



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

905 S. Russell Street
Champaign, IL 61821
217-356-3635

E-mail: stpeters_ucc@msn.com

Web Site: stpetersucc.com



CONNECTIONS

March 2005



From the Study

During the season of Epiphany, I was reminded that the Christian life is not a series of isolated events, but is a process. This is true of Lent and Easter, which we celebrate on Sunday, March 27. (The following week, April 3, we move our clocks one hour forward for Daylight Savings Time.)

Easter is not simply a day in the calendar, which we celebrate, but rather reminds us of the foundation of our faith in the hope that "Christ Is Risen." Each Sunday's worship is a "little Easter." Easter is not just an event, but rather reminds us of the process, which we term the Christian life.

Colossians 3:1-17 expresses this truth:

"So if you have been raised with Christ, **seek** the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

"When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive

each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."



To live Easter is to be transformed. It is to be guided by Jesus' teaching rather than the wisdom of

the world. In Christ, we are to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. These are not the values of the secular marketplace, but they are the qualities of a life focused on the risen Christ. Another way of understanding our life together is that we are called to do the behavior that builds community and avoid those qualities such as anger, wrath, malice, slander and abusive language which hurt and destroy community. The fact that the writer of *Colossians* wrote this chapter indicates that early Christians as well as Christians in our present era celebrate Easter not as an event, but as a process. Let us engage in this process of transformation in our Lent and Easter season.

Sincerely,

Pastor Glenn

Newsletter Deadline

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



Consistory Highlights—February 2005

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



Vacation Bible School will be June 13–17 and will be called “Jerusalem Marketplace”. It will be an all-church affair, not just a program for the youth. The youth of the church are planning to do more community service programs. They sent a Valentine package to the soldiers in Iraq and two National Guard soldiers talked to the high school class. There are a great number of activities planned for the youth during the year.

The General Treasurer reported the January income was \$11,730.88 and expenses were \$12,333.15 for a deficit of \$602.27. One of the problems during the month was snow removal. There was \$1,000 budgeted but \$1,447.75 has been spent to date.

Jerry Reeder of the “Lay Ministry Program” will be the liturgist on February 27.

Kim McCarthy and Ben Sterrett are going to serve breakfast in Fellowship Hall on Easter morning to earn more money for their trip in the summer.

Financial Update



During the month of January and February (up to 2/10/05), we have spent \$1447.75 on snow removal and salting of parking lot and sidewalks. On the plus side, we received an outstanding memorial contribution (\$5000) from Bernice Weipert’s daughter to be used in the General Fund.



A Message from the Consistory

For the past few years Lisa has volunteered her time and talents to lead Children’s Time. Members of the congregation may or may not be aware that at the present time, Lisa has decided to no longer lead Children’s Time during Sunday morning worship services. Due to criticism she received in a meeting with Glenn, she has decided to no longer perform that task. Lisa has decided to concentrate her time and energy in the planning and implementation of programming for youth activities as stated in her job description as “Director of Youth Ministries”.

Members of the Consistory and the Board of Christian Education are supportive of her decision. A committee has been established to set guidelines for the Children’s Time. They are hopeful that with the necessary support and specific guidelines established for the Children’s Time, Lisa will feel encouraged to return to her ministry of providing inspirational messages to the youth of our church.

Cheryl Lehmann

Consistory Member/Worship Committee Chair



Help Us Save!

If you or your group uses the church, please remember to turn off the lights and set the thermostats to night position before leaving the building.

“Night position” is 65° on the older thermostats or the valve pulled up on the newer thermostats.

Thank You, Bernice!

The Stewardship Committee would like to express its appreciation to the family of Bernice Weipert for their gift to St. Peter’s. Bernice had asked her daughter, Connie Wikoff, to make a \$5,000 contribution to St. Peter’s general fund. Bernice’s understanding of the financial situation at the church shows that she was very aware of where the need in St. Peter’s is critical. Thank you, Bernice – you are a true steward of the church.





March Madness with WINN!

Let the cold March winds blow you into the warmth of WINN. We're not "lion" – don't be "sheepish" – come join the 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.

March 2 St. Peter's Stampede featuring BBQ beef sandwich, scalloped potatoes, peas



Sports Night featuring chili with cheese, macaroni

16 St. Pat's at St. Pete's featuring corned beef and cabbage, baked potatoes

23 Spring Break – No WINN

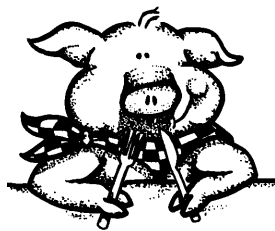


30 Spring Fling! featuring salad bar, bread

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. Call the Church Office 356-3635 to make reservations.



Feeling a Little Green?

Do you need a little time – or space – to get your craft projects done? Come craft with us! The Craft Club will meet on Thursday, March 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.



In the Spotlight this month —

Easter Breakfast

Come join us for Easter breakfast on Sunday, March 27. As a fundraiser for our Student Ambassador trip this summer we will be cooking up an awesome breakfast to start off your Easter celebration. Serving will start at 8:00. There will be a sign up sheet in the hall by the lounge so we can get an idea of how many people may be attending. Cost is free will offering.

Thanks and see you all then.

Kimberly and Ben
Student Ambassadors

New Books in the Library

New books are on display for your checkout on the library table in the hall. New titles include:



The Mozart Effect, Tapping the Power of Music to Heal the Body, Strengthen the Mind, and Unlock the Creative Spirit. This book is by Don Campbell.

The Holy Longing, a Search for a Christian Spirituality. The author of this book is Ronald Rolheiser.

By Philip Yancey: *Where Is God When It Hurts? A comforting guide for coping with Hard Times.*

America's Heroes – Inspiring Stories of Courage, Sacrifice, and Patriotism. These stories are written about September 11. (Donated by Paul Hemp)

Talking with Your Doctor – A Guide for Older People. (Gift from Mark and Sandy Williams)

The old hymnals brought in by Ed Kobel are also on display. Because they are in such fragile condition, they are not available for checkout.

A reminder about the no checkout books – The entire west section contains leftover books from the Attic Treasures sale. These books are current fiction and mysteries and may be taken and returned with no checkout required. They have not been entered into the library collection.

A word about donations – Donations are accepted if they are recent publications of general interest and appropriate items to be part of the church library.

Gladys Hemp
Church Librarian

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

This year's collection date is Sunday, March 6. If you do not receive an envelope at church on February 27, and you wish to contribute to this important mission offering, please bring or mail your designated offering to the church office as soon as possible. Our goal is \$1,500, which can only be realized if all the members participate. This is one of the most important mission offerings we have each year.

Where does this money go and how is it used? Read on. OGHS channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

Since 1949, American churches have joined together in support of OGHS.

American Baptist Churches USA
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Church of the Brethren
Church World Service
Cumberland Presbyterian Church
United Church of Christ
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Reformed Church in America
The United Methodist Church

Of every dollar given to OGHS, 95 cents is used directly for mission. UCC Refugee Ministries is totally supported by OGHS, including mission and administrative costs.

The UCC responds to needs in more than 90 countries, working with local mission partners. Nearly one-third of the UCC's offering is used for ministry accomplished through Church World Service and Action by Churches Together. In 2003, 67% of UCC congregations participated, contributing more than three million dollars.

Charles Luer
Mission Committee Chair

The Tsunami Report

We have all seen many pictures and read much about the terrible destruction and loss of life caused by the devastating tidal waves that smashed into parts of eight Southern Asia countries on December 26. Our members responded with incredible compassion and speed to the call for help. Two thousand dollars was given by our St. Peter's church family, which has been sent to Church World Service. Thank you for your quick and generous response.

Quoting from a CWS letter: These destructive walls of water, some equal in height to a three-story building, followed the fourth largest earthquake in recorded history, slamming into coastal areas with virtually no warning. In their wake they have left many thousands dead, huge amounts of property destroyed, livelihoods wiped out, the ominous threat of deadly epidemics – and widespread human suffering and despair.

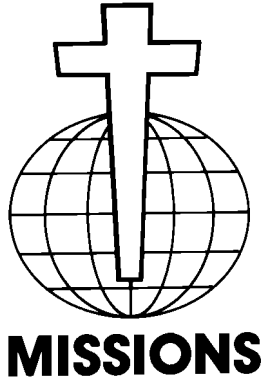
The initial quake struck the morning after Christmas, some 100 miles off the coast of Indonesia's Sumatra Island. Measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale, it was followed by a powerful series of undersea earthquakes – triggering monstrous waves that swept at high speed across the Indian Ocean to strike coastal regions of Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia, and the low lying islands of the Maldives.

As of this writing, we still do not know how many people have been lost because some are still missing. However, the death toll has already surpassed 70,000 and is expected to climb. Tragically, many tidal wave victims were children, the elderly, and others too weak to flee in time. End quote.

There is so much more information in The United Church News. I so wish everyone would subscribe (no charge) and read it cover to cover.

Charles Luer
Mission Chair

A special word of **“Thanks”** is in order to Carolyn Hamrick, who recently made another trip to Eastern Illinois Food Bank with all the food that had been brought to church in the past few weeks. We should all make a better effort to bring food to church regularly. The food box is located in the south wing. Thanks Carolyn!



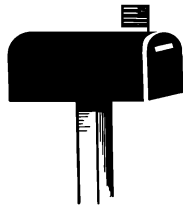
New Addresses

John M. Key
3763 Thornhill Drive
Champaign, IL 61822

The Marcum Family
2164 Wagon Trail Road
White Heath, IL 61884

Rev. Frederick Rhines
710 Fordingbridge Way
Osprey, FL 34229

Jessie Schlorff
The Arthur Home, Room 57A
423 Eberhardt Drive
Arthur, IL 61811



Church Mailbag

Thank you all so much for your cards during Stuart's recent surgery and recovery. They are greatly appreciated.

Carolyn and Stuart Yoos

I appreciate your prayers during the two-year struggle with cancer that my son Carl Crusius so steadfastly fought, and I thank you all, and I especially thank Pastor Glenn. I am overwhelmed and appreciative of the outpouring of concern and sympathy from the congregation upon the death of Carl. My great joy is in the fact that his pain and suffering brought him closer to God and that he came to know Jesus as his Lord and personal Savior. I praise the Lord that He answered Carl's prayers and ours. To God be the Glory!

Vera Wachter

Thank you very much for your generous donation. It really means a lot to us. Thanks so much!

Your friends at UCC Campus Ministry

Thank you for your generous gift as your faithful response to the annual appeal for Habitat for Humanity of Champaign and Piatt



Counties. Your continuing support – together with that of other Habitat friends and supporters – ensures that our mutual ministry of eliminating poverty housing in Champaign and Piatt counties will continue.

Laura Huth & Ron Lyman
Habitat for Humanity

Please extend our heartfelt thanks to all the members of St. Peter's United Church of Christ and continue to keep us in your prayers. Your generosity and charitable giving reflects your commitment to those less fortunate in our community. Through your contribution you demonstrate both your compassion for those in need and your courage to step forward as a community partner.

Sandy Lewis
Chief Executive Officer
Mental Health Center of Champaign County

Evangelism Point to Ponder What Kind of Church Do You Want?



A minister was approached by a couple who expressed a desire to become members of the congregation. The man said, however, that he was rather busy and did not want to be called on for any service such as working on a committee, teaching a church school class, serving as an officer, or singing in the choir.

The wife added that she did not want to be in the Women's Fellowship and for the minister not to look for them too often in worship, as they spend a lot of weekends traveling, camping, and visiting relatives. They also indicated they could not make a pledge because of their many financial obligations, but would give whatever they could.

The minister thought for a moment and then replied, "I believe you folks have stopped at the wrong church. We understand the Lord's work somewhat differently. The church you are looking for is three blocks down the street."

The couple left and drove down the street the three blocks and found an abandoned, boarded-up church building. It was a dead church; gone out of business.

Source: Unknown



March Anniversaries

18 Larry and Marguerite Zahnd (1972)

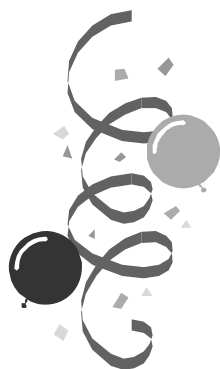
March Ushers

Carolyn Hamrick
Ed Hamrick
Mark Sterrett

Ann Swearingen
Richard Swearingen
Evelyn Weber

March Birthdays

- 1 Robin Limp
Ian Stahl
- 4 Jessie Dereng
Andy Eheart
- 6 Al Shoudel
Robert Heller
Shirley Casey
- 9 Joyce Trost
- 10 Dorothy Zahnd
Sierra Marcum
- 11 Mike Lehmann
Erin Durukan
- 12 Maurine Sterrett
- 13 LiAnne Kitchen
Mike Berbaum



- 14 Kellie Dahl
- 15 Susan Kesler
Sarah Malone
- 16 McKenzie Marcum
- 17 Marilyn Rayburn
- 18 Rhonda Shoudel
- 24 Betty Voigtlander
- 25 Charles Luer
- 26 Sharon Van Grinsven
- 28 Paul Hemp
- 31 Fern Eheart

Kris McCarthy

Discussion Group Reflections

At 10:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings, St. Peter's Discussion Group meets to discuss Rev. Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Life*. The following excerpts are taken from Chapter 17.

A Place to Belong

You are called to belong, not just believe.

Even in the perfect, sinless environment of Eden, God said, "*It is not good for man to be alone.*" We are created for community, fashioned for fellowship, and formed for a family, and none of us can fulfill God's purposes by ourselves.

While your relationship to Christ is personal, God never intends it to be private. In God's family you are connected to every other believer, and we will belong to each *for eternity*. ... The church is a body, not a building; an organism, not an organization. ... Membership in the family of God is neither inconsequential nor something to be casually ignored. The church is God's agenda for the world.

Why You Need a Church Family

A church family identifies you as a genuine believer. ... A church family moves you out of self-centered isolation. ... A church family helps you develop spiritual muscle. ... The Body of Christ needs you. ... You will share in Christ's mission in the world. ... A church family will help keep you from backsliding.

It's All in the Church

... God designed his church specifically to help you fulfill the five purposes he has for your life. He created the church to meet your five deepest needs: a purpose to live for, people to live with, principles to live by, a profession to live out, and power to live on. There is no other place on earth where you can find all five of these benefits in one place.

God's purposes for his church are identical to his five purposes for you. Worship helps you *focus on God*; fellowship helps you *face life's problems*; discipleship helps *fortify your faith*; ministry helps *find your talents*; evangelism helps *fulfill your mission*. There is nothing else on earth like the church!

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!*

March Greeters

- 6 Mark and Sandy Williams
- 13 Dorris Baumann
- 20 Bob and Eloise Heller
- 27 Jim and Jill Acheson

