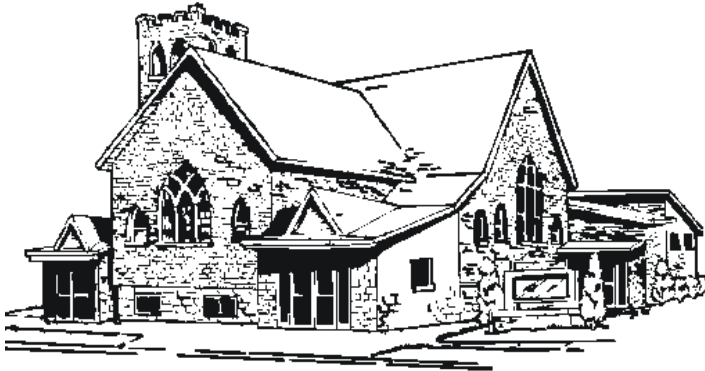


The Keys

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Grant Park, Illinois



www.stpetersgp.org

Volume 47

October 2011

Number 10

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.*

PASTOR'S NOTE

A WORD

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.”

Many of us are familiar with this saying. Many of us know that this isn't true. Ask the person who is abused verbally by their significant other if words hurt. Ask the young person who is bullied at school or online if words are demeaning. Words can hurt. The words we use make a difference.

I was made aware of one of the words I use by a colleague at a seminar I attended recently. We were talking about things at the churches we serve. I was saying something about our church when she stopped me. She said, “Excuse me. I notice that you say ‘our church’ while most people say ‘my church.’ I like your use of the word ‘our.’ I’m going to start saying ‘our church.’”

Saying “our church” instead of “my church” is significantly different for me. When I use the word *my*, I’m saying the church belongs to me. A young child learns at an early age to say *mine!* The child is taught to share and be considerate of others. When I use the word *our*, I mean the church belongs to all of us. I very seldom say *my* church when talking about St. Peter’s. This is *our* church. I am a member, just like most of you. *We* are a church family. *We* worship together. *We* make decisions about *our* church and life in the church. For each of us, St. Peter’s United Church of Christ is *our* church.

Pastor Doug

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, OCT 2

On Sunday, October 2nd, we will confirm 10 of our youth and celebrate World Communion Sunday.

THE NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2011 – 2012

The class for current 8th graders, Class of 2011 – 2012, will begin meeting on Sunday, Oct 16th at 6:00 pm.

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Pictures will be taken October 20th from 2:30-9:00, October 21st from 2:30 – 9:00 and October 22nd from 10:00 – 4:00. Appointments can be made online at www.myphotoappointment.com or call the church office at 815-465-6191.

THE PARSONAGE TELEPHONE WILL BE DISCONNECTED.

The cost to maintain a land line at the parsonage is about \$525.00 a year. Pastor Doug receives approximately 10 – 15 calls a year concerning church business on the parsonage phone. To be better stewards of our resources it has been decided to buy a cordless handset for the church office phone and place it in the parsonage. This was done two weeks ago. Reception on this phone is excellent and Pastor Doug can retrieve messages left on the church phone via this phone. Therefore, **effective immediately, the parsonage phone will be disconnected.** **Pastor Doug can be contacted 24 hours a day on the office phone (815) 465-6191 or on his cell phone (815) 342-8927.**

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Several people asked Pastor Doug to consider making the summer worship time later on Sunday mornings. Pastor Doug took these requests to the Worship Committee, the Committee that sets the time of the worship service. The Worship Committee members considered the request and after a lengthy discussion about summer worship attendance and the effects of changing the worship time, the Committee voted to have summer worship at 10:30 am in 2012. In the fall of 2012, the Committee will consider comments about the 10:30 summer worship time and the average attendance for the summer services before determining the time for summer worship in 2013.

The Committee also considered comments received from members about the comfort of the pews and access to the church. These comments will be passed on to the Property and Maintenance Committee.

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE – WWW.STPETERSGP.ORG

Dennis Granger is now the website manager for the church's website. Dennis created the new site and has ideas for posting pictures, videos, and sound bites on the site. Check out the site for the latest news about life at St. Peter's UCC.

To protect our children, we have implemented a website security code, a system used by other churches, so that only church members can view pictures of church events. To see the pictures and videos in the "Event Photos" section, please contact the church office by phone (815) 465-6191 or email - stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net for the code.

RECEIVING THE *KEYS* BY EMAIL

This month, you will receive the *Keys* by regular mail and by email, if we have your email address. The *Keys* is also posted on our website at www.stpetersgp.org. Let us know if you like reading the *Keys* on the website or receiving it by email.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

The Christian Education Board voted to begin giving bibles to youth entering our Second Grade Sunday School and our Confirmation students. Bibles were presented to the second graders on Sunday, Sep 18th during the Children's Message. Bibles for the current Confirmands will be presented on Confirmation Sunday, Oct 2nd. The incoming Confirmation class will receive bibles on Sunday, Oct 16th. The students will use the bibles during class throughout the coming year.

PILGRIM PARK POOL FUNDRAISER

Through your generous giving, we will donate **\$149.50** to help complete the pool at Pilgrim Park, one of our two IL Conference camps, located near Princeton, IL. Thank you!

BIKE-A-THON RESULTS

A total of **\$706.00** was received in donations for the Sunday School Bike-a-Thon last Sunday. Approximately 20 youth and adults participated in the event. Thank you for supporting the Sunday School program!

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, October 19th.

FELLOWSHIP HALL TABLES

Mold and mildew was recently found on several tables in Fellowship Hall. The mold and mildew were caused by stacking the tables in the storage area before the tables were completely dry. **Please do not put the tables in the storage area until they are completely dry.**

OUR FOOD PANTRY

Because of the lack of use of our food pantry at the church during the past two years, the Mission Committee made the decision at their Sep 20th meeting to discontinue having a

food pantry in the church. The decision will be reviewed in the future and, if needed, the food pantry will be started again.

MISSION PROJECT FOR SEPTEMBER

Thanks to your generosity, to date, Linda Neidlinger has taken **51 pairs of shoes** to the Share Your Soles Foundation (<http://shareyoursoles.org/>). Watch the Sunday bulletin for further updates.

SALVATION ARMY

The schedule for serving lunch on Saturdays at the Salvation Army is:

Saturday, Nov 5th

You can help in two ways

- serve lunch at the Salvation Army (meet at the church at 11:00 am)
- donate brownies or a bar cookie (deliver them to the church by 10:30 am that Sat)

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by the Sunday school entrance about a month in advance. Sign up and help in the way you are able.

CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS FUND AND THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

We will receive donations for the Charlie Brown Christmas Fund Oct 9th through Nov 6th. The Charlie Brown Christmas Fund provides gift cards to local families with children, who are in need, to help with expenses during the Christmas season.

This year, because the church no longer has a Food Pantry, the Mission Committee is asking for cash donations (instead of food items) to help provide food for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets for area families in need. Mission Committee members will purchase items for the baskets with the donations received.

Donations for the Charlie Brown Christmas Fund and for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets may be placed in the container at the back of the church.

OCTOBER MISSION GIVING

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) –

Also known as Basic Support, our contributions support God's mission in the Illinois Conference, nationally, and globally. 71% of our contribution stays in Illinois to carry out the mission of the Illinois Conference. Part of that mission is the support of local church pastors and the local churches, helping local churches during the search and call process, and providing intervention teams to help local churches work through times of challenge.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY LIST

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

Louise Sievers	1	Taryn Rayburn	18
Gwyneth Stadt	3	Andrew Hamann	19
Lindsay Elliott	6	Lisa Dennis	20
Keaton Lacer	7	Ron Hamann	21
Jessica Schriefer	8	Kristine Mulderink	21
8			Kristine Mulderink
		21	
Brandon Bird	8	Karl Schneider	21
Gene Sievers	9	Clover Schneider	23
Larry Erickson	9	Michael Williamson	23
Lucas Castelli	9	Marvin Bredemeier	24
Karl Reichel	10	Roberta Ferris	25
William Weybright	11	Dylan Bettenhausen	25
Tyler Coy	11	Tom Barrera	27
Stanley Schneider	12	Jill Lucas	27
Lisa Reichel	12	Ethan Schneider	27
Beverly Junker	14	Larry Hamann	28
Mark Schneider	14	Sheryl Wieghaus	28
William Reichel	14	Julie Strange	28
Paige Flynn	14	Jeffrey Mussman	28
Tim Weybright	16	Holly Wade	28
Michael Loitz	17	Margaret Chesterfield	31
Kalie Langlois	17	Linda Neidlinger	31
Kaylie Meherg	17	Austin Langlois	31
Patrick Hackl	18	Christopher Mussman	31

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES

College student addresses are needed ASAP. Addresses are needed for the Christian

Ed Committee Care Packages and issues of the 'Keys'. NEW and OLD addresses are needed to complete the list. Please call the church office. Leave a message if you are calling after hours. Thank you

Please join us for St. Peter's UCC Annual

Turkey Supper

Saturday, November 5th

4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ
310 North Meadow Street
Grant Park, Illinois
Additional Information: 815-465-6191**

Adults	\$10.00
Kids 6 – 12 years	\$ 6.00
Under 6 years	Free
All Carryouts	\$10.00

***Get a \$1 off coupon at Grant Park Oktoberfest Parade, 10/01**

Join us for our all-you-can-eat supper of

Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Sweet Potatoes, Corn, Rolls, Cranberries, Fruit Salad

Many themed baskets to be raffled!!!

Neighbors in Need (NIN)

NIN is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

MISSION COMMITTEE BOARD

Minutes of September 20, 2011 Meeting

Members present were Pam Lawrence, Audrey Lehnert, Erin and Ron Hamann, LaDonna Swanson and Pastor Doug Zimmerman.

Items of Discussion:

■ Thanksgiving Baskets

On October 9 the congregation will receive information on the Charlie Brown Christmas. Donations will be accepted through November 6. This year we are asking for donations for both gifts for children at Christmas and also to purchase food for Thanksgiving baskets. The Missions committee will meet on November 8 to make a list of foods to be purchased. On November 19 the committee will meet to pack baskets.

■ Share Your Soles

So far 51 pairs of shoes have been brought in and more are still arriving. We will continue to collect shoes through September.

■ Food Pantry

It was decided to close our food pantry. The pantry was not being used by the community. It was decided that a couple of gift cards for groceries could be kept on hand in the office to meet emergency needs as they arise.

■ Salvation Army

Our Congregation will be serving lunch on Saturday, September 24. The next date to serve lunch is November 5.

■ **Next Meeting**

November 8 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, LaDonna Swanson

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee of St. Peter's United Church of Christ met on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 7:00 pm. Those present – Karen Ekhoﬀ, Michelle Claussen (Council rep), Karen Brunello, Jan Voigt, Trisha Meherg, Jill Claussen, and Pastor Doug.

Minutes were approved by consensus. The Committee has a budget of \$200.00. Discussion was held about the budget.

Unfinished Business:

- Reminder postcards will continue to be sent to ushers
- A statement will be included in the usher letter asking if they wish to continue ushering
- Discussion was held about altar clothes, cleaning or replacement was discussed. Karen will check on the cost of new altar clothes.
- The Prayer Chain added one new member.
- Confirmation Sunday and World Communion Sunday are Oct 2nd.
- The Saturday evening summer worship service did not take place because the questionnaires that were returned were split in the decision.

New Business:

- Dennis Granger has set up the church's website with several new items
- Cost of sending out the church newsletter includes an annual bulk rate fee of \$185.00 per year and a per piece fee. The per-piece fee could be reduced by using 8 ½ x 11 inch paper. Money could be saved by emailing the newsletter
- Summer worship time was discussed at length. The decision was made to hold summer worship at 10:30 am in 2012. Feedback will be encouraged before making a decision about 2013.
- Pastor mentioned that he's receiving comments about it being difficult to use the chairlift.

- Poinsettias will be sold on Sunday, Nov 27, Dec. 4 and 11th. Delivery will be Friday, Dec 16
- Hanging of the Greens will be on Sunday, Nov 27 during worship. Taking down the Greens will be on Jan 8 during worship. 20 minutes will be given for this.
- The Christmas Eve services will be at 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm. There will be no service on Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec 25th.
- Worship will be held on New Year's Day, Sunday, Jan 1st. Communion will be celebrated.
- Ash Wednesday is Feb 22, 2012 and Easter is April 8th.
- Pastor asked about for comments about the hymns being chosen for worship. A questionnaire will be in the bulletin asking for favorite hymns.

The next meeting will be January 12, 2012 at 7:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Claussen

God has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what does God require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

--Micah 6:8

Prayer Concerns

Wendell Smith, Kevin Leitz, Jeff Jones, Byron Heldt, Jen De Young (Cousin of Charlie Moore and Colleen Martin), 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), and all of God's children seeking comfort, support, peace, and love.

Concerns

- The family and friends of Joyce Isbell (mother of Ray Isbell) who passed away on the 7th of August.

Joys

- The baptisms of AJ and Austin Kaack.
- The presentation of Bibles to St. Peter's Sunday School second grade class.

Thank You's

- Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ has thanked St. Peter's for our 2010 donation of \$265.00 to Neighbors In Need.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU'RE IN THE HOSPITAL OR FACING OTHER CHALLENGES

At times, **you** learn news about members and friends of our congregation and our wider church family that Pastor Doug and the church office are not aware of. Please do not hesitate to notify us about this information. We aren't always notified when church members are in the hospital, even if you ask hospital staff to contact us. Thank you!

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Staff

Rev. Doug Zimmerman, Pastor

Marcia Langlois, Office Administrator
Beverly Junker, Financial Secretary
Marge Myers, Custodian
Delores Caton, Organist

Ann Smith, Sr., Choir Director
Kathy Ekhoﬀ, Jr., Choir Director
Judy Schneider, Organist
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
Heather Ohm
Eric Frahm

Audrey Lehnert
Mardele Engleking



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.....Never Place a Period where God has placed a Comma.

Gracie Allen; 20th century American comedian

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
310 North Meadow Street
Grant Park, Illinois 60940

Church – (815) 465-6191
Pastor's Cell – (815) 342-8927
E-Mail: stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.stpetersgp.org
Facebook: St. Peter's UCC Grant Park

Sunday School – 9:00 am
Adult Sunday School 9:05 am
Worship Service – 10:30 am

The Rev. Doug Zimmerman
Pastor

Marcia Langlois, Editor and
Office Administrator