



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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A Note from the Pastor

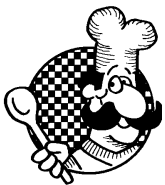
“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven . . .” (*Ecclesiastes 3:1*). Once again we stand at the threshold of a new season and look ahead to the changes it brings. The more casual pace of Summer is rapidly changing to the hectic pace of school, church, sports and other activities. Soon the trees will change to the beautiful colors of Autumn and harvest will begin. Life moves on.

In the poem, *Overheard In An Orchard* by Elizabeth Cheney, a robin and a sparrow are conversing and the robin raises the question, “...why these anxious human beings rush around and worry so.” The sparrow’s response is “...it may be that they have no Heavenly Father such as cares for you and me.”

I am often reminded of this poem in the hectic pace of life. It’s easy to get caught up in the busyness of all that needs to be done. But we do have a Heavenly Father who has cared enough for us to create seasons of life as well as seasons in nature. I invite you to consider where you are in the seasons of your life – and where the church is in the season of its life as the program year begins and take time to appreciate God’s goodness and the beauty of each season as it comes.

In Christian love,
Pastor Betty Hornback

All Hands on Deck!



It’s time once again to prepare the kitchen for St. Peter’s Annual Chicken Noodle Dinner. The Kitchen Committee is looking for willing helpers to assist with cleaning the kitchen and cooking chicken from

8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon on Saturday, September 8. If you are not able to help with the cleaning, nimble fingers will be needed to pick cooked chicken off the bones. Come one – Come all!

WINN Kick Off
September 12 - 5:30 p.m.
Join us for an unforgettable WINN year!

Praise Worship

The September Praise Worship Service will be on September 30 due to the focus on Stewardship during September.

Many Thanks ~ to JoAnn Malloch for providing special music during the summer months, to Marguerite Zahnd for joining JoAnn in a duet on August 19 and to choir members Mark Muller, Sandy Williams, Norma Hollen, Patty Kobel, Marianne Hutcherson and Phyllis Jones who also provided special music. It has been said “Those who sing, pray twice.”

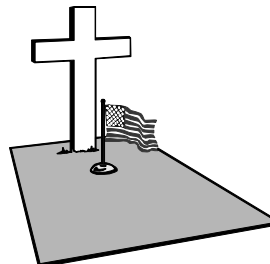


Thoughts on Worship

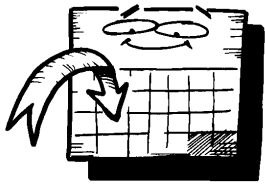
- Christians do not go to church; they gather as the church.
- Worship is not a spectator sport – it involves active participation.
- Worship is an offering to God.

Plan Your Good Deed Today

We are invited to join the campaign to observe the anniversary of 9/11 as a national day of service. It’s easy to do and completely free! Visit www.myGoodDeed.org to get more information and pledge yourself to perform a good deed on or around 9/11 in honor of those lost. You decide for yourself what your good deed will be.



Grab Your Calendars . . .



it's going to be a busy and exciting fall at St. Peter's. Take a look at what is planned.

Looking Ahead to September!

September 9

Guest Preacher – Rev. Jorge Morales, Associate Conference Minister

September 12

Confirmation preparation will begin with the WINN program if there are Youth interested. 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

Parents interested in having their child/children confirmed into membership in St. Peter's United Church of Christ are urged to contact Pastor Betty.

September 23

Stewardship Sunday with celebration!

Watch for a mailing early in September which will contain information concerning **Stewardship**. During September several persons will present brief talks in worship about why stewardship is important in their lives.

We have received a number of “**goal-setting**” forms and are in the process of compiling the data offered. Be sure to turn in YOUR form! Watch for a more complete report in the October issue of *Connections*.

But Wait! There's More!

Coming in October

October 7 World Wide Communion Sunday

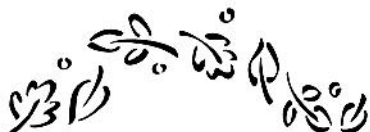
October 13 Chicken Noodle Dinner

October 27 Eastern Association Fall Meeting

October 28 Reformation/Reconciliation Sunday

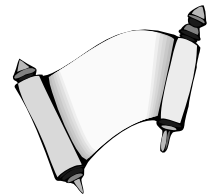
Date to be announced – “Reluctant Prophets and Clueless Disciples” (a Bible Study)

Date to be announced – “Who We Are and What We Believe” (A study of the U.C.C.)



Some folks have asked, “What is the Lectionary?”

The use of lectionaries or schedules of readings for particular days is one way the church has labored to guarantee that the story of the Christian faith is grounded in divine revelation and in history. Early in the life of the early church special readings became attached to particular days, events and places that eventually shaped the core of the church year. The oldest manuscript of a lectionary currently available is one developed in Edessa in A.D. 475. The earliest fully developed lectionary dates to A.D. 790 and includes readings for the major festival days, the Sundays within the seasons and for twenty-four Sundays after Pentecost.



In the twentieth century, a new three-year lectionary was developed in 1969. This lectionary contained three readings and a psalm for each major Christian festival and for all Sundays of the year. This “common lectionary” is used by many mainline denominations including the Roman Catholic Church.



Why use the lectionary? By using the common lectionary, the treasures of the Bible are opened up more lavishly and a more representative portion of the Holy Scriptures is read to the people over a set cycle of years. In local churches in which the common lectionary is used, worshippers are assured of hearing, in the period of three years, most of the Old Testament and practically all of the New Testament.

Use of the common lectionary challenges the pastor to explore the scriptures in greater depth and to provide a greater variety in sermon topics presented. It is unifying to the Church as a whole to know that the same scriptures are being read in countless other churches on a given Sunday. (Excerpts from the *Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ*.)

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.

“All You Need Is Love”

Women’s Retreat

The Illinois Conference United Church of Christ annual Women’s Retreat, “All You Need Is Love” will be Friday and Saturday, September 28-29, 2007 at Pilgrim Park in Princeton, Illinois. Rev. Carol Currier-Frighetto is the Retreat Leader.



Sponsored by the “Women in Church and Society,” a ministry of the Illinois Conference, this annual retreat brings together women from all over the conference of all ages for a weekend of renewal and relaxation in the beautiful, peaceful setting of Pilgrim Park Retreat Center, Princeton.

In these times, it is important to be with old friends and make new ones – and benefit from inspirational leadership, Bible-based theme, personal time, nature in the Fall, good food, shopping and just sitting and relaxing.

The retreat begins Friday at 5:00 p.m. with registration and dinner at 6:00 p.m. and ends about 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. All meals are included. Check-in time 5:00 p.m. Friday or 8:00 a.m. for Saturday only. More information and registration forms are available on the bulletin board!

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the October issue of *Connections* is Monday, September 17. 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

Thank you for your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Your gifts will be used to support the initiatives of One Great Hour of Sharing as per your request....Because of your gifts, we are sharing resources and changing lives! Peace,

Susan M. Sanders
Minister for Global Sharing of Resources
One Great Hour of Sharing Administrator

Consistory Highlights – August

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



The Consistory of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ met on August 20 with the following actions:

- Reviewed and updated the Building Use Policy.
- Received the suggestion for re-establishing an Outreach and Development Committee.
- Received a report from Building and Grounds that the masonry project is finished and the gutter work on the building is proceeding.
- Discussed updating the Memorial Fund “wish list.”
- Pastoral Search Committee reported they will review four more candidate profiles at their next meeting and watch a video presentation. They have talked with several candidates and are proceeding along in the interview process.
- Received a report from Stewardship that letters will be mailed September 5 and two speakers are being sought to speak in worship. Stewardship Sunday will be September 23.
- Received a report from Trustees that the farms are doing well with good corn and soybean crops.
- WINN will begin September 12. The Congregation is invited to support and participate in the WINN program, sharing talents, craft ideas, Bible study, the meal and fellowship. If YOU have something to share, contact Rhonda Shoudel or Amy Durukan.
- Approved a non-member wedding for October 21.
- Discussed ways to connect with national UCC advertising and make St. Peter’s UCC more visible.
- Accepted Linda McCarthy’s offer to be a lay delegate for the Eastern Association Fall Meeting in Decatur on October 27.
- Received a report that the November building anniversary plans are progressing.
- Expressed appreciation and farewell wishes to Shirley Records for her years of service to St. Peter’s U.C.C. with cake and a card.

The next Consistory meeting will be September 17.

The First Day of School

When Pastor Betty introduced the mission of helping with school supplies, 50 pairs of scissors and 1700 folders sounded like a lot of school supplies to try to collect. When Rhonda and I delivered the donations on August 6, we proudly presented 73 pairs of scissors, 593 folders and a check in the amount of \$140. It was a source of great pride to Pastor Betty, Rhonda and me to do this on behalf of St. Peter's Church members.

We learned a great deal from participating in this endeavor. We learned that the Christian Mercy and Justice Network is composed of churches of various denominations in C-U. We learned that Salt and Light has a building on Anthony Drive where they collect food, clothing and furniture to give to needy folks. We learned about Family Resource Day where 700 needy families came for free dental and health checkups required for school entrance and where backpacks would be distributed filled with needed school supplies.

This worthy project in which 100% of the donations went to help needy school children should make all of us feel good. For those who shopped for these supplies, it was fun to be among the parents and kids as they prepared for the beginning of school. For those who contributed money, you should be proud to fund the purchase of school supplies. It shows that you remember the joy of the time when your own children went off on that first day with new supplies to use. And, of course, some of you are getting ready right now to prepare your children for that exciting day.

Helping those who need assistance is what life is all about. So put a smile on your faces, St. Peter's members, for a job well done!

Gladys Hemp



New Address

Maxine Colson

c/o Southgate Nursing and Rehab Center
Box 843

Metropolis, IL 62960

Cell phone: 217-417-0639

September Ushers

Jill Acheson
Jim Acheson
Bernice Benn

Omer Benn
Mildred Luther
Al Shoudel

Jim Tarr

September Birthdays



- 1 Mark Williams
- 5 Tamara McArdle
- 6 Dorris Baumann
Dorothy Roberts
- 7 Michelle Records

- 8 Sally Pelg
Ione Douglas
- 9 Shirley Sebens
Robert Vaiden
- 10 Linda Dahl
Dao Sysouvanh
- 12 Nicole Van Grinsven
- 14 Ed Hamrick
Landon Vowels
- 17 John D. Key
Hilda Roberts
- 18 William Wingler
Cheryl Lehmann
- 21 George Malloch
- 23 Nicci Shoudel
- 24 Maxine Colson
Roberta Federhart
- 26 Mary Limp
Marianne Hutcherson
- 27 Barb Dalenberg
Donald Berbaum
Kurt Eheart
- 28 Arlene Luer
Katie Malone
- 30 Martin Conatser



September Anniversaries



- 4 Jeff and Barb Jewett (1982)
- 6 Mike and Cheryl Lehmann (1986)
- 9 Jim and Bonnie Tarr (1948)
- 14 Ed and Carolyn Hamrick (1957)
Ata and Amy Durukan (1996)
- 17 Geoff and Linda Dahl (1988)

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!**