

January 23-24, 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
	11:15	Confirmation w/mentors- Auditorium
Monday	6:00	AA
	6:30	Quilting
Tuesday	10:30	Staff Meeting
Wednesday	9:00	Quilting
	12:00	Great Decisions study on "The Arctic" and God's Dominion
	6:00	AA
	6:00	Chapel Bells
	6:45	Vesper Bells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
Thursday	6:00	AA
	7:00	Mental Illness Support Group
	7:00	Grape Country Cluster UCC Church Cluster meeting, @ St. John's-Casco (Topic: church cemeteries)
Saturday		Scouts Pinewood Derby in auditorium
	4:00	Constitution Roundtable (in atrium meeting room)
	5:00	Worship
Sunday	9:00	Adult Bible study (lectionary-based) in atrium meeting room
	10:00	Worship & Sunday school
	11:15	Constitution Roundtable (in dining room)
	3:30-7	Celebration for Shirley Asmussen in dining room
	6:30-8:00	Youth Group (Grades 7-12)

Great Decisions: Led by Dr. Bill Schwab every Wednesday from 12-12:45 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!

The **Fourth Annual Stew Supper** will be held Fri., Feb 5, 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 (3-12) \$4.00.

Don't forget about the listening sessions for the Constitution – 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

Staying Connected to the Wider Church Last year, the Missouri Mid-South Conference discontinued our long-running newspaper The Courier. In its place, we now publish a weekly email newsletter called The eCourier. We invite you to join our mailing list by emailing a request to mms@mmsucc.org. If you are unable to receive email, then you can still stay in touch—each church office and pastor receives our weekly newsletter which they may distribute to you. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Evans in the MMS office at (314) 918-2605.

Trivia Night February 20th 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 if you buy a whole table!) If you are interested in attending, see Pastor Leah. This event is not a St. Peter's event, but open to other churches and the community, so reserve your seats now!

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 our pastor on Sun., Jan. 31, 3 PM. 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 Asmusen** 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 is 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.

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. As of Jan. 19th, 70,000 people were recorded as dead and over a million and a half have been left homeless. The United Nations estimates that three million people need food, water, shelter and medical assistance.

The quake, measuring 7.0 on the Richter Scale, struck 10 miles southwest 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.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, a country devastated by four hurricanes in 2008 and ongoing debt to other countries 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.

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, emergency & 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 for details on the organizations through which the U.C.C. works) or suggest 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 or by calling 1-866-424-8403. Online giving is available. Thank you St. Peter's! To date \$907 has been given.

St. Peter's Messenger is "Going Green"! In an effort to become better, more faithful stewards of our church's resources due to increasing paper and postage costs, we will attempt to distribute the monthly newsletter to as many households as possible through e-mail notification rather than mailing hard copies. The council has heard how many people prefer the colorful on-line publication and the immediate access to the newsletter on our website, www.stpeters-washington.org. The newsletter is much brighter plus you don't have to wait for bulk mail delivery to have it arrive before your eyes. We will "Think Green" in the coming spring with the April issue being the first comprehensive effort. You can now receive notice and view the newsletter each month on the web. If you desire or need the newsletter mailed to you as it currently is, we will be happy to continue to do so, **but you must let us know**. Please return the form below directing us to continue mailing your copy. If we do not hear from you, then we will assume you are presently reading it online, or not reading *The Messenger* at all. Several additional hard copies of the newsletter will be available for pickup during services. All shut-ins and nursing home residents will continue to have their newsletter mailed. Please complete the form below and return to the office or drop it in the offering plate. This will help us, help you, to be better informed.

Name _____

_____ Please continue to mail the newsletter to me.

_____ I will plan to pick up a hard copy when I am at church.

_____ Please notify me by email when the newsletter and weekly announcements are posted on the web plus other "breaking news."

_____ My email address is _____

Please repeat email for legibility purposes. _____