

THE KEYS

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



May 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 by Council President, Linda Neidlinger at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 27, 2012.



Members present: Larry Ohm, Trisha Meherg, Linda Neidlinger, Larry Voigt, Roger Sturm, LaDonna Swanson, and Michelle Claussen.

Regrets: Kevin Mussman and Stan Schneider

Pastor Doug opened the meeting with prayer.

- Motion was made and seconded to approve Secretary's minutes from the February 28, 2012 meeting. Motion carried.
- There was no Treasurer's report given.
- LaDonna Swanson accepted the nomination of Vice President.

Unfinished Business:

- Organist Compensation – Motion was made and seconded to compensate the organists for playing at the Wednesday Evening Lenten services at their regular Sunday service rate. Motion carried.

New Business

- Marge, Myers, our current custodian has resigned. The job will be posted in the Keys.
- After looking into the Pastor's Life/Disability Benefit Plan, it was found that the correct information was not filed in 2008. Therefore, Pastor Doug does not have coverage. Pastor Doug is applying for this coverage.
- After discussion, it was decided to keep the yearly initial offering of \$5.00 the same. This initial offering is used to recoup the cost of the offering envelopes.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Doug submitted a written report for February

Committee Reports

- Board of Christian Education (CE) –
 - Considering having a garage sale this summer
 - The Little Caesar’s fundraiser raised \$638.50.
 - Continue to seek an Assistant Sunday school Superintendent.
 - No Sunday school class on Easter.
- Budget Committee – No meeting
- Cemetery Committee – No meeting
- Church Life Committee –
 - Work continues to finalize the pictorial directory.
- Endowment Committee – No meeting
- Memorial Committee– No meeting
- Mission Board–
 - Easter food baskets will be packaged on March 31st for 7 local families
- Property and Maintenance Committee
- Worship Committee – No meeting

April “Council Person of the Month” is Trisha Meherg
Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24th 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 7:05 pm on Tuesday, March 6, 2012.

Members Present: Lisa Reichel, Nancy Marcotte, Betty Wolfe, Kim Sherwood, Natalie Lacer, Vicki Gawlinski, Marge Myers, Karen Brunello, Dawn Schroeder, Linda Neidlinger.

Regrets: Gwyneth Stadt, Keith Ohm, and Doug Zimmerman
Natalie opened the meeting with prayer.

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 26th. 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 - 5th 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.
- No Correspondence
- No budget report
- No Council report
- Sunday School Report (Betty)
 - Community Day on Feb 26th hosted 18 youth and 5 adults. Suggested changing from 2 hours to 1 ½ hours
 - Lisa Reichel will shepherd 4th and 5th grade the last 5 rotation session
 - Shepherds will speak at the Mar 25th service to share their experience in Sunday school. Betty will post a volunteer sign-up sheet
 - Reminder that Sunday school will not meet on Easter Sunday
 - Youth will receive packets of flower seeds on Palm Sunday
- Confirmation
 - Dawn reported that the Confirmation Weekend at Pilgrim Park was very inspiring for the youth
 - Due to the size of the current Confirmation class, Dawn will ask the middle school class for ideas about raising money to help with Confirmation Weekend expenses next year.
- Motion made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the March 2012 meeting. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Little Caesar's fundraiser raised \$638.50. "Thank you" to Gwyneth for her work to make this a success.

- Valentines Care Packages: 4 packages were sent to out of town college students at a cost of \$24.00 for mailing. Thanks were given to Marge and Vicki for their help.

New Business:

- Miscellaneous – updated CE Board member contact list
- Junior High/High School class – Dawn will teach the class through May. They will write a youth service.
- Assistant Sunday school Superintendent – Dawn will continue to seek a candidate for the position.
- Furniture/Cleaning
 - Comments have been made to Natalie about the excess items in the Sunday school area. Committee discussed ideas recognizing that some items are not solely Sunday school items. Linda will take the discussion to the Church Council and Pastor Doug
 - Vacation Bible School (VBS) –
 - A VBS Committee will be formed
 - Vicki volunteered to be the Director

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

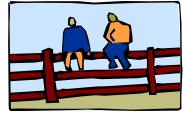
Respectfully submitted,
Karen Brunello



MAY MISSION GIVING

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) – Also known as Basic Support, 71% of our contribution stays in the Illinois Conference to carry out the mission at the Association and Conference level.

World Hunger – Our annual contribution to this organization through our Mission giving helps combat the issue hunger in our country and throughout the world.



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, May 16th**.

ST. PAUL UCC, MONEE – 4TH ANNUAL PORK CHOP DINNER

When: Saturday, May 5th, 4:30 – 7:00 pm
Where: St. Paul UCC, Monee
Menu: 2 Pork Chops with Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Apple Sauce, Roll, delicious homemade desserts, and drinks.

TREASURER’S REPORT – YEAR-TO-DATE THROUGH MARCH 2012



	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Total Income:	\$39,488	\$42,350
Total Expenses:	<u>\$38,838</u>	<u>\$42,319</u>
Net Income:	\$ 650	\$ 31

FOOD PANTRY

We participate 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.

For 2012 our church has donated \$20.00 and 40 pounds of items.

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, 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. 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



A DOG'S PURPOSE

(from an email I received)

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, Lisa, and their son Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure. As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for Shane to observe the procedure. They felt Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting Belker for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animals live shorter lives than humans.

Shane, who had been listening quietly, pipe up, "I know why." Startled, we all turned to him, I'd never heard a more comforting explanation that what Shane gave. He said, "People are born so they can learn how to live a good life – like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right? Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

From a six-year-old; a lesson about life. "Love everyone all the time and be nice." Amen!

Pastor Doug

GRANT PARK ELEMENTARY RECYCLING EFFORTS

Thanks to your support...Grant Park Elementary once again placed in the top 3 in the Belson's S.C.O.R.E. Program. We were awarded \$521.00 in cash, a tree, and numerous gift-certificate type prizes. With the help of your recycling efforts, we've played a small part in making the world a better place. Keep saving those cans for next year.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Many of us are now using email to communicate, receive information, and to receive our Giving Statements from church. 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 **or** stpetersgp@gmail.com.

Please contact the Church Office with your change of postal or email address.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Kevin Lietz,

Pauline Mitchell

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)

Shannon Reding (friend of Jan Voigt)

The family and friends of **June Hamann**, and

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

MAY 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1	7:00 pm	Christian Ed
2	7:00 pm	Sr. Choir
6	9:00 am 10:30am	Sunday School Worship Service – Communion NO Confirmation
9	7:00 pm	Sr. Choir
13	9:00 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm	Sunday School Worship Service – Mother’s Day Confirmation
16	12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Farmers & Friends Sr. Choir
17	7:00 pm	Property & Maintenance Committee
19	11:00 am	Serving at Salvation Army
20	9:00 am 10:30 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Sunday School Recognition Sunday Worship Service Music Box Recital Confirmation
21	1:00pm	Grant Park Seniors at the Community Center
21-23		Pastor Doug at Tower Hill Clergy Cluster
22	7:00 pm	Church Council meeting
27	10:30 am	Summer Worship Schedule Begins - Pentecost/Communion Sunday
28		Memorial Day – Church office closed

May Birthday List

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

LaDonna Swanson	1	Sandi Heldt	16
Rich Heldt	2	Jon Schneider	16
Kimberly Sherwood	4	Paul Loverin	19
Catherine Hamann	4	Daniel Erickson	20
Megan Pilbeam	4	Mary Cirks	23
Sam Hamann	4	Shirley Voigt	23
Cynthia Jacobson	6	Jerry Lorenz	23
Erin Williamson	7	David Heusing	25
Joe Ekhoﬀ	8	Minnie Pﬂingsten	26
Tammy Reaman	10	Sandy Erickson	27
Amy Schneider	11	Jarret Schneider	28
Tom Morris	12	Kyle Jacobson	28
Suzy Bird	12	Jamie Clausing	29
Kate Reichel	12	Sharon Dillman	30
Marcia Langlois	14	Ken Heldt	30
Missy Benson	14	Trisha Meherg	30
Pam Lawrence	15	Thomas Locke	31

Mother's Day Carnations

The Missions Board is selling carnations for Mother's Day through Sunday, May 6th. The cost of each carnation is \$4.00. Proceeds from the sale support the Good Samaritan Fund at our church.

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

PRESENTED BY _____

NUMBER ORDERED BY \$4.00 _____

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
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 Schneider, Heather Ohm, Charlie Moore, Eric Frahm

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