

THE KEYS

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



February 2014

Our Mission

*We are a family of faith that seeks to walk in the footsteps of Christ.
We seek to know God's will and purpose in our lives.
Our doors are open to all who wish to join our journey.*

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

St. Peter's United Church of Christ Annual Meeting, January 26, 2014

The congregation of St. Peter's United Church of Christ met on Sunday, January 26, 2014 after the worship service for its Annual Meeting.



Pastor Doug opened the meeting with prayer.

Members present: Larry Ohm, Trisha Meherg, Kevin Mussman, Ed Bush, Bev Junker, Josh Hamann, Roger Sturm and Michelle Claussen

Members absent: LaDonna Swanson

The secretary's report from the congregational meeting on November 10, 2013 was read. A motion was made by Ed Bush and seconded by Roger Sturm to approve the report. Motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Committee Reports:

- **Audit Committee Report** -- Mardele Engleking and Steve Lawrence performed the annual audit. Steve reported that they found all records to be in good order. He also gave a special thanks to Marcia Langlois and Bev Junker for their work.
- **Treasures' Report/Budget and Finance Committee Report** -- The Treasure's Report and Budget Report for 2014 were given by Larry Ohm. The 2014 budget will stay relatively the same as 2013 with an increase of 2% in the Pastoral and Secretarial accounts. A motion was made to accept the report by Kevin Mussman and seconded by Josh Hamann. Motion carried.

- **Nominating Committee Report** --Larry Ohm gave the Nominating Committee Report. The nominees for Church Council are Kathy Ekhoﬀ, Pam Lawrence, and Dave Schroeder. Audrey and Daren Lehnert were nominated as the Co-Delegates for the Eastern Association and Linda Neidlinger as the alternate. Linda Neidlinger was nominated as the Delegate for the Illinois Conference and Audrey and Daren Lehnert are the alternates. A motion was made by Jim Hamann to approve the nominations and seconded by Shari Ohm. Motion carried.

Trisha Meherg thanked the outgoing council members for their service and dedication

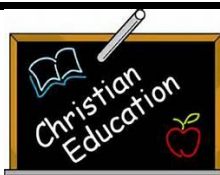
Pastor Doug thanked Trisha for her service as Council President and presented her with a gift.

A motion was made by Larry Voigt to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Larry Hamann. Motion carried.

Pastor Doug closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Claussen
Council Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINUTES



Welcome Mike Reaman and Dawn Schroeder!!

Correspondence: none

Budget: The Fusion Youth group budget was changed from \$500 to

\$1000 for next year's budget

- **Council:** (Josh Hamann)
 - Council approved changing the Fusion budget for 2014 budget year.

- Any fundraisers need to be specified were donations will go so everyone is aware.
- **Sunday School:** (Heather Ohm)
 - Due to snow storm, Sunday School schedule got moved back one week.
 - Plan to make Valentines cards for shut-ins and military again. Grandparents are invited to come with the children.
- **Confirmation:** (Doug)
 - Feb 28th – Mar 2nd is the Pilgrim Park Retreat. We have 11 youth who will be attending. We need one more chaperone as we must have one adult for every 5-6 kids. Tim and Mary Toppen have volunteered to drive. Elizabeth Rodriguez has said she would chaperone.
- **CE Members**
 - Michelle Claussen, Larry Voigt and Elizabeth Rodriguez will fill the three 3 years terms
 - Mike Reaman will fill the two year term.
 - Dawn Schroeder will fill the one year term.
 - Officers will be elected at the Feb. meeting
- **Christmas Program:**
 - Everyone has received positive feedback about the Christmas program. Debbie was very pleased with everything. There were issues with one of the microphone headsets. Batteries were changed and still had problem. The problem will be fixed.
 - Special thanks to Fusion Youth for assisting with the program: Ashton Loitz, Sammie Greenholt, Jake Dickson and Gavin Reynolds.
 - Committee agreed to continue with having program during worship service next year.
- **Fusion Youth:**
 - We are looking for a Youth Advisor. Discussed possibly having “co-leaders” or doing

something every other month. Doug will put information in the Keys and bulletin.

- **VBS 2014:**
 - We need a director for this year. The program material from last year's "Hay Day" is at church. Need to set dates. Hay Day is a 3 day program.
 - Josh will touch base with Jennie Hamann to see if she is willing to direct this year.
 - Nancy email Carol Cadematori to see if Grant Park will have a community play again this year...so we ensure no conflicts.
 - Next meeting will be Feb. 4th at 7pm

MISSION BOARD MINUTES

Members present were Erin and Ron Hamann, Pam Lawrence, Audrey Lehnert, and LaDonna Swanson.

Items of Discussion:

- **New Member:** Kathy Buttle has agreed to be a member of the Mission committee.
- **Salvation Army Dates:** Pam Lawrence has secured dates for our church to serve desserts at the Salvation Army. They are:
 - January 18, 2014
 - March 15, 2014
 - May 17, 2014
 - July 19, 2014
 - September 20, 2014
 - November 15, 2014
- **Clean-up Buckets and School Supply Bags:** Audrey will get together a list of items needed. Audrey will take them to the Association meeting.
- **Angola Project:** The Illinois Council has pledged support for building a Seminary in Angola. Audrey

will contact the Angola team to present a mission moment.

- **Easter Food Baskets:** Easter baskets will be packed on April 12. Church members will be asked for donations on March 23, 30 and April 6. Gift cards from ComEd were discussed as an addition to the usual basket items.

Next Meeting: March 11, 2014

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE



February 8th (Second Saturday of every month)-**5:00 pm**

- Casual dress
- Uplifting contemporary music (modern, popular, Christian music)
- Powerful thought-provoking video message
- Agape meal (more like a small snack)
Agape is Greek for Love, especially love that is spiritual and selfless in nature. An agape meal is a religious meal shared as a sign of love and fellowship.
- Discussion about the message following the service in the fellowship hall for those interested in participating



GRANT PARK SENIORS MEETING

The Grant Park Seniors will meet on **Monday, February 17th from 12:00 – 3:00** pm at the Community Center, Dixie Highway in Grant Park.

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, February 19th.**



YOU'RE INVITED FOR COFFEE BEFORE WORSHIP!

Shari Ohm and her helpers host a coffee bar in the Sunday school entrance area each Sunday morning from 9:00 am – 10:15 am. You're invited have a cup of coffee before worship. Proceeds will go to the Board of Christian Education.

FEBRUARY MISSION GIVING

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) or Basic Support –

Our contributions, sent to the Illinois Conference office, support God's mission in Illinois, nationally, and globally. 71% of our contribution stays in Illinois to carry out the mission of the Illinois Conference. 29% of our contribution goes to the national setting of the UCC to support ministry that reaches from our church to people in need throughout the world.

Chicago United Eden; CUE Seminaries of the United Church of Christ

The mission of the seminaries includes preparing new leadership for our churches, nurturing and supporting current leaders, and maintaining and adding to the tradition of theological scholarship in the UCC.

MISSION PROJECTS

Supply lists for CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
Cleanup Buckets are with the MISSION Board
display in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

There you will find lists for school kits and hygiene kits which will
also be accepted. This mission project will run through April 26.



FOOD PANTRY We continue to participate in the Food
Pantry through St. Luke United Church of Christ,
Beecher. They serve families in Beecher and the
surrounding communities, including Grant Park.
Currently they are accepting food items, paper
products, and personal hygiene items.



Donations received:

	<u>Monetary</u>	<u>Pounds of Items</u>
January	\$ 0.00	8 pounds
Year-to-Date	\$ 0.00	8 pounds

**TREASURER'S REPORT – YEAR-TO-DATE THROUGH DECEMBER
2013**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Total Income:	\$158,416	\$179.105
Total Expenses:	\$163,855	\$177,105
Net Income:	(\$ -5,439)	(\$2,000)



**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

Dylan & Kalie Lergner
6027 Lakeview Drive
San Antonio, TX 78244

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

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

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

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

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



More Wine – UCC Stillspeaking Daily Devotional

by Matt Laney, November 2, 2013

"Jesus and his disciples had been invited to a wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They are out of wine.'" – John 2:2-3

Being a pastor means you must occasionally endure good natured barbs from church members about our supposed ability to walk on water, feed thousands from a Happy Meal and turn water into wine; the good stuff mind you, Cheval Blanc 1947 not Yellowtail 2013.

But hear me on this: dishing up astounding, lavish abundance is the call of every Christian, not just pastors. It's what you signed up for.

The God of Jesus Christ just isn't the stern and stingy sort. Jesus reveals a God of reckless generosity. A God who's like a manager paying a full day's wage for one hour of work; a God who's like a father welcoming a train-wreck-of-a-son home with a ring, a new suit and a kickin' party; a God who's like a sower heedlessly hurling seed anywhere and everywhere in complete disregard of soil quality.

And if we have encountered God's lavish, abundant love in Jesus, we are called to respond in kind: Like foreign wise men who lay high-end luxury gifts before a newborn pauper-king; like the tax collector who gave away half his income; like Mary, who anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume while the disciples sat around grumbling about a waste of money.

How will you be reckless and extravagantly generous today? Will you give someone an hour of your time and attention to just listen? Will you treat a perfect stranger to lunch? Will you bump up your pledge to the church in a big way? Will you sell your belongings, or at least the 75% you don't need or use, and give to the poor?

If you do you may find yourself walking on water with Jesus, stuffed to bursting with love and intoxicated with abundant life.

During Lent, we take time to reflect on our spiritual journey and what our faith means to us. Included in that, for me, is being grateful for the abundance that I've been given by God; yes, material things, but also family, friends, the relationships that mean so much to me. As we reflect during Lent, let us be grateful to God for all that we have.

Pastor Doug

CONCERNS

The family and friends of **Terry Langlois** who passed away on November 28, 2013.

The family and friends of **Linda Frahm** (Vic and Elaine's daughter-in-law) who passed away on December 8, 2013.

The family and friends of **Bill Loitz** who passed away on December 8, 2013.

The family and friends of **Charlie Moore** who passed away on December 10, 2013.

The family and friends of **Viola Langhorst** who passed away on December 14, 2013.

Jill (Jacobson) Shafer is a patient at Riverside Medical Center, Room 423. Jill will be undergoing rehab after her recent automobile accident for the next four weeks.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Liz and Nathan Rau, daughter of Bob and Suzy Hoevet and granddaughter of Carol Hoevet, were blessed with the birth of twin daughters, Olivia and Alexis, on December 23, 2013. Alexis is doing well. Olivia developed physical complications. She died January 20, 2014. Pastor Doug officiated at her funeral January 29th. Olivia is buried at the Heusing Cemetery in Grant Park.

Thank You

There are no words to express the gratitude I have for everyone for their expressions of sympathy, memorials, flowers, cards, food, calls and hugs at the time of Terry's death and my cancer surgery. It has been an overwhelming several months and so many have tried to help ease my pain. I especially thank my children and grandchildren for trying to do everything possible to help out and just being there for me. Thank you to Pastor Doug for all of the hours spent at the hospital, the prayers and the wonderful service he gave for Terry. I would also like to thank Heather Ohm for filling in at the office so I could have time to heal in body and mind. God bless you all.

Marcia Langlois & Family

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY LIST

These birthdays are compiled from church membership records.

Please call to our attention any omissions or corrections



Tom Wieghaus	1	Kevin Mussman	15
Kristine Koehn	2	Jill Claussen	16
Max Markland	3	Sarah Senesac	16
Dornita Hamann	5	Denise Bettenhausen	17
Will Schneider	5	Jacob Dickson	18
Richard Hengl	6	John Loitz	19
Bruce Buttle	8	Nancy Marcotte	19
Krysta Farina	9	Caleb Benson	22
Dan Holm	9	Adam Jacobson	24
Landis Riechers	9	Michael Bergman	25
Carsen Ackley	11	Connor Claussen	26
John Lewke	13	Kyle Heldt	26
Mike Dillman	14	Steven Lawrence	28
Ronald Schneider	14	Daren Lehnert	28

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

If you would like to receive *The Keys*, our church newsletter, and/or your Giving Statements by **email**, please call the church office (815) 465-6191 or email us at:

stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net or stpetersgp@gmail.com.



**FEBRUARY 2014
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**



2	9:00 am	Sunday School
	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service
		Communion
	6:00 pm	Adult Ed
3	5:30 pm	Juniors Troop 951
	7:00 pm	Church Council
4	7:00 pm	Christian Ed
5	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
		Dart - Championship Game
8	5:00 pm	Contemporary Worship Service
9	9:00 am	Sunday School
	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	5:30 pm	Ladies Night Dartball
	6:00 pm	Adult Education
11	10:30 am	Worship Service at Beecher Manor
12	12:30	Farmers and Friends
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
		Dart - All Star Game & Annual Meeting
16	9:00 am	Sunday School
	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Adult Education
17	12:00-3:00	Grant Park Seniors
	5:30 pm	Juniors Troop 951
18 - 25		Pastor Doug on Vacation
19	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
23	9:00 am	Sunday School
	9:00 am	Confirmation
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Adult Ed
25	7:00 pm	Church Council
26	7:00 pm	Adult Choir

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

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**

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***