



**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



## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Well, our one year anniversary is almost here!!! And I don't know about you, but I'm still feeling like it's our honeymoon! Can we have this honeymoon last and last and last??? Oh, sure . . . by now, we know each other better, so we know we aren't perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but we seem to be working well together to do God's ministry here in this place. I will continue to serve God here to the best of my ability and if you will do likewise, we can't ask for anything more than that, right???

If it were only that easy. Relationships are not easy. They are always a challenge, even when they are wonderful. Steve, my beloved husband, drives me nuts, but you know what? I drive myself nuts sometimes!!! Here are some things, if we can remember to do them, that will keep us all happy and healthy in our relationship.

#1: MOST IMPORTANT: Love God with all your heart, mind, and soul. How do we show God our love? I wish I had a pithy theological essay for you, but it's really quite simple: worship, prayer and service. Be the person God created you to be. Someone recently told me that I didn't have to buy gifts for every little thing to express appreciation. I smiled to myself. If Steve would've been standing next to me, he would've said, "Yes she does ... that's who she is." It's the way God has created me and the way I express my love to God, by sharing gifts with God and with each other. What gift will you give God today?

#2: SECOND MOST IMPORTANT: Love each other as you love yourself. Yep! The Golden Rule! It's timeless and incredibly important. We are the United Church of Christ. This means we always will have dissent amongst us on issues. But, one issue we cannot disagree on is that Jesus came to make sure that we understand love is more important than righteousness. A loving act is more important than being "right" . . . hard to swallow but true. Sometimes they are the same thing . . . loving and being right, but not always. As I've heard tell before: When we get to those infamous pearly gates, no one will be asking us "how many times have you been right?" but God will be counting how well we loved others.

#3: There is no number three! Or four. Or five. Or ten. Because everything we say and do in life goes back to those two most important commandments from the Old and the New Testaments!!! When there is strife, love your enemies. When you feel lost, lonely, afraid, and/or confused and frustrated, go back to number one . . . show God love and God's presence will comfort you.

Church life is sometimes confusing, sometimes frustrating, sometimes angering, sometimes hurtful . . . but it's also loving, caring, and supportive in ways that no other place on earth is!!! We are God's people and we're in this together. Thanks for a great year! Peace!

*Pastor Laurie*



## Summer Worship

July 5 — David becomes King! We will celebrate the Lord's Supper and our freedom.

July 12 — The "OTHER" Rev. Hill preaches!!

July 19 — David offers "Wild Worship" to God!

July 26 — The Feeding of the 5000. Please bring at least 75 people to church so we can practice!

## Save the Dates

August 2 — Outdoor Worship!

August 30 — Blessing of Backpacks and Lesson Plans

September 13 — Rally Day

September 20 — Rev. Phil Hart, Illinois Conference Minister Preaching

## Sunday Morning Hot Topics

July 5 — Prayer in Schools?

July 12 — No class (Laurie & husband switching pulpits)

July 19 — Sexual Orientation Issues, Part 1

July 26 — Sexual Orientation Issues, Part 2

August 2 — No class (outdoor worship)

## Church World Service Kits Project

Church World Service Kits are small packages of supplies assembled by volunteers and shipped to people in need around the world.

CWS provides School Kits, Hygiene Kits, Baby Kits, and Emergency Clean-up Buckets. The contents of each kit have been selected with care based on years of experience to make them as useful as possible, wherever and whenever they are sent.

This year, St. Peter's is participating in the CWS Kits Project by providing School Kits and Emergency Clean-up Buckets. If you would like to contribute to the Kits Project, please bring your donations (from the lists provided) to the Church. We will collect items for the kits throughout the summer. Items may be placed in the tub near the Food Box. Monetary contributions are also welcome and may either be placed in the collection during worship or mailed to the Church Office. Please mark your donation for either School Kit or Emergency Bucket.



### School Kit

School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning.

- one pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- three 70-count spiral or tape-bound pads of 8" x 10½" ruled paper or pads with 200-210 sheets of ruled paper. (Please do not provide loose-leaf or filler paper.)
- one 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- one hand-held pencil sharpener
- one large eraser
- six new pencils with erasers
- one box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- one 12" x 14" to 14" x 16" finished size cotton cloth bag with cloth handles



### Emergency Clean-up Bucket

(Buckets will be provided by the Church.) These supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other disaster here in the United States.

- five scouring pads
- seven sponges, assorted sizes
- one scrub brush
- eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes)
- one 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent
- one 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol)
- one 25 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn)
- fifty clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- five dusk masks
- two pairs heavy latex gloves (like Playtex)
- one pair work gloves
- 24-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon)
- one 6-14 oz. bottle of insect repellent (drops or lotion, not aerosol)

Please purchase all liquids in plastic bottles. Be sure to send only new, unopened materials.

## Come and Swin at the Zahnd Pond!

July 8, 5:30-7:30ish. Bring your own meal. Dessert and lemonade will be provided. Everyone invited!! Please RSVP to the Church Office or on the bulletin board.



### Save the Date

Bowling at Old Orchard Lanes: August 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m. More information forthcoming.

## Wednesday Night Adult Discussion Groups!

Attendance at earlier classes is not needed . . . just come and enjoy!

July 1 — Mayberry Class #2, "Class Reunion": A Peace of the Past. Bring a snack to share and your own beverages.

July 15 — Movie Discussion Night at Bill and Mary Limp's house, 3508 Roxford Drive, Champaign. Please sign up on the bulletin board!



July 22 — Mayberry Class #3, "Dogs, Dogs, Dogs": Begging for Mercy

## Cards for the Troops

A "Cards for the Troops" event will be hosted by Shirley Casey in honor of Nicci Shoudel and David Wentz in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 18. We will be making "Thank You" cards for the troops as well as packages of cards they can use to send back to their loved ones. No previous experience needed. All supplies will be provided and the cards will be pre-cut. Light refreshments will be served, door prizes will be given away every half hour and all who attend will get a special pin! Come help us stamp them and put them together! If you have any questions, contact Shirley Casey at 356-1956 or shirleystamps4u@comcast.net.



## Happy Anniversary Clayborn and Irene!

You're invited to help Clayborn and Irene Lofton celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Please join the Loftons for an Open House from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 5 at their home, 2305 Rebecca Drive in Champaign.

## A Great Swamp Experience!



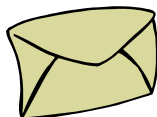
Was had by one and all as we journeyed through the Old Testament stories of Moses and the burning bush, the challenge of Pharaoh's resistance to letting the Hebrew slaves go, and the parting of the Red Sea!!! We had great fun acting out stories, making crafts, watching a video, singing and dancing, and eating!!! **Thanks** to our two directors, Amy Durukan and Rhonda Shoude! Thanks to our song leader: Kymberly McCarthy. Thanks to Jocelyn for being the best master of ceremonies at "Dock Drive-in". Thanks to Carolyn Yoos with Stu as moral support as she did the "Grand Finale". Thanks to Mark Williams who played Pharaoh and an Egyptian Soldier for me at the Bible Bayou. Thanks to Al for being willing to mist the kids with water as they went through the Red Sea! Thanks to Carolyn Hamrick and Gladys Hemp for delicious meals and snacks every night. Thanks to Nick Voss and Melissa Records for being our "tech team" (check out the website and our Facebook page!) Thanks to Bonnie Taylor for being our very own print shop!



Thanks to a few other support people that helped from time to time to fill in the edges: Bobbie Burr, Bonnie Joop. **The kids who attended were our own kids and their friends and family:** Carolina Barnhard, who brought with her Sydney and Hannah. Erin Durukan who brought friends, Emma and Bess. Of course, Sam was there! And Roy Yoos. And we had some delightful children from the neighborhood: Gilly and Piper, who we enjoyed immensely. Their older sister, Ally, was a HUGE help!!!! She played Shepherd to the kids, making sure they got from one place to the next each night! After a bit of a break, we will be so looking forward to VBS 2010!!!

## 2009 Mid-Year Giving Statements

Mid-Year Giving Statements will be available after July 1 to be picked up from the box in the Narthex. If you do not find your statement or you have questions regarding the information, please contact Bonnie in the Church Office.



## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the August issue of *Connections* is Wednesday, July 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!



## A "Sweet" Thank You

Thank you to all who attended the Tuesday Circle sponsored Strawberry Festival and shared their wonderful covered dishes. We had a beautiful day, celebrated Teresa Kang's music ministry with St. Peter's and enjoyed good fellowship. I want to especially thank Carolyn Hamrick and Phyllis Jones for helping in the preparation of the food on Saturday and setup of the tables. Another thank you goes to the cleanup crew: Carolyn Hamrick, Celeste Honn, Phyllis Jones and Patty Kobel. I hope you all enjoyed the strawberries!

*Ann Swearingen, Chair*

## Remember the Food Box!

I'm sure you want to help feed the needy, and I'm sure you know that winter is not the only time people need extra food. In our economy, there is a growing need for extra help! So, all we have to do is share our abundance and remember!



And how does one do that? How can we remember to #1: Buy extra food for the food box? And #2: After we have it, to bring it to church?

10 Ideas to help you remember:

- Put a sticky note in your car.
- Tie a string around your finger.
- Decide what you will wear to church early in the week and put a note on the outfit.
- Call your voicemail and remind yourself.
- Send yourself an email.
- Write it in your appointment calendar.
- Buy paper goods and/or nonperishables and leave them in your car all week so they are there for Sunday.
- Ask a friend from church to call and remind you.
- Pray about world hunger every single day!
- Pretend you're having company on Sunday for brunch . . . bring the food to church, instead.

## Church Mailbag



*Dear St. Peter's Family,*

*Thank you so much for your support and encouragement during my treatment for breast cancer. I am really touched by all that I've received — the wonderful food, cards, flowers, help with chores and warm hugs that let me know you care. It really has made so much difference to me. And more importantly, it has truly given me a shining example of God's love expressed through the church. I've learned a lot from you.*

*Melissa Records  
(continued)*

*Just wanted to say a big thank you for the card. . . . I really appreciate receiving it. I always looked forward to the Mondays and working with Patty and Paul. . . . In the "old" days, I always enjoyed seeing the people at St. Peter's on Sunday mornings. They were and still are great folks. Thanks again for thinking of me.*

Ken Baumann



St. Peter's member, **Vera Wachter** is turning 90! Vera was born July 19, 1919 in Rock Rapids, Iowa, the daughter of an Evangelical and Reformed minister. Her family moved several times as she was growing up, moving when she was two to the Chicago area.

While living in Geneseo, Illinois, she was confirmed in the Evangelical and Reformed Church, later graduating from Geneseo High School in 1936. Vera then attended the University of Illinois in Urbana, graduating in 1940 with a bachelor's degree in home economics.

After college, Vera joined the Army Medical Corp for two years as a medical dietician, serving the last year at the 125<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in England. Next, Vera moved to the Madison, Wisconsin area where her family was living. While living in Madison, Vera met up again with Daniel Crusius, whom she first met several years before when they both attended junior high school in Elmhurst.

In 1947, Daniel and Vera married and were living in Lancaster, Pennsylvania when he was called back into the Naval Reserves for six years. While stationed in Germany, Daniel and Vera adopted two sons, Carl and Paul. Their son, Philip, was born in Germany.

After the Reserves duty ended, the family was living in Greenville, Pennsylvania where Daniel was a professor at Thiel College. Vera was widowed when the boys were 10, 8 and 7. She and the boys moved to Urbana in 1967 where Vera became an instructor in the Food Service Department at the University of Illinois.

Vera joined St. Peter's on December 20, 1970. She faithfully attended adult Sunday school and church while living here.

In the fall of 1989, Vera married Dr. H. Ewing Wachter, a retired pediatrician, who was also a long time St. Peter's member. He died in 2003.

Vera's son, Carl, is deceased and son, Paul, lives at Emmaus House in Marthasville, Missouri. In the fall of 2006, Vera moved to Arlington Heights to be near son Phillip and his family. Vera, Phillip, his wife, son and daughter recently visited St Peter's on April 26. Walter Claussen, a long time St. Peter's member, is Vera's brother. Vera has led a long and interesting life. She enjoys her retirement home.

Vera may be reached at 1225 Luther Lane, #245D, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. Phone: 847-398-9599.

*Compiled by Carol Pointer*

## Closer Parking Spots Needed!

If you are able bodied, please park further away allowing those who are less able bodied to use the handicapped parking spaces. Handicapped parking spaces are available in both the east and west parking lots.

## July Ushers

Carolyn Hamrick      Marjory Seitz      Ann Swearingen  
Bill Kuhne              Wes Seitz      Richard Swearingen

## July Anniversaries



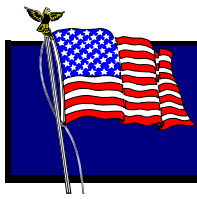
2 Ronald and Barbara Schaede (1954)  
4 Elton and Dorothy Roberts (1943)  
16 Clayborn and Irene Lofton (1949)  
21 James and Juliane Sharp (2007)  
24 David and Cassandra Wentz (2004)  
27 James and Jennifer Crone (2002)  
29 Steve and Lilia Eheart (2006)

## July Birthdays

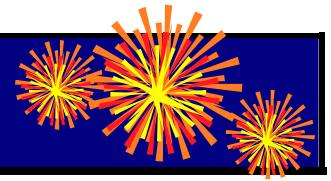
4 Geoff Dahl  
Steve Eheart  
6 William Kuhne  
James Woller  
Nancy Kobel  
7 Violet McCarthy  
10 Patty Kobel  
11 Harold Zahnd  
12 Kathryn Luther Henderson  
13 Kathryn Gravlin  
14 Genevieve Claussen  
Paul Crusius  
16 Ann Swearingen  
Alycia Marfongella  
17 Carol Pointer  
Nicky Wentz  
19 Vera Wachter  
Gladys Hemp  
Rebecca Bishop  
20 Carolyn Yoos  
21 Diana Pointer  
Heather Shoudel  
24 John Martinie  
25 Verna Finder  
26 Bonnie Joop  
28 Carolyn Hamrick  
29 Rick Malloch  
30 Michael Kobel



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!



# July



## St. Peter's United Church of Christ

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>	
			<b>1</b> 9 a.m. Weight Loss Group 7 p.m. Mayberry Bible Study	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b> Office Closed	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> 9 a.m. Worship Communion 10 a.m. Hot Topic Sunday School	<b>6</b> 6 p.m. Worship Committee	<b>7</b> 9 a.m. Stitches 5:30 p.m. Church & Ministry 6:30 p.m. Stewardship	<b>8</b> 9 a.m. Weight Loss Group 5:30 p.m. Swim Party at Zahnd Pond	<b>9</b> 5 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	<b>10</b> Office Closed	<b>11</b>	
<b>12</b> 9 a.m. Worship Guest Pastor: Rev. Steve Hill	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9 a.m. Stitches 6 p.m. Building & Grounds	<b>15</b> 9 a.m. Weight Loss Group 7 p.m. Movie Discussion Group <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>16</b> 5 p.m. Craft Club	<b>17</b> Office Closed	<b>18</b> 1:00-4:00 p.m. Cards for Troops – Fellowship Hall	
<b>19</b> 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Hot Topic Sunday School	<b>20</b> 6 p.m. Consistory	<b>21</b> 9 a.m. Stitches	<b>22</b> 9 a.m. Weight Loss Group 7 p.m. Mayberry Bible Study	<b>23</b> 6-9 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	<b>24</b> Office Closed	<b>25</b>	
<b>26</b> 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Hot Topic Sunday School Board of Christian Education	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9 a.m. Stitches	<b>29</b> 9 a.m. Weight Loss Group	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Office Closed		

Friday/Saturday – Pastor's days off

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
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](mailto: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.

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### Church Staff

Pastor  
Office Manager  
Parish Nurse  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Custodian

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

### Newsletter Staff

Editor and Layout  
Historian

Bonnie S. Taylor  
Virginia Zindars

### Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship

