



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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From the Study

Joyce and I just returned from a drive in our Honda Civic to California and Pilgrim Place. We have a house. However, we are not sure when we can move into the home. It might be the end of September, some time in October, etc. Joyce and I were quite pleased when we saw the actual home.

During the trip, I was able to read a book, which had been a gift. It was entitled *The Phoenix Affirmations* and was written by Dr. Eric Elnes who is pastor of our United Church of Christ in Scottsdale, Arizona. Dr. Elnes is the cofounder of Crosswalk America (www.CrossWalkAmerica.org), a nonprofit organization that launched a coast-to-coast walk on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2006 to unite progressive Christians nationwide, encourage meaningful discussion and establish common ground for people of faith.

The Phoenix Affirmations include:

1. Walking fully in the Path of Jesus without denying the legitimacy of other paths that God may provide for humanity.
2. Listening for God's Word, which comes through daily prayer and meditation, studying the ancient testimonies which we call Scripture, and attending to God's present activity in the world.
3. Celebrating the God whose Spirit pervades and whose glory is reflected in all of God's creation, including the earth and its ecosystems, the sacred and secular, the Christian and non-Christian, the human and non-human.
4. Expressing our love in worship that is as sincere, vibrant, and artful as it is scriptural.
5. Engaging people authentically, as Jesus did, treating all as creations made in God's very image, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, nationality, or economic class.
6. Standing, as Jesus does, with the outcast and oppressed, the denigrated and afflicted, seeking peace and justice with or without the support of others.
7. Preserving religious freedom and the church's ability to speak prophetically to government by resisting the commingling of church and state.
8. Walking humbly with God, acknowledging our own shortcomings while honestly seeking to understand and call forth the best in others, including those who consider us their enemies.
9. Basing our lives on the faith that in Christ all things are made new and that we, and all people, are loved beyond our wildest imagination—for eternity.
10. Claiming the sacredness of both our minds and our hearts, and recognizing that faith and science, doubt and belief serve the pursuit of truth.
11. Caring for our bodies and insisting on taking time to enjoy the benefits of prayer, reflection, worship and recreation in addition to work.
12. Acting on the faith that we are born with a meaning and purpose, a vocation and ministry that serve to strengthen and extend God's realm of love.

I would encourage you to purchase and read this short book. I found it to be a book I could only read for a time and then I had to reflect on what I had read. This would be an excellent resource for a small group study.

With warm regards,
Pastor Glenn



Don't Miss These Summer Events!

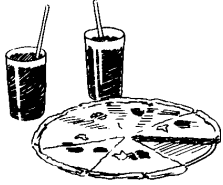
High School Youth

Friday, July 7 – Lake Shelbyville boating trip

Saturday, July 15 – Jessica Jewett's Graduation Party at Harvest Moon and Pizza Hut in Gibson City

Wednesday, July 19–Sunday, July 23 – Student Leadership University, Washington, DC

Sunday, August 13 – Challenge, 3:00-8:00 p.m.



All Church

Friday, July 28 – Church Family Make-Your-Own Pizza and Table Games, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

And the Survey Says . . .

It's time to complete your Family, Individual and Worship surveys!

The Transitional Planning Committee, which includes members of the Consistory, Board of Christian Education and Building and Grounds, has been formed to prepare for the transition following Rev. Trost's retirement. The Committee is gathering information from the congregation to complete the Church Profile (a document used in the pastoral search process). A three-part survey has been created for members of the congregation. Each member of the congregation should complete an Individual Survey and a Worship Survey. Each household will complete a Family Survey. Surveys are being mailed to all members who have not yet received copies. **Completed surveys should be returned to the Church Office by August 1, 2006.**

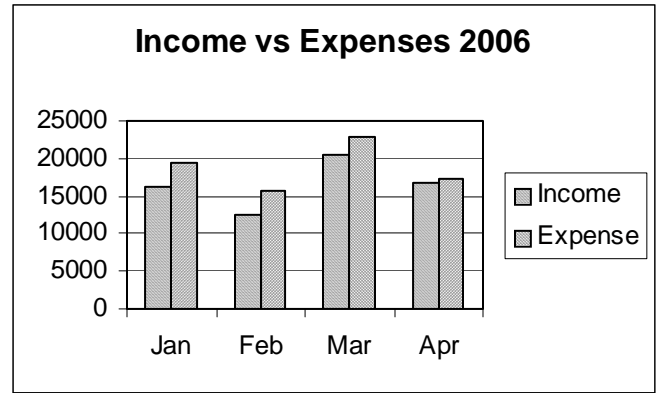


Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the August issue of *Connections* is Monday, July 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!



Financial Update



Our income has been running behind our expenses every month so far this year. We have already transferred \$18,000 from the Farm Account to take care of expenses. At this point, there is nothing left in the Farm Account to transfer.

Shirley Records
Treasurer

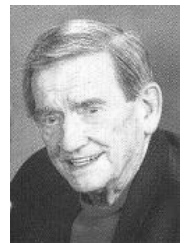


With Deepest Sympathy

St. Peter's is deeply saddened by the death of Bruce Bostwick. Bruce died June 3, 2006 at the age of 77. Bruce was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, a son of Charles and Ada Caldwell Bostwick. He married Pam

Barclay in 1961 in Chillicothe.

Bruce retired as a supervisor from Mead Paper Company in Chillicothe. He was a member of all Masonic bodies in Chillicothe and Aladdin Temple Shrine in Columbus, Ohio. Bruce was a master sergeant in the Army National Guard for 14 years. A volunteer at Adena Hospital in Chillicothe, Mr. Bostwick also served as vice president of the Ohio Hospital Volunteer Association for three years. Locally, Bruce volunteered at Carle Foundation Hospital.



Survivors include his wife, Pam; a son, David Bostwick of Mahomet; a brother, Noel Bostwick of Chillicothe; three sisters, Lillian Carter, Annette Smith and Mary Julia Jones, all of Chillicothe; and two granddaughters.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Pam and her family.

Consistory Highlights – June

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



Building and Grounds reported that the front of the church would be painted this summer. The Committee is also looking into bids for painting the parsonage as well as the Narthex. The area affected by termites in Fellowship Hall will be repaired in July. Bill Malone is currently working (and looking for help) on several landscaping projects.

The Consistory would like to extend a special thank you to Lisa Lynch for her leadership in providing a fun and exciting week of Vacation Bible School. Thanks, also, to the many volunteers who helped with VBS.



The Music Committee has been hard at work. The job description for the Minister of Music has been rewritten and approved. Juliane Gordetta has been hired as our next Minister of Music. Currently working on a Masters degree in Music Performance and Literature at the University of Illinois, Juliane has been involved with several churches over the past seven years as a Music Director. She has worked with both children and adult choirs.

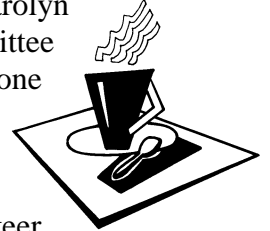
Glenn and Joyce will be on vacation July 2-13. Rev. Mike Mulberry will be on call during Pastor Trost's absence. Christie Taube will lead worship on Sunday, July 9, 2006.

The Transitional Planning Committee, which includes members of the Consistory, Board of Christian Education and Building and Grounds has been formed to assist the members of St. Peter's with the preparation of the necessary steps involved with Rev. Trost's retirement. A three-part survey has been created for members of the congregation and is available in the Church Office. Each individual member is asked to complete a survey and return it to the Church Office no later than August 1, 2006. The data and information gathered from the surveys will be used to complete the Church Profile, a document used in the search process for a new minister.

The Treasurer reported the income for April was \$12,047.56 and the expenses for the month were \$15,946.10.

Fellowship Time Thanks

Thanks to the following people for sharing their time and yummy talents during Fellowship Time in April, May and June. – The Dahl Family, Lee and Sandy Eichhorst, The Sterrett Family, Rich and Ann Swearingen, The Sysouvanh Family, Mark and Sandy Williams, Stuart and Carolyn Yoos. The Hospitality Committee would also like to thank everyone for donations to the Fellowship Time fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

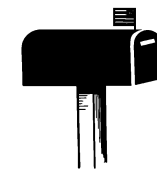


If you would like to volunteer for Fellowship Time, please sign up on the bulletin board in the south hallway. Volunteers may sign up for coffee, snack or both. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office.

CROP Walk 2006 Report

To all of you who walked with us on April 2, to all who sponsored walkers, prayed for us, provided snacks and rest stops, and supported us in many ways: Thank you so very much! ... We exceeded our monetary goal of \$26,000. This will mean more than \$2000 each for our local beneficiaries: Catholic Worker House, Eastern Illinois Foodbank and TIMES Center. Bravo!

(Editor's note: St. Peter's had 10 walkers participate with a total of \$894 raised for the CROP walk.)



New Addresses

Charles and Arlene Luer

401 Burwash Avenue, Apt. 138
Savoy, IL 61874

Calvin Twenhafel

2011 Twentieth Street
Harlan, IA 51537
(712) 733-8239





Church Mailbag

To Our St. Peter's Family,

I would like to thank all of you for your cards, phone calls and visits at the time of Bruce's passing. I want to especially thank Pastor Glenn for being at the hospital with me and also thanks to Bill and Kathryn Henderson for taking me to the funeral home. Bruce was a loving husband and grandfather. He enjoyed the times he was able to usher and come to church. Thank you again.

*God Bless,
Pam Bostwick*

Dear St. Peter's,

Thank you for the wonderful send off you gave me on Senior Sunday. It was a great party and I enjoyed sharing my plans with you. It has been great to be a part of such a caring church family. Please continue to pray for me as I begin this new journey in my life. Thanks again!

*Love,
Jessica Jewett*

On behalf of the Champaign County TRIAD/S.A.L.T. we wish to express our appreciation for your support of our first fund-friend raiser, Vintage or Vogue. It was a success in part due to your activity room. It was perfect for the event.

We also appreciate that two ladies took care of the coffee and cookies. Hope they did as well financially as we did.

Jo Hopkins

Thank you for making a difference and helping us reach out to those who are at risk for hunger. Your gift of 225 pounds was received on May 1, 2006.

Each month our 180 agencies help over 25,000 of our neighbors who often have to decide between paying for rent, utilities, medical bills and buying food. Your generosity makes a difference.

*Jim Hires
Executive Director, Easter Illinois Foodbank*

July Ushers

Carolyn Hamrick
Mark Sterrett

Ann Swearingen
Richard Swearingen
Evelyn Weber



July Anniversaries

2 Ronald and Barbara Schaede
(1954)

4 Elton and Dorothy Roberts
(1943)

16 Clayborn and Irene Lofton (1949)

24 David and Cassandra Wentz (2004)

27 James and Jennifer Crone (2002)

29 Cal and Mary Casey (1951)

July Birthdays

4 Geoff Dahl

Steve Eheart

6 William Kuhne

James Woller

Nancy Kobel

9 Helen Phipps

10 Patty Kobel

11 Harold Zahnd

12 Kathryn Luther Henderson

13 Kathryn Gravlin

14 Genevieve Claussen

Paul Crusius

16 Ann Swearingen

16 Alycia Marfongella

17 Carol Pointer

Nicky Wentz

19 Vera Wachter

Gladys Hemp

Rebecca Bishop

20 Carolyn Yoos

21 Diana Pointer

Heather Shoudel

24 John Martinie

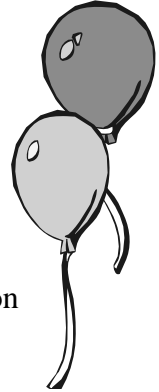
25 Verna Finder

26 Bonnie Joop

28 Carolyn Hamrick

29 Rick Malloch

30 Michael Kobel



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!**