



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

Dear Friends,

In listening to the wonderful support of the loved ones of our church family, I have found there are many of you who have had difficult experiences with what others say to you when you have been ill or lost a loved one. The comments people make at these difficult and vulnerable times are a big topic of discussion. Words don't come easy for those trying to comfort us . . . I'll never forget one of my early blunders. I was just a young teen when my best friend's Grandmother passed away. I told her, "Well? Easy come, easy go!" I knew immediately that I had said something incredibly stupid and insensitive. Fortunately for me, my friend didn't display anger or hurt . . . I don't know why, though. I deserved a good tongue lashing for that!

Thank goodness, I've improved since then. But, still there are times when even I, after all these years am at a loss for words or say something that I later think was not quite right. It's just that now I know why. Sometimes words aren't enough to convey our truest emotions and care. Words are just symbols and don't seem very adequate during certain times of our lives. Our culture provides clichés that pop in our minds because they are easy to remember. However, some of these clichés are not always true. I overheard a Critical Care Nurse tell my parishioner after her mother had just died, "God never gives us things we can't handle." I wanted to push her away from my parishioner or shout out, "I don't believe that!" My parishioner just politely nodded and listened gracefully. Later she told me she didn't believe it either, but wanted to respect the tone of sympathy and comfort from the nurse more than anything. Later, we discussed how God didn't give her this loss . . . her mother died because of illness, not because God took her. God gives us only good things. And secondly, there are times when we need outside help to handle what life gives us. And God sees us through those hard times, giving us the resources we need to cope and survive.



When someone you love is suffering from severe illness, struggling from a difficult life situation or mourning a loss, the best thing you can say is how you feel; not how they should feel; not that you know how

they feel; not that you know someone who feels the same way they do; but just how you feel about the situation. If you are sad for them, tell them. If you are sorry, tell them. If you are hopeful, tell them. Everyone goes through situations differently. Everyone has different body chemistry, everyone has different family members, everyone has a history. One church I served had a man who was unusually beloved by the congregation. He loved everyone and everyone loved him. He was kind, thoughtful, and sweet. He passed away from a sudden illness. When I met with his family, who lived far away and had traveled to be there at the funeral, they told me he had been horribly abusive to his wives and to them, his children. Sometimes we just don't know the whole story!

When someone says something to us that just doesn't seem kind in the midst of our own grief, I urge you to do what my parishioner did . . . listen with grace. Understand their intention is to offer comfort and love, most of the time. Sometimes they want to impart wisdom, whether welcome or not. Sometimes it's the hardest thing we have to do . . . to listen with grace. It's when we feel most vulnerable. It's those times when we often feel more like lashing out to let some of our pent up emotions out on an unsuspecting friend or loved one.

Words are powerful and can be used as a way to heal a broken heart, to soothe a distressed mind, to calm a worried soul. And they can stir up the brokenness, create more chaos and anxiety for those we love and ourselves. If you do say something in that latter part, just ask for forgiveness. Most times, the person will hear the tone of your intended comfort, and not the words as much. If someone says something to you that offends you, listen with grace. You can always address the issue with them at a later time when emotions aren't so vibrant. God be with you as you speak the words of God's love!

Peace, Laurie



Summer Office Hours

Beginning the week of June 1, the Church Office will be closed on Fridays. Summer office hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Coming Attractions for Summer Studies & Fun!

Mayberry Bible Study: Remember Andy and Barney? Remember Aunt Bea and Opie? Remember Gomer and Otis? Remember all the crazy situations that people in Mayberry found themselves in? On the first and last Wednesdays of the month during the summer, I would like to invite you to a Bible Study based on some of the episodes of that show! We will meet June 3, July 1, July 22 and August 5 at 7:00 p.m. to remember, study, and find out how important Scripture is in our everyday lives, whether we're more like Andy or Aunt Bea. Come and join us in the lounge, bring a snack to share. Drinks will be provided.



If you are a movie buff, you may enjoy either one or both of our movie nights . . . Our **Family Movie Night** will continue on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the summer: July 8 and August 12.

On June 24, we will have a **Movie Discussion Group** on the movie "The DaVinci Code". Please plan to see the movie before the discussion group. We need a host to provide dessert, drinks and a home! See Pastor Laurie if you're interested in hosting! These movies will not be "kid-friendly", so the discussion group will be for adults only.



And if Wednesday nights are not good for you, I'd like you to think about Sundays after church for an hour to discuss "**Hot Topics for Christians**". We will begin on June 7 discussing very controversial issues. We will make it a safe place by agreeing to ground rules for our discussion time. Pastor Laurie may also bring in some others to provide extra input into certain topics. Discussion topics for the month of June are:

- June 7 — Racism
- June 14 — No class (Pastor Laurie gone)
- June 21 — Lazy vs. Disabled
- June 28 — Pro life vs. Pro choice

Disaster Buckets and School Kits due June 10th!!!

(Supply lists are available on page 3.)

Summer Worship Time

The Consistory has decided to keep the time for summer worship at 9:00 a.m. beginning June 7. As you may guess, there is no time that will please everyone. The good of the entire congregation is at the heart of the decision, even though we know that not everyone will be pleased. For those who prefer a 10:00 a.m. service, we deeply appreciate your every effort to worship our God this summer, even though it may not be as convenient. Thanks.

Attention Care Team!

The St. Peter's Care Team will meet at 10:00 a.m. on June 4. If you are unable to make it, please contact Pastor Laurie.

Smile! It's Time to do a New Church Directory at St. Peter's

Many people have requested a new picture directory and we are now ready.



This time, we are going to use the talents of everyone in the congregation and approach the project in a new manner.

- Kurt Eheart will be the photographer.
- Each member will need to provide a smile.
- Rides can be coordinated for members unable to drive.
- If you are homebound, the photographer will come to you.

This new approach will:

- eliminate the pressure to purchase additional prints
- allow you to purchase prints if desired
- allow us to have a paper and an electronic directory
- allow the directory to be updated more frequently

So mark your calendars and watch for more information. Appointments will be scheduled June 8, 9, 10 and June 23, 24, 25 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. on each date. Please make an extra effort to participate; it is important to have everyone included.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

The Directory Committee

*Amy Durukan, LiAnne Kitchen – co-chairs
Sandy Eichhorst, Jim Tarr, Kurt and Fern Eheart*



VBS is Here!

Vacation Bible School will be June 15th to the 19th, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. (including dinner). We will all be in the swamp at Group Publishing's Curriculum of "Crocodile Dock"! We need your hands, your hearts and your imaginations! And especially, we will need you to invite any and all children you know! Registration forms are available in the Church Office.

REMEMBER?



**Summer
Worship
9:00 a.m.**



The Consistory is calling a special Congregational Meeting on June 28 following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the possibility of installing air conditioning in the sanctuary, narthex and chapel. An Informational Meeting will be held after worship on June 21. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

Summer Fun at St. Peter's

You'll want to mark these dates on your calendar. Fun times will be had and you'll want to be a part of it!

July 8 – Swimming Party and Picnic

August 12 – Cosmic-Bowling!

These events are open to everyone. Check the July issue of *Connections* for more information.



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. Pastor Laurie will be bringing the first donation to the Illinois Conference Meeting. That donation needs to be at the church by June 3rd. The second donation will be due by August 2nd. 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.



The Happy Couple

Zachary and Mina celebrate their marriage at a reception held after church on March 22. A Love Offering was presented and joy abundantly shared.

Happy Birthday Elvira!

St. Peter's oldest member, Elvira Ebs, will be 101 on June 28. Elvira faithfully attends church most Sundays.

Congratulations Graduates!



High school graduates this spring include **Abbey Knop**, daughter of Nancy Knop and **Anna Muller**, daughter of Mark Muller. Abbey plans to attend Parkland College and Anna will attend Rockford College.

Andy Eheart, son of Kurt and Fern Eheart, graduated from the University of Evansville with a degree in physical therapy. Andy will be working at Carle.

Jacqueline Vaiden, daughter of Judy Moller Vaiden and Bob Vaiden, recently graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a degree in Recreation Administration. Jackie will be doing an internship at Kickapoo State Park this summer.



Congratulations and best wishes to all our Graduates!



Celebration of Life

In our thoughts and prayers is the family of Carolyn Adams. A Celebration of Life service will be held for Carolyn at St. Peter's at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2009.

Carolyn Lucille Gerdes Adams, 86, of Lynchburg, died at her home on Monday, December 15, 2008. She was the wife of Budd B. Adams for the past 55 years.

Carolyn was born on October 13, 1922, the daughter of the late George Gerdes and Emma Schaeede Gerdes, and her beloved twin brother was the late Charles R. Gerdes. She was a devoted mother and grandmother and a member of First Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg.

Carolyn and Budd moved to Lynchburg in July 2005 from Slidell, Louisiana, fortunately escaping hurricane Katrina flooding that followed their departure by just six weeks. She and Budd "motor-homed" for a while after his retirement in 1994, sharing historical trail-themed ventures to the Klondike, Oregon Trail, and they dug into family history in Illinois and Missouri.

Carolyn and Budd were married on July 5, 1953 at St. Peter's.

In addition to her husband, Carolyn is survived by her two daughters, Denise Adams McDonald, of Lynchburg, and Linda Adams Hamlet, of Milford, OH; and three grandchildren, Margot Adams McDonald, Madeleine Adams McDonald, and Emma Sophia-Noelle Hamlet. She was predeceased by her twin brother, Charles R. Gerdes.

Newsletter Deadline

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



June Ushers

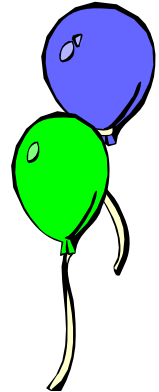
Kurt Eheart
Barb Kobel
Ed Kobel

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 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



Happy
Birthday 



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 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)
- 23 Stanley and Betty Smith (1945)
- 26 Henry and Betty Voigtlander (1954)
- 27 John and Judith Maloney (1997)
- 29 Stuart and Carolyn Yoos (1958)

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!