



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
 905 S. Russell Street
 Champaign, IL 61821
 217-356-3635
 E-mail: stpeters_ucc@msn.com
 Website: stpetersucc.com



March 2006

From the Study

What are the key experiences in your life that determine who you are and what your personal goals are? I was going to begin with the theme: "The Words We Live By" but as I thought about words, I began to realize it was experiences which made the words meaningful.

We hear the words of *John 3:16-17*:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send his son to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

It has been inspiring to experience this love of God through other people. Many of us have had experiences as we grew to adulthood that encouraged us and gave us an understanding of God's love. For me, one of those important persons was my Senior High Church School teacher, Phil Scherr. His vocation was commercial painting, but each Sunday he would lead our Church School Class. He was a very caring and loving person. He owned his business and had four other painters. As conditions got tough for painters, Phil kept his painters employed even though a "dollars and cents" person would have laid them off. Phil was concerned about the four painters and their families.

Phil also had a social conscience. He was concerned about the vulnerable, and asked whether we in our class would be willing to give up one new car in our lifetime if doing so would mean that everyone in our country would have enough food to eat, shelter for all persons and clothing for all people. His comments made an impression upon me at the time and today it makes an even deeper impression. At my service of ordination, he came up to me and placed a \$20 bill in my hand and said that is not for you but for a person who comes to you in need. The \$20 bill has long been given to someone in need, but Phil's gift is not forgotten.

I hope Phil's legacy is that each of us remembers that we are "ministers" for Jesus Christ. When Protestants use the term: "the gathering of the saints," it refers to all believers in Jesus Christ and not a select few. As we come to worship each Sunday, we are "the gathering of the saints." I hope this introduction helps us to think of persons in your past who had a profound influence upon your life and who shared Christ's love with you in a meaningful and real way.

In a different direction, I am pleased to announce that we have a more effective website thanks to the efforts of our office manager, Bonnie Taylor. I invite you to visit our website at www.stpetersucc.com. If you have any suggestions or would like to add to our website, please let me know.



While you are visiting our local church website, I would encourage you to visit our Illinois Conference website and our United Church of Christ website at www.ucc.org.

The Illinois Conference website has the results of our Annual Conference Meeting this past June and will have the results of the Special Conference Meeting on Saturday, February 11, 2006, which I attended. It is based upon "Open Space Technology" which meant that the meeting was open to the agenda of the people who attended. I remember the phrase: "Let go and let God" which I think is a good explanation of how this process works. Our next Association meeting will be based upon this process.

My prayer is that God's love might be ministered through these different websites as God's love comes through people. I hope to see you in church.

Sincerely,

Pastor Glenn



In the Spotlight this month — the **Sausage Supper**, of course! Check the article on page 3 to see how you can help!

Constitution and Bylaws

Copies of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws are available on the table in the Narthex. Please pick up a copy and review it before the next Congregational Meeting.



March Madness at WINN

March is packed with early 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.

- March 1 Ash Wednesday Family Night – featuring fried chicken
- 8 Spring Training – featuring salad bar and build your own dessert parfait
- 15 One Potato, Two Potato – featuring potato bar
- 22 No WINN
- 29 Beach Party – featuring BBQ pulled pork sandwiches



Fellowship Time Sign Up

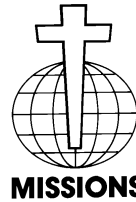
Please check the bulletin board in the south hallway for the Fellowship Time sign up sheet. We need volunteers to make coffee each Sunday. Volunteers are also needed to make or purchase a snack for Fellowship Time. Volunteers may sign up for coffee, snack or both. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office.



Newsletter Deadline

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



One Great Hour of Sharing

It's remarkable what your gift will do.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing carry God's message of love and hope to people in more than ninety countries! The United Church of Christ works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief and advocacy/resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. Your gifts also support domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

One Great Hour of Sharing has an amazing history. Since 1949, a number of Christian denominations have participated in this life-changing offering. Today, the UCC is one of nine denominations that support One Great Hour of Sharing in cooperation with Church World Service.

You will find remarkable stories of transformed lives at <http://oghs.ucc.org>.

This year's collection date is Sunday, March 26. If you do not receive an envelope at church on March 19, 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. This is one of the most important mission offerings we have each year.

UCC Women's Activities

Saturday, March 18, don't miss the **Women's Lenten Breakfast**, sponsored by the Illinois Women in Church and Society. The Illinois Conference Eastern Association breakfast will be held at First Congregational UCC in Dwight from 9:00-11:30 a.m. on March 18. The program will be "Touching Jesus . . . Touched by Jesus". The cost is \$3. All proceeds go to a women's mission. For reservations, call Jan Wilson at 367-5783.

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.





Yoo Hoo! It's Almost Here . . .

The St. Peter's Annual Sausage Supper is Saturday, March 11. Serving time will be 4:00–7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 5–12 and children under 5 are free. Everyone is invited. Ya'll come!

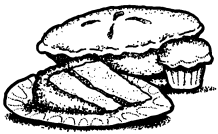
On Friday, March 10, the preparation begins at 9:00 a.m. with dining room setup, cooking and squeezing sausage patties. Everyone is welcome to come and help.

Friday evening, March 10, beginning at 6:00 p.m., potato peelers will do their thing. I bet we have a potato peeler that will fit everyone's hand. Come try us out. After all the potatoes are peeled, we'll go out for pizza.

On Saturday at 1:00 p.m., the men will start cooking sausage and will need people to help.



Saturday afternoon and evening, we will need everyone's help. Jobs to be done include cooking, dining room busing, serving line, dish washing and serving dessert, salad and drinks. After the last guest is served, we will need help with clean up. Contact Marguerite to check where helping hands are needed.

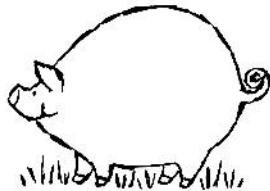


Don't forget the sweet finish! Desserts are always needed. Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Since the sausage supper is a fundraiser, we would like to encourage bulk sausage sales. Fresh mild blend sausage is available for \$3.00 a pound. Sausage must be ordered and paid for by March 4. Sausage orders can be picked up at the church on Saturday, March 11.

We have an opportunity for you to clean out your cupboards—we need plastic containers (butter tubs, etc.) for leftovers. Please leave containers in the church kitchen.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Marguerite and Larry Zahnd 359-3808 or Kurt and Fern Eheart 351-7997.



With Deepest Sympathy

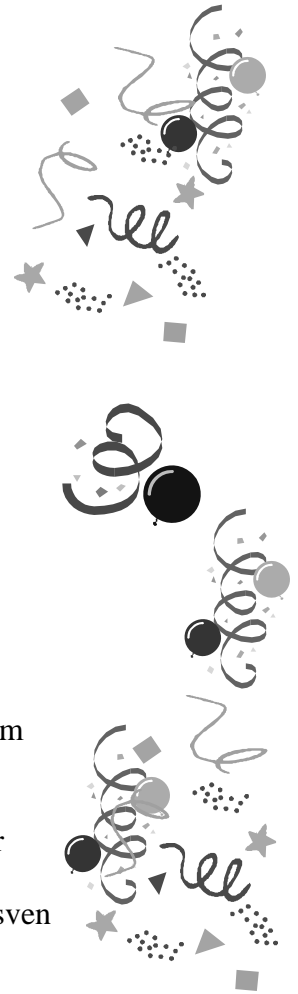
St. Peter's is deeply saddened by the death of longtime member, **Virginia L. Bryan**. Virginia died January 25, 2006 at the age of 84. Virginia was born in rural Urbana, a daughter of Albert P. and Rosalia

Augusta Ziegler Moenkhaus. Mrs. Bryan worked in the auditing department at Sears for 35 years. Survivors include two daughters, Beverly Johnson of Urbana and Betsy Taubert of Clinton, five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Virginia's family members are in our thoughts and prayers.



March Birthdays

- 1 Robin Limp
Ian Stahl
- 4 Jessie Dereng
Andy Eheart
- 6 Al Shoudel
Robert Heller
Shirley Casey
- 9 Joyce Trost
Jennifer Foster
- 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



Happy Birthday





March Anniversaries

- 18 Larry and Marguerite Zahnd
(1972)
- 19 Tim and Tamara McArdle
(2005)

March Ushers

Carolyn Hamrick
Ed Hamrick
Mark Sterrett

Ann Swearingen
Richard Swearingen
Evelyn Weber

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!*



Church Mailbag

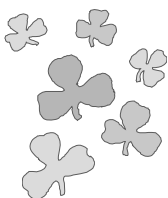
*Dear friends in Christ,
I want to thank all of you for the warm reception you gave to me as the husband of Christie. It was a joy and a gift to be with you this past Sunday.*

*God's peace,
Caleb Harms*

Thank you for your gift. Your generous help will allow the UCF Campus Ministry to remain active now and in the future. We will use your gift with all the wisdom and grace at our commands to provide counsel, companionship and opportunities for service and leadership to students at the University of Illinois. With your continuing support the United Church Foundation will continue to grow and thrive.

*Sincerely,
Curtis M. Wilson*

The United Church Foundation
The United Church of Christ Campus Ministry
at the University of Illinois



To: All Illinois Conference Churches
From: Jane Fisler Hoffman, Conference Minister
Jorge Morales, Assoc. Conference Minister
Bill Serritella, Business Manager

Good News!

Our 2005 income was sufficient to match our 2005 expenses as a Conference. We are not "in the red" and did not deficit spend in 2005. One reason this was accomplished is that our Ministry Leadership Team (which has been without two Association Ministers since Sept/Oct), our Administrative Assistants and other leaders have stepped up and been carrying out essential ministries in Fox Valley and Prairie Associations, saving several months of the two salaries. Along with other Conference wide cost-savings by our entire staff, we were able to achieve this balanced year-end situation.



Bad News

Giving to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) was down by \$147,691 in 2005 compared to 2004. Giving to OCWM was down by \$87,575 compared to our 2005 budget. The balancing of income and expenses came in part by the stretching of some members of our staff and other leaders to levels that cannot be maintained. Giving from the Illinois Conference to the national setting of our church for 2005 was \$20,939 less than our budgeted expectation.

More Good News!

Our two new Acting Association Ministers began on February 27 to join us in strengthening our local churches and our Association and Conference relationship. There will be a modest salary savings in the 2006 budget because of the late February start date.

Challenging News

To meet the 2006 Conference budget approved by delegates to the 2005 Annual Conference meeting in June, giving to OCWM in 2006 will have to increase by \$161,000. The delegates to the 2004 annual meeting said they wanted to claim the authority and responsibility of approving a Conference budget in 2005. Now the question hangs before us: will the Conference accept the responsibility of its decision?