



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

Time is rapidly winding down to the end of my ministry at St. Peter's United Church of Christ and the beginning of Pastor Laurie Hill's ministry among you. It is, indeed a bitter-sweet time as I visit folks for the last time and say good-bye, all the while recognizing that there must be an ending before a new beginning. Please know that I have very much enjoyed my time at St. Peter's! I have come to know so many of you and have enjoyed your fellowship, the wonderful gifts and talents you bring to the church, and the ways we have grown together through study and working together.

My last Sunday with you will be July 6. Rev. Hill will begin her ministry July 7. She has graciously agreed to be present on my last Sunday so that we can share the Service of Communion together as a symbol of the passing of the leadership of this church. Following Communion, Rev. Tom Norwalk will lead us in a Service of Farewell. I do hope that you will be present for this very special day.

Although I treasure the many friendships I have formed while at St. Peter's, it is best that we "let go" so that you can wholeheartedly embrace Pastor Laurie. This is a grief and loss issue and tears will be shed – at least on my part – but that is healthy and allows each of us to move on into the future God has in store for us. Please know that you will remain in my thoughts and prayers as you move into your new future.

*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).

## Summer Worship Schedule



Beginning Sunday, June 1 and continuing through August 31, worship will begin at 9:00 a.m. for the summer.

## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Elvira!

Elvira Ebs, who joined St. Peter's church on May 9, 2004, will be 100 on June 28.

Elvira was born in Eagle River, Wisconsin. She and her late husband, Walter, lived in Milwaukee. Elvira ran IBM machines for Phoenix Hosiery and later worked as a sales lady in a jewelry store. For many years, she volunteered five days a week at the Senior Nutrition Center in Milwaukee.



In the fall of 2003, Elvira moved to Champaign to be near her niece, Judy Maloney, also a member of St. Peter's. Elvira still drives her car, is active at the Hays Senior Center on Church Street in Champaign and regularly attends worship service on Sunday mornings.

Birthday greetings may be mailed to her at 1005 S. Pine Street, Champaign, IL 61820.

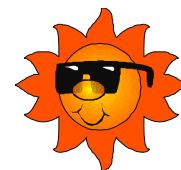


## Strawberry Festival

Now is the time to sign up for attending the Strawberry Festival. This year's Strawberry Festival will be held on Sunday, June 8 in Fellowship Hall following worship. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hall across from the office. This event is sponsored by the Tuesday Circle and we ask that each family attending bring a covered dish to share. Sandwiches, ice cream, shortcake and strawberries will be provided along with beverages. A free will offering will be taken. There should be something for everyone! Please call Ann Swearingen (328-2104) if you have any questions.

## Summer Office Hours

Beginning the week of June 1, our Office Manager will be taking Tuesdays off. The summer office hours will be Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pastor Betty will be in the office Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., however, regular business with the office should be scheduled during the Office Manager's hours.



## Congratulations Graduates!



**Amanda Burr**, daughter of Bobbie Burr, recently received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences, Option–Dietetics from Eastern University in Charleston. Amanda has been accepted for Graduate Study in Family and Consumer Sciences at Eastern.

**Maurine Sterrett**, daughter of Mark and LiAnne Kitchen Sterrett, graduates from Central High School. Maurine has chosen to attend the University of Louisville and has been admitted to the Honors College beginning this fall. Maurine is interested in pursuing a degree in Humanities or Foreign Languages.

**Sarah Malone**, daughter of Bill and Debby Malone, recently graduated from the University of Evansville in Evansville, Indiana with a degree in theatre education.

Congratulations and best wishes to all our Graduates!

## Worship in June

### Sunday, June 1 – Graduate Recognition

9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

*Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24, 8:14-19; Romans 1:16-17, 3:22-28; Matthew 7:21-29*



### Sunday, June 8

9:00 a.m. Worship

*Genesis 12:1-9; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26*

### Sunday, June 15 – Father's Day

9:00 a.m. Praise-Focused Worship

*Genesis 18:1-15; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8*



### Sunday, June 22

9:00 a.m. Worship

*Genesis 21:8-21; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 10:24-39*

### Sunday, June 29 – Musical Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship

*Genesis 22:1-14; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42*

*Invite someone to attend worship with you!*

## Camping Time

The Outdoor Ministry program of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ seeks to serve all people in a ministry of place – sacred spaces for personal, community, congregational, spiritual, recreational and solitary enjoyment.

Camping opportunities are available for children and youth of all ages as well as families, adults and senior adults. Some of the opportunities include: Tenderfoot (K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade); LEAD, Worship & Wonder, Spirit (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older); Jr. High Sports, Riding Camp; Grandparent & Me; and many more.

If you have a child or grandchild who is interested, check out the registration booklet in the office.



## Books, Books and More Books



We are preparing the Pastor's Study for the arrival of Pastor Laurie Hill and have a number of books to give away. These will be placed on tables in the Chapel **June 1** through **June 10**. Please take as many as you wish. Books not taken will be given to the Champaign Library for their used book sale.



## Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Congratulations to Stuart and Carolyn Yoos who will celebrate fifty years of married life on June 29. Best wishes for many more years of happiness!

## B-I-B-L-E-S

Along with the assistance they provide, Empty Tomb gives Bibles to some of the folks they minister to and would gladly receive extra Bibles you may have that you don't need. Bibles may be taken directly to Empty Tomb or brought to the church. They also purchase new Bibles to give away and would appreciate contributions in any amount for this purpose. Thank you for your generosity.

## Some Fortune Cookie Thoughts



- ☺ God is calling. This is one call you should take.
- ☺ Introduce yourself to someone you don't already know. (And invite that person to worship!)
- ☺ God is still speaking means you don't have to be 3,000 years old to hear from God.
- ☺ Pray. God is still listening, also.

## Recycling

St. Peter's is "thinking green" by recycling paper from the office and extra worship bulletins. If you do not want to keep your bulletin after worship, you may place it in the basket in the narthex. **Mark** and **Sandy Williams** have been taking the paper to be recycled. Many thanks to them for this worthwhile project!



## 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.



## 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 are honoring 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.

**Ken Adams** and his wife, Helen, came to St. Peter's UCC in 2003 because it was the closest neighborhood church to their home. Helen passed to life eternal on Easter weekend, 2007. Ken is a retired Master Sergeant from the United States Air Force. His main duties involved repairing aircraft engines. He taught jet engine assembly at Chanute Air Force Base. While at Chanute, he met and married Helen, who was teaching school in Champaign. Ken's birthday is in November. He resides at Clark-Lindsey – MeadowBrook.

**Velma Clark** and her husband, Frank, were active members in the United Church of Christ in Brimfield, where they lived for many years. Velma played the organ in that church, taught Sunday School and was Superintendent of the Primary Department. They both served on Boards and Committees in the church. Velma was active in the Women's organization and taught Home Economics and Science (Biology) in the school system. She and Frank moved to Champaign in 2001 to be near their son, and became a part of St. Peter's UCC in June 2001. Frank passed from this life to life eternal on August 15, 2005. Velma lives at 1116 Devonshire, Champaign.

**Walter Claussen** and his wife, Genevieve, were married on October 20, 1945. They moved to Champaign after having lived in several other states, and joined St. Peter's UCC on April 15, 1973, under the pastorate of Rev. Walter Noffke. Genevieve had been a Quaker when she lived in New York. Their home is at 2017 Cureton Drive, Urbana; however, Walter is currently at Carle Arbours temporarily.



**Jessie Dereng** entered this world on March 4, 1912 near Savoy, Illinois, the daughter of William and Etta (Matteson) McGath. She grew up in that area. She graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1935 and worked as a visiting nurse in the Champaign-Urbana area for ten years or more. She married Joseph Dereng Jr., and has two children, two grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She was baptized into St. Peter's UCC in April 1945. Joseph has passed on to life eternal.

**Ione Douglas** was born into and baptized in the Block Church near Sidney. Her grandparents, Johann and Johanna Schindler came to the Sidney area from Germany — by way of Albany, New York — in 1852 and she recalls the family story that her father, William H. Schindler, was carried to the Block Church as a baby. He retired in 1924. The Block Church was later torn down and the congregation moved to the present Sidney Church. Throughout her life, Ione has been active in church work, serving as pianist, teaching younger children in Sunday School, and active in women's activities. She married Kenny Douglas in 1935 and they transferred membership to St. Peter's UCC.

**Bernice Mueller** was born into, baptized, confirmed and married in St. Peter's UCC, the daughter of Ivan and Clara Moore. Her parents were active in leadership positions at St. Peter's, serving on the Church Board. Bernice remembers a class held during the war and called the "Trench Bearers" during the pastorate of Rev. Bierbaum. Folks from Chanute Air Force Base would come to Champaign and join the St. Peter's folks in an evening of fellowship on Sundays. Bernice played the organ and was Choir Director prior to 1942, following Clara Leech in that position. In 1939 she married Robert H. Mueller, son of Rev. Henry Mueller who was Pastor at St. Peter's from 1906 to 1940. She resides at the Windsor of Savoy.



**Lloyd Phipps** joined St. Peter's when they moved into the neighborhood of the church. He has been an active member, serving on the Budget Committee, Consistory, and managing the farm accounts. He and his wife, Helen, live at 906 Mayfair Road, Champaign.



**Helen Schowengerdt** shares an April birthday with her great granddaughter, Adeline Rogers, born April 8. Adeline is the daughter of Christopher and Kate Schowengerdt Rogers. Helen was born April 19 in Sangamon County. She earned a Registered Nurse degree and worked as an OB-Gynecological Instructor for a number of years. During World War II RNs had to register and she went into the Navy Reserve, taking care of mothers and babies. After the war she worked as a Clinical Instructor at Burnham City Hospital. Helen came to St. Peter's through her marriage in 1947 to Dr. William H. Schowengerdt, a second generation physician and son of Dr. William E. Schowengerdt who came to Illinois from Missouri in the "horse and buggy" days. Dr. William H. Schowengerdt grew up in St. Peter's. Helen and Dr. William H. had one daughter and two sons, all of whom work in medical-related fields. Helen currently keeps busy managing the family farms.



**Lola Tennyson** came to St. Peter's in 1964 and has been a faithful member since that time. She married Bob Tennyson in 1948. During Lola's years at St. Peter's she helped in the kitchen at a time when the church served luncheons for organizations, helped as a teacher's aid in nursery school, worked with the Stitchers to make Christmas ornaments, baked pies and helped with ice cream socials, and assisted with the Youth Program. Bob enjoyed ushering. Lola and Bob had two children, Joyce and John who were active in youth activities and enjoyed Pilgrim Park events. A board certified Practical Nurse, Lola worked in nursing homes and did home nursing. She was registered with the Civil Service in California in 1942.

**Irene VanRheeden** and her husband, Bob, joined St. Peter's UCC in February 1998 by Re-affirmation of Faith. Until Bob's death in June 2001, they were faithful members and attended church regularly. Irene now resides in the Charleston area.



**Alberta West** joined St. Peter's UCC through the Rite of Confirmation in April 1933. She was baptized as an infant in 1918. On February 9, 1948, she married Mace West. In 1957, Alberta became the St. Peter's Church Secretary when Florence Weipert resigned. She currently lives in Sidney.



**Dorothy Yates** came to St. Peter's UCC in 1942 when she married Elmer Robert Yates, whose parents, William and Ida Yates, had been members for many years—since the time when only German was spoken in the church. Dorothy and Elmer had two children, Kathryn (married to Marshall Ninmer) and Jackie (married to Paul Scolari). Kathryn has three children, five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Jackie has two children. Dorothy taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the Urbana public schools for 25 years. She is doing well and lives at Liberty Village, 2950 Westridge Place, #113, Carbondale IL 62901-1088.

**Virginia Zindars**, who joined St. Peter's on May 5, 1935, will be 97 on August 17, 2008. She and her late husband, Grant, farmed in Champaign County for 42 years. During her 73 years at St. Peter's. Virginia has been an active member. For many years, she was the "Official Coffee Maker" for the Sausage and Chicken Noodle Dinners. Virginia is the Church Historian. Over the years, she has shown several people the original church record books so they could copy their family genealogy. She, Doris Drake and Carol Pointer, have filled the Archive Cabinets on the west wall of the lounge with many interesting artifacts.



## Historian's Corner

At age 96½ years of age, I was proud there were four generations of my family in attendance at St. Peter's Easter Service on March 23 . . . myself; my daughter, Carol Pointer; her son, Scott Pointer and his son, Grant Pointer. Grant is the seventh generation of our family to be part of St. Peter's Church.



*Virginia Zindars*

## Stewardship Committee Report

St. Peter's Stewardship Committee had a meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2008. Jocelyn and Nick Voss discussed the "Stewardship Adventures" workshop, sponsored by the Illinois Conference of the UCC on April 12, 2008. At the workshop, it was learned that, "Stewardship, like evangelism, is an ongoing part of the church's program. To think stewardship only when one is thinking money misses the richness of stewardship ministry. While the financial aspect of stewardship is of great importance, it is important for members to see its fullness."



The committee has embraced this idea. Stewardship isn't just about collecting money once a year. As Christians, we can each enrich the life of the church, the lives of others, and our own lives by giving in many other ways. Have you thought about how someone feels when you give a "smile," bake a batch of cookies for a friend or for a gathering, help a neighbor with yard work? Christ's love shows through in our daily lives when we help others.

Beginning June 1, the Stewardship Committee will launch a year-round stewardship program. Each week, we will have a Stewardship Moment during the offering. We will briefly discuss an opportunity for stewardship and feature a new activity every week. Additionally, come fall, we will invite St. Peter's members to prayerfully consider making a statement of faith and gratitude through their giving to the Lord. The committee is very excited to embark on our very own "stewardship adventures" and looks forward to presenting opportunities for everyone to participate.



## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the July issue of *Connections* is Monday, June 16. 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!

## Consistory Highlights – May

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



- Job descriptions for all church employees are being reviewed and updated.
- Buildings and Grounds Committee reported a good turn-out for the clean-up at the parsonage. The Committee was directed to obtain an estimate on the cost of the railings for the Chancel steps.
- Pastor Betty's exit interview was reviewed and accepted. Her contract was extended through July 6.
- The Pastor's office will be redecorated before Pastor Hill starts.
- Church Office will be closed on Tuesdays with extended hours the rest of the week.
- Worship will be at 9:00 a.m. from June 1 through Labor Day.
- June Consistory meeting will be June 10.
- Board of Christian Education evaluated this year's work and found it very satisfactory.
- Music Committee announced the choir will sing the first Sunday in June and August. A request was made that they sing on Pastor Betty's last day. This will be considered.
- Outreach and Development Committee will resume work in September.
- Pastoral Search Committee announced the Pastoral Call Agreement is ready for signatures.
- Stewardship/Membership Committee reported the meeting they attended was very helpful and they have several ideas to promote stewardship of all types, not just monetary stewardship.
- Trustees reported the parsonage has been rented.
- Worship Committee reported that services are planned through July 6 and liturgists are scheduled through the end of July.
- Treasurer reported the finances are doing better than was anticipated.
- LiAnne Kitchen and Pastor Betty attended the Eastern Association meeting on May 4. Lillian Daniels spoke on the topic of "Christians needing to tell their personal faith stories". LiAnne is on the Association Nominating Committee.
- Pastor Betty's written report was reviewed and accepted.
- Graduation Sunday will be observed June 1.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

## June Ushers

Kurt Eheart  
Barb Kobel  
Ed Kobel

Patty Kobel  
Kymberly McCarthy

Mark Williams  
Jocelyn Voss  
Nick Voss

## June Birthdays

- 1 Eugene Ziegler  
Becky Kesler
- 4 Mary Peters
- 11 Bernadine Helbling
- 12 Kymberly McCarthy
- 13 Paula Schmidt  
Mark Muller
- 15 Mary Sue O'Neill
- 17 Alexander Pope
- 21 Cleo Pelg  
Scott Pointer  
Nick Voss
- 24 Glenn Trost
- 25 Walter Claussen  
James Crone
- 26 Abbey Knop
- 27 Velma Clark
- 28 Elvira Ebs



## June Anniversaries

- 2 Charles and Dorothy Zahnd (1946)
- 3 Roger and Carol Pointer (1962)
- 6 George and JoAnn Malloch (1953)
- 7 Omer and Bernice Benn (1997)  
Dale and Sally Pelg (1997)
- 9 Ed and Cleo Pelg (1946)  
William and Debby Malone (1973)
- 12 Glenn and Joyce Trost (1965)
- 15 Charles and Arlene Luer (1947)  
William and Susie Kuhne (1957)
- 16 Harold and Melissa Zahnd (2001)
- 18 Ken and Dorris Baumann (1946)  
Dale and Shirley Sebens (1983)
- 21 Lee and Sandy Eichhorst (1958)
- 24 Jason and Amy Stahl (2000)
- 26 Henry and Betty Voigtlander (1954)
- 27 John and Judith Maloney (1997)
- 29 Stuart and Carolyn Yoos (1958)
- 30 Lloyd and Helen Phipps (1979)

**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!