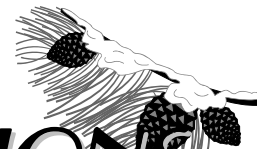




**St. Peter's United Church of Christ**  
 905 S. Russell Street  
 Champaign, IL 61821  
 217-356-3635  
 E-mail: [stpeters\\_ucc@msn.com](mailto:stpeters_ucc@msn.com)  
[www.stpetersucc.com](http://www.stpetersucc.com)

# CONNECTIONS

January 2008



## A Note from the Pastor

As I write this, the warm glow of Christmas is upon us, touching our hearts with the love of God as manifested in Mary's baby, Jesus, whom we worship as our Lord and Savior. The time of waiting is almost over – the time of rejoicing soon to begin.

What a busy and wonderful Advent season we have experienced as we worked together to beautify the church in honor of our Lord's birth. So many people – each doing his/her part in the celebration! I believe the evidence is very real that the Spirit is alive and well and working in miraculous ways in St. Peter's United Church of Christ.

We are approaching a new year full of promise and opportunity. With the Spirit at work in our midst, great things are bound to happen. In the coming year you will call a new pastor to work with you in ministry. New programs will be begun and old programs may be "tweaked" a bit to make them better.

It is my prayer that the warm glow of Christmas will continue to be with you as we walk into the new year with confidence and hope. God is at work in our midst through the Spirit!

*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).

## 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.



## Un-Hanging of the Greens

**Sunday, January 6**

Many thanks to the significant number of St. Peter's folks who remained after worship on November 25 to decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season. The general consensus of comments heard is that the church looks absolutely beautiful! GREAT JOB!

NOW . . . we come to the time of "un-hanging" all of that loveliness and packing it away neatly to await Advent/Christmas 2008. ONCE AGAIN WE NEED YOUR HELP! We will tackle this project following worship on January 6. Please be prepared to stay and help us. Thank you.

## Coming in January

**January 6 – Epiphany**

10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

**January 13 – Baptism of Christ**

10:00 a.m. Worship

Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

**January 20 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

10:00 a.m. Worship

Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

**January 27 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

10:00 a.m. Worship

Psalms 27:1,4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23



## Coming in February

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.

The ashes – from which Ash Wednesday gets its name – were made by burning the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. These were then placed on the foreheads of worshipers with the words from *Genesis*: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Since not all worshipers are comfortable with the symbolic receiving of ashes, this is optional or may be received on the back of the hand or forehead.

Plans for weekly mid-week Lenten worship services are being discussed. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletin and the February issue of *Connections*.



## A Christmas Banner

Thanks to the talent and creativity of Carolyn Yoos, we have a beautiful banner picturing Mary and Baby Jesus in the manger, hanging on the wall by the lectern in the sanctuary. The banner is executed in satiny fabric and picks up the colors in the rose windows, the Advent wreath

and the new paraments. Be sure to let Carolyn know that you appreciate this gift of love.

## Angels Among Us

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'"

In one of our study groups we were discussing ways in which to make St. Peter's more visible in the neighborhood and in the community. With the season of Advent not far off, it seemed appropriate to have a display in front of the church to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Bill and Kathryn Luther Henderson gave a monetary gift to fund such a display. Thank you, Bill and Kathie!

The display took on a life of its own and came together as neatly as the pieces of a puzzle. On "Hanging of the Greens Sunday" the front door was decorated with wreaths and a garland outlining the door.

Bonnie Taylor and Pastor Betty brainstormed a tentative design for a large banner to hang between the columns featuring two angels and the words, "Celebrate the birth of Jesus." Jim Acheson arranged to have the banner produced and hung.



Two small Christmas trees and two snow-covered pines with red berries filled the blue containers on the sidewalk.

Two lighted five-foot angels were constructed by the Building and Grounds Committee and raised their trumpets on either side of the front doors of the church.



Last, but not least, two lighted angel silhouettes were attached to the building by Ed Kobel, making a multitude of six angels to welcome worshipers to St. Peter's.

Many thanks to all who helped beautify the outside of our church and bring a message celebrating the birth of Jesus our Lord.



*Angels adorn the entrance to St. Peter's*

## New Paraments

Paraments are the special cloths used on the altar, pulpit and lectern during worship. The color of the paraments changes with the seasons of the church year.

For many years, purple was the color for paraments used during Advent and Lent. Purple announces Christ's royalty and also symbolizes penitence. In more recent years royal blue has replaced purple for Advent, symbolizing not only royalty but also hope as we await the celebration of Christ's birth and Christ's coming again.

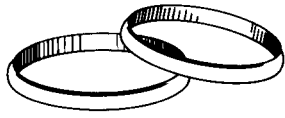
A memorial gift for paraments, in memory of June Berbaum, has been used to purchase new blue Advent paraments this year. These paraments are reversible with white for Christmas on the reverse side.



## Advent Wreath

A large, beautiful wreath graces the narthex of the church this year – a gift from Jill Acheson. A large star adorns the top of the wreath with an angel, the Holy Family, shepherd and wisemen also represented. Thank you Jill!





*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*



### **Attention Committee Chairs!**

Put on your thinking caps. It's time to be writing your summary for the Annual Report. Soon you will receive your form, please give it your time and attention so your good news and good works can be shared with the congregation. The due date will be January 13, 2008.

Many Blessings,  
*LiAnne Kitchen*  
Church and Ministry Chair

*(Annual Reports are due to Ann Swearingen by Sunday, January 13, 2008 or to the church office. Reports may be e-mailed to Ann in a Word document at*

*swearngn@uiuc.edu. When completed, copies of the Annual Report may be picked up a copy at the church office or received electronically. Call the church office for information on the electronic transmittal.)*

### **Adult Studies**

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



The

"Attitudes" Study continues to meet Monday afternoons from 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the Pastor's Study.



**We're a Friendly Bunch!**

### **Welcoming and Outreach**

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 meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 14. By the end of our meeting we should have some working plans in place.

### **Christian Education Meeting**

A joint meeting of the Christian Education Board and those who have worked with the Sunday School this past fall will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15 to evaluate what we have done so far and plan ahead for the next semester.

Anyone interested in helping with Sunday School is invited to call either Rhonda Shoudel 352-3352 or Pastor Betty at the Church Office.

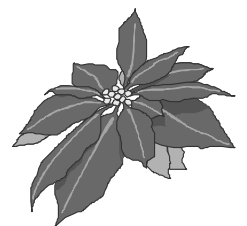


### **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the February 2008 issue of *Connections* is Tuesday, January 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!

### **Merci! Gracias! Kudos!**

Any way you say it, it means a huge thank you to the retiring members of the Altar Committee. These women have maintained the candles, decorated the altar, placed poinsettias at Christmas, lilies at Easter and changed the paraments according to the liturgical calendar for many years. Our warmest thanks go to Pam Bostwick, Bernadine Helbling, Doris Hershberger and Barb Kobel. Well done, ladies!



## Consistory Highlights – December

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



The Consistory of St. Peter's United Church of Christ met on December 17, 2007 with the following actions.

- The proposed change to the Constitution and Bylaws is ready for review.
- Building Use Policies were presented. A minor revision was made to the Non-Member Usage form.
- A phone tree will be established whereby all active members would be called in case church activities are cancelled.
- New Consistory officers were elected. LiAnne Kitchen was elected President and Phyllis Jones elected secretary.
- Building and Grounds: The purchased angels were assembled. The parsonage will be painted the week between Christmas and New Year's. The elevator was inspected. The condenser repairs are on hold. One estimate has been received for the air conditioning system.
- WINN's finances are in good shape. WINN participants provided bell ringing for the Salvation Army at the Duncan and Kirby County Market.
- In early 2008, the Endowment Committee will convene to allot the 2007 disbursements for charities.
- The piano has been tuned. The Choir Cantata was postponed due to the weather.
- The Consistory received a written report showing the amount of funds available for each designated use.
- The Pastoral Search Committee has listened to all the audiotapes received. Phone interviews have been or are being conducted.
- The farms are doing well. The majority of this year's crops have yet to be sold.
- The Women's Fellowship held its annual meeting.
- The Worship Committee has reviewed plans through January 6, 2008.
- To date, overall expenses have been held down. Maintenance issues have increased expenses in that area.
- The computer proposal was distributed for study prior to the next meeting.
- Sign-up sheets for 2008 greeters and communion preparation were distributed.



- The Pastor's report for December was received. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

## Congratulations Mike Kobel!

Mike Kobel recently graduated from Southern Illinois University. He completed his program in the College of Applied Arts and Sciences with honors and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Fire Service Management. Mike is Chief of the Eastern Prairie Fire Department in Champaign County and is also a Captain at Willard Airport Crash Rescue Service. He is the son of Ed and Barb Kobel and a life long member of St. Peter's. Congratulations Mike!



## March to the Manger

This year, our March to the Manger gifts, used to help others through mission, totaled \$1,392: \$650 for Campus Ministry, \$482 for WINN and \$155 for Crisis Nursery. Thank you to everyone who made our "march" such a success!

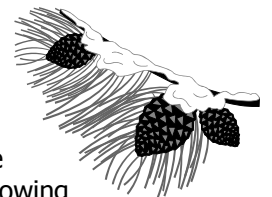


## 2008 Offering Envelopes Available

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.

## Thoughts

Happiness keeps you sweet  
Trials keep you strong  
Sorrows keep you human  
Failures keep you humble  
Success keeps you glowing  
But only God keeps you going



## Time and Talent – Sharing Your Gifts

Thank you to those who completed the Time and Talent forms last fall. These have been entered into the computer and lists of persons interested in particular areas of sharing the ministry of St. Peter's will be given to Committee Chairpersons when the committees reorganize in January.



## January Ushers

Jill Acheson

Bernice Benn

Al Shoudel

Jim Acheson

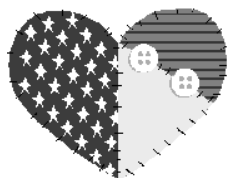
Omer Benn  
Mildred Luther

Jim Tarr

We thank you for your support!

## Thank You Building and Grounds!

The Building and Grounds Committee is not only talented and experienced in constructing angels, they responded in full force to clear the areas around the church and parsonage of snow after the storm on December 16. Thanks, guys, your efforts are much appreciated.



## With Grateful Thanks!

The St. Peter's Staff would like to thank the members of the congregation for your generous contributions toward the staff

Christmas gifts. We are grateful for your thoughtfulness in showing your appreciation to us. It is truly a joy and a blessing to work at such a wonderful place!

*St. Peter's Staff*

Thank you for the many lovely Christmas cards we have received from St. Peter's folks.

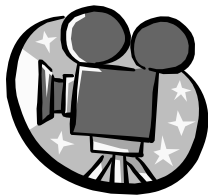
Thank you also for the generous Christmas gift from the church. Your kind spirit of sharing is much appreciated and I look forward to working with you while you continue to seek a settled pastor.

*Pastor Betty Hornback*

## 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.



## 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. Calendars are available in the Narthex.

## Church Mailbag



*The children of Edna Ninmer wish to express their sincere thanks to the St. Peter's family for the good wishes sent periodically to our Mother during the last several years of her life. The cards signed by many members of St. Peter's were enjoyed and appreciated by Mother. She missed being able to attend Sunday worship services and seeing her many friends. The last eight weeks of her life were spent in a nursing home in Normal, Illinois, and although she knew she was no longer "at home," she nonetheless cheerfully accepted the move by verbalizing to us another of life's lessons: "You just do what you have to do and go where you have to go." She immediately endeared herself to the staff at Heritage Manor and received loving care in return. We also express our profound gratitude for the outpouring of love and support at the time of Mother's death, especially the prayers and assuring guidance and the beautiful funeral service by Pastor Betty and Reverend Wally, as well as a special tribute from JoAnn Malloch and the extra efforts of Bonnie Taylor. Abundant thanks also to the kitchen volunteers who provided a wonderful meal following the funeral. Mother spent some 80 years serving St. Peter's and she so deserved the respect and honor afforded her as she journeyed from this life to life eternal with our Lord Jesus Christ and her beloved Elmer. May God's blessings be with you all.*



Marilyn Rayburn, Madonna Boitnott,  
Marcella Nance, Marshall Ninmer

*The Farm Bureau Women's Committee would sincerely like to thank the church for the use of the church kitchen on the morning of November 27<sup>th</sup>. Our project, "Bake for Freedom" has been a success. The soldiers enjoy the fresh cakes and being remembered.*

*I pray for our service men and women that they may be reunited with their loved ones.*

*I hope your church and church families enjoy a blessed Advent and Christmas season.*

*Thank you.*

Loretta Stoerger  
Secretary of Farm Bureau Women's Committee

*On behalf of the Food for Families committee, our member agencies, and those they service, I would like to thank you for your donation. Your contribution will directly benefit those at hunger risk through area food pantries, residential facilities, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other non-profit community food programs. . . . We appreciate your donation and support of our mission to alleviate hunger in east central Illinois. Thanks for all you do.*



Jim Hires  
Executive Director, Eastern Illinois  
Foodbank

## January Anniversaries

29 James and Dorothy Woller (1960)  
30 Paul and Gladys Hemp (1954)

## January Birthdays

- 1 Heinrich Schmidt
- 2 Judy Moller Vaiden
- 4 Celeste Honn
- 6 Jeff Hallett
- 7 Shirley Records
- 8 Doris Hershbarger
- 9 Lloyd Phipps
- 11 William Limp  
Cassidy Marcum
- 13 Henry Voigtlander
- 14 Blake Lehmann
- 15 Doth Sysouvanh
- 21 Ted Eichhorst
- 22 Jama Fager  
Paul Marcum
- 24 Aileen Schindler  
Jennifer Crone
- 26 Sally Martinie  
Jeff Jewett
- 27 Clayton Lehmann
- 31 Julius Demlow



**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](mailto:stpeters_ucc@msn.com). Thanks for your help!



## Depression: Who Is at Risk?

Everyone feels sad at times. Sorrow is a normal reaction to loss, life struggles, and injured egos. But when heartache becomes intense, lasting for long periods of time and preventing a person from leading a normal life, it may be depression.

Depression is a serious illness that is estimated to affect large segments of the American population. No group is exempt:

- 10% of new mothers (postpartum)
- 3% of children
- 12% of teenagers
- 25% of those with chronic illness
- 30% of stroke survivors
- 15% of adults over 65

Some mistakenly think depression is a character flaw which a person ought to be able to control at will. Many people suffering from depression go undiagnosed. This

is especially unfortunate because depression is an illness which can be effectively treated at any age (although some people do need treatment for an extended time).

*(Reprinted with permission from Advocate Congregational Health Partnerships)*

## Tips for a Happier Winter



Winter brings with it fewer hours of daylight. Low temperatures can make us want to hibernate. The blues may be just around the corner. If you feel the winter blahs setting in, take steps now to take care of yourself. Here are some simple ways to lose those blues:

- \* Salute the sun! Sunlight makes us happier, so spend as much time in it as is practical. (If possible, don't wear sunglasses.) Consider changing your routine to experience more daylight.
- \* Eat high quality carbs with each meal. Brown rice, fruits, and veggies can make a real difference in how you feel.
- \* Mingle! Fight the urge to isolate yourself when you're feeling low, and get together with friends instead.
- \* Exercise.
- \* Talk. Discuss your feelings with someone you trust – a pal, a clergy member, your doctor.
- \* Journal. Buy a spiral notebook and write down your feelings as you end each day. As you start each day, list three things for which you are grateful. You will be amazed at what you learn by spring!
- \* Simplify your life. Set realistic goals, prioritize your activities, and, if possible, postpone important decisions until you're feeling better.

**Prayer:** *Creator of seasons, thank you for winter – the snow, the crisp cold, and the gray skies. I am learning to appreciate its beauty and uniqueness. Keep my heart filled with light and hope during these dark days. Amen.*

## Project READ Needs Your Help

Project READ is looking for volunteers in 2008! Project READ is a state-funded, locally run volunteer adult literacy program that is



headquartered at Parkland and serving the entire Parkland College district. Project READ provides orientation and training for volunteers who are interested in tutoring adults who are working hard to improve their reading skills. Tutors spend time with adults one-on-one or help in G.E.D., adult basic education and/or English as a Second Language classrooms. The next training workshop is scheduled for the end of January. For more information or to register for a workshop, please contact: Linda Arends, Project

READ Program Manager at 353-2662 or Jan Sabey,  
Project READ assistant at 351-2361.