

January 16,17, 2010

WELCOME

**Welcome to St. Peter's United Church of Christ. If you have no church home, we hope you will consider St. Peter's UCC as that place. Whether guest or member, please make your presence known by signing the Friendship Register in the pews and greet those near you.**

**Our prayer chapel is open following this service and daily from 9-4 for personal meditation and communion. It is located off the second floor elevator. Sunday school for children ages 4 to Grade 6 begins after the Children's moment. A class for youth grades 7-12 begins at 10:00 underneath the sanctuary. Adult Sunday school is 9 AM on Sundays. Child care is offered during the 10 AM service.**

This week at St. Peter's:

Sunday	9:00	Adult Bible study (lectionary-based) in atrium meeting room
	10:00	Worship & Sunday school
	3:30	Martin Luther King Day Service (Carpools leave church at 3:00)
Monday		Church Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day
	6:00	AA
	6:30	Quilting
Tuesday	10:30	Staff Meeting
	2:30	Worship service at Cedar Crest Manor
	7:00	Church Council
Wednesday	9:00	Quilting
	12:00	"Great Decisions" with Dr. Bill Schwab begins in Atrium Room
	6:00	AA
	6:00	Chapel Bells
	6:45	Vesper Bells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
Thursday	10:30	Worship service at Grandview Healthcare Center
	2:00	Food Pantry Task Force
	6:00	AA
Saturday	5:00	Worship
Sunday	9:00	Adult Bible study (lectionary-based) in atrium meeting room
	10:00	Worship & Sunday school
	11:15	Confirmation (with Mentors)

**Martin Luther King Day Service planned:** You are invited to join others in the community for this annual ecumenical peace and justice service on Sun., Jan. 17 at 3:30 PM. This year it will be held at the Franklin County Baptist Association located on Hwy 47 between Union & St. Clair. All St. Peter's members are welcome. We will carpool leaving the church parking lot at 3:00. Confirmation class members are required to attend. This gathering of unity is sponsored by the Franklin County NUUR-Neighbors United in Undoing Racism.

**Great Decisions:** Led by Dr. Bill Schwab every Wednesday from 12-2:45 in the Atrium Room. Come for a different kind of midweek study as we look at some global concerns from a faith perspective. Some of the decisions to be discussed are:

1) "The United States and Rising Powers" - What kind of relationship will the U.S. have with the rest of the world in the 21st century? 2) "Afghanistan and Pakistan" - Are there realistic goals for U.S. involvement in this complex area? 3) "The Arctic Age" - As the Arctic landscape is being altered due to rising temperatures, is the U.S. prepared to deal

with these changes? 4) "Global Food Crisis" - What can be done to ensure the world's food security? A DVD educational clip will share information and we'll open the floor for a round-table, thought-provoking discussion. It's much better than talk radio!

Friday, Feb. 5, the **Fourth Annual Stew Supper** will be held from 11-7 in the dining room. Proceeds will benefit the Atrium Fund. Our "famous" stew will be served with slaw, bread, and delicious homemade dessert. Both "dine in" and "carry out" will be available. The following are ways the congregation can be of help: lend an electric skillet for cooking stew meat on Thurs. Feb. 4, lend an electric roaster for cooking the stew on Thursday/Friday, Bake a dessert, preferably a homemade pie, help with serving and cleanup on Friday, (shifts are 11-2, 2-5, and 5-8). If you can help in any of these ways, please note it on the friendship register or let Byron Stolte know. For tickets, please see Pat Hartzell or the church office – adults \$8.00, children \$4.00.

**Pick up your Constitution Draft** – Your input is welcomed as we prepare to vote on our revised constitution at the Spring annual meeting. Three listening sessions are planned for Sat., Jan. 30 at 4:00, in the atrium meeting room, and Sundays, Jan. 31 and Feb. 7, at 11:15 AM in the dining room.

The **Men of the Church Banquet** will be held Feb. 9, 6:30 PM, here in the auditorium. The guest speaker is Robert Boyle of Justine Petersen, a St. Louis-based company that assists low-income individuals and families to develop, maintain and increase their financial assets. St. Peter's is partnering with Justine Petersen as part of our outreach. Tickets (\$10) are available from the church office, Cecil Blankenship and Russel Sherman. Deadline to purchase tickets is Feb. 1. Also, the committee is asking anyone who would like to donate dessert (preferably pies) to please sign "Dessert" on the Friendship Register or contact the church office.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARDI GRAS!** EVERYONE is invited to participate in the annual Mardi Gras celebration after the 10 o'clock church service on Feb.14. There will be games and prizes, a food stand sponsored by the youth for everyone to have lunch, a cake/bake walk, and a themed basket silent auction. There is something for all ages, so come and enjoy. There is a sign-up sheet in the atrium if you are interested in donating a themed basket or individual items for a basket and cakes or other desserts for the bake walk. Items may be brought to the church office. Thank you, Board of Christian Education

**Trivia Night February 20<sup>th</sup> here at St. Peter's** - Plan now to attend this event of great fun and purpose. Proceeds will go to help fund operations at our conference's Camp Mo-Val as ways are sought to meet needs in the wake of reduced church giving through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) offerings. Tickets for this event are \$15/person, or a table of eight for \$96 (\$12 per person is you buy a whole table!) If you are interested in attending, see Pastor Leah. This event is open to other churches and the community, so reserve your seats now!

A big thank you goes to a church couple who out of their generosity donated the lovely couch and two chairs for our atrium.

Saint Peter's United Church of Christ of Owensville and the Eastern Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the UCC, invite you to a worship service to **install the Rev. Christopher Ross** as pastor on Sun., Jan. 31, 2010 at 3 PM. St. Peter's UCC is located at 112 West Peters (the corner of Second & W. Peters) in Owensville.

Meal reception to follow the service in the church fellowship hall. For more information, contact the church office at (573) 437-2779.

The Missouri Mid-South Conference invites you to an open house on Sun., Jan 31 from 3:30-7 PM here at St. Peter's **to celebrate the 14+ years of service by Shirley Asmussen** as the Director of Outdoor Ministries. Shirley helped us to build a wonderful, save and faith-filled program at Camp Mo-Val during her time here, and she will be missed. Rev. Don Bizer will be assuming duties as the Interim Director of Outdoor Ministries.

If you would like to honor a loved one or anniversary by donating **altar flowers or worship bulletins** you may sign up on the schedule posted in the Market Street hall or contact church office. Thank you for your generous contribution to our services.

**Adult Class Offers Spiritual Fitness:** Mass Media is filling our airwaves with physical fitness commercials as we commence the new year. You also have the opportunity for growing spiritually through our Early Bird Adult class. We gather from 9 to 9:45 am each Sunday morning. We use Biblical passages as the basis for our discussions. Often they relate to the Biblical themes in our worship. This year we will be dialoguing about the Gospel of Luke. Come and join us in an accepting group that welcomes new persons with questions and doubts, encourages seeking, and helps you become more spiritually fit in your daily life. We meet in the atrium meeting room.

**Contribution Statements:** The church office will make every effort to send out contribution statements for 2009 before the end of January 2010. If you need yours earlier, please contact the church office. Do not file your tax return before receiving your contribution statement for the year.

Also, should you have any questions about any amount reported or not reported on the statement once you receive it, please notify the church office within 90 days of receipt of the statement. Statements not questioned by May 1 will be assumed to be accurate, and any supporting documentations (such as offering envelopes) retained by the church may be discarded. On another note, please do not use tape on your offering envelopes.

**Weds.@St.Pete's – Preparation for Lent** Lent will be here before you know it. As in our debut last year, we will mark the season with opportunities for sharing, study, fellowship, and uplifting reflection. Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday Service on Feb. 17 at 7 PM. The following Wednesday will be a special video stream missions event from the UCC. Our small group opportunities will meet for the first four consecutive Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17 & 24.

Please be thinking of which type of small group in which you would like to participate. The Journeymen are preparing for their gathering around Mitch Albom's *Have a Little Faith*. Debbie Douglas is thinking about what she will teach from her studies at Eden. If you have an idea (on any subject or design) that you would like to see pertaining to your faith walk, or perhaps if there is a group that you feel called to lead for four weeks, please contact Pastor Paul.

While cleaning up after the Christmas tree displays, **a necklace was found**. If you lost a necklace or if you know of someone who did, please let the church office know. You will be asked to describe it.

---

## **Responding to the Needs of Our Neighbors in Haiti**

The United Church of Christ has launched an emergency appeal for Haiti after a major earthquake struck the country. Thousands of people are feared dead and countless have been left homeless.

The quake, measuring between 7.0 and 7.3 on the Richter Scale, struck 10 miles south-west of the capital of Port-au-Prince just before 5 PM local time January 12. This is the strongest earthquake to hit Haiti in more than 200 years, and its epicenter is located in an area populated by more than four million people. The Red Cross is estimating that nearly 1/3 of the country's entire population has been directly impacted by the physical devastation.

It is still too early to know the full extent of the damage, but the UCC's *One Great Hour of Sharing* and many other charitable organizations working directly with Haiti are expecting a very high loss of life. As of the day following the quake, the collapse of one hospital, the Presidential palace, the United Nations Headquarters, Port au Prince University and innumerable homes, shanties, businesses and churches were confirmed, but more reports of destruction to structures as well as key water, electricity and road systems was expected.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, a country devastated by four hurricanes in 2008 and ongoing debt that has crippled the country's ability to build from within. A country that used to have a self-sustaining agriculture has become a country of famine where lack of access to public schooling and a day-to-day survival mentality has led to rampant illiteracy, child servitude and general hopelessness, among many other problems.

The UCC's Global Ministries personnel, Kim, Patrick and Solomon Bentrott have reported in that they are safe.

*One Great Hour of Sharing* funds are being rushed to our Haitian partners to support their initial emergency response. As damage assessments are made and plans for relief, recovery and rehabilitation are developed, additional support will be shared. The need is massive.

### How You Can Help:

1. Pray for the people of Haiti, their leaders and emergency and humanitarian aid workers.
2. Please help the people of Haiti by sending gifts payable to St. Peter's marked for "OGHS – Haiti Earthquake Relief." They will be sent through our Conference office on to Wider Church Ministries.
3. Find comfort knowing that through your annual contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing funds already provided are now at work in Haiti being used by trusted partners in ministry. 100% of designated relief monies through the church will go to the people who need it most. (Sadly, some well-known and especially "pop-up" charities keep up to 50% of monies for "overhead." Without established local partnerships like the church has, money is squandered to boot.)
4. Talk to your friends outside of St. Peter's about the devastation. For your friends outside of St. Peter's that wish to help, consider suggesting that they join you in giving through One Great Hour of Sharing (they can visit [www.ucc.org/oghs](http://www.ucc.org/oghs) for details on the organizations through which the U.C.C. works) suggested that they consider giving through "Beyond Borders," a four-star charity (the highest rating) of Charity Navigator, and a trusted and well-known charity of Pastor Leah. Information on Beyond Borders can be found at [www.beyondborders.net](http://www.beyondborders.net) or by calling 1-866-424-8403. Online giving is available.