



# ST. PETER'S MESSENGER

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## Pastor Leah's Perspectives

As the Lenten season begins, I am very much aware of the desire among many Christians to jump straight from the manger in Bethlehem to the empty tomb of Jerusalem. Our love for God draws us to the bigger, celebratory moments of our faith – moments when we celebrate birth and rebirth. We want mountaintop experiences. We want to linger in manger-side and transfiguration moments. We want to feel alive in the light of Christ's resurrection. And yet, without comparison and contrast; without recognition for the valleys within and among us; without movement; without journey through the wilderness and marked placement of our feet in His footsteps, we'll never get there from here. Christmas and Easter may be the climaxes of our faith, but only within the context of a pilgrimage that makes them real and all the more beautiful.

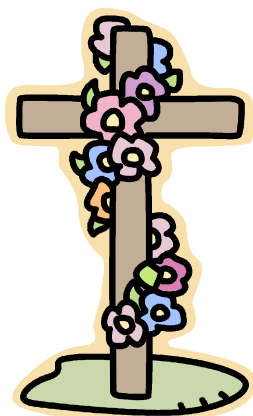
So it is for the Church. Even the most perfect church (and, as author Douglas John Hall reminds us, "there never did exist a perfect church, just the perfect love of God" to which we seek to witness) – even for the hypothetical "perfect" church, faithfulness would not result from stillness or from seeking to freeze the picture beside Christ's manger, Christ's empty tomb or in some unchanging vision for "the way things were" or are. Rather, what was intended as faithfulness would instead, cause apathy to grow and appreciation to dwindle.

The Lord may lead us to still waters in order to restore our souls, but the Lord leads us on from there – along "right paths for his name's sake," through darkest valleys, even to tables shared with those "others" we call "enemies" (Psalm 23). We serve a dy-

namic, on-the-move God, shown us so clearly in Jesus Christ, who called himself not "still water" but "living water:" stirred up, water on-the-move that is meant to flow and spring forth, bringing healing and wholeness to the whole world. If we have accepted Jesus' invitation to drink of His living water (John 4:10-15), then we better get our walking shoes on.

We are a church of the Lenten journey. The road may be difficult at times, but as our namesake, the disciple Peter before us, we walk it in faithfulness, trust and love, always seeking to better witness to the God we profess to serve. Will you walk with me?

Opportunities abound at St. Peter's this Lenten season to engage our journey of faith in meaning-enriching ways: fellowship in our women's, men's, youth groups; Christian education opportunities for adults, youth and children on Wednesday afternoons, Wednesday nights (Weds@St.Pete's), and Sunday mornings; a social justice opportunity for our youth (and any adults who wish to chaperone) as they participate in a 24 hour famine to raise awareness for hunger; all-age mission opportunities at the Agape House homeless shelter in St. Clair and ongoing mission through our own food pantry; numerous opportunities for service through our various ministry groups, choir, bell choirs, and other worship lay opportunities; and much, much more! Even the spring congregational meeting of March 21st presents us with an opportunity to engage our journey of faith as we seek to discern whether the proposed changes to the church constitution are empowering of faithful steps along the journey, in-line with God's vision and in-tune



### Special points of interest:

- Spiritual Training to begin at St. Peter's
- The Food Pantry is full once again
- Send your contributions electronically
- Women's Retreat to be held April 30 - May 2

## Pastor Leah Continued

with how best to serve that vision in our present cultural context. We appreciate the hard work that so many members have already poured into this document (Constitution Review Committee members, the church council, our pastors, and the many that gave of their time to participate in one of the three opportunities for roundtable discussion, feedback, and suggestions). All of these members have sought for St. Peter's to be a church of the Christian journey, and we thank them for their faithful efforts in discerning how we might best be able to follow the God we serve, empowered by this constitutional statement of who we are, what we are about and how we see ourselves getting from "here to there" as we continue to walk in faith together.

This year, may Easter find us beautiful not because

of new dresses, new suits, plastered-on smiles in family pictures, or magazine-worthy spreads on our dinner tables, but because we have given ourselves to the Lenten journey, leaving the still waters as we followed the Living Water through and to harder places. When we stand to sing "Alleluia" on that morning, may that word of praise fill our sanctuary not because it's part of our Easter tradition, but because we *know* new life in Christ beyond words on a page in the Easter story, and "Alleluia" is the sound living water makes when it springs forth from its Easter people.

Your fellow pilgrim on the way,

*Pastor Leah*

## Spiritual Spring Training

Spring training has begun for baseball. Players of all ages are limbering up their bodies and minds. It is also spring training for Christians. We are in the season of Lent, which means to lengthen, stretch, or grow. We invite you to limber up your Lenten discipleship through participation in our Sunday morning adult class. We welcome questions in our open discussions of Biblical readings and their applications to our current lives

and world. During this Lenten season we will be journeying with Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. The readings and discussions will coordinate with the same readings in our Sunday worship. We meet every Sunday from 9 to 9:45 a.m. in the Atrium room below the sanctuary. Come, grow your faith and service with us.

John Nourse

## Biannual Congregational Meeting

Our church's regular March congregational meeting will be after worship on March 21. All members are encouraged to remain for the meeting following the benediction. Annual reports will be presented along with other timely matters important to the continued operations of our church. A complete agenda will be available for member review.

This meeting is especially important as the proposed revised constitution will be presented for approval. Three listening sessions were held giving members opportunities to voice approval, suggestions, questions, and concerns. All were delightful gatherings as each conveyed a spirit of

mission and purpose in our congregation's ongoing ministry in the new decade and century. Many wonderful and insightful suggestions were offered by those participating. These were addressed by church council at the February meeting with recommendations added to the draft copy distributed in January. Participants expressed great appreciation to the Constitution Committee and the Council who spent countless hours in this spiritual endeavor. Thanks to Rev. Bilinski who is our computer-savvy scribe. We look forward to our new opportunities for vital ministry.

Pastor Paul

**The Long-Term Care  
List is always posted  
on the Market  
Street bulletin  
board. Please  
remember to pray  
for these folks.**

### Preparing to "Go Green"

In preparing to "Go Green" with the newsletter next month, here are just a few things to keep in mind.

1. When submitting articles for the newsletter, remember everyone in the world will be able to read it; be mindful of the personal phone numbers and email addresses you include.
2. The Long-Term Care List will not be included in the newsletter starting this month. The list is always posted on the Market Street board for you to view. Please remember to pray for our brothers and sisters while they are in need of care.
3. For those that might have a little trouble seeing color on the website, I will try to be mindful of the appearance as far as colors, shaded in areas, etc. Please let me know if there is something I can do to improve what you see visually.

Laura Placht, Editor

# Church Council Minutes

Special Called meeting 31 January 2010 --11:15 am through 11:25 am.

Members present- Menefee, Briggs, Sincox, Roewe, Kerr, Morman, Stockglausner, Jones, and Fler.

Staff: Koch, Atkinson- Bilinski

The meeting was called to address the copier purchase issue. V P Briggs contacted the supplier and a new machine from the 2009 model year is available for purchase. This machine has been placed on hold for the church through 22 February 2010 by the supplier. As the cost exceeds the council purchase threshold and to meet constitutional requirements for congregational approval, there will be a special called congregational meeting scheduled for 21 February 2010. Additionally, the service contract for said equipment was quoted at about \$226.00 per month. A motion was made by Roewe second by Sincox to present this proposal to the congregation on 21 February 2010, following discussion the motion passed.

No further business appearing a motion to adjourn was made by Kerr second by Stockglausner, the motion passed.

Submitted:

Fler

Recording Secretary

Special Called meeting of 03 January 2010 --11:25 a.m. through 11:40 a.m.

Members present: Menefee, Briggs, Jones, Roewe, Stockglausner, Morman, Houchins, Ocsody, Dawson, Sincox, and Fler

Staff: Koch, Atkinson- Bilinski

A special called meeting of the SPUCC Council was convened on Sunday 03 January 2010 for the following purposes:

- 1) Nomination and election of a Council Treasurer.
- 2) Authorization of housing allowance and/or stipend for the primary ordained staff.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Menefee at or about 11:25 a.m., eleven council members were present. Following an open prayer nominations for council treasurer were asked to be presented. The only name placed for consideration was that of Carrol Ocsody. Nominations were closed, and Carrol Ocsody was elected by unanimous acclamation for treasurer of St. Peter's UCC funds pertaining to the church but excluding Cemetery Board funds.

The following resolution regarding housing allowances was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, ministers who own their home do not pay federal income taxes on the amount of their compensation that their employing church designates in advance as a housing allowance, to the extent that the allowance represents compensation for ministerial services, is used to pay housing expenses, and does not exceed the fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities); and

Whereas, Pastor Paul Koch and Pastor Leah Atkinson- Bilinski are compensated by St. Peter's United Church of Christ exclusively for services as ministers of the gospel; and

Whereas, St. Peter's UCC does not provide Pastors Koch and Atkinson- Bilinski with a parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that the total compensation paid to Pastors Koch and Atkinson- Bilinski for the calendar year 2010 shall be as follows: Paul Koch ( \$71,910.00 of which \$21,042.00 is for housing) and Leah Atkinson- Bilinski ( \$45,900.00 of which \$11,873.00 is for housing) and is hereby and hereon designated as said housing allowance.

This resolution passed.

The business of the special called meeting concluded the Council closed with a benediction; motion to adjourn made by Morman/ second by Stockglausner, the meeting closed at or about 11:40 a.m.

Submitted:

Fler

Recording Secretary

# Church Council Minutes 1-20-2010

The regular stated meeting was called to order by Council President Menefee, with the following members present: Vice-president Briggs, Treasurer Ocsody, Jones, Kerr, Morman, Roewe, Stockglausner, Houchins, Dawson and Recording Secretary Fleer; staff in attendance Pastors Koch and Atkinson-Bilinski; guest Madeline Menefee.

The meeting opened at or about 7:00 pm with an invocation by Pastor Paul.

The minutes of the 15 December 2009 regular called meeting were read and one point of clarification noted- a minor change of wording to the resolution regarding housing allotment for the pastoral staff, the minutes were approved as corrected. The 03 January 2010 special called meeting proceedings were read and approved.

The financial report was read and approved.

There was a slight surplus of funding for the 2009 year of \$18,818- revenue over expenses approximately 4.4%.

The Pastors reports were read and approved.

The reports were a recap of 2009.

The 2010 service schedule was presented: Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm, Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm, Good Friday 7:00 pm, Easter observances- Saturday 5:00 pm and Sunday 8:00am and 10:00 am, Christmas eve- 4:30 pm, 7:30 pm and 10:30pm, Wednesdays at St. Peter's dinner at 5:15 pm.

The Family Festival of Trees was a huge success.

The youth programs are working and there is awareness in the community beyond St. Peters.

Correspondences from the following were read:

Ruth Buddemeyer enjoyed the Christmas carols.

Marge Jones voiced a concern regarding written job descriptions for the custodial and maintenance staff and the need for proper snow removal.

## Old Business

There will be a series of open discussion times for the congregation to meet with Church Council representatives to provide input to the proposed changes to the constitution. These listening sessions will be 30 January at 4:00 pm, 31 January 11:00 am and 07 February 11:00am.

Stockglausner brought up the consideration of salaried versus hourly contract employee compensation. The discussion addressed how the salaried staff was to be compensated for their work when their responsibilities required them to provide services beyond their stipulated contracts.

The AT&T phone contract will include: 4 comlines, caller ID, call forwarding, internet wireless card. The cost will be approximately \$229.00 per month. Laura Placht's website will not be changed. Rodney Stoyer will assist with the installation of the WIFI system if necessary.

## New Business

Current church policy is to retain approximately \$50,000 in the undesignated wills fund. The checking account for UDF has about \$41,000 and the certificate of deposit stands at \$42,000.

A motion was made by Morman to rescind the December motion placing \$20,000 from wills and bequests in the Atrium fund and \$11,000 into a certificate of deposit; the aforementioned \$31,000 is to be returned to checking. Stockglausner seconded the motion, after discussion the motion passed.

A bill from the City of Washington in the amount of \$385.00 was received for repairs to the entrance of the north parking lot. A motion by Kerr and second by Jones was made to pay for said work from undesignated wills, after discussion the motion passed.

A proposal for replacement of the current copier was made V P Briggs has been in contact with a reputable supplier. At this time St. Peter's can purchase a 2009 model with a normal retail of \$9,700 for around \$5,000 as the machine is last years model. Additionally, Briggs will investigate the consideration of a maintenance contract for the machine. Due to the limited time of this offer the Council maybe called for a special meeting to revisit this item prior to the next scheduled meeting.

The issue of child care for regular services and activities was tabled to the February meeting.

The Church Council retreat has been tentatively scheduled for 09 through 11 April 2010.

## Adjournment

No further business appearing the council as closed at 8:25 pm by a motion from Jones, second by Stockglausner, the motion passed.

Submitted:

Fleer, Recording Secretary

# Cemetery Board Meeting

St. Peter's Cemetery Board met on Tuesday, February 2. Members in attendance were: Jack Harty, Mike Carey, Alvin Gerling, Alex Ocsody, Hank Anderson, Byron Stolte-Sexton, and Melvin Roewe-Council Rep., absent was Bill Howard.

There was discussion about a CD that was coming due on February 12. It was recommended that we leave the CD at The Bank of Franklin County as interest rates are no better anywhere else. It was recommended that we split the CD into two separate CD's in case investment opportunities such as vouchers become available at the Bank of Franklin County. The motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept this recommendation.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved. One item was changed in that the metal detector with sales tax and batteries

was a total of \$209.18 instead of \$179.

Old Business - none

New Business:

Byron mentioned that the back door on Committal Building needs to be replaced as it is rotting from the base up.

President Jack said for us all to not forget that this is the forum where anything concerning cemetery operations needs to be discussed.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned.

Hank Anderson

# Women's Fellowship

The March meeting will be on the 11th with a breakfast at 9 a.m. Hostesses will provide casseroles and members are to bring doughnuts, rolls, fruit, etc. The meeting will be held at 10 with a Lenten Devotion by Audrey Nourse to follow. Hostesses are Marion Nelger, Mary Jo Stoyer, and Linda Becker. Marie Martin will have devotions.

The Women's Breakfast at Cowan's will be March 8 at 9 a.m. Our annual rummage sale will be April 16 and 17, so let's start cleaning out our closets, attics, and basements and make this another successful sale.

Mary Jo Stoyer  
Secretary

# Prayer Network

The Prayer Network will meet on March 3 at 10 a.m.

All are welcome both to join our Prayer Network as a caller and also to call the church office, Norma, or Dorothy with any prayer concerns or requests for yourself or others.

For more information, please call Norma Hausmann or Dorothy Althage.

A Thought:

Pray for those who are sick. Let them know you are praying for them.

Submitted by,  
Dorothy Althage

# Food Pantry

Everything is running smoothly at the food pantry. Our shelves are full, and both of our freezers are full of deer meat that we received through Share the Harvest. Our volunteers continue to shop, fill boxes, and hand out food to clients. In January, we served 58 households. We wish to thank everyone who made donations in January: August and Lucille Homeyer, Billie Ruth Miller, Dave and Marilyn Sullentrop, Mel and Betty Edwards, St. Peters UCC Social Concerns Committee, Franklin County Public School Retired Teachers, Jim and Hazel Schaffner, Chuck and Linda Johns, Don and Phyllis Northington, Jim and Joan Heisel. We also want to thank everyone who made anonymous donations of money or food. Every donation is always appreciated. The Girl Scout April Showers collection is Saturday, April

17. We need help sorting and boxing the collected items. If you can help, please call Judy Schneider.

Submitted by,  
Judy Schneider

*A sincere "thank you" from the Board of Christian Education to all those who helped out and/or attended our Mardi Gras celebration. It was a great success! Thanks to all who donated the wonderful gift baskets, the food, or worked at one of the stands or games. It's great to always have such good support from our church family for these kinds of activities.*

*Barb Bauer  
Chairperson, Board of Christian Education*

**Quote from the Quilters**

**"Life is too short to wake up with regrets, so love the people who treat you right, and forget about the ones who don't."**

We wish to thank Pat Hartzell for the lovely floral decorations on the table for the stew supper and Cecil Blankenship for the centerpiece on the Lead table. Pat and Cecil asked that these flowers be taken to people from our congregation who are unable to get out, ill, in nursing homes, or other reasons. When delivering the flowers, we were welcomed into their homes (or rooms).

The recipients were so very grateful. We reminisced about St. Peter's years ago. Some were teachers, ushers, quilters, council members, and much, much more. We had an enjoyable two days with these special people and completed our visits before the snow came.

Again, thanks for the lovely flowers you donated to such a good cause and to you lovely people who welcomed us into your homes.

The Visitors

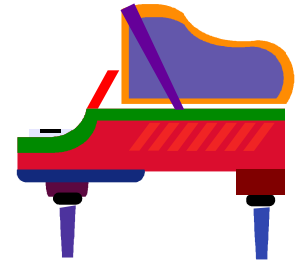
## Musical Notes

Thank you to the following people for providing Special Music in February: Hank Anderson, Steve Hausmann, Vince Sanfilippo, Patti Fleer, and Maggie Noud.

The tentative schedule for March is:

- 3-7 Cecil Blankenship
- 3-14 TBA
- 3-21 Hank Anderson
- 3-28 Vince Sanfilippo

Levere Barnett  
Director of Music



### Financial Information

We are off to a good start in our General Fund with receipts for January slightly higher than our budgeted amount. January weekly receipts for the Atrium Fund were also greater than the budgeted amount. What a great start to 2010. May our pride and love for God and our church help us continue the programs and ministries of St. Peter's U.C.C.

Carrol Ocsody  
Treasurer

Financials	Atrium Fund as of 1-31-2010
First Bank Loan Balance	\$950,270.26
Monthly Payment	\$7,435.48
Promissory Notes Balance	\$7,000.00
Rott Foundation Loan Balance	\$52,631.98
Quarterly Payment	\$4,204.69

Are you concerned about shaking hands due to the spread of germs and possible flu and colds? Please, do not feel that your fellow congregants will be offended if you don't extend your hand or if you grab a squirt of hand sanitizer after you do. If you don't want to shake hands but want to engage in another gesture beyond the verbal, perhaps you could wave, or offer a nod of the head or, if you are of a more humorous nature, perhaps the four fingered Vulcan band sign or peace sign are more to your taste. Whatever your choice, please know that you are welcome here, your hand extended or not!

Welcome to new member, Jo Hagedorn, who joined our church January 24, 2010.



**The church is now accepting contributions electronically - contact the church office for more information.**

### Monthly Minders

- Communion is served the first weekend of each month.
- The first weekend of the month is the food pantry collection.
- The first weekend of the month is the aluminum can collection.
- The MPS (Merchandise Pickup Service) Box is in the parking lot.
- Pizza Hut Night is the second Monday of each month from 3-8 p.m. (pick up a coupon in the office)
- Schnucks escrip cards - contact the church office
- Sign up for altar flowers and /or bulletins by the Market Street hallway doors.
- John Pils' prints of St. Peter's Church are available for purchase in the church office.
- If you are hospitalized and want the church office to know, please call 239-6176.
- The church accepts contributions electronically - contact the church office for information.



# MARCH 2010 BIRTHDAYS

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Richard Speckhals James Drury	2 Mason Coffman Jason Fox	3 Steven Sentivany Christina Seht Taylor Schroeder	4 Mary Ann Carey Steve Hausmann Bondie Heidmann Brooke Owens	5 Diane Overschmidt Mary Lou Tyree Todd Geisert Susan Newman	6 Ralph Goebel
7 Nora Colter	8 Julie Frankenberg Michael Jinkerson Diana Scharringhausen	9 Elizabeth Fleeer Kristin Koch Linda Filer	10 Rosalie Benne Matthew Buddemeyer Daniel Sample Russell Smith Caroline Heimos Amaya Beck Angela Clines	11 Lucille Homeyer Kimberly Schroeder Nichola Elsenrath Mary Mense William Scharringhausen	12 Carrie Clover Lindsey Jackson	13 Ruth Pehle
14 Clayton Duchatschek Laurie Kleekamp Doris Sleeman	15 Ludell Rettke	16 Michael Neubert	17 Betty Eckelkamp Denise Mesle Joan Hamlin	18 Courtney Brinkmann Travis Norvell Jo Ann Smith	19 Jason Firsick Frederick Hodgson Donald Langkopf Annelise Obermark Suzon Pogue Judy Verdine	20 Alan Kleekamp Jordan Krafft Emily Kuenzel Mark Wood
21 Clinton Epple David Hausmann Vickie Brand	22 Melba Schwentker Weston Langford	23 Ervin Ebker Abbey Jinkerson Calvin Obermark Barbara Wiley Brandon Schaffer Kodi Gildehaus Phillip Butler	24 Jean Kleekamp	25 Randi Bub	26 Kenneth Stolte Thomas Sherman	27 Carol Buescher Kaitlyn Tobben Ron Miklos Chloe McCarthy
28 Susan Anderson Karen Nassif	29 Tammy Smith Tammie Buschling Barbara Armstrong	30 Alan Buschman	31 Patricia Winfree			

**If you were searching for God's treasure, you'd find it in people. Every person, in every nation on earth, is treasured by God!**

## One Great Hour of Sharing

The Collection date for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is March 14, 2010. One Great Hour of Sharing joins each of us with God by providing aid when disaster strikes and by assisting individuals in rebuilding their lives. The gifts that we supply provide aid in the basics such as education, health care, tools, seeds, and water wells.


If you were searching for God's treasure, you'd find it in people. Every person, in every nation on earth, is treasured by God! Yet for many people, life can be tough. OGHS joins our hearts with God's by providing decisive aid when disaster strikes and by helping refugees rebuild their

lives. When we care for God's treasured children, we ourselves are transformed. We see more clearly what matters most in life and are inspired to live courageously.

Please use the enclosed envelope for your contribution to this Special Mission Offering.

When you give to OGHS through the UCC, you participate in a world wide ministry of helping people change their lives. A ministry that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. A ministry of caring by and for God's treasured people.

# St. Peter's March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<u>1</u> 9 Retired Men's Breakfast @ Cowan's 6 AA 6:30 Quilting	<u>2</u> 10:30 Staff Meeting 7 Cemetery Board 7 Board of Christian Education 7 EA Council 7 Social Concerns Committee	<u>3</u> Quilting 10 Prayer Network 12 Great Decisions 5:15 All Church Dinner 6 Lenten Chapel 6:15 Weds@StPetes Small Groups 6 AA/Chapel Bells 6:45 Vesper Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir	<u>4</u> 6 AA	<u>5</u> 6 p.m. Grades 8-12 Lock-in/Hunger fast for Haiti at Zion UCC in Union 7:30 World Day of Prayer Service @ Presbyterian Church	<u>6</u> 10 Lock-in at Zion ends 9-11 Scout Meeting 5 Worship
	<u>7</u> 9 & 10 Sunday School 10 Worship Food Pantry & Aluminum Drives 11:15 Confirmation	<u>8</u> 9 Women's Breakfast @ Cowan's 3-8 Pizza Hut Night 6 AA 6:30 Quilting 7 Bible Discovery	<u>9</u> 10:30 Staff Meeting 1:30 Stewardship 5:30 Mariners 6 Building & Grounds 6:30 Council Planning	<u>10</u> Quilting 12 Great Decisions 5:15 All Church Dinner 6 Lenten Chapel 6:15 Weds@StPetes Small Groups 6 AA/Chapel Bells 6:45 Vesper Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir	<u>11</u> 9 Women's Fellowship with Brunch 6 AA 7 MISG	<u>12</u> 
<u>14</u> 9 & 10 Sunday School 10 Worship One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Family Sunday Daylight Savings Time Begins 6:30-8 Youth Group grades 7-12	<u>15</u> 6 AA 6:30 Quilting	<u>16</u> 10:30 Staff Meeting 2:30 Cedar Crest 7 Church Council 7 Justine Petersen Workshop	<u>17</u> St. Patrick's Day Quilting 12 Great Decisions 5:15 All Church Dinner 6 Lenten Chapel 6:15 Weds@StPetes Small Groups 6 AA/Chapel Bells 6:45 Vesper Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir	<u>18</u> 10:30 Grandview 6 AA	<u>19</u> Lily orders due to florist	<u>20</u> 5 Worship
<u>21</u> 9 & 10 Sunday School 10 Worship Congregational Meeting after Worship 11:15 Confirmation	<u>22</u> 9 a.m. Newsletter articles due 6 AA 6:30 Quilting	<u>23</u> 10:30 Staff Meeting	<u>24</u> Quilting 12 Great Decisions 5:15 All Church Dinner 6 Lenten Chapel 6:15 Weds@StPetes Small Groups 6 AA/Chapel Bells 6:45 Vesper Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir	<u>25</u> 6 AA 6:30-8 Scout Pack Meeting 7 MISG	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> 5 Worship
<u>28</u> <b><u>Palm Sunday</u></b> 9 & 10 Sunday School 10 Worship 6:30-8 Youth Group Grades 7-12	<u>29</u> 3-7 Scout's Blood Drive 6 AA 6:30 Quilting	<u>30</u> 10:30 Staff Meeting	<u>31</u> Quilting 12 Great Decisions 6 AA 6 Chapel Bells 6:45 Vesper Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir			

## Remembering with Purpose & Gratitude...

The congregation's Memorial and Atrium Funds receive gifts throughout the year from both members and nonmembers who are looking for a creative way to express their gratitude for the life of a friend or loved one, or for other times and occasions when they are moved to gratefully respond to a blessing of God.

*In memory of **Toni Dembeck**:* Norma Hausmann

*In memory of **John Barnett**:* Norma Hausmann

*In memory of **Dorothy Rippetto**:* Marie Martin, Corine Ebker, Darlene Kossina, Bernice Buhr, Norman & Mary Bleckman, Martha Stoenner, Laura Rector, Lisa Piontek, M/M Edgar Meyer

*In memory of **Loved Ones of the Holtgreiwe Family**:* Robert Holtgreiwe

*In memory of **Paul Martin**:* John & Mary Liz Blumer

*In memory of **Bea Hays**:* Bernice Stockglausner, Sibyl Kerr, Cecil & Doris Blankenship, Garry & Terri Gerhart, Dennis & Val Hellebusch, Lorraine Kleekamp, Charlene Wylie, Roger & Rebecca Lawrence, Ron Bodinson, Michael Phillips, Helen Phillips, Don & Carolyn Slack, Thelma Lucy, Jim & Joan Heisel, Russel & Marilyn Sherman, Florence Kempf, Dorothy Althage, Jerry & Barbara Wallach, Janice Meyer, Wendy & Jeffrey Sulltrop, Dorothy Wood, Judy Eickmeyer, Dave & Pat Heinrich

*In memory of **Alvina & Gustav Meyer**:* Mrs. K. L. Church

*In honor of **Bill Schwab**:* John & Mary Liz Blumer

*In memory of **Roslyn Fennessey**:* Burton Wehmeyer, Roy & Mary Schroff, Karen & Donald Sida, Charles & Darline Driemeyer, Dorothy Meyer, Gilbert & Verneal Reese, Ruby Temme, Brunhilde Wahl, Verna Siebert, Ursala Wedmeier, Vance Ross, Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree, Pearl Davis, Ken & Carolyn Ross, Tina Griffin, Burton Wehmeyer, Dave & Brenda Nadler, Kathy Edwards, Betty Elbert

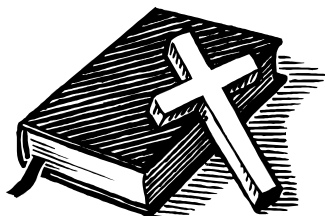
*In memory of **Jeanette Strubberg**:* Dorothy & John Rape, Sandra Weaver

*In memory of **Elmer Heidmann**:* Frank & Ruth Wood, Downtown Washington Inc., Historic Washington Foundation, Doris & Cecil Blankenship, Bill & Judy Verdine, Fred & Marion Hodgson, Bob & Dottie Brinker, Linda Filer, Don & Phyllis Northington, Warren Wiele, Clarence Eggert, Hank & Sue Anderson, Laura Gephardt, Dutch & Delores Borcharding, Richard & Rosemary Hirschl, Maurice & Mary Mittler, Wally & Charlene Schatz, John & Mary Liz Blumer, Robert Hansen, Mary Mense

*In memory of **Wayne Nolting**:* Doris & Cecil Blankenship, Frank & Ruth Wood, Gene & Kay Hunt, M/M Jerry Brunner, M/M Al Spreckelmeyer, Kathy Allen, Ray & Judy Eickmeyer Family, Neil & Carrie Maune, Robert & Wendy Zick, Henry Ballmann, Edgar & Gladene Koelling, Steven & Susan Harms, Bruce Barnett, Barb & Tom Holtmeier, Shannon Feltmann, Mark Trebacz, Dorothy Althage, Chuck & Marilyn Haynes, Don & Ruth Flynn, Nancy & George Johann, Carl Clover, Carrie Clover, Dr. Wm & Clare Huber, Judith Ogle, Howard & Irma Pelster, Tim & Pat Hoeing, Bernell & Mary Oberhaus, Leroy & Gloria Eggert, Wm. & Marilyn Eckelkamp, Richard & Rosemary Hirschl, John & Mary Liz Blumer

*In memory of **Harry Siedhoff**:* Doris & Cecil Blankenship, The Curves Membership, Shirley Hawkins & Melanie Steele, St. Peter's UCC SOARR, Nancy & Mike Burke, Cara Czeschin

*In memory of **Ralph Jones**:* Frank & Ruth Wood, Vernice & John Wehling, The Quality Management, Performance Excellence and Risk Management Departments of St. Louis Children's Hospital, Ruth Buddemeyer, Margo Roberts, Judith Allen, Diana & Allen Ross, Dennis Stafford, Herbert & Elise Homeyer, Dr. Bill & Clare Huber, Jim & Diane Gephardt, A. Marie Horn, Jerry & Angie Furlow, Blanca & Michael Bernasek, Paul & Gretchen Brune, Henry Ballmann, M/M Steve Kuenzel, Edgar & Gladys Koelling, Ralph & Lois Oltmann, Ronald & Donna Mueller, Kathy Schweitzer, Jacqueline Krafft, Mary Hennecke, Della Steelman, Gene & Kay Hunt, David & Carol Finck, George Firsick, Clem Kleekamp, Michael & Debra Stelzer, M/M Paul Finck, Anita Jaeger, John & Debra Sieve, Duthiel & Delores Borcharding, Gary & Linda Hillermann, Larry & Donna Jones, Maurice & Mary Mittler, Herb, Patsy, Mike & Allen Gephardt & Families, Robert & Marita Garbs, Kenneth & Jane Berghorn, Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner, Olinda Schroer, Robert & Mazine Fink, Laura Gephardt, Bob Hansen, Rick & Heddie Wunderlich, Don & Melva Puls, Edna Stanfill, Elaine & Duane Bierwierth, Steve & Mindy Heidmann, M/M Mike Haberberger, David Gephardt, August & Lucille Homeyer, Ray & Joyce Sulltrop, Helen Desmond, Mike & Becky Heitmann, Florentine Wunderlick, Marvin & Barb Kassebaum, Dave & Sarah Homeyer, Herbert & Margy Schowe, Gerry Bedwell, Valeria Julius, Rich & Barb Strubberg, Elmer & Eleanor Fler, Verna Hunter, Bruce Barnett, Rick Brown, Rita Reuber, Leonard & Lucille Hillermann, Don & Connie Steibel, M/M Keith Stahlman, Gilbert & Margaret Kroeter, Ralph Vemmer, Rev. & Mrs. Armin Klemme, Mrs. Pud Ming, Carol Whisenand, Howard & Gloria Marquart, Thecla Sieve



## A Note from Beth Cherney

Dear Friends,

And the vote came back...and the vote was yes! St. Luke's UCC in South Milwaukee has called me as their pastor and teacher. This is a wonderful congregation of around 200 adults and plenty of children. Last night they hosted a "meet and greet" potluck for me and Rich. We had half the church there and enough food to feed the 5,000. I look forward to doing ministry with them beginning March 15. (My third week there will be

Holy Week. I'll have to dive right in!) I'll announce ordination plans shortly.

My favorite comment at the potluck would have been, "When she walked in, I noticed how young she is!" Another parishioner; "Yes, but at our age, everyone looks so young."

Thank you for your prayers!

Beth

## Men of the Church Banquet Brings 160 Faith Leaders to St. Peter's

St. Peter's was proud to host the 60th annual Washington Men of the Church Banquet on February 9. Despite threatening weather, church men turned out in mass for a delicious dinner, homemade desserts, and fellowship. The annual event often has a community missions focus for the program. Those in attendance heard an appeal and report on Franklin County Habitat for Humanity as well as learning about a new community-wide effort for Micro-lending by Justine Petersen, Inc. The non-profit Justine Petersen works with disadvantaged individuals seeking small loans to start

a business or to further their existing work. Through a generous contribution by a member, St. Peter's has been able to partner with others to give "a hand-up not just a hand-out" to those looking to survive in a tight economic market. The Kiwanis Club presented a "Churchman of the Year" award at the conclusion. Thanks go to Dr. Cecil Blankenship, Russel Sherman, church ladies who helped, provided, and served desserts, David Butler, and all who participated.

Pastor Paul

## St. Peter's Missions "Gives a Hand-Up - not Only a Hand-out"

Dr. Koch announced to faith leaders at the annual Men of the Church Banquet that it "only takes one individual in a church to make an incredible difference." Such a blessing happened at St. Peter's. A church member approached Pastor Paul with great concern that many people in Franklin County were at a great disadvantage to succeed financially. Commercial loans had tightened beyond reach while outlandish credit card interest rates and predatory lenders were devastating many people into bankruptcy. This person gave a substantial conditional gift to the church with strict stipulation that it only be used to begin a micro-lending program right in Franklin County. Micro-lending is a Nobel Peace Prize recognized effort to help budding entrepreneurs for whom money is traditionally not available. This outstanding successful idea is occurring in developing countries; now the need exists right here.

The church council appointed an investigatory committee of the senior pastor, pastor emeritus, church treasurer, and attorney to determine how to proceed and if we could be faithful to the terms of the gift. Connections were made that introduced the Council to Justine Petersen, Inc. of St. Louis. JP has been having great success with disadvantaged communities in St. Louis and happened to be looking to expand to Franklin County. The Council noted that JP's track record of making funds available as well as providing economic, business plan, and credit counseling would be the most faithful response. The money of the donation, held in

trust, was forwarded to JP through the establishment of a partnership with St. Peter's for providing counseling space and referrals to persons in need with potential for success. This decision has in fact doubled the amount of the original monetary gifts through a SBA lending program. The donor expressed hope that other churches, individuals, and organizations would partner as well so everyone in need would be served. (No St. Peter's debt-retirement or operating monies were used, nor would the designated money have been available for use in any other way.)

Many in attendance at the Men of the Church Banquet, for the introduction of Franklin County micro-lending and counseling, were impressed and delighted to learn of the new way to help others. This type of mission addresses systemic change rather than ongoing assistance. We are proud our St. Peter's Food Pantry and Washington Emergency Relief Fund addresses the immediate needs. Working for systemic change is harder to affect and understand but creates long-term benefit and results. Praise be to God for such faithful discipleship.

Informational sessions will be held Tuesday, March 16 and Tuesday, April 20 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter's church. Please visit [www.justinepetersen.org](http://www.justinepetersen.org) or call 314-533-2411 x 132 for more information.

Pastor Paul

# UCC Global Ministries

*Faith apart from works is dead. James 2:26*

Many groups travel from the US to another part of the world on a mission trip. Some of these groups plan their trip with Global Ministries' People to People Pilgrimages office in order to maximize their spiritual experience as well. One group from Atlanta, GA recently traveled to India. One pilgrim wrote: "One month ago today we were ringing in the New Year sitting half way around the world in the Christian Church of Mungeli, India. Even though the words spoken were unrecognizable Hindi, there were some comfortably familiar sights as I gazed around the sanctuary: wooden pews filled with worshippers, Bibles and hymnals in their hands, the open communion table, a temperamental sound system that worked intermittently, and the cadence of the Lord's Prayer - recognizable even when spoken in a language foreign to my ears. My eyes came to rest upon the wooden cross on the table and I

reflected on how this symbol of Christianity had taken on a new meaning for me recently. In learning of the concepts of vertical and horizontal faith, I have come to look at the cross as a symbolic representation of these two dimensions of faith.

**Vertical** faith is about one's relationship with God; an awareness of God's teachings and his presence in your life.

**Horizontal** faith is about sharing those vertical discoveries; serving outside our comfort zone; reaching out and touching others with God's love.

**True** faith needs both components: our love and action (the horizontal piece) is grounded in the love we receive from God (which we discover through the vertical piece). Without the horizontal piece, there is a disconnect between faith and life.

For me, the cross has become a beautiful, visual depiction of vertical and horizontal faith."

## 25th Annual Missouri State Sacred Harp Singing Convention

St. John's United Church of Christ

Pinckney Township, Missouri near Marthasville, Missouri

Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14, 2010

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Dinner on the Grounds at noon

*Everyone is welcome – singing experience is not required!*

**No admission fee:** Free-will donations or offerings are accepted.

**We will sing** from the 1991 Denson version of *The Sacred Harp* and from *The Missouri Harmony*. We have loaner books, as well as books and recordings for purchase.

**Local attendees:** Please bring food to share. We have the privilege of hosting many out-of-town guests, and need your generous help to provide hospitality.

**Singers are invited** to the Saturday social in Washington. Maps/directions will be provided at the singing.

**For more information:** Please visit our website at [www.stlfasola.com](http://www.stlfasola.com). You may also contact Paul Figura (314.962.4870, [stlfasola@mindspring.com](mailto:stlfasola@mindspring.com)) or Anne Drexler (314.962.3344, [tycin@aol.com](mailto:tycin@aol.com)).

### UCC Men's Retreat

When: April 16-18, 2010

Where: Shannondale Community Center, Shannon County, Missouri

Cost: \$70 per person (financial grants available)

How: Contact Pastor Paul at [pk24601@yahoo.com](mailto:pk24601@yahoo.com) or 636-221-7065 for more information.



### UCC Women's Retreat

When: April 30-May 2, 2010

Where: Camp Mo-Val, Union, MO

Cost: \$85 per person

How: Register online at [www.mmsucc.org](http://www.mmsucc.org) or ask the church office for a form

Topic: World Religions Finding Common Ground - Pastor Leah and Debbie Douglas are leading our church's delegation. See Leah for more information.

Come join the women of the Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC at Camp Mo-Val

### Eastern Association Quilt Show

When: May 15, 2010

Where: St. John's UCC, Cappeln (Foristell), MO

Please bring your vintage and /or favorite quilts to show and also your favorite food to share for lunch (appetizers, snacks, fruits, or desserts)

9:30 - Registration

10:30 - Program "Full circle"

Presentation and Trunk Show by Carol Lampe

12 - Lunch

12:30 - Viewing of Quilts

**CONTACT INFO**

(Please note our email changes)

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**Pastor Leah**

**Messenger and Website:**

Laura Placht

Email: lplacht@fidnet.com

Website: stpeters-washington.org

# Going Green

We have been telling you in recent newsletters about St. Peter's plan to "Go Green" starting next month, April 2010. We have not heard from a lot of you. Please make sure you fill out this form or one previously available to you through a newsletter or church bulletin and return it to the church office as soon as possible. You have to let the office know your wishes if you want the newsletter to continue to be mailed to you. We hope you plan on keeping up-to-date with all of St. Peter's news.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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."



# Easter Lily Order Form

If you wish to place an Easter lily or memorial, please complete this form and return it to the church office no later than March 29, 2010.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a contribution to:

Memorial Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Atrium Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to provide an Easter lily. \_\_\_\_\_ (Note: Call an area florist no later than March 19 to place an order to have the plant delivered to the church on Friday, April 2.)

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Plants not picked up by noon April 7 will be delivered to shut-ins.

Please be advised that beginning this year, the church office will be handling poinsettia orders this way as well, i.e. you order from whomever you wish and then let us know you have done so.