



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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March 2008

A Note from the Pastor

Important things happen in March! We will conclude our "Christ on Trial" series of Lenten Services on Maundy Thursday. These services have been received well and hopefully left a different perspective of familiar passages with those who attend. Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday on March 16, leading up to the glorious celebration of Easter in two different worship services on March 23.

The time changes on March 9th and we "spring forward" into longer days and the expectation of warmer weather soon to come. The first day of Spring falls during Holy Week.

Our Scriptures during March begin with yet another story of Jesus' healing – this time a blind man, continue on to the death of Lazarus, close friend of Jesus; the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and the passion of his trial and execution as Holy Week concludes.

A contemporary song that I am partial to describes the passion of Jesus and the turning away of his disciples, but then opens the door to the promise of the resurrection. "Then came the morning, night turned into day, the stone was rolled away, hope rose with the dawn." After the disappointment of the betrayal on Maundy Thursday, the utter despair and sadness of the crucifixion on Good Friday and the somberness of our Lord in the tomb over the Sabbath on Holy Saturday, we awake to the dawning of Easter Day and the extreme joy of Christ's resurrection.

It is my prayer that each of you will experience new depths of faith as we move from Lent into the joy of Easter.

In Christian love,
 Pastor Betty Hornback



He is Risen!

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).

Worship 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"
- Sunday, March 16** – Palm/Passion Sunday 
 10:00 a.m. Worship with Palms
 Beginning of Holy Week – Those who wish to do so may gather in the parking lot with the Choir and Pastor prior to worship and process with palm fronds.
Isaiah 50:4-9, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 21:1-11
- Thursday, March 20** 6:30–7:30 p.m. Worship 
 Christ on Trial – "Peter"
 Maundy Thursday Service with Communion and Service of Tenebrae.
- Friday, March 21** – Good Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 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!



Consistory Highlights – March

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



The Consistory of St. Peter's United Church of Christ met on February 19, 2008 with the following actions.

- The proposed change to Article XIV – Committees is ready to present to the Congregation.
- The Easter ad in the News-Gazette has been designed and approved.
- New computers have arrived and have been installed.
- Use of Fellowship Hall has been requested for a National Scrapbooking Day event Friday, March 28 and 29. Use approved.
- The Church and Ministry Committee is revising the Employment Agreement for the Office Manager to reflect new duties for the position.
- The Buildings and Grounds Committee submitted a written report of actions taken. Further information on the proposed air conditioning system was presented.
- Parsonage painting totaled \$4,048.
- Aluminum soffit will be installed on the north and east side of the church.
- The Music Committee reported that the Choir Director has chosen music which works with the choir's strengths.
- The Outreach and Development Committee has developed a design for the magnet to go in the Outreach packet. The brochure has been designed and a draft created.
- The Pastoral Search Committee has interviewed one candidate. The next candidate will be interviewed on February 23.
- New committee members will be recruited for the Stewardship and Membership Committee. Pastor Betty noted there is a workshop on stewardship in Yorkville on April 12. Fresh ideas and positive ways to approach stewardship can be gained at this workshop. The cost is \$20. This opportunity will be announced to the Congregation with the hope that several people will volunteer to attend.
- Jim Acheson reported that 20% of this year's crops have not been sold. Crops are expected to be sold by the end of February.
- The Worship Committee has completed tentative plans through Easter.
- A written Treasurer's Report was presented and accepted. It was noted that currently there is a \$4,000 deficit.
- Because of spring break and Holy Week, the next Consistory meeting will be March 25.

- The Pastor's Report for February was received. Pastor Betty will take Communion to the home-bound before Easter.
 - For the Good of the Order – If a Sausage Supper is still being planned, Jim Acheson thinks he can organize a group of 20 men to help.
 - Fern Eheart reported on a church which has stuffed animals in the pews for people to hold who are having a hard time. She wondered if St. Peter's would be interested in doing this.
 - Gladys Hemp complemented the compilers of the Annual Report. The 2007 report is excellent.
- The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

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.



Celebrating Birth!

Congratulations to **Lisa Wright** (St. Peter's Nursery Worker) on the birth of her second daughter, Sophia Michelle. Sophia was born on Friday, February 22, weighing 8 pounds and measuring 20½

inches long. Sophia is welcomed by big sister Carolina. St. Peter's sends its best wishes to Lisa and her family.

And, speaking of celebrating births—you are invited to a birthday party celebrating **Rhonda Shoudel's 50th Birthday** from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 16 in Fellowship Hall. Please join us to honor Rhonda!



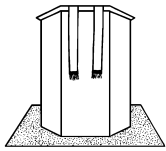
Just Desserts!

April 5, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall



Got a sweet tooth or know someone who does? Mark your calendars for April 5. "Just Desserts" is a major fundraiser for the UCC Campus Ministry, sponsored by Community UCC and St. Peter's UCC. Tickets are \$10. Come and sample a wide selection of desserts from area restaurants and specialty shops. At the end of the event attendees will have the opportunity to bid on their favorite dessert to take home (a whole pie, cake, etc.). Entertainment will be provided by area college and high school students. Children's tickets and childcare are available. For information or tickets, contact Nancy Knop. All proceeds will go to help fund the UCC Campus Ministry.

Pastoral Search Committee Report



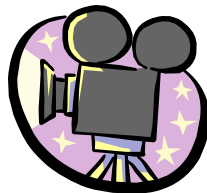
The Pastoral Search Committee continues in its search process to extend a call for a new pastor for St. Peter's Church. To update the congregation, we report that Shirley Records has formally resigned from the committee as she will be transferring her membership to another congregation. As previously reported, around 30 profiles have been sent for our review. Three specific candidates were identified for consideration from our initial reviews. We asked our Association Liaison, Rev. Tom Norwalk to suspend further profiles at that time in order to give the committee a chance to follow the search process protocols with these selected candidates. After phone conversations and one face-to-face conversation with the three candidates, the committee eliminated one of the candidates, a male pastor from an East coast UCC congregation. Two female candidates remained and were selected for further consideration. Both of these candidates have been pastors at UCC churches located in the Midwest and have worked with congregations similar in size to St Peter's. The committee has checked these candidates' references and scheduled face-to face interviews with both candidates. These interviews were conducted at the Church during the month of February. The committee has eliminated one of these candidates after securing references and meeting with the individual. The committee continues to discuss the qualities the final candidate possesses in relationship to areas the congregation feel are of most importance to our Church. We hope to soon bring a candidate to the Consistory and then the congregation for a vote. Please continue to pray for us all during this time that we may select a pastor that will continue with the work that Pastor Betty has started. If anyone has additional questions for the Search Committee, please contact Linda McCarthy or Bobbie Burr, co-chairs or leave a note in the Search Committee box located outside of Pastor Betty's office.

Annual Reports

Annual Reports are ready for distribution. You may pick up a report at the church, or call the Church Office for information on electronic transmittal.

Anniversary DVD

DVD copies of the Anniversary Service are available to those interested for a nominal cost (suggested donation \$8.00). Call the Church Office if you would like one.



Many Thanks to . . .

The silver on the candlesticks and cross on the altar is clean and shining once again. A BIG thank you to Ann Swearingen, Mary and Bill Limp for this job well done!



More Thanks to . . .

The participants in our Lenten Worship Series, Christ on Trial. On Ash Wednesday the Prosecutor, Omer Benn, gave his opening statement. On the succeeding Wednesdays, the Prosecutor interrogated witnesses whose lives had been touched by Jesus. These included: Matthew (the tax collector) – Bob Vaiden, A Woman Healed – Barb Jewett, Nicodemus – Mark Sterrett, An Adulterous Woman – Marguerite Zahnd, and John (disciple) – Nick Voss. An Alternate Prosecutor – Bill Capel, participated in Omer's absence.

On Maundy Thursday, Mark Muller will portray the witness Peter. A Service of Tenebrae will follow Communion on Maundy Thursday.



With Sympathy

The prayers and sympathy of the St. Peter's UCC congregation are with Rev. Jerry and Shirley Hoffman on the recent death of Jerry's stepson, Jack.

A Memorial Service for Chelsey Knake was held on February 23 in Fellowship Hall. Chelsey was the significant other of Matt Mayfield (Nancy Knop's son).

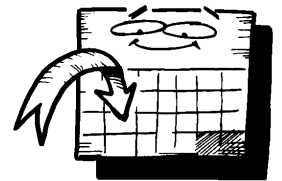
"...and God shall wipe away every tear."

Can You Hear Me Now?

The good news is that communication has been pretty good in the last year or so. Committees have remembered to write their meetings on the calendar in the office and call the office if meetings change or are scheduled at the last minute.

The bad news is that for the last couple of months communication has been lax and this has resulted in room use conflict and persons on more than one committee needing to be in two or three places at the same time.

Please – write meetings on the office calendar or call the church office when a meeting or other function is scheduled or cancelled in the church. Your communication good manners will help make St. Peter's a smooth running church!



God grades on the cross, not the curve.



One Great Hour of Sharing

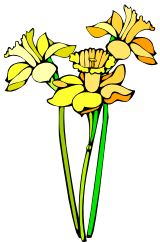
"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have."
—Hebrews 13:16a



When we share from what we have, God blesses that sharing. While most of the world's people in greatest need live far from us, we can still respond to God's call with our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

- Offering hospitality with a temporary home for people fleeing war or natural disaster, allowing them to have shelter and support to begin rebuilding their lives.
- Doing good by providing a clean cup of water to a thirsty young girl, by establishing wells and sanitation systems in her community.
- Sharing what we have so that hungry people will have food, by teaching sustainable methods of agriculture that help families increase their yields and their income.

Contributions for One Great Hour of Sharing will be received during March.



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April issue of *Connections* is Monday, March 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

Dearest St. Peter's Family,

I would like to personally invite you to attend Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company's performances of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, April 3-6, 2008, at the Virginia Theatre.

This is my first CUTC show and it is my all time favorite musical...well...rock opera. Not only is the music awesome, the story is what matters most. As a child and teenager, listening to my mom and dad's 1970s record LP and watching the 1973 movie, *Jesus Christ Superstar* was one of my first real glimpses of Jesus as a man and Savior and of course, I fell in love with the music, dancing, sets and costumes.

Ticket Prices are Adult \$19, Senior 55+ \$17, Student with ID \$17, Child 12 and under \$6. Groups of 15 or more get a 10% discount.

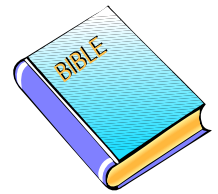
Patty Dudley from 91.7 FM WBGL, Nigel Knop from St. Peter's and Clinton Dodds from Savoy United Methodist Church are in the show. It is an honor for me to be in this cast and it is a prayer answered to be part of a witnessing tool that is just so incredibly cool!

In Christian Love,
Lisa Lynch



March Liturgists

- 2 Carolyn Hamrick
- 9 Fern Eheart
- 16 Omer Benn
- 23 Melissa Records
- 30 Mark Muller



March Ushers

Carolyn Hamrick
Mark Sterrett
Maurine Sterrett

Ann Swearingen
Richard Swearingen
Evelyn Weber

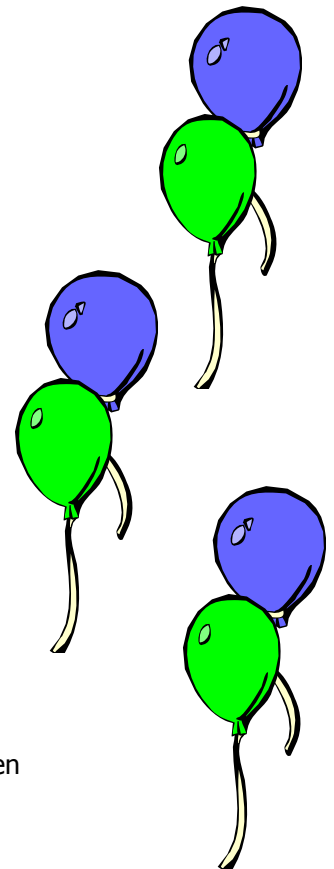


March Anniversaries

- 18 Larry and Marguerite Zahnd (1972)
- 19 Tim and Tamara McArdle (2005)

March Birthdays

- 1 Robin Limp
Ian Stahl
- 4 Jessie Dereng
Andy Eheart
- 6 Al Shoudel
Shirley Casey
- 9 Joyce Trost
Jennifer Foster
- 10 Dorothy Zahnd
Sierra Marcum
- 11 Mike Lehmann
Erin Durukan
- 12 Maurine Sterrett
- 13 LiAnne Kitchen
Mike Berbaum
- 14 Kellie Dahl
- 15 Sarah Malone
- 16 McKenzie Marcum
- 17 Marilyn Rayburn
- 18 Rhonda Shoudel
- 24 Betty Voigtlander
- 25 Charles Luer
- 26 Sharon Van Grinsven
- 28 Paul Hemp
- 31 Fern Eheart
Kris McCarthy



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!

