



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

And we're off on our journey together!!!! I'm so very happy to be journeying with you! I've prayed for this for a long time. Others have been praying for this for a long time, as well. The search team knows me pretty well but I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a bit more about this pastor who you've invited to journey with you. You've already learned the facts . . . now here is the spirit of how I lead people on a journey together.

First, I want to get to know each of you very well. I need to know, before I can know where to go, who I've got on the journey with me. I need to know you and your hopes, dreams, aspirations, and gifts. Therefore, in this first year, I will be doing a lot of listening. I may throw out some ideas to see how they are received; plant some seeds to see if they germinate. Every farmer needs to know what type of soil they have; every sailor needs to know what kinds of currents run in the seas. Every business owner surveys the equipment and assets of the company, and doctors assess the symptoms. Likewise, I need to know who my congregation is. Please tell me where you've been, who you are now and who you hope to be. I will try hard to visit as many people as I can in the first year to ask these three questions:

Who are you in God's eyes?

Why are you a member of this congregation?

What kinds of ministry can you support and how can I help you?

Second, we need to expect that everyone here is on a journey, including me. We are all traveling towards being more like our God. And to do that, we all need to be equipped and educated. We need to bring all our skill, our energy, our intelligence, our love, and our grace . . . all that comes from God. I am, above all, called to love you, no matter what. I am secondly called to lead us in worship. So, we will stop in our lives to thank and praise God and I promise that I help you praise and give thanks in the best way I can. We all worship a bit differently, and it's my goal to help everyone worship in the way they can worship God the best. Also on our journey, I am called to educate. I love to teach. So, we will begin a fall season filled with opportunities to learn . . . young and old, and everyone in-between! In the meantime, I will learn from you, as well!!!

Third, since you have called me to lead, you need to know my leadership style. It's "collaborative". I can be directive and I can be passive, if that's what is called for, but my best hope is to partnership with you. I want to journey with you, not in front of you or behind you. So, I will hope that you will do your best and I will do my best to accomplish the ministry we are called to be and do. To accomplish this spirit of teamwork, we need to openly and honestly communicate with each other. Please share with me your concerns, worries, hopes, and your joys.

The journey will undoubtedly have ups and downs, circles and squiggles, and during these next years, blessings will be rich and abundant as we journey forth toward the future, learning from the past, living in the here and now, with God's Spirit of Gentleness, Love, Grace, and Peace.

Pastor Laurie



Pick a date!

Pastor Laurie is ready to begin visiting congregational members. There is a calendar in the Narthex with times listed for the next few months. Please sign up for a time when she can come and meet you. If you would like her to come for a meal time, please just write the time you'd like her to come. She will be calling everyone before the appointment to confirm. If the times listed are not convenient for you, please let her know so another time can be scheduled.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund



There is a need in our church family for someone needing a medical procedure, costing just under \$3000. The procedure is medically necessary and is not covered by insurance. The person does not have the funds. If you could please give generously to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, then Pastor Laurie will be able to distribute the funds directly to the doctor. If there are more than enough funds, excess will be kept in the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for future emergency use for church family members only. Pastor Laurie has consulted with LiAnne Kitchen, Consistory President and Parish Nurse to make sure the fund has accountability.

St. Peter's has a new email address!

office@stpetersucc.com

Welcome Baby Violet!



Congratulations to Kris and Tricia McCarthy on the birth of Violet Catherine! Violet, born July 7, 2008 weighed in at 7 pounds 13 ounces and 22 inches long. Best wishes to Kris, Tricia, Violet, Aunt Kym and Grandma Linda!

Mark Your Calendars!

September 7 — Bring a Friend Sunday, Kickoff of Fall year

September 21 — Pastor Laurie's Installation, 4:00 p.m.



Calling all "Ding-a-lings!"

Or those who wish to be! A bell choir is being rapidly assembled so that we may play for Pastor Laurie's installation (September 21). Please sign up on the bulletin board. If you can count to 4, you can ring! (Training provided!)

A Fresh New Look

Thanks to the diligent efforts of a few hearty souls, the redecorating of the Pastor's Study is almost finished. If you haven't peaked in the door lately, you may be in for a big surprise. The dark brown paneling is nearly all gone and in its place is a colonial-inspired light blue paint with white wainscoting. New white shelving and window trim finishes off the updated look. Many thanks to the tremendous crew who volunteered to take the dream and make it a reality — Jim Acheson, Bernice Benn, Omer Benn, Pastor Betty Hornback, LiAnne Kitchen, Ed Kobel, Melissa Records, Jim Tarr and Bonnie Taylor. Special thanks to Carol and Janet Martin for keeping the offices clean while the crew was "stirring up the dust".



How to Recycle a Hug

St. Peter's is using "gently used" stuffed animals to bring comfort and cheer to folks who are ill, having surgery, or just having a difficult time in their life.

The animals are in the pews in the sanctuary and may be taken by anyone to give to anyone.



If you have gently used stuffed animals or toys, you might want to consider bringing them for this project. Thanks to Kurt and Fern Eheart for this great idea!

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.



- It was reported the estimate for the railing on the Chancel steps will be ready in August.
- The Pastor's office remodeling was done by church members instead of hiring it done. It is essentially done.
- Pastor Laurie's installation service will be at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 21.
- The Wedding Policies and Request Form (Non-Member) was reviewed, revised and accepted.
- Bonnie Taylor will be attending a Church Windows training session on August 5.
- WINN and Sunday School will stay the same for the 2008-2009 year.
- Stewardship moments have been planned through September.
- The projected deficit for this year's church budget will not be as large as anticipated.



A Bloomin' Bunch of Thanks

☞ Bill Malone for donating five beautiful new rose bushes to the front of St. Peter's.

☞ Jim Acheson for mowing the grounds of the church and parsonage and keeping the landscaping looking good.

☞ Choir Members who are providing special music during the summer months.

July 6 – Choir

July 13 – Mark Muller

July 20 – Phyllis Jones, JoAnn Malloch, Marguerite Zahnd

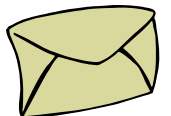
July 27 – Sandy Williams

☞ Rich and Ann Swearingen, Carolyn and Stuart Yoos, Sandy and Mark Williams for coordinating Fellowship Time during July.

☞ Juliane and Jamie Sharp, Gladys Hemp, JoAnn and George Malloch and the family of Ernie Drake for providing Altar Flowers during July.

2008 Mid-Year Giving Statements

Mid-Year Giving Statements not picked up at the church will be mailed after August 10. If you do not receive your statement or you have questions regarding the information, please contact Bonnie in the Church Office.





In Memoriam

The prayers and sympathy of the St. Peter's Congregation are with the family of longtime member, **Ernest Drake**. Ernie, born December 16, 1921, passed from this life to life eternal on Monday, July 21, 2008. Memorial Services were held at St. Peter's United Church of Christ. Mourning Ernie's passing are wife Doris and sons Donald (Dorothy) Drake, David (Lynn) Drake and Karl (Mary) Drake. Ernie is also survived by five grandchildren, Craig Drake, Melissa (John) Bryan, Jeremy Drake, Matthew Drake and Nicholas Drake; and three great-grandchildren, Taylor Drake, John Bryan and Savannah Bryan. Ernie was a member of St. Peter's U.C.C. and the Champaign Lions Club.



Altar Flowers



Flowers gracing the altar add a touch of beauty to our worship service. Flowers can be an arrangement from a florist, or an arrangement from your own garden. They can be given in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special event such as a birthday, anniversary or graduation, or "just because." There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board with many empty spaces. One of these spaces is waiting for YOUR name.

New Name Badges are Here

New name badges are in the racks in the Narthex. If you did not request a new magnetic name badge or yours is not in the rack, please contact Bonnie in the Church Office.



Honoring the Bedrock of St. Peter's

On May 11, in addition to Mother's Day, we celebrated the Festival of the Christian Home and Family Week. In this issue of *Connections* we continue to honor those of our congregation who are the "Senior Generation" of our Church Family – those who have reached the milestone of 90 years of age or older (or will) in 2008. Be sure to let them know that you appreciate them and all they have done to make St. Peter's a great Christian Family.

Loreen Bonnell was confirmed at the former Block Church near Sidney. During World War II, Loreen was a "Rosie the Riveter" in an airplane factory in Portland, Oregon.

On June 1, 1946 Loreen married Ralph Bonnell at St. Peter's. They became members May 31, 1955. She taught Sunday School and attended the Tuesday Evening Circle.



In 2006, Ralph and Loreen moved to Indiana. Ralph died on February 18, 2007. Loreen resides at 10811 Pine Mills Road, Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46845. Loreen was 92 on February 1.

Genevieve Claussen joined St. Peter's in 1973. Many will recall her husband, Walter, directing the congregation in singing "The Lord's Prayer". Genevieve and Walter had a son, John, who is deceased. Three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren live in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Walter was 92 on June 25 and Genevieve turned 94 on July 14.



Hilda Roberts was confirmed at the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Flatville, rural Thomasboro. She married Austin Roberts on September 17, 1940. Hilda joined St. Peter's on December 18, 1955. Austin and Hilda owned Terminal Warehouse and Transfer Co. in Champaign for 30 years. Austin died on March 26, 2002. Hilda turned 90 last September 17 and resides at the Country Health Nursing Home, Route 136, Gifford, Illinois 61847.

Thanks to Carol Pointer for submitting the above information.

Additional information to last month's article

Julius Demlow – Julius was baptized in 1915 and confirmed in 1928 at St. Peter's. During World War II, he served in the Army. For 42 years, Julius worked for Hirschfeld Distributors in Champaign. Julius and his wife, Marie, joined St. Peter's on July 16, 1952. Julius resides in Gibson City at Heritage Manor.

Alberta West – Alberta was baptized in 1918, confirmed in 1933 and married twice at St. Peter's church. In 1942, Alberta married Sgt. Dale Yeazel, an Army paratrooper in World War II. Dale never met their son, Michael, born in 1943. During a battle in 1944, Dale was killed and buried in Colville Cemetery, Normandy, France. Michael saw his Dad's grave before his own death in 2000. Alberta visited Colville Cemetery in 2005.

On February 9, 1948, Alberta married Mace West, a Navy veteran. He died June 8, 2000. Their daughter, Janet, has two children, Mallory and Devon. Years ago, Alberta helped organize the Tuesday Evening Circle. She was secretary at the old church, as well as secretary at the present church. Alberta will be 90 on August 30.

Thanks to Carol Pointer and Esther Lyons for the additional information.

Nursery Workers Needed

Volunteers are needed to provide care in the Church Nursery during worship. Please sign-up on the bulletin board or call Carolyn Hamrick if you'd like to help.



Newsletter Deadline



The deadline for the September issue of *Connections* is Friday, 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

To the folks at St. Peter's — Farewell greetings and thank you very much for the lovely cards and greetings as I ended my interim ministry among you. The last thirteen months seemed to fly by pretty quickly and I enjoyed my time with you. It is my most sincere prayer that Pastor Laurie's ministry will richly bless you as you work and fellowship together.



In Christian love, Pastor Betty A. Hornback

Thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers during Heidi's illness. Please share our joy in her greatly improved health.

Stu and Carolyn Yoos

Volunteer, and put your Faith in Action!



**FAITH
IN ACTION**

Faith in Action is an interfaith volunteer caregiving program that connects volunteers from many different faiths with seniors who have long-term health needs. Volunteers provide practical assistance with chores around the house, rides to medical appointments, minor home repairs and much more to maintain independence and enhance the quality of life for those 55 and older in our community. All it takes is a couple of hours per week or month!

For more information or to sign up for one of our orientations at Provena Covenant Medical Center, please call Lana or Candy at 337-4700 or email fia@provena.org.

August 12 — 9:30–11:00 a.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.

August 16 — 9:30–11:00 a.m.

September 20 — 9:30–11:00 a.m.

September 23 — 2:00–3:30 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.

August Ushers

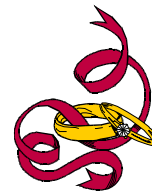
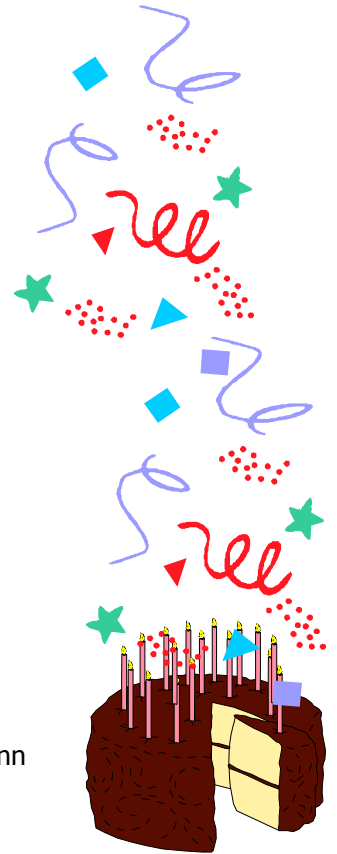
Lee Eichhorst
Sandy Eichhorst

Gary Hollen
Jeff Jewett

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
- 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 office@stpetersucc.com. Thanks for your help!

