



**St. Peter's United Church of Christ**  
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August 2007



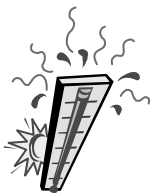
## A Note from the Pastor

WOW! It's almost August already! They say that "time flies when you're having fun" and I am enjoying my time among you during this interim time. I am reminded of some lines from a song: "Getting to know you – getting to know all about you. Getting to like you – getting to hope you like me too." That's what I've been about these last six weeks and it has been an interesting time.

I have an interest in history, particularly church history, and find the history of St. Peter's UCC full of rich stories and important milestones. You have been blessed by a significant number of "sons" and a "daughter" of the congregation entering ministry. The members of St. Peter's are blessed with a wide variety of gifts and talents which enrich the congregation and its programs and activities. There seems to be something for everyone in the program of St. Peter's.

The interim time in a church is a time of "shifting gears" from the past to the future – looking at the way we have always done things and exploring new ways. Celebrating our history and moving with confidence into a future yet unknown with the anticipation that God is at work in us and through us to God's glory. It is a road we will travel together in the coming months with God's help.

In Christian love,  
**Pastor Betty Hornback**



## Summer Worship Schedule

Worship will begin at 9:00 a.m. through August 26. Worship will be held in the Sanctuary unless the Sanctuary temperature is above 80°.

## Don't Forget . . .

If you are unable to attend worship during the summer, contributions and pledges may be mailed to the Church Office.

## Vesper Service

Summer is a time of busy schedules with many activities, vacations, reunions, etc. If you are unable to attend worship on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m., a no-frills alternative worship service will be offered Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. during August. We will worship with one or many—with prayer, scripture, a homily and maybe some singing if we feel so inclined. Dress is casual.



## Liturgists Welcome

We are looking for persons interested in serving as Liturgists for the Sunday Worship Service. Men, Women and Youth may indicate their interest on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

## Speak Out

Watch for a mailing early in September which will contain information on **Stewardship and Goal Setting**. You will be asked to help establish goals for the interim time and also longer term goals for the next five or more years. **YOUR** thoughts and opinions are vital to the future of St. Peter's UCC!

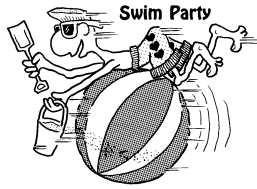


## Volunteer Needed

A delegate from St. Peter's is needed for the Eastern Association Fall Meeting to be held on October 27 at First Congregational UCC in Decatur. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office.



Don't Miss  
**WINN**  
 Registration



Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>  
 3:00-6:00 p.m.

- 3:00-5:00 p.m. Swimming and other activities
- 5:00-5:30 p.m. Meal (potluck)
- 5:30-6:00 p.m. Meeting with parents

If you are unable to attend, please contact:  
 Amy Durukan 355-6375

or

Rhonda Shoudel 352-3353



**WINN Kick Off**

September 12 - 5:30 p.m.

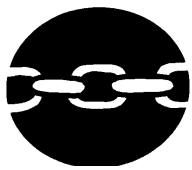


Join us for an unforgettable WINN year!

**Looking Ahead to September!**

Confirmation preparation will begin with the WINN program on September 12. The anticipated schedule will be:

- 5:30 – 6:10 p.m. Dinner
- 6:15 – 6:30 p.m. Worship
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation



**Prayer Chain**

The Prayer Chain list needs to be updated and we need your help. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for you to sign if you would like to participate. This is a project for both ladies and gentlemen. All that I ask is that you indicate whether you would like to be contacted by telephone or by e-mail. If you would like to be put on the e-mail list, please put your e-mail address on the sheet. If you want to be on the traditional telephone list, please put the telephone number you would like used. Each participant will receive guidelines once we have the lists complete. If you have any questions or wish to call to be placed on a list, please contact Ann Swearingen at 328-2104.

**Consistory Highlights – July**

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



Bonnie Taylor will take over the General Treasurer's position when Shirley Records leaves at the end of August.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be moved to November to allow more thorough preparation of the budget. Date will be announced in the September issue of *Connections*.



Pastoral Search Committee has reviewed 17 profiles and narrowed the search to five possible candidates. These candidates have received our church's profile and we are waiting for their responses.

The Trustees announced that tuck-pointing is currently taking place on the south end of the church. It is anticipated that project will be completed soon.

Christian Education will be focused on the WINN program rather than Sunday school due to low attendance at Sunday School. Packets of Christian Educational material will be available for the use of children during the worship service. WINN information is listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

Beginning in September, a worship service focused on praise will be held on the third Sunday of each month through December.



**Needed – Helping Hands for Fellowship Time**

Please take note of the sign up sheet on the bulletin board. If you're able to make or purchase a snack for fellowship, please sign up. If you aren't able to provide a snack, perhaps you could make a donation to help buy snacks. We need volunteers to prepare and clean up coffee and to bring a snack. Volunteers may sign up for coffee, snack or both. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office. Please help however you can. Thanks!

## Looking Backward, Looking Forward

In 1957, as St. Peter's congregation settled into their new church home, they also started looking outward to the new neighborhood in which the church was located. Although attendance was continuing to rise – over 370 people by early January 1958 with an average Sunday School attendance of 155 – the leadership of St. Peter's developed an active plan for outreach and development. Chaired by Dr. Kenton Kendall, the Church Outreach and Development Committee developed five areas on which to focus.

Area 1 included a concentrated effort to locate those in the neighborhood who were not affiliated with any church by conducting a census. By the end of 1957, the Committee for Census, chaired by Mace West, had visited between 800 and 900 homes, identifying over 100 families with no church affiliation or preference.



Reprinted from 1957 outreach and development booklet.

Area 2 of the program was to contact those without a church preference or affiliation through the efforts of the Fishermen's Club, chaired by Lauren Austermiller. This phase of the outreach program was just beginning at the end of 1957 with gratifying results. Several families were taking part in St. Peter's fellowship as a result of the contacts made by this committee.

Area 3 of the program would be one of cultivation for encouraging church membership. By the beginning of 1958, the committee in charge of cultivation was just beginning its work under the leadership of chairman, Dr. H. A. Busch.

Area 4 would center on the work of making the new members feel at home by giving them every opportunity to participate in the church program, thus becoming active in the life of the church. Dr. John Baerwald chaired the committee for this phase of the outreach program.

The objective of Area 5 was the reactivation of the present membership through visitation and participation in the activities of the church. Headed

by Ivan Moore, it was felt at the time that this part of the program would be the most valuable in strengthening the total church effort.

As Dr. Kendall stated in the 1957 Annual Report, "The overall impact of this total effort will bring needed vitality to the life of the church and its functions. Out of it we will experience what many other thriving churches have experienced, that a working church is alive, growing, and is stimulating. To accomplish this we will all earnestly and prayerfully strive."

An interesting comment is found in the Pastor's Report for 1957 written by Rev. Walter Noffke. "There are three and four nights a week where there is no light at St. Peter's save the tower lights. Ponder this national statistic in the life of the church – For every new face to face group in the church (Sunday School class, Guild, Circle, Scout work, etc.) you can count on 16 church members. Do we need other groups – a family night, young couples' club?"

The neighborhood around St. Peter's has changed considerably since 1957. Homes, businesses, parks and trees have replaced the open fields around 905 S. Russell. However, the focus of the church mirrors that of our ancestors – as we look forward to the future of St. Peter's, plans for new outreach, growth and a rededication to the work of this church in this community are forefront in our minds. As Rev. Noffke stated in the 1957 Dedication Book, "From the very first steps in selecting our site for this sanctuary...the paramount goal has always been, that we be guided to so locate and so built that the Lord may best be served."

*(Information in this article was provided by the 1957 Annual Report, the 1957 Dedication Book and the outreach material "St. Peter's Leads".)*

## Congratulations Juliane and James!

St. Peter's Choir Director Juliane Gorretta and her fiancé James Sharp were married at St. Peter's on Saturday, July 21, 2007. Rev. Michael Mulberry from Community UCC



conducted the ceremony, which featured beautiful music selections including a combined wedding chorus of members of the St. Peter's UCC and Community UCC Choirs. St. Peter's wishes Juliane and Jamie all the best in their new life together! (New address: Juliane and James Sharp, 2820 Oak Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938)



## With Deepest Sympathy

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with the Family of Bob Heller who passed from this life to life eternal on July 2, 2007. Funeral services were held on July

7. Bob will be missed by his wife, Eloise, son Eric (and Beckie) and grandchildren Christopher, Erica, and Brandon, as well as his many friends at St. Peter's and in the Champaign community.

## Well Done!

A very big thank you to all the people who helped with Meals on Wheels deliveries for the weeks of July 16 and July 23. Volunteers included Jim and Jill Acheson, Boots Federhart, Carolyn Hamrick, Gladys Hemp and Ann Swearingen. This is a great mission project and one that is fun, as well. We enjoyed meeting all the wonderful people that were on our route.

*Shirley Records*

## Newsletter Deadline

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



## Church Mailbag

*Words cannot express the heartfelt gratitude my family and I feel for so many of you.*

*Our thanks to Pastor Betty for her caring visits, calls and wonderful service for Bob. He would have smiled with appreciation!*

*Thanks to all for the calls, visits, cards and memorial gifts in Bob's memory.*

*Our thanks to the ladies who contributed to and those who served a delicious lunch after the service. This was greatly enjoyed by all!*

*Again, our many thanks with God's Blessings.*

Robert Heller Family – Eloise, Eric & family

*I want to thank all of my friends at St. Peter's for their prayers, calls and cards during my recent surgery.*

Pam Bostwick

## August Ushers

Pam Bostwick Lee Eichhorst Sandy Eichhorst  
George Malloch Larry Zahnd

## August Birthdays

- 3 Alena Ornelas
- 5 Grant Pointer
- 8 Amy Schaeffer
- 10 Marguerite Zahnd
- 11 Charles Zahnd
- 12 Charlotte Joop
- 14 Ronald Schaeede
- 15 Kathy Kuipers  
Florian Taube
- 16 Ed Kobel
- 17 Virginia Zindars  
Virginia Lewis
- 18 Mildred Holleman
- 20 Mildred Luther
- 21 Emma Kidd  
Jackie Vaiden
- 22 David Wentz
- 25 Amy Stahl
- 26 Leah Muller  
Stuart Yoos
- 27 Howard Rhodes
- 29 William Beck  
Bryan Malloch  
Christopher Lehmann
- 30 Alberta West  
Merwyn Zarbuck
- 31 Betty Matlock



## August Anniversaries

- 9 Richard and Ann Swearingen (1957)
- 13 Robert and Judy Moller Vaiden (1983)
- 14 John and Rebecca Bishop (1993)
- 18 Kurt and Fern Eheart (1978)
- 21 William and Esther Lyons (1955)
- 22 William and Kathryn Luther Henderson (1953)
- 24 Doth and Pooh Sysouvanh (1996)
- 30 Ferdie and Eileen Walters (1964)
- 30 Heinrich and Paula Schmidt (1969)

**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](mailto:stpeters_ucc@msn.com). **Thanks for your help!**