



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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## From the Study

In the April/May 2006 *United Church News* is an article by Rev. Michael Kinnamon who is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and is the Allen and Dottie Miller Professor of Mission and Peace at our Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. The article was entitled: "Why Check Out the United Church of Christ?" and was written at the request of the UCC's Still Speaking Initiative to offer reflections on why someone might consider joining the UCC. I find his 10 reasons reflect why I am proud to be part of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Kinnamon shared these reasons:

Because, in an era when communities so often define themselves by whom they exclude, this community (UCC) joyfully claims an identity as those who welcome the excluded, even as Christ had welcomed us.

Because, in an age of growing fundamentalism, this community joyfully seeks to be a "People of the Book" who, at the same time, feel no need to protect the Bible from the modern world.

Because, in a society where beating the competition is regarded as the highest value, this community joyfully treasures the gifts that God has given to other parts of Christ's one body, and to neighbors of other faiths.

Because instead of focusing only on personal blessedness in another world, this community joyfully focuses on the power of God to make this world other, a place of *shalom* (peace and justice) for all God's children.

Because, in a culture dominated by images of self-fulfillment, this community joyfully celebrates that its members live no longer for themselves but for Christ and, thus, for their neighbors, each of whom bears sacred image of the Creator.

Because, resisting the extremes of hierarchical power and do-your-own-thing individualism, this community joyfully attempts to live by covenant of mutual accountability, grounded in God's covenant with us.

Because, in an age of horrifying violence, this community hears the call of the Holy Spirit to be just peacemakers, even when this is a costly thing to be.

Because, while it resists bumper-sticker religion, this community joyfully insists on thinking globally and acting locally.

Because at its best, this community is marked by bold humility, precisely because it joyfully confesses that God is God and we aren't.

Because, in a culture that is willing to speak of God so long as God is kept safely contained in past traditions, this community joyfully proclaims that the living God is still speaking, and that is very good news.

I might add that I share the conviction of John Robinson, one of the leaders of our church, who shared with the early Pilgrims as they were to come to this country on the ship *Mayflower* that: "*God has more truth and light to share with us from his Holy Word.*" I believe that we must concentrate on the future trusting God's guidance and grace. I hope the words of Rev. Kinnamon resonate with you as they have with me. I remind you that more information about the God is Still Speaking Initiative and other news of the United Church of Christ might be found at our website: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

With warm regards,  
**Pastor Glenn**





In the Spotlight this month — Don't miss the special **Congregational Meeting** after worship on Sunday, May 21. Voting on the revised Constitution and Bylaws is on the agenda.

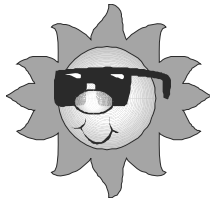
## Well Done!

Once again the Sausage Supper was a huge success. The Kurt Eheart family and the Larry Zahnd family would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped. Many hands make light work. God works in mysterious ways and He proved that again. We would like to give each of you a big hug so here it goes. Take one of your arms and put it over your other arm and now the other arm over your other arm, now squeeze! God Bless each of you. *Marguerite and Fern*

**Note:** The Sausage Supper brought in receipts totaling \$5,197. After deducting expenses (\$1,456.39), profit on the dinner totaled \$3,740.61.

## Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning Sunday, June 4 and continuing through August 27, worship will begin at 9:00 a.m. for the summer. Worship will be held in the Sanctuary unless the temperature in the Sanctuary is above 80°.



## Welcome New Members

St. Peter's welcomed Jim Tarr into membership on Sunday, April 9. Before retiring, Jim was the Manager at Photographic Service and Stores at the University of Illinois. Jim and his wife, Bonnie, live in Savoy and have four adult children. We're glad to have you with us at St. Peter's!

## Consistory Highlights – April

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



The Easter breakfast was successful... approximately \$580 was raised for the Student Leadership University Conference.

Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 12-16. If you are interested in helping with this year's VBS, please contact Lisa Lynch.

The interest from the Endowment accounts (2005) was allocated to the following missions: Student Leadership University Conference – \$1,000; WINN – \$1,000; Audio Visual – \$1000; Emmaus House – \$500; Campus Ministry – \$500; Ordination gift for Christie Taube – \$500.

Sunday, May 21, 2006 will be our music director's (Susan Rice) last day. The music committee is currently working on updating the job description of the music director and will begin the search for hiring a new music director.

Summer worship services will begin June 4, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Services will be held in Fellowship Hall only if the temperature in the Sanctuary exceeds 80°.

The Confirmation Class will be confirmed Sunday, May 7. There will be a blended service of both contemporary and traditional, held on Sunday, May 21. We will be honoring high school senior graduates on that Sunday.

Glenn and Joyce will attend the Eastern Association Spring Meeting on Sunday, May 7 in Gilman. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Glenn.

A Congregational Meeting will be held on May 21, 2006 following worship. The agenda will include a vote on the revised Constitution and Bylaws.

The treasurer reported the income for March was \$20,453.25 and the expenses were \$22,947.28. The treasurer also received an expensive power bill for both the church and the parsonage this past month. The church and the parsonage are currently on budget billing. Ameren explained that with budget billing, they taken one month out of the year to make adjustments for any underpayments during the past year; hence the extremely large bill. In order to avoid this in the future, the Consistory passed a motion to go off budget billing and pay what is actually owed each month.

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the June issue of *Connections* is Monday, May 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!





## Congratulations Graduates!

St. Peter's would like to congratulate Jessica Jewett on her graduation from high school and Nicci Shoudel on her graduation from college. Our best wishes and prayers go with both of these talented young women.

**Jessica Jewett** will graduate with honors May 28 as one of the top ten students in her class at Mahomet-Seymour High School. In the fall, she will attend the University of Iowa as a chemistry major. Jessica has enjoyed being an active member of St. Peter's and participating in WINN and other youth events. She looks forward to being an active member of the UCC church located across the street from her dorm in Iowa City. Jessica says, "Thanks for the great faith, fellowship and memories, St. Peter's!"

**Nicci Shoudel** will graduate from Millikin University on May 21 with a Bachelors of Science majoring in Nursing. If all things go as planned, she will work at Carle Hospital over the summer and come September, will go to San Antonio, Texas for officer training as she begins her nursing career in the Army. Please keep Nicci in your prayers as she begins her career as a nurse and starts this new chapter in her life.

Nicci says "Thank you to my St. Peter's family, for all the love and support you've given me over the past 22 years!"



## With Deepest Sympathy

St. Peter's is deeply saddened by the death of longtime member, Jessie Schlorff. Jessie died April 6, 2006 at the age of 87. Jessie was born in Champaign, a daughter of John Edward and Louetta McAnich Stiebner. Jessie married Edward Schlorff in 1948. Jessie graduated from Champaign High School and was a homemaker. Survivors include a son, James E. Schlorff of Sherman; two daughters, Linda L. Ingles of Arthur and Patricia A. Anton of Aurora; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Jessie's family.



## May Liturgists

- 14 Phou Sysouvanh
- 21 Jessica Jewett
- 28 Maura Healy



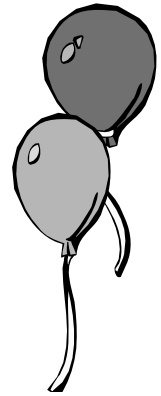
## May Ushers

- Jim Acheson
- Bernice Benn
- Omer Benn

- Mildred Luther
- Al Shoudel
- Cal Twenhafel

## May Birthdays

- 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 Nimmer
- 14 Bruce Bostwick
- 21 Felice Rhodes
- Jim Tarr
- 23 Eloise Heller
- 24 Amanda Burr
- 25 Gary Hollen
- Kim Brown
- 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)
- 24 Jim and Doris Hershbarger (1947)

**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](mailto:trost@net66.com). **Thanks for your help!**



## Church Mailbag

Dear Pastor Glenn and our dear friends at St. Peter's,

Please accept our sincere thanks for your love and support, during Jim's illness. Each of your kind thoughts, prayers, cards and calls, was a gift from God. Each of you is truly a blessing in our lives.

We are excited to share that Jim's recovery has progressed quickly. He will be returning to work on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

May God bless you,

John, Sherry and Nicole Van Grinsven  
Jenny and Jim Crone

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

Dear St. Peter's Family,

Thank you deeply for your support evidenced during my Ecclesiastical Council. I was truly overwhelmed and fortified by your support and encouragement. I want to also thank you for your financial aid to me over my three years of seminary. You made it possible for me to worry more about learning than working for food for my family. I am forever grateful and humbled by your kindness and generosity.

Love in Christ,  
Christie Taube

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent gift to Back Bay Mission. As we begin the daunting task of rebuilding storm-tossed communities and our ministry to them, your gifts are more essential than you can imagine.

The devastation to the Mississippi Gulf Coast community is indeed immense, and it is difficult to comprehend how such a widely destroyed area can pick itself up and begin again. . . . The enormity of it all is daunting, but the resilience of this place and people is amazing.

. . . Without your support we simply could not do all that we intend to do. With you, we will rebuild lives and hope and rebuild our facility for continued service to the Gulf Coast community. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers and for sharing your gifts. We are deeply grateful.

Peace,  
Rev. Shari Prestemon  
Back Bay Mission

To all the people of St. Peter's Church who helped with the CROP Walk:

Thank you so very much for your hospitality! You were gracious and welcoming, and that had a good deal to do with making our walk successful. Your efforts began well before the day of the Walk and continued throughout the afternoon, and I am sure some of them went on well after we were done. As one of the last walkers to make it back that day, I am particularly grateful that you had plenty of cookies!

In case you did not see the chart that afternoon, we had over 300 walkers, who brought in pledges of over \$22,000. Judging by the results in previous years, we are quite likely to meet our goal of \$26,000. This will mean over \$2,000 each for the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, the Catholic Worker House and the TIMES Center, as well as about \$20,000 for the many projects of Church World Service in this country and overseas.

May I also wish you a blessed and joyous Easter season.

Sincerely yours,  
Esther Portnoy  
Local event coordinator

## Gifts from the Homeland



Join The Chorale as they conclude their 23<sup>rd</sup> season with their annual Young Artists Scholarship Concert on Sunday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Faith United Methodist Church in Champaign. "Gifts from the Homeland", the theme for this year's concert, features American music favorites including songs from the American Civil War period. This year's scholarship will be awarded to a local high school senior planning to continue their study of music at the college level. Previous winners Elizabeth Treat, Adelaide Muir and Davion Williams will return to perform. This 60-voice community choir is under the direction of Julie Beyler. While the concert is free and open to the public, donations for the scholarship program will gladly be accepted.

