



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

905 S. Russell Street

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CONNECTIONS

October 2010

Adult Bible Study Education

Many folks have told me they'd like to have an adult study **after church**, instead of before, so we'll try it and see how it works out! On Sunday, October 3 from 11:20 – noon in the Consistory Room, we will begin our second session talking about human sexuality. The discussion will include the Biblical and Church Perspectives of many aspects of Sexuality, (heterosexuality, homosexuality, transgender and bisexual practices). There will be a guided study part and then discussion about the topic. Because it is EVERYWHERE in our society, it's good for Christians to have a good, solid, working knowledge of Biblical interpretation and understanding of the topic. Later, in October, we will begin a new video series called, "Faces of Faith".



Grab some coffee and snacks and come down to the Consistory Room for our Bible study!

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

I'll never forget when I was first married, my dear, sweet mother-in-law asked me, at a Thanksgiving gathering, what I wanted for Christmas. I couldn't think of anything right then to tell her, so she asked me to make a list and give it to her. So, in a few hours, I came back with a list of 4 or 5 things. None were very big, but things I needed. She looked at it and had a look of concern on her face, but took it all the same. I told her that I liked surprises, so please just choose something on the list and "Surprise me!" When Christmas came, I looked for my gift and I found four. She had purchased everything on my list!!! I was surprised, alright! I also felt frustrated and embarrassed. I told my husband, of course, that I didn't mean for her to buy everything. And he just smiled and said "Mom doesn't do surprises. If you tell her what you want, that's what you're going to get!" I learned that day, not everyone likes surprises.

I love them. . .when they're good, of course! But some people don't like them at all because they are something out of our control. They are not something we can

choose, plan for, and/or anticipate. And sometimes that makes our lives seem unstable and unpredictable. Yet, they come, both good and bad surprises, whether we like it or not. Good surprises happen when we see someone or talk to someone who we haven't seen in a long time. Good ones happen when there's a new birth and/or wedding announced. Good ones happen when we're a bit down on our luck with finances and we win something or an unexpected gift comes in the mail. We all have our stories of good surprises. I know that when I announced at church that our organist, Chris Holman, had won the National Albert Schweizer Organ Contest...this was a good surprise!

And we all have our stories of bad ones, too. The announcement that a loved one or we, ourselves, are ill or in need of surgery are not usually seen as "good", at least not at first. Of course, when a loved one dies, at first, it feels like a kick in the gut. We have bad surprises at home when a household appliance breaks, a car breaks down, lightning strikes, bee stings. . .just like one of my favorite songs: "My Favorite Things". We all have our stories of bad surprises. I know that when I announced that our office manager, Bonnie Taylor, would not be working for us anymore, that was a bad surprise.

We handle both the good and bad surprises according to the strength of our faith. As people of God, who believe in Christ as our Savior and our Teacher, we know that when good things come to us, they are a gift from God and they become our responsibility to care for them, love them, and rejoice in them!!! And we also know that for whom much is given, much is required. So, we approach our good surprises with an attitude of gratefulness, humility and great rejoicing that God has blessed us! And also, as people of God, we know that when bad things happen to us, they are a gift from God. A Gift?!?! What?!?! How can that be a gift? Hard-to-take-surprises are always an opportunity for us to both strengthen our faith and to show others how nothing in this world is able to come between ourselves and our God. God conquers all. Not that we don't have moments of sorrow and/or frustration, but we trust in God's hand guiding us and those around us towards love, light and truth.

As people of faith, we both rejoice in Chris's accomplishment and mourn the loss of our office manager. As people of faith, we will support Chris's education and listen to his offerings to God that he offers on our behalf in worship. And we will also trust that God will be with Bonnie and her family as they go into their future. And we will trust God will guide us toward another good office manager for our church and its ministries! God is filled with all sorts of surprises for us. May we have open hearts and strong faith so we can rejoice and learn from them all!

Peace,

Pastor Laurie

WANTED ASAP: Sign Board Changer

. . . Someone who enjoys reading those church signs along the road when driving around towns and thinks it's really great that we also have a signboard that we can change . . . and is willing to change it once a week!

Pastor Laurie will provide the sayings and provide the training about how to do it! No prior signage experience needed. It's best if someone is available on Mondays (or Sunday afternoons). The time of the day may need to be flexible due to weather issues. If you can fulfill this mission, even if you'd like to do it one month or a couple of months, etc., please tell Pastor Laurie as soon as possible. Thanks!



New Books in the Library

Maisie Dobbs – my personal favorite of the new group – is a gift from Amy Durukan. It takes place in England in the early 1900's and tells the story of a poor London girl who goes to work as a maid in a wealthy London home. Bright and thoughtful, her employer realizes her potential and sends her to Cambridge. When World War I begins, she becomes a nurse and joins the British Army. You will be mesmerized by her courage and educated about the horrors of this war. But the book is about much more – it becomes a mystery about returning veterans.

Some Kind of Different as Me and *What Difference do It Make* were recommended by Boots Federhart. Inspirational and gripping, these books are true stories of forgiveness and love. Also recommended by Barbara Bush.

Sarah's Key, also recommended by Boots, is a heartbreaking story of the Holocaust in France. The story is told in a back and forth method, going from World War II and the Vichy control to present day Paris. This book has been on the best seller paperback lists for months.

Little Bee is another best seller. It is the story of a Nigerian girl who escapes from Nigeria and stows away to land in England. Imprisoned for two years, she is


released and looks up an English woman whose name she has. Little Bee's personal struggles to find a better life, amidst racial prejudice, is truly compelling.

The Lincoln Poems are written by Dan Guillory. Lincoln's life is told through poems written by the author as though Lincoln had written them. It's one of those books you can pick up and read a few, and return to them later.

These books are purchased with funds provided by the Women's Fellowship. Recommendations are encouraged.

Gladys Hemp, Volunteer Librarian

Highlights – September

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

- The materials for the new doors are here. The next step is assembly and installation.
- A good variety and thoughtful questions were raised at the two information sessions concerning the possible purchasing of a pipe organ. The Buzard Pipe Organ Company is developing an elevation drawing which will show how the organ would fit in St. Peter's. Bill Kuhne suggested that another information session be held after the elevation plans are completed so that the congregation could see how it would look.
- A draft of the proposed budget for 2011 was distributed and discussed in detail.
- The Annual meeting will be October 17.
- Pastor Laurie has received many excellent responses to the advertisement for a new church Office Manager.
- The church sign on the corner which is falling down will be rebuilt with church volunteer labor.

Consistory

Women's Fellowship Board Minutes

- Fellowship Board met on Sept 15. Fund balance - \$20,278, with \$9,616 in Vanguard account and \$10,662 in the fund.
- Gift of \$500 was given to Salt and Light during the summer when their needs were great; \$424 was spent to clean carpets; new books have been purchased for enjoyment for members of the congregation.
- Celeste Honn and Patty Kobel are in charge of Chicken Noodle dinner on October 16. Stitches will be selling their Christmas ornaments at the Faith United Methodist Church Fall Bazaar on October 16 from 8:00 am–2 pm and again at the chicken noodle dinner from 4-7 pm—be sure to tell your friends. The cookie sale will not be held this year.

- Instead of having a general meeting this year, the budget will be published in the November newsletter. Comments from the membership are welcome.
- Any women in the church who has a question or a suggestion regarding activities of the Fellowship are encouraged to contact any Board member (Jo Ann Malloch, Amy Durukan, Susie Kuhne, Rhonda Shoudel, Ann Swearingen, Bernice Benn, Cleo Pelg, Patty Kobel). Currently, we are operating without a committee president, and it seems to be working well.

Gladys Hemp

In Memoriam

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of **Leonard Stevens and David H. Voigtlander.**

Leonard Lloyd Stevens, 75, of Valparaiso, IN and formerly of Champaign, passed on to life eternal on Sunday, September 19, 2010, at Horton Hospice Center, Valparaiso, Indiana.

Leonard was born on February 6, 1935, in Champaign, to Charles and Lillian (Luther) Stevens. On August 31, 1956, in Champaign, Leonard married Judith A. Peterson, who survives along with three children, Andrew (Cynthia) Stevens of Finlay, OH, Cyndi Monnier of Valparaiso, IN, and Daniel L. (Cathy) Stevens of Lena; and six grandchildren, Brian and James Stevens, Matthew and Adam Monnier, and Emily and Caitlin Kuckas. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Charles Stevens.

Leonard was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso, Indiana, and a former member of St. Peter's which his children attended. He was a vice president of Information Systems working for computer systems companies. Leonard was known for setting up and formatting the computer systems in Porter County, IN, for the Voters' Registration in the 1970s and later the system for the Auditor's Office. He also did the same for Tippecanoe County, Indiana and systems for many corporations in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

David H. Voigtlander, 52, passed to life eternal on Friday, August 20, 2010, at Tradition Assisted Living Facility in Brooklyn Park, MN.

David was born on February 9, 1958, in Champaign, a son of Henry P. and Betty J. Guyer Voigtlander. Other survivors are two sons, David Voigtlander and Christian Voigtlander, both of Plymouth, MN; two daughters, Lauren Voigtlander and Rachel Voigtlander, both of Plymouth, MN; two sisters, Carol Voigtlander and Mary Sommers and her husband Jack Sommers, all of Tulsa, OK; and a brother, James Voigtlander and his wife Rayla Voigtlander of Champaign. He was preceded in death by one sister, Nancy Miller.

David graduated from Urbana High School in 1976. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in

mechanical engineering in 1979. Following a brief stint with Oscar Mayer, he graduated with his MBA from Oral Roberts University in 1984.

He was employed from 1985 to 1992 with Accenture, where he worked as a senior manager in industrial and manufacturing consulting. Some of his clients were: Boeing, Lockheed Martin, General Motors, Pope & Talbot, and Telex Computer Products. David also worked for Ernst and Young, LLP, as a senior manager from 1998 to 1999.

David enjoyed salmon fishing, snowmobiles, collecting antique tractors, snow skiing and traveling. David had a strong faith in Jesus Christ. He was a generous, adventurous, brave and poised husband, father, brother and son.

Memorials may be made to St. Peter's United Church of Christ or the National MS Society.

Annual Craft Sale

This year the Stitchers will sell their Christmas ornaments at Faith United Methodist Church's Fall Bazaar on Saturday, October 16 from 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. They also will be selling their ornaments that evening at the Chicken Noodle dinner (4:00–7:00 p.m.).



If you know of anyone who has attended our craft sales in the past, please let them know. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Kobel, Celeste Honn or Cleo Pelg.

All Hands on Deck!

St. Peter's Chicken Noodle Dinner has been set for Saturday, October 16 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. In order for us to be successful, we need your help. For those of you who have never helped with this event before, below is a timeline of the preparation involved in order to serve approximately 400 people.



**CHICKEN
NOODLE
DINNER**

- The fun begins in late September with our annual **"fall cleaning"** of the kitchen, hallway, and stage. This task includes taking everything out of the cabinets, dusting off equipment and items stored in cabinets, washing the cabinets and shelves, cleaning the dust hood and filters as well as the ovens, throwing away any outdated food, and lastly, defrosting and cleaning out freezers and refrigerators. On this date, we also cook and debone about 120 lbs. of chicken, and freeze the broth and meat until the dinner.
- The next step is asking for volunteers to set up the tables and chairs in Fellowship Hall the Sunday prior to the dinner. We also need volunteers to make 12-14 pans of Jello (pans and recipe will be provided to you) as well as 55 desserts (assorted pies, cookies, or cakes). **Any custard pies must be made at the church per Health Department rules.**

- On Friday, October 15, the fun begins at 9:00 a.m. with packaging silverware, counting and stacking plates, counting and setting up the drink tables, cutting up and cooking the bacon for the green beans and getting Fellowship Hall ready. Then Friday evening at 5:30 p.m., we start peeling and cutting up 140 lbs. of potatoes — this is where we need approximately 10-15 volunteers to get the job done — it takes about an hour. If you have a favorite potato peeler, please bring it! If not, we have plenty of potato peelers in the kitchen. After all the potatoes are peeled, we'll go out for pizza — this has been an on-going tradition for many years.

- On Saturday morning starting at 9:00 a.m., the real task begins by cooking the chicken and noodles, and making the tea. What would be helpful here is having a tall person help me stir the chicken and noodles throughout the day in the big pots.



- At 2:30 p.m., the kitchen help starts cooking the potatoes and 16-20 cans of green beans.
- At 3:00 p.m., we'll start cutting and plating the desserts, dishing up the salads, setting out the bread and butter, start the coffee and get the drinks ready.
- 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 washing/drying dishes.
- When the supper ends at 7:00 p.m., the real fun stuff begins — help is needed to clean up and fill up the plastic containers with leftover food to sell or take to shut-ins (this is a new task we are adding this year) — it usually takes 1-2 hours for clean-up; the more people to help, the sooner we get done. It's amazing how quickly it all happens when we have people to help!
- We also offer an opportunity for you to clean out your cupboards — we need plastic containers (butter tubs, etc.) for leftovers, especially one gallon tubs to store the broth and any leftover noodles. Please leave containers in the church kitchen.



One thing that I **must emphasize** from the Health Department is . . . if you are cooking, serving, or handling food, you must either wear a hat or a hairnet. Hairnets will be provided.

As you can see, there are many tasks that need to be completed. Many of us have been doing it for years and sometimes we forget to pass on/teach these tasks to new members or those who have never helped before. That being said, if there is a job you would like to help with or one you would like to learn, such as cooking the chicken and noodles, potatoes, etc., please let me know and we'll be happy to train you.

Sign-up sheets for the fall cleaning and chicken noodle dinner will be put up in early September. If you

have any questions or suggestions, please contact Celeste Honn (352-3881) or Patty Kobel (352-0190).

Patty Kobel

Pre-Annual Meeting

On October 10 there will be an informational meeting held at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall for the purpose of explaining and discussing the budget proposal for the annual meeting.

Faces of Faith: October 24th

(before or after church to be decided)

"Interviews of some of the 20th Century's giants of faith reveal their hopes and beliefs as they confront age old questions. Topics include life goals & accomplishments, the meaning of prayer, the problem of evil, and the role of faith in daily living.

October 24th: We will listen to: Desmond Tutu:

Desmond Mpilo Tutu (born 7 October 1931) is a South African activist and cleric who rose to worldwide fame during the 1980s as an opponent of **apartheid**. He was the first black South African **Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town**, South Africa, and **primate** of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa (now the **Anglican Church of Southern Africa**).

Tutu has been active in the defense of human rights and uses his high profile to campaign for the oppressed. He has campaigned to fight **AIDS**, **tuberculosis**, **homophobia**, poverty and racism. Tutu received the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 1984, the **Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism** in 1986, the **Gandhi Peace Prize** in 2005, ^[1] the **Presidential Medal of Freedom** in 2009 and was inducted into the Golden Key International Honour Society as an Honorary Member in 2001, by the University of Stellenbosch. Tutu has also compiled several books of his speeches and sayings.

October 31st: We will listen to Parker Palmer.

Parker J. Palmer (born 1939 in **Chicago, Illinois**) is an author, educator, and activist who focuses on issues in education, community, leadership, spirituality and social change. Palmer received the Ph.D. in **sociology** from the **University of California at Berkeley** in 1970. A member of the **Religious Society of Friends** (Quaker), he lives with his wife, Sharon Palmer, in **Madison, Wisconsin**.

Palmer served for fifteen years as Senior Associate of the now defunct American Association of Higher Education, and as Senior Advisor to the Fetzer Institute.^[1] He is the founder and Senior Partner of the Center for Courage & Renewal,^[2] which oversees the "Courage to Teach" program for K-12 educators across the country and parallel programs for people in other professions, including medicine, law, ministry and philanthropy.

He has published a dozen poems, more than one hundred essays and eight books, including several best-selling and award-winning titles. Palmer's work has been recognized with ten honorary doctorates, two Distinguished Achievement Awards from the National Educational Press Association, an Award of Excellence from the Associated Church Press, and major grants from the Danforth Foundation, the Lilly Endowment and the Fetzer Institute. Pastor Laurie heard one of his lectures and she will remember it for the rest of her life. She also knows people who have named their two sons: "Parker" and "Palmer".

October Anniversaries

- 1 Barbara & Edward Kobel (1955)
- 8 Kate & Sean Berry (2005)
- 20 Genevieve & Walter Claussen (1945)
- 21 Jackie & John Martinie (2006)
- 22 Jocelyn & Nick Voss (2005)
- 24 Paul & Robin Kedzior (2009)
- 28 Marianne & Wes Hutcherson (2000)
- 29 Guy & Jennifer Foster (2005)

October Birthdays

- 1 Jill Acheson
- 2 Pam Green
- 3 Amy Durukan
- 4 Betty Smith
- 5 Bill Henderson
Lynnelle Pope
- 8 Jim Acheson
- 10 Mark Sterrett
- 12 Denton Brown
- 13 Karlene Ornelas
- 15 Bernice Mueller
- 16 Lester Rabe
- 17 Mike O'Neill
- 18 Marilyn Foster
Cory Rolfe
- 19 Mark Schultz
- 21 Susie Kuhne
Lee Eichhorst
Dale Pelg
- 23 Maralena Taube
- 24 Jessica Jewett
- 26 Herman Kuhlman
Laurie Hill
- 28 Mary Ziegler
- 29 Beverly Gerdts
- 30 Dan Wingler



November 14

A Celebration of God's Gifts After church we'll have a catered meal from Foudini's (like last year, which was a big hit!) and a great program! We're hoping to have EVERYONE there!



Church Mailbag

My family and I want to express our appreciation to our friends at St. Peter's for all the kindness shown to us after Ed's death. A special thank you to the ladies who served the luncheon and a big thank you to Pastor Laurie who made the funeral so personal.
Cleo Pelg

Thank you for all your support and donating all the supplies for our kids. Thanks for being here all day during registration. It was a very hot day!

Westview School Staff



New Address

Dorothy Yates
Century Assisted Living
703 S. Lewis Lane, #6
Carbondale, IL 62901-3344
(618) 457-2406



October Ushers

Kurt Eheart
Barb Kobel
Ed Kobel
Patty Kobel

Kymberly McCarthy
Mark Williams
Jocelyn Voss
Nick Voss



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 any changes in writing to the Church Office via mail, in the Office Manager's mailbox, or by sending an email to office@stpetersucc.com. Thanks for your help!





Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November issue of **Connections** is Friday, October 15. Please submit articles to the Church Office or leave them in the Office Manager's mailbox along with your name and phone number. Thank you!



October

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
3 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship World Wide Communion Communion Sunday Neighbors in Need 11 am Adult Sunday School 3 pm Installation of New Conf Minister, Jorge Morales, Elmhurst	4 6 pm Worship Committee	5 9 am Stitches Weight Loss Support Group 5:30 pm Acolyte Training	6 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 10 am Sunrise Cluster - Lounge	8	2 8 am – 12 pm Kitchen Clean-up & cooking chicken
10 9 am Sunday School Budget Info Mtg 10 am Worship 11 am Adult Sunday School 4 pm Wedding – Burr/Forge	11 5:30 pm Church & Ministry 6:30 pm Missions & Stewardship	12 9 am Stitches Weight Loss Support Group 6 pm Buildings & Grounds	13 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	14 6 pm Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	15 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	16 8 am – 2 pm Stitches – Faith United Methodist Church Fall Bazaar 4-7 p.m. Chicken Noodle Dinner & Stitches craft sell – Narthax
17 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am Adult Sunday School 11:15 am Annual Congregational Meeting	18 6 pm Consistory	19 9 am Stitches Weight Loss Support Group 7 pm Mayberry Bible Study	20 7 pm Choir Rehearsal		22	
24 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am Adult Sunday School 31 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am Adult Sunday School 11:15 am Board of CE <i>Halloween</i>	25 (Pastor Laurie out of office)	26 9 am Stitches Weight Loss Support Group 1 pm Tuesday Circle	27 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	28 6 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	29	30 8 am -3 pm Fall Association Meeting – St. Paul's UCC – Minonk

Happy
HALLOWEEN

Friday/Saturday – Pastor's days off

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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NEWSLETTER

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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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Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship