



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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May 2008

A Note from the Pastor

Somehow, **Thank You**, even if written in several different languages and in much larger letters, seems inadequate to express my deep and heartfelt appreciation for the wonderful way you helped to celebrate my birthday last Sunday. Thank you for the cards, for the special tokens of caring, for the hugs and best wishes. You are indeed a caring congregation!

Some of you have expressed concern about having a Pastor who does not live locally and I would like to share some of my experiences with you. Every once-in-awhile



I have an occasion to tell folks that Willie Nelson and I have something in common. Our theme song is "On the Road Again." In my 23 years of ministry experience, I have served churches in Beardstown

(twice), Galesburg, Pekin, Paxton, and Kewanee as well as at St. Peter's. In Beardstown, we lived in their parsonage for three years and occasionally traveled home to check on things. In Paxton, I had living arrangements similar to St. Peter's for a little over two years. The rest of my ministry has been spent on the road back and forth between the churches I served and our home in Pekin. Responding to emergencies and staying away from home much longer than the usual work day has never been a problem in my experience. Actually, I have found the travel time to be good "thinking time." Many sermons and other activities have come to life as I traveled "On the Road Again." I hope that my experiences will be encouraging to you as you interact with the pastoral candidate.

I see St. Peter's UCC at the edge of a bright new future. A number of folks have expressed interest in joining St. Peter's. We have an active church – small in numbers in some activities, but enthusiastic and growing in faith. Our attendance at worship has almost doubled since last June. Our Boards and Committees are thinking ahead with confidence. The Holy Spirit is at work in our midst and God is still speaking – to us and through us.

In Christian love,

Pastor Betty Hornback



A "Note" of Appreciation!

On April 20 we had the wonderful experience of being surrounded in worship by the beautiful music of The Chorale under the direction of Julie Beyler.

Singing with The Chorale is our own Bonnie Taylor and her mother, Betty Lacey. Mark Muller will be singing with The Chorale for a portion of their concert on May 4, 4:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 210 W. Church Street, Urbana. You won't want to miss this!

And the Music Goes On . . .

Juliane Sharp and the dedicated members of our Choir have enhanced our worship with outstanding anthems and special music this year. **Please be sure to thank them for it!**

Juliane and the Choir will continue to provide anthems on first Sundays during the summer months and other musical activities are in the planning stages.

We are indeed blessed to have such a dedicated musical team in Juliane, Teresa Kang and our Choir for the coming year and foreseeable future.

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).

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.



Friends from the WINN Pet Blessing

Left to right: Chloe (African pigmy hedgehog); Olivia and Elliott (Degus, a rodent from Chile)



*A "high five" of affirmation –
Pastor Betty Hornback and
Jason Jewett*

Our Newest Member

On Sunday, April 13, during the Sunday School hour, Jason Alan Jewett reaffirmed his baptismal vows in the Rite of Confirmation in the presence of his Family, Consistory members and his Sunday School and WINN friends. Jason's Statement of Faith, in his own words, is printed below.

Thank you to the Board of Christian Education for providing a lovely reception for Jason after worship.

If you are not a member and have been considering membership in St. Peter's UCC, please contact the church office and/or Pastor Betty to discuss this.



Confirmation Joy
*Barb Jewett, Pastor Betty, Jason Jewett, Jeff
Jewett, Jessica Jewett*

Jason Alan Jewett, A Statement of Faith

The first book of the bible is Genesis. God created the heavens and the earth. He also created us in his image. He created light and darkness and animals and plants and fishes. He created stars, sun, moon. And all the wellnesses. He rested after six days of work. He had a big job to accomplish. He made Adam and then Eve from his rib. The garden was good and then satan tempted them with an apple and they sinned.

Moses went to the mountain and God told him to write down what he said. He talked to the burning bush of fire. Moses wrote it down on stone. Then he went back to show his people. Do not kill, steal, commit adultery, respect your parents, on the Sabbath Day rest and worship Jesus. There are 10 commandments. No false witness and worship no other god before me — idol worship is not good.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are in the new part of the bible called the New Testament. They are called the four gospels. I like time to read them with Dad before bed.

About God and Jesus: God is my Lord and Savior. God is in heaven with his son, Jesus. God does everything — especially loves me. He made me and you. Jesus died because we sinned. That shows God's love.

Church = My friends and God. Why we come here: In church we pray, listen to Betty, sing with friends, eat. We have liturgy – worship – choir sings – offering – communion – grape juice and bread. I wish the songs were not so slow. God speaks to us through the actions of people and what they say. The Church is all the people who are Christians all around the world. Church means belonging to the Lord.

Why I want to be confirmed and what it means: So I will be a member of the Church and show my belief in God to everyone. I want to follow the teachings of Jesus. I want to have a church to call my own. The Holy Spirit helps me understand and listen for the voice that helps me to understand what's going on.

A Note from Pastor Betty

In response to a question to the Sunday School children last winter about what gift they would give to Jesus, Jason's answer was, "My heart." That told me that there was a depth to Jason's faith that we needed to explore to determine his readiness for Confirmation. Over several months Jason, his parents and I worked to unlock and communicate the significant fund of biblical and faith knowledge within Jason in ways that could be demonstrated to others. The above Statement of Faith is in Jason's own words and represents a portion of our class discussions. Jason affirmed his baptismal vows during the Sunday School hour on April 13, 2008.

WINN Blesses Pets

On April 9 the Fellowship Hall was alive with friendly barks and the sound of scurrying feet as the WINN folks brought their pets for blessing.

Blessing of Animals is a long-time tradition in some churches which usually is associated with St. Francis of Assisi's love for all animals. It is frequently held in October, however WINN chose April.

Included in our Pet Blessing were: Chloe, an African pigmy hedgehog, Pierre, a papillon dog and Mazie, A shih-Tsu dog, pets of



Erin Durukan and Family; Sadie, a miniature Dachund brought by **Bobbi Burr and "Aunt" Bonnie Joop;** Keisha, a chocolate Labrador pet of

Jason Jewett and Family; and Olivia and Elliott, Degus (a rodent from Chile), and Briscoe and Munch, Lab-mix dogs who live in the home of **Nick and Jocelyn Voss.** It was a most interesting evening!

Congratulations Marguerite!



Marguerite Zahnd has been selected to receive an award for being one of the "Top 20 Women of East Central Illinois You Should Know." This competition was co-sponsored by the Illini Radio Group (WLRW, WIXY, WCFE, WXTT) and Provena Medical

Center. Marguerite was nominated by the Farm Bureau and was among 1000 entrants. She will receive her award on April 23 at the "Working Women's Expo" at the Holiday Inn, Urbana. Among her accomplishments cited was her work with the Farm Bureau including the cakes for military project, her church work, farming experience with husband Larry and her support of "Leaders to Washington, DC".

Coming This Fall to a Book Shelf Near You . . .

Over the summer months Gladys Hemp will be reorganizing the church library to be more user-friendly. You will still be able to check out books this summer if you wish. Thank you, Gladys, for this labor of love.



Spring Clean-Up

Many members and friends of St. Peter's UCC demonstrate their love and care for our church by pitching in to help out with tasks like church dinners, decorating the sanctuary for special occasions, participating on committees and boards, serving as greeters, ushers, liturgists, taking care of the kitchen, and the library, . . .the list goes on and on . . . AND seasonal clean-up.



Participants in the Spring Clean-Up on April 19 were: Jim Acheson, Jeff Jewett, Mark Muller, Mark Williams, George Malloch, Kurt and Fern Eheart.

An additional Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for April 26. Thank you to all of you!

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the June issue of *Connections* is Thursday, May 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!



Coming in May

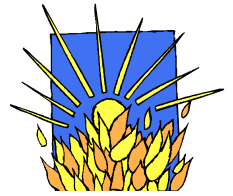
Sunday, May 4

10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17: 1-11
4:00 p.m. Spring Concert by The Chorale
First United Methodist Church
210 W. Church Street, Champaign



Sunday, May 11 – Pentecost

Festival of the Christian Home/Family
Mother's Day
10:00 a.m. Worship
Acts 2:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:3-13; John 20:19-23
Last Sunday for Choir until fall



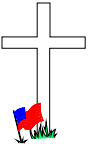
Sunday, May 18 – Trinity Sunday

Praise-Focused Worship
10:00 a.m. Worship
Genesis 1:1-2:4; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20



Sunday, May 25 – Memorial Day Weekend

10:00 a.m. Worship
Isaiah 49:8-16; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34



Invite someone to attend worship with you!

Thank You to . . .

- ✧ Gladys Hemp for assisting with the newsletter mailing and the mailing from the Search Committee.
- ✧ Ed Kobel for being Mr. Fix-It around the church and keeping the boiler going this past winter.
- ✧ Kurt and Fern Eheart for doing a great Spring Clean-Up in the parsonage yard on April 13.
- ✧ Carol and Janet Martin for keeping the church clean and looking good.
- ✧ The Pastoral Search Committee for their diligence and hard work going through the process of selecting a candidate for the "Settled Pastor" position.



Recycling

In an effort to do our part toward being environmentally friendly, St. Peter's is once again 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!

Consistory Highlights – April

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



- All church organization's funds will be incorporated into the church accounting system.
- It was decided that Mr. Wray be allowed to use the parsonage garden again this year.
- Vacation time for the office manager will be increased by three days at five years of service and two more additional days at seven years.
- Parking lot usage by Westview School is a public service.
- It was announced that an attractive railing will be placed on each side of the Chancel steps to assist those who need help in climbing the steps.
- Building use requests were reviewed.
- Ways to transport church members who no longer drive but who would like to attend was discussed.
- Sunday School will most likely be over on Mother's Day. Mother's Day will be used to honor all families in the church, not just the mothers. The last day of WINN for the season will be April 16. A Celebrate Music and Arts Sunday will be held on April 27. Pastor Betty will ask the Stitches to display some of their work. The children will create posters to detail what they have learned this year. Art projects by the members will be welcome.
- The Memorial Committee is looking into repairing or replacing the chancel chairs for the minister and the liturgist.
- The Pastoral Search Committee announced that Rev. Hill has accepted St. Peter's counter compensation proposal. All church members are encouraged to attend the "Meet and Greet" reception on April 26.
- The Stewardship Committee announced that two members will attend a meeting concerning stewardship ideas.
- The treasurer reported that receipts had increased this month creating an improved financial state. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

WINN Winds up for the Season

For their last meeting of the spring, WINN participants enjoyed dinner out at Papa George's on Wednesday, April 23. Certificates and gifts of appreciation were distributed.



With Sympathy

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with:

- ☞ Ed and Carolyn Hamrick on the death of Ed's sister, Mary, in Michigan.
- ☞ Brenda Emkes and her Family on the death of her father, Byron Nourie. Condolences may be sent to: Brenda Emkes, 714 W. Vine, Champaign, IL 61820. Phone: 217-637-1471.
- ☞ Kitty Hallett and her Family on the death of her father, Harrison Cornell.



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.

"Encore"

A Choral Festival with Dr. Craig Jessop

Sunday, May 4, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 210 W. Church Street, Champaign

Don't miss The Chorale's Annual Young Artist Scholarship concert featuring an encore performance with Dr. Craig Jessop, Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The Chorale and founding director, Julie Beyler, celebrate their 25th anniversary season by featuring favorite music from their library and outstanding performances by the 2008 scholarship winner and former scholarship recipients. Under the direction of Dr. Jessop, The Chorale will perform John Rutter's "Gloria". A Festival Chorus and Orchestra, under Dr. Jessop's direction, will perform music chosen from the Tabernacle Choir's summer 2007 touring repertoire. Selections include "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", "How Can I Keep From Singing" and "Bring Him Home" from *Les Miserables*. The concert is free to the public. Donations to The Chorale's Scholarship Fund are gratefully received. For more information, visit www.thechorale.org or call 217-586-2970.



Historian's Corner

In the Saturday, April 19, 2008 *News-Gazette*, this little piece of St. Peter's history was noted in the Area History for 100 years ago.

In 1908, some contemptible rascal without the fear of the Lord in his heart stole \$30 of the communion money from Rev. H. F. Mueller, pastor of St. Peter's German Evangelical Church, on Sunday. The theft was committed while the minister and Mrs. Mueller were at the evening service, between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.



Church Mailbag

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you on behalf of our campers and families for your donation. We will put it to good use providing comfort, safety, and enjoyment to some of our community's most fragile and special people.

As you probably know, Camp New Hope has a campground on Lake Mattoon that serves people who have developmental disabilities. We use all resources we get to help our kids and families. We have a summer camp, a bowling program, and we have a Respite program, where we care for people who have disabilities for the whole weekend. Respite gives people a break from the full time care of another person. It also gives the child with the disability a break from their parents and a chance to be with friends and have fun.

We appreciate the interest you have shown in our programs and your good wishes. Sincerely,

Kim Carmack, Executive Director
Camp New Hope

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. The Farm Bureau Women's Committee would once again like to thank the church for the use of their ovens and kitchen.

The ovens were a real blessing to us, so we could make a lot of cakes at one time and send to our military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The only way we have been able to touch so many lives is because of clubs, churches, business and individual support.

May God Bless you and your church and may God Bless America!



Thank you again,
Champaign County Farm Bureau Women

May Ushers

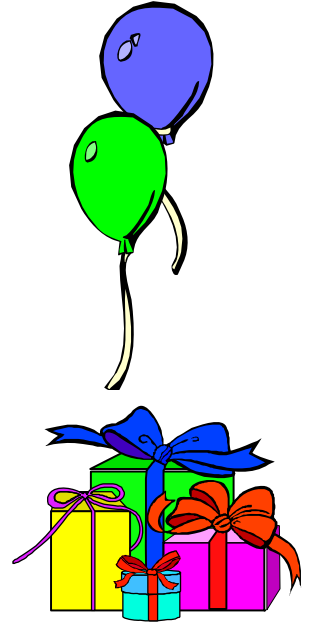
Jill Acheson
Jim Acheson

Bernice Benn
Omer Benn
Mildred Luther

Al Shoudel
Jim Tarr

May Birthdays

2 Jim Voigtlander
Elizabeth Milan
6 Mary Casey
7 Judith Maloney
Adam Malone
8 Grace Woller
Betty Myers
10 Jason Jewett
15 Jerry Hoffman
21 Felice Rhodes
Jim Tarr
23 Eloise Heller
24 Amanda Burr
25 Gary Hollen
Kim Brown
26 Sandy Williams
Tristan Bishop
27 Linda McCarthy
29 Bernice Benn
31 Deborah Malone



May Anniversaries



18 J. C. and Lisa Lynch (2002)
Bonnie and Jeff Taylor (1996)
20 Al and Rhonda Shoudel (1978)
21 Mark and Sandy Williams (1994)
24 Jim and Doris Hershbarger (1947)

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!

Happy Spring!

