



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

905 S. Russell Street
Champaign, IL 61821
217-356-3635

E-mail: office@stpetersucc.com
www.stpetersucc.com



January 2010



It's the New Year!

Let's move on from Christmas into the new seasons!

Every available hand would be appreciated after church on January 10 to do our "Christmas Take Down". Like families, we seem to have a tradition of going out to eat together after everything is put away! Many hands make light work . . . and then we can enjoy a pizza or salad at the Village Inn . . . come and join us! Sign up on the bulletin board . . . Village Inn would like to know if we have 10 or 25 coming.

January 20 – Family Movie Night! 5:30 p.m. as usual at the church . . . we will watch the movie *Up*, which has been highly recommended by our children. The movie is for all ages so come and join us for popcorn and treats as we enjoy the movie together. Bring your own meal to eat at 5:30 p.m. first.



Bible Study!

Sundays: January 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 and Wednesdays: January 6, 13 and 27 we will push forward through our book. Pastor Laurie would like us to be done by Lent, (starts February 17), so we need to get past the first two chapters. We'll start on Chapter 3 in the New Year!

No More Mayberry!

Sad? Don't be, cuz if ya are, Granny Clampett will get after ya! We'll start on the Beverly Hillbillies at 7 p.m. on January



19. Come and enjoy this old show and then we'll discuss the value that it has for our lives, even in this here day and age! Bring some viddles to share . . . sweet ones, ya hear?

Welcome New Members!

In December and January, we have welcomed Mark and Shari Schultz and Robert Flynn to our church family. It's a joy to expand our membership at any time!

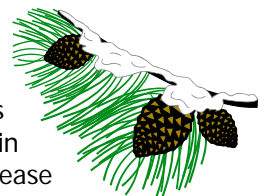
Mark and Shari are the proud parents of our beloved Sam. Shari is the proud mother of our beloved Nick Voss, as well.

Bobby Flynn is married to Shirley (Kuhlman) Flynn. Shirley and her sister Mary and brother Herman, grew up, were baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's. You may remember that their mother, Marie, passed away this last year. Pastor Laurie was overjoyed to baptize Bobby on Christmas Eve.

If anyone is ever interested in joining the church and/or knowing more about the church, please contact Pastor Laurie.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February issue of *Connections* is Friday, January 15. Please submit articles to the Church Office or leave them in the Office Manager's mailbox. Please include your name and phone number. Thank you!



Annual Report Submissions

Committee Chairs, it's the time again in the year where we need to start gathering your submissions for the 2009 annual report. Your submission should include: members of your committee, goals for 2009, activities and successes of 2009, and any goals you may have for 2010. If you need any guidance on your report don't hesitate to contact us and we can help make sure you cover all the essentials! Please submit your reports to the Church and Ministry Committee no later than January 17, 2010. Thanks!



Church and Ministry Committee

Nick Voss, Ann Swearingen,

Fern Eheart, Gary Hollen, Jeff Jewett

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

The trees come down, the stockings are emptied, and the resolutions for health and happiness all have been made this first month of the new year and the turn of a new decade. Hope abounds! Even though all the beauty of the season of Christmas is over, our hearts still hold fast to the joy and expectations that the Christ child brings into our lives. We have abundant hope for 2010. Most hope for health and well-being for all their loved ones and themselves. Our hopes are realized through our promises for changing our lives and so many of us make resolutions to live a healthier life . . . loose or gain weight, exercise and eat healthy foods.

For 2010, we as a congregation can hope, as well. As your pastor, I too, hope for the health and well-being of this body of Christ! And so let's make some resolutions together! Let's gain some weight! I'd love for us to find those in our church family and the friends in our lives that do not have a church home and then bring them in to our family. As I've said before, "Programs attract people; relationships keep people." I would like everyone to think of a program or event or situation of any kind that would bring people us. I think our church family is so welcoming now that we would embrace newcomers with arms! Let's especially be in thought and prayer on the younger (under 40) population of our congregation. If you think of any ways we can meet the needs of 20 and 30 somethings . . . I'm listening!

And let's exercise! Just like a regular body . . . the body of Christ needs to work some muscles! We need to make sure our body is fit and strong. I, as your "spiritual" personal trainer, say that there are two ways for us to get very fit! First, serve. Find a way, even if that way is "out of the ordinary" to bring a smile, a need, a hope, a feeling of being loved . . . to someone. I was taking a walk the other day, and passing cars that had a light covering of snow on them. I drew a "smiley" face on each one. This isn't much, but it's one more thing to bring, perhaps, a little tiny ray of happiness to someone . . . of course, it's not enough by itself. We need to find a way to bring God to people's lives in new and different ways. And my second way to tell you to get fit is to PRAY!!! Pray CONSTANTLY!!!! Pray all day long . . . have an ongoing conversation . . . talking and listening to God. You don't have to use fancy words . . . you don't actually have to use words, at all . . . just turn your heart towards God . . . acknowledge His presence in your life . . . be aware that God is always, always with you. Listen and watch for His guidance, His words of wisdom, His love. What we can't think of on our own, God will and God won't hesitate to share ideas and vision, (even if it's drawing smiley faces in the snow).

And then, of course, we need to eat well. Eating well, in spiritual terms, doesn't mean making more cookies for fellowship hour and snitching five on the way to church. It means feeding your soul with the study of Scripture, devoted and meaningful worship and meditation on new ideas (a.k.a. learning). That's what you might expect a pastor, or spiritual personal trainer to say . . . but you know what? I am also going to challenge you to NOT watch on tv things that make your soul afraid or dark. Choose wisely the things you watch, the things you read, the conclusions you come to about the state of the world . . . the words that come out of your mouth, if they are words of despair, negativity, doom and gloom, hopelessness . . . are not going to be God's words of holiness and hope!

So, there you have it from your pastor . . . New Year's Resolutions for our body of Christ . . . Christ is our leader, our pastor, our guidance, our authority! Let us grow in faith, serve God and pray, and surround ourselves with holiness this, a new year, the first in yet another decade in which we are invited to live! And live well! Happy New Year!

Peace, Pastor Laurie

Shhhh! It's a Secret!



What a blessing it has been to have Zachary Carretin as our music director for the last year and a half. January 31 will be our last Sunday with him in our employ, although he promises to come back for cameo appearances before he and Mina leave town in the summer or fall for their new adventures. He will be sorely missed but we are grateful to God and him for the time we had together. The Music Committee would like to sponsor a love offering in the month of January. Envelopes for that reason will appear in the pews as they have before, or you can send in your gift, (checks payable to St. Peter's UCC, designated love offering). We will also have a special reception after church for Zachary and Mina. Please plan to stay and give them a fond farewell.

In Memoriam



In our thoughts and prayers this holiday season is the family of a longtime St. Peter's Church member.

Glenda Ursula Smith passed from this life to life eternal on December 15 2009 at the age of 92. Glenda was born October 19, 1917, in Urbana, a daughter of Maude and Carroll R. Guard. She graduated from Urbana High School. She married Ernest Smith of Champaign, on January 10, 1937, in Urbana. He preceded her in death.



Glenda will be most remembered as a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She devoted her life to her family and helping her husband start Smith's Linoleum Shop in the garage behind their home in 1952.

She loved working with customers, and in 1955 with her husband, and three partners they formed Tile Specialists Inc. She still came to work several times a week until about 10 years ago.

The past several years she made her home at Bickford Assisted Living in Champaign.

She was active in the Optimist Club of Champaign-Urbana for many years. She and her husband were loyal and avid Illini fans and

members of the Illini Quarterback Club. She was a member of St. Peter's United Church of Christ. She was greatly loved and will be missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by two sons, Karl (Linda) Smith of Champaign and Bob (Shirelly) Smith of Sidney; five grandchildren, Marty (Michele) Smith, Sandi (Bryan) Snyder, Rob (Marcie) Smith, Debi (Rob) Danner, Margi (Jim) Eldridge; 15 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

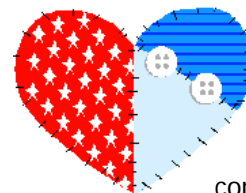
Endowment Committee Announces Gifts

The Endowment Committee, supported by a Consistory vote, is pleased to announce that gifts to the following organizations have been sent: Champaign County Christian Health Center – \$500, Emmaus Homes – \$500, Salt and Light – \$1,000. In addition, the committee agreed to give \$1,000 to the front door project. The Endowment Committee is authorized to spend interest earned on its investments during the year. These gifts are for the year 2008. Gifts for 2009 will be awarded in January.

Women's Fellowship News

The membership authorized increasing gifts to local charities from \$100 to \$200 at its November meeting. These organizations include the following: A Woman's Place, Habitat for Humanity, Restoration Ministries, Empty Tomb, Salt and Light, Champaign County Christian Health Center and Emmaus Home. A budget for 2010 was approved in the amount of \$6,880. The Chicken Noodle Dinner netted a profit of \$2,471.25. At the Craft Fair, the Stitchers earned \$941.24 and the cookies \$297.30. Ten chairs with arms have been purchased from stocks, Inc. for \$350. The remaining chairs will be stackable. Boots Federhart is working with the Memorial Committee to replace the sofa and chairs in the lounge.

Gladys Hemp, Treasurer



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



C-U at the Virginia . . .

Make it a Date – with The Chorale!

Celebrate New Year’s Eve! Spend the evening with The Chorale at the 19th annual “C-U at the Virginia”. This year’s celebration, “On Broadway”, features The Chorale under the direction of Julie Beyler, singing songs from Broadway such as “If I Loved You”, “The Phantom of the Opera Medley”, “As Time Goes By”, “Consider Yourself” and “New York, New York”. In addition to The Chorale, local guest artists, Molly Netter, Tyler Stein, Abby Burgett Crull and Caitlin Caruso Dobbs will also be singing Broadway favorites. And of course, Dan Perrino will lead the sing-along. Proceeds help fund the Young Artist Scholarship Program. You won’t want to miss a fun evening filled with great music – New Year’s Eve, 7:00 p.m. at the Virginia Theatre. Tickets available at the theatre box office, 356-9063.

January Ushers

Jill Acheson	Bernice Benn	Al Shoudel
Jim Acheson	Omer Benn	Dixie Thornhill

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 Hoffman
- 8 Doris Hershbarger
Nancy Rabe
- 9 Lloyd Phipps
- 10 Sophia Kasper
- 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
- 15 Jeffrey Beightler
- 26 Sally Martinie
Jeff Jewett
Shari Schultz
- 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 office@stpetersucc.com. Thanks for your help!

January



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>New Year's Day</i> Office Closed	2
3 9 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship Communion <i>Epiphany Celebration</i>	4 6 p.m. Worship Committee	5 9 a.m. Stitches 9 a.m. Weight Loss Support Group	6 <i>Epiphany</i> 6 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 	7 10 a.m. Sunrise Clergy Cluster	8	9
10 9 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship	11 Carpet Stretching 5:30 p.m. Church & Ministry 6:30 p.m. Missions & Stewardship	12 9 a.m. Stitches 9 a.m. Weight Loss Support Group 6 p.m. Building & Grounds	13 6 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	14 6-9 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	15 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	16
17 9 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship	18 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> Office Closed 6 p.m. Consistory	19 9 a.m. Stitches 9 a.m. Weight Loss Support Group 7 p.m. Beverly Hills Bible Study	20 5:30 p.m. Family Movie Night "Up" 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	21 5 p.m. Craft Club	22	23
24 9 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship	25	26 9 a.m. Stitches 9 a.m. Weight Loss Support Group 1:30 p.m. Tuesday Circle	27 6 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	28 6-9 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	29	30
31 9 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship						

Friday/Saturday – Pastor's days off

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905 South Russell Street
Champaign, Illinois 61821-4419

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



NEWSLETTER

Church Office Phone: (217) 356-3635

Church website: <http://www.stpetersucc.com>

Email: office@stpetersucc.com

Office hours: Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Voicemail available after hours

Parish Nurse Phone: (217) 356-3467

Flexible hours. Will arrange meetings by appointment.

Confidential answering machine is available.

Church Staff

Pastor
Office Manager
Parish Nurse
Choir Director
Organist
Custodian

Laurie H. Hill
Bonnie S. Taylor
LiAnne Kitchen
Zachary Carrettin
Chris Holman
Carol Martin

Newsletter Staff

Editor and Layout
Historian

Bonnie S. Taylor
Virginia Zindars

Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship