

A Note from the Pastor Continued from page 1

All love is created by God and all love is good. It's the spice of life, the thing that helps us feel purposeful in life. It's what keeps us going in the "bleak midwinter". I hope that you will celebrate "Valentine's Day", not only with expressions of love for those whom you have agape, erotic, and filio love for, but the God who made them all possible!! Come and have fun sharing expressions of love with us on February 13th and then keep them going all year round!

Love from Your Pastor Laurie

SAVE THE DATE!!

News of Upcoming Special Guests to St. Peter's!

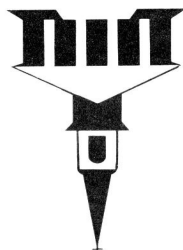
Sunday, March 6th: Rev. Dr. Gorge Morales, our Illinois Conference Minister will be here to lead worship and answer our questions about the "state of the conference". Make sure you're here that day to celebrate who we are as UCCers in 2011 in Illinois. Rev. Dr. Morales has agreed to stay after church to answer our questions.

Sunday, April 10th: Seminary Sunday: Featuring Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, will be here to lead worship in preaching and singing! Dr. Grundy is well known for his beautiful and great music, esp. geared toward youth, and has many CD's. He is currently the "Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and is Coordinator of Worship and Chapel Services".

Fuller bio sketches will be coming out in the next newsletters but please keep these in mind! Let's plan to give these two special guests an extravagant welcome!!!!

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ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CONNECTIONS

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It's so much fun to be a pastor of a church who enjoys celebrating Valentine's Day. I've been pleasantly surprised at the times I've heard that we can't schedule things on a certain day in February because it is too close to Valentine's Day. It's a day of expressing our love for each other; a day of celebrating all the loves of our lives; a day of joy and warmth and fun. And, as cynics say, another way for Hallmark, Florists and Chocolate companies to make big bucks. Such is life. Think of it this way: It's an economy boost! (I know, I'm ever finding the silver lining). I believe it's also a way to celebrate one of the most important parts of our lives in a month when our winter weariness is getting "old" and we need a lift of the Spirit.

There are many types of love. There is agape, which is a friendship sort of love. It's the kind of love I have for all of you! It's the kind of love we have for our favorite sports teams. It's the kind of love we have for the people we socialize with. Expressing love in this form always comes with smiles, pats on the back, hugs, cards, phone calls, emails, facebook messages, etc. Of course, in all love forms, there are degrees of each type.

There is a more "romantic" love, as well. . .that love is called, "erotica" which is not a surprise to many of you. It's that love that drives two people together in a more intimate fashion. The best of erotic love isn't what you might think, though, is not the best x-rated movie you've ever seen, although our culture has defined it as such. The best erotic love, as defined in the Bible, is actually the most deeply committed kind of love two people can have and express for each other. It can be sexual but in this kind of love, sexual moments are expressions of that devotion for the other partner. The best part of erotic love is actually selfless. . .it is the desire to please the "other", even at the expense of sacrificing oneself. This "pleasing" may sound sexual, but it is also found in everyday life sort of experiences. Shovel-ing the driveway so I can get the car out is a way Steve "pleases" me, even though it means he has to get up earlier than he might want to. When Steve sees the crock pot going in the morning, he is pleased that I've taken time to make something yummy for dinner, (on the rare occasions we're both going to be home). Ideally, both people are feeling this erotic sort of love, then that love grows deeply as years and years of pleasing go by. Contrary to popular opinion, erotic love never grows "boring" since we all change and grow and have different needs and opinions as life goes on.

Another kind of love is "filio" love. This is where the city "Philadelphia" gets it's name of "The City of Brotherly Love". . .This love is that strong love that we have for our precious loved ones. . .brothers, sisters, parents, child. It is the love that makes us admire those who have lived for our sakes. . .like a child loves a parent because that parent is so loving and takes care of them. Filio love is, I think, where we learn to love God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer come into play. Our first love for God, I think, is most times, Filio. Filio love is also expressed in devotion. When my daughter wanted to express her gratitude for something I did, she would organize my shoes. I was always pleasantly surprised when I would come home from work, go to change my clothes, and as I was about ready to kick my shoes off into my closet, would find them neatly lined up in rows. It warmed my heart. Which is, of course, the purpose of all love.

(CONT'D ON PAGE 8)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fellowship Activities 2

Sausage Supper Information 3

Anniversaries, Birthdays and Those Serving in February 4

Calendar 5

Very Special 90th Birthday 6

St. Peter's Library News 6

Tuesday Circle Valentine Dinner 6

Women's Fellowship news 7

Campus Ministry Sweetheart Dinner 7

A Note from the Pastor Continued 8

Save the Date 8

Don't Forget FEBRUARY 6th!!!

TACKLE



HUNGER

What is February 6th? Yes, it's Superbowl Sunday but it's also Soup-er-bowl Sunday! Our kids will be collecting soup cans and dollars to be donated to a local food bank of their choice, (which will be announced that day). They will be standing at the sanctuary doors ready to collect your soup and dollars that day! Please support the mission efforts of our wonderful kids!

You Are Invited to a Baby Shower

On February 20th, during the Fellowship Hour, the Board of Christian Education will be sponsoring a Baby Shower for our Nursery. The toys and supplies in the nursery have become very outdated and some inappropriate for the young babies and toddlers. So, we hope to be able to buy some new and more updated toys for our new nursery kids! We would like everyone to bring cash or a Target gift card to the shower. (Please do not buy gifts or supplies yourselves. . .we are going to allow our young mothers to choose the new items.) Come on the 20th expecting to have fun!



Adult Education Opportunity!!!

After worship on February 13th and 20th, we will continue our Video Series: "Faces of Faith" . These are interviews of some of the 20th century's giants of faith who reveal their hopes and beliefs as they confront age old questions such as the meaning of prayer, the problem of evil and how their faith helped them in their daily lives and accomplishments.

February 13th, we will be listening to Parker Palmer, who is a writer, teacher, and activist, He is known for his work in education, spirituality and social change in institutions including schools, community organizations, primary, secondary and higher education, and business and corporations. A native of Chicago and graduate of Carleton College and the University of California at Berkeley, where he received a Doctorate in Sociology, Palmer serves as a senior associate of the American Association of Higher Education, a senior advisor to the Fetzer Institute, and the founder of Courage to Teach for K-12 teachers nationwide. He lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

I, Pastor Laurie, heard him speak in the year 1990 and I still remember almost the whole lesson. That's impressive!

On February 20th, we will listen to Adele Gonzales:

Dr. Adele J. Gonzalez, founder and president of "Get With It", has a Doctor of Ministry Degree from the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul, Minnesota, specializing in Contemporary Spirituality. Adele is a national speaker in the areas of Spirituality, Cultural Diversity and Ministry. She has been involved in the formation and training of lay ministers within the Catholic Church for over 30 years and was a Theology Professor at Barry University, Miami Shores, Florida, for 12 years. Adele has published several books, in English and Spanish, and multiple articles and essays in magazines and books. In addition, she directs retreats, has recorded several CD's on the topics of anger and forgiveness, and is a lay associate of the Franciscan Sisters of Stella Niagara, New York.

Women's Fellowship News

The Women's Fellowship Board met on January 10th. Attending the Meeting were: Ann Swearingen, Laurie Hill, patty Kobel, Amy Durukan, Bernice Benn, Gladys Hemp, Marguerite Zahnd, and Cleo Pelg.

A Thank You note will be sent to Mark Williams for his work on the entry and Fellowship Hall floors. We do appreciate the giving of your time over Thanksgiving weekend.

The price of the tickets for the sausage supper and chicken noodle dinner has been raised to \$10.00. The Board members decided that the current price of food, the physical labor required by so many, and the time spent by the Eheart, Zahnds and Patty Kobel for the two dinners justified raising the price. The members think that it is still a bargain. An amount of \$200.00 will be added to the budget to cover advertising/publicity for these dinners. The chicken noodle dinner date has been set for October 22, 2011.

The next meeting will be held on April 11 at 1:00 p.m.

Look for Thank You Notes from our mission budget recipients on the bulletin board.

As of December 2010, the Women's Fellowship Fund has \$10,401.32 and the Vanguard Fund has \$9754.45

OUR UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY PROUDLY PRESENTS THE 21ST ANNUAL

"EVERYONE IS A SWEETHEART" DINNER



When: Saturday February 12 Doors open 5:30 pm. Program begins 6 pm

Where: Final destination- China by way of CUCC's Fellowship Hall where you will be transported 6,583 miles across space and time.

What: A full evening of family entertainment complete with a 4 course dinner cooked by a team of campus ministry chefs who include international students from China.

A wonderful program of live music, table games and **fun for the whole family!**

Cost: Adults - \$20 Kids 6 and older- \$5 Kids 5 and under- Free

You are also welcome to email your reservation to our campus minister Rev. Karen Bush at Karen@community-ucc.org or contact Community UCC at 344-5091

Everyone Is a Sweetheart Dinner is a fundraising event for our campus ministry's BreakAway spring break service trip to the Gullah Islands near Charleston, South Carolina.

Everyone Is a Sweetheart Dinner is a fundraising event for our campus ministry's BreakAway spring break service trip to the Gullah Islands near Charleston, South Carolina.

Students will learn about the complex realities and powerful impact of poverty on families and individuals as the students serve through the community outreach programs of Rural Missions Community Center. Rural Missions serves residents of the economically depressed Gullah Islands which includes a large number of migrant worker families. This year's BreakAway is the campus ministry's 5th service trip to the Gullah Islands since 1985.

Happy 90th Birthday Evelyn Kitchen!

Evelyn Maurine Huffman was born in Martinsville, IL February 9, 1921 to Philip "Henry" and Mable Huffman. She lived on the farm in rural Martinsville until she was in high school when the family "moved to town". After graduation from Martinsville High School, she worked in the office of the local foundry and started dating Jerry Kitchen. They were married June 22, 1941 in Rock Island, IL because Jerry had found work at the Rock Island Arsenal.

While Jerry was in the Navy, Evelyn followed him around the US for as long as he was stationed state-side. However, when he was deployed she returned to Clark County to care for ailing parents. After the war, Evelyn & Jerry returned to the Quad-cities and made their home on the banks of the Rock River in a small trailer until about 1949 when they purchased a home in Silvis, IL. This house was fully populated; Norman was born in 1949, LiAnne in 1951, plus the Huffman grandparents joined the family in 1951. In about 1955, Jerry and Evelyn were the general contractors for a new house that was built in the empty lot next door and this became "home" for the Kitchen family for years to come.

Evelyn was a busy stay at home mother who was active in PTA, Silvis Women's Club, Plymouth Congregational church. She loved to garden, raising beautiful flowers and food for our family and enough to share. Eventually she studied for her real estate license and had a career lasting 20+ years. When Jerry retired, they traveled the US with their airstream trailer and finally "settled" in Bradenton, FL in the winter and Silvis in the summer. An arrangement that worked wonderfully until Jerry died in 1988.

So with the courage that Evelyn demonstrated so often, she made another major life change in 1990. She elected to move to Champaign, where she once again was the general contractor for a house being built. This time it was for the duplex she has shared with Mark & LiAnne. Still fond of traveling, she continued to be a snow bird and in 2000, she married Allin Perfect, a snow bird from Canada. Today at "90" Evelyn still enjoys traveling, living between Canada, Illinois & Florida, her family and her friends. May we all enjoy so many blessings.

Library News

Amy Durukan has given two books to the Library. Set in London in the late 1800's, *Some Element of Danger* by Will Thomas is a detective story that is unusual and extremely engrossing. *Sacred Hearts* by Sarah Dunant is a heart wrenching tale of a young woman put in a convent against her will. In 1500's Italy this was not an unusual situation, but in this case the girl is very much in love. Her beautiful voice enables her to have some privileges, and ultimately some help from two nuns. You will spend the entire book saying to yourself "Get Out! Get Out!", but this is not an easy thing to do in this fortress like convent. Try these books and others that are on the library table and the bookshelves. ~ Gladys Hemp, Librarian

Tuesday Circle News

Valentine's Dinner

Tuesday Circle is having their annual Valentine's dinner at The Ribeye at 6:30p.m. on Tuesday, February 15. Everyone is invited. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the south hallway. Please sign-up and list how many people.



SAUSAGE SUPPER IS ALMOST HERE!

St. Peter's Sausage Supper has been set for Saturday, February 26 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Save this date and plan on joining the members of St. Peter's in preparing and serving the best sausage supper in the county. Preparation starts as early as the week prior to the dinner. Many hands make light work. No one will be turned away from helping. It doesn't matter if you work one hour or more, we need all the help we can get. Ticket prices for the meal did increase due to all the materials used for preparing the supper have increased. If you go out to eat at a sit down restaurant, it costs more than \$10.00 with drink, dessert, and tip. Tickets are: Adults - \$10; Children (5-12 years old) - \$5; Under 5 - Free; Carry-outs are available.

The Sausage Supper goes back to the 1930's. At that time they served 600 people...now we serve over 400 people. The fundraiser proceeds go towards the many community shelters and ministry's that we support. Tickets will be available before and after worship each Sunday from now until the event on February 26th. You can also call the church office for tickets 356-3635.

For those of you who have never helped with this event before, below is a timeline of the preparation involved to make this fundraiser a success.

On Wednesday, February 23, tables and chairs will be set up in Fellowship Hall and the grill will be set up in the boiler room.

On Friday, February 25, the fun begins at 9:00 a.m. with packaging silverware, stacking plates, squeezing sausage patties, cooking short ribs, and cooking bacon.

Friday evening, beginning at 5:30 p.m., we peel the potatoes. 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.

Saturday, February 26, starts with cooking the sauerkraut. The sauerkraut is started at 9:00 a.m. and by 11:00 a.m. the grill-masters go to work cooking the sausage, and at noon the gravy is made.

At 2:30 p.m., the kitchen help starts to cook the potatoes and green beans, and by 3:00 p.m., we'll start cutting and plating **all** the deserts and dishing up the salads. **Any custard pies must be made at the church per Health Department rules.**

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 happen 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!

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

Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board across from the office. If you want to help and aren't signed up yet, please call Kurt and Fern Eheart (351-7997) or Larry and Marguerite Zahnd (359-3808), or just show up. THANK YOU!!!



Thank You

We want to thank our St. Peter's family for the many kind expressions of sympathy our family received at the time of my mother, Elsie Swearingen's death. It was especially heartwarming considering how busy everyone is at Christmas. It meant so much to us. ~ The Richard Swearingen Family

February Birthdays

- 1 Ruth Schloz
- 2 Irene Lofton
- 5 Latsami Sysouvanh
- 6 Will Hallett
- 7 Eileen Walters
Diann Wingler
- 9 Evelyn Kitchen
Terry Woller
- 12 Norma Hollen
Phou Sysouvanh
- 15 Sophie Carson
- 17 Eric O'Neill
- 18 Omer Benn
Cassandra Wentz
- 19 Michael Carson
- 20 Bob Reifsteck
- 21 William Malone
James Martinie
Sam Schultz
- 24 Tricia McCarthy
Nigel Knop
Ben Sterrett
Susan Harper

February Anniversaries

- (9) Shirley & Jerry Hoffman
(27) Diann & William Wingler

February Ushers-

Kurt Eheart, Barb Kobel, Ed Kobel, Patty Kobel, Kymberly McCarthy, Mark Williams, Jocelyn Voss, Nick Voss

February Acolytes-

- (6) Roy Yoos
(13) Erin Durukan
(20) Carolina Barnard
(27) Sam Schultz

February Liturgists

- (6) Carolyn Hamrick
(13) Fern Eheart
(20) Kurt eheart
(27) Judy Moller-Vaiden

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!

January 17, 2010 Consistory Highlights

Pastor Laurie Hill has been elected as a delegate to the National UCC Conference meeting in July in Florida.

The church has a candidate for the nursery. She comes highly qualified.

The Chicken Noodle dinner will be October 22, 2011. The cost will be \$10.00 for adults. The Sausage supper will be February 26.

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

Newsletter Deadline- The newsletter deadline for March will be Tuesday, February 22. Please have all articles & announcements into Mary by noon on the this day. Thanks!

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Adult Sunday School		9:00 am Stitchers Spiritual Walks	7:00 pm Choir Rehersal			

		1	2	3	4	5
6 SUPER BOWL OF CARING	7 6:00 p.m. Worship Comm.	8 6:00 p.m. Building & Grounds	9	10 12:00 Focus Group at Champaign Library 6:00p Illini Quilters	11	12
13 	14 5:30 Church & Ministry 6:30 Mission & Stewardship	15 6:30 Tuesday Circle Valentine's Dinner at The Ribeye	16	17	18	19
20 Board of C.E. BABY SHOWER	21 6:00 p.m. Consistory	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 p.m. Mayberry	23 SAUSAGE SUPPER SET UP	24 Noon- 9:30 Illini Quilters Auction	25 9:00 a.m. SAUSAGE SUPPER WORK DAY	26 SAUSAGE SUPPER 4-7
27 11:15 Board of C.E. Mtg.	28	1 	2	3	4	5