



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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 Champaign, IL 61821
 217-356-3635
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www.stpetersucc.com



CONNECTIONS

February 2008



A Note from the Pastor

Time is marching on and the days are getting longer. I have talked with several persons lately who are already planning their gardens for next summer. It's cold and very definitely still winter, but the longer days give us hope that "this too shall pass." In the meantime, folks who enjoy winter sports are happy with the snow.

The lengthening days bring us to the season in the church year known as Lent, which literally means "to lengthen." Lent is a penitential season of self-examination, prayer, and fasting that precedes the observance of Maundy Thursday evening, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter which begins on Saturday night. While some folks "give up" something during Lent, others choose to "take on" something such as doing extra good deeds, spending more time in Bible study or prayer, etc. The important thing is that the act is meaningful in helping us to remember this as a time of honoring Christ's sacrifice of his life for our sins and preparing us for the joy of the resurrection on Easter morning.

I hope that you will make Lent 2008 an opportunity to attend the mid-week Lenten Services, the special services of Holy Week, and both the early Worship Service on Easter (a variation of the Great Vigil of Easter), and the joyous Worship with Special Music at 10 on Easter morning. And, it is my prayer that you will be blessed in a most special way during this meaningful season.

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 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).

Adult Studies

The Adult Bible Study, "Reluctant Prophets and Clueless Disciples" continues to meet from 6:30-7:30 on Sunday evenings.



Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, cancellation of worship will be announced on radio station, WDWS (1400 AM). In addition to the radio announcements, a telephone tree has been formed by members of the Consistory, each of whom will call a specified number of our members.



Come, Dine with Us!

The Annual Sweetheart Dinner at The Ribeye will be Tuesday, February 12 at 6:15 p.m. – Food, fellowship and fun! Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the south hallway. (Sponsored by the Tuesday Evening Circle)

Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday, February 6, is the beginning of the Lenten Season. St. Peter's UCC will observe Ash Wednesday with worship, imposition of ashes and communion at 6:30 p.m.

Mid-week Lenten Services will be held from 6:30-7:15 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent. The theme for these services will be *Christ on Trial* and will include a "Prosecutor" interviewing a "Witness" each week.

Christ most certainly WAS on trial.

Christ most certainly IS on trial –

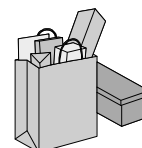
As He is again this Lent.

Come and hear eye witnesses share accounts of their encounters with Jesus.

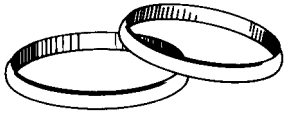
Christ on Trial examines evidence that demands a verdict: Who is this Jesus...for you?

p.s. Bring a friend!

Thank You – Thank You—Thank You!



Many thanks to the St. Peter's folks for your generous response to the needs of the flood victims in Pontiac and Watseka. A whole car-load of food, blankets, pillows, bed linens and towels was delivered to Watseka on January 28.



*Shirley Suzanne Seibert
Records
and
Gerald James Hoffman
request the honour of your
presence
at their marriage
Saturday the ninth of February
at two o'clock
Two Thousand Eight
Saint Peter's United Church of
Christ
905 South Russell Street
Champaign, Illinois
Reception Immediately
Following
Fellowship Hall
RSVP
217-355-6092*

information only. Minutes and actions of this meeting will not be approved until the February meeting.

The Consistory of St. Peter's United Church of Christ met on January 21, 2008 with the following actions.

- The Building Use Policies for members and non-members were reviewed again and accepted.
- The suggested change to the Constitution was discussed, amended and passed for future action by the congregation.
- The computer replacement proposal was presented and accepted.
- The telephone tree list was broken down into groups which were assigned to Consistory members.
- The Consistory will be heading the Hospitality Committee. A sign-up sheet will still be posted on the bulletin board for volunteer hosts.
- Updates to the Church's Committee list will be carried over until next meeting.
- The News-Gazette's Easter Faith and Worship publication was discussed. It was felt that St. Peter's should be in it. Costs will be researched.
- The icy patch outside the south bank of doors was discussed. Ice melt will be placed on it and warning signs posted.
- Air conditioning options are still being researched. Proposals for two systems will be forthcoming.
- Sunday School is still going well.
- The Endowment Fund did well this year. The committee will meet soon and prepare a proposal for how 2007 funds should be spent.
- Welcome packets will be assembled for prospective new members. A new welcome brochure is being designed.
- The Search Committee met this past week. The Committee has listened to recorded sermons for two candidates. Telephone references have been verified. Dates for face-to-face meetings are being finalized.
- Sales of this year's farm crops have not been completed.
- The Worship Committee has planned a tentative schedule through May.
- A written Treasurer's report was submitted. Expenses are still being held down.
- Due to several Consistory members having a conflict with the current meeting time, Consistory will now meet at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.
- The Pastor's Report for January was received. Pastor Hornback mentioned the possibility of an Easter Breakfast and an early (sunrise) service on Easter. The Worship Committee will study this further. The replacement of the aged name tags was discussed. Options will be researched.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Consistory Highlights – January

Editor's Note: The following notes from the January meeting are for your





Thanks for your support of Camp New Hope

A big "Thank You!" to the congregation of St. Peter's for your generous support of the WINN Christmas endeavor. Our goal was to collect \$300 for Camp New Hope so they could purchase new adult size life jackets. Your love and generosity resulted in donations totaling \$950.

—The WINN group

Coming in February



Sunday, February 3 – Transfiguration Sunday
10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
Exodus 24:12-18, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

Wednesday, February 6 – Ash Wednesday
Christ on Trial begins
6:30–7:15 p.m. Worship with Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Sunday, February 10 – 1st Sunday in Lent
10:00 a.m. Worship
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

Wednesday February 13 6:30–7:15 p.m. Worship
Christ on Trial – "Matthew"

Sunday, February 17 – 2nd Sunday in Lent
10:00 a.m. Worship
Genesis 12:1-4, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

Wednesday, February 20, 6:30–7:15 p.m. Worship
Christ on Trial – "A Woman Healed"

Sunday, February 24 – 3rd Sunday in Lent
10:00 a.m. Worship
Exodus 17:1-7, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

Wednesday, February 27 6:30–7:15 p.m. Worship
Christ on Trial – "Nicodemus"

Coming in March



Sunday, March 2 – 4th Sunday in Lent
10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
1 Samuel 16:1-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

Wednesday, March 5 6:30–7:15 p.m. Worship
Christ on Trial – "An Adulterous Woman"

Sunday, March 9 – 5th Sunday in Lent
10:00 a.m. Worship
Ezekiel 37:1-14, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

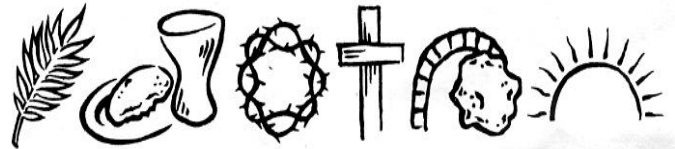
Wednesday, March 12 6:30–7:15 p.m. Worship
Christ on Trial – "John"



Leap into Lent with WINN!

The WINN theme for February is "Leap into Lent". The menu is as follows:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| February 6 | Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and green beans |
| 13 | Homemade lasagna, salad and garlic bread |
| 20 | Beef brisket and sides from Hickory Smokehouse |
| 27 | Chicken casserole, vegetable and rolls |



Holy Week Activities

Sunday, March 16 – Palm Sunday

Those who wish to do so may gather in the parking lot prior to Worship and process with palm fronds and the Choir and Pastor.

10:00 a.m. Praise Worship
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Matthew 21:1-11

Thursday, March 20 – Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion and Service of Tenebrae

Friday, March 21 – Good Friday

St. Peter's will be open to any persons who want a time of personal prayer and meditation. Devotional material will be available.

Sunday, March 23 – Easter!

7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Worship with Youth participation
8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Easter Worship with Communion and Special Music
Acts 10:34-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-18

Sunday, March 30 – Afterglow!

10:00 a.m. Worship
Acts 2:14, 22-32, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

Invite someone to attend worship with you!

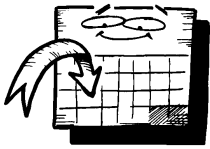
Welcoming, Outreach, & Development

Persons interested in developing an outreach plan, developing welcoming packets, assembling welcoming packets, and in general reaching out into the community with the good news of what St. Peter's UCC has to offer are invited to contact Linda McCarthy and attend the next meeting at 7:00 p.m. on February 11.



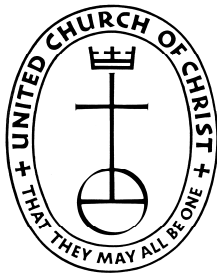
Beautiful 2008 Calendars for Sale!

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. Calendars are available in the Church Office.

We thank you for your support!



Who Are You?

As we get closer to the time of calling a settled pastor, it seems appropriate to put our best foot forward and help the new pastor become acquainted with the congregation by wearing our name tags. Some of the name tags look rather old and worn and it has been

suggested that they be replaced so that all will be new and alike. Memorial money could be used for this project.

In the near future, there will be an insert in the bulletin for you to indicate your choice of a magnet name tag or a pin name tag. Let us know your preference by returning the insert or calling the Church Office.

Sharing Changes Lives –

Including Our Own!



One Great Hour of Sharing offers an opportunity for each of us to share with people in need around the world – giving them much more than a handout. When we share our resources, we help to ensure that children suffering from disease not only receive treatment, but enjoy the benefits of a community made safer with proper sanitation and clean sources of water. We partner with a family living in hunger, offering them not just food, but the tools and training to build a sustainable source of income for themselves – improving their world and ours.

And when we understand how the blessing of sharing changes lives, our own lives are never again the same. *(Contributions for One Great Hour of Sharing will be received in March.)*

Illinois Flood Victims

We received a request for help for flood victims in Pontiac and Watseka from one of the UCC churches in that area. FEMA is



on the scene and is slowly evaluating the situation. Watseka and Pontiac have been declared disaster areas and funds have been promised but the need is NOW and urgent.

Items needed by the pantry and soup kitchen: **Unopened** non-perishable packages or canned food of any kind. Watch dates on cans. 5-lb bags of sugar and flour. Tea, coffee, Ramen noodles, etc.

Also needed: Pillows and cases, linens (all sizes), baby wipes, diapers, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, brushes and large combs, deodorant.

Containers have been placed in the hall by the office for your contributions.

Notes from Lifelink

Dear Friends and Congregants,

After 22½ years of working with Lifelink International Adoption Services, I have decided to retire effective February 1, 2008. I have certainly enjoyed having the adoption offices in your beautiful church. Also, I have appreciated all of the wonderful support from staff, congregants and ministers through the years. It is hard to believe that so much time has passed since we first approached you about extending your ministry to house Lifelink staff so that we could help waiting children from all over the world find loving homes in Central Illinois. Indeed, we have been successful in our mission thanks to people like you who have supported us in this endeavor.

I am pleased to announce that Diane Greco Colravay will be my successor as regional supervisor for the East Central Illinois office located in your church and our Southern region office located in a UCC church in Edwardsville. You may recall meeting Diane at one of the memorable church services that we have held over the years. Diane has been with the agency for 15 years and I know that she will be an excellent supervisor. Her commitment and dedication to children and families is exemplary.

Thanks again for all of your support and assistance. I will always have fond memories of the many Lifelink-St. Peter's Church Services that we have jointly held. Likewise, I will always cherish the many wonderful families that I have worked with here at St. Peter's.

Sincerely yours,
Rita Blockman

Introducing Diane Greco Colravay

I am a licensed social worker in the State of Illinois and have been employed as an adoption caseworker at Lifelink for almost fifteen years. Prior to joining Lifelink, I worked as a school social worker for three years. I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Illinois in 1980 and my Master of Social degree in 1983, also from the University of Illinois.

I live in Mahomet with my husband of 27 years and my two children, Elizabeth (17) and Eddie (13). Elizabeth is a junior in high school and is a member of the color

guard in the marching band and also a talented singer. Eddie is in 8th grade and enjoys skateboarding and video games. Both Elizabeth and Eddie joined our family through domestic adoption.

I very much enjoy my role in assisting families during the entire adoption journey. I also have a genuine soft spot for young children and am fortunate to be a part-time pre-school teacher at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Mahomet.



Thought for the Month

A balanced diet is . . . chocolate in each hand!

Annual Reports

Annual Reports will soon be ready for distribution. Watch the Sunday bulletin. You may pick up a report at the church, or call the Church Office for information on electronic transmittal.

Thoughts

"The light of God surrounds us
The Power of God protects us
The presence of God watches over us
Wherever we are, God is and all is well."

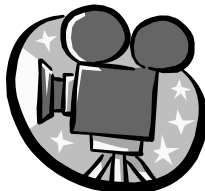
2008 Offering Envelopes Available

Numbered offering envelopes for 2008 are available. Please pick up your set on the table in the Narthex. 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.

Anniversary DVD

Mark Williams shared his expertise by videotaping the Anniversary Worship Service and has now edited the material and put it in DVD form. DVD copies of the Anniversary Service are available to those interested for a nominal cost (suggested donation \$8.00).

A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board or you may call the Church Office.



For Your Information

Listed below are the members of the 2008 Consistory and Board of Education.

Consistory

President – LiAnne Kitchen
Vice President – Nick Voss
Recording Secretary – Phyllis Jones
Trustees – Jim Acheson, Lee Eichhorst, Linda McCarthy
Members-at-Large – Bobbie Burr, Fern Eheart, Gladys Hemp, Rhonda Shoudel, Jim Tarr, Carolyn Yoos

Board of Education

Amy Durukan, Barb Jewett, Bonnie Joop, Jocelyn Voss, Cassandra Wentz



February Ushers

Kurt Eheart	Patty Kobel	Mark Williams
Barb Kobel	Kymberly McCarthy	Jocelyn Voss
Ed Kobel		Nick Voss

Newsletter Deadline

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

Church Mailbag

Will you please give my love and prayers to the Congregation. I do miss the Church and all our friends there even tho I like being near Steve and his family. They are all so precious to me. And I know it's best for me and them to be here with care. ...May the Good Lord Bless and Keep you!



Maxine Colson



February Anniversary

17 William and Diann Wingler (1979)

February Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Loren Bonnell | |
| | Ruth Schloz | |
| 2 | Irene Lofton | |
| 5 | Latsami Sysouvanh | |
| | | 6 Will |
| | | 7 Eileen |
| | | Diann |
| | | 9 Evelyn |
| | | Terry |
| | | |
| | | 11 Jason Stahl |



Woller

12 Lena Dowling
Norma Hollen
Phou Sysouvanh

17 Eric O'Neill
18 Omer Benn
Cassandra Wentz
20 Bob Reifsteck
21 William Malone
James Martinie
24 Tricia McCarthy
Nigel Knop
Ben Sterrett



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!