

- New Christian Education Assistant
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- 2008 Neighbors in Need/Peacemaking Offering
- Pastor Search/Nominating Committee

Pastor Bob's Ponderings

As I write this I have been here for a little over a week, and the Pastor Nominating Committee has just met with a group of profiles to review.

That might be a little scary, except . . .

Except that I was given a copy of *The Shack* by William P. Young. It is subtitled *Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity*. Eugene Peterson, well-known author and teacher, notes on the back cover, "When the imagination of a writer and the passion of a theologian cross-fertilize, the result is a novel on the order of *The Shack*."

The book is an easy read, well except for the parts where deep theology is confronted in the daily life of the protagonist. Just what is



Pastor Bob, Dianne and great-nephew, Nathan

the Trinity, what does it mean when we speak of the wrath of God, why are innocents hurt or killed as a matter of course, at random? Who has the right to judge? And toward whom can their judgment be aimed?

If you get a chance, pick up a copy and let me know what you think. As soon as I finish the first go I will be reading it again to see what I hear differently. If you have already read it, let's talk.

One of the first things it did for me was to challenge the way I look at life and the

opportunities presented. Ministry happens at some of the most inopportune moments in life. Like just before the really important final, or that very difficult thesis that we have spent so much time preparing.

And what about the time at work when someone needed to talk - and you were on the way to another meeting that might make your future in corporate America?

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New Christian Education Assistant

Hello!

My name is Tara Brooks, and I will be taking the Christian Education Assistant role for the next few years at St. Luke Union. I am so excited to be here.

I am a Sophomore at Illinois State, studying Speech and Language Pathology.

Outside of school I am part of the Run Club, Ultimate Frisbee Club, Women's Choir, and College Mentors for Kids.



For me, home is in Arlington Heights, up near Chicago, where I have attended the Congregational United Church of

Christ for my entire life.

With my church, I have been an active member of the youth group, participated in 6 mission trips across the country, taught Sunday School, and helped lead Vacation Bible Camp.

I am very excited to become involved here, to make St. Luke Union Church my home-away-from-home church, and to walk in faith with all of you!

Tara

Thank You

Dear St. Luke Union Family,

My "thank you" seems so small for all your prayers, cards, visits and phone calls during my recent unexpected illness. This took me quite suddenly.

Just knowing you are always there to cheer me on is making things so much easier.

I have no idea how long it will be before I can be responsible for myself but with your thoughts and prayers, it will be soon.

My family has been with me 24 hours a day for the past few weeks. Special visits by in and out-of-town grandchildren, as well as my children, have helped me in my recovery as has the tending by home nursing staff.

My home nurses now believe I am turning the bend in getting back on track to my regular routines.

Please know that your continued prayers will be appreciated. I hope to see you soon.

With greatest appreciation for your kindnesses, I am -

Sincerely yours,

Arlene Simmons



Money Matters

As of August 31, 2008



GENERAL FUND	JAN/AUG ACTUAL	JAN/AUG BUDGET
Receipts	\$146,493	\$145,320
Disbursements	\$135,938	\$157,229
	JAN/AUG ACTUAL	JAN/AUG PLEDGE
5 YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN		
Receipts	\$ 17,745	\$ 23,866

Additional financial information is available on the Details Board.

October Anniversaries

Dick & Doris Rice	October 4
Robert & Elli Beyer	October 9
Jim & Kendra Monteggia	October 17
David & Jeanne Woodford	October 19
Tyson & Alberta Compton	October 26
Dan & Deborah Moret	October 26
Chuck & Gwen Yurieci	October 26

Thank You

I would like to thank my church family for their prayers and support following the sudden death of my husband, Raymond.

funeral service and the meal following.

In appreciation,

Mary Schildt and Family

I would like to also thank those who attended the visitation, sent newspaper clippings, cards, memorials, and flowers.



I appreciate those who helped in preparing for the

New Directions Deadlines Change



Due to meeting dates, holidays, etc., beginning in October, deadlines for New Direction articles will fluctuate each month (in order to mail by the 25th).

Check the monthly calendar or watch worship folders for deadline dates!

Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet on Thursday, October 9th at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The study will be from our new study guide "Jubilee, Luke's Gospel for the Poor," Lesson #1, entitled

Jesus Announces Jubilee.

Hostesses for this month will be Ruth Dravis and Vi Fenstermaker.



Annual Stewardship Potluck



Please join us for our Annual Stewardship Potluck on Sunday, October 19th immediately following worship.

Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

The Agape Committee will provide coffee, iced tea and lemonade.

I would like to thank all my friends at St. Luke Union Church for all the prayers, cards, visits and phone calls after my recent surgery.

Nellie LaCroix

2008 Neighbors in Need/Peacemaking Offering



“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.”

Romans 14:19 (NIV)

On Sunday, October 5th, we will be collecting a combined offering for both Neighbors In Need (UCC) and Peacemaking (Presbyterian USA).

These were collected separately in the past, but since both relate to the issues of justice and peace, it was decided to collect them at the same time.

Please remember this when deciding the amount of your donation.

Twenty-five percent will be used for local peace and justice issues.

The remainder will be equally divided between the denominations regardless of whether you use the Neighbors In Need or Peacemaking envelope for your donation.

An envelope is included in this newsletter.

Extra envelopes will be

provided in the pew racks.

The offerings are used both nationally and internationally to bear witness to God’s justice and peace.

These offerings coincide with World Communion Sunday, a time when people around the world join to celebrate their union in Christ.

Let us continue to pray for peace and to support the efforts to bring peace and justice to this broken world.



New VMC Meeting Times

Please note that the Vision and Ministry Council meeting times for October and November have been changed.

The meetings will be held October 6th at 7:00 p.m. and November 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Change of Address

SPC Jean-Baptiste, Keith
G FSC 3/16FAR 2nd BCT
4th ID (M) /Camp Adder
APO AE 09331

Christian Education

As the school year is getting into full swing, so are our many activities.

We had a wonderful Fall Kick-off September 7th to celebrate the beginning of our Sunday morning Education program.

This year the children will be working through the "One Room Sunday School" curriculum, a program that is directed towards targeting kids of different ages.

So far, we've had success learning with the first lesson, "In the Beginning."

It was a joy for Daniel Ferrier, Emma DeBruine, Garrett Staver and Miles Keeton to receive their new Bibles as they take



their step in their faith journeys.

Our eighth grade confirmation class will soon be meeting with their mentors.

Mentors and confirmands will be following with William H. Wilimon's confirmation journal "Making Disciples."

The SNAC Youth Group had their kick-off meeting to discuss the upcoming events of the year.

The Junior High will be looking at "Who's the Man?" while High School will begin with a program "E-merge."

The Adult Sunday School Class is continuing their reading of "Christianity for the Rest of Us" by Diana Butler Bass.

They have had an excellent start, and look forward to the discussions that will follow in the second half of this book.

It's still so early in the year and already we are off to a great start with many things to look forward to!

Tara Brooks

Vision & Ministry Council



Advent planning is underway, the Fall Stewardship campaign will kick off soon, and the Vision & Ministry Council accepted Pastor Bob Sherman as a member of St. Luke Union Church.

Presbyterian pastors are members of the Presbytery, not of their local congregation - but United Church of Christ pastors are members of the congregation they are serving

October Birthdays

Ron Cremeens - 1	Neal Benjamin - 22
Katie Verplaetse - 2	Marsha Hinthorn - 22
Alberta Compton - 3	Jeremy Stiller - 24
Ben Hawkins - 5	Bill Walters - 25
Diana McLean - 11	Robert Beyer - 26
Marcia Dean - 14	Megan Hosack - 26
Christopher Hamner - 14	Diane Swanson - 26
Monica Moore - 14	Megan Fort - 27
Peter Hamner - 16	Ciarra Poulard - 28
Dede Verplaetse - 16	Hannah Dean - 29
Charlene Beringer - 17	Peggy Johnson - 29
John Waters - 17	Linda Weirman - 29
Dave Hurst - 19	Lillian Paulsen - 30
Chris Bateman - 21	Norma Knapp - 31
Clara Greiner - 21	



Notes From the Moderator



It will be my personal goal setting in 2009 to lead the Vision & Ministry Council in reviewing St. Luke Union Church's vision - the one the congregation defined several years ago during the Discernment Process.

That vision is still "in effect."

It is my intent that the Vision & Ministry Council constantly keep the church's vision in mind as we make decisions, and that the Ministry Team

liaisons do the same within each Ministry Team.

Our name *Vision & Ministry Council* was chosen with this in mind.

Each Ministry Team has a mission statement that is derived from the vision statement, and each Ministry Team represents a ministry with the goal of fulfilling some part of our vision.

Rod Hawkins
Moderator

You've Gotta Eat!!!

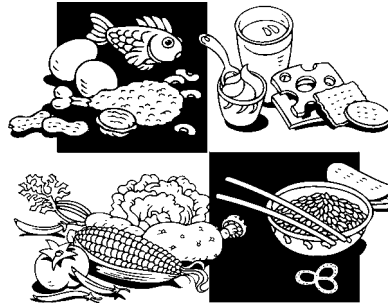
Did you know that October is National Apple Month?

Did you know that October is National Pork Month?

Did you know that October is National Diabetes Awareness Month?

Did you know that October is National Vegetarian Awareness Month?

As we all try to eat



healthily, "You've Gotta Eat!!!" will be joining you on this quest.

Come and join us for "Healthy Eating" on Thursday, October 9th at 5:00 p.m., when we will be having our monthly "Theme" dinner.

The Agape Committee will provide a healthy entrée prepared with pork.

If you would like to bring a dish to pass or anything to go with the "Theme," please feel free to do so.

For those unable to bring a dish to pass, the dinner will cost \$4.00.

NOTE:

There will be NO "You've Gotta Eat!!!" on Thursday, November 13th.

Pastor Search/Nominating Committee

We have received several dossiers from prospective candidates for our called pastor.

The committee is busy reading over them and taking notes so that we can discuss them when we meet.

This is just the first step in looking at our prospective candidates.

Those individuals that we would like to know more about will be contacted and if they are still interested in our church,

we will conduct telephone interviews.

We are very excited to be receiving dossiers and look forward to reviewing them.

We will be meeting on a regular basis to review and discuss dossiers so that we may select candidates to take to the next step of telephone interviews.

Please keep the Pastor Search/Nominating Committee in your prayers as we continue in our search for a called pastor.

Charlene A. Beringer,
Chairperson



Fall Group Sale and Bake Sale

Fall Group Sale
and
Bake Sale
Fri, October 24th
9:00 to 5:00
Sat, October 25th
9:00 to noon

Are you getting
ready for the
Group Sale?

You still have
time to collect
kitchen items,
children's toys,
linens, jewelry, furniture,
knick-knacks and
fall/winter clothing that
you no longer need.

All items must be clean
and in good condition.

You may bring these items
to the church on Tuesday,
October 21st or Wednesday,
October 22nd.

The tables will be marked
so you will know where to
place the items.
Please have all donations
to the church by 5:00 p.m.
on Wednesday, October
22nd.

Don't forget the Bake Sale.

Baked goods need to be at
the church by 8:00 a.m.
each day of the sale so they
can be assembled into
"sale-size" portions.



You will enjoy the
fellowship and have
a lot of fun.

Terry Small and
Charlene
Beringer,
Group Sale
Coordinators

Volunteers are needed
from Tuesday to Saturday.

On Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday we will
arrange and price items.

Friday and Saturday we will
keep everything organized,
and after the sale closes at
noon on Saturday we will
box up and deliver all
remaining items to local
thrift shops.

Also needed are volunteers
to pick up items from
those unable to get their
merchandise to the church
and vans/pickups to
transport items to the thrift
shops after the sale.

Sign-up sheets will be
posted on the bulletin
board.

Sign up or just show up to
help.





BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

FOR: CLARA GREINER

ON: October 11, 2008

OPEN HOUSE

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

at

St. Luke Union Church
2101 E. Washington Street
Bloomington, IL

Hosted by her children

Salutations and or regrets can be mailed to
301 Margaret Ave., Normal, IL 61761
or call 309-452-8990

Please send prior to 10-09-08,
as we will present her with a shower of cards

Cards - No Gifts Please

Pastor Bob's Ponderings (continued)

God, can you deliver me the opportunity to help later, when I have time?!

To paraphrase the subtitle of the book, we need to be ready, when *Life Confronts Eternity*. According to Matthew, God calls us to "... go into all the world . . ." Or perhaps we are sent.

Never by ourselves, God sends us, two by two, into places where the Good News needs to be heard. And Jesus lets us know what we are about when we get sent.

It's in the Gospels. John

tells us we are to "... Feed my sheep . . ." Luke tells us that the disciples were told to, "... Stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power on high . . ." And Mark notes (in the longer ending), "... they went out and proclaimed good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it . . ."

Can we do anything less than go and proclaim good news in ways so that God's sheep are fed? Even if in those cases where it is

inconvenient because we are confronting life!

As Michael Foss and I believe, we can if we have a few expectations:

- **Pray** daily
- **Worship** weekly
- **Read** the Bible
- **Serve** within/outside the congregation
- **Relate** to people in up-lifting ways
- **Give** of our talent, time and treasure

Blessings,

Pastor Bob

Meet Pastor Bob

Jessie told me I needed to write a short biography so you would know me better. And I always do what the church administrative staff tells me to do. Well, almost always.

Technically, I am the Reverend Mr. Robert M. Sherman, Bob for short or Pastor Bob, or you may call me something else. Whatever makes the most sense to you.

I was born in Lovelock, Nevada, a little town about 100 miles east of Reno on I-80. My mother met the doctor on the steps of the post office about noon that day. It was about 104 degrees, and he said he would meet her at the hospital that evening. She told him she didn't think it was time. At 7:42 p.m., it was time. Smart doctor, old-fashioned, but smart.

I was and am an excellent student graduating with honors at each level, high school, college and graduate seminary.

Study comes easy for me and I love the challenge of new things.

I have served in a variety of ministerial roles in congregations from the Pacific to the Atlantic and several places in between.



From Youth Director at First Church in Reno while I attended the University of Nevada, Reno and Hollywood-Beverly Christian Church (Ronald Reagan's home congregation while he worked in Hollywood, was governor and President) while I worked in film, television and theater in Hollywood to Associate Minister for Christian Education and Youth at First Church, Falls Church, Virginia while I completed my undergrad work at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia and a couple of pastorates while in seminary.

Finally, as Associate for Evangelism at Third Church, in Indianapolis and technical writer and Client Trainer at Disciple Data (developing financial management software for General Church units) just prior to ordination; ministry opportunities abounded.

From there, I have served in congregations whose main reason for calling me was to grow; they did.

Dianne and I met while we were both at USA Funds/Group in Indianapolis and will be celebrating our 14th anniversary on November 5th.

Raised in the church and baptized by immersion according to the traditions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Easter Sunday 1965, I preached my first sermon as a high school senior in the spring of 1971.

Some of my friends and family would say I was preaching long before then and most would say once I got started I just will not shut up. Some things are just too good to keep quiet.

Dianne and I look forward to our time here with you as we move on the Way to become what God has called us to be.

St. Luke Union Church

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Bloomington, IL 61701

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Email: mail@stlukeunion.org

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October