



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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CONNECTIONS

March 2009



A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

March Madness!!! For many of you, this means hoops, hoops and more hoops! For some of you, it means getting gardens planned out. For some, spring cleaning, and for us pastors, it means one thing: Lent. No matter where Easter falls, the month of March is heavily involved. Along with the tax accountants, it's our busy season. And at St. Peter's it will be no different . . . make sure you note all the activities coming up shortly, starting with February 25th, Ash Wednesday.

Lent is often a time thought of repentance . . . of giving up something we enjoy a wee bit too much. Sometimes, it's sugar, chocolate, caffeine, smoking, candy, soda pop, or whatever vice you may have. Sometimes, it's a season of adding something: reading the Bible, attending worship services, exercising, spending more time with someone special, making more time to do this or that. But whether you're adding or subtracting, the thought behind this change is to be a more faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

As your pastor, I only want to encourage this! This is always a good quest . . . being a disciple of Jesus Christ is what life is all about . . . so if you REALLY want to do this! Here's my challenge!

We are the body of Christ . . . with Jesus Christ as our head . . . He's the one we proclaim to follow, to



trust, to worship and who helps us to understand God. To really follow him . . . I

mean . . . reeeeeeeeeaaaally follow him, we need to do something rather simple, but important! We need to gather together to ask the Lord's blessing. No, I'm not getting Thanksgiving and Lent mixed up. I'm talking about gathering together to discern God's call for our body of Christ which we call St. Peter's UCC. So, I will be offering two different times in March . . . March 1st and March 15th, where we will begin to think together about what the strengths of our congregation are, what our resources are, what our challenges are, and what our callings are . . . (if there are more than one).

This process will be after church, **no potluck!** The usual Fellowship Hour snacks will be downstairs in the

Fellowship Hall . . . and we will not go longer than ONE HOUR!!!!

So . . . during Lent . . . do you have ONE HOUR that you can give to the body of Christ? If you do the other things . . . fasting, giving up or adding something, that's okay too . . . but my hope and challenge is: ONE HOUR for helping to discern God's vision for St. Peter's UCC!!! You only need to come to one session, not both. They will be identical. They will be quick . . . and we may or may not come to a strong conclusion, but we will begin to dream, hope, and most of all LISTEN to God in that one hour!

One hour . . . Lent . . . Discipleship of Christ . . . one. hour. lent. discipleship. Christ. Come. March 1. March 15. 11:15 to 12:15. one hour. lent. You can do this!

Peace! Laurie



Lenten and Holy Week Schedule!

All Services during Lent offered at 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service February 25th, 6:30 p.m.
Ashes and Communion offered.

Wednesday Drama Services 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Sunday Services – Lenten Sermon Series

"Yes, Lord, I have sinned but I have several excellent excuses!"

Maundy Thursday Service

April 9th – 6:30 p.m., Communion and Tenebrae

Easter Services

Early Easter Service – 8:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast – 8:30 a.m., thanks to Mark Sterrett and LiAnne Kitchen

Easter Service – 10:00 a.m., Communion offered



Weight Loss Support Group

We are underway, we as Amazing Shrinking People! We are following a book called, *All is Forgiven, Move on!* by Janice

Taylor, who calls herself "The Lady of Weight Loss". Our group has an emotional and spiritual component. The group is open to newcomers, so please, if you are thinking of it . . . try us out! 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Stewardship Report

Romans 12:6 "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us."

During our Stewardship drive, our gifts have become apparent. Members and friends have completed the Time and Talent sheets and have pledged monetary gifts.

Each week the Stewardship Committee has presented Stewardship Moments to help us to determine the gifts God has given each of us. Some of these moments have suggested gifts of time, talent or funds. Some of the moments have been no cost and simple suggestions . . . giving a smile to folks you meet, praying for emergency personnel and those in need when you hear a siren. We all know God uses us and others to perform his work on earth. If you have a Stewardship moment you would like to present or would like to have a member of the Stewardship Committee present, please contact one of the committee members.

Of course, one major portion of Stewardship is our commitment to God's local and wider church. The Stewardship Committee is proud to announce the pledges for 2009.



2009 Pledges

General Fund pledges
\$84,008.00 – up 5%

Mission Fund pledges
\$7,116.00 – up 33%

Building & Grounds pledges
\$10,778.00 – up 4%

2008 Pledges

\$80,108.00

\$ 5,370.00

\$10,314.00

We sometimes get so busy in our daily lives that we don't recognize how God is still speaking to us. Take time to listen and think of ways you can be a messenger of God's love.

*Your Stewardship Committee
Pastor Laurie, Fern Eheart, Jim Tarr,
Jocelyn Voss, Nick Voss*

Rise to the Occasion

I am sure many of you have seen Pastor Laurie hand out a welcome bag to visitors at church on Sunday mornings. Have you ever wondered just what is in that bag? Well the following items are in the bag: one small loaf of a sweet bread, i.e., banana nut, cranberry, blueberry, lemon poppy seed, a juice box of grape juice and a St. Peter's brochure. Have you also wondered where the bread comes from? So far, the Worship Committee and Pastor Laurie have donated the breads. Would you be interested in helping with this project? We would love to have your help! Please feel free to bring in as many mini loaves as you would like, just make sure they are wrapped to put in the freezer in the lounge (if there is room), or in the freezer on the stage if there is not room in the lounge freezer. Please make sure you label what type of bread it is and sign the donation list on the bulletin board. Thanks for your help!



The Worship Committee

In Memoriam



The prayers and sympathy of the St. Peter's Congregation are with Doris Drake and the Drake family following the death of Doris' son, **Donald E. Drake**. On February 6, 2009, Donald passed to life eternal at the age of 66.

Donald taught at Mattoon High School in the early 1960s. He later moved to Antioch, where he taught economics and managed media services at Antioch High School from 1966 to 1971.

At the College of Lake County in Grayslake, he directed the college's audio-visual and instructional media programs from 1971 to 1989 and was heavily involved in development of the college's distance learning programs.



In 1991, he married Dorothy Regan of Woodstock. Donald is survived by his wife, Dorothy; his mother, Doris (Kobel) Drake; his brothers, Karl (Mary) Drake of St. Joseph and David (Lynn) Drake of Jewett, Texas. He was preceded in death by his father, Ernest.

On February 10, 2009, **Paula Schmidt** passed from this life into eternal life where God lovingly welcomed his good and faithful daughter. Paula's full obituary will be included in the April issue of *Connections*.

Condolences may be sent to Heinrich Schmidt, 601½ E. Mumford Drive, Urbana, IL 61801.

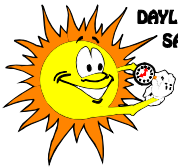
The thoughts and prayers of the St. Peter's congregation are extended to Heinrich Schmidt and to the family of Donald Drake.



Church Mailbag

*To All My Friends at St. Peter's UCC,
Just a note to express my heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation for the many cards and notes I received during the holiday season. I am in the process of trying to get them answered. Right now I am feeling much better and my leg is healing nicely once again. Hopefully it will be completely healed before long. My trip to Mayo and subsequent power outages here in Mazon put me hopelessly behind in correspondence, but I'm working on getting caught up. It sounds like everything is going well at St. Peter's and that warms my heart. I would expect it to continue for quite some time.*

Please know that I think of you often and with deep affection.
Pastor Betty Hornback



It's Time to Spring Forward!

It's that time again...don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 7.

March Ushers

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

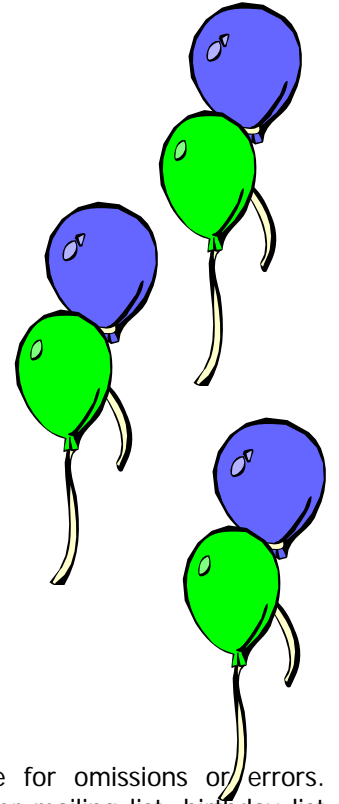


March Anniversaries

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

March Birthdays

- 1 Robin Limp
- 4 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
- 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 office@stpetersucc.com. Thanks for your help!



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April issue of *Connections* is Monday, March 16. 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!

