



MADIE!

Madaline Ruez took a one rating on both of her solos at the Illinois Grade School Music Association contest for solos and ensembles at Casey Junior High School in Mt. Vernon. Approximately three hundred boys and girls from schools all around Southern Illinois participated. Each soloist played for an impartial judge who is also a school music teacher in the area. Her selection for a vocal solo was, "Castle on a Cloud", from Les Miserables. She also performed a saxophone solo, "Allegro Allegra", from the Piped Piper.

Madie is the daughter of **Edie and Paul Ruez** and **Russell** is her brother.



CHURCH WIDE — APRIL 5 & 6

Reporter: Norma Borgmann, ERM President & Coordinator

The church-wide Rummage Sale will be held on Friday evening, April 5th (from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.) and Saturday, April 6th (8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) in the Fellowship Hall. However, in order to have a successful sale, we need workers for the various shifts on preparation, actual, and clean-up times — that sign-up list is on the bulletin board. We certainly welcome anyone to help us (the ERM Society who is sponsoring it). However, the profits will be distributed afterwards to one (or more) of the on-going necessary improvement projects of

property and programming of the church. Therefore, your unwanted items hopefully will become someone else's while benefitting the church. It is easier to be a participant of a collective rummage sale rather than having your own.

Remember items may be brought to the church on Wednesday afternoon (4/3) — already PRICED by you or Thursday evening (4/4). Set up of the tables will actually take place on Friday (4/5) in the morning when we know if the Fellowship Hall is available for sure. If not, then the sale will be postponed until the first week-end in May. Also, if you need pick-up service of your items, please call me in advance of the set-up day as I will be glad to do such.

Please consider providing items and/or helping. Thanks to those who have already signed up. We still need many more! Thank you in advance.

WORSHIP AND POTLUCK

Reporter: Rev. Lisa Hart

As we reach toward revitalization of the church, one thing we need is guidance and instruction. Some of this will come from other people, including our conference staff and the Church Development Team of Illinois South Conference.

On April 14, **Rev. Jerry Bennett**, associate conference minister for programming, will join us for worship and lunch. He will preach during the service, then after lunch will talk to us about the first steps in this revitalization process. Please mark your calendar and plan to be there. We will worship downstairs in the Fellowship Hall

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PRAYER CORNER*

Debbie Arning	Rev. Rich Brzowsky
Esther Campbell	Ileen Castellari
Robin Cimera	Bob Cohlmeier
Jane Edmonson	Luke Hammond
Rev. Lisa Hart	Candice Kindred
Paul Kluthe	Helen Niekrenz
Gracie Niermann	Bentley Powell
Carter Rankin	Paula Sears
Don Storck	Betty Telford
Jack Weible	Curtis White
Brad Wolenhaupt	Chris Wolenhaupt

**In accordance with HIPPA (It's real name is Heath Insurance Portability Privacy Act.) requirements, the persons on the St. Peter prayer list have requested, or given permission, for their names to be included and published in the prayer list. Names will appear for 30 days unless the individuals or their immediate family request that they be maintained on the prayer list for another thirty days.*

Our Servicemen

Matthew Bratthaur	David Harper
Chris Lyday	Corey Schlau
Nathan Storck	Cole Vehrs
Jared Vehrs	Anna Walls

In Care Centers

Elmer Beckmeyer	Marjorie Nehrt
Sandy Zinschlag	

PLEASE HELP US UPDATE

If you know of someone who needs to be added or taken off, please contact the church secretary, **Judy Reichenbacher**, at the office 532-7124, and if no one is available, please leave a message.

**Remember your Church in your will.
A Gift that will last for generations**

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Giving Totals for Feb. 24 - Mar. 17, 2013

General Offering.	\$ 5,072.00
Parsonage.....	400.00
Lent Offering - Eden Seminary.	64.00
Elevator Repair.	50.00
Exterior Building Repair.	50.00
Memorials - Jack Feig.	2,435.00
Condolence Fund.....	50.00
Memorial Fund - 150 th Donation.	18.00
VBS 2012.....	65.00
Refund for canceled retreat.	59.00
One Great Hour of Sharing.	204.00
Lilies.	25.00
Change for Change.....	62.28
TOTAL.....	\$ 8,554.28

**GENERAL OFFERING YEAR TO DATE
(01/01/13 THROUGH 03/17/13)**

Amount received. \$ 15,636.00
(Does not include "Change for Change 2013")

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Feb.. 24	37
Mar. 3	42
Mar. 10	30
Mar. 17	28

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

On behalf of the family of **Art and Esther Campbell** we want to thank everyone for their cards, calls and prayers for the recent passing of their son-in-law **Gary Chwascinski** of Nashville, IL. Your thoughts and prayers made a difficult time a little more bearable.

The Campbell and Chwascinski Family

To complete the list of February Nursing Home "Servants", I certainly appreciate the following members of our faith family representing St. Peter United Church of Christ at Friendship House on February 24th (the same day that the March newsletter was handed out and thus not included in the printing) who assisted me in the devotional service and extending the hand of friendship to the clients: **Judy Fehrmann, Connie Freels, Helen Niekrenz, and Jeanette Storck.** . Thanks so much.

Just as reminder, St. Peter UCC will lead the 2:00 p.m. Sunday services at Centralia Manor in July, and I am already looking for leaders, pianists, and assistants. Please consider doing this type of "outreach".

Norma Borgmann

Thanks to the many church members who responded with food and/or physical assistance at the funeral luncheon on Saturday, February 23rd for the **Jack Feig** family/friends: **Nan Borgmann, Norma Borgmann, Jane Brink, Diane Brinkmann, DiAnn Caraker, Ruth Carpenter, Cathy Chontofalsky, Judy Fehrmann, Connie Freels, Melinda Graham, Rev. Lisa Hart, Barbara Hill, Dorothy Murray, Helen Niekrenz, Judy Reichenbacher, Verna Steinkamp, Jeanette Storck, Jim and Susan White,** were all on hand with food and giving their time. **Dale Reichert & Kay** were there to help with serving and **Charlene Smith** provided a beverage.

A total of 73 family members and 15 workers were served at this luncheon.

Thanks also to the **male members of the Feig family** who set up/took down the tables for such meal.

Gratitude from the Special Events Team

Thank you all for your prayers, your calls and cards, your care and concern during my recent hip replacement and recovery.

I am home and doing well. Your continued prayers are appreciated so much.

Jane Edmonson

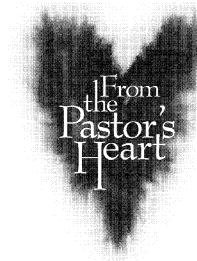
SPRING BRUNCH AT 1ST CHRISTIAN

Reporter: Norma Borgmann

The five representatives from St. Peter United Church of Christ present at the 1st Christian

(Disciples of Christ) Church Spring Brunch on Saturday, March 16th were **Connie Freels, Marie Miller, Verna Steinkamp, Jeanette Storck,** and **Norma Borgmann.** We were appreciative of their extravagant hospitality, delicious food, beautiful decorations, and inspiring words through worship and music.

The special program featured "The Revelators", a male vocal trio from Patoka Christian Church, who sang inspirational words in harmony to depict a Christian's journey of life and beyond.



Easter! The Season of Resurrection! It's really the season of new life, for our yards, for ourselves, for our church. It's an exciting time, a time to worship and praise God, a time to celebrate. And it's so appropriate that all this is incorporated into the 150th Anniversary of St. Peter church. We celebrate the past and give thanks for the foundation it gives us for the future.

I give thanks also for the present times in the church. A lot is happening, and many people work hard to make it possible. This time of revitalization, of new life in the church is exciting!

- **Maddie Ruez** is a star at confirmation classes, which are a Covenant Church activity
- Maundy Thursday Covenant service and Good Friday cantata service.
- Easter sunrise service in Fairview Park, 7 a.m..
- Rummage sale on April 5 & 6.
- **Rev. Jerry Bennett** speaking to us as a revitalizing church on April 14.
- Anniversary confirmation reunion on April 24, with guest **Rev. David Schoen** from the UCC national offices.

Check your calendar this month and every month because exciting things are going on at St. Peter UCC.

This time of revitalization at the church is a time of change, and I compliment the congregation for accepting change, inviting friends to worship, and

working together to support the church as we move into the second 150 years of our history!

Rev. Lisa

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” *Jeremiah 29:11*

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET PLANS

Reporter: Norma Borgmann, ERM President

The annual Mother-Daughter Banquet will be held on Wednesday evening, May 8th in the Fellowship Hall with a theme reflecting our 150 years of heritage from a ladies' perspective. Just think how many changes there have been in women's attire, music, food, etc. in the past 1 ½ centuries! The meal will be “piece mealed” (referring to partial catering and homemade by the food committee). The cost is not known at this time but will be known after April 14th. Please contact **Verna Steinkamp** after then for your ticket(s). This annual banquet is open to all females in our church and their guest(s). Thus, please feel cordially invited to an evening out for food, enrichment, and fellowship. More details will be posted on the bulletin board or contact me after our April 10th ERM meeting. Hoping to see many of you in attendance on May 8th.

CONFIRMATION REUNION

Reporter: Norma Borgmann, Addresses' Researcher

The Confirmation Reunion, a special occasion of the 150th Anniversary of our church, will be held on Sunday, April 28th. We are pleased to have several reservations from former and current members but there's room for more. Just call me at 533-1658 or the church at 532-7124 for reserving your seat in the Fellowship Hall during the noon meal (to be catered). Thus, we would greatly appreciate such RSVPs by April 21st for ample food and seating assurances. Also, there is a red box on the narthex table for RSVPs.

THANKS to ALL of you who provided addresses to those listed in March's newsletter. While that list was long with persons who I didn't have addresses or couldn't find on the computer or phone book,

there still remains a shorter list of UNKNOWN addresses as of this print date. It is unfortunate as an invitation has not been sent to such person(s) informing him or her of the fact that St. Peter is celebrating its 150 years of active ministry. Therefore, I am sending out another plea for hopefully people would recognize and know of an address(es) so an invitation may be sent out immediately. Please call me at 533-1658 or tell me in person. We want more people to be informed plus provide an updated mailing list for anyone who would be interested besides the church office. Also, please indicate if someone has died and is listed. Any pertinent information, including correct spelling, is greatly appreciated.

STILL NEED THESE PEOPLE'S CURRENT ADDRESSES as divided into decades (included married name, if known, and omitted middle names to save space): (Remember if a person does not have a land line phone anymore and only a cell phone, it is hard to find an address in any source).

Classes of 1932-1939 – Sarah Jean Henning, Geraldine Broeker, John Jasper, Evelyn Deardini, Georgia Thomas, Anna Cross, Rosemary Linville, Durall Burmeister, Elmer Bierman, Selma Bierman, Louis Brun, Richard Chambers, Mirian Daum, Katherine Goldsmith, Jack Forum, Johanna Mayer, John Maroon, Helen Tipps, LaDonne Klosterman, Helen Pombert, Betty Jean Wilson, Betty Biermann, Frieda Meyers, Stanley Egg, Fred Klein, Dorothy Klein, Harvard Dennis, Henry Dinkelman, Wilbur Hediger, Marcella Dodillet, Cora Boehn, Raymond Dennis, Gerald Kraemer, and Betty Lou Westman.

Classes of 1940-1949 – LaVera Daum, Judith West, Douglas Wiehe, Earl Baker, Louis Boehn, Virginia Garren, Mirian Kitemeyer, Frieda Phillips, Betty Webber, Robert Chambers, Richard Dietz, Alfreda Mann, JoAnn Neudecker, Elmer Knicker, Hersele Wiehe, Arlen Roethemeyer, Wayne Weber, Mary Cloutte, Rev. Robert Hahn, Loyd Herzog, Doris Jones, Harriett Stuber, Wilma Ford, Thomas Williamson Jr., Howard Kleine, Meda Wallin, Vivian Fowler, Darrel Kramer, Jane Meyer, Marilyn Leita, Gene Malone, Robert Roethemeyer, Gerald Williamson, and Violetta Irvin.

Classes of 1950-1959 – Larry Gutzler, Ronald Klosterman, Paul Roethemeyer, Horland Roethemeyer, Dora Rolman, Phyllis Chadaich, Richard Pollard, Larry Swartzlander, Bonnie Hausmesser, Glen Humphrey, Rev. Billy Tibbs,

James Watts, James Aussieker, James Humphrey, Darrel Knicker, Gary Plassman, Judy Arnett, Carolyn Thomas, Barry Miller, Betty Watts and Charles Roethemeyer.

Classes of 1960-1969 — Sharon Martin, Robert Aussieker, James Price, Linda Chambers, Dorothy Leinger, Mary Spangler, Peggy Dilg, Janet Kirts, Marilyn Kohlbrecher, Janet Boothman, Marsha Mount, Linda Taintor, Donald Auberry Jr., Barb Harmon, Mark Chambers, Carolyn Francois, Rick Justice, Donna Martin, Sharon Scarbrough, Carolyn Martin, Kurt Miller, Rodney Steinman, Robert Salisbury, Janet Russell, Rev. Curtis Thomas, Sandra Elliott, Roxanna Cluers, Lynda Venters, Stephanie Steinman, Bruce Schaefer, Terry Dinkelman, Nancy Humphrey, Patrick Malone, Marilee Weeks, and Guy Herzog.

Classes of 1970-1979 – Judy Boester, Allyn Cross, Scott McNally, Sheryl Schroeder, Carla Miller, Carol Yauch, Jeff Besant, Kim McNally, Tim Starr, Jeff Bingheim, Jane Hartley, Susan Qualls, Beth Fischer, Lee Humphrey, Shelly Reuter, Tom Sloat, Mark Starr, Martin Mahkovtz, Greg Bingheim, Michael Nehrt, David Staff, Ruth Stuehmeier, Crystal Lambert, Chris Nierman, and Corine Reuter.

Classes of 1984 – Current — Mark Smith, Donna (Swartzlander), John Klingenberg, Sandra Martin, Sandra Horst, Lena (Hawkins), Juli (Roethemeyer), Kathyne Alfred in Europe?, and Tamera Lampe.

P.S. Once again, my apologies if there is a misspelling or an unknown married or re-married name. Please help us try to update our 149 years of church confirmation records (there was no class in that first year of the church's organization). Thanks again for assisting with this important project.

EASTER CELEBRATION!

Join St. Peter United Church of Chris as we celebrate Easter!

Sunrise Service, at 7am at Fairview Park Shelter #5, north east corner of park.

Sunday School at 9:30 am with an Egg Hunt.

Continental Breakfast served from 10 am to 10:40 am in the Narthex.

Worship Service with communion at 10:45 am.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MARCH 10, 2013

Reporter: Susan White, Appointed Recording Secretary

Jim White, Council President called the meeting to order at 11:46 a.m. with 19 members present.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

1. Discuss exterior building repair and payment of the remaining balance of \$17,338.00 to Kohrmann Brothers Masonry, Inc. of Germantown, Il.

Several suggestions were discussed on how to pay this balance. Motion was made by **David Stedelin** to take the funds from Cathcart Endowment Fund # 170201 and any donations or fund raising efforts specified for the building would be applied toward the above balance. This motion was seconded by **Norma Borgmann**. Motion Carried.

2. Cost information was distributed on the elevator repairs.

Jim provided a detailed description of the changes needed for registration and license by the State of Illinois. Discussion followed.

Note: No vote necessary due to vote already taken at January 27, 2013 Annual Meeting for funding updates to comply with State of Illinois code.

Meeting adjourned on motion by **Barbara Hill** and second by **Edie Ruez**. Motion Carried.

HOW TO MAINTAIN CHURCH HEALTH IN A DECLINING POPULATION COUNTY

World War II's financial transfusion healed the Great Depression of the 1930s. But World War II also ended rural America's Norman Rockwell era.

When 15 million people took off military uniforms in 1945, many of them put on wedding rings and began revising America's population distribution. Halos of suburbs filled with young families and small children began ringing U.S. cities. Simultaneously, during the next three decades, more than 75 percent of America's agricultural population began "moving to town."

School districts in the newborn suburbs grew rapidly. Small businesses grew. Churches grew. Thousands of new congregations scrambled to build Sunday School space for history's largest crop of children, soon called the baby boomers.

The financial income of those thousands of

suburban congregations also grew. Multiple staffs grew larger as some suburban congregations — born at exactly the right time and place — moved toward mega-church status.

Meanwhile, the rural and small-town churches in population-vacated counties changed radically. The median age of their members rose as their attendance declined. They grew older and smaller.

Counteracting This Fading-Effectiveness Pattern

1. Find a genuine human need in the community and develop ways to address that need. Example: One small-town congregation filled a large, unused classroom with exercise equipment and opened it for use by citizens of the community.

2. Work with other community churches to meet human needs. Examples: (a) Organize an annual fund-raising event that addresses a particular human hurt. (B) In one small town, several churches work together to provide volunteer staff for a used clothing store in an empty building on Main Street. Members of all the churches contribute the used clothing, which the store sells at extremely low prices.

3. Keep the church governing board small—five to seven people—and restrict board-member tenure to three consecutive years. This prevents a short list of people from running everything and reduces the tendency of a few individuals to exert more and more control over the church's future.

4. Don't allow committee chairpersons to hold office for more than two consecutive years. Staying too long in a chairperson role (a) feeds the desire for power and control in some personalities, and (b) reduces the committee's creative thinking ability regarding activities that best serve people in the congregation and the community. Develop rule by which the vice-chairperson of each committee serves for two years and becomes the chairperson of that committee for the subsequent two years.

5. To address the building's janitorial needs, develop a rotating team system in which a different family unit handles the vacuuming, dusting, and cleaning each week.

6. Schedule an annual breakfast on a Saturday for volunteers, followed by an all-church cleaning day. Tip: In order to increase attendance, assign specific aspects of the building to specific committees, organizations, and adult classes. Avoid saying, "everyone should come and help out." That type of invitation reduces the number of people who show

up and builds resentment among those dedicated people who begin to feel like, "We do all the work around here!"

7. What if your congregation is a childless church in which no regularly attending families have children in elementary or high school? Develop an education task force of two or three regular attendees who stand ready to teach an impromptu class or classes in case worship visitors with children unexpectedly appear.

8. If your congregation has only one or two high school students and only a handful of elementary students, don't ask the high school students to serve as teachers or nursery attendants. Teenagers are in a time of life when Bible study with kids their age facilitates character development. Don't steal that opportunity from them!

9. Long-term members who love their congregation may have willed endowment monies to ensure that their church continues its ministry with future generations. You may be tempted to use some of that permanent endowment to balance and annual operating budget each year. Don't do it! Diverting that money to the operating budgets strangles the golden goose and discourages generous financial stewardship among members. Use the endowment accounts only as directed by the endowment.

10. Create a separate endowment board or committee. Do not make the church's regular governing board responsible for both its endowment monies and its operating budgets. Other wise, bad judgment often drowns the appropriate use of endowment funds.

11. Limit the terms of church treasurers to three consecutive years. The church's treasurer should present written reports at each meeting. Without this kind of official oversight it is easy to slip into a situation where the treasurer neglects to bring the report and financial meetings become more like conversations among friends.

12. Always require an annual audit of the church's finances. Inappropriate use of church funds can happen if the governing board fails in its due diligence responsibilities. Contact the appropriate denominational office for a set of instructions regarding how to conduct an annual audit.

The Bottom Line

Declining county population leads to declining membership in its religious congregations—which lead to rising median age levels in those counties and

congregations. That rising median age of a church's members often leads to bad habits, ill health, and the congregation's eventual death. To build better congregational health, begin by building better habits.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH 2013 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<h1>April 2013</h1>			MAY 2013 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		
	1 Worship T. 4pm	2 Quilts of Love 9:-2 Stewarship T. 4pm Choir 6:30p.m.	3 Grief Support 6pm	4	5 Rummage Sale 3-6 pm	6 DuBois Dash 5K run 1 mile walk Rummage Sale 8 am-2 pm
7 NO Communion Rev. Orin Johnson	8 Mission T. 5:30pm 150 Anniversary 6 pm	9 Girl S. 5:30-7:30 Choir 6:30p.m.	10 ERM 7:00 p.m.	11 Christian Ed. T. 6:30 pm	12 DuBois Father Friday 7 p.m. -	13 & Son Retreat 1p.m.
14 Worship & potluck in Fellowship Hall Sunday Dinner @ DuBois 12-2 pm	15 Special Events T. 6:30pm	16 Choir 6:30p.m.	17	18	19 DuBois Center Horse Retreat 4p.m. Sunday	20 Friday 7 p.m. - Service Sat. 8:30/8:45 am conclude by 4pm
21 Change for Change Good NewsDeadline	22 Congregational Care T. 6pm	23 Girl Scouts 5:30-7:30 pm Choir 6:30p.m.	24	25	26	27 Your Church Alive Workshop 9 - 3:30 St. Paul in Lebanon
28 Rev. David Schoen 150 Confirmation Reunion	29	30 Choir 6:30p.m.				

Unless otherwise noted:

St. Peter Sunday School 9:30 a.m, Worship 10:45 a.m.

Tuesdays — Bible Study at Redeemer — brown bag lunch 12:30 — Study 1-2 pm

BIRTHDAYS

1 Christopher Smith	14 Laura Feig
2 Ariel Edmonson	15 Randy Featherling
2 Cletus Feig Jr.	17 Colton Moss
2 Staci Taylor	22 Tiffany Reichenbacher
5 Jacob Little	24 Hunter Reichert
6 Trisha Reichenbacher	25 Matthew Carter
8 Barbara Hill	25 Kevin Flanigan
11 Esther Campbell	27 Trina Reichenbacher
12 George Hinton	29 Jane Edmonson
13 Carolyn Martin	

ANNIVERSARIES

17 Lee Ann & William Myers
 24 Cindy & Bob Clifton Jr.
 30 Karen & Bob Smith



ST. PETER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
318 WEST THIRD STREET
CENTRALIA IL 62801
(618) 532-7124

... where God is still speaking,
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

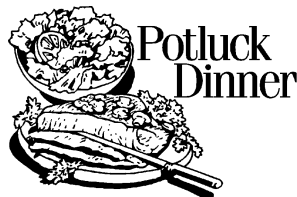
**April 5 & 6
(First Friday &
Saturday)**



From 3 to 6 pm
on Friday
From 8 am to 2 pm
on Saturday

In Fellowship Hall
at
St. Peter UCC

**April 14
(Second Sunday)**



Worship followed by
Potluck all in the
Fellowship Hall

Rev. Jerry Bennett,
Associate Conference
Minister for
Programing, will bring
the message.

**April 28
(Last Sunday)**



Confirmation Reunion
with catered meal in
Fellowship Hall
PLEASE RSVP
to church office

Worship at regular time
with Rev. David Schoen
from National Offices

Sunday Schedule: Church School 9:30 am; Worship 10:45 am

**Email: office@stpeterucc.com
Rev. Lisa Hart, Interim Pastor
Jane Brink, Newsletter Editor**