



**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



## Wednesday Services: The Beatitudes of Promise

This Lent, we will focus on the Beatitudes. They are found in "The Sermon on the Mount" in *Matthew 5:3-12*. (Also in *Luke 6:20-23*, but the list is a bit different and the sermon is given on the plain). The services will include skits each week, focusing on a man named, Macarius, "Mac" for short, and his pastor, Mac, a man with a good sense of humor and a bit on the clueless side, struggles with his faith during some life events, like the illness of his mother. His pastor will be challenged by Mac's interpretations of God's blessings. On Sundays, Pastor Laurie will preach on the Scripture presented during the skit.



The Beatitudes of Promise

### March 3

Lenten Service, 6:30 p.m.

"Promise of Inheritance"

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

*Matthew 5:5*



### March 10

Lenten Service, 6:30 p.m.

"Promise of Righteousness"

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." *Matthew 5:6*

### March 17

Lenten Service, 6:30 p.m.

"Promise of Mercy"

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

*Matthew 5:7*



### March 24

Lenten Service, 6:30 p.m.

"Promise of Seeing God"

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

*Matthew 5:8*

## March 7 – Girl Scout Sunday!

Carolina Barnard and Erin Durukan are both in Brownie Troops this year. They will be coming (with their troops, we hope) on Sunday, March 7 to show us how being a Girl Scout helps them to be better Christians as well. During the Fellowship Hour, we will have . . . You guessed it! Girl Scout Cookies!!! Come and enjoy!



## WINN All Church Potluck March 10, 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall



We will share dinner before the Lenten service. Please sign up on bulletin board in hall. A program on "Easter Symbols" will be presented by Pastor Laurie.

## Don't miss a St. Peter's Classic – the Annual Sausage Supper!



The St. Peter's Annual Sausage Supper is Saturday, March 20. Serving time will be 4:00–7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 5–12 and children under 5 are free. Tickets are available before and after worship every Sunday from now until the supper. Frozen bulk sausage is available at \$3.00 a pound or four pounds for \$10.00. Everyone is invited. Ya'll come!

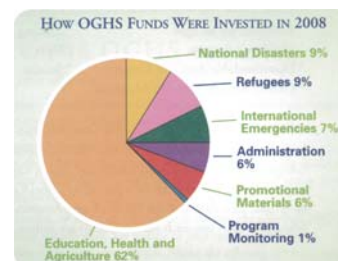


## One Great Hour of Sharing Sharing Resources. Changing Lives.

One Great Hour Sharing supports international programs of health, education and agricultural development, relief and refugee assistance. Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources administers the OGHS fund for the United Church of Christ. The OGHS offering will be collected and dedicated on March 21.

In 2008, the United Church of Christ received

\$3,048,840 for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. In addition, our churches and members gave more than \$924,440 to UCC special appeals for domestic and international emergencies.



For more information, visit the website at [www.ucc.org/oghs](http://www.ucc.org/oghs) or contact the office toll-free at 866/822-8224, ext 3215.

Thank you for your support of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

## St. Peter's Helps Haitian Relief

Thanks to the wonderful members of St. Peter's congregation, \$935 was sent to the UCC Disaster Ministries for Haiti Relief. An additional \$500 was sent from the Women's Fellowship Emergency Fund.



## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Last month, I might've bored you too much with the logistics of our United Church of Christ. There was a lot of "information" and to the average person, those don't make much of a day-to-day difference, until you need them. That's how many people think of the church, as well. They might assume: "I don't really want to get involved and don't really understand it, but when I have a crisis, I want them there!" One time, I received a phone call from a funeral home. The funeral director said a member of my church had died. He told us his name, but I didn't recognize it. I asked the secretary to look in our records. She searched but never came up with a member by that name. I asked the director if he was sure he had the right church. He did. Finally, I called the daughter of the deceased. She insisted he was a member. I suggested that maybe he attended at some point, but perhaps never officially joined. She responded, and I kid you not: "Oh, he never attended! He drove past that church on his way to work everyday, so he always considered that 'his church!'"

Apparently this man didn't mind what the church's theology was or who the pastor was or how the church was able to function. He just wanted to know it was there for him when he died. Of course, I officiated his funeral because there was a thread of faith in this man who looked to church as a representative of God in his life. That God, although silent, was steadfast and true to him. We didn't know it, but he was at "one" with us, who were "official members". The motto "That All May Be One" is, in the UCC, extremely important. Unifying language is what we preach, teach and demonstrate in our lives. One of our denominational leaders in the "God is Still Speaking" movement said he hoped our denomination would change our name to



"Uniters". We are those people in the Christian faith that welcome everyone, no exceptions, except for one. The one exception is that we have trouble accepting others who are not as welcoming as we are. Those who plan to be unfriendly or rude to visitors tend not to feel comfortable with us who are "Welcomers" or "Uniters". I've also heard it said by a colleague that every Sunday is like a "family reunion" in the UCC. That means all family members, especially the quirky, strange relatives are invited. All the elders are

honored. All the children are welcomed and played with. We are all one family with the last name of "Christian" . . . all God's children, no matter what.

Because of the strong sense of welcoming we have with each other, we also embrace the theological idea of "covenant". A covenant is a promise between ourselves and our God to be in a committed relationship. Marriage is a covenant. Church membership is a covenant. St. Peter's and the other UCC churches in the world are connected by covenant. We are all promised to each other so we can accept each other's presence in this world, even when we disagree.

Disagreeing does not, especially in our tradition, usually lead toward hostility. We are used to disagreeing. It's when we kindly disagree with each other, we can be stretched in our own thoughts and ways of doing things. We are free to be diverse in thought and belief, but we still worship together, do ministry and mission together and accept and love each other as children of God.

Because each church in the UCC has its own constitution and bylaws, you find a wide range of theological stances in the UCC. But, all of us, being covenanted together, come together in our beliefs in the basic tenets of the UCC. We all believe in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. In one church, I was their first woman pastor. I was told right away I was "being watched". In another church, I was told that if I mentioned God using a gender pronoun, (He or She), I may be fired. In another church, they loved the idea that I could make pies. Every church is different. Every one has its strengths and its challenges. Some do their "welcoming" better and worse than other churches. One couple that attended St. Peter's UCC, told me and a few

others that they had been all around the world and traveled often. They said they had never been as welcomed as they had in our midst. This is the best feather in our cap we could have!



If someone asks you who we are and what we believe, I hope you will tell them we have the basic beliefs in God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. And we encourage the freedom to think about the other issues of faith in whichever way is best for us. And most of all, we hope that someday, "All will be One" . . . one faith, one people even with all our diversity! I hope you will then invite them to join us . . . because EVERYONE'S WELCOME!

Peace, *Pastor Laurie*



## 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 13.

## Many Hands Make Light Work!

Have you ever wondered how you can be a part of the fun known as the St. Peter's Sausage Supper? Well, here's a primer on what happens!

It starts on Wednesday, March 17. The tables and chairs will be set up in Fellowship Hall and the grill will be set up in the boiler room. Yes . . . one of the secrets to the delicious sausage is to cook it in the boiler room!

On Friday, March 19, the fun begins at 9:00 a.m. with packaging silverware, stacking plates, squeezing sausage patties, cooking short ribs and cooking bacon. (That's another secret to the sausage . . . handmade patties!)

Friday evening, beginning at 5:45 p.m., potato peelers will do their thing. If you have a favorite potato peeler, please bring it! If not, we have potato peelers to fit any hand! After all the potatoes are peeled, we'll go out for pizza. (Another sausage supper secret — real mashed potatoes!)

Saturday, March 20 starts with sauerkraut — cooking, that is! The sauerkraut is started at 9:00 a.m. and by 11:00 a.m. the grill-masters go to work cooking the sausage.



At 2:30 p.m., the kitchen help starts to cook and by 3:00 p.m., we'll start cutting and plating the desserts and dishing up the salads.

At 4:00 p.m., the Fellowship Hall doors open and serving begins. Lots of willing hands and happy hearts are needed to help with the serving line, busing the dining room, serving drinks and dish washing.

When the supper ends at 7:00 p.m., the fun doesn't stop there. From 7:00-8:00 p.m., help is needed to clean up. It's amazing how quickly it all happens when we have people to help!

The best secret to a successful sausage supper is the simplest of all — the people of St. Peter's! If you want to help, sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the south hallway.

We also offer an opportunity for you to clean out your cupboards — we need plastic containers (butter tubs, etc.) for leftovers. Please leave containers in the church kitchen.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Marguerite and Larry Zahnd 359-3808 or Kurt and Fern Eheart 351-7997.



## Endowment Committee Update

The Endowment Committee would like to update you on the status of the Endowment Fund. Even though contributions to the fund have been stagnant at \$120,000 since the early 90's, the interest from investments has allowed the committee to continue to give gifts to worthy charities amounting to \$105,000. For 2008, \$500 was sent to Emmaus Home, \$500 to Champaign County Christian Health Center, \$1,000 to Salt and Light and \$1,000 to the front door replacement fund. In 2009, \$2,500 will be sent to the Haiti fund and \$500 to the front door fund.

The Endowment Fund was established in 1986, and soon contributions from several deceased members amounted to almost \$120,000. However, since then, church members have seemingly forgotten about this method of mission giving. The members of the committee would like to see the fund continue to grow so more people may be helped. The Committee suggests the following ways to help.



1. Realize when you specify in an obituary that donations may be made to St. Peter's Church, the money automatically goes into the Memorial Fund. The Memorial Fund is a good thing — providing funds for the new furniture in the lounge or the new hand rails in the front of the sanctuary. We are not suggesting that you don't leave money for the Memorial Fund, especially if you have a project in mind. We are suggesting you consider the Endowment Fund, either in your will, or by specifying St. Peter's Endowment Fund in your obituary.

2. The Trustees want you to know it is now possible to give stocks or bonds to the church. If you do this, you will not be subject to capital gains tax. You might want to specify the Endowment Fund as the recipient.

3. Originally conceived as a way to allow deceased members to keep on giving, one Committee member wondered why one had to die to give to the fund. He suggested giving envelopes be reconstructed to include a place to list an Endowment Fund gift. Hopefully, next year this will be accomplished. But in the meantime, you can start giving now. Just specify on your card or check that you want this money to go to the Endowment Fund.

There are always worthy places to give, always more people who need help. Contributing to the Endowment Fund will assure your original gifts will keep on giving.

Your Endowment Committee,

*Bernice Benn, Lee Eichhorst,  
Gladys Hemp, Bill Kuhne, Mark Williams*

## Newsletter Deadline

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



## Consistory Highlights – February

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



Estimates for new front doors for the church have been received from Bacon and Van Buskirk and Arrow Glass. A third estimate will be obtained from Trainor Glass.

Representatives from Glacial Energy presented information on an alternative electricity supplier. Glacial Energy can supply electricity at a cheaper rate than AmerenIP. The Consistory voted to switch to Glacial Energy for electricity. If the new supplier is not satisfactory, there will be no penalties or switching fees applied to cancel the service.

The Sanctuary carpet has been stretched and all wrinkles removed.

A draft of the new photo directory will be ready Friday, February 19.

LiAnne Kitchen and Mark Sterrett will coordinate the Easter Breakfast.

Auditions and interviews for the new choir director will be held on February 24 and March 3.

## Church Camp Anyone?



### Camps for All Ages!

Recently, we received the schedule for our two Church camps: Pilgrim Park and Tower Hill. Pilgrim Park is near Princeton, Illinois. Tower Hill is near Sawyer, Michigan. There are camps for all ages and all different lengths. Our three kids will have completed second grade, which qualifies them for Tenderfoot Camp (two nights away from home) and also Camp LEAD, (Laugh Everyday while we Achieve our Dreams). Pastor Laurie is hoping to attend "Grandparents and Me" camp with her grandson. There are many dates for that camp. If you have a child in your life that you would like to bring to a camp but aren't a grandparent, there's a "My Special Someone and Me" camp as well. MEN? There are work camps that need and depend on volunteers with muscle and energy! Take a look at the brochures on the credenza and see which camp looks good to you! If you're interested in attending "Grandparents and Me" with Pastor Laurie and Michael, let her know!

## March Ushers

Carolyn Hamrick  
Bill Kuhne  
Ann Swearingen  
Richard Swearingen



## Church Mailbag



*Thanks to Pastor Laurie Hill for all her kindness shown to Elton and I. She truly is a gift from God*

*Prayers do help. . . . And thanks to JoAnn Malloch for bringing the Christmas cheer from St. Peter's. Took us both back to when we were kids. Very sweet. Our prayers and blessing to each and everyone.*

*Love, Elton & Dorothy Roberts*



## March Anniversaries

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

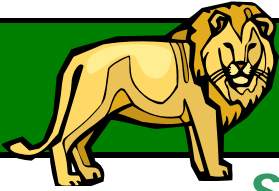


## March Birthdays

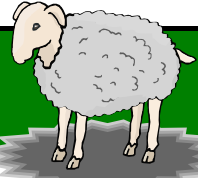
- 1 Robin Limp  
4 Andy Eheart  
6 Al Shoudel  
Shirley Casey  
9 Joyce Trost  
Jennifer Foster  
10 Dorothy Zahnd  
Sierra Marcum  
11 Mike Lehmann  
Erin Durukan  
12 Maurine Sterrett  
13 LiAnne Kitchen  
Mike Berbaum  
14 Kellie Dahl  
15 Sarah Malone  
16 McKenzie Marcum  
17 Marilyn Rayburn  
18 Rhonda Shoudel  
20 Stanley Smith  
24 Betty Voigtlander  
28 Paul Hemp  
31 Fern Eheart  
Kris McCarthy



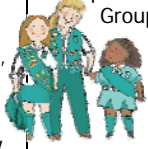


Editor's Note: We apologize for omissions or errors. Information for the newsletter mailing list, birthday list and anniversary list is taken from Church records. Please report changes in writing to the Church Office. You may mail changes, place notes in the Office Manager's mailbox or send an email to [office@stpetersucc.com](mailto:office@stpetersucc.com). Thanks for your help!



# March



## St. Peter's United Church of Christ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 6 p.m. Worship Committee	<b>2</b> 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group	<b>3</b> 6 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service 7 p.m. Choir Reh.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship Communion 2:30-4 p.m. Chris' Choir – Sanctuary Girl Scout Sunday	<b>8</b> 5:30 p.m. Church & Ministry 6:30 p.m. Focus Group 	<b>9</b> 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group 6 p.m. Building & Grounds	<b>10</b> All Church Potluck 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service 7 p.m. Choir Reh.	<b>11</b> 5 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship 2:30-4 p.m. Chris' Choir – Sanctuary Daylight Savings Time Begins	<b>15</b> 6 p.m. Consistory  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>16</b> 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group 7 p.m. Beverly Hills Bible Study	<b>17</b> 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service 7 p.m. Choir Reh. <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	<b>18</b> 5 p.m. Craft Club	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 4-7 p.m. Sausage Supper  <i>First Day of Spring</i>
<b>21</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship 2:30-4 p.m. Chris' Choir – Sanctuary	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group 1 p.m. Tuesday Circle	<b>24</b> 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service 7 p.m. Choir Reh.	<b>25</b> 6 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	<b>26</b> 8 a.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	<b>27</b> 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall
<b>28</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship Board of CE 2:30-4 p.m. Chris' Choir – Sanctuary <i>Palm Sunday</i> 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group	<b>31</b> 7 p.m. Choir Reh.			

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	Laurie H. Hill
Office Manager	Bonnie S. Taylor
Parish Nurse	LiAnne Kitchen
Organist	Chris Holman
Custodian	Carol Martin

### Newsletter Staff

Editor and Layout	Bonnie S. Taylor
Historian	Virginia Zindars

### Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship

