



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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

E-mail: stpeters_ucc@msn.com
www.stpetersucc.com



CONNECTIONS

December 2006

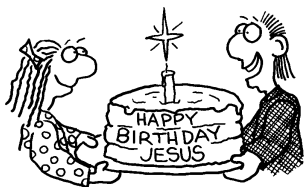


'Tis the Season for WINN!

December is full of holiday spirit 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.

December 6 **It's My Party Potluck** – Bring your favorite dish (main dish, vegetable, rice, casserole, fruit), WINN will provide water, milk, juice, tea, cake and ice cream.

13 **Christmas Card Mania** – featuring meatloaf, peas and carrots, baked potatoes, cherry dump cake.



20 **It's Jesus' Party** – featuring ham, cheesy potatoes, green beans, fruited Jello, Christmas cookies.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January issue of *Connections* is Friday, December 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!



Tuesday Circle

Tuesday Circle will meet at the home of George and JoAnn Malloch at 3:00 p.m. on December 19. All men and women are invited to attend. We'll begin our Christmas with soup and snacks. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the south hallway.



Holiday Office Schedule

The St. Peter's Church Office will be closed from Monday, December 25, 2006 through Monday, January 1, 2007 in observance of Christmas and the New Year. The office will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2.

Nativity

An Opera in One Act by Chris Eubank



Featuring the choirs of:

Community UCC – Bob Smith, Director and
St. Peter's UCC, Juliane Gorretta, Director

Bob Smith, Conductor

With soloists:

Chad Ballantyne, Laura Kimmel-Ballantyne, Debra Myers-Dobbs, Chris Eubank, Juliane Gorretta and
Megan Smith

Sunday, December 10, 2006

10:15 a.m. – Community United Church of Christ
Corner of Wright and Daniel, Champaign

4:00 p.m. – St. Peter's United Church of Christ
905 South Russell, Champaign

Free Admission

Consistory Highlights – November

Editor's Note: The following notes from the November meeting are for your information only.

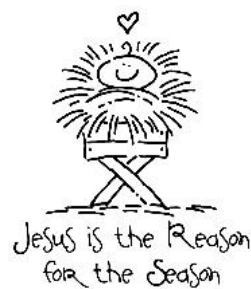


Minutes and actions of this meeting will not be approved until the December meeting.



Building and Grounds reported the parsonage has been cleaned and is in good shape. The heat will be kept on low throughout the winter and the Committee will make weekly periodic checks on the parsonage. There is a condensation problem with the boiler. The condensation problem does not affect the actual heating system other than the water runs continuously. The part to correct that problem has been ordered and will be repaired as soon as possible.

The Chorale requested use of the Chapel or Fellowship Hall for rehearsal space on Sunday evenings. The space the group currently uses is being remodeled and is unavailable. As an in-kind donation, The Chorale has agreed to list St. Peter's in its concert programs and arrange for a small group performance for a Sunday morning worship service.



The Board of Christian Education reported the children and youth will lead the worship service on December 3, 2006. Due to other scheduling conflicts during the month of December, there will be no Celebration of Youth.

Women's Fellowship reported the Pampered Chef Party was a huge success. All the kitchen items from the wish list were purchased.

The Transitional Planning Committee has tabulated the results of the survey questions. Copies of the results are in the Church Office and are available to all church members.

The next Contemporary Worship Service will be held at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 17, 2006.

To date, the Consistory has interviewed one candidate for the interim pastor position. Two additional interim profiles have been received and interviews will be arranged. The following supply pastors have been scheduled:

- November 26 – Jennifer Little
- December 3 – Steve Shoemaker
- December 10 – Steve Shoemaker
- December 17 – Steve Shoemaker (Contemporary and Traditional)
- December 24 – Steve Shoemaker (10:00 a.m. and Christmas Eve Service)
- December 31 – Tom Norwalk
- January 7, 2007 – Wally Reifsteck



The Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. The Church Office will be closed December 25, 2006 – January 1, 2007.



Discussion was held regarding the Pastoral Search Committee. According to the Bylaws, Article XVIII, Section 4, "The Search Committee shall consist of three members each from the Consistory, the Women's Fellowship, the church laymen, two members from the Board of Christian Education and one from the Youth Group. Each group shall submit names of nominees to the Consistory for their approval or disapproval. Such Committee shall function in accordance with the procedures of the United Church of Christ for the selection and call of pastors for congregations."

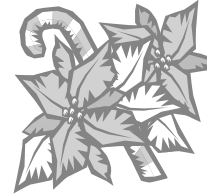
Each group represented on the Search Committee is to vote on nominees and submit those names to Consistory for approval. Church members interested in serving on the Search Committee may submit their name to any Consistory member for consideration. All nominees must be submitted by Sunday, December 17, 2006. Consistory will approve the Search Committee members at the next Consistory meeting.

Expenses continue to exceed income. Expenses for the month of October were \$24,732.53. Income for the month was \$16,456.43.



2006 Contributions

Contributions submitted to St. Peter's on or before December 31, 2006 will be included in 2006 Giving Statements. Any contributions received after December 31 will be recorded and deposited in 2007.



Time to Order Poinsettias!

It's time to order Poinsettias for the holidays! Poinsettias are \$9.00 each and may be given in tribute to those living or in memory of loved ones who are deceased. Forms are available in the Church Office or in the Sunday bulletin. Please complete a form and return it to the Church Office with your payment no later than December 11, 2006. Forms and payment may also be placed in the offering plate during worship. Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Pastoral Search Committee

St. Peter's Consistory is currently receiving nominations for the Pastoral Search Committee. St. Peter's Constitution and Bylaws requires the Search Committee consist of representatives from the Women's Fellowship, the church laymen, the Board of Christian Education and the Youth Group. If you would like to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee, please contact Barb Kobel (352-0692) by December 17, 2006.



Staff Christmas Gifts

The Consistory is asking the congregation to contribute to monetary gifts for the Church Staff. Please give your contributions to one of the Trustees – Jim Acheson or Linda McCarthy. The money received will provide for a Christmas gift to our eight employees on the Church Staff.

2007 Offering Envelopes Available

Numbered offering envelopes for 2007 are available. Please pick up your set on the table in the Narthex. If you do not currently have an envelope number and would like a set of pre-numbered

envelopes, please contact Bonnie in the Church Office.

Liturgists Needed

If you would like to serve as liturgist (lay reader) for worship, please sign up on the bulletin board in the south hallway (opposite the Church Office).



Annual Reports Due

Who: All chairpersons, church officers and group leaders

What: 2006 Annual Reports

Where: Return to Ann Swearingen or the Church Office

When: By January 15, 2007



Church Mailbag

We want to thank our friends for their cards, phone calls and visits at our 65th anniversary we celebrated on November 5. It was a great day with family and friends.

Ernie and Doris Drake

We appreciate all the assistance from those at the church who have helped with the arrangements for Roy's services. Your kindness has meant so much to our family. We are very appreciative of being able to have the service at the church, a place very near to Roy's heart.

Maxine and the family of Roy Colson



A Note of Thanks

Thanks to Ken and Dorris Baumann for folding and sealing the newsletter!

From the Pulpit

First Sunday of Advent



December 3, 10:00 a.m. Youth Christmas Program
Communion



Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 10:00 a.m. Rev. Steve Shoemaker

Third Sunday of Advent



December 17, 8:45 a.m. Rev. Steve Shoemaker
10:00 a.m. Rev. Steve Shoemaker



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 10:00 a.m. Rev. Steve Shoemaker

December 24, 7:00 p.m. Rev. Steve Shoemaker

Christmas Eve Service



December 31, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Tom Norwalk



With Deepest Sympathy

St. Peter's is deeply saddened by the death of two members.

Longtime member **Roy G. Colson** died October 29, 2006 at the age of 89. Roy was born in

Green Bay, Wisconsin, a son of Manville and Catherine Witzcak Colson. On November 9, 1941, Roy married Maxine Webb in Dubuque, Iowa.

Mr. Colson was inducted into the Army Air Corp in January 1942 and worked in mission support for the planes that dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Recalled to active duty in August 1950, Roy served until his retirement in August 1969 as a Chief Master Sergeant. A life-long advocate of education, Roy was an elementary and high school counselor at Potomac, Illinois and a counselor at Urbana High School. Following his retirement from Urbana in 1983, Roy continued working part time as a counselor with the Urbana Adult Education Program until 1997 when he retired at the age of 80. In 1993, Mr. Colson authored *The Civilian Soldier*, an autobiographical account of his life from civilian life to soldier and back to civilian life.



Survivors include Roy's beloved wife, Maxine; two sons, John G. Colson of Hagerstown, Maryland and Stephen P. Colson of Vienna, Illinois; three grandsons, Chad, Paul and Quin of Vienna; and one sister, Lillian Ada Henry of Oconto, Wisconsin.



Nancy Voigtlander Miller died November 8, 2006 in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the age of 49. Nancy was born in Champaign, a daughter of Henry and Betty Guyer Voigtlander. At Urbana High School, Nancy was an avid athlete, participating in terrapin, volleyball,

softball, basketball and swimming. While studying at the University of Illinois, Nancy was very active in the athletic program and was a member of the varsity volleyball team and Pi Beta Phi sorority. Following her graduation from the UI with a bachelor's degree in Education and Sports Medicine, Ms. Miller taught physical education and health in the Melvin-Sibley School District. Prior to moving to Tulsa, Ms. Miller worked at Parkland College.

Survivors include her parents, Henry and Betty Voigtlander of Urbana; two brothers, David Voigtlander of Plymouth, Minnesota and James Voigtlander of Rancho Murieta, California; and two sisters, Carol Voigtlander and Mary Voigtlander Sommers, both of Tulsa.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Colson family and the Voigtlander family.



December Ushers

Pam Bostwick
Lee Eichhorst
Sandy Eichhorst

George Malloch
Doth Sysouvanh
Larry Zahnd

December Anniversaries

- 3 Jim and Jill Acheson (1955)
- 23 Howard and Felice Rhodes (1951)

December Birthdays

- 2 Violet McDuffee
Sean Taylor
- 10 Irene Van Rheeden
- 11 Jim Hershberger
- 15 Ben Pelg
- 16 Ernie Drake
Vicky Welsner
- 17 Allison Wrobel
- 20 William O'Neill
Maura Healy
- 21 Kaitlyn Edwards
- 23 Meta Greeson
William Vowels
Holly Pelg
- 25 Jesus Christ
Sharon Jeter
Carole Vilchis
- 29 Lindsey Hallett
Jeff Taylor



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. You may mail changes, place notes in the Office Manager's mailbox or send an email to stpeters_ucc@msn.com. **Thanks for your help!**

Have a safe and blessed Merry Christmas!

from St. Peter's Staff