



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



CONNECTIONS

July 2010



Movie Review Group is Back!!!



This group is where everyone (adults) watches a movie on their own time and then comes together to discuss the movie at someone's home! Homes needed!! Host just provides a dessert and beverage, so

it's not hard. The summer schedule will vary because of other events happening. At each session, we will choose the following movie to be discussed. Please sign up on the bulletin board to let the host know how many to expect. See you there!

Wednesday, July 28, 7 p.m. — *The Blind Side*

Wednesday, August 25, 7 p.m. — movie to be determined

Nursery Attendants Needed!

Loving Arms are needed for nursery attendant duties on Sunday mornings. Because of our "Safe Child" policy, TWO adults are needed in the nursery at all times, even when one adult is a parent. Also, there's no quicker way of shooing off young parents from our church than to have them have to watch their own children in the nursery. They can do that at home much better.

So, please, Grandma's and Grandpa's, Aunts and Uncles, Moms and Dads, and Child lovers . . . PLEASE sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway. Also! It's really good for our children to get to know our adults, so consider signing up for a month at a time. Thanks!!!



Save the Date!

Chicken Noodle Dinner – October 16, 2010

Happy Birthday Kay!

Kathryn Gravlin, known by her church family as "Kay", was born July 13, 1920 in Watseka, Illinois. She was confirmed and was a member of the Evangelical and Reformed Church at Papineau, Illinois. Kay and her late husband, Pershing Gravlin were received as Communicant members at St. Peter's Evangelical and Reformed Church, which is now St. Peter's United Church of Christ, on December 18, 1955 by the late Rev. Orville H. Schroer.

Yummy!

Thanks to everyone who attended the Strawberry Festival and shared their delicious covered dishes. I really enjoyed being able to provide the strawberries since we had another bountiful crop. Thanks to Carolyn Hamrick and Phyllis Jones for helping to cut strawberries on Saturday morning and to Carolyn, Phyllis, JoAnn Malloch and Patty Kobel for helping to clean up afterwards. We hope you all enjoyed the fellowship as much as we did.



Ann Swearingen, Chair
 Tuesday Circle Strawberry Festival

Vacation Bible School July 12-16, 5:30 p.m.



At High Seas Expedition, kids explore the mighty love of God on a journey that will change them forever! High Seas Expedition is filled with incredible

Bible learning experiences kids can see, touch, hear and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs and tasty dinners and treats each night are just a few of the High Seas Adventures that help faith flow into real life. We will also be participating in a hands-on mission project called "Operation Kid to Kid" that will let the kids in our community blanket the world with God's love. Join us July 12-16 starting at 5:30 p.m. as we set sail on a High Seas Expedition!

Invite your neighbors, kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, and any other child or children in your life that may enjoy a great adventure!!! And we'll need lots of hands on deck, so please see Rhonda Shoudel or Pastor Laurie if you can help, one night or up to all five!



Hooy Matey!!! It's Almost Time to Set Sail!

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Recently, at our Illinois Conference meeting, a report was made from a survey that recently came out to congregations. Our consistory and I filled it out on behalf of St. Peter's UCC. At the Conference meeting, Rev. Phil Hart, our interim conference minister, reported the number one need stated by the congregations in the Illinois Conference is: Worship Attendance.

I have been "officially" UCC since 2001, and before that, I had dual standing for about five years. This Conference meeting was the first one I ever attended. I enjoyed it and at the same time, I felt uncomfortable and new. I was so grateful to have my veteran conference attending colleague, Karen Bush, to guide me through the agenda and what happens when and what happens next and where do we go from here and all those things. I've been to enough other conferences



to figure these things out on my own but I really enjoyed the camaraderie of asking her and being "shepherded". It was much easier and more comfortable.

Imagine then, that you are invited to a new church to attend a worship service. This, too, is an uncomfortable experience for some. Most of us have attended services or masses in other traditions and many of you have come back and reported to me something new that happened in the other church you liked or didn't like. But imagine if you were not a church person, or if you had a negative experience going to church in your life. I had one such experience way back in college where I was a guest of my friend. She begged and pleaded with me to attend her very evangelical conservative church. I finally relented and it turned out that she thought I was such a sinner that I needed to repent. The pastor was alerted to my sinfulness and singled me out in front of everyone to repent of my evil ways and begin life anew under his guidance. Turns out my friend really liked me but thought she couldn't be friends with me unless I became sinless, like her, (cough, sputter, cough!). I did repent of my sins, by the way, and asked God's forgiveness, but not probably for what they considered my sins. And after church, I went home, changed my clothes, and went to the "disco" (yes, this was the 70's) where my other friends and I hung out. I wasn't sinning there according to my thoughts. The drinking age at the time was 18, but I was not a heavy drinker. I danced with other young men but I wasn't a "wild" young woman. Alas, my other friend was ever so disappointed in me. Needless to say, our relationship died.



Share a Smile— It's Contagious

My discomfort with that service helps me as a UCC pastor to be aware of the discomfort of others when they come into our midst on a Sunday

morning. And it also helps me know that when someone comes to our church for the first time, there may be some uncomfortable feelings. That's why, when you invite your friends, I hope you will sit by them, explain what's going to happen, explain that we have coffee hour, answer their questions, etc.. And you know, as I've said many times . . . the number one most effective



way of growing a church is: YOU INVITE YOUR FRIENDS/FAMILY/NEIGHBORS to church. Programs attract people, but they will only stay if they have a relationship with someone in the church. Pastors provide the preaching, the service, the atmosphere, the programs, the Bible studies, but very few people have joined a church because the

pastor invited them. And so, when you invite your friends and neighbors, remember how it feels to be in a new place and help them acclimate to our worship service, help them to feel comfortable, offer the gift of hospitality! And then, all will be truly welcome in this place and they will tell others how loving and welcoming we are, and they will tell others and the word will spread that St. Peter's is a welcoming and loving congregation that serves and loves God with their hearts, minds, and souls.

Peace!

Pastor Laurie



Women's Fellowship News

The Women's Fellowship Board met on Monday, June 7. We are operating without a president, but the meeting went well.

The Fellowship account as of May 31 is as follows: Vanguard account - \$9,297.65; Fund balance - \$10,910.65 for a total of \$20,207.97.

We voted to make a contribution to Salt and Light Ministries in the amount of \$500. This was in response to their current drive to buy food for needy folks.

The date for the Chicken Noodle Dinner is set for October 16 with Patty Kobel in charge. We are exploring the idea of combining the dinner with the craft sale. If you have comments to make, feel free to call any of the Board members.

In regard to dinners, it was agreed by Board members that food which is not sold to church members and cannot be saved, should be taken to church shut-ins.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 13 at 1:30 p.m. Please feel free to attend.

Women's Fellowship Board

Amy Durukan, Gladys Hemp, Pastor Laurie, Patty Kobel, JoAnn Malloch, Rhonda Shoudel, Ann Swearingen

Endowment Fund News

As of April 30, \$660 has been given to the Endowment Fund. This is the first new money that has been received since 1990. Many thanks to those of you who are making contributions. Remember, this money is



not touched – only the interest is donated to worthy charities and church projects. It is the gift that keeps on giving.

The Consistory has agreed to the following disbursements from 2009 funds: \$500 each to

Campus Ministry, Boys' and Girls' Club and Empty Tomb; \$1,000 each to Crisis Nursery and Women in Transition.

Mark Williams was elected chairman of the committee, Bill Kuhne was elected treasurer, and Gladys Hemp was elected the secretary.

Back to Mayberry!

After spending enough time in Beverly Hills with the Clampetts, we're heading back to Mayberry for awhile. Our next Bible Study will be held Tuesday, July 20 at 7 p.m.. The lesson is called, "A Bad Case of Courage" and it's based on the episode "High Noon in Mayberry". Come, bring a snack to share if you like, and let's go back to the fishin' hole!



Open House at Hill's

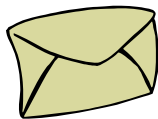
Pastor Laurie and her husband Steve are holding an Open House at their house on Lake Decatur. The address is 338 Shoreline Place, Decatur. It will be held on July 24 from noon to 4:00 p.m.. Boat rides will be upon request. Come and see where the pastor lives and her entourage: Buddy the dog, Ophelia and Spirit the cats, and Steve the



husband. There will be directions available a few weeks before the event in the office. There is a sign up sheet. It would be helpful to sign up, but please don't let it stop you if you didn't have the chance to sign up! You're more than welcome!

2010 Mid-Year Giving Statements

Mid-Year Giving Statements will be available after July 10 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.



In Memoriam



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of long time member, **Kenneth L. Baumann**. Ken passed from this life to life eternal on May 27, 2010.

Mr. Baumann was born on November 7, 1924, in Washington, Missouri, the son of Louis and Eleanor Baumann.

After graduating from Washington High School, he was drafted into the U. S. Army and served three years in the Thirteenth Armored Artillery Division in Germany during World War II. After the war, he married Dorris Goebel on June 18, 1946. She survives.

They have four sons, Robert (Vickie), Terry (Carol), Jeffrey (Karen), and Scott (Lisa). The Baumann family continues to grow with 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Kenneth graduated from the University of Missouri in civil engineering and worked as an engineer with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for 40 years, retiring in 1990.

He was a member of the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Association. He was a loyal member of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Champaign, serving in several positions on the church council including vice president. He was a loyal Illini and St. Louis Cardinals fan, and one of his favorite activities was attending games with one of his sons or grandchildren.

Memorials may be donated to St. Peter's United Church of Christ or the American Heart Association.



Consistory Highlights – July

Editor's Note: The following notes from the July meeting are for your information only. Minutes and actions of this meeting will be approved at the August meeting.



- Nick Voss will replace Dixie Thornhill on Consistory until the next election of officers when a person will be elected to complete her term.
- Final plans for the front doors were approved.
- Bonnie was given the final go ahead to print the new church directory.
- Pastor Laurie reported the Focus Group has evolved into a group trying to determine how the Church can promote itself in the community. They are thinking of taking the various programs and boosting them up in the community.



Newsletter Deadline

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



Church Mailbag

We would like to thank all of our St. Peter's family for all of the love, support, cards, visits and prayers during Charlie's recent hospital stay and during his recuperation. A special thank you to Pastor Laurie for all visits and prayers and bringing communion! We love you all!

Dorothy and the Zahnd Family

July Ushers

Carolyn Hamrick
Bill Kuhne
Ann Swearingen
Richard Swearingen



July Birthdays

- 4 Geoff Dahl
- Steve Eheart
- 6 William Kuhne
- James Woller
- Nancy Kobel
- 7 Violet McCarthy
- 8 Shirley Flynn
- 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



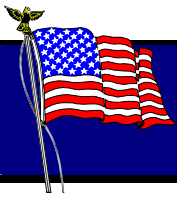
July Anniversaries



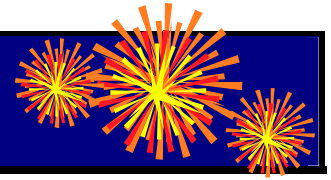
- 2 Ronald and Barbara Schaede (1954)
- 4 Elton and Dorothy Roberts (1943)
- 16 Clayborn and Irene Lofton (1949)
- 21 James and Juliane Sharp (2007)
- 24 Mark and Shari Schultz (1999)
- 24 David and Cassandra Wentz (2004)
- 27 James and Jennifer Crone (2002)
- 29 Steve and Lilia Eheart (2006)
- 31 Jennifer Little and Rebecca Bahnke (1992)

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10 a.m. Worship Communion Guest Speaker: Rev. Wallace Reifstock 	5 Office Closed	6 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group	7	8 6 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	9 Office Closed	10
11 10 a.m. Worship Guest Speaker: Rev. David Robberts-Mosser	12 5:30 p.m. Church & Ministry 6:30 p.m. Missions & Stewardship	13 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group 6 p.m. Building & Grounds	14	15 5 p.m. Craft Club <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	16 Office Closed	17
← 5:30 p.m. High Seas Expedition – Vacation Bible School →						
18 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Worship Committee	19	20 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group 7 p.m. Mayberry Bible Study	21	22 6-9 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	23 Office Closed 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	24 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall 12-4 p.m. Open House at Pastor Laurie's
25 10 a.m. Worship "Christmas in July" Board of Christian Education	26 6 p.m. Consistory	27 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group	28 7 p.m. Movie Discussion Group	29	30 Office Closed	31 

Office Manager out-of-office June 28-July 2

Friday/Saturday – Pastor's days off
 Pastor's Vacation – June 28-July 10

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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Champaign, Illinois 61821-4419

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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.

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Church Staff

Pastor
Office Manager
Parish Nurse
Choir Director
Organist
Custodian

Laurie H. Hill
Bonnie S. Taylor
LiAnne Kitchen
Jodi Prosser
Chris Holman
Carol Martin

Newsletter Staff

Editor and Layout
Historian

Bonnie S. Taylor
Virginia Zindars

Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship

