

St Peter's United Church of Christ

Newsletter

Sept/Oct 2011

"The Post"

Pastor Message / Story

The whirlwind of activities ready to hit St. Peter's this fall is moving as fast as the hurricane heading up the east coast as I write! September 11th is Rally Day to kick off the start of Sunday School. It will also be a special day of remembrance during our 10:30 worship. September 25th there will be a 3:00 concert by "Strike the Rock" from St. Peter's South. And during that concert I will be officially installed as your pastor!

October is just as busy! On October 2nd we will celebrate World-wide Communion Sunday with Pew Communion. We will also celebrate our fellow creatures that morning with a Blessing of the Animals. That's right! Bring your critters to church! And don't forget to invite any animal-

lover friends! It will be a critter-friendly service! On October 23, 2011 we can all look forward to the Annual Hymn Sing!

During the fall we will also be starting an Adult Bible Study during the Sunday School hour and a monthly movie night. Plans are also underway for some special get-togethers for the women of the church...and for some very special holiday celebrations! And then there are the Fish Fry's!

This is an exciting congregation! I find it hard to believe that it was just a year ago that I first came to you to fill the pulpit for a couple of weeks. Now we are on this wonderful journey together! We will try many new things together. Some will work, some will not...so we'll try something else. The key word, dear

ones, is TOGETHER. All of the things happening this Fall, all that will happen in days to come will happen because you and I work together under God's guidance for the good of the Church and all of Creation.

The old song says "Wherever we go, whatever we do, we're gonna go through it TOGETHER!". Christ says that we will be recognized as His by the love that we have for each other. Christ's people, joined by love, working and playing together. Let the winds of the Spirit blow! St. Peter's is on the move!



Military Service

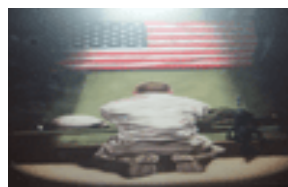
I would like to put together a list of all members of St. Peter's UCC that have served or are serving in the military. These names are for inclusion on a list "Honoring Those Who Have Served/Are Serving"; this list will be inserted in the bulletin on

Veterans Day. The only information that I would like is:

Name (please note if deceased), **Branch of Military** and **Actual date of service** (i.e. 1967-1971).

The information can be phoned in to me at

692-4399 or e-mailed to me at tglass@adelphia.net. I would need the information by Oct 20, 2011. Thanks Tom Glass



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St Peter's United Church of Christ

Council Notes Sharon Stewart

I hope everyone is getting a head start and looking forward to Fall and Winter. I know... I know...lots of people say they hate the cold....but as a person who lived in Florida for over 24 years... I don't care if the temperature goes higher than 70 —ever! But the change of the seasons is upon us and so life goes on outside and inside of the church.

Fall events ramp up in our church, as they do in many. Sunday school resumes on September 11th, Fish Fries and Chicken and Biscuit meals are back for the cooler months, Sunshine meals begin again...and a new season with our new Pastor!

I know for a fact Pastor Linda has several new and different things planned for all of us here at St. Peters, including a weekly Bible study on Sunday mornings, a special 9/11 service, a Bless-

ings of the Animals service...and while Christmas is a few months away [though I have gotten several Christmas catalogs already], I know she is already in the midst of planning our Christmas together as Pastor and congregation!

The council has also kept busy over the summer, taking care of business as needed, and doing many "housekeeping chores". If you have a chance, please say a special thanks to Debbie Thomas-she faithfully cleans up the church every week and does a great job...sometimes it is just too easy for us to forget someone is doing all that work behind the scenes. In fact, please make sure you keep all of those who are on the council, on the staff and others who do all those extra things that make our church so special in your pray-

ers .There can never be enough prayers or just a thank you for that matter.

While it also is a little early, I ask that all of you prayerfully consider perhaps becoming a member of the council for the 2012 year. There will be at least five open seats on the council [if not more], and while this year we never did fill 2 of the 10 seats, it is always better if we have a full council. I know all of us are busy and feel already asked to do too much... but remember the church is made up of all of us....not a building and St. Peters needs all of us at different times.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions and you are always welcome at any meeting!

An Atheist and God

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods. He said to himself: What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7 foot grizzly bear charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him. The Atheist cried out: "Oh, my God!..."Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. As a bright light shone upon the man, a booming voice came out of the sky: "You deny my existence for all of these years, teach others I don't exist, and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?" The atheist looked directly into the light, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask You to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the BEAR a Christian?" "Very well," said the voice. The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed. The bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together and lifted his head toward heaven and spoke: "Lord, bless this food, which I am about to receive from thy bounty through Christ our Lord, Amen."



Prayers for Nursing Homes Members and Shut-Ins: Linda Soos, 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 or send their names to St Peter's by the 25th of each month.



St Peter's Groups

Sunday School

Our Sunday school continues to faithfully meet every Sunday Morning at 9:00 am. While we may be small in number we are big in heart and faith. If you know of a small child in your neighborhood or group of friends, try to invite the parents to bring them to Sunday school and then hopefully ask them to remain for Church! Families are the most difficult to bring into any church at this place in time...but there is never any harm in trying! Also, we are considering the possibility for Pastor Linda to perhaps have a confirmation class to be held sometime next year. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this, please have them contact Pastor Linda for more information.

Sincerely, Maryalice Schroeder

Adult Bible Study

Classes will be held from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM same as Sunday School. Sign up form will be passed out in church and starting date will be announced soon!!!!



Women's Fellowship

The Women's fellowship will continue the Sunshine Meals this fall; the dates will be Sept.17th,Oct. 15th, Nov. 12th, and Dec.17th. We continue to need drivers to deliver meals and bakers to bake for the shut-ins. We can always use homemade casseroles, vegetable dishes and desserts for our shut-ins. They appreciate so much a homemade touch to whatever food they receive. Please leave anything you make for us in the refrigerator or freezer clearly marked for Sunshine meals-it will be much appreciated. With the holidays coming up---a little specialty craft or item that can be included with the meals is also a great idea!

Also, please consider perhaps making this ministry one of your “missions” in our church. While our faithful group enjoys this ministry-they freely admit they are getting older and would not be too upset to begin to pass the ministry on to a new generation. Please contact Gloria Doel with any questions or info you may have.

Events in Our Church

St. Peter's Annual Craft Fair is once again happening this November. Please stay tuned for more details and please consider volunteering for this fun event that is a major fundraiser for our church! This event will once again take place at St Johnsbury Fire hall in Wheatfield, and will take place this year on November 19th from 10-4. As in other years, we always are looking for contributions for our baked good sales-because we all know St. Peters has some of the best cooks around!

Sept 24, 2011

Oct. 7, 2011 and Oct 21, 2011

Chicken & Biscuit Dinner
4:00 - 6:30 PM

Dinner includes coffee, tea, (water and pop are available) fresh lettuce salad with all the toppings and ice cream sundaes umm... so good...

Take-outs are available call 693-0749

We look forward to seeing you, so come & join us and bring a friend...

St. Peter's Famous Fish Fry's
4:00 - 6:30 PM

Fish or Shrimp Dinner includes coffee, tea, (water and pop are available) your choice of potatoes (german, baked, or fries) your choice of home made pies umm... so good...

Take-outs are available call 693-0749

We look forward to seeing you, so come & join us and bring a friend...

Events in Our Community

Twin Cities needs Meals on Wheels Volunteers
North Tonawanda Meals on Wheels is seeking volunteers as meal preparers, drivers, and servers who take the meals in to the recipients in both the city of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda. Delivery workers, both drivers and servers, help between 10:45 am and 12:15 pm. Assistance is needed Mondays through Fridays on routes that average 9 miles. We ask for only one and a half hours each week from these volunteers.

Some volunteers offer to help out occasionally on another day also. Kitchen help is also needed. This is done from 8:00 am to 11:30 am. The kitchen helpers assist the cooks to make sandwiches, fill lunch bags, and package hot meals. North Tonawanda Meals on Wheels serves both the City of North Tonawanda and the City of Tonawanda. Visit our website <http://www.ntmow.com>. To volunteer or to get more information about NT MOW, phone 693-1663. The NT MOW office and food preparation site is at 100 Ridge Road, NT. We are independent Meals on Wheels program.

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

Church Signs

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant." - Robert Louis Stevenson

1. In John's Gospel, who is said to have stolen money from the disciples' money bag?
2. Which one of Jesus' disciples was formerly a tax collector?
3. Which Gospel does not mention the money-changers being chased out of the temple by Jesus?

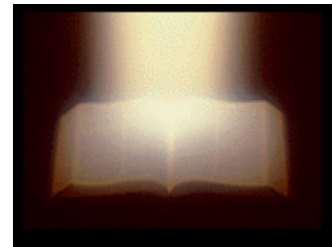
1. Judas Iscariot
2. Matthew (called Levi in Mark and Luke)
3. Luke

WET PANTS

Come with me to a third grade classroom..... There is a nine-year-old kid sitting at his desk and all of a sudden, there is a puddle between his feet and the front of his pants are wet. He thinks his heart is going to stop because he cannot possibly imagine how this has happened. It's never happened before, and he knows that when the boys find out he will never hear the end of it. When the girls find out, they'll never speak to him again as long as he lives. The boy believes his heart is going to stop; he puts his head down and prays this prayer, 'Dear God, this is an emergency! I need help now! Five minutes from now I'm dead meat.' He looks up from his prayer and here comes the teacher with a look in her eyes that says he has been discovered. As the teacher is walking toward him, a class mate named Susie is carrying a goldfish bowl that is filled with water. Susie trips in front of the teacher and inexplicably dumps the bowl of water in the boy's lap. The boy pretends to be angry, but all the while is saying to himself, 'Thank you, Lord! Thank you, Lord!' Now all of a sudden, instead of being the object of ridicule, the boy is the object of sympathy. The teacher rushes him downstairs and gives him gym shorts to put on while his pants dry out. All the other children are on their hands and knees cleaning up around his desk. The sympathy is wonderful. But as life would have it, the ridicule that should have been his has been transferred to someone else - Susie. She tries to help, but they tell her to get out. You've done enough, you klutz!' Finally, at the end of the day, as they are waiting for the bus, the boy walks over to Susie and whispers, 'You did that on purpose, didn't you?' Susie whispers back, 'I wet my pants once too.' May God help us see the opportunities that are always around us to do good... Remember.....Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car. Each and everyone one of us is going through tough times right now, but God is getting ready to bless you in a way that only He can. Keep the faith. This prayer is powerful, and prayer is one of the best gifts we receive. There is no cost but a lot of rewards. Let's continue to pray for one another.

The Prayer:

Father, I ask You to bless my friends, relatives and those that I care deeply for, who are reading this right now. Show them a new revelation of Your love and power. Holy Spirit, I ask You to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is pain, give them Your peace and mercy.. Where there is self doubt, release a renewed confidence through Your grace. Where there is need, I ask you to fulfill their needs. Bless their homes, families, finances, their goings and their comings. Amen.



To submit things for the newsletter e-mail to 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.

St Peter's United Church of Christ
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North Tonawanda NY 14120