



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



February Fun with WINN!

Don't miss February 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.

February 7 **Avast, me hearties! Yer invited to WINN's Pirate Party** – featuring beef stew, rolls and chocolate ice cream log.



14 **That's Amore** – featuring spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and chocolate mousse.

21 **Ash Wednesday** – Potluck. Please sign up for a main dish, vegetable, dessert or fruit. WINN will provide water, milk, juice and tea.

28 **Skateland or Dairy Queen and a Movie**



Let Us Hear About It!

During this time without a fulltime pastor, we often don't hear about members who are ill or need our prayers. If you, or someone you know, is ill or in the hospital, please contact Bonnie Taylor in the Church Office (356-3635) or Rhonda Shoudel (352-2252). It's very important during this transition to be aware of those in our congregation who need pastoral care.



All Church Sweetheart Dinner

Don't miss the Tuesday Circle All Church Sweetheart Dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13.

Dinner will be at The Ribeye (1701 S. Neil Street, Champaign). Please sign up on the bulletin board in the south hallway if you plan to attend.

Souper Bowl of Caring



The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national, youth-led, UCC endorsed fundraiser supporting local organizations in the fight against hunger. Over 16,000 groups have registered to participate this year. St. Peter's is one of them! Last year, groups raised over 5 million dollars to fight hunger and poverty in our communities. Since 1990, The Souper Bowl of Caring has raised over 33 million dollars to fight hunger in our country. Will you help?

February 3 – **Blitz Service Project** (serving dinner at the Times Center 5:15-6:30 p.m.). See Lisa to sign up.

February 4 – **Soup Drive for Eastern Illinois Foodbank** (before and after the worship service). Soup Pot Collection for the Times Center.



Sausage Supper in Need of a Chairperson

"St. Peter's dinners are the best deal in town." "St. Peter's dinners are always so organized and good."

These were just a couple of the comments I heard last spring at our Sausage Supper. We have been fortunate in past years to have Marguerite and Larry Zahnd and Fern and Kurt Eheart chair St. Peter's Annual Sausage Supper, and for that we are thankful. We also know that it could not happen without the volunteers who gave of their time and talents. I have even heard that it provides wonderful fellowship with everyone working together towards a common goal. To date I have been unable to get a commitment from anyone to chair this event. It has even been suggested that there may be more productive ways to channel our time and talents. If I have not called you and you feel you are willing to chair this event, please give me a call (328-2104).

Ann Swearingen



World Vision's 30 Hour Famine

More than 10 million children die each year from hunger. Every three seconds a child dies because of malnutrition and disease. The 30 Hour Famine is an international student movement. Each year about 1 million people participate to fight hunger and poverty worldwide. Since 1992, the number of children who die from hunger and preventable diseases has fallen from 40,000 to 29,000 a day. We're making progress. Help us starve hunger. (If and how you fast is a personal decision. Fasting is not necessary to participate).

February 23-25 – World Vision's *The Broken and Beautiful Tour* Concert with Mark Schultz and Big Daddy Weave, Breakfast at Hometown Buffet, TRIBE game, juice bar, Sunday worship service and Break-the-Fast Fellowship. See Lisa for more information.

New Books in the Library

St. Peter's readers will find new books on the library cart by the bulletin board. The new books include the following.



A Redbird Christmas by Fannie Flagg (author of *Fried Green Tomatoes*) – While this book sounds like a holiday book, this is not the case. It is a story that will warm your heart.

For One More Day by Mitch Albom – This is the new book by the author of *Tuesdays with Morrie*. It, too, is on the bestseller list.

Light from Heaven by Jan Karon – For those of you who have enjoyed the Mitford series, take advantage. This is the final volume.

No Wonder They Call Him Savior by Max Lucado.

Where Lincoln Walked by Raymond Bial – This book is appropriate for Illinoisans with February approaching. Mr. Bial teaches at Parkland College and has published many books for adults and children. The photographs are outstanding.



From the Pulpit – February

February 4, 10:00 a.m. Jennifer Little
February 11, 10:00 a.m. Jennifer Little
February 18,
8:45 & 10:00 a.m. Rev. Steve Shoemaker
February 25, 10:00 a.m. Rev. Steve Shoemaker

Stewardship Report – 2006



156 stewardship letters were mailed in September 2006 to members and friends of St. Peter's. Follow-up letters were sent in January 2007 to 20 members who normally pledge, but had not yet done so. 49 pledges were received by January 3, 2007.

10 pledging units who responded in 2006 did not do so for 2007. Most of these involved people who moved to other places. Of the pledges received, 11 were new pledges, 1 was less, 19 were the same and 18 increased their pledges.

Totals as of January 3, 2007 are as follows: General Fund –\$74,652 Missions – \$5,712, and Buildings and Grounds – \$8,076.

It is important to remember that some families choose not to pledge, but give on a regular and generous basis to the church. In 2006, \$19,682 was given to the General Fund, \$1,977 to Buildings and Grounds and \$1,569 to Missions.

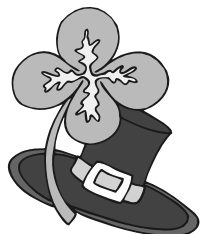
It is never too late to make a pledge. Pledge cards are available in the office. A pledge is not a bill, but rather an intent to give. It enables the financial committee to better predict income for the year.

The members of the Stewardship Committee are very grateful to the members of St. Peter's for their generous giving.

Your Stewardship Committee,
Jim Acheson, Gladys Hemp, Shirley Records

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March issue of *Connections* is Thursday, February 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!



Consistory Highlights – January

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



The *Safe Church Policy* was discussed. Consistory members were asked to review the policy and forward any suggestions to Rhonda Shoudel or Jim Acheson before the next meeting. A local insurance agent will be asked to review the policy and offer suggestions.

The Pastoral Search Committee members have all been approved. Committee members are: Youth Representative – Maura Healy; Board of Christian Education – Barb Jewett and Phou Sysouvanh; Consistory – Pam Bostwick, Linda McCarthy and Shirley Records; Women's Fellowship – Bobbie Burr, Gladys Hemp and Rhonda Shoudel; Laity – Mark Sterrett, Jim Tarr and Larry Zahnd.

Cheryl Lehmann was approved as Consistory Secretary with Phyllis Jones serving as assistant secretary.

The Building and Grounds Committee reported that a leak in the kitchen might be caused by missing mortar on the parapet of the roof. The repair will require tuck-pointing and rebuilding the parapet. Leaks have also been found in the Cry Room and the Lounge. New faucets have been installed in the basement bathroom.



The Board of Christian Education reported that the youth are working on a month of feeding the hungry. The "Souper Bowl of Caring" will take place on February 4. The young people and adults will be assisting with the service on this Sunday. The other project will be the "30 Hour Famine".

The Stewardship Committee will prepare a report on the 2006 Stewardship campaign for publication in the newsletter.

An outside agent reviewed the church's insurance policy. Although the policy is a solid policy, the church may wish to explore the possibility of a different agent next year with the hope of reducing cost.



Currently, there is no chairperson for the Sausage Supper. If a chairperson is not found in the next few weeks, the supper will be cancelled.

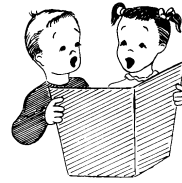
The Treasurer's report indicated that the church should break even on the 2006 budget. A number of factors have contributed to decreased costs in 2006.

Interviews have been scheduled with two interim pastor candidates.

An emergency contact for St. Peter's needs to be on record with the Champaign Police Department. Jim Acheson, Trustee, will be the after-hours emergency contact. The Consistory President and the Church Office will handle pastoral emergencies.

Rev. Tom Norwalk will conduct both the contemporary and traditional worship services on January 28.

Special Thanks



Thanks to the planners of the Christmas services for using the carols from the Red Hymnals, so that we could sing the songs as they were written!

A grateful Member

2007 Offering Envelopes Available

Numbered offering envelopes for 2007 are available. Please pick up your set in the Church Office. If you do not currently have an envelope number and would like a set of pre-numbered envelopes, please contact Bonnie in the Church Office.

Liturgists Needed

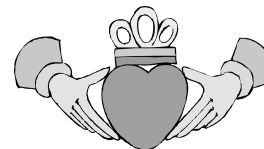


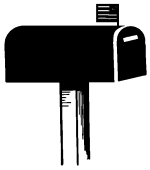
If you would like to serve as liturgist (lay reader) for worship, please sign up on the bulletin board in the south hallway (opposite the Church Office).

February Ushers

Kurt Eheart
Barb Kobel
Ed Kobel
Patty Kobel

Kymerly McCarthy
Jocelyn Voss
Nick Voss
Mark Williams





New Addresses

Ralph and Loreen Bonnell
10811 Pine Mills Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46845-6500

Maxine Colson

c/o ManorCare Health Service
309 E. Springfield Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820-5405

Julius Demlow

C224 Prairie Village
200 W. International Avenue
Rantoul, IL 61866
892-2394

Robert Lewis

Helia Nursing Home
1915 S. Mattis Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821

Nicole Shoudel

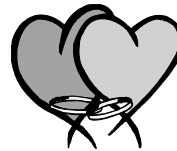
92-1051 E. Koio Drive
Kapolei, HI 96707

support they had more than just food and a warm place to stay. You helped give them a safe and joyous holiday season.

Thank you again for your on-going commitment to ending domestic and sexual violence.

All of us at the agency wish you a healthy, prosperous and safe 2007!

*Best regards,
Tamela Tunnell
Executive Director*



February Anniversaries

17 William and Diann Wingler
(1979)

February Birthdays

1 Loreen Bonnell

Ruth Schloz

2 Irene Lofton

6 Will Hallett

7 Eileen Walters

Diann Wingler

9 Evelyn Kitchen



Terry Woller

11 Jason Stahl

12 Lena Dowling

Norma Hollen

Phou Sysouvanh

17 Eric O'Neill

18 Omer Benn

Cassandra Wentz

20 Bob Reifsteck

Tessa Vowels

21 William Malone

James Martinie

24 Tricia McCarthy

Nigel Knop

Ben Sterrett



Church Mailbag



Thank you for your commitment to our mission and helping us reach out to those who are at risk for hunger. You make it possible for us to reach over

31,000 people each month with food and hope. Your generosity makes a difference.

Jim Hires

Executive Director, Eastern Illinois Foodbank

I would like to thank you for your generous donation to A Woman's Fund, Inc. All of our services are free of charge, which would not be possible without your generosity.

In 2006, we recognized our 35th year of helping victims of violent crime take control of their lives; we provided direct support to over 800 women, children and men who were victims of violence in Central Illinois; we presented 771 educational programs to schools, professional, fraternal and religious organizations; we had volunteers who donated over 5,000 hours of their time. In addition, we just had 12 women and their 22 children spend the winter holidays in our shelter. Thanks to your

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!**