

THE KEYS

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



March 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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 24, 2012.

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

Members Absent: None

Council President, Larry Hamann, called the meeting to order.

Pastor Doug opened the meeting with prayer.

- Motion made and seconded to approve Secretary's minutes from the Nov 22, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.
- Motion made and seconded to accept the year-end financial report. Motion carried.
- Motion made and seconded to accept the proposed 2012 budget. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

- The church newsletter, *Keys*, is being distributed via email unless otherwise requested by individual church members. The Bulk Rate postage permit has been cancelled.
- The Annual Meeting is Sunday, Jan 29th following worship

New Business – None

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Doug submitted a written report for Dec

Committee Reports

- Board of Christian Education (CE)
 - Confirmation Weekend trip for the Confirmation class is Feb 24 – 26
 - Little Caesar's fundraiser will be held in Feb
 - Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held July 15 – 19, 2012
- Budget and Stewardship
 - The 2012 budget will be presented at the Annual meeting

- Cemetery
 - Plots were updated at the last meeting
 - Cemetery plot rates will remain the same in 2012
- Church Life – no meeting
- Endowment – no meeting
- Memorial – no meeting
- Mission – no meeting
- Property and Maintenance – no meeting
- Worship – no meeting

February “Council Person of the Month” is Michelle
 Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 28th 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 Tuesday January 3, 2012.

Members Present: Betty Wolfe, Natalie Lacer, Vicki Gawlinski, Marge Myers, Karen Brunello, Dawn Schroeder, Nancy Loitz, Jim Hamann.

Members Absent: Gwyneth Stadt, Kathy Buttle, Linda Neidlinger
 Pastor Doug opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

Reports:

- Budget – CE budget balance is \$474.82. Discussed ways to save money, including reusing past Sunday school curriculum.
- Church Council – No report
- Confirmation – Confirmation class trip to Pilgrim Park Feb 24-26 for Confirmation Weekend
- Sunday School Superintendent –
 - Christmas program went well. Children enjoyed it.
 - Receiving a good response getting Shepherds

- Showcase Sunday (during the Children's Sermon) helps congregation learn about what the children are doing in Sunday school
- Jan 15th will be Grandparents/VIP Day during Sunday school. Children will invite Grandparents/VIP to attend

Old Business:

- Christmas Program - CE gave Delores gift for helping with the program and rehearsals
- iTunes Gift cards – 22 iTunes gift cards were sent to college students from our church. No feedback received
- Haiti Sponsorship – Agreed to cancel the sponsorship for Davidson Derosier. He and his family haven't be located since the earthquake. The sponsorship program in Haiti has been suspended.

New Business:

- Valentine Care Packages will be sent to college students from our church who live out of town. Congregation will be asked for donations.
- Little Caesar's Fund Raising event
 - Items will be sold by Confirmation students and CE board members. Proceeds will go to the Confirmation Fund to support future events.
- Sunday school donations from the children
 - A donation of \$300 was given to the Ronald McDonald house
 - A donation will be given to the Kankakee County Humane Society at the end of the year.
- New CE members will be welcomed at the Feb meeting
 - Lisa Reichel will replace Jim Hamann
 - Keith Ohm will replace Mike Reaman
 - Kim Sherwood will fill the remainder of Kathy Buttle's term (1 year)
- Discussion was held on how the Board can organize and work smarter with the many tasks assigned to the Board.

- Middle school/High school Sunday school class
 - Due to low attendance over the past several months, high school students will help with other classes.
 - Kathy Buttle resigned as the Middle school Sunday school teacher for family reasons. Chad Marchant will teach the Middle school class
- Vacation Bible School (VBS)
 - Vicki will look at the “Sky” themed curriculum for the 2012 VBS program and report on the curriculum at the next meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,
 Karen Brunello

PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The meeting began at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 2, 2012.

Members present: Larry Hamann, Larry Voigt (Council Rep), Steve Jones, Jerry Lorenz, Scott Dillman, and Jill Claussen.

Members Absent: Ken Erickson

Pastor Doug opened the meeting with prayer.

- Committee accepted Ken’s resignation as Chairperson. He wants to remain on the Committee. By consensus, the Committee decided to not elect a chairperson at this time.
- Secretary’s report was approved by consensus
- 2012 budget and 2011 expenses were reviewed
- Capital Improvement fund reviewed. Balance is \$15,763.

Unfinished Business

- Installation of 4 window panes in educational wing will be done by Larry H and Ron Claussen. Will also check non operating windows.
- Replacement of sidewalks in front of the church discussed.
- Discussion held on replacing florescent ballasts and bulbs in lights throughout church. Scott will check on prices.

- Church Council approved annual carpet cleaning bid by FCA in early 2011. Pastor Doug will contact Bruce Heldt to set up a cleaning schedule.
- Bonnie Hamann has requested that memorial funds given to the church in memory of Bob Hamann be used to replace the carpeting in Fellowship Hall. A “Task Force” of 4 -5 people will be selected to oversee getting new carpeting and painting the lower level.
- Landscaping around the church was discussed, including replacement and maintenance.
- Replacement of church roof and educational wing roof was discussed. May need to be done in 5 years or so. Jerry will get “ball park” estimates on the cost of replacing the roofs.

New Business

- Consider:
 - roof vents for parsonage garage.
 - Power washing parsonage and cleaning gutters
 - Permanent fix for urinal in men’s bathroom
 - Reposition handle on chairlift
 - Elevator for church
 - Replace “soft” breaker in lounge
 - Replacing rails in kitchen silverware drawers
 - Weather stripping around glass door lock and sweep on west brown door
 - Outside light recycling and needs to be replaced
 - Install outlet in Conference room for refrigerator
 - North kitchen sink leaks
 - Strip and paint/stain parsonage porch
 - Replace parsonage windows
- Improvements completed:
 - 2007 – stained glass windows covered, sump pump in parsonage basement
 - 2008 – new water fountain in upstairs hallway
 - 2010 – new water heater in church kitchen, new furnace in sanctuary
 - 2011 – new water heater in parsonage, parking lot sealed (to be done again in 2013, every 2 years)

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 pm
Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Claussen

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE

There is one final opportunity to have your pictures taken and included in our directory. If you are interested in this opportunity, you may go to St. John Lutheran Church in Beecher (also known as Eagle Lake).

Where: St. John Lutheran Church, 28054 S Yates Ave, Beecher, IL 60401

When: Fri, Mar 16, 3:00 – 9:00 pm
Sat, Mar 17, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Contact: Kirsten Bishir 815 472-3742 or kirsten.bishir@gmail.com
Please contact our church office (815 465-6191) if you are taking advantage of this opportunity.

A meeting is scheduled with Lifetouch to beginning finalizing the pictorial directory on March 6th.

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.

Mark Your Calendar

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 11th.

Remember, turn your clocks AHEAD one hour (Spring Ahead).

MISSION GIVING – MARCH

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. Some of these contributions go to our Associations to cover salaries, benefits, and overhead so they may provide support to the local churches.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in the United States and more than eighty other countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. OGHS is a Lenten Offering which will be received beginning on March 18th and going through April 1st. Our budgeted goal this year is \$350.00. Last year \$352.00 was received.

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, Mar 21st**.

LENTEN SERVICES

Wed, March 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th from 7:00 – 7:30 pm

Refreshments will be served by the Confirmands after the service.

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lily flower sales will begin March 18th thru April 1st. Proceeds go the Good Samaritan Fund. Price pending.

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 at this time.

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.

FUNDRAISER RESULTS:

Youth Group Sub Sandwiches - \$412.52

To be used for future youth group events

Board of Christian Education Little Caesars - \$638.50

Used to replenish the Confirmation Fund

THE PASTOR'S NOTE

The season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday, a day on which some of us received ashes in the sign of a cross on our forehead, and will last for 40 days, not including Sundays. Ashes are an ancient symbol, used to remind us of our sinfulness and our mortality. Lent is a season of reflection when we take time to reflect on our faith and things that are important to us.

Some time ago, I read the following story:

Pruning Time

Pruning time is a painful time for a fruit tree. The pruner rids it of all those suckers which use up a lot of energy but produce no fruit. However, the aim of this surgery is not to inflict pain, but to help the tree produce more and better fruit.

Lent is a kind of spiritual pruning time. There is much that is useless and perhaps harmful in our lives, which saps our energy, and diminishes our spiritual fruitfulness. Of what shall we prune ourselves this Lent, so that we may become more fruitful branches of Christ, the true Vine?

Perhaps in this season of Lent, we need to take time to prune those things out of our life that sap our energy and diminish who we are and what we can do. Through prayer and meditation may we find strength and a spiritual awareness of who we are and the importance of our faith in our lives.

Pastor Doug

ASSISTANT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

The Board of Christian Education is seeking 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).

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

The Board of Christian Education is seeking volunteers to help with the program. Sign- up sheets are posted on the bulletin board by the Sunday School entrance. Consider how you can help and sign up!

PROVIDING DESSERT AND SERVING LUNCH AT THE SALVATION ARMY – SATURDAY, MAR 17TH

Volunteers are needed to provide dessert and serve lunch at the Salvation Army on Saturday, Mar 17th

*servicing lunch - meet at the church at 11:00 am

*donate cookies, brownies, or a bar cookie - please have them at the church by 10:30 am on the 17th

Sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board by the Sunday school entrance. Thank you!

SUPPORTING OUR SISTER CHURCHES

St. Luke UCC, Beecher, Chili Supper and Bake Sale

Saturday, Mar 10; Serving from 4:00 – 7:30 pm

Adults - \$7.00; Children K – 8th grade - \$4.00; Under K – free

Speedy Carry-Outs available (Chili Supper Hotline 708.946-6688)

St. John UCC, Beecher Stew Dinner and Bake Sale

Saturday, Mar 17, 4:00 – 8:00 pm

Adults - \$7.00; Children 12 & Under - \$5.00; Under 4 – free

Enjoy All-You-Can-Eat Beef Stew, Salad, Bread, and Dessert

Carry-Outs are Available!

RURAL LIFE SUNDAY – SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH

We will celebrate our heritage and life style in the Rural Community on Sunday, March 11th. You're invited to wear your "Rural" best to church. Join us as we have a little different type of service, singing some of our favorite hymns and celebrating our rural life.

JOYS AND THANK YOU NOTES

*Thanks to the many who were my pillar of strength during Bob's illness and at his passing. Our children and grandchildren were my daily loving support. Thank you to Ana, his care giver, and to Hospice of Kankakee Valley, a wonderful group who daily kept him comfortable. To the hundreds who attended the visitation; for prayers, for the beautiful flowers and plants; for cards, phone calls, memorials to the church and Hospice; to the ladies who served the luncheon and the men who helped in many ways; to Pastor Doug for his visits and service; to Judy, Marcia and Marge; and to Mr. Hub. I appreciate your tribute to my husband.

Thank you and God bless you,
Bonnie

*A thank you note was received from the Salvation Army for the donation of cake and cup cakes from Bob Hamann's funeral luncheon.

*A thank you note was received from the Ronald McDonald House for the \$300 donation from the Sunday school classes.

GRANT PARK FUNERAL HOME "END OF LIFE" SEMINAR – SUNDAY, MAR 18TH AT 4:00 PM

Mark your calendar and join us on Sunday March 18th at 4:00 p.m. for an informative, educational and lighthearted presentation concerning end of life issues.

This program delivers valuable information with humor and interaction from you. Topics that we will address include wills, living wills, trusts, individual asset protection, Medicaid, social security and veterans benefits just to name a few!

There is no cost or obligation to attend. Refreshments will be served as well as a chance to win one of two gift certificates! For questions or more information please feel free to contact the church office

Reservations are required. Please call the church office or sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board by the Sunday school entrance.

MARCH 2012

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Sunday Worship 10:30 - Communion
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
6	10:00am	Life Touch Meeting
	7:00 pm	Christian Ed
7	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
	7:45 pm	Sr. Choir
11	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Sunday Worship - Rural Life Sunday
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
13	10:00 am	Beecher Manor Worship
14	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship
	7:45 pm	Sr. Choir
16		Hamann wedding rehearsal
17	11:00 am	Serving at Salvation Army Hamann Wedding
18	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Sunday Worship
	4:00 pm	End of Life Presentation
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
21	12:30	Farmers & Friends
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship
	7:45 pm	Sr. Choir
22	10:00 pm	Shepherd Meeting
25	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Sunday Worship
	6:00 pm	Confirmation
27	7:00 pm	Church Council
28	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service

March BIRTHDAY LIST

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

Joshua Schroeder	1	Emily Voigt	18
Sawyer Loitz	3	Nick Anderson	20
Judy Schneider	3	Jackie Boicken	20
Rick Bird	7	Karen Brunello	22
Cade Lacer	8	Ken Erickson	22
LouAnn Hamann	11	Jeffrey Lawrence	22
Jessica Claussen	12	Dianna Marcotte	23
Kristina Pilbeam	13	Anita Bush	24
Bill Riley	13	Scott Spangler	25
Elizabeth Cousin	14	Austin Jacobson	27
Beatrice Lamore	15	Megan Erickson	28
Tracy Langlois	15	Alice Hagenow	28
Elizabeth Voigt	16	Amanda Schroeder	28
Kelly Wade	16	Ann Smith	29
Ayden Bettenhausen	17	Donna Whorral	30
Lyle Lehnert	17	Leisa Ackley	31
Shari Ohm	18	Stacey Lorenz	31

PRAYER CONCERNS

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),

the family and friends of Bob Hamann and the family and friends of Nate Ekhoff.

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 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, Organist
Delores Caton, Organist
Marge Myers, Custodian
Dornita Hamann, Youth Advisor

CHURCH COUNCIL

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

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Judy Lange, Heather Ohm, Mardele Engleking, Eric Frahm

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