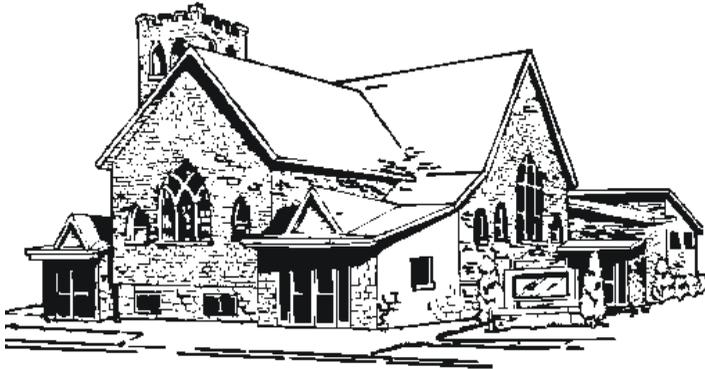


The Keys

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



stpetersgrantpark.org

Volume 46

August 2011

Number 8

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

ANOTHER BEATITUDE

By Elizabeth Clark

Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and shaking hand,
Blessed, who know my ears today
Must strain to catch, the things they say,
Blessed are they who seem to know
My eyes are dim and my mind is slow,
Blessed are they who looked away,
I spilled my tea on the cloth that day!
Blessed are they who, with cheery smile,
Stopped to chat for a little while,
Blessed are they who know the way
To bring back memories of yesterday,
Blessed are they who never say,
“You’ve told that story twice today!”
Blessed are they who make it known,
That I’m loved, respected and not alone,
And blessed are they who will ease the days
Of my journey home, in loving ways.

Pastor Doug

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY, BIKE-A-THON, AND CHURCH PICNIC

Mark Your Calendars for Rally Day, September 11, 2011

The annual Rally Day celebration to mark the start of Sunday School will be held Sunday, Sept. 11. Sunday School will begin at 9:00 a.m., worship service at 10:30 a.m. and then a lunch and games to follow. And this year, the Bike-A-Thon will be the same day, following the Rally Day festivities. So be sure to mark your calendars for all the exciting events for this day! Further details will be announced as they are finalized. We hope to see you there!

YOUTH CHOIR

Youth choir begins on Wednesday, August 31st at 3:30. Come and join the fun!

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

The Sunday morning Adult Education class meets from 9:00 – 10:00 am Sunday mornings during the school year. Last year we used the book *The Bible from Scratch, The New Testament for Beginners*, by Rev. Donald L. Griggs. Finding this book to be very helpful in teaching about the New Testament, the class decided to study the Old Testament through the use of Rev. Grigg's book, *The Bible from Scratch, The Old Testament for Beginners*.

The class begins meeting on Sunday, September 11th at 9:00 am. I will be ordering books for the class Thursday, August 18th. If you would like to participate in the class, a book is necessary to help with the study. **The cost of the book is \$8.40. Please contact the church office by phone (815 465-6191) or email (stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net) before August 18th if you would like to order a book.**

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Electronic Giving enables every household or individual to make their church offering using electronic funds transfer (EFT). You may already be using EFT to pay your mortgage, car payment, or insurance premium through an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account.

There is no cost to you for this new giving option. The church will be charged an initial fee of 50 cents to set up your account and a 25 cent fee for each donation. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. Giving options are Weekly (Mondays), Semi-Monthly (1st and 15th), or Monthly (on the 1st).

Some may say that this giving option is costing the church money. It is. However, the current offering envelope system is also costing the church money. For 2011, the cost of offering envelopes was \$704.12. \$147.00 was received in the initial offering envelopes to help defray the cost of the envelopes. Therefore, cost to the

church for the envelopes was \$557.12. This amount, \$557.12, would, at 25 cents per transaction, cover 2,228 transactions.

Please contact the church office (815 465-6191) if you are interested in participating in this program. Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS OF GIVING

Bev Junker, our Financial Secretary, would like to remind you that to save the cost of printing and postage, your quarterly and year-end Financial Statements of Giving can be emailed to you. Several church members have already chosen this option. Please contact Bev (815 465-6347) or email: bevgarry@airbaud.net if you would like to receive your Financial Statements via email.

“STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH” SPECIAL OFFERING

One of the “5 for 5” Offerings of the United Church of Christ that we support is “Strengthen the Church.” This fund helps new church starts and existing churches develop new programs. Through your generosity, this year’s total for this offering was \$162.00. Thank you!

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.

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.

MISSION PROJECT FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Last year, Linda Neidlinger, member of the Mission Committee, learned about an organization, Share Your Soles Foundation (<http://shareyoursoles.org/>). Linda suggested that we support this organization. The Mission Committee agreed. Linda headed up the project of collecting new or gently used shoes for this organization and collected over 200 pairs of shoes. 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 container by the Sunday School entrance. The shoes can be leather or canvas shoes, gym shoes, or even flip-flops. The shoes will be delivered to the Share Your Soles Foundation. Thank you for helping others through your donations.

Remember part of Mona's story from her website?

In 1999, Mona Purdy traveled through Central America, and saw children painting tar on the soles of their bare feet so they could run a race during their village's festival. She happened to meet an American orthopedic surgeon who was visiting the village. He told Mona that if these children had shoes to wear, there would be a lot less need for him to regularly travel to the region to perform amputations of children's infected limbs. It was really very simple. When Mona got home, she thought it would be a good idea to go around to some neighborhood schools and ask families to donate any used children's shoes they might have. She collected some and brought them to an orphanage in Honduras. She figured she'd done a good deed and that her work was done. When she was about to leave, one of the workers at the orphanage asked, "When are you coming back?"

A note....As we know, Mona did go back and began the Share Your Soles Foundation! Go to the website to read the rest of her story.

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Colleen Schroeder, the church custodian for several years, resigned effective July 16th. We thank Colleen for her years of service as the custodian.

Marge Myers was hired by the Church Council at the June 28th meeting. Marge's son, Aaron, will help with the custodial duties. We welcome Marge to the church staff.

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 Lietz, Jeff Jones, Byron Heldt, Sharon Carlin (Dornita and Gwyneth's mother) 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) and all of God's children seeking comfort, support, peace, and love.

Joys

- A successful Vacation Bible School.

Concerns

- The family and friends of Joel McDaniel (son-in-law of Vic and Elaine Frahm), who passed away this past month.
- The family and friends of Glen Henning who passed away on July 13th.
- The family and friends of Mildred Boicken who passed away on July 17th.

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 would rather be notified several times rather than never learning about the news. We aren't always notified when church members are in the hospital, even if you ask hospital staff to contact us. Thank you!

August Birthday List

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

Dean Schneider	2	Eric Frahm	19
Charlie Eckhoff	3	Matt Hamann	19
Eric Hagenow	3	Nicole Wessman	21
Scott Clausing	4	Katie Lake	21
Shirley Riley	4	Harold Voigt	22
Jessica Frahm	4	Patrick Koehn	22
Eric Couwenhoven	7	Gavin Reynolds	22
Jared Heldt	7	Dorothy Kutemeier	23
Bob Hoebet	8	Jessie Martin	23
Larry Ohm	8	John Miller	24
Dennis Granger	9	Dana Meyer	24
Colin Coy	10	Erica Lucas	24
Karen Spangler	11	Nancy Lewke	25
Allen Schroeder	11	Russ Koehn	26
Kimberly Cousin	11	Brett Buttle	26
Jan Voigt	11	Tyler Williamson	26
Brad Hackl	11	Leisa Rundquist	28
Terry Boicken	13	Sharon Schneider	29
Susan Williamson	15	Paige Sherwood	29
Scott Coy	18	Janace Jarski	31

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

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 17th.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES:

June 28, 2011

The Council members of St. Peter's United Church of Christ met on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 7:00pm.

Members present: Larry Hamann, Stan Schneider, Larry Ohm, John Wolfe, Larry Voigt, Linda Neidinger, and LaDonna Swanson

Members absent: Michelle Claussen and Rhonda McKinstry

Council President Larry Hamann called the meeting order and Pastor Doug opened the meeting with prayer.

Motions were made and seconded to accept the Secretary's minutes of 5-24-11 and the Treasurer's report as printed. Motions carried

Unfinished Business

- Four people have expressed an interest in electronic giving. Information about electronic giving will be put in the church bulletin. If at least 10 people show an interest there will be further discussion on how to put electronic giving into operation.
- Restoration of the church records was discussed. We were informed that the Church of the Latter Day Saints does this for free. More investigation is necessary before making any kind of commitment.
- Parking lot striping should be done on May 29, 2011.
- Nick Hamann has volunteered to sand blast the parsonage porch.

New Business

- Pastor Doug questioned the value of having a landline in the parsonage. The cost is \$48.00 per month. Very few calls are received. Discussion of alternatives included the use of a cell phone, Magic Jack, or having the church phone ring at the house. The Council told him to make the decision that he was most comfortable with.
- Colleen Schroeder resigned as custodian of the church. Marge Meyers and her son will be hired as the new custodians.

- Vicki Gawlinski has been updating our website on a volunteer bases and would like to be relieved of those duties once some changes to the website have been made. Council is looking for a replacement.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Doug provided a written report for the month of May. Larry Ohm reported that mileage reimbursement is changing from 51 cents a mile to 55 1/2 cents per mile on July 1.

Committee Reports

Board of Christian Education : is getting ready for Vacation Bible School.

July Council Person of the Month is John Wolfe.

Next meeting date will be on Tuesday, July 26th at 7:00pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
LaDonna Swanson

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES:

July 26, 2011

The Council members of St. Peter's United Church of Christ met on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Members present: LaDonna Swanson, Larry Hamann, Larry Voigt, Larry Ohm, 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.

Motions were made and seconded to accept the secretary's minutes of 06-28-11 and the treasurer's report. Motions carried.

Unfinished Business

- Four people have signed up for electronic giving. Those four people will be enrolled. If any other members choose to enroll in the future, they can at any time.
- Restoration of the church records is still being looked into.
- The parking lot has been striped. A gift card is being purchased as a token of our appreciation for the work that was completed.

- Pastor Doug has decided that the phone in the parsonage will remain as is for now. Cellular signals have currently not been very strong in the area and we do not want any dropped/missed calls to occur.
- Vicki Gawlinski is checking into someone to take over the updating of our website. She currently spends 1-2 hours per month on it.

New Business

- After much discussion regarding the Prayer Chain, we decided to leave it as is. Names that are listed in the bulletin will be mentioned as a “group” during our morning prayer, not individually.
- Guide 1, our insurance carrier, has informed us that our premiums will increase \$14.75 per month.
- Pastor Doug informed us that he will be over approximately \$1000 for the year in his Professional Expenses budget. We agreed that it is acceptable if it benefits the church.

Pastor’s Report

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

Committee Reports

Board of Christian Education:

- VBS went well;
- second grade bibles will be handed out on September 8th, they were funded by the Bev Roberts Fund;
- CE is discussing what to do for the Oktoberfest parade;
- confirmation to start in September;
- \$200 was given to the Hamann family from the Sunday School offerings;
- CE is looking for a Middle School Sunday School teacher as well as shepherds and rotation teachers for Sunday School.

Mission Committee:

- They will be collecting shoes once again, more information to follow.

August council person of the month is Larry Hamann.

Next meeting day is Tuesday, August 23rd at 7:00 pm

The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Claussen
Council Secretary

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**

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Parsonage – (815) 466-0196
Pastor's Cell – (815) 342-8927
E-Mail: stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.stpetersgrantpark.org
Facebook: St. Peter's UCC Grant Park

WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 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”

