



**FOR DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME!**

This year it starts on **March 11**. Rather than get up at 2am when the change actually takes affect, most will set their clocks (especially their alarm clock) for ward when going to bed on **March 10**.

**CHANGE THROUGH CHANGE SUNDAY**

Reporter: Verna Steinkamp

Something new is being initiated by the Stewardship team on Sunday, March 4, called the CHANGE THRU CHANGE Sunday. Pails will be passed to collect whatever loose change you may have in your pockets. This will be a way to get rid of the heavy bothersome coins you have collected recently in an effort to eliminate a deficit at the end of the year for our church. As you know it was announced at our last regular annual meeting there was a deficit this past year, and a challenge is in effect to correct this situation. Change thru Change Sundays are being planned to be held periodically so we will not be faced with this dilemma again at the end of this year.



Reporter: Jim White, Committee Chair

The pastoral search committee met with **Rev. Lev Reynolds**, Search Consultant for the Illinois South Conference, on Wednesday evening, January 25th,

2012. **Rev. Reynolds** worked with our search committee for over two hours training us on reviewing candidate profiles and answering some questions. We will begin receiving profiles to review from candidates who express an interest in our church. Due to required confidentiality, we are not able to share any of their information. Please respect our work, the confidentiality of the committee, and be patient with our progress. Keep the search committee members in your prayers as we seek God's special shepherd / minister for St. Peter UCC.

As chairman, I am asked questions regarding St. Peter having a full-time pastor. On behalf of the committee, I want to address this question. Every member of St. Peter deserves to know the answer.

**Rev. Howard Self** was our last full-time minister. When **Rev. Self** departed, St. Peter entered into a yoke agreement with Zion UCC. St. Peter began having a part-time / half-time minister at that time under the yoke agreement. We began a new era at St. Peter with a part-time minister who worked 20 - 25 hours weekly . We no longer have a yoked ministry with Zion UCC and have continued with two part-time interim ministers since 2009. With our continued decrease in members, both active and inactive; a decrease in worship attendance; and our church budget, Financial Plan for Ministry; the search committee is limited to considering only a part-time or bivocational minister. I hope that this clarifies the answer for those members asking about St. Peter having a full-time minister.

I will keep you updated on the progress of this committee.

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**PRAYER CORNER\***

Debbie Arning	Elmer Beckmeyer
Larry Besant	Rev. Rich Brzowsky
Edna Caraker	Gary Chwascinski
Vivian Cohlmeier	Rev. Lisa Hart
Paul Kluthe	Arlene Luer
Charles Luer	Gracie Niermann
Carter Rankin	Steve Smith
Don Storck	Betty Telford
Pauline Tibbs	Bess Wesling
Curtis White	

*\*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 Bratthauar	David Harper
Chris Lyday	Corey Schlau
Nathan Storck	Cole Vehrs
Jared Vehrs	Anna Walls

**In Care Centers**

Roberta Kleine	Marjorie Nehrt
Henrietta Schmitz	

**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 Jan. 22 - Feb. 19, 2012

General Offering. ....	\$ 6,792.40
Special Offering.....	400.00
Challenge Fund. ....	1,625.00
Initial Offering.....	6.00
January 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday-BCMW.....	89.00
Christkindlmarkt. ....	10.00
Day of Discipleship registration fees.....	40.00
CCBA.....	<u>20.00</u>
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$ 8,982.40</b>

**GENERAL OFFERING YEAR TO DATE  
(01/01/12 THROUGH 2/19/12)**

Amount received. .... \$ 10,965.62

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Jan. 22	34
Jan. 29	45
Feb. 5	44
Feb. 12	34
Feb. 19	52

**THANK YOU!!**  
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We received a letter from CCBA dated January 19 thanking us for our Dues of \$600.00; Donations of \$664.01 and In-Kind Contributions of \$1,747.00 during 2011.

The following note was dated January 26.

Dear Friends

We are grateful for your generous 2011 contributions of \$7,502.23 for Our Church's Wider Mission. Every dollar supports the life and mission of the Illinois South Conference as we strive to be the hands and feet of God in the world — locally,

nationally and globally.

Your support strengthens our covenant as a Conference family and is greatly appreciated.

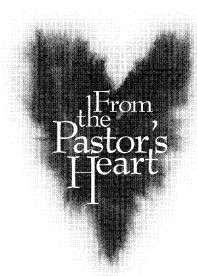
Rev. P Jerry Bennett  
ISC Program Coordinator and  
Wider Mission Task Force Member

Thank you to **Jim and Susan White** for fixing/painting the open area in the basement ceiling, can't tell we ever had a hole there. To **Lowell Jeffries** for finding the possible leak from the third floor which caused the damage to the wall in the pastor's office and painting it to look like it did before the damage.

Their time and talents are very much appreciated.  
Nancy Borgmann for  
The Property Team

Our thanks to **Rev. Johnson** (from Marion) for filling in for **Nick Luer** at the last minute on February 12 due to **Nick's** illness. Nick had been scheduled to conduct the service because **Pastor Lisa** was on vacation.

Thank you to **Rev. Robert Tripp** for leading worship on February 19 (the other Sunday within **Pastor Lisa's** vacation).



I recently read an article that began by saying that a visioning process for a church is useless.

Developing a mission plan? Also useless.  
Creating a 5 or 10 year plan? A waste of time.

Gets your attention, doesn't it? We have always believed these things to be vital to the health of a church. Truthfully, they are. The congregation needs to develop a vision for the future and have a plan for how they will get there.

The part that is useless is attempting any of it without asking for the Spirit of God to be with the

church.

1. What is it that God intends for us to do and to be? It's not about what the pastor wants or what the council wants. A church needs to discern the mission God has in mind for it.

What does God want St. Peter UCC to be & to do?

This then, is not about daydreaming that we'd like to have the sanctuary full every Sunday morning, or that we want children overflowing from the classrooms on the main and upper floors. It is about asking God:

- Who should we be in mission to?
- What age group should we be targeting to invite?
- Where should we be holding worship? . . .
- What can we be offering to the community?

5. How are we going to get there? That 5 or 10 year plan comes into play here. To achieve a goal one needs to know what steps to take this year and the next to achieve the desired result. But, again, it's useless without asking God to be involved.

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth about church growth:

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building."

I have a challenge for everyone reading this: Pray for the church every day. Pray for God's direction and guidance and strength for St. Peter UCC. Pray for God to show us where we should be and what we should be doing, and then guide us so that we can achieve the goals. Have God show us how to plant and how to water, and ask God to provide growth.

Take the calendar page of this newsletter and post it where you will see it. If you see the choir is practicing that evening, pray for the choir. If the administration team is meeting, pray for their work. Say extra prayers for the search committee, and pray for the pastor.

Without God's help, St Peter will not achieve much. With God's help, nothing is impossible.

## STEWARDS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER

Submitted by: Rev. Lisa Hart

*No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and wealth. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. –*

*Matthew 6:24, 21*

The **Rev. Dr. Richard D. Weiss** observes that being stewards in the household of God is intensely counter-cultural in significant ways. We live in a society where we are taught explicitly and implicitly that to be truly human is to be self-sufficient, independent, protective, competitive, acquisitive, accumulative, a consumer. If you pay money, you should get something. There is no limit to the satisfaction of our desires. Our spirit is nourished and our worth is measured by what we possess. What are the marks of this counter-culture, the Household of God? We are interdependent and collaborative – we need each other, others need us. We share surplus so each has enough. In order for all to live, each limits accumulation. Money is just another resource to be allocated to ensure shalom. Our spirit is nourished by living up to who God made us to be. Our worth is given by God. Churches have a unique ministry opportunity to liberate members to order their financial life according to their faith values. **Laura Dunham** wisely notes in *Graceful Living*: “Every choice we make to spend, save, or give has an impact, creating a ripple effect. How each of us decides to live matters.”

*A message from Stewards in the Household of God: a Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship available from United Church of Christ Resources.*

**March 2012** God is still speaking,

This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

## THE ANSWER TO SOME QUESTIONS

Request for publication received in church office

Has winter given you Cabin Fever?

Would you like a cure that also gives back to your community?

The St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary is always excited to have new volunteers.

Many of our Pink Lady and Red Coat volunteers work two 4 hour shifts a month and many choose to

work 4 hours a week in various areas of the hospital.

If you, or someone you know, would enjoy volunteering with us to further the healing ministry of Christ call **Shirley Williams** at 532-3084 and an application packet will be mailed to you. You may also pick up an application packet at the hospital information desk or at the gift shop.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Reporter: Norma Borgmann

Yes, were you aware that there is another food pantry serving the residents on the south side of Centralia?

The Shalom Food Pantry has been housed at the Demaree United Methodist Church for 5+ years and opened on a weekly or as needed basis. They also provide free clothing to those desiring such. The participation is overwhelming, especially since some do not have transportation for driving up to the CCBA at the old Franklin School on the north side of Centralia.

It is with this introduction that we thank our members who donated food in January, including **Ruth Carpenter, the provider of 6 macaroni/cheese boxes, and donator of miscellaneous food.** All of these food items were given to support the Shalom Food Pantry on January 26<sup>th</sup> (day of our last CWU meeting that was held there and after hearing the announcement that their shelves needed to be stocked).

Just think—if the CCBA and Shalom Food Pantries wouldn't be available, how many **hungry** people would there be in Centralia. Thus, **THANKS** to the above-listed contributors for January and the **MANY others** who have donated food in the past from St. Peter United Church of Christ. Talk about **outreach in action.**

## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED NEWS

Reporter: Norma Borgmann, CWU President

**Verna Steinkamp** and **Norma Borgmann** represented our church at the January 26<sup>th</sup> ecumenical assembly gathering of the Church Women United hosted at Demaree United Methodist Church. A total of 26 ladies and the host pastor, **Rev. Mark Doane**, were in attendance.

CWU sponsors 3 special programs throughout the year with the first one being the observance of **World Day of Prayer** on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> –1:00 p.m. at Zion United Church of Christ in Central City. The theme is “Let Justice Prevail” and features the country of Malaysia plus the need for international justice.

The public is cordially invited to attend this worship service on March 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 1:00 p.m.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church will host the March 22<sup>nd</sup> quarterly meeting of ladies from the various churches in the Centralia area. That day will begin with a 9:00 a.m. breakfast and followed with a 9:30 business session. Hoping to see more reps from St. Peter Church in the blending together of many faiths at CWU

Our church will be hosting the November 2<sup>nd</sup> CWU special program and potluck.

### **INVITATIONS FROM OTHER CHURCHES ACCEPTED AND APPRECIATED**

Reporter: Norma Borgmann

**Connie Freels, Verna Steinkamp, Jeanette Storck, Susan White, and Norma Borgmann** responded to the invitation from Zion UCC GALs for an evening of tropical decorations, Puerto Rico food, and a native Puerto Rican speaker (from Centralia) on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was a delicious and delightful time. We learned much more about Puerto Rico, including that you don't need a passport to travel there as it is a commonwealth of the USA and one million inhabitants on this rather small island.

Our church has been invited to an Ash Wednesday breakfast on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Immanuel UCC Church in Carlyle. As of this writing, several ladies from our church plan to attend. (**Norma Borgmann, Sandy Zinschlag, Verna Steinkamp and Jane Brink** were in a car pool. Rev. Lisa Hart also attended.)

Also, our church will be in representation at the Lenten Breakfast at Zion UCC Church in Hoyleton on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up list is on the church's east bulletin board—reservations needed by 3/1.

### **LOOKING AHEAD—MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

There will be no communion on the first Sunday in April. We will celebrate communion on April 8<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday only.

The annual Mother-Daughter Banquet will be held on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall with a “garden party” theme. **ALL** the ladies in our church are especially invited to attend this event that will include a buffet meal depicting of the theme; appropriate program –you might even learn something new about flowers; attendance prizes; and fellowship with other women of all ages.

Tickets will be available after April 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information, please contact **Norma Borgmann**.

St. Peter Church is scheduled to lead the devotional services on each Sunday afternoon at Fireside House during the month of April. Thus, **Norma Borgmann** is seeking now for volunteers to assist in any way.

### **TABLES AND CHAIRS!!!**

Reporter: Nancy Borgmann

I am on a mission to get white tables downstairs and some new chairs. It has gotten to a point that **Todd** is having a very hard time handling the wooden tables and the ladies are having an even harder time if they need to move them. The goal is 20 tables and 20 new chairs, the old folding chairs are breaking and not being replaced we may not have enough for any large meals we may have.

After doing some research the following is the information I have found.

#### **Tables**

**Ace:** 8 ft. Living Accents Rectangular Tables \$79.99/ea no shipping charges because the tables are sent to the local Ace, but after talking to management they are willing to deliver to the basement of the church at no charge. The church already has an account.

**Sam's Club:** 8 ft. Lifetime Table \$105.75/ea shipping charge is included in price, but will only deliver to the church someone will need to be here to

unload from the truck, they only deliver they do not unload. Currently no church account with Sam's Club.

**Lowe's:** 8 ft Style Selection \$74.98/ea, shipping is \$59.00 to the building. Not available in white, only mocha powder. Church does not have an account with Lowe's.

#### **Chairs:**

**Ace:** Cosco Steel Cushioned Folding Chair – 4 pack - \$123.96/4, no delivery charge will deliver to church and bring to the basement.

**Sam's Club:** Cosco Steel Cushioned Folding Chair – 4 pack - \$79.88/4 will deliver to church but will not unload the truck, delivery only.

**Lowe's:** Style Selection Padded Folding Chair- \$18.97/ea plus \$59.00 delivery charge to the church.

When comparing the information Ace is our best deal, we already have an account, and they will deliver and unload to the basement of the church.

If you are interested in buying a few tables and/or chairs, please let me know. These items are not in the budget and with the current financial situation I am trying to find people who are willing to finance this challenge. This is something that needs to be done if we want to continue to have meals served at the church. If you are interested in supporting this, all you have to do is give the church the money and the order will be placed, no need to buy the items yourself.

Your consideration and continued support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

### **HELP SAVE MURRAY CENTER**

The following is from an email by **Nick Luer** to the Conference Office who is now forwarding it to many others. I had trouble converting the web address to hyperlinks so even those getting an email copy of our newsletter may have to enter them in your browser manually.

Please help save the home of over 275 developmentally disabled persons in Southern Illinois!

The recent proposal by **Gov. Pat Quinn** to cut the Illinois State budget includes the possible closing of the Warren G Murray Developmental Center in

Centralia, IL. This facility is the home to over 275 developmentally disabled individuals (many of whom have lived at the facility for 30 to 40 years).

Now is the time we can stand together to support these individuals. Please take the time to sign the following petition (started by a member of the UCC and Centralia native) urging the Legislature and Governor to keep this facility open.

[http://www.change.org/petitions/governor-pat-quinn-john-o-jones-john-cavaletto-stop-the-closure-of-warren-g-murray-developmental-center-in-centralia?share\\_id=kqFMtfzfnx&](http://www.change.org/petitions/governor-pat-quinn-john-o-jones-john-cavaletto-stop-the-closure-of-warren-g-murray-developmental-center-in-centralia?share_id=kqFMtfzfnx&)

Not only is this facility home to many who need assistance, it is a major employer in the Centralia area (nearly 550 employees). This does not include the fact that Murray Center is one of few Illinois state facilities that makes money, mainly due to the amount of federal funding received.

More information:

<http://news.ilhousegop.org/2012/02/cavaletto-responds-to-governors-plan-to-close-murray-center/>

Please take the time to reach out and support those who need it most!

Sincerely,


Nicholaus C. Luer

President, St. Peter UCC,

Centralia, IL

February 2012							April 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
26	27	28	29				29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 2012</b>						
<b>Every Wednesday Evening During Lent</b> 5:30 pm Soup Supper At 1St. Christian Church 6:00 pm Lenten Vespers At 1St. Christian Church 7:00 pm Lenten Worship Service At Zion UCC				1	2 World Day of Prayer 1:00 @ Zion UCC	3 Day of Discipleship 9 am-3:30 pm St. Paul, Nashville
4 Communion	5	6 Quilts of Love 9-2 Girl Scouts 5:30-7:30 pm Choir 6:30 p.m.	7 9 am. @ Hoyleton Lenten Breakfast Bible Study @ Redeemer Lunch 12:30 Study 1-2 Grief Support 6pm	8	9	10  Host Recycle Ctr. 9 - noon
11 Daylight Saving Time Begins	12 Gravy	13 Biscuits, & Crosswords 9:30 am <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> Choir 6:30 p.m.	14 Bible Study @ Redeemer Lunch 12:30 Study 1-2 <b>OFFICE CLOSED 13th &amp; 14th</b> ERM 7 pm	15 Bible Study @ Redeemer Lunch 12:30 Study 1-2	16	17
18 Good News Deadline	19 Council 6:30 p.m.	20 Girl Scouts 5:30-7:30 pm <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> Choir 6:30 p.m.	21 Bible Study @ Redeemer Lunch 12:30 Study 1-2	22 CWU 9 am. @ 1st Methodist	23 DuBois Ctr. 7 pm Friday	24 Horse Retreat - 4 pm Sunday
25	26	27 Choir 6:30 p.m.	28 Bible Study @ Redeemer Lunch 12:30 Study 1-2	29	30	31

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

### BIRTHDAYS

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Linda Knolhoff      | 17 Mark Taylor     |
| 4 Nichol Chontofalsky | 17 Jessica Feig    |
| 7 Debra Worlds        | 18 Holly Skurat    |
| 12 Marissa Flanigan   | 19 Jason McCorkle  |
| 12 Noah Huelsmann     | 19 Roger Tibbs     |
| 13 Bud Kuhn           | 21 Marjorie Nehrt  |
| 13 Grant Reichert     | 22 Jim Klingenberg |
| 14 Debby Schippel     | 22 Lisa Wolenhaupt |
| 15 Blake Brenton      | 23 Wesley Davis    |
| 15 Scott Little       | 24 Carter Rankin   |
| 16 Diana Brinkmann    | 24 Noah Rankin     |
| 16 Mike Chontofalsky  | 31 Sara Fulton     |

### ANNIVERSARIES

- |                              |
|------------------------------|
| 26 Mike & Cathy Chontofalsky |
| 31 Jack & Linda Weible       |



ST. PETER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
318 WEST THIRD STREET  
CENTRALIA IL 62801  
(618) 532-7124  
**... where God is still speaking,**  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**DON'T BE LATE ON MARCH 11!**

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS**

**(SUGGEST YOU SET CLOCK ONE (1) HOUR AHEAD AT  
BEDTIME ON MARCH 10)**

Sunday Schedule: Church School 9:30 am; Worship 10:45 am  
Email: [office@stpeterucc.com](mailto:office@stpeterucc.com)  
Rev. Lisa Hart, Interim Pastor  
Jane Brink, Newsletter Editor