

Special points of interest:

September 2008

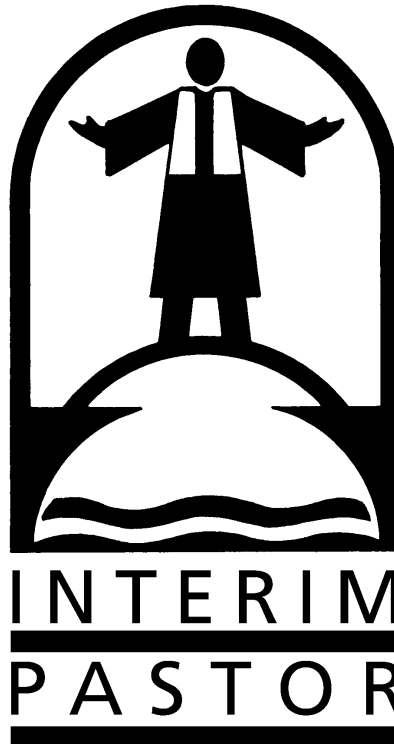
- Peacemaking/Neighbors in Need Offering
- To a "Loved Member of St. Luke Union Church"
- Christian Education
- Pastor Search/Nominating Committee

Welcome to Our New Interim Pastor

The Vision and Ministry Council is pleased to announce (and I am sure you will all be pleased to hear) that Reverend Robert Sherman (Bob) will be our new interim pastor.

His official start date is Sunday, September 7th, but he plans to begin moving some of his books and things into the study before then.

Pastor Bob will also try to meet as soon as possible with the Worship Ministry Team



The Learning Ministry Team for some planning for that Sunday's service and the beginning of the church school year.

Please introduce yourself if you happen to see him when you are in the building.

You should "spot" him easily - he'll be the one wearing the clerical collar! 😊

Family Night Bible Study

Family Night Bible Study is looking for volunteers to provide the meal (Community Meal) Wednesdays, before the Bible Study at 6:00 p.m.

The meal starts at 5:30 p.m. and you will need to plan, shop, and cook

the meal.

Grab some friends and work together.

Sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

Any questions, contact Lori Blankenship at 531-7244.

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September Birthdays

Alex Moore - 2	Kim Schultz - 13
Sandra Kelley - 3	Zachary Scott Bork - 14
Laura Colee - 5	Eleanor Larrick - 17
Rebecca Hepner - 5	Priscilla Harper - 20
Karin Hunt - 7	Julianne Schultz - 21
Todd Stille - 7	Andrew Hall - 24
Betty Potts - 8	Betsy Larson - 25
David Ferrier - 9	Andrew Claucherty - 27
David Colee - 10	Sandra Colee - 29
Frances Anderson - 11	Debra Grant - 29
Denny Redick - 12	Jake Stille - 30
Lucas Trower - 12	Ron Strickland - 30
James Ferrier - 13	



Presbytery of Great Rivers Fall Gathering

Presbyterian Women in the
Presbytery of Great Rivers

Fall Gathering
September 20, 2008
9:00 a.m.
South Park
Presbyterian Church
Rock Island, IL

“You Give Your Mission
Dollars; Where Do They
Go?”

Call Yvonne for
reservations by September
14th.

I wish to thank my St.
Luke friends for the
prayers, cards, visits
and phone calls
during my recent
surgery.

Doris Koppersmith

Women's UCC Retreat

The Illinois Conference
UCC Women's Retreat at
Pilgrim Park
will be September 26th
and 27th.

Registration deadline is
September 15th.

Brochures are on table in
Fellowship Hall.

See Yvonne Harrison for
reservations (454-6774).



Peacemaking/Neighbors in Need Offering

On October 5th, we will be collecting the Neighbors in Need (NIN) and Peacemaking as a combined offering instead of two separate offerings.

This is being done because both offerings are very similar in focus, dealing with peacemaking and justice issues.

Twenty-five percent of the offering will be donated locally for peacemaking and justice issues.

The Mission Ministry Team determines which local agency will receive this portion.

The rest of the offering will be equally divided between the Presbyterian

Peacemaking and UCC Neighbors in Need special offerings.

Watch the Sunday worship folders and the October New Directions for more information.

To a “Loved Member of St. Luke Union Church”

Heartfelt thanks for your generous donation of stamps to our loving, caring, and faithful Shepherds.

It helps them greatly in their ministry and is very much appreciated.



New Address

Sarah Franks
410 East Grove St., Apt #4
Bloomington, IL 61701
838-9910

“Thank you” just doesn’t seem to say enough, but the cards, calls, and meals provided were very much appreciated!

To our Shepherds (Carol and Chuck Parlette), a special “thanks.”
I have improved to the

stage where I can have a long-needed knee surgery (to be done the end of the month).

Our church family is so good to help and such a great comfort in times of illnesses and need.

Thanks!

Marilyn Hammer
(Jay says a big “thanks” too!)

Action Planning Team

The Action Planning Team continues to make progress on recommendations for areas of communication, vision and clarity, leadership development and the operations manual.

Our next step will be to present these recommendations to members of our congregation.

We are asking you to participate in one of several focus groups that will be offered.

The first one will be on Sunday, September 21st, after church.

We will have a potluck and ask you to bring a dish to share.

Beverages will be provided.

Our ideas will be presented and we hope to have immediate feedback from all who attend.

After your input and revisions are made, these recommendations will be

taken to the Vision and Ministry Council for approval.

Additional dates and times of other focus groups will be announced at a later time for those who are unable to attend on Sept 21st.

Mark your calendars today!



Group Sale and Bake Sale

Friday, October 24th
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 25th
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Are you getting ready for the Group Sale?

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

More information will follow in the October New Directions.

Terry Small and
Charlene Beringer
Group Sale Coordinators

Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet on Thursday, September 11th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.

The study will be from our study guide "Above and

Beyond," Lesson #9 entitled *Ordinary People*.

Hostesses this month will be Shirley Otto and Arlene Simmons.



Christian Education

I can't believe that summer is over!

The good news is that we begin our Christian Education Year with the Fall Kickoff on September 7th.

Be sure to come and join us for games, food and fun.

Invite your friends as well!

The kids in the Garden will be learning about the Book of Genesis.

We are using a new curriculum called "One Room Sunday School," which is designed for churches with small numbers of children of various ages.

There will be music, arts and crafts, and Bible Study.

The kids will sing in worship on September 14th and will sing on the

third Sunday of each month for the rest of the



year.

The Adult Class is continuing "Christianity for the Rest of Us."

If you missed the first few sessions, don't worry.

Join the class at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays for this intriguing study.

The youth group will begin their year with a picnic at the Staver's on September 14th.

Parents and families are invited.

There will be food and games and a parent's meeting to plan for the year.

More information will follow.

Becca Schaefer is leading a new Wednesday night activity – Family Night. We will begin on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with a community meal, and then will move into Bible Study and activities.

"Family Night" not only refers to parents and children, but to our St. Luke Union Family.

All are welcome!!

Although I am not going to be on staff this year, I will be involved in Christian Education - my first love.

(Continued on page 10)

September Anniversaries

Ron & Lori Blankenship - 1st

John & Gigi Simmons - 1st

Don & Linda Kearfott - 3rd

Matthew & Christine Kubiak - 9th

Ron & Norma Scott - 12th

Matt & Traci Wright - 13th

Larry & Teresa Radcliffe - 22nd

Kevin & Becca Schaefer - 24th

Michael & Dede Verplaetse - 26th

Jim & Louise Moore - 27th

Joel & Amie Keeton - 28th

Robert & Joyce Pomrenke - 29th

Music News

Where has the summer gone?

It seems like it flew by. Music groups will soon be starting.

Here is what is being planned.

Choir will begin rehearsing Wednesday, September 3rd at 7:00 p.m. and will warm up every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Choir will sing for the first time September 7th, but will not the next Sunday because I will be gone.

Choir is more fun with more voices, so don't hesitate to give choir a try if you haven't participated before and love to sing.

You don't have to read music, but it is a plus.

There is plenty of repetition to learn the worship songs.

Our handbells have just been refurbished and are in great shape.

For anyone interested in playing handbells, we are meeting for the first time Wednesday, September 10th at 6:00 p.m.

I would like to get a list of who is interested since this

determines the music I have to plan.

Even if you haven't read

A Note from the Minister of Music



music, there are ways to help you participate successfully like marking or color coding notes.

Once we establish a group, I would like to perform in church at least once a month on a designated Sunday of the month.

Music with our youth is a very important aspect of Christian Education.

Our youth will have a music period during their Sunday School time.

There they will learn Bible songs and other fun tunes.

They will sing some of these songs in church on the 3rd Sunday of the month (2nd in September) and possibly for other special occasions.

I strongly encourage other

special music solos and/or groups, and I can help out with music selections.

I have more music resources this year to accommodate soloists wanting to sing current contemporary Christian music.

I would also encourage some of our junior high and high school youth to participate either with music of their own, or they are welcome to join the adult choir and/or the handbell choir.

We will have a special Christmas music program featuring the choir and the youth in the afternoon on Sunday, December 21st.

Everyone in the congregation please put that on your calendar and watch for further details as we approach December.

Also, a special thank you goes out to those who provided special music during the summer!

David

Christian Education Opportunities

Sunday Mornings - 9:00 a.m.
 "Christianity for the Rest of Us"

Bible Study
 For All Ages

Small Group Study During the Week:
Family Night

Wednesdays beginning September 10th
 5:30 p.m. Community Meal
 6:00 p.m. Bible Study

SNAC
 SUNDAY NIGHT AFTER CHURCH
 FOR:
JR. HIGH & SR. HIGH

September 7th CE Fall Kickoff 4:30 p.m.
 September 14th Youth & Family Picnic 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.
 September 21st "Who's the Man?" Lesson 1
 September 28th "Who's the Man?" Lesson 2

Title:
"One Room Sunday School"

Date:	Poppies Preschoolers	Daisy K-2 Grade	Sunflower 3-5 Grade
September 7th	In The Beginning, Lesson 1		
September 14th	In The Beginning, Lesson 2		
September 21st	In The Beginning, Lesson 3		
September 28th	In The Beginning, Lesson 4		



Pastor Search/Nominating Committee

We have received notification from the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. that our Local Church Profile/Church Information Forms have been approved.

The approval of these forms takes us to our next step in searching for a called pastor.

We will be getting our forms posted on both websites in the very near future.

This will enable us to reach out to more pastors who are searching for a call.

Our Committee will be meeting in September to begin reviewing any dossiers we have received.

We are very anxious and

are looking forward to this next step.

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

Charlene A. Beringer,
Chairperson

Clare House



Are you able to help get the Clare House donations to Clare House?

If so, please sign your name in the new slot on the Monthly Sign-up Sheets in Fellowship Hall.

Clare House is located at 703 East Washington St., in Bloomington.

They accept deliveries on Wednesday morning from 9 to 11, Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 and

Saturday morning from 9 to 11.

We appreciate your help in getting the donation to the people who need them the week after the donations are collected.

All Church Fall Kickoff

Please join us for the All Church Fall Kickoff on September 7th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Weather permitting, we will have a lawn picnic with games, food and fun for everyone.



You've Gotta Eat!!!

Did you know that September is *National All-American Breakfast Month*?

Did you know that September is *National Biscuit Month*?

Did you know that September is *National Honey Month*?



Breakfast for Dinner

Did you know that September is *National Potato Month*?

Come and join us for "Breakfast for Dinner" on Thursday, September 11th at 5:00 p.m., when we will be having our monthly

"Theme" dinner.

The Agape Committee will provide a Breakfast Casserole.

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.

Money Matters

As of July 31, 2008

GENERAL FUND	JAN/JUL ACTUAL	JAN/JUL BUDGET
Receipts	\$127,987	\$129,205
Disbursements	\$121,354	\$138,480
	JAN/JUL ACTUAL	JAN/JUL PLEDGE
5 YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN		
Receipts	\$ 15,821	\$ 20,883

Additional financial information is available on the Details Board.

Team Liaisons

Agape Ministry	Charlene Beringer
Learning Ministry	Lori Blankenship
Mission Ministry	Brent Paterson
Personnel	Rebecca Schaefer
Resource Ministry	Mike Walton
VMC	Karlene Bledsoe (Clerk)
	Rod Hawkins (Moderator)
Worship Ministry	Diane Swanson
Stewardship	Dan Staver



Christian Education (continued)

The Personnel Committee is close to selecting a Christian Education Assistant; until that happens several of us will fill in as volunteers so that our Christian Education program continues without interruption.

Are you feeling called to work with children or youth – or perhaps to lead

a Bible Study?


Please prayerfully consider this call.

Christian Education is a crucial part of our faith life and the more of us who are involved, the better the program will be!

Kathy Otto

New VMC meeting times for:

September 18th @7:00 p.m.
 October 6th @7:00 p.m.
 November 3rd @7:00 p.m.



Just a Reminder...

Church Women United Fall Institute

Women of the Central East Area of Church Women United will gather for the Fall Institute on Wednesday, October 1st at Second Presbyterian Church, 313 North East St, Bloomington.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 24th. The cost is \$10.00 per person which includes lunch.

The program theme of the Institute is “Advocate for Justice in the Allocation of Media Resources.”

The meeting will begin with registration at 9:00 a.m. and close at 2:30 p.m.

All women of the church are invited.

This will be a great

opportunity to learn more about Church Women United.

If you are interested in attending, please let Dottie Metcalf or Karin Hunt know prior to the registration deadline.



Church Women United Fall Planning Meeting

Church Women United will meet on Monday, September 15th at 10:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, 2502 East College Ave., Bloomington.

This is the Fall Planning Meeting.

The program will be presented by Michele Cook of Home Sweet Home Ministries.

After lunch, planning of programs for next year will take place.

Please bring a sack lunch.

Dessert and drinks will be furnished by the host church.

If more information is needed, see Dottie Metcalf or Karin Hunt.

Thank You

A special thank you to Michael Verplaetse for painting the pastor's study. A job well done for something that really needed doing.

New Directions Deadline

In order to get New Directions out by the 25th of each month, please have your articles turned in to the office by the **second Wednesday** of each month.

Time & Talent Survey

Enclosed is a Time & Talent survey. Please complete it and bring it with you to church and drop it in the designated box. It has been a while since we collected one of these, so we're trying to update our information. Remember, you are not signing up for a permanent duty; please check even if you would only like to do it once or once in-a-while.



St. Luke Union Church

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