

The Keys

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Grant Park, Illinois



www.stpetersgp.org

Volume 46
9

September 2011

Number

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.*



„.....*Never Place a Period where God has placed a Comma.*
Gracie Allen; 20th century American comedian

PASTOR'S NOTE

ASAP – ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

From an email I received
Author Unknown

Have you ever wondered about the abbreviation A.S.A.P.? Generally, we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

*There's work to do, deadlines to meet;
You've got no time to spare,
But as you hurry and scurry-
A.S.A.P. - Always Say A Prayer*

*In the midst of family chaos,
"Quality time " is rare.
Do your best; let God do the rest-
A.S.A.P. - Always Say A Prayer*

*It may seem like your worries
Are more than you can bear.
Slow down and take a breather-
A.S.A.P. - Always Say A Prayer*

*God knows how stressful life is;
He wants to ease our cares,
And He'll respond to all your needs-
A.S.A.P. - Always Say A Prayer*

School has begun. The “lazy” days of summer are a memory. There is so much to do. Deadlines, hurrying, chaos, worries, stress are a part of our lives. When they arrive, take a deep breath and A.S.A.P. - *Always Say A Prayer*.

Enjoy September and all of the excitement and joy it brings. Take time for family, let go of worries and stress, spend time with God!

Pastor Doug

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY AND BIKE-A-THON

Sunday School Rally Day will be combined with the annual Bike-a-Thon on **Sunday, September 11th**. Rally Day is planned to include people of all ages! The Board of Christian Education and Church Life Committee have the day planned as follows:

- **9:00 – 10:15 am** – Sunday school registration, games & prizes for the kids, coffee & donuts for the adults, tours of the Sunday school rooms, and a balloon release at 10:10 am
- **10:30 – 11:30 am** – Worship
- **11:45 – 12:00** – Bike-a-Thon to raise money for our Sunday school program. Please sponsor a participant!
- **12:00 – 12:30** – Hot dogs, chips, and drinks for Bike-a-Thon participants

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Class begins September 18th from 9:05 – 10:00 am. We will be using the book, *Bad Boy of the Bible, Exploring Men of Questionable Virtue*, by Barbara Essex. Join us!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

- The current class, Class of 2010 – 2011, will meet Sunday, Sep 18th at 7:00 – 7:45 pm. This class is for **students and parents**. We will talk about the student's personal Statements of Faith and details of Confirmation Sunday, Oct 2nd.
- The new class, Class of 2011 – 2012, will meet Sunday, Sep 18th from 6:00 – 6:45 pm. This is an orientation class for **students and parents**. Regular classes begin Sunday, Oct 16th.

SR. CHOIR BEGINS

Sr. Choir begins on Wednesday, September 7th at 7:00 pm. Come and join the fun!

DART BALL

Anyone interested in playing dart ball contact Kenny Heldt or Daren Lehnert. A practice night is scheduled for August 31st at 7:30 pm. The games begin Wednesday, September 7th.

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, September 21st.

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE – WWW.STPETERSGP.ORG

Dennis Granger is now the website manager for the church's website. We thank Vicki Gawlinski for the years she volunteered as the website manager. Dennis created the new site and has ideas for putting pictures, videos, and sound bites on the site. Check out the site for the latest news about life at St. Peter's UCC.

To protect our children, we have implemented a website security code, a system used by other churches, so that only church members can view pictures of church events. Contact the church office by phone (815) 465-6191 or email - stpetersgp@sbeglobal.net, for the code.

RECEIVING THE KEYS BY EMAIL

This month, you will receive the *Keys* by regular mail and by email, if we have your email address. The *Keys* is also posted on our website at www.stpetersgp.org. Let us know if you like reading the *Keys* on the website or receiving it by email.

SALVATION ARMY

The schedule for serving lunch on Saturdays at the Salvation Army is:

Saturday, Sep 24th

Saturday, Nov 5th

You can help in two ways

- serve lunch at the Salvation Army (meet at the church at 11:00 am)
- donate the designated dessert (deliver them to the church by 10:30 am that Sat)

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by the Sunday school entrance about a month in advance. Sign up and help in the way you are able.

TURKEY SUPPER

Save November 5th for St. Peter's Turkey Supper. Interested in helping this year? Come to the committee meeting planned for Wednesday, September 14th at 8:00 pm.

SEPTEMBER 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.

Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ Outdoor Ministry Century Club

You are invited to be part of a dream. The dream is to have available capital improvement funds for our two Outdoor Ministry sites – Pilgrim Park and Tower Hill. Individuals, families, or organizations who commit to contributing \$100 or more each calendar year become members of one of the two Century Clubs. Two committees – one representing Pilgrim Park and the other Tower Hill – work in cooperation with the Outdoor Ministry System to determine how Century Club funds will be spent for capital improvements at each location. Century Club funds assure that well-kept facilities will be available for years to come.

MISSION PROJECT FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Last year, one of our mission projects was collecting shoes for **Share Your Soles Foundation** (<http://shareyourseles.org/>). Over 200 pairs of shoes were collected.

The Mission Committee would like to support this project again this year. Please bring new or gently used shoes to church during August and September and drop them in the box by the Sunday School entrance. The shoes can be leather or canvas shoes, gym shoes, or flip-flops. Thank you for helping!

BECOMING MORE GREEN

Recycling is important. Two local programs provide recycling opportunities.

Harbor House accepts used cell phones. The phones are refurbished and given to people whose lives are in jeopardy because of domestic violence. Please bring unwanted cell phones to the church and drop them off in the box provided near the Sunday school entrance.

Kankakee River Metropolitan Agency (KRMA) has a recycling program to recycle electronic items, known as “e-waste.” Accepted Electronics include:

All cordless appliances	Blenders	Boom Boxes	Calculator
DVD players	Computer Systems	Fax Machines	Hard drives
Food processors	Keyboards	Microwaves	Monitors
Wordprocessors	Peripherals	Printers	Radios
Scanners	Shredders	Stereos	TVs
Toasters	Vacuums	VCRs	

Drop Off sites are:

Kankakee department of Public Works, 401 W. Oak St, Kankakee
Bradley Department of Public Works, 210 E Broadway, Bradley
(continued on pg. 8)

Hours of operation for each site is 8:00 am – 3:00 pm Tue, Wed, and Thur. If you have questions, call (815) 933-0444. If you aren't able to take items to the recycling centers, bring them to church and we'll ensure that they are recycled. Thanks for making our planet greener!

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES: August 23, 2011

Members present: LaDonna Swanson, Larry Hamann, Larry Ohm, Larry Voigt, Linda Neidlinger, John Wolfe, and Michelle Claussen
Members absent: Stan Schneider and Rhonda McKinstry

Council President Larry Hamann called the meeting to order and Pastor Doug opened the meeting with prayer. The secretary's minutes and treasurer's report were accepted.

Unfinished Business

- The five families who signed up for electronic giving will be enrolled. If any other members wish to enroll at a later date they can at any time.
- Church record restoration is still being looked into.
- Dennis Granger has been hired as the church's website manager. With the site we will be able to post more text, videos, and pictures. A security code will be needed to view any pictures that have been posted. Information about the Bev Roberts Foundation has also been included on the site. The site can be accessed at: www.stpetersgp.org. We will have business cards printed to hand out to church members with the church's website address.

New Business

- Brad Dulin has agreed to do the sidewalk shoveling this year. Larry Hamann will contact Jimmy Crocker to see if he will do the snow plowing.
- We discussed different ways of distributing the Keys: bulk mail, email, and the website.
- Turkey Supper has been set for November 5th.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Doug provided a written report for the month of July.

Committee Reports

- Christian Ed – They are continuing their preparation for Rally Day. They are still in need of teachers for the upcoming Sunday school rotation.
- Church Life – They met on July 28th with a representative from Life Touch to create a new church directory. The photo sessions will be October 20-22.

Next meeting day is Tuesday, September 27th at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Claussen
Council Secretary

God has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what does God require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

--Micah 6:8

Prayer Concerns

Wendell Smith, Kevin Leitz, Jeff Jones, Byron Heldt, Jen De Young (Cousin of Charlie Moore and Colleen Martin), Ben Worsham (3 year old friend of Natalie Lacer), Kevin Buhr (son of Donald and Beulah Buhr), Nate Ekhoﬀ (nephew of Mark Ekhoﬀ), Bob Smith (cousin of Karen Ekhoﬀ), Arlene Armstrong (sister of Judy Lange), and all of God’s children seeking comfort, support, peace, and love.

Concerns

- The family and friends of Russell Riley (brother-in-law of Judy Schneider, Peggy Heusing and Nancy Lewke) .
- The family and friends of Dale Sargeant (husband of Joanne Hamann Sargeant and brother-in-law of Jalaine Riechers Hamann).

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU’RE IN THE HOSPITAL OR FACING OTHER CHALLENGES

At times, **you** learn news about members and friends of our congregation and our wider church family that Pastor Doug and the church office are not aware of. Please do not hesitate to notify us about this information. We aren’t always notified when church members are in the hospital, even if you ask hospital staff to contact us. Thank you!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST

These birthdays are compiled from church membership records. *Please call to our attention any omissions or corrections*

Drew Bleyle	1	Larry Voigt	15
Shirley Holm	2	Zackary Hamann	16
Kyle Wieghaus	2	Connie Wimberly	17
Chad Benson	3	Brenda Bleyle	17
Anna Eckhoff	3	Debbie Dennis	18
Troy Reynolds	3	Jerry Loitz	19
Brittany Buttle	4	Ronald Schroeder	19
Greg Hamann	5	Betty Wolfe	19
Clarence Heldt	6	Kate Schroeder	21
Angela Thompson	6	Pat Hamann	23
Ella Hamann	7	Robin Hamann	23
Kyle Ekhoﬀ	8	Jean Schroeder	23
Zoe Gawlinski	9	Patrick Strange	23
Micaelyn Benson	10	Lauren Buttle	26
Reese Clausing	10	David Lehnert	26
Meaghan Strange	10	Sonya Weakley	26
Kristin Krickson	12	Kody Reichel	27
Ralph Kutemeier	12	Betty Wilcox	27
Mitch Weakley	12	Sam Bleyle	29
Rodney Ohm	13	Patty Dulin	30
Tina Coy	14		

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES

College student addresses are needed ASAP. Addresses are needed for the Christian Ed Committee Care Packages and issues of the 'Keys'. NEW and OLD addresses are needed to complete the list. Please call the church office. Leave a message if you are calling after hours. Thank you

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Staff

Rev. Doug Zimmerman, Pastor

Marcia Langlois, Office Administrator

Beverly Junker, Financial Secretary

Marge Myers, Custodian

Delores Caton, Organist

Ann Smith, Sr. Choir Director

Kathy Ekhoﬀ, Jr. Choir Director

Judy Schneider, Organist

Dornita Hamann, Youth Advisor

Church Council

Larry Hamann, President

Linda Neidlinger, Vice President

Michelle Claussen, Secretary

Larry Voigt, Treasurer

Larry Ohm, Assistant Treasurer

Rhonda McKinstry

Stanley Schneider

LaDonna Swanson

John Wolfe

Pastoral Relations Committee

Judy Lange

Heather Ohm

Eric Frahm

Audrey Lehnert

Mardele Engleking



.....Never Place a Period where God has placed a Comma.

Gracie Allen; 20th century American comedian

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ
310 North Meadow Street
Grant Park, Illinois 60940**

Church – (815) 465-6191

Parsonage – (815) 466-0196

Pastor's Cell – (815) 342-8927

E-Mail: stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.stpetersgp.org

Facebook: St. Peter's UCC Grant Park

WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM

FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS

RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 11TH

Sunday School – 9:00 am

Worship Service – 10:30 am

The Rev. Doug Zimmerman

Pastor

Marcia Langlois, Editor and

Office Administrator

**ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
310 NORTH MEADOW ST. – P.O. BOX 220
GRANT PARK, ILLINOIS 60940**

“Address Service Requested”