

THE KEYS

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



February 2012

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

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm on Tuesday November 1, 2011 by Vicki

Members Present: Betty Wolfe, Kathy Buttle, Natalie Lacer, Vicki Gawlinski, Mike Reaman, Marge Myers, Karen Brunello, and Dawn Schroeder.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved

Reports:

- Budget – No report
- Church Council – No report
- Confirmation – No report
- Sunday School Superintendant –
 - Laminated cards with Lord's Prayer given to 1st and 2nd graders
 - Vicki volunteered to be the CE "Person of the Month"
 - Sunday School program practice schedule reviewed
 - Christmas program scheduled for Dec 4th at 3:00 pm

Old Business: - None

New Business:

- Christmas Program
 - Gerald Boicken is the "special" guest
 - Families are asked to bring cookies for fellowship time
 - Candy will be given to children during fellowship time
- Nursery
 - Discussion held and decision made not to pursue setting up a nursery during church at this time
- Little Caesars Fundraiser
 - Order forms will arrive Jan 16th. Orders will arrive Feb 16th at 5:00 pm

- Haitian Child Sponsorship
 - Davidson Derosier and his family have not been located. The sponsorship program has ended for many reasons. Our Sunday School program will investigate other sponsorship possibilities.
- College Care Packages
 - Care packages will be sent to out of town college students for Valentine's Day. Congregation will be asked for monetary donations and donations of treats.
 - Companies will be contacted to ask for donations
- New CE Members
 - Keith Ohm agreed to serve on this committee.
 - One other person is needed to serve
- High School Class
 - Current attendance is very low
 - Suggest that the student(s) help as shepherds
 - Chad continues to reach out to students, trying to increase attendance. CE will continue to monitor the situation
- Junior High Class
 - Kathy asked if the couches could be removed. Attendance is between 10 – 15 students per week and the couches don't accommodate that many people.
 - Attendance continues to grow

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec 6th at 7:00 pm
 The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
 Karen Brunello

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE

The pictures have been taken, you've received your personal pictures, and now we're waiting for the pictorial directory to arrive. Because of the holidays, the completion of the directory has been delayed. The committee is working with Lifetouch on the completion of the directory. Further information about the completion and delivery of the directory will be provided as it's available.

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.

MISSION GIVING – FEBRUARY

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.

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:

Macaroni & cheese, Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned pasta, Canned meat, Soup, Tomato Sauce, Stewed Tomatoes, Canned fruit, Beets, Carrots, Canned potatoes, Pork & beans, Jelly/Jam, Cereal, Creamy Peanut butter, Oatmeal, Cookies, Crackers, Pancake mix, Syrup, Sugar free Pudding, Coffee, Tea, Sugar free Jell-O, Boxed Potatoes, Flour, Sugar, Brown Sugar, Apple Juice, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Dish Detergent, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Deodorant, Bar Soap, Ketchup, Mustard, Barbecue Sauce, Pickles, Olives, Mayo, Laundry Detergent, Hamburger Helper type of mixes, and Applesauce

Please, NO Rice, Peas, Green Beans, Corn, or Chicken Noodle Soup.

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.

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, Feb 15th**

THE PASTOR'S NOTE

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. Lent is a season of reflection, reflecting on our faith, our faith walk, and things that are important to us. For some, it is a season to give up something during the 40 days of Lent, making a sacrifice, remembering the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

What might you sacrifice or give up during Lent? Growing up, I remember people saying that they gave up a favorite food during Lent. I did that. Perhaps you did. Times have changed. Today, in the age of technology, people consider giving up time spent watching TV, time spent on the computer or on the cell phone. Is that an option?

I'm aware of how much we believe we need communicate with one another, not verbally or personally, but through technology. People are constantly on the phone, talking or texting. I see people walking, driving, biking, dining out, or even in movies who are on the phone or texting. I wonder what is so important that a person can't set aside time to drive, walk, eat, or watch a movie without using their phone. Are there that many emergencies today? Are we so important that we need to always be available for a phone call or text? What is different today than 15 years ago when very few of us had this technology? We survived without calling or texting.

I encourage you to think about what you might give up for Lent. It might be your phone. Perhaps you can turn off your phone for an hour or more and do something else besides texting. Perhaps you can have dinner without checking your phone.

It's important to stay in touch with people, but it's also important to have time to ourselves, to have quiet time when we can walk or sit without interruptions. It's important to take time to be with God, to pray, but perhaps more important, to listen for God's still small voice.

I encourage you to think about how much technology has changed your life and ask yourself if you need to get away from the technology for a short period of time during the day, during Lent, and possibly beyond Lent.

Pastor Doug

LENTEN SERVICES

Wed, Feb 22nd – Ash Wednesday Service – 7:00 pm

Ashes will be distributed during the service

Wed, Feb 29th – Weekly Lenten Service – 7:00 pm

ELECTRONIC GIVING

The electronic giving program through Vanco now available. This program enables you to make your 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. Giving options are Weekly (Mondays), Semi-Monthly (1st and 15th), or Monthly (on the 1st).

Please contact the church office (815 465-6191) if you are interested in participating in this program. If you are currently using the program and want to increase or decrease your giving amount, please contact the church office. Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION LITTLE CAESARS

FUNDRAISER

The Board of Christian Education is holding their annual Little Caesars Fund Raising event. Board members and Confirmation students are taking orders through Sunday, February 5th. Extra order forms are in the church office.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Board of Christian Education as the support the youth of our church.

THE KEYS – CHANGES TO OUR CHURCH NEWSLETTER

The **KEYS**, our church newsletter, is available on our website (www.stpetersgp.org), by email (we must have your current email address), may be picked up at church, or will be mailed to you, only if requested, by first class mail. Keep up to date on everything that's happening at church through the **KEYS!**

JOYS AND THANK YOU NOTES FEB

A thank you note was received from Chicago United Eden (CUE) Seminaries of the United Church of Christ for our financial support of \$300.00 in 2011.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bob Hamann,

Kevin Lietz,

Warren Wessman,

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

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),

Terri Jensen (sister of Tom Barrera),

the family and friends of Arloa Hammerlund (mother of Michael Hammerlund),

the family and friends of Byron Heldt,

and all of God's children seeking comfort, support, peace, and love.

FEBRUARY 2012

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1	7:00 pm	Sr. Choir
	8:00 pm	Dart – GP at Manhattan
2	7:00 pm	Property & Maintenance Committee
5	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Sunday Worship 10:30 - Communion
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
6		Little Caesars Pizza orders due!!
7	7:00 pm	Christian Ed
8	7:00 pm	Sr. Choir
	8:00 pm	Dart –playoffs
9	7:00 pm	Pastoral Relations Committee
12	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Sunday Worship
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
14	10:00 am	Beecher Manor Worship
15	12:30 pm	Farmers & Friends
	7:00 pm	Sr. Choir
	8:00 pm	Dart – playoffs
16	10:00 am	Shepherd Committee
	5:00 pm	Little Caesars Orders are here!!
18		Hamann Shower in Fellowship Hall
	9:00 am	Sunday School
19	10:30 am	Sunday Worship
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
	8:00 pm	Dart – Championship Playoffs
22	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
	7:45 pm	Sr. Choir
24	4:00 pm	Confirmands leave for camp
26	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Sunday Worship
	12:00 – 1:00	Confirmands return home
27	8:00 pm	Dart – Annual Meeting
28	7:00 pm	Church Council
29	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	7:45 pm	Sr. Choir

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY LIST

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

Thomas Wieghaus	1	Ronald Schneider	14
Kristine Koehn	2	Kevin Mussman	15
Maxwell Markland	3	Jill Claussen	16
Dornita Hamann	5	Sarah Senesac	16
Will Schneider	5	Denise Bettenhausen	17
Richard Hengl	6	Jacob Dickson	18
Bruce Buttle	8	John Loitz	19
Krysta Hamann	9	Nancy Marcotte	19
Dan Holm	9	Judith Miller	20
Landis Riechers	9	Desiree Gore	21
Carsen Ackley	11	Caleb Benson	22
David Persson	11	Adam Jacobson	24
Kate Eckhoff	12	Michael Bergmann	25
John Lewke	13	Connor Claussen	26
Scott Weakley	13	Kyle Heldt	26
Mike Dillman	14	Steven Lawrence	28
		Daren Lehnert	28

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: stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net

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, Organist
Delores Caton, Organist
Marge Myers, Custodian
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, Audrey Lehnert
Heather Ohm, Mardele Engleking
Eric Frahm

