
St. Peter's Messenger

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

Pastor Leah's Perspectives

For those of you who may not know (or who may still be de-toxing after an overly busy celebration of Christmas), Christian churches around the world have entered the season of "Epiphany." It begins with the day of Epiphany, January 6th, the day following the twelfth day of Christmas with its twelve drummers drumming, the day on which we celebrate the coming of the Magi to visit Christ and the revelation that spread throughout the world that indeed, God became "God with us" in Christ.

Some look to the day of Epiphany as a nice *ending* to the Christmas story. But in reality, it is meant to be a beginning – the beginning of the Christian witness to the world of "God with us," a time for us, as I said last year, to 1) let the light of Christ into our lives in order to gain perspective, and 2) let the light of Christ out – "that the reign of God's steadfast love, come to earth, might be unveiled in all the world."

And so Epiphany is a season not to be missed or snoozed through as we take a mental break between Christmas and Lent or Christmas and Easter. It's a time to unwrap the gift God has given us in Christ and live it before the world (in a way that makes others know it as a gift too).

Ann Weems says it nicely, I think, when she says, "The church *is* Epiphany. We are the Magi...The birth of the Lord burst in upon our ordinary lives like fireworks in the snow." What a beautiful image! And what a beautiful call – for that beautiful fireworks show, bursting forth and shining brightly for all to see, wasn't just a one-time show and limited event, but a never-ending revelatory event that fills ears, eyes, and hearts with awe and wonder. And now, we are the fireworks, choosing whether to burst forth with gusto or sputter out in failed witness. The light of Christ revealed to us now seeks to shine forth through us. Will we let it?

How do we let the light of Christ shine through us, here at St. Peter's? Do people sense and see those fireworks in us and the way in which we embrace our faith (both within and outside our church walls)? Do visitors and fellow worshippers sense "God with us" revealed in the way in which we interact with them? Are we big, beautiful fireworks, witnessing to the glory of God, or are we half-hearted fireworks, sputtering out in half commitments to our faith that may serve us just fine, but leave others missing out on that to which they so desperately needed a bold witness?

May God bless the season of Epiphany taking place *through* St. Peter's, giving us courage, resolve and strength to boldly witness to the gift of "God with us."

Financial Report

Year 2010 was an exciting year financially for St. Peter's. When our loan for the atrium came due at First Bank, we were fortunate to obtain a loan with Heritage Community Bank at a much lower interest rate, reducing our monthly payment by \$1,485.00 per month. We also were able to make additional principal payments of \$47,843.00 on this loan. Another principal payment of \$25,000.00 will be made by the end of January.

Capital contributions are exciting, however, our operating budget was a bit strained as weekly receipts were 8% below the 2010 budget. Total general fund receipts were 91% of the budgeted amount, while general fund expenditures were at 98% of budget. Please know your weekly offerings are also vitally important. Readers may review the end of year financial report elsewhere in the "St. Peter's Messenger." May we all take the time to thank God for our blessings.

Carrol Ocsody, Treasurer

Editor: Laura Placht
February 2011

Special points of interest:

- *Pastor Leah Bilinski and Jamie Bilinski will give a talk on their recent trip to Israel at the next Women's Fellowship meeting, February 10 at 10 a.m.*
- *Sign-up sheets to volunteer for the Atrium Coffee Hour are available in the Atrium each Sunday.*
- *Plan now to attend the St. Peter's Men's Retreat at Shannondale April 15-17, 2011.*



God
is
still
speaking,

Coffee Hour Helpers Needed



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.

Thank you,
Hospitality Ministry Team



Food Pantry Report

The food pantry received many generous donations during the month of December. We would like to thank everyone who made a donation: Christopher and Tracey Jackson, Ted and Julie Overschmidt, American Legion Post 218 Honor Guard, American Legion Post 218 Operations Committee, Mel and Betty Edwards, Don and Phyllis Northington, Jim and Hazel Schaffner, Judy and Ray Eickmeyer, St. Peter's Quilters, Homestead at Hickory View, The Mariner's Club, Franklin County Area United Way, John and

Mary Liz Blumer, Quality Masonry, Schroeder Drug, Jim and Ruth Konrad, Dave and Linda Sentivany, Alvin and Marian Gerling, Gene and Kay Hunt, Mark and Susan Kassebaum and Family, Jenny and Tim Huellinghoff and Family, Nate Crannick, Christine Howard, the Thanksgiving Day Committee, and anonymous donors. Your generosity makes it possible for us to help those who come to us in need.

Judy Schneider - Food Pantry Ministry Team
Coordinator

Women's Fellowship News / Prayer Network

The next Women's Fellowship meeting will be on February 10 at 10 a.m. Leah and Jamie Bilinski will give a talk on their recent trip to Israel. A soup and corn bread luncheon will be served afterwards. The Women's Breakfast at Cowan's will be on February 17 at 9 a.m. The Women's Fellowship will welcome any newcomers if you are interested. Join us for a morning of fellowship and devotion and a good luncheon. We have a variety of programs scheduled throughout the year and a good time is had by all. So come and join us for a meeting to see if you would be interested in what we have to offer.

Cheryl Keller

Women's Fellowship Secretary



The Prayer Network Ministry Team will meet on February 2 at 10 a.m. All are welcome both to join our Prayer Network 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 239-7750.

A Thought: God, grant us your guidance in uncertain times. Amen.

Musical Notes

Thank you to the following people for providing Special Music in January: June Wilson, Maggie Noud, Hank Anderson, Vince Sanfilippo, and Cecil Blankenship.

The tentative schedule for February is:

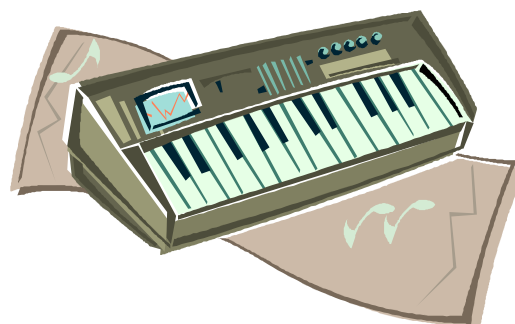
2-6 Leah Bilinski

2-13 Maggie Noud

2-20 Patti Fleer

2-27 Cecil Blankenship

Levere Barnett - Director of Music



Financial News

| Financials | Atrium Fund as of 12-31-10 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Heritage Community Bank Balance | \$885,591.37 |
| Monthly Payment | \$5,950.00 |
| Promissory Notes Balance | \$7,000.00 |
| Rott Foundation Loan Balance | \$28,847.89 |
| Quarterly Payment | \$4,204.69 |



| General & Benevolent Fund: | December Expenses | YTD Expenditures | 2010 Budget | % Budget Reached |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Total Receipts | 42,055.15 | 376,239.39 | 415,475 | 90.99 |
| Total Disbursements | 42,784.79 | 406,725.11 | 415,475 | 97.89 |

Thank You Notes

Dear Friends in Christ,

How excited and moved Dorothy and I became when we read and re-read the many cards of expression of best wishes for Don's quick recovery --- cards from many of our dear friends from the churches we have served and do serve. Thanks much for your concern, your sensitive thoughts, and prayers. And for the lovely, loving words of your cards. Reading your thoughtful, loving words was healing and uplifting. Thank you, and we pray you and yours are experiencing God's blessings in these wintry days.

Affectionately,
Pastor Don and Dorothy Crismon

St. Peters,

On behalf of all of us associated with TEMCO we again want to take this time to say "Thank You" for the use of your dining hall on December 8 for our Annual TEMCO Employee Christmas Banquet.

As always, the evening proves to be a great time for everyone: our staff, our Board members, special invited guests, but most importantly, our special employees.

We are most grateful for the kind and generous hospitality shown us over the years. Please accept this \$50 gratuity toward your Atrium Fund as a small thank you from all of us associated with TEMCO.

Robert Engemann

Free Income Tax Services

The St. Louis Tax Assistance Program offers free electronic income tax return preparation and tax information for a family with income under \$50,000. You may get a refund, even if you had no taxes withheld!

Here is all you need to bring: W-2's and 1099's, Copy of 2009 tax return, copy of your check for direct deposit of refund, valid picture identification for taxpayer and spouse, proof of child care expenses, social security cards or individual taxpayer identification number for all family members, if joint return, both spouses must attend to sign return.

TAP does not prepare income tax returns for taxpayers who have: incomes over \$50,000, rental property, claim itemized deductions, sales of stocks or bonds, self-employment income from a trade or business requiring Schedule C.

Tax Service location, dates, and times: Saturdays from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. on February 5, 18, and 26.

Washington High School

600 Blue Jay Drive

[Http://www.stlouistap.org](http://www.stlouistap.org)

UCC Global Ministries

Caterpillar Dinner

Written by Ann Nichols

...the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

Back in my Peace Corps days, I vowed to eat anything offered in home hospitality, says Global Ministries volunteer, Ann Nichols. This seemed especially important when the invitation was from a family with limited resources who had prepared food especially for the guests. I have eaten some interesting things under that rule, but I had never before been faced with a bowl of roasted caterpillars, and my own vow. I did manage to get half of one down. Fortunately, I had only put two on my plate.

This happened in Caroline's home. She is a big-hearted Zambian woman I met recently. She asked if I had visited in a Zambian home yet, and when I said I hadn't, she invited me to her home. She came with a baby tied around her back in a colorful cloth sling. We walked out of the compound, down the road, onto a dirt path through a market, down more dirt roads, to another market where she bought some local eggplants, onions, and the caterpillars. Mountains of caterpillars. As we walked to Caroline's home I thought about trust – trust in God and trust in others. I knew I would safely arrive at Caroline's house, and that I would survive eating the caterpillars. But I was to learn much more about trust from Caroline.

Caroline and her husband have 3 children of their own, ages 1, 4, and 7, and they feed, clothe, educate and support 12 orphans, none related to their family, in their rented 2-room home. The orphans range in age from 2 to 16. I learned about a very different level of trust from Caroline: that somehow the family would have something to eat each day, that the school fees could be paid for every child, and that they will somehow get by. Caroline explained that she was helped by others when she was growing up, so that is why she is able to know everything is in God's plan. Caroline says that she lives by faith, and God has never let her down. I now try to practice the kind of trust that Caroline lives by each and every day.

Pray for a growing faith and trust like Caroline's that makes our world a better place.

Ann Nichols serves as a long-term volunteer with the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe, Zambia teaching social work and leadership development.

St. Peter's Men's Retreat at Shannondale

When: April 15-17, 2011

Where: Shannondale Tree Farm and Retreat Center, Shannon County, Missouri

Who: Men from ages 14 and up - Our group will be joined by men in other groups

Why: 1.) Spiritual Growth 2.) Fellowship 3.) Recreation and Fun 4.) Great Eating
5.) Service to the Shannondale community 6.) Opportunity to recharge

Cost: \$60 per person - Includes Lodging and Food - Please contact Pastor Paul at 636-221-7065 or pk24601@yahoo.com

About Shannondale: Shannondale Retreat Center is a Mission project of the Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC serving the spiritual, educational, and economic needs of Shannon and the surrounding counties through its many functions. Shannondale also encompasses the Bucher Memorial Tree Farm, the oldest continuing tree farm in the state of Missouri. The tree farm illustrates our continuing commitment to God's land and its resources. The Wobus Crafts Center was established to serve as an outlet for local artisans to supplement their incomes. The center features baskets, woodwork, quilts, and other handmade items. Shannondale provides varied lodging arrangements for families and groups on service projects, work camps, or retreats.

Shannondale is about 40 miles south of Rolla, MO, near the Ozark National Scenic Riverway.

Lodging: Dormitory-style air-conditioned bedrooms. Please bring your own bedding and pillow.

Camp sites with and without electrical hook-ups are available.

Meals: Meals will be family style

Work Projects: Work projects will depend on the number of men and the skills of the men attending. Please let Paul know what specific skills you can provide.

Men's retreat at Shannondale Schedule of events:

Friday - April 15 Drive down to Shannondale. Car pools are encouraged for safety and fellowship. Arrive at Shannondale - Get familiar with the location and the other men at the Orientation meeting.

Saturday - April 16 Hearty Breakfast, 8-12 Work projects at Shannondale, Lunch

Afternoon Activities: Canoeing on the Current River - Extra Cost - \$20 per person,

Hiking, Golf - Extra Cost, volleyball, wiffleball, enjoying the outdoors, relaxing and conversation

Program/Evening Campfire/ Star gazing/ Conversation

Sunday - April 17

Breakfast, clean up, church service at Shannondale UCC, head back home

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.

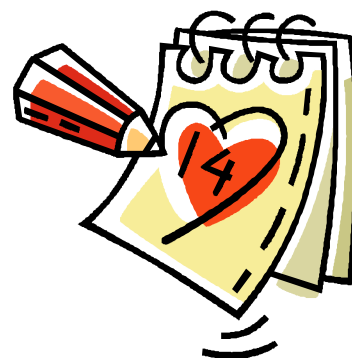
The MPS (Merchandise Pickup Service) Box is in the parking lot.

Schnucks escrip cards - inquire at Schnucks for more information.

Sign up for altar flowers and /or bulletins by the Market Street hallway doors.

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.



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

Church Council Minutes

14 December 2010

The regular stated meeting was called to order by Council President Menefee with a quorum of council member's present, staff in attendance –Ministerial staff: Pastor Paul

The meeting opened at or about 7:05 p.m. in the Dining meeting room with an invocation by Pastor Paul.

- The minutes for the 19 October 2010 and 16 November 2010 regular meetings were distributed reviewed and approved as published.

The financial report was read and approved. Overall SPUC is on target with the budget for 2010. An additional principle payment was made on the Atrium.

Pastoral Report

Pastor Paul's report was published with the Council agenda and approved as written.

Correspondence presented for review or comment:

- A request from Harvest Table was received. They are asking to serve meals every Saturday due to the need. After discussion; a motion was made by Roewe to permit weekly meals, seconded by Briggs, the motion passed

- A request by Pastor Paul to be allowed to use his remaining vacation, he is asking to use some remaining 2010 vacation time in 2011. Days requested by Paul: 22 - 23 December and 04 - 05 January 2011. A motion was made by Kerr, seconded by, the motion passed.

- Discussion regarding church office closure on 27 December 2010 and 03 January 2011, no motion required simple administrative approval needed. The Council approved.

- A request from Carol to give Standard Office Machines the old duplicator. After discussion it was decided is to be offered to other churches first.

Old Business:

- Landscape repairs to the 5th & Market parking area are on hold due to weather.

- Buildings & Grounds are looking into new fixtures for illumination in the front of the Sanctuary. New and replacement signage from Show-Me Trophies is in the process of manufacture,

- Maintenance technician Dave Butler is in the process of replacing Sanctuary light bulbs.

- The purchase of computers is ongoing- pricing is being evaluated.

New Business:

- Assignments to the Mission Team Categories:

Teaching - Briggs and Houchins

Growing – Stockglausner, Dawson and Harms

Caring - Steibel, Roewe, Croson and Harms

Worshiping - Sincox, Zick and Fleer

Service and Sharing - Dawson, Ocsody and Croson

- Annual reports from Church boards and committees are due not later than 12 January 2011.

- In response to a request at the Fall Congregational meeting it was recommended that a weekly income update be placed in the service bulletins.

- The Council approved purchase of twelve (12) books titled "The Present Future" to provide information to assist in the visioning process.
- Mission team listings will be published in the Annual Report. All members signing the team sheets will be invited to the January leadership meeting.

Board and Committee reports were received from the following:

- Cemetery Board: An inquiry was made by the board as to whether the church furnace has been serviced; this question will be forwarded to maintenance.
- Buildings & Grounds: Tuck pointing on the east wall is completed; work on the north wall has started with mortar removal, grouting will be performed when the weather warms. Roof materials are ordered and soon to arrive, repair will not begin until the weather warms. When the rock was removed from the roof the leak locations were found and repaired. The temporary repairs are currently holding. Per President Menefee's recommendation this information should be passed on to the congregation.
- Christian Education, Internal Review and Stewardship: No reports

Committee Reports:

- Social Concerns: The Plowsharing sale netted \$10,673. This is the biggest Plowsharing sale in Missouri; Social Concerns will receive 10% to use for missions.

An A.L.I.V.E. family was adopted; gifts and household items were given to a mother and two children. A letter of appreciation was received from the family.

42 residents from Emmaus Home received gifts.

48 youth hygiene kits were made and sent to the Franklin County Division of Family Services. All the donations were from SPUCC members.

A large number of gifts were sent to Every Child's Hope, all donations were from SPUCC members,

- Worship: scheduling for ushers and greeters is being completed for January
- Evangelism, Pastoral Relations, Staff Relations, Kitchen, Nominating, Church and Ministry had no reports

President Menefee thanked the Council members for their support, advice, help, direction, efforts and prayers for the past two years he served as Council President. He asked the Council continue to firmly support the pastors and each other in the mission of the church.

The Council was adjourned at 9:00 pm with a benediction and by a motion from Roewe, seconded by Briggs; motion passed.

A meeting of the 2011 Council was called to order by Vice-President Briggs for the purpose of organizing the officer corps. Officers elected for the ensuing year were: Council President – Chad Briggs, Vice- President – Rhonda Stockglausner, Treasurer – Carrol Oscody and Recording Secretary -Donna Houchins.

Submitted:

Fleer

Recording Secretary

Approved: 18 January 2011

Church Address:

20 East Fifth Street
Washington, MO 63090

St. Peter's UCC Office

Phone: 636-239-6176
Fax: 636-239-7494
Email: office@stpeters-ucc.org

Pastor Paul

Cell: 636-221-7065
Home: 636-390-2783
Email: pastorpaul@stpeters-ucc.org

Pastor Leah

Cell and email provided in bulletin or contact via website

Messenger and Website:

Laura Placht
Email: lplacht@fidnet.com
Website: stpeters-washington.org



“For God so loVed the world,
That He gAve
His onLy
BegottEn
SoN
That who so ever
Believeth In Him
Should Not perish,
But have Everlasting life.”

John 3:16

Do More

- Do more than belong: participate.
- Do more than care: help.
- Do more than believe: practice.
- Do more than be fair: be kind.
- Do more than forgive: forget.
- Do more than dream: work.

William Arthur Ward



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------|---|--|
| | | 1 | 2 Bryanna Winfree Benjamin Geisert | 3 Cheryl Gillig | 4 | 5 Brenda Brinker Parker Smith Ryan Lause Callie Briggs |
| 6 Robert Hackett Maggie Behr Aaron Koch | 7 Briana Juergens | 8 | 9 Hank Anderson | 10 | 11 Stephanie Roehrs Amy Hellmann | 12 Evelyn Mayer Evelyn Hipp |
| 13 Jeffrey Fox James Heisel Logan Monzyk Deanne Kriete Elliot Ritchey Ruth Tuepker Angela Sullentrup | 14 June Wilson Allison Montgomery Alyce Menefee Marcia Koch | 15 Samantha Roewe John Uhrmann Bernie Westhoelter Rebecca Meisenheimer | 16 Rodney Bargaen Gloria Kappelmann Ronald Montgomery Barbara Schroepfer Danielle Mooney | 17 | 18 Dutch Borcherding Leroy Eggert Joline Logan | 19 Elena Roewe Trent Wacker |
| 20 Charles Sincox Leola Stolte Chad Briggs | 21 Florence Kempf | 22 Marge Jones Daniel Roewe Lauren Schonaerts Nancy Pope Kenneth Juergens | 23 Kali Alexander | 24 Sheila Smith | 25 Andrea Carey Clifford Mueller Rodney Schwentker | 26 Karen Hubbard Lisa Wolking Deborah Wright |
| 27 Patti Fler | 28 James Heinrich Alex Ocsody Betty Stuesse William Verdine | | | | | |

February 2011

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|
|  | | <u>1</u> 9 AA 10:30 Staff 7 BCE 7 Social Concerns | <u>2</u> Quilting 9 Retired Men's Breakfast Cowan's 10 Prayer Network 12 "Great Decisions" 6 AA 6 Journeymen 6 Chapel Bells 6:30 Scout Committee 6:45 Vesper Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir | <u>3</u> 6 AA | <u>4</u> 8:30 a.m. Pastors Forum with Care & Counseling 8 p.m. High School Youth Lock-In | <u>5</u> 8 a.m High School Youth Lock-In Ends 5-6 Harvest Table Serves 5 Worship |
| <u>6</u> 9 Adult Study 10 Worship Sunday School Food Pantry and Aluminum Drives 11 Coffee Hour Scout Sunday | <u>7</u> 6 AA 6:30 Quilting | <u>8</u> 9 AA 10:30 Staff 5:30 Mariners 6:30 Council Planning | <u>9</u> Quilting 12 "Great Decisions" 6 AA 6 Journeymen 6 Chapel Bells 6:45 Vesper Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir | <u>10</u> 10 Women's Fellowship 6 AA | <u>11</u> | <u>12</u> 5-6 Harvest Table Serves 5 Worship |
| <u>13</u> 9 Adult Study 10 Worship Family Sunday 11 Coffee Hour 11:30 Adult Sunday School Fellowship Luncheon @ Miller's Grill 6:30-8 HS Youth Group | <u>14</u> 6 AA 6:30 Quilting 7 Bible Discovery  | <u>15</u> 9 AA 10:30 Staff 2:30 Cedar Crest 7 Church Council | <u>16</u> Quilting 12 Bible Study 6 AA 6 Journeymen 6 Chapel Bells 6:45 Vesper Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir | <u>17</u> 9 Women's Breakfast Cowan's 10:30 Grandview 6 AA | <u>18</u> | <u>19</u> 5-6 Harvest Table Serves 5 Worship Conference Youth Event at Mo-Val begins |
| <u>20</u> 9 Adult Study 10 Worship Sunday School 11 Coffee Hour 11:15 Confirmation (mentors not needed) | <u>21</u> Office Closed 6 AA 6-8 MS Support Group 6:30 Quilting | <u>22</u> 9 AA 9 Newsletter Articles Due 10:30 Staff | <u>23</u> Quilting 12 Bible Study 6 AA 6 Journeymen 6 Chapel Bells 6:45 Vesper Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir | <u>24</u> 6 AA | <u>25</u> | <u>26</u> 5-6 Harvest Table Serves 5 Worship 6 Blue and Gold Set-up |
| <u>27</u> 9 Adult Study 10 Worship Sunday School 11 Coffee Hour Scout Blue & Gold Banquet | <u>28</u> 6 AA 6:30 Quilting |  | |  | | |