

**Special points of interest:**

- Pastor Search/Nominating Committee
- Pastor Bob's Ponderings . . .
- January Lectionary Readings
- Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

January 2009

**From Our Moderator . . .**

As the Vision and Ministry Council (VMC) prepares to finalize the budget for 2009, it is interesting, exciting, and a bit scary.

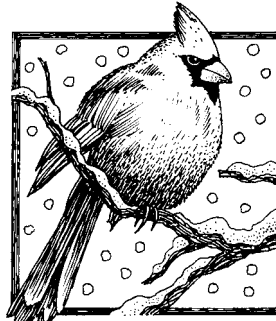
Imagine planning your family budget without knowing how much income you expect to have!

You know what you want to do - mortgage or rent, insurance, utilities, food, home and car repairs, education, vacation travel, etc. - but will you have enough money to do all of that?

Will some of those

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 18th. Immediately after the meeting we will have our annual potluck.

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



*Winter*

plans have to be postponed or cancelled?

This process really forces us to rely on faith and prayer - which is probably what we should always do (at home, as well as at church).

Each Ministry Team has

presented their plans for next year, along with the amount of money they estimate will be required to carry out those plans.

VMC is reviewing those, along with salary recommendations from the Personnel Committee, in the context of St. Luke Union's stated vision and mission, and we will meet on January 6th to create the final budget.

We will share this with the congregation by mail, and provide time for questions and discussion at the Annual Meeting. See you there!

**Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck**

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

**Inside this issue:**

Money Matters	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Christmas Eve	3
Prayer List	5
St. Luke Union Cantata	5
From Pastor Bob & Dianne	6
Pew Bible Dedications	7

## Pastor Search/Nominating Committee

The Committee continues to receive dossiers/profiles from prospective candidates for our called pastor.

As of December 12<sup>th</sup>, we had received 101 dossiers/profiles.

The committee continues to read over them, take notes and discuss the candidates.

We have also sent requests to several prospective candidates for audio/visual materials so that we may

hear/see them and discuss these as well.

Our last meeting for 2008 was on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

We will resume meeting again on January 5th to discuss new candidates and discuss the audio/visual materials that we received during our brief holiday hiatus.

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



*Charlene A. Beringer,  
Chairperson*

### Change of Address

Dorothy Ruth Shinn  
952 West Clinton St.  
Toulon, Illinois 61483  
Phone (309) 286-2640

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Money Matters

As of November 30, 2008



GENERAL FUND	JAN/NOV ACTUAL	JAN/NOV BUDGET
Receipts	\$201,296	\$198,565
Disbursements	\$184,562	\$211,025
	JAN/NOV ACTUAL	JAN/NOV PLEDGE
<b>5 YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN</b>		
Receipts	\$ 23,865	\$ 32,816

A more detailed financial report is available on the Details Board.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Matthew Staver - 1  
 Margaret Hawkins - 4  
 Matthew Kubiak - 4  
 Ruth Trower - 4  
 Karlene Bledsoe - 5  
 Laurie Vial - 6  
 Stacy Herren - 7  
 Ida Kempin - 7  
 Pamela McClure - 7  
 Jennifer Claucherty - 9  
 Louis LaCroix - 11  
 Jan Paterson - 11  
 Ethel Weirman - 11  
 Amie Keeton - 12  
 Mary Schildt - 12  
 Sherrie Belletete - 13  
 Marjorie Gordish - 13  
 Karen Walters - 14  
 Philip Hamner - 16  
 Stephanie Smith-Strickland - 16  
 Carol Cunningham - 18

Paul Nelson - 19  
 Tyler Herren - 20



Kim Johnson - 20  
 Kara Monteggia - 20  
 Judy Ferrier - 21  
 Katherine Hurst - 21  
 David Claucherty - 22  
 Tyson Compton - 24  
 Dottie Metcalf - 24  
 Jim King - 25  
 Leanna Peters - 25  
 Robert Smith-Strickland - 25  
 Mindy Weirman - 25  
 Bonnie Redick - 29

### Anniversaries

Brad & Diann Kamp - Jan 18  
 Ron Strickland & Beatrice Smith - Jan 24  
 Rod & Margaret Hawkins - Jan 28  
 Bill & Karen Walters - Jan 30

### Home Bible Class



Don't forget!  
 There will be no  
 Home Bible Class  
 meetings until March

## Christmas Eve

I hope you enjoyed Christmas Eve this year. The service of *Lessons and Carols* was first used at King's College, Cambridge in November or December, 1917. Each year, the college joins with the community to say, sing and hear the Good News proclaimed again to all people.

“ . . . For unto you this day is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord . . . ”

This year we were blessed to hear the story as told by our young people. From lighting the Christ candle - to reading the versus, they led us well in worship, at least at the 7:00 p.m. service. Please remember to thank them the next time you see them.

To paraphrase Tiny Tim from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, 'God bless us everyone.'

## Pastor Bob's Ponderings . . .

Have you ever thought about the apostrophe and what it might mean?

On the one hand it might indicate possession.

It might also indicate an action.

For instance, the above could mean that Pastor Bob is pondering or at least was pondering something.

What does that little jot mean?

Its meaning reveals important things about a current, future or even a past happening.

And revealing is what we are a part of in the church particularly at this time of year.

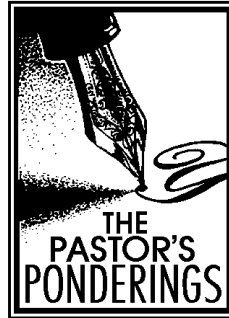
It is almost Epiphany.

In the Greek, Epiphany can mean revealing, or unveiling.

For most, it means the revealing of Immanuel "God with us."

It is the day of the year when we celebrate the arrival of the wise men, the magi, at the place where Jesus was.

Bringing gifts and more



important a sense of awe of that of which they were witnesses.

We rush through Christmas, and into another new year.

I hope Epiphany gives us pause on the journey.

Melchior, Balthazar and Gaspar are the names of the three.

But those names are not in the Gospel story - they are in the tradition(s) of the church.

In fact, there is an entire history, or is it biography of each of the three—from birth to death.

The Holy Land is once again under siege, Israel is intent on blowing up great portions of real estate and killing 'Hamas.'

If others are killed, so what. Revealing, isn't it?!

The holy sites in the Holy Land are places of conflict.

The Church of the Nativity is 'controlled' by several Christian groups and they each have a part in what they call the status quo.

The status quo, in this case, are the rules each group follows - including who is allowed to clean what part of the building and who can worship where in the building.

Recently, the status quo was broken and Christians met in the square in front of the church to fight with fists and clubs over who had started the fight and who was violating the status quo more.

" . . . I come not to bring peace, but to bring a sword . . . two against three and three against two . . . "

What will be revealed to us this Epiphany and what does the apostrophe mean?

Something to ponder . . .

Blessings,  
*Pastor Bob*

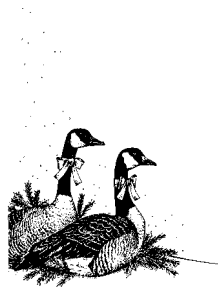
## January Lectionary Readings



Lection Date	Hebrew	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Jan 4	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1: (1-9) 10-184
Jan 6	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan 11	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Jan 18	I Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)	Psalm 139:1-6 13-18	I Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Jan 25	Jonah 3:1-5,10	Psalm 62:5-12	I Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20

## Prayer List

In faith, we are praying for:  
 Ellen Bricker, Gib and Norma Knapp, Laurie Vial, Judy Norton, Clarissa Thomas, Kris Muschel, Kaitlyn Weber, Karen Collier, Mark Redick, Craig Hammer, Wes Aughuey



Thank You St. Luke Union!

The staff at St. Luke Union Church would like to say thank you very much to everyone who gave so generously for staff gifts this Christmas.

We all feel so fortunate to be a part of St. Luke Union Church!

## St. Luke Union's Cantata



If you were able to be here on December 21st to see and hear the St. Luke Union Bell Choir, Choir, and young people perform *And Glory Shone Around*, you were lucky indeed. If you needed to be safe and stayed home - we missed

you - but we thank you for staying safe.

The dedication to presenting a quality program was evident in the amount of work each participant put forth especially those hours of

training and practice most of us never saw.

To David and all whose talents we saw and heard that afternoon, thank you for sharing with us.

## Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women July 11-15, 2009

So far, seven women from St. Luke Union Church will be attending the gathering in Louville, Kentucky next July. And we have room for more to join us! What goes on at the gathering?

The Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women gives you the opportunity to nurture your faith in community with women from around the world;

- Learn about mission opportunities and justice and peace issues
- Develop leadership skills
- Participate in workshops
- Hear from Bible study leaders and plenary speakers
- Meet new friends, including Global Partners from around the world
- And much more!

Adult registration for the full event includes 10 meals, all programs, tote bag and program book. Earlybird registration is January 15 to May 15th, 2009.

Go to: <http://www.pcusa.org/pwgathering/> to look at the website and see what it's all about. See Ruth Trower or Karlene Bledsoe for further information.

### From Pastor Bob and Dianne

We want to say a special thank you to all of you at St. Luke Union who made our Advent and Christmas so very special.

For all the cards and gifts and invitations, thank you, they were so very special.

And to the congregation for the generous gift - thank you, as is our custom we will find a mission with whom/which we will share that generosity.

When Dianne and I accepted this call, we wondered - no longer do we wonder. You have been so very gracious in accepting us to be a part of your mission and ministry in this interim period.

Words cannot fully articulate just how thankful we are to be here at St. Luke Union Church. You have truly been a blessing to us.

Thank you all and may God bless each of you in this new year.



## Pew Bibles Dedications

These gifts are given to the glory of God and:

Given by

Lynn Wright

Bill and Karen Walters

Evelyne Thomas

Pierre Roussey

Denny and Bonnie Redick

Joyce and Bob Pomrenke

The Paterson Family

Dick and Yvonne Harrison

Jim and Judy Ferrier

The Ferrier Family

The Potts Girls and Families

Tyler Wagner

Rev and Mrs Robert M Sherman

Lynn and Wayne Warner

Vi Fenstermaker

Chuck and Gwen Yurieci

Dede Verplaetse

Mary Jane Trower

Ruth Trower

Dick and Diane Swanson

Delmar and Terry Small

Wil and Betty Stevenson

Richard and Doris Rice

Chuck and Carol Parlette

Ed and Debora Gottschalk

Edwin and Margaret Bork

Chris Bateman

Margie Marquardt

Bob and Jane Little

Marian Harris

Arnold and Betty Hering

Rod and Margaret Hawkins

Charlene A Beringer

Penny Kellogg

Joel and Amie Keeton

John and Sue Boerner

Audrey Haning Scott

In celebration of Matthew, Traci and Aiden Wright

In celebration of our family

In memory of Russell R Thomas

In memory of Marjorie and Robert Roussey

In celebration of God's love and our family

In celebration of our many blessings

In memory of Robert and Minnie Jackson and William and Etta Harrison

In celebration of Daniel and David Ferrier

In celebration of Daniel Kazu Ferrier and David Ken Ferrier

In memory of Bob and Earlene Potts

In honor of Rev. and Mrs. Robert M. Sherman

In celebration of the Good News proclaimed by St Luke Union

In celebration of our married life

In memory of Frances Anderson

In memory of Joe and Nadine Yurieci

In memory and honor of Jim and Lorene Rogers

In memory of Dee McClure

In celebration of Arthur and Selma Feicke

In memory of Vernon Trower

In memory of my aunt Phyllis Radcliffe

In celebration of the Trower Family

In honor of our parents - Carl and Margie Marquardt and Arvid and Kathleen Swanson

In celebration of our sons - Tony, Matt, Austin

In celebration of our fathers - Ken Small and Charley Walters

In memory of our parents - James and Lucile Stevenson and Tim and Rose Schierbaum

In memory of Sandra Rice Gillis

In memory of Scott Parlette

In memory of Steven Gottschalk

In memory of James Bork, Brandon Bork, Corry Bork

In memory of Allen Bateman

In memory of my husband Carl

In celebration of my family

In celebration of Christ's Brith

In honor of Russell and Marian Harris

In honor or our daughter Jacqueline Hawkins

In honor of our son Ben Hawkins

In honor of our grandson Keith Jean-Baptiste

In honor of Rod's mother Mae Ruth Brown

In memory of Margaret's parents Fred and Lorraine Huffmire

In memory of Sharon and Albert Beringer

In celebration of my family

In honor of Miles, Owen and Lillie Keeton

In memory of Dick Hoffarth

In honor of Megan and Brandon Boerner

In celebration of Hallie Hoffarth

In memory of James B. Scott, my beloved husband



St. Luke Union Church

2101 E. Washington St.  
Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: 309-663-7437  
Email: [mail@stlukeunion.org](mailto:mail@stlukeunion.org)

Non Profit  
US Postage Paid  
Bloomington, Illinois  
Permit No. 10

