



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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CONNECTIONS

May 2005

From the Study

We live in exciting times. We have opportunities today for presenting our church message that were not available 20 years ago. This month, I would like to lift up the possibilities given by the Internet. We hear how the Internet is often misused through the pursuit of pornography, but the Internet can help us spiritually.

I would encourage you to view our local church website at "stpetersucc.com". A big thank you for how our office manager has expanded this website. If you have not visited in a while, I would encourage you to view our site. If you have ideas about how we might improve it, please let us know.

Another important website is www.ucc.org. There is a whole section dedicated to our God Is Still Speaking Campaign. If you have never visited this portion of the website, I would encourage you to check out the materials which are there. My hope is to share the commercials for God Is Still Speaking during our church coffee hour. My problem is that I need someone who can work our new DVD.

An important part of the U.C.C. website is the tab labeled "worship". Click this tab and then click the Samuel portion. You then may choose a particular Sunday, which will bring up the texts for that particular Sunday. For each Sunday, there are links to additional resources that pertain to a particular Sunday. My preaching for over a year has been centered on the gospel reading for a particular Sunday. I intend to continue preaching the gospel reading each Sunday so this website might help you get more from a particular Sunday sermon.

At the United Church of Christ website, one can learn how the church is ministering in various areas of life. There are the latest updates on our mission work in responding to various crises around the world. Our Association Conference Minister, Rev. Tom Norwalk is very good about e-mailing



information about our response to disasters to the Pastors of this Association. If you would like to receive these updates, I would be glad to forward them to you.

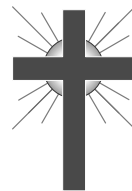
In addition, on the U.C.C. website, there are links to the various Conferences and Health and Welfare Institutions. There are forum discussions on a variety of topics, which are helpful, plus a prayer chapel forum.

Each week, I send a web-devotional to members on the Internet. I also place a few copies on the literature table in the church hallway. The devotional pertains to the scriptures we have the following Sunday in worship. If you would like to receive an email copy, please let me know. Unfortunately, I have not been able to send all these web devotionals at one time because of my anti-virus program, so I sometimes fail to include someone as I send the devotionals individually.

I hope this column reminds us that we live in a new and exciting day with many opportunities that did not exist some years ago. I pray that we will be good stewards of the grace that God has given us. I certainly am grateful for the new ways in which the gospel can be presented. See you in church.

Sincerely,

Pastor Glenn



Reception of New Members – Sunday, May 22

We will be receiving new members into our church on Sunday, May 22. If you are interested in joining St. Peter's at this time, please contact the Pastor or the Church Office.

Take a Bow!

Thank you to our Nursery Volunteers – Linda Dahl, Doris Hershberger, Diana Pointer and Debbie Malone.



In the Spotlight this month — Let's Go Out to Dinner!

Tuesday Circle will host an All Church Evening Out at O'Charley's beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway if you plan to attend.

Photos Available

Remember the beautiful photo on the cover of our new directory? Isn't it beautiful enough to frame? Now you can! Orders for 8" x 10" color reprints of this beautiful photo will be taken by calling the Church Office. Each reprint is \$15. If you would like the photo mailed to you, there is an additional \$2.50 postage fee. Proceeds from photo sales will go into a fund for a new color copier. Please make checks payable to St. Peter's UCC.



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.

Crop Walk Thanks

Thanks to everyone for your generous donations to Crop Walk. Our goal for 2005 was \$500 – We earned a total of \$669! We had eight walkers. Three of St. Peter's walkers were the first walkers to return – in one hour and 20 minutes! Congratulations to Christopher Lehmann, Lindsey Hallett and Caleb Dahl! Check out the bulletin board in the south hallway for photos of the walkers on their journey. Next year's goal – \$1,000! Start saving your change now! Thanks!

Rhonda Shoudel and the Crop Walkers

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the June issue of *Connections* is Monday, May 16. 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 – April 2005

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



Jeff Hallett and Lisa Lynch discussed the possibility of some of our senior high school students going to "Christian Leadership University" in Orlando, Florida this summer. The students attending the program will hold fundraising projects to help defray the cost of the trip.

A Praise Team will be established consisting of members of the Worship Committee, Pastor Trost and Lisa Lynch to look into the possibility of having a separate contemporary worship service at 8:30 or 9:00 a.m. on the third Sunday of the month.

The Women's Fellowship reported a profit of over \$2800 from the Sausage Supper. They have also received estimates for carpet cleaning and will have the carpets cleaned soon.

The General Treasurer reported General Fund income for March was \$11,385.13 and expenses were \$15,317.60 for a deficit of \$3,932.47.

With Deepest Sympathy

St. Peter's is greatly saddened by the death of **William D. "Bill" Krahling**. Mr. Krahling died April 6, 2005 at the age of 69. Bill and his wife, Joyce, were active at St. Peter's for many years prior to moving to Alfred, Maine in 2002.



In 1970, Bill began working as the Director of Publications at the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity's national headquarters in Champaign. At the time of his retirement in 1990, Bill was the Editor Emeritus of the fraternity's national magazine. While in Champaign, Bill was active in Rotary; wrote and edited the Champaign Rotary Club's weekly newsletter, "The Fizz", for 21 years; was a board member of the Champaign-Urbana Urban League and worked with the Arthritis Foundation. Bill is survived by his wife, Joyce; a son, Richard Krahling of Bucyrus, Ohio; a daughter, Heidi Krahling of Champaign; and three grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 28 at Alfred Parish Church in Alfred, Maine.

(continued)



Our thoughts and prayers are with Shirley Records and her family following the death of Shirley's mother, **Agnes Elizabeth (Park) Seibert**. Mrs. Seibert died on April 13, 2005 in Maywood, New Jersey. Mrs.

Seibert was the beloved mother of Donald Seibert and his wife, Emily, of Billings, Montana; Shirley Records and her husband, William, of Savoy, Illinois; Jo Ann Iacono and her husband, Anthony, of Hackensack, New Jersey; and Diane Johnston and her husband, Dale, of Foster City, California. Mrs. Seibert has five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Coming This Summer!

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.

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.

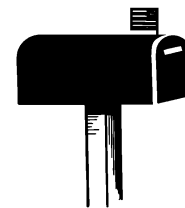
- 1 potter's wheel
- Needs: *(continued)*
- 1 weaver's loom
 - earthen clay for writing tablets and pottery activity
 - baskets for table centerpieces
 - large standing baskets
 - textiles such as blankets, tablecloths, throws
 - faux fruit, especially grapes and apples
 - stems such as wheat, cattails, papyrus, reeds
 - leather and hemp lacing/cord
 - 2 menorahs and candles
 - 3 frisbees
 - mortar and pestle stones
 - large salt lick block for cows
 - costumes and fabric for costumes
 - building supplies: wood, nails, screws for the construction of two shops in our marketplace
 - shofar (ram's horn)
 - live, potted herbs such as aloe vera, cumin, coriander, basil, oregano, mustard plants



New Addresses

William Beck

401 Burwash, Apt. 159
Savoy, IL 61874



Edna Nimmer

Bickford Cottage
1002 S. Staley Road
Champaign, IL 61822

May Greeters

- 1 Robert Healy Family
- 8 Jeff and Kitty Hallett
- 15 Carolyn and Stuart Yoos
- 22 LiAnne Kitchen, Ben and Maurine Sterrett
- 29 Cleo and Ed Pelg

May Ushers

Jim Acheson
Bernice Benn
Omer Benn

Mildred Luther
Al Shoudel
Cal Twenhafel

May Liturgists

- 1 Nigel Knop
- 8 Maura Healy
- 15 Emma Healy
- 22 Kellie Dahl





Church Mailbag

Dear Friends,

Thanks so much to all of you who have sent cards, expressed sympathy, and been supportive over the past three years during my mom's illness. It has helped to feel the love and support offered by so many.

Shirley Records

Dear Friends at St. Peter's Church,

We appreciate the support and loyalty for this program that helps children and want you to know about these changes.

Best Wishes,
Vera

We wish to thank you for your recent gift to Matthew House. We are sorry we have to tell you that starting now we are giving up our tax exempt status because we can no longer support the children's program as we had agreed to do. Fortunately the godparents are continuing the program without our support and we will still remember them in small ways. We will accept Matthew House donations at our P. O. address. Half of the money will go to help the children with special events, outings, gift certificates, etc. The other half will go to the retirement fund of Tamara Cibis, our beloved founder and director. Our Matthew House Board was not able to pay for her retirement as we had voted to do. If you have met Tamara or heard her speak, you know how devoted she was to helping disadvantaged and troubled children get on the right track and to seek and rely on the Lord's help. When we meet graduates of the Matthew House program, a frequent comment is "If it had not been for Matthew House and Tamara, I'd either be dead or in prison." The results of her work live on in the community and elsewhere. It is now our turn to help her, now when she has many health problems and large medical expenses. Her Social Security check is small because she took such a small salary these twenty some years. We hope and pray you will continue your support of Matthew House. We will keep you informed through thank you notes. May the good Lord bless you and yours.

Vera Wachter
President, Matthew House Board
P. O. Box 1285
Champaign, IL 61824

May Birthdays

- 1 Joan Brown
- 2 Jim Voigtlander
Elizabeth Milan
- 3 Barbara Schultz
- 6 Mary Casey
- 7 Judith Maloney
Adam Malone
- 8 Grace Woller
Betty Myers
- 10 Jason Jewett
- 11 Edna Ninmer
- 14 Bruce Bostwick
- 21 Felice Rhodes
- 23 Eloise Heller
- 24 Amanda Burr
- 26 Sandy Williams
Tristan Bishop
- 27 Linda McCarthy
- 29 Bernice Benn
- 31 Deborah Malone



May Anniversaries

- 18 John and Lisa Lynch (2002)
Bonnie and Jeff Taylor (1996)
- 20 Al and Rhonda Shoudel (1978)
- 21 Mark and Sandy Williams (1994)
- 23 William and Crystal Vowels (1987)
- 24 Jim and Doris Hershberger (1947)
Mike and Tracie O'Neill (2003)

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!**

Thought for the Day

If any little word of ours
can make one life the brighter
If any little song of ours
can make one heart the lighter
God help us speak that little word
and take our bit of singing
And drop it in some lonely vale

to set the echoes ringing.