

# THE KEYS

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



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April 2012

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## 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; 20<sup>th</sup> century American comedian

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Linda Neidlinger at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, Feb 28, 2012.

**Members present:** Kevin Mussman, Larry Ohm, Trisha Meherg, Stan Schneider, Linda Neidlinger, Larry Voigt, Roger Sturm, and Michelle Claussen.

**Members Absent:** LaDonna Swanson

Pastor Doug opened the meeting with prayer.

- Motion was made and seconded to approve Secretary's minutes from the Jan 24, 2012 meeting. Motion carried.
- Motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.
- Motion was made and seconded to nominate LaDonna Swanson as the Church Council Vice President, upon her approval. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:** - None

### New Business

- "Council Person of the Month" schedule completed
- Motion was made and seconded for the health insurance incentive check received by the church for \$200.00 be given to Pastor Doug. Motion carried
- Motion was made and seconded to have Bev Junker order the 2013 offering envelopes now, to receive a 10% discount. Motion carried.
- Motion was made and seconded to install the gold metal identification labels donated to the church for the kitchen cabinets and drawers. Motion carried.
- The Fee Policy Guidelines were reviewed. By consensus it was agreed to leave all fees as is.

### Pastor's Report

- Pastor Doug submitted a written report for Jan.

### Committee Reports

- Board of Christian Education (CE) –
  - 3 new members were welcomed on the committee (Keith Ohm, Kim Sherwood, and Lisa Reichel).

- The Confirmands attended Confirmation weekend at Pilgrim Park.
- Valentine care packages were sent to out of town college students.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme is “Sky”. VBS will be held July 15 – 19.
- Budget Committee – No meeting
- Cemetery Committee – No meeting
- Church Life Committee – No meeting
- Endowment Committee – No meeting
- Memorial Committee– No meeting
- Mission Board– No meeting
- Property and Maintenance Committee
  - Lever on chair lift being replaced
  - Weak electrical breaker is being replaced
  - Ceiling tiles purchased and will be installed in kitchen
  - 3 Task force committees being formed to
    - Address church accessibility
    - Address carpet issues in the lower level
    - Address fixing back splash and drawer rail issues and removing steam table and building additional cabinets in that area
- Worship Committee
  - Pre-lit Christmas tree purchased for Sunday school entrance
  - Summer services will be held at 10:30 am
  - Easter lilies will go on sale
  - Committee discussing having new altar cloths made

February “Council Person of the Month” is Larry Voigt  
 Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Mar 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
 Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried  
 The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully Submitted  
 Michelle Claussen

## **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CE) MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on Tue, Feb 7, 2012.

**Members Present:** Gwyneth Stadt, Nancy Marcotte, Betty Wolfe, Kim Sherwood, Keith Ohm, Natalie Lacer, Vicki Gawlinski, Marge Myers, Karen Brunello, Dawn Schroeder, Linda Neidlinger.

**Members Absent:** Lisa Reichel

Pastor Doug opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

### **Reports:**

- Budget – No report.
- Church Council
  - Linda reported to Council the progress of the Little Caesar's fundraiser
  - Council acknowledged the hard work the CE Committee does and thanked them for their efforts
  - The new Sunday School/Youth Choir practice arrangement has a positive response from the participants and the congregation.
- Confirmation
  - Confirmation class trip to Pilgrim Park Feb 24-26 for Confirmation Weekend. 11 confirmands attending
  - The Confirmation Fund will subsidize \$1,242.00 of the camp cost. Students will each pay \$50.00
  - Motion was made and seconded for the proceeds from the Little Caesar's Fundraiser be given to the Confirmation Fund. Motion carried.
- Sunday School Superintendent –
  - Sunday School Community Day is Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. Plan to have lunch for the students at church followed by games at the high school gym
  - Humane Society contacted concerning the Sunday school wanting to make a donation
  - The last Sunday for this year's curriculum is May 6
  - Game Day & Movie - Pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade; May 13
  - Recognition Sunday will be May 20. Donuts and juice will be served, a gift given, and possibly watch a short movie.

- Chad Marchant will teach the Middle School class for the remainder of the year. Betty has asked him to follow the designated curriculum. He is working with the youth on creating a service.

Minutes of the January 2011 meeting were read. Motion was made and seconded for minutes to be approved as corrected. Motion carried

### **Old Business:**

- Grandparents Day – 27 adults and 24 youth enjoyed the event. Thanks to Betty for setting up for the event
- Mission Projects – Donation for the Ronald McDonald House was given in December. Plan to make a donation to the Humane Society with the donations received in Sunday school through May
- CE “Person of the Month” schedule completed.

### **New Business:**

- Little Caesar’s Fundraiser – Delivery will be Feb 16.
- Valentine’s Day Care Packages – packages were sent to our four out of town college students. A total of \$52.00 and other items were received to help complete the packages
- Vacation Bible School (VBS)
  - VBS is July 15 – 19 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm
  - The Group VBS program “Sky” will be used
  - Seeking volunteers to help in all areas of VBS
- Sunday School Assistant Superintendent
  - An Assistant Superintendent is needed by May
    - Betty will complete her term as the Superintendent
    - Dawn will become the Superintendent
  - Decisions need to be made about the Sunday School curriculum for next year.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Mar 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Brunello

### **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES:**

\***Thursday, Apr 5 – Maundy Thursday**; 7:00 pm, Holy Communion will be celebrated

\***Thursday Apr 5 – Prayer Vigil**; 8:00 pm – Friday, Apr 6, noon

\***Friday, Apr 6 – Good Friday Ecumenical Service** at Sherburnville Christian Church; 7:00 pm

\***Sunday, Apr 8 – Ecumenical Sunrise Worship Service** at Sherburnville Christian Church; 7:30 am. Breakfast served about 8:30 am. Suggested donation is \$5.00. Menu – various breakfast casseroles, sweet rolls, and perhaps biscuits and gravy.

\***Sunday, Apr 8 – Easter Sunday Service**; 10:30 am; Holy Communion will be celebrated.

### **PRAYER VIGIL**

A Holy week tradition of St. Peter's UCC is the Prayer Vigil. The vigil begins at 8:00 pm, Maundy Thursday and ends at noon on Good Friday. This is an opportunity for people to sign up to pray, meditate, or read in the sanctuary. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board by the Sunday school entrance.

### **NOTES FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL**

A few changes have occurred in the Sunday School program.

\* Due to lack of attendance, the high school class does not currently meet.

\* Kathy Buttle resigned from teaching the middle school class at the end of December, due to health issues in her family.

\* Chad Marchant, the Olivet University graduate who had been teaching the high school class for the last two years, was asked to teach the middle school class.

\*Because of philosophical differences, Chad is no longer teaching the middle school class, nor is he connected with our church. Dawn Schroeder has volunteered to teach the class through the end of the Sunday school year.

**MISSION GIVING – APRIL**

**Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM)** – Also known as Basic Support, our contributions 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.

**CONSECRA (formerly known as Bensenville Home Society and Lifelink)**

CONSECRA is a United Church of Christ related organization that began in 1895. Consercra’s purpose is to develop and manage ecologically and financially sustainable affordable housing that strengthens communities.

**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, Apr 18th.**

**CHURCH CUSTODIAL POSITION OPENING**

Marge Myers has resigned as the custodian of our church. We thank Marge for her service as our custodian.

We are seeking a person to be the Church Custodian. The position requires an average of 7 – 10 hours per week. The hours are flexible, except when the church needs to be prepared for special services and events. Duties include vacuuming and dusting the sanctuary, classrooms, and entryways, washing windows, washing floors, cleaning the washrooms, taking out the trash and recycling, changing light bulbs, changing furnace filters, and other duties. A detailed job description is available in the church office. Anyone interested in this position should contact the church office.

### **CONFIRMATION WEEKEND AT PILGRIM PARK**

Our 11 Confirmation students and three adult chaperones (Dawn Schroeder, Tom Barrera, and Pastor Doug) attended Confirmation Weekend, sponsored by the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, at Pilgrim Park (one of two IL Conference camps), Princeton, IL. The weekend began Friday, Feb 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and ended Sunday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

A total of 67 Confirmation students from the IL Conference attended the Weekend Event. Friday night each confirmation class made a banner representing their church. Students participated in Ice Breakers, had a snack, and attended evening vespers.

Saturday was a busy day. Each Confirmation group attended four workshops. The workshops taught us about Stewardship, Mission Work/Service Project, Global Ministries, and United Church of Christ (UCC) Identity. The students also created and wrote their Sunday morning worship service. There was free time in the afternoon. In the evening the students learned about the apostle Paul through various activities, had Smores around a campfire, and evening vespers.

Sunday morning began with breakfast. Then we packed to prepare for our departure, loaded the vehicles, and joined together for the Sunday worship service before departing.

### **ASSISTANT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**

The Board of Christian Education continues to seek a person to be the Assistant Sunday School Superintendent for the school year September 2012 – May 2013. The person filling this position would begin serving this May. The Assistant Sunday School Superintendent becomes the Sunday School Superintendent for the following year, September 2013 – May 2014. Please contact Natalie Lacer (815 685-3783), Vicki Gawlinski (815 465-2558).



## **FOOD PANTRY**

We are participating with our sister churches in Beecher; St. Luke United Church of Christ (UCC), St. John UCC, and Community Church to provide food for people in need in the surrounding communities through the food pantry at St. Luke.

To date for 2012 our church has donated \$20.00 and 40 pounds of food.

### **Items needed for the pantry:**

Shampoo, dish soap, Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, bath soap, toothpaste, deodorant, unsweetened cereal (Cheerios, etc.), oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, canned pasta (Beefaroni, etc.), pasta sauces, any kind of pasta, sloppy joe mix, canned chili, canned beef stew, tuna, canned chicken, flour, sugar, canned tomatoes, canned carrots, boxed potatoes, canned potatoes, canned fruit, creamed soup, creamy peanut butter (no chunky, jelly.

**Monetary donations** are always appreciated also. The cash is used to buy perishables. Please make checks payable to St. Peter's UCC.

**The Food Pantry is open the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9:00 - 11:00 am at St. Luke UCC in Beecher. Anyone is welcome to stop by if they are in need.**

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – JULY 15 – 19 (Sunday – Thursday)**

The Board of Christian Education is seeking volunteers to help with the Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. VBS is Sunday, Jul 15 – Thursday, Jul 19 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board by the Sunday School entrance. Check the sheets to see where help is needed, consider how you can help, and sign up!

## THE PASTOR'S NOTE

Easter is a story of *New Beginnings*. Before Easter, the shadow of the valley of death hung over all of life. Death brought an end to everything; relationships, plans, hope, and life. The more someone was loved, the greater the pain for those who survived the loved one's death. There was no hope of seeing that person again.

The first Easter changed all of that. Jesus rose from the dead. The love of God was seen through the resurrection of Jesus. This was proof that God cares and that life is eternal. We no longer need to face death as an unknown, an end. In the resurrection of Jesus, we see that even death is a *New Beginning*.

The possibility of *New Beginnings* isn't only about life and death. *New Beginnings* take place in all of life's experiences. Relationships that seem to have reached a dead end can begin again through forgiveness. We have been forgiven for all our sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Forgiven much, we can forgive and discover a human expression of what God is like.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday with Jesus' grand entrance into Jerusalem. As the week goes on, the joy of Palm Sunday disappears. Fear, torture, suffering, and death overwhelm us as we experience Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. But this is not the end. There is a *New Beginning* on Easter morning. Jesus is alive!

*Happy Easter!*

*Pastor Doug*

## SUPPORTING OUR SISTER CHURCHES

### Immanuel United Church of Christ Beef Dinner

**Saturday, Apr 21; Serving from 4:00 – 7:00 pm**

Adults - \$10.00; Children ages 6 - 12 - \$5.00; Under 5 – free

Dinner includes: Roast Beef, Homemade Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Corn, Green Beans, Lettuce Salad, Fruit Salad, Coffee, Tea, Milk, Lemonade, and Desserts. A bake sale will be held. All proceeds will benefit the Plassman Scholarship Fund.

## JOYS AND THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers, well wishes, cards, emails, Facebook posts, texts, phone calls, meals, and goodies that you sent me during my illness. They were all greatly appreciated. Your expressions of love and care for me are overwhelming and helped greatly during my recovery.

Thank you and God bless,  
Pastor Doug

\*A thank you note was received from Elmhurst College for the gift of \$300.00 from our church

Dear St. Peter's,

I am sorry this card is late, but I just wanted to send you a big thank you for both of the packages. I really appreciate it! Thank you again!

Jessica Claussen

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

Many of us are now using email to communicate, receive information, and to receive our Giving Statements from church.

**Please remember to contact the Church Office if you change your email address.**

If you would like to receive:

\* the church newsletter, *The Keys*, or

\*your Giving Statements

via email, please contact the church office (815) 465-6191

or email your request to: [stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net) **or**

[stpetersgp@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersgp@gmail.com).

**APRIL 2012**  
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>1</b>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Sunday Worship – Communion
<b>5-6</b>	8:00 pm – Noon	Prayer Vigil
<b>6</b>	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service at Sherburnville Christian Church
<b>8</b>	7:30 am	Sunrise Service at Sherburnville Breakfast served about 8:30 am
<b>8</b>	10:30 am	Easter Sunday Service – Communion
<b>10</b>	10:00 am	Worship Service at Beecher Manor
<b>11</b>	7:00 pm	Sr. Choir
<b>15</b>	9:00 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm	Sunday School Sunday Worship Confirmation
<b>18</b>	12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Farmers & Friends Sr. Choir
<b>22</b>	9:00 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm	Sunday School Sunday Worship Confirmation
<b>24</b>	7:00 pm	Church Council
<b>25</b>	7:00 pm	Sr. Choir
<b>29</b>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship Service

## **APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST**

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

Steven Jones	1	Kim Chesterfield	16
Shelly Lehnert	2	Shirley Loverin	17
Jordan Hamann	3	Charles Moore	17
Alan Bakhaus	3	Timothy Strange	17
Michael Hammerlund	6	Gina Martin	17
Madison Meherg	6	Laura Erickson	18
Ron Claussen	6	Peggy Heusing	18
Morgan Wimberly	6	David Dickson	18
Connie Schneider	7	Shelby McKinstry	18
Joni Reynolds	8	Bill Dennis	19
Janice Bonifield	8	Steven LucasII	19
Kimberly Goehl	9	Nancy Sturm	19
Bonnie Hamann	10	Lela Kuetemeyer	20
Bradly Burrell	11	Alan Kuhn	20
Dawn Schroeder	11	Gerald Boicken	20
Cathy Schroeder	11	Madison Langlois	22
Jeffrey Hammerlund	13	Clint Wimberly	24
Vicki Khun	13	JR Meyer	26
Jillian Martens	14	Jennifer Mussman	27
Ethel Zimmerman	14	Natham Kuhn	29
Caden Clausing	14		
Jared Mulderink	15		

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

**June Hamann**

**Kevin Lietz,**

**Warren Wessman,**

**Jen DeYoung** (Cousin of Charlie Moore and Colleen Schroeder),

**Kevin Buhr** (son of Donald and Beulah Buhr),

**Arlene Armstrong** (sister of Judy Lange),

**Terri Jensen** (sister of Tom Barrera),

**Linda Frahm** (daughter-in-law of Vic and Elaine Frahm) and all of God's children seeking comfort, support, peace, and love.

**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](mailto:stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net) and  
[stpetersgp@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersgp@gmail.com)**

**Church Website: [www.stpetersgp.org](http://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, Organist**  
**Delores Caton, Organist**  
**Marge Myers, Custodian**  
**Dornita Hamann, Youth Advisor**

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Linda Neidlinger, President**  
**LaDonna Swanson, Vice President**  
**Michelle Claussen, Secretary**  
**Larry Voigt, Treasurer** **Larry Ohm, Assistant Treasurer**  
**Stanley Schneider, Trisha Meherg, Kevin Mussman, and**  
**Roger Sturm**

**PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Judy Lange, Heather Ohm, Mardele Engleking, Eric Frahm**

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