

THE KEYS

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



March 2013

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.*

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



SUMMARY OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 22, 2013 MEETING

Unfinished Business:

- Two air purifiers were ordered for Marcia and Pastor Doug's offices and are working well.

New Business

- Shari Ohm presented her idea of serving coffee from 9:00 – 10:20 am in the Sunday school entrance. The Council approved Shari's idea
- Linda distributed handouts listing the President's duties and the Nominating Committee responsibilities

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Doug submitted a written report for December

Committee Reports

- Board of Christian Education (CE) –
 - Zumbathon raised \$1,177.00 for the youth group
 - Confirmation Weekend at Pilgrim Park will be attended by the Confirmation class Mar 1 - 3
 - Valentine's care packages won't be sent this year
- 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 – No meeting
- Worship Committee – No Meeting

January "Council Person of the Month" is Michelle Claussen

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 26th at 7:00 pm

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted

Michelle Claussen

JANUARY 27, 2013 SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

A special Church Council meeting was held after worship on Sunday, January 27th.

New Business

- Election of Officers
 - President – Trisha Meherg
 - Vice President – Kevin Mussman
 - Secretary – Michelle Claussen
 - Treasurer – Larry Ohm
 - Assistant Treasurer – Josh Hamann
- The annual Council and Staff luncheon will be held Sunday, Feb 10th at 12:30 pm at McVey's in Lowell
- Assignement were made for counting the offering

Respectfully Submitted
Michelle Claussen

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINUTES

DECEMBER 3, 2012 MEETING

New Business:

- Rachel Lewke, the newest CE member was welcomed
- Church Council
 - Summary given of the report made to Council
- Sunday School
 - No report
- Youth Group
 - Jen Summary given of the future events being planned and her goals for the group
 - Discussion around alternative times for the high school class to meet
- Confirmation Class
 - Summary given of the Confirmation class

Old Business:

- Little Caesar's Fundraiser
 - Will be held late Feb through March 4th
- Vacation Bible School
 - No report. Waiting for the Hay Day sampler
- CE Board member recruitment
 - Linda Neidlinger will begin in Feb. Jen Mussman agreed to serve on the Board
- Vacation Bible School (VBS)
 - Curriculum is being ordered for review
- Christmas Program
 - Discussed the lack of attendance for December's program. Suggestion was made to try the program during worship service next year.
- Valentine's Care Packages
 - Decision was made not to send packages this year and revisit this decision next year

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb 5th at 7:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brunello

SUMMARY OF THE MISSION COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 29, 2013 MEETING

- Linda Neidlinger asked if we could collect Campbell Soup labels and aluminum can pop tabs at church and give them to the school or another organization. It was agreed to collect both labels and pop tabs.
- A suggestion was made that a list of Military Personnel and those not able to get to church all of the time be and their contact information be printed in the Keys. Pastor Doug will ask Marcia to print the information in the future.

- The Noisy Can Offering for the Outdoor Ministry of the IL Conference will be taken Feb 10 and 17
- The annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken Mar 10 through Mar 24
- Easter Food Baskets
 - Pastor Doug will contact the school for names of people needing help
 - The collection of cash, food, paper products, and personal hygiene products will be Mar 3 – 17
 - Baskets will be packed and picked or delivered Saturday, Mar 23
- Clean-Up Buckets and School Kits Project
 - Buckets and Kits will be put together in April. Lists of items needed to make up the kits will be published in the April Keys and bulletins
- Mother's Day Carnations
 - Sell carnations April 21, 28, and May 5
- Father's Day Carnations
 - Sell carnations May 26 and June 2 and 9

SUMMARY OF THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 31, 2013 MEETING

- Heather Ohm addressed the Committee proposing the formation of a task force (sub committee) to look into bringing some contemporary Christian music to our Sunday worship, using audio and video. The Committee agreed.
- Paraments for the sanctuary – it was decided to order new paraments (altar cloth and cloths for the pulpit and lecturn) from Murphy Robes. The white and green paraments will be replaced and a new royal blue color will be ordered to celebrate the season of Advent.
- Hanging of the Greens and Unhanging of the Greens went well. It was suggested that next year Christmas music be played during that time. A visitor was very impressed with

the Unhanging of the Green service and was taking the idea back to her church.

- Lent will begin with the Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary. The Wednesday evening Lenten service will be in Fellowship Hall using the round tables
- The Maundy Thursday service will be celebrated at 7:00 pm on March 28th
- The Ecumenical Good Friday service will be March 29, location to be determined
- Easter lilies – the fragrance from the Easter lilies is affecting people. Ideas to decorate the sanctuary using silk flowers were discussed. People will still be able to make donations in honor or memory of loved ones. This will offset the cost of the silk flowers
- Summer worship – the summer worship service will begin at 9:30 am starting May 26th through Sep 1st.
- Poinsettias – the number of people ordering poinsettias has declined over the last few years and fewer people are taking their plants home. The decision was made to price silk poinsettias and possibly purchase two or three for the altar area. People will still be able to make donations in honor or memory of loved ones. This will offset the cost of the silk flowers
- Monies donated for the Easter lilies and poinsettias will be placed in a “Projects for the Future” fund
- Discussion ensued concerning the 10:00 pm Christmas Eve service. Attendance figures have declined over the years for the later service. Beginning this year, there will only be a 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service.
- A basket will be placed at the rear of the sanctuary in which used communion can be placed after those services where communion is celebrated. We appreciate people placing the used cups in the basket rather than leaving the cups in the pews.
- The next Committee meeting will be Thursday, Sep 19th at 7:00 pm

FUSION (FORMERLY THE YOUTH GROUP)

COMING EVENTS

March - Our youth and their friends plan to attend the Casting Crowns Acoustic Session Live concert March 23rd at 7:00 pm at Centennial Chapel, Olivet Nazarine University.

April - April 19 – 20 the youth will be traveling to St. Louis, MO for their mission trip



MARCH MISSION GIVING

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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 (OGHS)

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 10. Our budgeted goal this year is \$350.00.

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 20th**.



OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS

The five members of our Confirmation Class: Jake Dickson, Samantha Greenholt, Ashton Loitz, Gavin Reynolds, and Ethan Schneider and two chaperones; Jen Mussman and Pastor Doug, will attend the Confirmation Weekend, sponsored by the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. The weekend event is held at Pilgrim Park, one of the two camps owned by the IL Conference, located in Princeton, IL. The group will depart Friday, Mar 1 at 4:00 pm and return Sunday, Mar 3 at 12:30 pm. Our group will join approximately 60 Confirmation students from the IL Conference for a time of study, learning, and fun.



GRANT PARK SENIOR MEETING

The Grant Park Seniors will meet on **Monday, Mar 18th** from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Community Center, Dixie Highway in Grant Park.



WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICES

The weekly Wednesday evening Lenten services will be held from 7:00 – 7:30 pm through Mar 20th in Fellowship Hall. A short reflection will be shared during our time together.



ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

If you would like to receive *The Keys*, our church newsletter, and/or your Giving Statements by **email**, please call the church office (815) 465-6191 or email us at:

stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net or stpetersgp@gmail.com.



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LITTLE CAESARS FUNDRAISER

The Board of Christian Education is holding their annual Little Caesars Fund Raising event. Orders are **due by Monday, Mar 4th**. Little Caesars will deliver orders Monday, Mar 11th. Please pick up you order beginning at 6:30 pm. Thanks for your support!



FOOD PANTRY

We continue to participate in the Food Pantry through St. Luke United Church of Christ, Beecher. They serve families in Beecher and the surrounding communities, including Grant Park. Currently they are accepting food items, paper products, and personal hygiene items.



Donations received:

	<u>Monetary</u>	<u>Pounds of Items</u>
Feb	\$ 0.00	12 pounds
Year-to-Date	\$ 0.00	20 pounds

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN MARCH

Wednesday, Mar 6 – Lenten in the Round; 7:00 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, Mar 13 – Lenten in the Round; 7:00 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, Mar 20 – Lenten in the Round; 7:00 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, Mar 24 – Palm Sunday; 10:30 am worship

Thursday, Mar 28 – Maundy Thursday; 7:00 pm
(Communion)

Friday, Mar 29 – Ecumenical Good Friday Service;
7:00 pm, at First United Methodist Church, Grant
Park

Sunday, Mar 31 – Sherburnville Sunrise Worship Service; 7:00 am
at Sherburnville Christian Church. Breakfast will be served
following the worship service

Sunday, Mar 31 – Easter Sunday Worship; 10:30 am (Communion)



THE ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

The Adult Education class meets Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm. We are studying the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). If you want to learn more about the Hebrew Bible, join us!



HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

Has your house address, email address, or phone number changed?

**Please contact the Church Office
to advise us of the change!**



SERVING LUNCH AT THE SALVATION ARMY – SAT, MAR 16TH

You can volunteer in two ways:

- * serve lunch - meet at the Salvation Army at 11:30 am
- * donate cookies, brownies or a bar cookie - please deliver them to the

church by 10:30 am on the 16th. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board by the Sunday school entrance. Thank you!

YOU'RE INVITED FOR COFFEE!

Shari Ohm and her helpers host a coffee bar in the Sunday school entrance each Sunday morning from 9:00 am – 10:15 am. You're invited have a cup of coffee during Sunday school classes or between Sunday school and church. We can mingle in the entrance. If we become too large a group, we will overflow into the Lange Fellowship Hall. You can share long-standing friendships or make new ones! Parents of our Sunday school children...consider passing the time with a cup of coffee while the children attend Sunday school. Donation proceeds will be for Christian Education.



THE PASTOR'S NOTE



A Story from the Internet

(You might have seen this before)

His name is Tim. He has wild hair, wears a t-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. He is brilliant, kind of profound, a bright guy. He became a Christian while attending college. Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students, but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Tim decides to attend worship there. He walks in with no shoes, only dressed in jeans, a t-shirt, and the wild hair. The service has already started. Tim starts down the aisle looking for a seat. The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat.

By now, people are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. Tim gets closer to the pulpit. Realizing there are no seats, he just sits down in the aisle. By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick.

About this time, the minister realizes that from the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Tim. The deacon, in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, and is dressed in a three-piece suit. He's a godly man and very dignified. He walks with a cane. As he walks toward Tim, everyone is saying to themselves that they can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can a man of his age understand this college kid?

It takes a moment for the deacon to reach Tim. The church is silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on the deacon. He reaches Tim, drops his cane, and, with great difficulty, lowers himself to sit next to Tim and worships with him so he won't be alone. Everyone chokes up with emotion. When the minister gains control he says, "What I'm about to preach, you won't remember. What you've just seen, you will never forget."

Jesus taught by example, just as the deacon did. We're told that actions speak louder than words. In this season of Lent and as we approach Easter, let us look at ourselves and examine not only the words we use, but our actions.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Doug



**PEN THE CURTAIN
TO A
SPECIAL FUND-RAISING EVENT**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013

Reception — 7:00 PM

Play — 8:00 PM

**A Theatrical Presentation
of
Horton Foote's**

The Trip to Bountiful

**Theatre of
Western Springs
4384 Hampton Avenue
Western Springs, IL 60558**

This heart-warming, Pulitzer Prize winning play tells the story about Mrs. Watts, an aging widow who lives with her children but determines to regain her dignity. The play presents a timely message for all ages about finding peace of mind.

**Donation: \$50.00 includes ticket & hors d'oeuvres
Our celebration supports
Illinois Conference Ministries and Outreach**

**For tickets & information: Contact Naomi Else
708-344-4470 or Ilconfnaoml@gmail.com**

**NOISY CAN OFFERING – SUPPORTING THE
OUTDOOR MINISTRY OF THE ILLINOIS
CONFERENCE**



The IL Conference Outdoor Ministry Program has two camps; Tower Hill in Sawyer, MI and Pilgrim Park in Princeton, IL. As both camps age, work has to be done to bring them up to code and repairs or replacement of items needs to be done.

The Noisy Can Offering total was **\$287.97**.

Thanks for your support!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Warren Wessman - Cancer,

Sandi Cullen – Cancer (Niece of Charlie Moore),

Linda Frahm - Cancer (daughter-in-law of Vic & Elaine Frahm),

Bill Posey - Pancreatic cancer (Cousin of Karen Ekhoﬀ & Karri Barrera),

Bill Pugh – Kidney cancer (Father of Jenny Hamann)

Ashlynn Zimmerman, Cancer (Great granddaughter of Clifford & Ethel)

Sharon Carlin – Cancer (Mother of Dornita Hamann & Gwyneth Stadt)

Leisa (Schneider) Ackley – Cancer (Daughter of Stanley Schneider)

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



CONCERNS

The family and friends of Francis Granger (father to Dennis Granger) and the family and friends of Beverly Heusing who both passed away in February.

Rev. Bev Zell with the loss of her father.



Mark 16:6-7 (New Revised Standard Version)

But the angel said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”



MARCH BIRTHDAY LIST

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



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



**Remember – Sunday, March 10
Daylight Savings Time begins
Turn your clocks AHEAD one hour!**



MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1-3		Confirmation Class Weekend
3	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service/Communion
5	7:00 pm	Christian Ed
6	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	7:45 pm	Sr. Choir
8 - 10		High School Play
10	9:00 am	Sunday School
	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	12:00	Baby Shower
	6:00 pm	Adult Ed
12	10:00 am	Beecher Manor Worship Service
13	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	7:45 pm	Senior Choir
16	11:00 am	Salvation Army
17	9:00 am	Sunday School
	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Adult Education
18	1:00-3:00	Grant Park Seniors
20	12:30 pm	Farmers and Friends
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	7:45 pm	Senior Choir
23	7:00 pm	Youth Concert at ONU
24	9:00 am	Sunday School
	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	10:30 am	PALM SUNDAY
	6:00 pm	Adult Education
26	7:00 pm	Church Council
27	7:00 pm	Senior Choir
28	7:00 pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship
29	7:00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP at Methodist Church
31	7:00 am	SUNRISE SERVICE at Sherburnville Church
	10:30 am	EASTER WORSHIP Service/Communion

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
Christine Garbaciak, Custodian
Jen Mussman, Youth Advisor

CHURCH COUNCIL

Trisha Meherg, President
Kevin Mussman, Vice President
Michelle Claussen, Secretary
Larry Ohm, Treasurer **Josh Hamann, Assistant Treasurer**
Roger Sturm, LaDonna Swanson, Bev Junker, Ed Bush

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**Judy Schneider, Heather Ohm, Charlie Moore, Eric Frahm,
Ray Isbell**



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