



# St Peter's United Church of Christ

Newsletter

Jan/Feb 2012

## "The Post"

### Pastor Message

"In the bleak midwinter, frosty  
wind made moan'  
Earth stood hard as iron, water  
like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on  
snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long  
ago."

Christina Rossetti's poem inspired a beautiful Christmas carol and offers one perspective on the winter months. Today, however, I woke to a day filled with another perspective. The world was covered in magic. As I drank my morning coffee, I looked out the window at the sparkling white crystals that spun in the wind. A closer look showed me how little snow had really fallen. It was the wind that created the masterpiece, the sparkling, changing drifts that made everything beautiful. A short time later, I heard my almost-5-year-old grandson's "WOW!" as he looked out the window on the landing. It wasn't long before he was standing before me with bright pink cheeks and a big smile... dripping water all over the living room floor from his soggy snow pants. I didn't even need to look to know that there was a snow angel just his size in the middle of the

front yard. Bleak midwinter? I don't think so!  
How much difference our perspective, our attitude makes! Yes, the wind was frosty and moaning, but it also took just a couple inches of snow and transformed the world. The earth was hard as iron, but only to cool the crocus and hyacinth bulbs that need to know winter before they bloom again in the spring. Snow had fallen, and an angel appeared in my yard. "Water like a stone"? In a hockey area like Western New York, do I even have to say anything?

One of the greatest gifts of the Christian life is that of hope. We know that everything comes from a God who loves us, who only seeks to draw us closer. With gratitude-filled hearts, we can look at the world around us through the eyes of a child to see only joyful possibilities. As we come from the season of celebrating our Lord as a little baby, we are gifted with the hope that allows us to follow him, to learn from him, to live our lives by his example.

God's spirit that moved over the face of the earth in the beginning is called "Ruach", the He-

brew word for wind. It only took a little snow to transform the world this morning when the power of the wind took hold. Just a little. We are just a little church...but how might the world be transformed if we allow God's "wind" to move us? To quote my favorite little child of God..."WOW!"

### What's Coming Up?

January 15 – The Church Year, or What Is Advent Anyway?

January 22 - What is a Doxology?, an Explanation of Parts of Worship

January 29 – God Is Still Speaking...Answering the Rest of Your Questions about the Church  
February 5 – Holy Communion, The Souperbowl of Caring, Scout Sunday

February 12 – Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory

February 19 – The Thin Veil  
February 22 – Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

February 26 – The Twelve Steps, A Spiritual Path: Steps 1 + 2

The Sermon Series on the Twelve Steps will continue through all the Sundays in Lent.

### Inside this issue:

Pastors Message 1

Spiritual Story 1

Council Notes 2

Happenings in the Church 2

St Peter's Groups 3

Our Church 3

Events in Our Church 3

Fun Page 4

### "The Park" Spiritual Story by Unknown

There once was a little boy who wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer and he started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman. She was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old lady looked hungry, so he offered her a Twinkie. She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer. Once again she smiled at

him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old woman and gave her a hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever. When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile I've

ever seen!" Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?" She replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." But before her son responded, she added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."



# St Peter's United Church of Christ

## Council Notes Sharon Stewart

As I pass the gavel on to the next President of the Council for 2012, I look back over the last 2 years knowing we accomplished much during 2010 and 2011...both large and small issues were discussed and completed .

It has not always been easy, especially this past year with the Treasurer issues -but it was always made easier with the knowledge that, as a church we would go forward. Perhaps not always in total agreement but always with the spirit of Peace and Love the flows thru St. Peter's. We are a family, and while even in the best of families there are disagreements, the backbone of any family including ours here at St. Peter's, is the strength ,faith and warmth we draw from each other.

Your new council has already selected their officers and are looking

at what they can do to help our church this year...and I am sure they will do much.

I thank everyone for all the support and prayers and help over the last few years; and trust me I am not going anywhere. There is, as always, much we all can do for our church and our God. It's a new year and we all need to stay involved in our families, church and communities.



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## Happenings in the Church

### Monthly Food Donations

Thank you all for your continued support of the monthly food donations. I will be keeping track over the entire year so that we can see, over a year how much we are sharing with those less fortunate....all over Western NY! As most of you know, this month is vegetable month-bring in any type of vegetables .



For the month of February, we are going to do a personal care month. These items can include anything from toothbrushes to shampoo, to soap to feminine products. Bathroom tissue is always needed also; however please remember to buy single rolls or a four pack. Larger packages can not be easily split up for distributing. As food stamps cannot be used for these types of product, there is always a great need for these items. In March-I haven't decided yet...stay tuned!

**Prayers for Nursing Homes Members and Shut-Ins:** Ruth Hawkins, Evie Jacobs. All of our service personnel and their families around the world. **Please Remember others in our Prayers.**

If you know anyone that needs prayer for please send their name to myself at [jstewart@stpetersnt.org](mailto:jstewart@stpetersnt.org) or send their names to St Peter's by the 25th of each month.



### St Peter’s Groups

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

December was a busy month for our Sunday School. We made cards and decorated candy bags for the Sunshine Meals and all participated in our Christmas Pageant. Thanks to the cow, the sheep, the doves ,donkey and camel who all contributed to our program. Thanks to the Moeller family for agreeing to be our Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus! We will be hosting our annual Bowling Party on Sunday, January 22. Please see Tom Glass for details and to sign up!

We will also be collecting for the third annual “Souper Bowl of Sharing” on Super Bowl Sunday! Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

Maryalice Schroeder

#### Breakfast with the Bunny!

All are welcome—we are all young at heart!!!

March 24,,2012  
At  
9:00 AM



#### SUNSHINE MEALS

Please remember to keep the Sunshine Meals and the people who prepare and deliver them in your thoughts. They always can use donations of home cooked food or snacks to go with the meals.

If you leave items at the church please make sure they are tightly wrapped in the freezer and marked. Check with Gloria Dole on the amount of meals being prepared and as always let her know if you know of someone who could use the meals themselves. Volunteers are always needed to help deliver also if that is something you could do to help. And as always cash donations are always welcome!

### Our Church

This report summarizes Fund Raising Activity from November, 2011 through January, 2012.

November 2011 Craft Show –profit reported \$3851.62. Expenses paid for advertising were \$676.58. Awaiting complete report of expenses and income.

Fish Fry 10/21/11-dinners served 194;expenses were \$860.00; profit was \$861.50. We served 2 free dinners and redeemed 5 drawn tickets.

Fish Fry 11/4/11-184 dinners were served. Expenses were \$726.17 and profit was \$821.37.

Additional expenses paid by Fund Raising were:

- 2012 Magnets by Impressive Imprints - \$505.13
- 2012 Magnet mailing postage - \$72.96
- 2012 Canal Fest dues - \$20.00
- Twin City Glass- repairs to rear door - \$370.00
- Twin City Glass- replacement of

Porter Ave. door - \$2356.00

Holiday advertisement Greater Niagara Newspaper - \$67.35

**2011 Charity Donations**

- Make-A-Wish - \$500.00
- NT Interchurch Food Pantry - \$500.00
- Angel Med Flight - \$500.00

Several people suggested a Scholarship for college for worthy St Peter’s students. Further discussion of this donation will need to be done.

Present balance in Fund Raising account is \$27211.90.  
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**I want to say thank you to everyone who sent me cards ,emails and prayers during my recent knee replacement. I know each of them was helpful in my healing process, and it reminds me why being part of St. Peter’s is a great place to be!**

Sandra Durkee, Fund Raising Treasurer

### Events in Our Church

Start telling everyone you know our Spring Fish Fry's are coming up fast!!

March 2, 2012  
March 16, 2012  
March 30, 2012



Chicken –n-Biscuits!!!

January 21, 2012  
February 19, 2012



# Fun Page

## Sunday Worship

10:30 am

Visitors Welcomed, Members Expected

### Food Pantry

Food Pantry day is the first Sunday of every month. Please continue to bring non-perishables and personal items to the church. You may leave them at the alter or inside the side door entrance.

Visit us at

[www.stpetersnt.org](http://www.stpetersnt.org)

## JOHN CHAPTER ONE

S E R B D T S T D E B G H F T T  
 N H I E S R L U S O R E U A U W  
 E E I I H E O M S A O L H O A B  
 S S R N W T E W C E N L H E E H  
 T H A D E D A E O E J T B C L W  
 C G S I S T A F S W I N O D O D  
 F R O A A W H S E W H M E R T G  
 D L I N A S D O G S E H L V L T  
 I L E W S H T U R T T D A O I W  
 E D R S O W S S S E E S R H T G  
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 M A M N M N E W O G I O I O R N  
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 N I D H T I N G O E E E E O E B  
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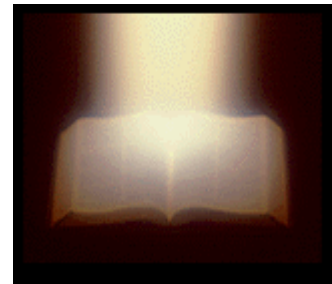
### Church Signs

Got somebody who's always getting your goat? Talk to the Shepherd.

AMONG    BECOME    BEFORE    BEHELD    BELIEVE  
 BLOOD    CHRIST    COMETH    DWELT    ELIAS    ESAIAS  
 FATHER    FLESH    FULNESS    GIVEN    GLORY  
 GRACE    JESUS    JOHN    LEVITES    MADE    MOSES  
 POWER    PRIESTS    RECORD    SHINETH    THINGS  
 TRUTH    WITHOUT    WITNESS    WORD    WORLD

1. What was the first plague with which Moses struck Egypt?
2. In the Sermon on the Mount, who did Jesus say rain fell upon?
3. Jesus says that a cloud rising in the west means what is coming?

1. The Nile turning to blood
2. The righteous and the unrighteous
3. Rain



To submit things for the newsletter e-mail to [jstewart@stpetersnt.org](mailto:jstewart@stpetersnt.org) or send them to the Church by the 25th of the month before. The Post will be changing to a bimonthly newsletter over the next few months. This will make it more important for people to notify John of any needed submissions or events in a timely manner.

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