



**St. Peter's United Church of Christ**  
 905 S. Russell Street  
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 www.stpetersucc.com



## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Did you ever think a new "getting to know you" line would be "What's your favorite reality show?" One of the largest consequences of these shows, I think, are that they make us into very scrutinizing critics. It's hard to watch any of them without being a "couch judge", just like some people are "couch coaches" when they watch sports. "Deal or no deal" is one show that's both a reality show and a game show . . . I can't watch it. It makes my blood pressure go up much too far to witness people playing with money . . . betting hundreds of thousands of dollars that could be used to feed the hungry, buy medicines for third world AIDS victims . . . buy new chairs for our church . . . buy new flooring for my house! There's just too much throwing away of possibility in the name of greed.

Oh . . . you see? There I go . . . quick to judge . . . me! The armchair critic. What would I really do if I were in the spot they were in? Would I get caught up in the energy of the audience shouting "No deal" or would I be able to look deep inside myself and "settle". I like to believe I would be smart. But, who knows? I am human. I am fallible. But!!!! I have also seen poverty, seen need, seen despair, seen the chairs breaking in the church, the stains on my carpet. I want to hope that I would be a good steward of the resources God would be giving me right then and there, on the "Deal or No Deal" show . . . which isn't ever going to happen, of course.

However, we all live in our own version of reality everyday. We all make decisions everyday based on risk of knowing something for sure and risking the unknown. I want us all to think of May as the month of talents and gifts. Each and everyone of us has at least one spiritual gift. We have gifts that are qualities: like joy, faith, generosity, kindness, love, etc. . . . and we have gifts that are skills: music, preaching, interpretation of dreams, hospitality, activism, teaching, etc.. The Scripture is filled with lists about them in the New Testament. In May, let's make a special effort to name and appreciate each other's gifts. Write a note for someone who is particularly good at something that you've noticed. Or tell them directly. We all need our gifts affirmed and valued. And we all need to use our gifts! The more we affirm and value each other, the

more our skills and godly qualities will grow. God has planted the garden . . . let's grow! Peace, Laurie

## Summer Worship Time



The Consistory has decided to keep the time for summer worship at 9:00 a.m. 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 will deeply appreciate your every effort to worship our God this summer, even though it may not be as convenient. Thanks.

## Crop Walk

Join the 2009 Champaign/Urbana CROP Hunger Walk at 1:45 p.m. on Sunday, May 3 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (2101 S. Prospect, Champaign). Everyone is welcome! If you would like to join the St. Peter's Crop Walkers, sign up on the bulletin board in the south hallway. Be a part of CROP – Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.



## Strawberries!

It's time to mark your calendars for this year's Strawberry Festival sponsored by the Tuesday Circle. It will be held in Fellowship Hall on May 31 following the worship service. Everyone is invited to come, bring a covered dish and share in fellowship and delicious food. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the Church Office. Let us all pray for sunshine and warm weather to encourage a bumper crop of berries.

## Lost and, Hopefully, Found

JoAnn Malloch is missing her Longaberger ceramic pie plate. The plate is cream colored with dark green trim and was last seen at the Sausage Supper. If you know of its whereabouts, please contact JoAnn.



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month in the summer: May 13, June 10, July 8 and August 12. And on the third Wednesdays of the month, (usually . . . we will change things for Bible School), we will have an **Adult Discussion Group** based on a movie we have all watched on our own time. I would like this to take place at **someone's home** . . . if you could sign up to be the host, you would provide a main dish and drinks. Everyone else would provide a side dish or dessert. We will eat and then discuss the movie. These movies will not be "kid-friendly", so the discussion group will be for adults only. Please tell Pastor Laurie if you are interested in hosting.



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. Watch for the schedule in the next issue of *Connections*.

## Women's Fellowship News

The Women's Fellowship Board has changed the Bereavement Dinner policy. The change involves asking the family to either provide the meat for a funeral dinner or to donate \$2 per person attending the dinner. If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact a member of the Women's Fellowship Board.

## 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 9, 10, 11 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*

## Save the Date!



Vacation Bible School will be June 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 will need your hands, your hearts and your imaginations! And especially, we will need you to invite any and all children you know!

## Meals on Wheels



We are looking for two people to do one route of "Meals on Wheels" in the week of July 6-10, and another two people for July 13-17. The route takes approximately 60-90 minutes. We need to have some names by May because there are schedules that will need to be printed and handed out to the people who are receiving meals. Please look at your calendar and see if you can assist with this wonderful mission of our community.



## Thank you, Thank You!

Our thanks to Marcella Nance, Eloise Heller, Wes and Marjory Seitz and Rebecca Bahnke for providing altar flowers during March and April.



## In Memoriam

In our thoughts and prayers are the families of Vernon Hill and Anna Weber.

On March 23, 2009, **Bert "Vernon" Hill** passed from this life into eternal life. Vernon, 94, is the father-in-law of Pastor Laurie. Survivors include two sons, Ron (Karen) Hill of Normal and Steve (Laurie) Hill of Decatur; a daughter, Linda Barrow of Normal; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and a sister, Ruth Kreis of Blue Island.

Terri Smith's mother, **Anna Lucinda Weber** of Tuscola, passed to life eternal on March 23, 2009.

## Church Mailbag

*Thank you for all the hugs, prayers, cards and words of encouragement during Fern's sister's illness and death. Special thanks to Pastor Laurie for listening and providing insight when needed.*



*Betty was a very strong Christian who knew before we did that she was going to be with the angels. Even though we know she is now living eternally with all the Saints who have gone before her, it's still hard but having great Christian friends makes it much easier. Thanks for being there.*

Fern and Kurt Eheart

*This is a whole hearted thank you to all of you for the calls, the cards, the food, the flowers and the visits from Laurie and our family. To this day, we are still receiving cards. We can't begin to tell you how they brightened our days and how wonderful it was to be back singing on Easter.*

JoAnn and George Malloch

Dear St. Peter's Family,

*Your kind and generous gift and all your loving support are deeply appreciated! Gratefully,*

Pastor Laurie and the Hill Family

## Celebration Ahead!

Rev. Glenn Kalkbrenner and his wife, Jean, will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in June. Their daughter, Renee, is inviting St. Peter's members to send cards, notes, photographs or memorable stories to be included in a celebratory album. Items may be sent to:

Renee Anderson  
11148 Rainier Avenue South  
Seattle, Washington 98178

or by email to [mandranderson3@comcast.net](mailto:mandranderson3@comcast.net).

## Newsletter Deadline

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

## May Ushers

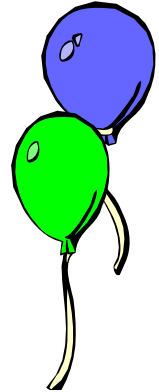
Jill Acheson  
Jim Acheson  
Bernice Benn

Omer Benn  
Mildred Luther

Al Shoudel  
Jim Tarr  
Dixie Thornhill

## 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)  
Michael and Kelly Deaton (2008)

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](mailto:office@stpetersucc.com). Thanks for your help!



## Chorale's Spring Concert

Don't miss The Chorale's Annual Young Artist Scholarship concert, "One of a Kind – Inspirations", at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 2 at Faith United Methodist Church in Champaign. The concert features excerpts from six requiems and outstanding performances by the 2009 scholarship winners, flutist Eric Kobel and violinist Rachel Koblyakov; and 2006 scholarship recipient, vocalist Molly Netter. The concert is free to the public. For more information, visit [www.thechorale.org](http://www.thechorale.org) or call 217-586-2970.



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## NEWSLETTER

### Church Office Phone: (217) 356-3635

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

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Office hours: Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Answering machine available after hours

### Parish Nurse Phone: (217) 356-3467

Flexible hours. Will arrange meetings by appointment.  
Confidential answering machine is available.

### In this issue . . .

A Note from the Pastor.....	1
June Calendar .....	5
Church Mailbag.....	3
Crop Walk.....	1
Coming Attractions for Summer .....	2
In Memoriam.....	3
May Ushers .....	3
May Calendar .....	4
Milestones (Anniversaries, Birthdays).....	3
New Photo Directory .....	2
Strawberry Festival .....	1
Summer Worship Time.....	1
Vacation Bible School.....	2

### Church Staff

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Office Manager  
Parish Nurse  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Custodian

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

### Newsletter Staff

Editor and Layout  
Historian

Bonnie S. Taylor  
Virginia Zindars

### Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship

