



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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www.stpetersucc.com

CONNECTIONS

November 2007



A Note from the Pastor

November is a special month in several ways. First and foremost, it is the time of year when we focus our thoughts on Thanksgiving – the harvest in, blessings received, the abundance we enjoy each day of our lives, our families, friends, the Church, our faith. For Christians, Thanksgiving transforms into “Thanks-living” and we could easily celebrate this holiday all year! Some of us do!

For St. Peter's, November is the month to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ministry in our current building. The special celebrations planned for November will celebrate our past and look ahead to our future and are noted elsewhere in the newsletter. Be sure to note them and plan to attend.

Last, but not least, November begins with Totenfest, celebrating the lives of those who have gone from this life to life eternal, and ends with “Reign of Christ” Sunday, the last Sunday of the Church year. As the Church year comes to an end, we look forward to the beginning of the Advent Season in December.

A favorite hymn for November coming from my Swedish heritage reads:

“Thanks to God for my Redeemer, Thanks for all Thou dost provide! Thanks for times now but a memory, Thanks for Jesus by my side! Thanks for pleasant, balmy springtime, Thanks for dark and dreary fall! Thanks for tears by now forgotten, Thanks for peace within my soul!” May God's peace rest within your soul during this Thanksgiving month.

In Christian love,

Pastor Betty Hornback

How to reach Pastor Betty:

Home phone ~ 309/346-5577

Cell phone ~ 309/472-4697

Address ~ 11 Windsor Court, Pekin, IL 61554

Pastor Betty is in Champaign Saturday evening through Wednesday (every other week until Thursday noon). She can be reached at the church office Monday through Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. or at the parsonage (352-3883).



Coming in November

November 11 – 10:00 a.m. Worship with Rededication of our Church building and a special Guest Minister, Rev. Wallace Reifsteck. Potluck after worship.

November 18 – 10:00 a.m. Worship followed by lunch and Annual Congregational Meeting. Short term and long term goals will be discussed.

November 25 – Worship. Last Sunday of the church year.

Advent Activities

December 2 **First Sunday in Advent**
 Worship with Communion and lighting of the Advent candle.



December 9 **Second Sunday in Advent**
 Praise Worship with Sunday School Program and lighting of the Advent candles.

December 16 **Third Sunday in Advent**
 Worship with St. Peter's Choir Cantata and lighting of the Advent candles.

December 23 **Fourth Sunday in Advent**
 Worship with March to the Manger and lighting of the Advent candles.

December 24 **Christmas Eve Worship**
 Worship with Communion. (Time to be announced.)

January 5 **Epiphany Sunday**
 Worship with Communion.



Thanksgiving Office Hours

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



Hanging of the Greens

Many hands make decorating fun! Join us following worship on Sunday, November 25 to “deck the halls” with Christmas decorations in preparation for the Advent Season.

Consistory Highlights – October

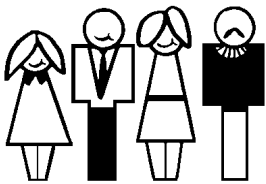
Editor's Note: The following notes from the October meeting are for your information only. Minutes and actions of this meeting will not be approved until the November meeting.



The Consistory of St. Peter's United Church of Christ met on October 15, 2007 with the following actions.

- Approved the minutes of the September meeting.
- Reviewed progress on up-dating facility usage forms.
- Received a report that St. Peter's received a \$725 grant from the Lutheran Community Foundation. This is to be used for educational and related purposes.
- Reviewed the Treasurer's report.
- Reviewed the Endowment Fund report.
- Designated the places where the 2006 income from the Endowment Fund would be given.
- The Board of Christian Education reported that the Children's Christmas Program will be December 9. WINN is going well.
- Received the Nominating Committee report. Nominations for the Consistory are completed. A third person for the Board of Christian Education is needed.
- Received a favorable written report on the audit of the church's finances.
- Received the Pastor's Report.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.



2008 Nominees for Consistory and Board of Christian Education

At the November 18 Annual Meeting, the following candidates for the Board of Christian Education and the Consistory will be presented for approval.

Board of Christian Education – Amy Durukan, Jocelyn Voss, a person to be named

Consistory – Bobbie Burr, Fern Eheart, Lee Eichhorst, Gladys Hemp and Carolyn Yoos (two-year term)

Brief biographical information for these candidates follows.

Gladys Hemp – When Paul and I and our three boys moved to Champaign 49 years ago, it was our intent to "church shop." The first church we chose to visit was the new St. Peter's Church because it was so beautiful. On that Sunday, the minister's wife, Evie Noffke, greeted us with open arms and we never looked at another church. We have never been sorry with our choice and even though the situation is difficult at present, we



think we are about to turn the corner and become a vital, growing church once again. After I went back to teaching in 1971, I was not as active as I wanted to be,

and I vowed that when I retired in 1990, I would make it up to the church. Since then I have served on the Consistory twice, have been treasurer of the Women's Fellowship, served a term on the Board of CE, chaired the dinners for three years, have been the church librarian, served on the Stewardship Committee for seven years, change the bulletin boards and am presently a member of the Search Committee. I believe that the number one goal of the church needs to be increasing the membership. I look forward to having the opportunity to work with a new pastor in restoring the church to its former vitality.

Lee Eichhorst – I live and farm north of Champaign. I raise corn and soybeans as well as a black Lab named Fred. My wife, Sandy, is an instructor at the University of Illinois. I have three grown children: Ted; Jim and wife, Amy; Molly and husband, Tom Kelley. We have two grandchildren; Sean and Regan Kelley. I have been a member of St. Peter's for 55 years. I have served on many committees, usher, Consistory member and fried my share of sausages. My main concern is about St. Peter's future. We are facing challenging times that are in a large part due to the declining number of young families in the church. My hope is that a new minister can help us recover and thrive again.



Carolyn Yoos – Stu and I have been married for 49 years and have been members of St. Peter's since the 1970s. We have two children, Paul and Heidi, who were confirmed at St. Peter's. We also have a seven-year-old grandson, Roy, who is truly putting the gold in our golden years.

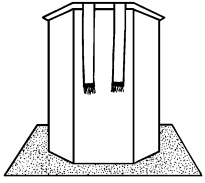
I retired as a program administrative assistant at the University of Illinois following 30 years working in Housing, the College of Agriculture, the Chancellor's Office and Cooperative Extension. Retirement has given me the opportunity to enjoy more of the things I love but had little time for—reading, gardening, cooking, sewing, painting, crafting and spoiling my grandson.



While I haven't been able to be as active in St. Peter's as I would like, I've been able to help with the chicken noodle dinners and sausage suppers, participate in WINN, serve on the Board of Christian Education, co-chair the committee that compiled the current church directory, serve on the Transition Committee that preceded the search for our new pastor and have recently joined the choir. At the present time I consider my most important service is making sure that Ken Adams is able to worship at the Church he loves so much.

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the Consistory and I pray that God will give me the wisdom and strength to serve you well.

Pastoral Search Committee Report



The St. Peter's Pastoral Search Committee remains busy evaluating profiles in our mission to find a permanent pastor for our congregation. We are currently working with four candidates; we have conducted preliminary interviews with two of them, one who has an interview scheduled and one is assessing our profile. Those we have interviewed seem very promising and we are anxious for the third interview as we have listened to a sermon sent to us which impressed all present.

Rev. Tom Norwalk has worked diligently with us in locating candidates with interest in our Church and congregation. We have received a variety of profiles over the past several months with vastly different backgrounds and goals for their ministries, which have made this process such a challenge. Rev. Norwalk has just recently sent two additional profiles for evaluation at our next meeting. Although the process may seem to be moving slowly to you, we are all taking our responsibilities very seriously and hope to bring a candidate for your review soon. Continue to pray for all the members of the Search Committee as we proceed with our mission. If anyone has any questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact Linda McCarthy or Bobbie Burr, co-Chairs of the Search Committee.



In Memoriam

The prayers and sympathy of the St. Peter's Congregation are with the families of two members.

Calvin Bernard Casey, Jr. passed from this life to life eternal on Monday, October 8, 2007. Funeral services were

held on Thursday, October 11 at Morgan Memorial Home. Mourning Cal's passing are his wife, Mary; daughters Catherine Sue (Jim) Phillips of Urbana, Sharon Lynn (John) VanGrinsven of Champaign, Shirley Ann Casey of Champaign and Jill Marie (Scott) Lamer of Jerseyville. In addition, he leaves six grandchildren and one great grandchild. Cal was a member of St. Peter's U.C.C.



Robert H. Lewis passed from this life to life eternal on Thursday, October 11, 2007. Mourning Bob's passing are his wife, Virginia; daughters Barbara (Robert) Applen of Chillicothe and Debra (Robert) Edgren Jr. of Oregon, Wisconsin; five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. A brother, Jack (Doris) Lewis of Philo, Illinois and a sister, Mildred Houston of Champaign also survive his passing. Bob was a member of St. Peter's U.C.C.

Adult Studies

"Who We Are and What We Believe"

Six persons participated in this three-part video series affirming the faith-filled heritage and contemporary life of the United Church of Christ during October.



"Attitude Is Your Paintbrush: It Colors Every Situation"

By James W. Moore, a study on how to transform negativity into optimism, centered on the love and hope of Jesus Christ, began October 22, (Mondays 2:00-3:00 p.m.) with four persons.

"Reluctant Prophets and Clueless Disciples"

By Robert Darden, a Bible Study covering portions of the Old and New Testaments and introducing the Bible by telling its stories, began October 21 (Sunday evenings 6:30-7:30 p.m.) with eight persons.

YOU are welcome to join us for any of these studies!

Beautiful 2008 Calendars for Sale!

The Board of Christian Education (BCE) is currently selling beautiful, scenic calendars embellished with scripture and inspirational messages.

Proceeds from these lovely calendars, which sell for \$10 each, will go to St. Peter's air-conditioning fund. Please help us help the fund grow by either purchasing a calendar for yourself or as a gift for someone else. If you feel so inclined, buy a few and sell them to help the BCE reach the goal of selling 100 calendars.

We thank you for your support!

The Board of Christian Education



To Bee . . . or Not To Bee

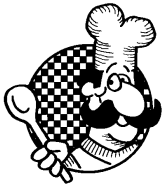
- Bee busy – doing what you love to do.
- Bee true – to the dreams God's given you.
- Bee sure – to taste each day's sweetness.
- Bee silly – giggle lots . . . take off and play.
- Bee bold enough to trust your wings and fly.
- Bee-lieve the power of prayer will get you by.
- Bee – happy, keep your outlook bright and sunny.
- Bee – Yourself . . .
- Bee – cause you really are a honey!!!



Holiday Office Hours

The Church Office will be closed December 25, 2007 through January 1, 2008. For emergencies, please contact Pastor Betty at 309-346-5577 (home) or 309-472-4697 (cell); or Rhonda Shoudel at 352-3353.

Chicken Noodle Dinner – A Success!



We thought you might be interested in some statistics from the Chicken Noodle Dinner. We used 48 pounds of noodles, 100 pounds of chicken, 22 gallons of green beans, 10 pounds of bacon, 100 pounds of potatoes, 30 dozen dinner rolls, 47 pies, three angel

food cakes, three pans of brownies, one sheet cake and 14 pans of jello. All of this was consumed by serving 305 people and selling 50 pounds of chicken and noodles.

The most wonderful part was the fantastic turn out to help. Thursday Ed Kobel set up the chairs and tables. Friday morning 10 volunteers prepared the table service and washed containers for take out. Friday evening, seven hardy souls were there to peel potatoes. All day Saturday until 8:15 that night we had wonderful help including Pastor Betty and five young people from St. Thomas School in Philo, including Lee and Sandy Eichhorst's two grandchildren. They came about 5:30, jumped right in to serve drinks and clear tables. They really perked up the place! I finally threatened Pastor Betty, so she quit – but my greatest thanks to her and all of you.

JoAnn Malloch



A New Baby!

Ahren and Rochelle Pope announce the birth of their daughter, Lynnelle Nancy Pope on October 5, 2007. Lynnelle weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and joins brother Alexander in the Pope Family. Proud grandmother is Jama Fager. Welcome Lynnelle!

Congratulations!

Rich and Kelly (Turner) Curtin of Savoy were married in St. Peter's sanctuary on Sunday, October 21. They are the parents of Chase, Shelby and Ryan. Best wishes to Rich and Kelly.



Eastern Association Fall Meeting

The Eastern Association Fall Meeting was held at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Decatur on October 27, 2007. Pastor Betty and Linda McCarthy attended the meeting on behalf of St. Peter's U.C.C. Theme of the meeting was "Life after 50—the Future of the United Church of Christ". In addition to gracious hospitality and a delicious meal, a highlight of the meeting was the keynote address by Ron Buford, former coordinator of the "God Is Still Speaking" Initiative. Ron also conducted a workshop on the "Congregational Vitality Initiative" which was very informative and provided many good ideas for church growth and

vitality.

Our Busy Building!

Every now and then someone asks: "What was going on at the church last night?" Several community groups are using our building, such as:

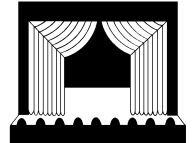


The Chorale, celebrating its 25th year, rehearses at St. Peter's on Sunday evenings from 6:30–9:00 p.m. (our own Bonnie Taylor is a long time member). Julie Beyler is the Director of The Chorale. Check the bulletin board for a list of their local concerts.

Illini Country Stitchers bring their sewing machines in to Fellowship Hall about two times a month and stitch away. About once a month they have a three-day event.

Of course, our own **St. Peter's Stitchers** get together every Tuesday morning in the upstairs meeting room.

C-U Jr. Women's Club, a not-for-profit organization uses the church for rehearsals for their annual theatre production (this year will be *Alice in Wonderland*). The production is scheduled to take place February 21-25, 2008 at the Urbana High School Auditorium with proceeds from ticket sales benefiting local children and families through their generous distribution process. Cara Marcum of St. Peter's is a member of this group.



Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee recently used our kitchen for their "Bake for Freedom" project. They bake cakes in pint canning jars, seal the jars and send these in special mailing boxes – five cakes, one frosting tub, plastic silverware and "neck coolers" to a box – to military service men and women stationed in Iraq. Postage for each box is \$8.95 and the last mailing included 24 boxes. Marguerite Zahnd from St. Peter's is a member of this group and informs us that donations of pint jars, lids and rings, cake mixes (one mix makes five jars of cake), frosting and cash are always welcome.

Gracias! Thank You! Merci Beaucoup!

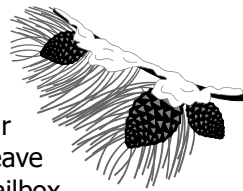
Many thanks to the Building and Grounds Committee members for their work on the many tasks around St. Peter's. A special thank you to David Wentz, Jim Acheson and Jim's grandson for taking care of the lawn this year.

November Greeters

November 4 – Felice and Howard Rhodes
November 11 – Barb and Ed Kobel
November 18 – Doris and Jim Hershberger
November 25 – Bernadine Helbling and Pam Bostwick

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the December issue of *Connections* is Thursday, November 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!



November Ushers

Carolyn Hamrick
Mark Sterrett
Maurine Sterrett

Ann Swearingen
Richard Swearingen
Evelyn Weber

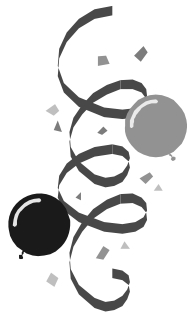
November Anniversaries



1 Ernie and Doris Drake (1941)
20 James and Sally Martinie (1976)

November Birthdays

4 Sean Berry
7 Ken Baumann
Clayborn Lofton
8 Jocelyn Voss
9 Evelyn Weber
12 Barbara Schaeke
13 Michael Martinie
15 JoAnn Malloch
18 Dorothy Woller
Helen Phipps
19 Larry Zahnd
20 Barb Kobel
21 William Lyons
23 Doris Drake
25 Pam Bostwick
26 Bobbie Burr
27 Esther Lyons
Barb Jewett
Jim Berbaum
28 Elton Roberts
29 Cara Marcum
Pam Berbaum
Christie Taube
30 Dorothy Yates



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!

The CHORALE presents "How Can I Keep From Singing?"

The CHORALE opens its 25th Season with its annual **Celebration of Life** Concert at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 18, 2007. This year's concert, "How Can I Keep From Singing", features choral music celebrating the joy of singing. In addition to performances by The CHORALE under the direction of Julie Beyler, a former CHORALE member, guest soprano Brenda Rucker will also perform. This free concert will be held at Faith United Methodist Church, 1719 S. Prospect Avenue, Champaign, Illinois. Donations to The CHORALE's Scholarship Fund are gratefully received. Additional information about The CHORALE and the upcoming concert are available at www.thechorale.org. (Since late November 2006, The CHORALE has made its rehearsal home at St. Peter's. St. Peter's Office Manager, Bonnie Taylor, and her mother are members of The CHORALE.)



God is Like . . .

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in some way to communicate ideas about God. Here are some of the results.

God is like . . . Bayer Aspirin – He works miracles.

God is like . . . a Ford – He's got a better idea.

God is like . . . Coke – He's the real thing.

God is like . . . Hallmark Cards – He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like . . . Tide – He gets the stains out that others leave behind.

God is like . . . General Electric – He brings good things to life.

God is like . . . Sears – He has everything.

God is like . . . Alka-Seltzer – Try him, you'll like him.

God is like . . . Scotch Tape – You can't see him, but you know He's there.

God is like . . . Delta – He's ready when you are.

God is like . . . Allstate – You're in good hands with Him.

God is like . . . VO-5 Hair Spray – He holds through all kinds of weather.

God is like . . . Dial Soap – Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?

God is like . . . the U. S. Post Office – Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.