



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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CONNECTIONS

April 2006



From the Study

As a congregation, we approved a mission statement and goals statement in 1998. It is important to remember where we have been and to consider whether this mission statement is still relevant for the present and future. I find this statement to be a helpful reminder of our goals as a congregation. May this statement guide us toward the future. The statement is as follows.

Mission Statement and Goals

Approved February 1998

Steeped in the tradition of our founding in the nineteenth century, supported by God for a century of service in the twentieth century, and preparing for our role in the twenty-first century, the members of St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Champaign, Illinois continue to find their mission to be to follow Christ's example of a Christian community in an ever-changing world through the giving of our prayers, energies, talents, and support.



Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called by God:

—To minister to and provide fellowship in East Central Illinois for a wide circle of persons differing in attitudes, age, life experiences, lifestyles, ethnic and social backgrounds.

—To provide a spiritual, social, and physical environment that encourages participation of all members in programs of worship, fellowship, study, counseling, outreach, and support contributing to the development of Christian faith, action, and individual spiritual growth reflective of the tradition and spirit of the United Church of Christ.

—To participate in the wider mission of the Church through our prayers, actions, financial giving, and personal and corporate involvement in order to help heal the hurts, cares, and needs of our community, our nation, and our world.

—To work with others for peace, justice, healing and wholeness of life for all of God's creation.

My question would be: What are concrete ways in which we can fulfill this mission statement? What specific ways enable us "to help heal the hurts, cares, and needs of our community, our nation, and our world? How might we "work with others for peace, justice, healing and wholeness of life for all of God's creation?" May God give us the grace and the insight that we need for the living of these days.

With warm regards,
Pastor Glenn



Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 9 *Palm Sunday*
 10:00 a.m. Worship



Thursday, April 13 *Maundy Thursday*
 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service



Friday, April 14 *Good Friday*
 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service



Sunday, April 16 *Easter*
 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast (fundraiser)
 10:00 a.m. Worship

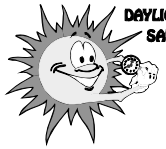




In the Spotlight this month — You won't want to miss **Holy Week** worship services. Dates and times are listed on page 1. Additional information about Good Friday worship and Easter breakfast is included in articles on page 3.

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, April 1. It's time to "spring forward".



Crop Walk

Don't forget the 2006 Crop Walk is at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 2. St. Peter's is the starting and ending point for registration and all participants. Volunteers are needed to help with registration, to welcome and greet participants, to help supervise along the route and to help with other tasks during the walk. If you would like to participate or wish to sponsor walkers, please pick up a Crop Walk form on the table in the Narthex or call Rhonda Shoudel or Lisa Lynch.

Attention All Women!

There will be a Women's Fellowship meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, April 3, 2006. Please plan to attend.

Sunrise Cluster Women – Final Meeting

The final meeting of the Sunrise Cluster Women will be at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 3 at the Paxton Federated Church. The meeting will include an extended coffee fellowship time followed by a worship service led by Bob Sherman and Tom Norwalk. Lunch will be served. This is the "last hurrah" for the Cluster so please attend if you can. Call the Association office for reservations (815-836-0745).



Springtime Fun at WINN

April bursts forth with spring fun on Wednesday nights at WINN. Check out the schedule listed below. If you have any questions regarding WINN, please call Rhonda Shoudel at 352-3353 or Kitty Hallett at 355-9316.

April 5 C.S.S. – Community Symbol Seeking Family Night – featuring taco bar. No classes this evening. Families, leaders and WINNers will participate in a challenging scavenger hunt around the neighborhood.



12 Eggsellent Eggstravaganza - featuring ham



19 Wet Nose and Waggy Tail Night – featuring chicken potpie and puppy chow. Parents are invited to arrive at 6:50 p.m. with one pet to present with their family to WINN.



26 Thankquet Banquet – featuring catered meal. Everyone is invited to a catered Thank You event for leaders, volunteers, parents and participants. Don't miss the award ceremony, activities and VBS 2006 information.



We Want Your Blood!

St. Peter's is hosting our 2nd Annual Blood Drive with Community Blood Services of Illinois. Our goal this year is to have 20 donors. We would like you to sign up or call the office to register. The drive runs from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 8. Please make sure you have eaten before donating. A plethora of snacks and drinks are generously provided by Community Blood Services. See Rhonda or Lisa for further details.

New Member Class

St. Peter's will receive people into membership on Sunday, April 9 (Palm Sunday). If you would like to join St. Peter's at this time, please contact Rev. Trost or call the Church Office at 356-3635.



Good Friday Service

Our Good Friday Service, "Meditation on the Cross" will be at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 14. This Good Friday liturgy will be most memorable. Everyone is invited to attend this soul searching, dramatic and interactive service. Everyone who attends receives a free gift. The price has already been paid.



Congratulations Christie!

Christie Taube was approved for ordination at the Ecclesiastical Council held on Sunday, March 19 at St. Peter's. Several St. Peter's members were present at the Council. Christie's ordination (later this spring) will be contingent upon a call to ministry from a church. Well done, Christie!



Easter Breakfast

We will be serving breakfast from 8:30-9:45 a.m. on Easter morning. This year the Student Leadership University participants, families and friends will be serving a delicious breakfast. The menu includes scrambled eggs, breakfast meats, assorted breakfast pastries, fruit, juices, coffee and teas. Everyone is invited for this special fellowship meal prior to the Easter Service. A free will offering supporting the SLU participants will be taken. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

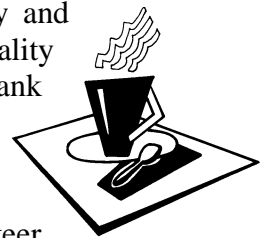
Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May issue of *Connections* is Monday, April 17. 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!



Fellowship Time Thanks

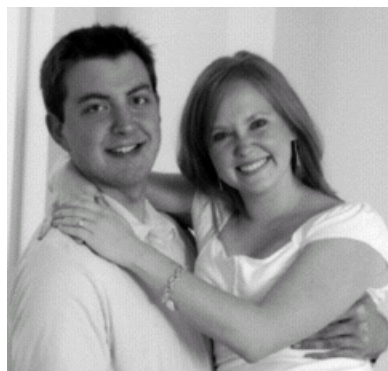
Thanks to the following people for sharing their time and yummy talents during Fellowship Time in January, February and March. – Bernice and Omer Benn, Carolyn and Ed Hamrick, Gladys and Paul Hemp, Christie Taube, Mark and Sandy Williams, Stuart and Carolyn Yoos, Larry and Marguerite Zahnd. The Hospitality Committee would also like to thank everyone for donations to the Fellowship Time fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



If you would like to volunteer for Fellowship Time, please sign up on the bulletin board in the south hallway. Volunteers may sign up for coffee, snack or both. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office.

Check It Out!

Take a peek in the Lounge and see the new Bunn coffeemaker. Making coffee for Fellowship Time just got a whole lot easier, thanks to the Women's Fellowship.



Dynamic Duo

Tricia and I would like to extend an open invitation to the congregation of St. Peter's, to join us on the biggest day of our lives . . . that's right, our wedding! Our vows will be exchanged in a ceremony on April 22nd, at 4:00 p.m. sharp, in the St. Peter's sanctuary. I have shared so much with all of you over the past 15 years, I wouldn't want you to miss this next, truly magnificent step in my life. If you are unable to attend our wedding ceremony, please remember us in your prayers.

Kris McCarthy



With Deepest Sympathy

St. Peter's is deeply saddened by the death of longtime member, Marie Sass. Marie died March 7, 2006 at the age of 91. Marie was born in Champaign, a daughter of John J. and Anna Woller Sass. Ms. Sass graduated from Champaign High School. Marie worked at Jos. Kuhn & Co. as a sales associate for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Marie's friends and family.





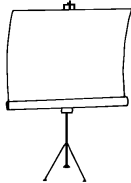
Take a Load Off

If you have a mailbox in the hallway outside of the Church Office, please take a moment to clean it out. The mailboxes should be used for receiving

mail, not for storing supplies. Excessive weight on the shelves has caused many to warp and collapse. Beginning Monday, April 10, the mailboxes will be cleaned out every three weeks. If you have items in the mailbox you wish to keep, please remove them before the 10th.

Looking For a Unique Tour?

How about seeing what Christmastime is like in Europe! Bring home Christmas gifts for your family and friends from your visit to **The Christmas Markets of Austria and Germany** (Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, Rothenburg, Heidelberg). Join us for nine days (November 30-December 8, 2006). Hosted by Rev. Wally and Toni Reifsteck. Cost: \$1859 from Chicago. On Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge, Rev. Reifsteck will be at St. Peter's with a presentation and information about the tour. For a brochure, call (217) 732-9796 or write a note to Wally and Toni at 110 Lincolnwood Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656.



UCC Women's Activities

June 21-25 is **Mix in '06**, a national women's event held every four years. This year's event will be at the convention center in Indianapolis. UCC women will meet with Disciples women and enjoy music and inspiration by top leadership people. For more information, check online at www.dreamonsisters.com.

It's Never Too Early . . .

to start thinking about Summer Camp. The 2006 Outdoor Ministry summer camp schedule has arrived. Many wonderful camps are planned for the Illinois Conference. Please check the bulletin board in the south hallway for the camp schedule and information.



April Ushers

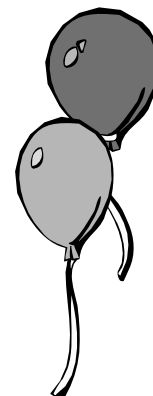
Pam Bostwick
Lee Eichhorst
Sandy Eichhorst

Larry Zahnd

Jeff Hallett
George Malloch
Barb Schultz

April Birthdays

- 2 Dale Sebens
Marcella Nance
- 4 Phyllis Jones
John Bishop, Jr.
Kate Berry
Laura LeBaugh
Sharon Conatser
- 5 Tracie O'Neill
Lizzie O'Neill
Tesslyn Dahl
Bonnie Taylor
- 6 Christopher Wingler
- 11 David Ho
Morgan Bishop
- 12 Joyce Krahlung
- 18 John Van Grinsven
- 19 Helen Schowengerdt
- 20 Richard Swearingen
- 21 Roger Pointer
- 23 Cal Twenhafel
Devan Bishop
- 25 Guy Foster
- 29 Andy Zahnd
Courtney Lehmann



April Anniversaries

- 3 William and Mary Sue O'Neill (1991)
- 16 Robert and Eloise Heller (1946)
Bill and Mary Limp (1967)
- 23 Larry and Kim Brown (2005)
- 28 Gary and Norma Hollen (1957)



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!*