

THE KEYS

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GRANT PARK, IL



August 2014



815-465-6191

St. Peter's

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

310 N. Meadow St.
Grant Park, Illinois 60940

God is still speaking

SUMMARY OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

June 25, 2014

Treasurer's report was given.



Discussion was concerning printing budget information in the bulletin. We will continue to print for now. The budget committee be consulted.

Unfinished Business

- Discussion about IGS, the supplier of our gas and electricity, was held. The decision made is to go to a 2 week billing cycle to help understand the billing.
- Council members will visit churches and bring feedback to the Council about the use of technology in worship.
- The roof project is complete. There were no additional charges to the accepted bid. Total cost is \$45,080.
- Discussion was held about accessibility to the church. Debbie Hengl left approximately \$3,000 for this project. There is also money in the Memorial Fund earmarked for accessibility. Council feels it is time to re-visit this project.
- A task force met to discuss the issue of inactive members on the church rolls.
- Kevin and Pastor Doug attended the conference "Rich Church Poor Church".
- The idea of a contemporary choir/band was discussed.
- Investigation into offering a CPR training course.

New Business

- Nancy Sturm has volunteered to chair and revitalize the Shepherding Committee.
- Discussion was held about The Keys and the use of delivering it electronically versus via the Post Office.

Committee Reports

- Christian Education-
 - VBS is July 16-18. Debbie Mussman will lead with the help of the committee.
 - Fusion carwash Sat. July 19 from 10-2.
 - Family Fun Night set for Aug. 9th possibly a fundraiser for Fusion.
 - The idea of children carpooling for Sunday School was discussed.
 - Adult Ed will meet on Sunday Mornings.
 - The possibility of incentives for attendance to Sunday School and Choir was discussed.
- Budget Committee: Will meet on June 29.
- Mission Committee:
 - Disaster Relief Survey from the IL Conference– We can offer help by making disaster relief kits and offer physical help in the event of a disaster.
- Property and Maintenance:
 - Roof project and window project are complete.
 - The tuck-pointing project will be scheduled.
 - Al Bakhaus will be contacted regarding emergency lighting in the building.
- Worship: No report

Pam Lawrence is the July Council Person of the Month.

The next meeting date is July 21, 2014.

The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

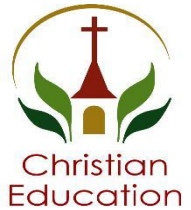
Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ekhoff

Council Secretary

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINUTES

The Board of Christian Education met on Wed,
July 2, 2014 at 7:00 pm.



Reports:

- Budget – Pastor Doug gave the report.
- Council Rep – No Report
- Sunday School Superintendent – No Report
- Fusion – They will be holding a car wash on July 19th; they also will be planning an outing for August.
- Confirmation – Confirmands were asked to help with VBS.

Old Business:

- Vacation Bible School – VBS will be held July 16-18th from 5:30-8:00 pm. We need of a few crew leaders and youth helpers. There will be a cookout on Friday night.
- Mission Project for VBS – The money collected from VBS will be for the Heifer Project this year.

New Business:

- Assistant Sunday School Superintendent – We are still in need of an Assistant Sunday School Superintendent.
- Rally Day – “Sunday Funday” will be held on Sep 7th.
- Middle School Class/Teacher needed – This position will be for 6th and 7th graders;
- First Grade Bibles – Bibles will be given to 1st graders in September.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 5, 2014 at 7:00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Claussen
Christian Education Secretary

MISSION BOARD

Minutes of June 22, 2014 Meeting

Items of Discussions:

■ Illinois Conference Disaster Response Ministries

We discussed the Resources Inventory Survey. We felt that our church would be willing to help in times of a disaster, but there are limitations because of the structure of our building. We will still be “5 for 5” Special Offerings Congregation. We would also assemble hygiene kits, clean up buckets and school kits.

■ Salvation Army

Serving lunch and bringing desserts to the Salvation Army was discussed.

Respectfully submitted,
LaDonna Swanson



IL CONFERENCE DELEGATE REPORT by Linda Neidlinger



Thank you so much for allowing me to be your delegate for the Illinois UCC Conference. Last weekend I, along with Pastor Doug and about 250 other UCC Pastors, Delegates and lay people, attended the 2014 Illinois Conference Annual Celebration in Springfield Illinois.

Friday was a day of Energizers of a variety of subjects and viewing the booths that were set up. There were also 2 gatherings and a worship service. I was a volunteer so I was not able to attend the Friday Energizers. I delivered the buckets and hygiene /school kits that St. Peter's assembled There were 24 buckets donated and quite a few kits.

Saturday began with worship. A trip to Springfield to walk the trail of the Springfield 1908 riot was held in the afternoon. We

had a very knowledgeable tour guide. If you choose not to attend the walk, there were energizers as well.

We were inspired and humbled by speakers such as the Rev Dr. Ben Guess who told the story of a woman in a snowstorm spreading the Word. And the Rev Dr, Eric Elnes. who walked across America bringing the message to the road followed by a film crew. A documentary film was made of the journey. He choose to attend churches along the way who may not had believed in his group's message, but most welcomed him and donated to their cause.

The Rev Dr. Jorge Morales was approved to be re elected as our Conference Minister for a second 4 year term.

We heard discussions about several resolutions:

1. An Emergency resolution to allow victims of the Philippine Typhoon Haiyan to stay in the country until they have a safe place to return. It was resolved that we support granting the Filipino people with TPS or Temporary Protected Status.
2. It was approved to study for one year the Deportations until a Comprehensive Immigration Reform Enacted resolution.
3. It was approved to study for one year the resolution that would prohibit the Concealed Carry of Firearms in a place of worship.
4. It was approved to study for one year the Israeli-Palestine Conflict issue. Actions include a call to boycott several large companies. I have a list if you need to see it.
5. It was approved to take to the General Synod a Proclamation to Releases the Captives and Dismantle the New Jim Crow. This is about Justice and Fairness in the minority population.

I have detailed information of these resolutions if you would like to learn more.

We heard from representatives from The Angola Partnership, Disaster response team, Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) report. We can be very proud of our support being a 5 for 5 church. It shows our commitment, dedication, and support to the UCC church.

We were serenaded by the All Conference choir and a local musician. I know there is a lot of controversy over screens. But all the songs were on screens at the Celebration. Many songs were

new. People sang from their hearts, not the hymnals. Our voices were lifted in praise. You felt the Holy Spirit surround us all with His presence. So if you see me swaying to the music, it is still working on me!

We celebrated the Illinois Conferences 50th birthday with cake and a “Dance Like it's 1964” party. I didn't have my cell phone so I missed the opportunity to take a picture of Pastor Doug in the dance line!

On Sunday, we voted on the above resolutions.

Pastor Doug passed his gavel to the in-coming president and was presented with a gavel. All whom I spoke with praised Pastor Doug's leadership as president.

Our meeting next year is in Peoria. Anyone can attend these celebrations. If you have an opportunity to go, I would highly recommend it. It is very inspirational, cleansing, rejuvenating and humbling.

This is my report on the Annual Celebration. We all left with the words to a new song in our heart that we sang often “God has work for us to do.”

Thank you

FARMERS AND FRIENDS

Farmers and Friends, a support group for men whose spouses have died, will meet at the USA Restaurant in Grant Park at **12:30 pm on Wednesday, August 20th**.



GRANT PARK SENIOR



The Grant Park Seniors will **not** meet in the month of August.

DART BALL

Any men interested in playing dartball this season should contact Daren Lehnert (815-465-6646) or Roger Sturm (815-466-0253). Season begins September 3. Join us to share in fellowship and fun.





THE PASTOR'S NOTE

Cell Phones on the Altar By Lillian Daniel Feb 4, 2014

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." - Proverbs 16:3

On the Sunday before Labor Day, we invite our congregation to bring symbols of their work to the altar to be blessed. People put up lap top computers, resumes, shovels, notebooks, mops and boots. And all that sits behind the communion table, set up for the feast.

But not everybody plans ahead. So I invited people who hadn't remembered to bring anything to come forward and leave the workplace symbols they carried with them anyway. Yes, I did it. I asked them to give me their cell phones.

You could feel a great awkwardness. Only a few people walked forward and placed their phones at the front of the church. "Don't be scared, we'll give them back to you at the end of the service!" I promised. A few more came forward. "Pastor Seth and I are pretty trustworthy. We won't let anyone take them. Besides, you can keep an eye on them from the pews for the next hour."

It generated a lot of discussion at coffee hour. People talked about being unwilling to part with their phones. Others talked about what it felt like to let the phone go, both the freedom and the anxiety of it. It was hard for people to hand over and ask God to bless the very tools that sometimes take more of our time than they save.

Whenever you find yourself unwilling to part with something, ask God to bless it and to bless you as well. Letting go is a great cure for clutching. But if you can't let go, don't worry. Just try loosening your grip a little. God can work with that too.

Let Go, Let God. This is a saying on a headstone at the cemetery where my parents are buried. A simple sentence, but not easy to do. It's about trusting God! Can we Let Go, Let God?

Pastor Doug

AUGUST MISSION GIVING

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) –

Also known as Basic Support, our contributions support God's mission in the Illinois Conference, nationally, and globally. 71% of our contribution stays in Illinois to carry out the mission of the Illinois Conference. Part of that mission is the support of local church pastors and the local churches, helping local churches during the search and call process, and providing intervention teams to help local churches work through times of challenge.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Warren Wessman - Cancer, **Vic Frahm** - Heart Issues **Bill Posey** - Pancreatic cancer (Cousin of Karen Ekhoff & Karri Barrera), **Sue** – Cancer (Friend of Wally and Tonita Reifsteck) **Kim Nolte** – Cancer (Friend of Kim Sherwood) **Jean Halloway** Cancer (Friend of Ethel and Clifford Zimmerman) **Cynthia Gerdez** – Cancer (Friend of Margaret Chesterfield) **Tim Langlois** – Cancer (Son of Marcia Langlois) **Allison Kiuewski** – heart surgery (Granddaughter of Gene & Marilyn Rademacher) **Ione Hebert** – Chronic Back Pain (Friend of Ethel and Clifford Zimmerman) **Ronald Schneider** – Brain Tumor **Homer Fraizer** – (Grandfather of Michelle Crivokapich) Open heart surgery **Matt Schaff** (Friend of Larry & Shari Ohm) Cancer
And all of God's children seeking comfort, support, peace and love.



Concerns The family and friends of **Bill Pugh**

The family and friends of **Tim Boll**

The family and friends of **Sharon Carlin**

Condolences to all of the families who lost their loved ones.



Joys

- * A successful Vacation Bible School. VBs collected \$663.60 to send to the Heifer Project.
- * A successful Fusion Car wash. \$460.00 was received in donations.
- * Happy 90th birthday to Doris Laking.



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH ON A REGULAR BASIS

Mrs. Louise Sievers
891 Exeter Turn
Unit C2
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Mr. Clarence Heldt
Heritage Woods Rm 191
355 Diversatech Dr.
Manteno, IL 60950

Mrs. Pauline Mitchell
84 N. Franklin St.
Momence, IL 60954

Mrs. Geraldine Hamann
1485 Butterfield Trail
Apt. #79
Kankakee, IL 60901

Mrs. Doris Laking
North 8163 Maplewood Rd.
Wittenberg, WI 54499

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Mark & Krysta Farina
PCS 9 Box 1709
APO, AE 09123-0018

Austin Langlois
6111 Randall Ave
Bldg. 220, Box 54
FE Warren AFB, WY 82005

LCpl Lopez, Jessica R.
PSC 557 Box 2031
FPO, AP 96379-2301





AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3	9:30 am	Worship Service – Communion celebrated
5	7:00 pm	Christian Ed
10	9:30 am	Worship Service
12	10:30 am	Worship at Beecher Manor
17	9:30 am	Worship Service
17	10:30am	Worship Committee Meeting
20	12:30	Farmers & Friends
24	9:30 am	Worship Service
28	7:00 pm	Church Council
31	9:30 am	Worship Service
31	10:30am	Budget Meeting

AUGUST BIRTHDAY LIST

Birthdays are compiled from church membership records. Please inform us of any omissions or corrections.



Dean Schneider	2	Richard	
Boicken	19		
Shirley Riley	4	Eric Frahm	19
Jessica Frahm	4	Matt Hamann	19
Eric Couwenhoven	7	Harold Voigt	22
Jared Heldt	7	Gavin Reynolds	22
Bob Hoebet	8	Dorothy Kutemeier	23
Larry Ohm	8	Jessie Martin	23
Dennis Granger	9	Nancy Lewke	25
Karen Spangler	11	Russ Koehn	26
Allen Schroeder	11	Brett Buttle	26
Jan Voigt	11	Tyler Williamson	26
Kim Cousin	11	Leisa Rundquist	28
Terry Boicken	13	Paige Sherwood	29
Susan Williamson	15		

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES

College student addresses (email and regular mail) are needed so we can keep in contact with them by sending our newsletter, *The Keys*, and other information about events at the church.

NEW and **OLD** addresses are needed to update our records. Please call the church office. Leave a message if you are calling after hours. Thank you



HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

Has your house address, email address, or phone number changed?

Please contact the Church Office to advise us of the change!



Sunday Funday!

Kick Off for our Sunday School
Program

Sunday, September 7th
9:00 am

Everyone is Welcome
Please Join Us!

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**310 N. MEADOW ST. P.O. BOX 220
GRANT PARK, IL 60940**

Church Office/Parsonage Phone: (815) 465-6191

Pastor's Cell Phone: (815) 342-8927

Church Email Addresses:

stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net and stpetersgp@gmail.com

Church Website: www.stpetersgp.org

Facebook: St. Peter's UCC Grant Park

Sunday Worship – 9:30 am

No Sunday School during the summer

STAFF

Rev. Doug Zimmerman, Pastor

Marcia Langlois, Office Administrator

Beverly Junker, Financial Secretary

Ann Smith, Senior Choir Director

Kathy Ekhoﬀ, Junior Choir Director

Judy Schneider and Shari Ohm, Organists

Christine Garbaciak, Custodian

Elizabeth Rodriguez & Sharon Buchler, Fusion Co-Advisors

CHURCH COUNCIL

Kevin Mussman, President

Beverly Junker, Vice President

Kathy Ekhoﬀ, Secretary

Josh Hamann, Treasurer

Dave Schroeder, Assistant Treasurer

Ed Bush, Pam Lawrence, Roger Sturm, Trisha Meherg

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Judy Schneider, Ray Isbell

***No Matter Who You Are or Where you Are on Life's Journey,
You Are Welcome Here***