



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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CONNECTIONS

April 2007



A Bit of History

In celebration of St. Peter's 50th anniversary in this building and the 50th anniversary of the United Church of Christ, we will include interesting bits of information and trivia in bulletins and newsletters throughout the year. If you have a favorite piece of St. Peter's trivia or favorite photographs you would like to share (about the building, the congregation who built it or the UCC) please call St. Peter's Office Manager, Bonnie Taylor, or leave a note in her mailbox in the south hallway. Photos and newspaper clippings will be duplicated and returned.

Looking Backward, Looking Forward

Editor's Note: While gathering information to include in this 50th anniversary column, I found the Annual Report for 1957. The title of the report was "Looking Backward, Looking Forward". As appropriate as it was in 1957, the title still applies to St. Peter's today. To those "pioneers" on Russell Street 50 years ago, I offer my grateful thanks.

LOOKING BACKWARD
LOOKING FORWARD



1957 was a year of transition for St. Peter's. At the age of 92, the congregation had outgrown its second building. After 18 months, construction of the new larger facility on land in west Champaign was nearing completion.

On Sunday, March 31, 1957, St. Peter's Evangelical and Reformed Church held its first worship service in its new building at 905 S. Russell Street. The new pews had not been installed yet, so members used new folding chairs and old chairs from the University Avenue building. There were 200 new chairs and they still needed more! 498 people attended the first worship service. During the service, three children were baptized – David Earl Stephens, Michael Paul Lyons, and Sally Jo Malloch. An electric organ was borrowed for worship until the permanent organ was installed for

the building dedication in November. Rev. Orville H. Schroer conducted the first worship service.

Rev. Schroer, who came to St. Peter's in June 1952, was instrumental in leading the congregation through the planning and building phases of the project.



Unchurcing Ceremony – left to right: Roy Heimburger, Mary Smith, Rev. Orville Schroer, Howard Nofftz, Elmer Ninmer, Ivan Moore.

He led an unchurcing ceremony at the last service held in the old building (March 24, 1957) in which the vestments of the Church were removed in an impressive ceremonial service.

At the end of April 1957, just one month after moving into the building, Rev. Schroer concluded his ministry at St. Peter's. Professor Lloyd Pfautsch, choir director and also an ordained minister, served as interim pastor until Rev. Walter W. Noffke was installed on September 22, 1957.

Rev. Noffke had to "hit the ground running" when he started at St. Peter's. Dedication of the new church was scheduled for Sunday, November 17, 1957 – just eight weeks after his installation!

While St. Peter's congregation settled into its new building, the United Church of Christ was being born in Cleveland, Ohio. June 25, 1957 marks the beginning of the new United Church of Christ. The cover of the Dedication booklet for St. Peter's states, "Saint Peter's Evangelical and Reformed Church – Affiliated with The United Church of Christ". 1957 was a very busy year!



March 31, 1957 – Members leave St. Peter's after first worship service. Note the scaffolding in the background.

(continued)



Cover art from Church Growth and Outreach booklet (late 1950s). Artwork by Mace West.

Now as we look forward from 2007, St. Peter's finds itself in transition once again. Without a current pastor, we continue from week-to-week using pulpit supply pastors as we seek an interim pastor and eventually, a permanent pastor. And like 50

years ago, the mission and programs of the church fall onto the shoulders of the congregation members to keep it moving forward.

From Rev. Walter Noffke's 1957 Pastor's Report,

"We look back...and marvel at all that has happened. ...We started on the high plan that the church God gave to us, we would give back to Him. And this we shall always want to remember as we think of our church in its uses, in its outreach to people and community, and its demands upon us (time, talent, treasure) to stay a living part of it. ...Of paramount concern – that we remember what we have to do with Christ's church. It is His body – where all parts must be healthy, whole and working together and where if one part be hurt, all shall mourn and help until it is healed. Let this body grow in grace.

"Looking back? – Only that we may better be able to look forward."

These words still ring true for St. Peter's today. May we look back with the grace of our church ancestors and look forward with the same enthusiasm they showed 50 years ago.

Newsletter Deadline

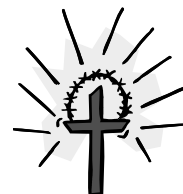
The deadline for the May issue of *Connections* is Monday, April 16. Please submit your articles to the Church Office or leave them in the Office Manager's mailbox. Please include your name and phone number. Thank you!



Spring into April at WINN!

April showers bring WINN fun! 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 4 **He is Risen** – featuring ham, rolls, deviled eggs, Rhonda's pink stuff, sweet potatoes. Activity time will feature Pet Night!



11 **Beanie Weenie Western Bash** – featuring fire pits, eating outside, cowboy baked beans, hot dogs, bratwurst, ice cream sandwiches. Don't miss the 2nd Annual WINN Scavenger Hunt – it will be a driving and digital picture scavenger hunt.



18 **End of the Year Party and Awards Night** – featuring dinner out at The Ribeye, 1701 S. Neil, Champaign.



A memorial service will be held for John Colson (son of Maxine Colson) on Saturday, April 7 at 11:30 a.m. at St. Peter's.

Tuesday Circle

Mark your calendars for 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 24 – Tuesday Circle will meet in the Lounge at St. Peter's. Doris Hershberger and Carolyn Hamrick will host this "Plan a Project" meeting. We hope to see you there!

Easter Breakfast

Join us for Easter Breakfast from 8:30-9:45 a.m. next Sunday in Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will feature egg casserole, ham, cinnamon rolls, juice, coffee and tea. Free will offering will be used to benefit St. Peter's youth programs.



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).



- Kate Berry
- Laura LeBaugh
- Sharon Conatser
- 5 Tracie O'Neill
- Lizzie Hoerman
- 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



Church Mailbag



On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Mental Health Center of Champaign County, it is

our pleasure to thank you for your kind donation to the Mental Health Center of Champaign County. We have received your gift designated to TIMES Center. Your generosity and charitable giving reflects your commitment to those less fortunate in our community. Through your contribution you demonstrate both your compassion for those in need and your courage to step forward as a community partner.

As part of a community based not-for-profit organization, the Mental Health Center is committed to helping those in our community build lives of independence, integrity, and stability. We are fortunate to have your support and partnership as we continue with our mission and tradition of helping those in need throughout Champaign County.

Thank you again for your support of the Mental Health Center.

Sincerely,
Sheila Ferguson
Chief Executive Officer

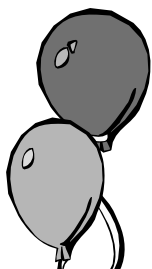
April Anniversaries



- 3 William and Mary Sue O'Neill (1991)
- 16 Robert and Eloise Heller (1946)
- Bill and Mary Limp (1967)
- 22 Kris and Tricia McCarthy (2006)
- 23 Larry and Kim Brown (2005)
- 28 Gary and Norma Hollen (1957)

April Birthdays

- 2 Dale Sebens
- Marcella Nance
- 4 Phyllis Jones
- John Bishop, Jr.



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!**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church World Relief Quilting Project

The Quilting Project is in need of sheets (plain or fitted), blanket sheets, lightweight quilts, draperies or flannel to make middles and backs for quilts. The quilt tops are 60" by 80". Quilts are distributed worldwide as needs arise. Donations may be dropped off at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Office (2101 S. Prospect, Champaign) or placed in the Quilt Project box in the south hallway at St. Peter's. For more information, call Carol Mathis, 369-8145.