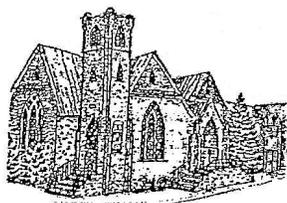


THE LETTERS OF SAINT PETER



SAINT PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 OWENSVILLE, MISSOURI
<http://stpetersucc.yolasite.com>
stpeters@fidnet.com

Worship Services at a glance:

- Sunday, 1/3, 8 & 10 a.m.
- Sunday, 1/10, 8 & 10 a.m.
- Sunday, 1/17, 8 & 10 a.m.
- Sunday, 1/24, 8 & 10 a.m.
- Sunday, 1/31, 8 & 10 a.m.

Inside this issue:

From Pastor Char	1
Pastoral Search Committee	2
Evangelism Committee	3
Mission of the Month	3
2016 Offering Envelopes	3
Second Annual Cookie Sale Wrap Up	4
Pantry Suggestions	4
Did You Know?...	4
Annual Congregational meeting	5
Salvation Army Bell Ringing	5
Inclement Weather	5
To Start a New Year	5
Thanks Go To...	6
SOUPER Bowl	7
Coffee Sales for INESIN	7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Contact Update Request	7
Epiphany: History & Today	8
Proposed Bylaw Changes	9,10
St. Peter's Month at-a-glance	11
January Scripture Readings	12

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



JANUARY 2016

From Pastor Char

We begin the season of Epiphany – which traditionally begins on January 6, when we recognize the visit to Jesus of the wise men or magi (we will recognize this on Sunday, January 3). The word *epiphany* is from a Greek word and means “manifestation” or “revelation. Three scripture readings we will hear in the next few weeks are particularly connected to Epiphany: through the visit from the Magi, Christ revealed himself to the gentiles; in the Baptism of Jesus, he is revealed to the world as God's own Son; and there is the miracle of Jesus turning water into wine, often considered a manifestation of Christ's divinity. In the midst of this season, we sing of stars and Christ being the light of the world!

At the same time, we begin a new calendar year which people often use as an opportunity to make resolutions or commitments to change. It is a wonderful opportunity to make a commitment to spend time reflecting on where we see Christ being manifested or revealed in our personal lives. What do you need to do to help yourself see the presence of Christ – is it in more quiet, meditation time; is it in listening more intently to the concerns of people around you; is it in reading more scripture and connecting it to current life circumstances? Consider making such a resolution for the new year!

We will gather for our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 17, after the 10 am worship service. The Reports will be available on January 10. As you read the reports and listen to conversation, I invite you to reflect on the times and places where you can sense that the presence of Christ has been in the midst of our activities. When do you feel that we have been living most faithfully as disciples, witnessing to God's presence in the world? How can we be more faithful in the year ahead?

St. Peter's has been blessed. May we be a blessing to others!

Pastor Char

Pastoral Search Committee Update

The past couple of months have been busy ones for your Pastoral Search Committee. Since completing our church's profile in September, we have received several profiles from ministers interested in serving here.

Each candidate profile takes quite a bit of time for each member of the committee to read through on their own. Then, we meet together to discuss them. We base our discussion on the church needs and personal characteristics identified in our church's profile. You may recall that all members of St. Peter's had an opportunity to express their needs in a congregational survey prior to the committee completing the church profile. If you want, you can find the profile on the St. Peter's website, or talk to the church office to view a copy. You also can see the online posting of the opening at St. Peter's by going to the Search and Call section of the United Church of Christ website, www.UCC.org.

Of the pastoral profiles the Search Committee has discussed, only a couple are still under consideration. We're also still regularly receiving new profiles. The committee has reached out to two candidates for telephone interviews. Thanks to some tech help, the committee was able to conduct those interviews using Skype, so we were able to both see and hear the candidates. Videos and audio recordings of sermons also help us get a sense of the candidates. Further discussion and reference checking are required before moving forward with any personal interviews.

Finding just the right candidate is a group decision, and those types of discussions and decisions take time. All members of the committee have been dedicated, active participants in all phases of this process, and I expect that to continue into this New Year. Although much of the process at this time must be confidential (we cannot discuss any individual candidate), we certainly need your active support and encouragement. The members of the committee are: Angie Binkhoelter, Carol Nowack, Ron Vitoux, Marcie Wallace, Bob Niebruegge, Mike Balluff and Laura Hengstenberg.

With God's help, and your continued prayers, we'll find the pastor that St. Peter's needs.

Laura Hengstenberg
Search Committee Chairperson

Evangelism Committee

Ways to a more fulfilling life!

On Saturday, January 30th the Evangelism Committee of St Peter's is sponsoring a workshop presented by Beverley Bloemke. This will be an interactive, faith based workshop sharing methods and ways of thinking which will lead to a happier and more fulfilling life.

More information on the Workshop and on Beverley will be on the bulletin board in the Narthex. This will be held from 10AM until noon and is open to the public. Should be interesting and fun! Tell your friends!

Mission of the Month

Our Mission of the Month for January is the Owensville-Rosebud Ministerial Alliance.

The Owensville-Rosebud Ministerial Alliance is our local ecumenical group in which the ministers from all churches in the Owensville-Rosebud area are welcome to participate. The group meets on the third Wednesday each month at First Baptist Church.

The Ministerial Alliance offers vouchers to those in need to assist with gasoline, prescriptions, emergency food, one-night hotel stays, and traveler's aid. The group also administers the community Salvation Army funds (once a week at Helping Hands Outreach Center) that assist with utilities, rent, and recovering from fire damage.

Additionally, the Ministerial Alliance has representatives to Helping Hands Outreach Center and the CARE (Community Awareness and Resource Exchange) Team of Gasconade County.

Members of the Ministerial Alliance assist with the monthly "Food Mart" (distribution of food from the Saint Louis food bank) and distribution of Bibles at Operation Christmas.

Members of the group help with the organization of our annual CROP event.

The group also organizes the annual community Thanksgiving and Good Friday worship services, as well as annual community Christmas caroling.

The Ministerial Alliance helps facilitate baccalaureate services for each year's graduating class of Owensville High School and has taken on offering the community's Back-to-School Fair for families in need of school supplies.

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the back of church. The numbering system will not be the same as the past, so consult the alphabetical list to be sure you get the correct envelopes. Your name and address will be on the front. If you did not receive envelopes and would like them, contact the church office.

Second Annual Christmas Cookie Sale Wrap Up



A huge thank you from the Mission Committee for the unbelievable response for the 2nd annual Christmas Cookie sale!! The number, variety and deliciousness of the cookies you all baked was nothing short of phenomenal! We got so many compliments! People could not believe how beautiful they were, how many we had and the variety! We all are still getting comments when we run into people around town

and on the Event's Facebook page as well. People are saying we should do a cookbook...that they would buy it! Something to consider! And many are telling us....I wish I would have bought more! We have some fantastic and creative bakers and candy makers! Thanks for taking the time to share your wonderful goodies with us!

We had 13 tables FULL of cookies....by the end of the 3 hours of the sale, we were down to 4! We took in \$1707.50 which is \$700 more than last year. We offered cookies to the congregation on Sunday morning and so many people responded with very, very generous donations! On Sunday morning we took in \$480 in donations making a grand total of \$2187.50...more than twice what we took in last year.

Thank you to all who baked, bought, spread the word, distributed fliers and shared on Facebook and by word of mouth. Word of mouth is the way this is going to grow! We will continue with our ads, our fliers etc. but word of mouth by those who enjoyed your wonderful cookies is how this will get more successful each year.

Pantry Suggestions

Sunday, January 10, we have our monthly collection of Helping Hands Outreach Food Pantry items. Non-perishable items such as soup, canned fruit, etc. are good suggestions.

As always CASH or checks are very welcomed! You will notice the display and collection area set up for these items with a place in which to leave cash donations for the Food Pantry created by the Mission Committee of St. Peters.



Thank you for your continued support of Helping Hands!

Did you know?

Did you know that if you have an IRA and are 70 1/2 years of age or older, you can have your required distributions donated to St. Peter's UCC without declaring it as taxable income? For details consult your IRA or financial manager.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Join us for the Annual Congregational Meeting, January 17 at 11 am, when we will celebrate the ministry of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ!

Salvation Army Bell Ringing



Thank you for the contributions to the Salvation Army Bell Ringing. 85% of money raised remains in our community! Last year, this provided \$11,000 worth of direct assistance to 150 families. In addition, the money funded the Back to School fair which distributed \$4,600 in School Supply Vouchers to students and lice kits for the school nurses to use. Although we do not yet have a total for this year, our income has been running above last year.

Thank you also to those from St. Peter’s who rang the bell: Judy and Mike Balluff, Brad and Jean Baker, Louise Baker, Angie and Kyra Binkhoelter, Auggie and Bonnie Hengstenberg, Carol, Fritzlan, and Ruvia Nowack, Darlene Picraux, Jo Ellen Steiner, and Imy and Ron Vitoux. Also, a thank you to Richard Brueseke who coordinated the logistics for our ringers.

Inclement Weather

It’s that time of year. If the weather is bad and worship has to be cancelled the information will be on KMOV channel 4 and KSDK channel 5 closings lists.

Also, you may call the church (437-2779) and the information will be recorded on the voice mail.



To Start A New Year. Anonymous

"A new year is unfolding—like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within.

Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good—with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others.

As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible—with Your help and guidance."

Thanks Go To...

...**Bonnie Hengstenberg, Nancy Landwehr, Ruth Depperman, and Louise Baker** for assembling the December newsletters.

...**Pastor Char** for always being there at every event during this busy time. For working hard, being our publicist, photo taker and cheerleader. We are so lucky to have you!

Thank you to those who led us in lighting the Advent Wreath : Sarah, Eli Jones and Nancy Landwehr; Marissa West-Derby and Kyra Binkhoelter; Carol, Ruvia and Fritzlan Nowack; Megan Binkhoelter and River West-Derby; Dave, Vickie, and Kimber Mayberry; Janet and Bob Niebruegge., and the children at the 8 am service.

...**Jean Baker, Sara Niebruegge and “crew”** for the wonderful, delightful Advent Tea. Over \$921 was raised to support Helping Hands Food Pantry, Emmaus Homes, and Every Child’s Hope.

...**Jo Ellen Steineker and Bonnie Hengstenberg** for hosting St. Peter’s participation in the Community Christmas Church Tour.

Thank you to Louise Baker, the Joyful Bells, Laurie Riekhof and the choir, including accompanists Jean Baker and Marilyn Pogue, for the wonderful Cantata and Advent/Christmas music. It was magnificent!

...**the Dorcas Circle** – for distributing cookies to our shut-ins.

...**the Sunday School children and teachers** for an exciting Christmas Eve Program.

Thank you to participants in the meaningful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Jean Baker, Marcie Wallace, Mike Balluff, Allison Walker, and projectionist Brad Baker.

...**Rodney Bossaller, Bob Depperman, and Larry Picraux** for all of the work done around the church and parsonage. We appreciate all the things you do that sometimes go unnoticed.

...**Larry Maciejewski and Tom Hengstenberg** for keeping the furnace running and the church warm for us!

...**Pastor Rick Oberle** for being “on call” while Pastor Char was away on vacation.

Please remember that if you see someone “doing good” around church, or on behalf of Saint Peter’s, to submit the information to the church office so we can recognize the person or group on our “thank-you” list.

SOUPER Bowl

The Sunday School invites you and yours to attend the annual SOUPER BOWL Sunday soup lunch, Feb. 7, 2016. We will be offering several kinds of soups as well as desserts. Be checking the bulletin for more details! This is a free will offering soup lunch.



The Souper Bowl of Caring uses the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need.

Buy Coffee and Support the Outreach Ministry to INESIN

You met Lindsey Mercer last June. She has served as a long-term volunteer through UCC Global Ministries with INESIN, a mission partner in Chiapas, Mexico and was at St. Peter's with Elena Martinez. Lindsey will be present with us on January 10, selling local coffee to support her mission efforts. Come and buy!



January 7	Augie Hengstenberg
January 7	Sara Niebruegge
January 15	Cecelia Clancy
January 19	Jim Diestelkamp
January 19	Wayne Bunnors

January 20	Rodney Bossaller
January 23	Sarah Conner
January 24	Mildred Bock
January 26	Reginald Scheel
January 29	Elwood Nicks



January 6	Richard & Betty Faulkner
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January 29	Bill & Carol Griffith
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Up to Date Info?

Does the church have your *updated contact and household information* (change of address, college students moving out, etc.)? If you're not sure, give the church office a call at 573-437-2779 or e-mail stpeters@fidnet.com. Thanks for keeping us up to date!

What is the History of Epiphany?



The first reference to Epiphany in the Latin West is a slighting remark by Clement of Alexandria in *Stromateis*, I, xxi, 45: "There are those, too, who over-curiously assign to the Birth of Our Saviour not only its year but its day..." Origen's list of festivals (in *Contra Celsus*, VIII, xxii) omits any reference to Epiphany. The first reference to an ecclesiastical feast of the Epiphany, in Ammianus Marcellinus (XXI:ii), is in 361.

Thus in the Latin church, the feast of Christmas was established before Epiphany. Over time the western churches decided to celebrate Christmas December 25. The eastern churches continued to treat January 6 as the day marking Jesus's birth.

This has given rise in the west to the notion of a twelve day festival, starting on December 25, and ending on January 6, called the twelve days of Christmas, although some Christian cultures — especially those of Latin America — extend it to 40 days, ending on Candlemas, or February 2 (known as *Candelaria* in Spanish).

Prior to 1970, the Roman Catholic Church (and prior to 1976, the Anglican churches) reckoned Epiphany as an eight-day feast, beginning on January 6 and continuing through the Octave of Epiphany, or January 13.

More recently, Roman Catholics in the United States mark Epiphany on the Sunday after the first Saturday in January (before this the Sunday between January 1 and January 6, in years when there was one, was designated the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus), and all Catholics and Anglicans (along with many other Protestants) now formally end the Christmas season on the Sunday immediately following January 6, or, for American Catholics, the ensuing Monday in years when the Epiphany falls on January 7 or 8. In either case, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord is observed on the latter day, after which the first installment of Ordinary Time begins.

Epiphany Today

Today in Eastern Orthodox churches, the emphasis at this feast is on the shining forth and revelation of Jesus Christ as the Messiah and second person of the Holy Trinity at the time of his baptism. Usually called the Feast of the Theophany, it is one of the great feasts of the liturgical year. "Theophany" comes from the Greek for "God shining forth."

The Irish call this day Little Christmas. In Rome, "Epiphania" was transformed into *Befana*, the great fair held at that season, when *sigillaria* of terracotta or baked pastry were sold (Macrobius I, x, xxiv; II, xlix). In Spain, Cuba and some Latin American countries Epiphany day is called *El Día de Reyes* (Kings' Day, as the Magi are known as the *Los Tres Reyes Magos*) or *Pascua de Negros* (Blackmen Christmas). In Spanish tradition, on this day, the Magi deliver Christmas presents.

THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ST. PETER'S BYLAWS ARE BEING RECOMMENDED BY THE CHURCH COUNCIL TO THE CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS:

In order to more closely reflect the ways in which the governance of St. Peter's UCC is functioning, the following changes are being proposed.

Delete the following portion from the Bylaws which is found in Article II - Administration, Section 3: The Church Council.

m. Standing Boards:

The Council shall have the following Standing Boards: the Board of Elders, composed of three members; the Board of Deacons, composed of three members; the Board of Trustees, composed of three members.

The special task of the **Board of Elders** shall be the care of the spiritual life of the Congregation. They shall assist at the distribution of the Lord's Supper and at the administration of Holy Baptism. As needed, a member of the Board of Elders should be present as a representative of the Congregation at all private services of the Sacraments. As representatives of the Congregation, it is the special duty of the Elders to visit the sick and care for the poor. They shall represent the Congregation in social service and charity organizations of the community.

The **Board of Deacons** is entrusted with the order and conduct of all meetings and services in the Congregation. They shall have charge of the books and programs necessary for such meetings. They are to provide the ushers and supervise their work. They shall ensure that all public offerings are properly received and turned over to the Financial Secretary.

The **Board of Trustees** shall serve on the House and Grounds committee and set an example for the Congregation in the care of the Church buildings, furnishings, and grounds so that the Church is properly and lovingly maintained. The trustees shall have charge of instructing and supervising the custodian.

Rationale for the change - The Council has not worked effectively through Boards for several years. The Council now has 7 members. It appoints a liaison to each of the Standing Committees and as a Council oversees that the work described in the Boards is addressed. To delete The Standing Boards, will also mean editing references to the Boards in any Committee descriptions (for example, The House and Grounds Committee description indicates that it is made up of "the Board of Trustees and a cross-representation of the Congregation and Council". Eliminating the Boards will assume editing a few other Committee descriptions)

Proposed Changes to Article II - Religious Education

Currently the Bylaws say:

Article II - Religious Education

Section 1.Support of the Congregation.

It shall be the duty of the Congregation to set aside at least one hour of each Sunday for a Sunday Church School and to support it in every way possible. In addition, it shall be the duty of the Congregation to provide other religious instruction during the week as deemed appropriate.

Section 2.Board of Christian Education.

The Board of Christian Education, in consultation with the Pastor, plans, implements, and otherwise directs the total educational program of the Church, which includes responsibility for the Sunday Church School, the Vacation Church School, the Youth Ministry and Youth Fellowship(s), as well as all other educational endeavors of the Church.

The Council, after consultation with the Pastor, shall appoint the members of the Board for a term of one year. The Board shall organize itself, determine its own procedures in the area of its jurisdiction, and meet as frequently as it determines is necessary, but not less frequently than quarterly.

Proposed Change, (since we will have no other Boards):

Move Section 2 of Article II above to Article III-Administration, Section 3: The Church Council and list it as a Standing Committee.

Section 3: The Church Council

n. Standing Committees

ix. Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee, in consultation with the Pastor, plans, implements, and otherwise directs the total educational program of the Church, which includes responsibility for the Sunday Church School, the Vacation Church School, the Youth Ministry and Youth Fellowship(s), as well as all other educational endeavors of the Church.

The Council, after consultation with the Pastor, shall appoint the members of the Committee for a term of one year. The Committee shall organize itself, determine its own procedures in the area of its jurisdiction, and meet as frequently as it determines is necessary, but not less frequently than quarterly.

Additional Propose Change to Article II Religious Education: Replace current language in Section 1 above to read as follows:

It shall be the duty of the Congregation to support a Sunday Church School and provide other religious instruction during the week as deemed appropriate.

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>SAINT PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OWENSVILLE, MISSOURI http://stpetersucc.yolasite.com stpeters@fidnet.com on Facebook: St. Peter's UCC Owensville</p>					1	2
3  Holy Communion 8am-Worship 8:45am-Sun. School 10am-Worship	4  4:30pm-Handbells Rehearsal 7pm-Dorcas mtg	5 5:30pm—Search Committee mtg	6  EPIPHANY 5:30pm-Care Center mtg 5:30-7pm- Confirmation 6:45pm-Chancel Choir practice	7 9:30-11:30am- Upper Room Store to benefit  7-8pm Faith and the News	8	9
10 Lindsey Mercer selling coffee Baptism of Christ 8am-Worship 8:45am-Sun. School 10am-Worship 11am-removing of the greens 4-6pm-KLIC, FROG, TACO 	11  4:30pm-Handbells Rehearsal 7pm-Council mtg	12 4:30pm—Mission Committee mtg at Judy Balluff's	13 6:45pm-Chancel Choir practice 	14 9:30-11:30am- Upper Room Store to benefit  6 pm— Board of Christian Ed mtg	15	16
17  Newsletter DEADLINE 8am-Worship 8:45am-Sunday School 10am-Worship 11am Congregational mtg	18  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 4:30pm-Handbells Rehearsal	19	20 5:30-7pm- Confirmation 6:45pm-Chancel Choir practice 	21 9:30-11:30am- Upper Room Store to benefit  HANDS	22	23
24 8am-Worship 8:45am-Sunday School 10am-Worship	25  4:30pm-Handbells Rehearsal	26	27 6:45pm-Chancel Choir practice 	28 9:30-11:30am- Upper Room Store to benefit  HANDS	29	30 10 am—noon “Ways to a More Fulfilling Life” workshop
31 Noisy Offering 8am-Worship 8:45am-Sunday School 10am-Worship						

January Scripture Readings

January 3rd: Second Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 OR Sirach 24:1-12

Psalm 147:12-20 OR

Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9), 1-18

January 6th: Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

January 10th: The Baptism of Christ (First Sunday after Epiphany)

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17th: Second Sunday after Epiphany (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

January 24th: Third Sunday after Epiphany (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

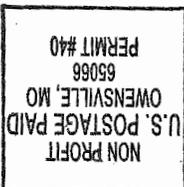
January 31st: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
P. O. Box 151
Owensville, MO 65066
Return Service Requested

