be held in the Sanctuary.



Sign Up for Fellowship Time

We need people to provide coffee and a light snack for Fellowship Time. Sign up sheets (for the rest of the year) are on the bulletin board in the south hallway. We need volunteers to prepare and clean-up coffee and to bring a snack (may be as simple as donuts or as elaborate as you wish). 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.



Coming This Month!

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. (Please see article on page 4 regarding items we need to create the marketplace.)

Jerusalem Marketplace Needs Your Help

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 ● 1 weaver's loom
- earthen clay for writing tablets and pottery activity
- 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
- mortar and pestle stones
- large salt lick block for cows
- three super-soaker water guns
- three bales of hay ● shofar (ram's horn)
- hammers and sand paper ● yarn
- live, potted herbs such as aloe vera, cumin, coriander, basil, oregano, mustard plants



Church Mailbag

*We want to thank **all** our friends at St. Peter's for their concerns and phone calls during the last*

five months that we have had much illness. Ernie is now on the road to recovery and very anxious to play golf and fish after several illnesses and a fall. I am doing okay after my terrible fall. Thanks to Rev. Trost too for his phone call.

Ernie and Doris Drake

I am proud of the young people who walked on the Crop Walk and earned so much. The Crop Walk is such a good thing and you meet others from area churches. I was 78 the last time I walked and the oldest of the group and walked with a former member of our church. That year I had pledges for over \$1,000. We walked over six miles and had fun visiting as we walked. I've walked several years

after that until 2004. Keep it up you young ones and I remind you, all ages can walk and pledge – let's really look forward to the 2006 walk – prepare yourself now mentally and physically both to walk and pledge. Thanks Kids!

Doris Drake

The Wider Church Ministry Team of the Conference Council of the Illinois Conference wished to thank you for your generous donation towards projects of One Great Hour of Sharing 2004. We are grateful for your support and ministry to so many.

Thank you for your generous increase in your gift to OGHs. The needs of refugees, the hope of development and aid for disaster areas stretch the budget for this program. Your offering brings important support. Peace,

Faye Buttrick
First Congregational Church
Springfield

On behalf of the Eastern Illinois Foodbank's Board of Directors, staff and member agencies, we would like to thank you for your donation of 114 pounds received on April 17, 2005. Support such as yours is vital to our future. Again, thank you for helping us reach out to those who are at risk of hunger.

Kelly W. James
Interim Executive Director

Thank you for the generous gift of \$500 to The Stillspeaking Initiative from your church. We very much appreciate your commitment, which enables us to show United Church of Christ commercials nationally during Lent. Please extend our thanks to the members of your congregation.

Your support makes it possible for many to find new hope – for themselves, their families, and loved ones. Thank you.

The United Church of Christ seeks to offer radical hospitality and strives to welcome everyone, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey. Please keep the work of The Stillspeaking Initiative in your heart and prayers.

Sincerely,

John H. Thomas
General Minister and President
UCC The Stillspeaking Initiative



Take a Bow!

Our thanks go to St. Peter's Choir, Praise Choir and *Tranquility* for sharing your talents with the congregation. We appreciate the

gifts you bring to our worship and look forward to your performances next fall.

Eyeglass Recycling

Remember to bring your old eyeglasses and put them in the box on the table in the hall. Ernie Drake will take them to Lions Club – Champaign. They will be cleaned, repaired and classified by prescription. Then Lions Club volunteers distribute the eyeglasses to needy persons in developing countries.

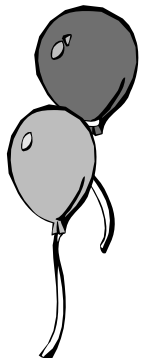
Thank you from Omer Benn, Ernie Drake and the members of Champaign Lions Club.



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the July issue of *Connections* is Wednesday, June 15. Please submit your articles to the Church Office or leave them

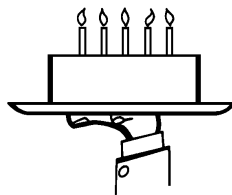
in the Office Manager's mailbox. Please include your name and phone number. Thank you!



June Birthdays

- 1 Eugene Ziegler
Becky Kesler
- 2 Marie Sass
- 4 Mary Peters
- 11 Bernadine Helbling
- 12 Kymberly McCarthy
- 13 Paula Schmidt
Mark Muller
- 15 Mary Sue O'Neill

- 20 Ralph Bonnell
- 21 Cleo Pelg
Scott Pointer
Nick Voss
- 24 Glenn Trost
- 25 Walter Claussen
James Crone
- 26 Abbey Knop
- 27 Velma Clark
- 28 Elvira Ebs



June Greeters

- 5 Joan and Denton Brown
- 12 Marguerite and Larry Zahnd
- 19 Ca Twenhafel
- 26 Betty Matlock and Violet McDuffee



June Ushers

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



June Anniversaries

- 1 Ralph and Loreen Bonnell (1946)
- 2 Charles and Dorothy Zahnd (1946)
- 3 Roger and Carol Pointer (1962)
- 6 George and JoAnn Malloch (1953)
- 7 Omer and Bernice Benn (1997)
Dale and Sally Pelg (1997)
- 9 Ed and Cleo Pelg (1946)
William and Debby Malone (1973)
- 12 Glenn and Joyce Trost (1965)
- 15 Charles and Arlene Luer (1947)
William and Susie Kuhne (1957)
- 16 Harold and Melissa Zahnd (2001)
- 17 Rick and Courtney Malloch (2000)
- 18 Ken and Dorris Baumann (1946)
Dale and Shirley Sebens (1983)
- 21 Lee and Sandy Eichhorst (1958)
- 24 Jason and Amy Stahl (2000)
- 26 Henry and Betty Voigtlander (1954)
- 27 John and Judith Maloney (1997)
- 28 Robert and Virginia Lewis (1951)
Eugene and Mary Ziegler (1986)
- 29 Stuart and Carolyn Yoos (1958)
- 30 Lloyd and Helen Phipps (1979)

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!*



A Note from the Youth Director

Dear Friends,

As one year winds down and a new one begins, I must express my gratitude and appreciation to the volunteers, leaders and parents that make St. Peter's youth programming a thriving and meaningful part of our congregation, especially in the hearts of our children and youth. Thank you for your hours of service, prayers and support. St. Peter's is blessed to offer such a wide range of opportunities for our youth and families and I am excited to share with you some of our upcoming events!



The Board of Christian Education, Jeff Hallett and I have been busy organizing our trip to Student Leadership University (SLU) in Orlando, Florida, July 4 – July 7, 2005. Jeff Hallett, Lindsey Hallett, Cheryl Lehmann, Courtney Lehmann, Maura Healy, Maurine Sterrett, Kellie Dahl and I will be attending SLU this summer. We have been planning fundraising opportunities and are hosting a basket auction/raffle at the annual Strawberry Festival on Sunday, June 26, 2005. Please be in attendance to support our youth and bid on our extraordinary baskets!

Women's Fellowship has offered to donate a plant and gardening basket, WINN has donated a candle basket, the Board of Christian Education is putting together a "spiritual" basket and the SLU delegation is donating a chocolate and candy basket. We have asked the members of Consistory to provide a senior's basket and the Tuesday Evening Circle to donate a strawberry basket!

Please pray for our trip and financing. I believe God's calling our delegation and He will provide for us. Be faithful servants and together, we will make SLU a successful and wonderful experience!



Also, do not forget that Jerusalem Marketplace is less than a month away! This week long event, in the evenings, is packed with fun, faith-filled activities, music and athletics. Everyone, of all ages, is invited to come and participate. We will gather at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall for dinner and the marketplace shops will open at



6:15 p.m. You will have the opportunity to experience authentic activities such as carpentry, weaving, pottery, jewelry making, baking and basket weaving. Everyone will attend Synagogue School each night, taught by Rabbi Lisa. On Friday, we will embark on a trip to the river, otherwise known as Sholem Waterslides and Kiddie Pool. We have booked a private party for St. Peter's UCC from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, June 17, 2005 and everyone is invited to join us!



The cost of Jerusalem Marketplace is \$10 per participant and \$40 per family. Registration is underway and registration forms are available on the bulletin board across from the office or from Lisa Lynch on Sunday mornings. You may use the registration form found in this month's newsletter for your family or you may copy it and hand it out to friends and family in your neighborhood. Please mail in your form and payment to the office or hand to Lisa Lynch on Sundays on or before Sunday, June 12, 2005.



We are extremely excited for this year's event because it is for our entire congregation and community. Please pray for our leaders, for a successful turn-out and for great weather.

Again, I am so blessed to be a part of St. Peter's family and am so excited for God's plan for our church. Have a wonderful summer and we'll see you in the fall!

God Bless,

Lisa Lynch
Director of Youth Programming
St. Peter's United Church of Christ

