



## ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Editor: Laura Placht

April 2011

# *St. Peter's Messenger*

## Pastor Leah's Perspectives

ST. PETER'S UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here." Chances are, if you've stepped foot in the doors of St. Peter's in the last several years, you've heard or seen this phrase. Pastor Paul and I say it at the communion table, as we extend Christ's invitation to his table, but it's also on posters, in brochures and DVDs put out by the United Church of Christ. You may have even begun to see and hear it in special United Church of Christ promotional commercials running on network and cable channels in the St. Louis area this Lenten season. The phrase is one from the UCC's national identity campaign, and it has been wildly popular among many, many of the UCC's local/individual congregations.

The message is one of extravagant hospitality in line with Jesus' extravagant hospitality extended to all he met, no matter what society told him was acceptable or unacceptable. And because all of us, at some point in our life, have experienced something less than extravagant hospitality in some context, I think that when we say and hear those words, not a single person among us is just saying or receiving the words as a matter of budding tradition. Neither is anyone just saying or receiving them to support an identity campaign. When we say and receive those words, I believe they mean something more to us – both as individuals and together, as a church. I see it in your faces when I say those words from behind the communion table. In the idea behind them, we feel the extension of the arms of Christ.

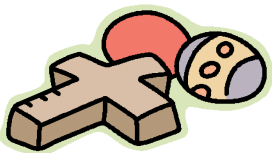
I love how those simple words draw us to two places of Christian thought. They both remind us of God's extravagant hospitality extended toward each of us, and they challenge us to ever open our hearts' doors a little wider to neighbors, strangers, sojourners, and even enemies -- that God's Spirit might move through open doors previously closed by others in our community, society, and world.

As we continue our Lenten journeys together; as we seek to prepare our hearts and minds to better receive and live the message of resurrection and new life when Easter comes, I hope that each of us and all of us will consider how we can better live an extravagant welcome at St. Peter's. When visitors walk through our doors, how do they (or could they) *feel* an atmosphere of extravagant welcome? When a long-time member of our congregation loses a spouse, a sibling, a parent, a child – how do we offer support and love that honors the love Jesus lived? When an individual or family joins our church, how do we help them move from "member" in name to truly feeling themselves a "member" in the body of Christ out of which we seek to live? How do we make sure that anyone with the guts to attend coffee time and put themselves out there socially, isn't left standing alone and un-approached as the rest of us fall so quickly into comfortable patterns of socializing? How does each of us live into and out of this extraordinary body of Christ?

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. This Lenten season, may we not just hear the message extended to us, but may we extend the message to others as well. We never know when someone, come to sit or stand near us, may be desperate to feel the authenticity of those words. May each of us be so blessed as to help another feel anew Christ's resurrected presence in this world.

God's blessings on you, Easter people!

Pastor Leah



**Come Experience  
A Week in the Life of  
Jesus**

**Service Dates and Times:**

- April 17 10 a.m.
- April 21 6:30 p.m.
- April 22 7:00 p.m.
- April 23 5:00 p.m.
- April 24 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.



**St. Peter's United Church  
of Christ**

**On the third day Jesus rose from the grave.**

## Holy Week and Easter Schedule

**April 17 - Palm Sunday** - Palm Crosses from Africa and their story will be shared with our children.

**April 21 - 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Seder Supper Service** - Held in the dining room, we will commemorate the last supper Jesus had with his disciples with food and share together the passion story.

**April 22 - 7:00 p.m. Good/Sorrowful Friday Tenebrae Service** of scripture, song, and the extinguishing of candles.

**April 23 - 5:00 p.m. Easter Compline:** A service of Easter scripture, poems, readings and hymns.

**April 24 - Easter Sunday!!!** Services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. with our traditional annual Easter breakfast served from 8:30-9:40.

## You are Invited to Explore the Three Faiths of Abraham

What? Programs led by St. Louis area Muslim leaders and Jewish Rabbis who will present basic beliefs and important practices of their faith. Ample time for questions. This is an opportunity to find out more about our commonalities and differences as spiritual descendents of Abraham and Sarah, in the spirit of Jesus' and God's inclusive love. Each program will feature a different speaker on different topics based largely on our questions and interests.

When? Wednesday Evenings in Lent, 6:15-7:30 pm, following the Lenten dinner.

April 6: Rabbi to be announced on Judaism

April 13: Rabbi Howard Kaplanski on Judaism. Rabbi Kaplanski is the Senior Rabbi at Hebrew United Congregation in St. Louis, and an adjunct Professor at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves.

Where? Dining Room

Who? We invite youth and adults of our church, friends, and the public.

If you have questions that you want considered by our speakers, you can e-mail John Nourse, facilitator for the programs, at [joau@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joau@sbcglobal.net) or give him a note with the question on Sunday mornings before or after worship.

Submitted by,  
John Nourse



## Good Things Are Happening at St. Peter's

I have wanted to create a new column for the newsletter for some time now, but every issue comes out and oops there went another month. So, my New Year's Resolution was to stop letting ideas just roll around in my head. St. Peter's UCC is a great church, full of wonderful and talented people and one of which I enjoy being a member. However, if you just attend Saturday or Sunday night services and that is the extent of your involvement, you miss out on a hubbub of activities, events, and even special moments going on around our church. So, the new column I will challenge the congregation to contribute to on a regular basis is this one: **Good Things Are Happening at St. Peter's**. Here are some of my most recent observations.

1. Coffee hour in the atrium after Sunday Service: it is great seeing so many fellow church members socializing after Sunday service instead of rushing away.
2. The Middle School Sunday School is holding strong with an average of nine students per week.
3. The Youth are becoming more involved and aware of the church: the Middle School students baked cookies for the leadership/ministry team meeting; the Fourth and Fifth Graders organized and held a pancake breakfast to benefit the food pantry.
4. Pastor Paul attended the Conference Youth Event at Camp Mo-Val. What a wonderful opportunity for him to stay involved with and informed about the youth and their faith direction.
5. Pastor Leah challenged us on our hospitality and Diane and Jim Gephardt took it to task. At a Saturday night service they discovered a young man they didn't recognize and made him feel welcomed; made a connection. Could that be the beginning for a future member?
6. St. Peter's hosted the Feb. 19 Harvest Table and in one week the volunteer list was overflowing with people to make pasta and desserts and to serve.
7. Game night, March 19, was attended by over 40 church members. People of all ages mingled, played, and just plain had a wonderful evening of fellowship.

These are just a few of the things I have noticed for the first few months of 2011. What I ask is that if you notice something that you want to give a "shout out to", send it to Laura Placht [lplacht@fidnet.com](mailto:lplacht@fidnet.com) to add to this column. I am going to try my best to keep adding each issue, but there are others who could enlighten me about things I do not see. All you have to do is write your observation and send it on...you don't have to write a column; it will be added to the column. To all of you, I want to thank you for being a member of our church and sharing your talents and friendship.

Sincerely, Rusty Smith of the St. Peter's Mutual Ministry Team

(P.S. from Laura Placht - Last month Pastor Paul and I asked for you to send me pictures from any event connected with St. Peter's to be included on the website and in the newsletter. As of this time, I have not received one picture. Just connect your camera to your computer or send it from your phone to my email listed above. Thank you in advance for taking the time to snap a shot and maybe give me a short line of what the picture is about.)

## Financial News from Your Church Treasurer

As treasurer, I would like to give you a brief review of our financial status at this time. The end of year receipts and disbursements for 2010 were reported in the March *St. Peter's Messenger* newsletter under Financial News. **Neither receipts nor disbursements of the General and Benevolent Fund reached the budgeted amount; however expenditures exceeded receipts by \$30,486.80.** This occurred because of maintenance and repairs that could no longer be delayed, and will continue into this year. You generously contributed to the repair of our organ, and in paying down the Atrium loan. In September the loan was transferred to Heritage Community Bank in the amount of \$920,000. In seven months the loan has been paid down to a principal balance of \$855,340.41.

Our monthly financial report for February 2011, will again be shown in the Financial News section. The Rott Foundation loan has a balance of \$28,848.00 and will be paid in full by September 2012, if not sooner. The Perpetual Membership Fund has a bal-

ance of \$13,036.50, and Undesignated Wills and Bequests Fund has a balance of \$55,781.15. The council will work hard to be good stewards with the church's money and still complete the repairs that have been started on our building. The General Funds budget will be difficult to maintain due to the loss of rent on St. Peter's house. **Working together and with your support, we will do the best we can to carry on the missions of our church. As you do your part in keeping up with your weekly offering we ask that you prayerfully consider additional investments in your church's ministry.** Any questions or comments are welcome.

Carrol Ocsody

Treasurer

## Building and Grounds Board Minutes

The Building and Grounds Board met on February 15, 2011 at 6 p.m. with the following members in attendance: Don Steibel, Council Rep.; James Schaffner, Gene Hunt, Daniel Bargaen, and Nancy Burke. Those not in attendance: Steve Harms and Mike Brinkmann.

**Old Business:** Don met with Rainbow (the company performing the water damage clean-up in the auditorium) on February 14. They have removed all moisture out of the walls and about 90% out of the ceiling. The ceiling won't be at 100% until all leaks are repaired. A propane fueled heater was used for the drying. When it is determined the roof leaks are repaired, Don

would like to conduct a test before a contractor is hired to finish all repair work for damage sustained.

**New Business:** Don reported that the heating system beneath the concrete at the entry area of the sanctuary is not working. It needs more chemicals to make it generate enough heat. This is being discussed at the Council meeting this same evening.

Jim will notify Mike, Steve, and Carol of the next meeting.

The next meeting is March 8, 2011 at 6 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Nancy Burke

## Cemetery Board Minutes

The Cemetery Board met on March 1, 2011 with the following members in attendance: Mike Carey, Hank Anderson, Dennis Borgman, Billy Howard, Chuck Patterson, Alvin Gerling, Byron Stolte - Sexton, and Roger Flee - Council Rep.

The previous minutes and Treasurer's report were read and approved.

**Old Business:** The \$2,000 payment was made to the Atrium Fund.

**New Business:** Byron reported that we are still having a problem with moles. Vince Sanfilippo will be asked if he wants to continue treating for them. Byron will check on the price of several sprayers that is needed to spray for weeds.

The next meeting will be April 5 at 7 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Billy Howard

## Women's Fellowship News

It is that time of the year again for everyone to rummage through your closets, drawers, or storage containers for any treasures that you don't want anymore to be put on our annual rummage sale. Set-up will begin on April 4 and everyone can start to bring in their treasures on the 5th. We will be accepting small pieces of furniture, but no TV's, computers, printers, or electronics of this type.

The first day of the sale will be on Thursday, April 14 from 4 p.m. through 7 p.m., Friday, April 15 from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m., and Saturday, April 16 from 8 a.m. until 12 noon.

We need good strong able bodied men to help with the set-up and take down. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated.

The Women's breakfast will be at Cowan's on April 21 at 9 a.m. At 10 a.m. on that same day the Women's Fellowship will have their monthly meeting as well, there will be no luncheon on that day. After the meeting there will be a Lenten service in the chapel for anyone who is interested in joining us.

We invite any and all who would be interested in sharing their time and talents with our fellowship group to join us. There are great programs scheduled throughout the year and as always we have great luncheons afterwards. A good time is had by all, so come and see what we are all about.

Submitted by,  
Cheryl Keller

## Musical Notes

Thank you to the following people for providing Special Music in March: June Wilson, Patti Flee, Cecil Blankenship, Vince Sanfilippo, Hank Anderson, and Carolyn Slack.

The tentative schedule for April is:

4-03 Hank Anderson  
4-10 Maggie Noud  
4-17 Vince Sanfilippo  
4-20 Cecil Blankenship  
4-24 Patti Flee  
Leverne Barnett - Director



## News from the Food Pantry

The volunteers at the food pantry continue to make sure that our clients have food for their families. We served fifty families in February. We were able to help these families in need because of many generous donations. Those donating in February were: Christopher and Tracey Jackson, James and Ruth Konrad, Betty and Mel Edwards, Joline Logan, Dave Butler, Jim and Hazel Schaffner, Warren Wiele, Rhea Oberg, Don and Phyllis Northington, Elmer and Eleanor Fler, Jackie Stendell, and Tom and Carol Buescher.

The United Way announced that the food pantry will again be receiving \$4,000 this year. This is a tremendous help, since the



price of food seems to be going up every week. We were also able to buy another freezer. We just received over 400 pounds of deer meat from the "Share the Harvest" program, so both of our freezers are full.

On Saturday, April 16, the Girl Scouts will be having their annual "April Showers" Collection. I need several more volunteers to help sort and box the items when the girls bring them to Borgia Grade School. If you would be willing to help for two hours from 10-12 noon, please call Judy Schneider at 239-7081.

Thank you for your support,  
Judy Schneider  
Food Pantry Coordinator

## Church Women United Brunch to be at St. Peter's

On Tuesday, May 3rd the Social Concerns Ministry Team is very excited to be hosting Church Women United for their May Friendship Brunch at 9:30 a.m. We would love for all of the wonderful women of St. Peter's to be part of the morning, so please think about joining us. We think this is chance for us to show that we are a vital, welcoming, and growing church.

Of course we could use your help too! If you could help with

decorating or the brunch we would be so very grateful (we are not exactly a committee of great bakers!!!!). If you can attend or help, please call the church office to RSVP or call Karen Dawson at 239-7002. We know it is going to be a wonderful morning!

Submitted by,  
Karen Dawson

## Prayer Network Ministry Team

The Prayer Network Ministry Team will meet on April 6 at 10 a.m. All are welcome both to join us as a caller and also to call the church office at 636-239-6176, Dorothy, or Marge with any prayer concerns or requests for yourself or others. For more information call Dorothy Althage at 239-3574 or Marge Jones at 239-7752.

A Thought: Moments spent with God are moments of prayer. To find simple ways to prayer, we must simply pray!

Submitted by,  
Dorothy Althage



## Quilting News

The quilters sold a baby quilt at the Stew Supper with the proceeds going to the Atrium Fund. We still have two baby quilts for sale, one is in the Atrium and the other is in the quilting room.

This month's quote: "The heaviest thing you can carry is a grudge." Unknown

Submitted by,  
Judy Eickmeyer and the Quilters

## Hospitality Ministry Team

Please sign up to help with the Atrium Coffee Hour which follows each Sunday service. Sign up commitment is for baking, set up/clean up, or serving on whichever Sunday you choose, however you wish to help. See Donna Mueller (239-2177) or check at the table in the Atrium each Sunday for more

information and a sign up list.

Submitted by,  
Carole Jeanne Sincox



## Follow These Seven Steps to Sign-Up for Church Camp!



**Step One:** Obtain a registration packet and schedule, and find a week that will work for the camper. Registration packets & schedules are available from the Market Street youth bulletin board or online at [www.missourimidsouth.org](http://www.missourimidsouth.org) under the outdoor ministries tab. Campers of the recent past also had these mailed directly to their homes.

**Step Two:** Fill out the registration form (front and back) except for the Pastor's Statement area.

**Step Three:** If you have arranged it with another camper's parent/guardian, you can have your camper and that camper request each other on the registration form. Friends must both request each other for directors to know that they truly want to be in the same group. Directors may or may not be able to fill requests as they try to arrange for the best groups possible for all, but they will do their best. Pastor Leah has no extra "pull" related to these requests; please contact Camp Mo-Val if you have specific needs related to your request to discuss (636-583-2730). All requests will be passed on to the session director(s) for your camper's week. **IT IS PERFECTLY FINE FOR A CAMPER NOT TO REQUEST SOMEONE.** Usually, about half of the campers for any given camp do not request someone else. Directors will take care to arrange campers in cabins where they won't feel excluded by other pairings.

**Step Four:** Figure out your payment. St. Peter's will pay half of every camper's EARLY BIRD registration amount for one camp session (100% of late fees are the family's responsibility). Make a check payable for the following remainders to "MMS-UCC":

### YOUR CHECK AMOUNTS (PAYABLE TO MMS-UCC)

#### TURNED IN TO PASTOR LEAH

- For Discovery Camp, please write a check for \$80 before April 27th or \$91 after.
- For Primary Camp, please write a check for \$91.50 before April 27th or \$106.50 after.
- For CILT A (ages 17-18), please write a check for \$90 before April 27th or \$105 after.

- For Family Camp, please pay half of any participant's registration amount and register by April 27th.
- For all other Mo-Val site camps (including Lower Junior, Junior, Upper Junior, Outback G56, Outback G78, Middle School, High School, CILT B and Adventures in Community), please write a check for \$180 before April 27th or \$210 after.
- For Shannondale site camps (kayak and canoe), contact Shannondale as instructed and talk to Pastor Leah. St. Peter's will pay half of their early-bird registration amount.



Why are we saying April 27<sup>th</sup> if the registration form says that the early-bird deadline is May 2<sup>nd</sup>? Because camp registration forms have to be signed by a pastor, and accompanied by a check for the church portion as well, we need the extra time for turn-around in St. Peter's church office. To ensure that we get your forms to camp by Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, we're asking for them by Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your help on this!

**Step Five:** Contact Pastor Leah if additional financial assistance is needed. Please do not be embarrassed by this. Pastor Leah, herself, attended church camp for the first time only because her church could offer additional financial assistance. We have persons who are very willing to help you too, go to camp!

**Step Six:** Turn your registration forms and checks in to Pastor Leah. **DO NOT MAIL THESE TO CAMP MO-VAL DIRECTLY.** Pastor Leah will sign each camper's registration form, make note of when the camper is going to camp for church records and mail all forms as she receives them (do not worry - she will get these out of her hands and on their way to camp as quickly as possible to secure your camper's spot)!

**Step Seven:** Camp Mo-Val will mail you additional forms (health form, packing list, covenant, etc.) as the date for your camp approaches. Tell your camper they're going to have a great time! If they have any questions or concerns about camp, Pastor Leah will be glad to talk to them or to parents.



# 2011 CAMP SCHEDULE: "Got Spirit?" Finding God in the Everyday

**Please Note:** It is important to the experience of Christian community we strive for in all of our camping programs that campers plan to attend the full session for which they are registered. Please consider this when selecting your session(s). *This year fees INCLUDE T-shirts and camp photos!*

		<b>BEST DEAL</b>	
		<u>On or Before 5/2</u>	<u>(After 5/2)</u>
<b>CAMPS for YOUNGER CHILDREN</b>			
1.	June 12-14 (grades 1-2)	Discovery Camp Mimi Anderson & Melinda Schuster	\$160 (\$171)
2.	June 15-18 (grades 2-3)	Primary Camp Mimi Anderson & Susan Solsten	\$183 (\$198)
3.	July 10-16 (grades 3-4)	Lower Junior Camp Dana Buchanan & Mark Miller	\$360 (\$390)
<b>CAMPS for YOUNGER and OLDER CHILDREN TOGETHER</b>			
4.	June 19-25 (grades 3-5)	Junior Camp Karin Oelzen	\$360 (\$390)
<b>CAMPS for OLDER CHILDREN</b>			
5.	June 26-July 2 (grades 4-6)	Upper Junior Camp Rev. Betsy Happel & Rev. Chris Ross	\$360 (\$390)
6.	July 10-16 (grades 5-6)	Outback (G56) Rev. Brad Urban	\$360 (\$390)
7.	July 17-23 (grades 4-6)	Upper Junior Camp Rev. Carole Barner & Rev. Rick Oberle	\$360 (\$390)
<b>CAMPS for YOUTH</b>			
8.	June 1-4 (ages 17-18)	Campers in Leadership Training Rev. Leah Bilinski	\$180 (\$195)
9.	June 12-18 (age 15-17)	Campers in Leadership Training CILT Leadership Team	\$360 (\$390)
10.	June 26-July 2 (grades 7-8)	Outback (G78) Melanie Moehmann	\$360 (\$390)
11.	July 3-9 (grades 9-12)	High School Camp Dawn Henerfauth & Delaine Young	\$360 (\$390)
12.	July 10-14 (grades 8-10)	Canoe Camp @ Shannondale Sponsored by Shannondale Community Center <i>Please Register directly with Shannondale</i>	
13.	July 24-30 (grades 6-8)	Middle School Camp Rev. Polly McWilliams & Rev. Joe Rowley	\$360 (\$390)
<b>OTHER CAMPS</b>			
14.	May 27-30 (all ages)	Family Camp Phil Barbier & Melissa Dooley	<b>rates vary*</b> as below
15.	June 5-10 (age 18+)	Age 16 - Adult = \$160, Age 10-15 = \$137, Age 4-9 = \$112, Age 3 and Under = Free [* please add \$8 per person to fee for Registrations after May 2] Adventures in Community #1 Rev. Sue Leary & Rev. Bruce Moeller	\$360 (\$390)
16.	August 14-19 (age 18+)	A Camp for Adults with Special Needs - <b>Separate Registration Required</b> Adventures in Community #2 Rev. Rick Meyer A Camp for Adults with Special Needs - <b>Separate Registration Required</b>	\$360 (\$390)

▶ The **Best Deal** in the Conference? **REGISTER** on or **before MAY 2nd!** (Fees increase after May 2.)  
 ▶ All grades **LISTED** are the grade **COMPLETED** by this summer.  
 ▶ All camps will be held at **Camp Mo-Val**, unless otherwise noted above or below.  
 ▶ **All Fees INCLUDE T-Shirts and Photos this year!**

## SPECIAL EVENTS @ SHANNONDALE: CANOE AND KAYAK CAMPS

FOR EACH OF THESE CAMPS:  
 Please Register Directly with Shannondale Community Center  
 HC 62, Box 340, Salem, MO 65560  
 Office Phone: (573) 858-3284

June 13-16 (age 19+)	Kayak Camp
June 27-30 (age 19+)	Kayak Camp
#July 10-14 (grades 8-11)	Canoe Camp

## Financial Report 2/28/11

Financials	Atrium Fund as of 2/28/11
<b>Heritage Community Bank Balance</b>	\$855,340.41
<b>Monthly Payment</b>	\$5,950.00
<b>Promissory Notes Balance</b>	\$7,000.00
<b>Rott Foundation Loan Balance</b>	\$28,847.89
<b>Quarterly Payment</b>	\$4,204.69



General & Benevolent Fund:	February	YTD	2011 Budget	% Budget Reached
Total Receipts	28,544.19	56,947.27	387,966	14.68
Total Disbursements	35,066.19	67,426.02	424,748	15.87

Please note that revenue is currently not meeting expenses. Your attention is appreciated.

### 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 (Merchandize Pickup Service) Box is in the parking lot.

Schnucks escrip cards - inquire at Schnucks for more information.

Sign up for being a liturgist /altar flowers and/or bulletins on a new bulletin board in the rear of the sanctuary.

If you are hospitalized and want the pastors to know, please call 239-6176. Please don't assume the pastors know about your health concerns or need for a visit.



## 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 April 18, 2011.

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 April 15 to place an order to have the plant delivered to the church on Friday, April 22.)

# April Birthdays

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 David Lause Nicole Menefee	2
3 Rosemary Hirschl Dale Scheible	4 Steven Harms Helen Roewe ZoAnn Trentmann Levera Barnett	5 Kyle McDaniel Parker Owens	6 Rita Bub Melissa Duchatschek Sherry Limbert Larry Pogue Jessica Rohlfing Evan Brinker Needra Troyer	7 Kenneth Arnold Cassandra Smith Jim Schaffner Linda Johns Wendy Wisdom Alecia Garbs Miles Grimes	8 Kenneth Bierbaum JoEllen Strode	9
10 Robert Holtgreive	11 Cheryl Coleman Magnus Graves Brody Smith	12 Marilyn Lintzenich Dalton Schwentker Luke Kleekamp Juliann Oberkramer	13 Bill Hubbard Carolyn Slack David Scharfenberg Cole Scheidegger	14 Jessica Love Ramona Kruse	15 Tim Schoonover	16 Bonnie Kast Melvin Roewe
17 Thomas Buescher Emeline Heimos Morgan Cowsert	18 Emily Balken Fran Witthaus Chuck Huxol	19 Clarence Eggert Elmer Fleer Ella Speckhals Julia Eckardt	20 Olivia Strode Ella Kroeter	21 Bill Howard	22 Thelma Lucy Donald Slack John Brune Jacob Fagre	23 Timothy Kellermann Grace Sullentrup
24 Matthew Buschman Michele Roewe	25	26 Angela Smith	27 Barbara Bauer Russel Sherman	28 Anthony Hackett Tara Hellmann John Phinney Zane Brune	29 Morgan Hagedorn	30 Neil Door Patricia Friedel Linda Patterson

**Celebrate National Poetry Month and Mother's Day** with a poetry reading by Maria Brady-Smith from her new book, "Becoming". This book is a compilation of poems exploring moments of motherhood.

The reading is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and will be held here at St. Peter's on Monday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.



## St. Peter's to Recognize Graduates



Attention St. Peter's graduating high school and college seniors! We want to celebrate your accomplishments and find out about your plans for the future. Please send a brief paragraph describing your graduation/school/job plans to [marciakoch@yahoo.com](mailto:marciakoch@yahoo.com) by April 21. We would like to include this information in the May newsletter.

## Conference Office Has Moved

The Missouri Mid-South UCC Conference office has moved to a new location on the lower level at Schultz Hall on the campus of Eden Theological Seminary. The new mailing address is: 483 East Lockwood Avenue, Suite 15 - St. Louis, MO 63119

Phone numbers, email addresses, and website remain the same.



## Men and Women's Retreats

Men, it's not too late to RSVP for our annual St. Peter's Men's Ozarks Retreat/Float Trip/Golf Outing/Steak Fry/Service Project/Bonfire, April 15-17. Join those who already are planning to go. Invite your buddies too. Please contact Pastor Paul ASAP at 636-221-7065.

And Ladies, don't forget the Missouri Mid-South Conference Women's Retreat April 29-May 1 at Camp Mo-Val. This event is sponsored by Kirkwood UCC and titled "Grace in Your Face". Pick up a brochure outside the church office. (Registration deadline was April 1 - hurry!)

## A Charming Event

Come to a special evening of shopping and fun at Charming Charlie, the fashion boutique, on April 17. Located at The Meadows at Lake St. Louis, shop to your heart's content for jewelry, purses, shoes, and other fabulous accessories. During A Charming Event, Charming Charlie will open its doors ex-

clusively to Emmaus guests. Your \$15 donation includes a 20% discount on your purchases, as well as appetizers and beverages. Call 636-534-5214 for more information.

Submitted by,  
Patty Wood

**Thank you from CUE**

**Seminaries for the donation of \$913.50 from July to December 2010.**

**And**

**Thank you from the Pension Boards for your gift of \$458.44 given to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund.**

## Hospice Volunteers Needed

Heartland Hospice Services located at 615 Franklin Avenue, Washington, is requesting that anyone interested in volunteering for their organization contact them at 866-896-6151.

Heartland Hospice trains volunteers to spend time with hospice patients. This is done in the context of friendly visiting. Heartland also welcomes volunteers to assist in the hospice office by answering phones, filing, photocopying, faxing, etc.

Call Deanna Coppeans, Volunteer Coordinator, with any questions.

## UCC Global Ministries

*Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. (Isaiah 55:2-3)*

Recently, I joined a Christian environmental group on a field trip to one of Hong Kong's most mysterious destinations – a public dump. Global Ministries missionary Judy Chan reports, a group from our Kowloon Union Church, decided it was important to visit the not-so-beautiful places in the city to understand how our lifestyles impact Hong Kong's environment.

As we approached the landfill area, we saw large garbage trucks coming and going. Entering, we noticed off in the distance what looked like a wide open valley of plots of dirt. Much of it was covered by sea green plastic sheeting. Other areas were covered with grass and trees. We drove in our van (windows closed!) to see the landfill. To my surprise, the grassy spots were 'restored' areas, meaning my family's garbage was buried underneath, covered by layers of heavy plastic, deodorizer and a few feet of soil and now greenery. The areas covered by sea green sheeting were being prepared as areas for garbage to be dumped in the future.

It is clear that the real problem is Hong Kong people produce

too much garbage! It is one of the sins of an affluent society. Despite environmental education campaigns (recycle, reduce, reuse), it appears that people really need to learn the 4<sup>th</sup> "R" – repent! The only thing that has worked so far is making people pay. Plastic bag usage has dropped dramatically since stores began charging 10 cents per bag.

Our chairwoman, is a shining example of simple living. She makes a point of shopping infrequently, and tries to create no rubbish on Sundays. Most importantly, she believes, we must look within and ask ourselves why we need to buy, own and use so much stuff. Our Christian green group doesn't have any easy solutions, but we are working on it. For you see, the environmental crisis is at heart a spiritual matter.

*Global Ministries missionary, Judy Chan is responsible for communications, the ecumenical radio broadcasting ministry, English publications and ecumenical partnerships with the Hong Kong Christian Council.*

## Easter Story Cookies - Pastor Paul's Points

Friends of Faith,

I looked for an Easter poem to include in this *Messenger* and came across this recipe. You will see its ingredients are parts of our proclamation. Perhaps you will bake the Easter cookies with a younger family member. You are invited to bring some of your cookies to share in our Easter children's moment. They will rise in the oven, he is risen!

### Easter Story Cookies

1 cup whole pecans

3 egg whites

zipper baggie

1 tsp. vinegar

1 cup sugar

wooden spoon

pinch salt

tape

Bible

Preheat oven to 300 degrees (this is important - don't wait until you are half done with the recipe!)

Place pecans in zipper baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain the Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is; that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Psalms 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain the Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.

**GO TO BED!** Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

### JELLY BEAN PRAYER

**Red is for the blood He gave.**

**Green is for the grass He made.**

**Yellow is for His sun so bright.**

**Orange is for the edge of night.**

**Black is for the sin we made.**

**White is for the grace He gave.**

**Purple is for His hours of sorrow.**

**Pink is for our "new tomorrow".**

**A bag full of jelly beans, colorful  
and sweet is a prayer, a promise,**

**an Easter treat.**

**Author, Unknown**





# St. Peter's United Church of Christ - April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 5 Worship 5-6 Harvest Table
<b>3</b> 9 Adult Study 10 Worship Sunday School Food Pantry and Aluminum Drives 11 Coffee Hour 6:30-8 High School Youth Group	<b>4</b> 6 AA 6:30 Quilting Rummage Sale set-up	<b>5</b> 9 AA 10:30 Staff Mtg. 7 BCE 7 Social Concerns 7 Cemetery Bd. Rummage sale items accepted until April 12	<b>6</b> Quilting 9 Retired Men's Breakfast 10 Prayer Network 12 Bible Study 5 Wed. Meal 5:45 Chapel Bells 6Weds@St.Pete's 6 AA 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>7</b> 6 AA	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b> 5 Worship 5-6 Harvest Table
<b>10</b> 9 Adult Study 10 Worship Family Sunday 11 Coffee Hour 11:15 Confirmation SS Class to Miller's Grill for lunch 6:30-8 High School Youth Group	<b>11</b> 6 AA 6:30 Quilting 7 Bible Discovery	<b>12</b> 9 AA 10:30 Staff Mtg. 7 Stewardship Last day rummage sale items to be received	<b>13</b> Quilting 12 Bible Study 5 Wed. Meal 5:45 Chapel Bells 6 Weds@St.Pete's 6 AA 6:30 Scout Comm. 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> 4-7 Rummage Sale 6 AA	<b>15</b> 8-4 Rummage Sale Men's Retreat begins	<b>16</b> 8-12 Rummage Sale 5 Worship 5-6 Harvest Table St. Peter's to prepare and staff
<b>17</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9 Adult Study 10 Worship Sunday School 11 Coffee Hour 	<b>18</b> 6 AA 6 MS Support Group 6:30 Quilting 7 Poetry Reading	<b>19</b> 9 AA 10:30 Staff Mtg. 2:30 Cedar Crest	<b>20</b> Quilting 6 AA 6 Chapel Bells 6:45 Vesper Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 9 Newsletter articles due 9 Women's Breakfast 10 Women's Fellowship 10:30 Grandview 6 AA 6:30 Seder Supper	<b>22</b> <b>Good Friday</b> Earth Day 7 Worship 	<b>23</b> 5 Worship 5-6 Harvest Table
<b>24</b> <b>Easter</b> 8:30-9:40 Breakfast 9 Adult Study 8 & 10 Worship Sunday School 11 Coffee Hour	<b>25</b> 6 AA 6:30 Quilting	<b>26</b> 9 AA 10:30 Staff Mtg. 7 Church Council	<b>27</b> Quilting 6 AA 6 Chapel Bells 6:45 Vesper Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>28</b> 6 AA 6:30-8 Scouts	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b> 5 Worship 5-6 Harvest Table