

Congregational Vote

“In a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 21st, the congregation of St. Luke Union Church voted to extend a Call to Pastor Andy Gifford to become our next Called Pastor/Head of Staff. Pastor Andy accepted the call, and his anticipated start date is August 1st. As part of the Terms of Call, Pastor Andy’s responsibilities will include supervising Christian Education.

Pastor Bob will continue to serve as Interim Pastor until July 31st. He will be paid through August 21st and for unused vacation time, in accordance with his Interim contract. A farewell reception is being planned—detailed information will be announced as soon as it is known.

Rod Hawkins, Moderator
Vision & Ministry Council

Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

The Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women allows us to nurture our faith and to be in community with Christian women from across the country and around the world. It offers time to learn about mission opportunities and justice and peace issues; to participate in Bible study; and to learn leadership skills. We can worship together, share our faith in song and prayer, explore Louisville, Kentucky, the home of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) national offices, and have fun!

Finally, the 2009 Churchwide Gathering is a time to celebrate - to celebrate Presbyterian Women’s 20 years as part of the long tradition of women’s organizations in the Presbyterian Church; to celebrate our connections with clergywomen, as the National Association of Presbyterian Clergy women meets concurrently with us and to celebrate the wonders of God among us!

The Gathering is a time to celebrate the wonders of God! The Gathering is from July 11th - 15th.

Attending and leaving from the church July 10th at 8:00 a.m. will be:

Charlene Beringer
Karlene Bledsoe
Sarah Franks

Marsha Hinthorn
Carol Parlette
Ruth Trower

Yvonne Harrison

Pastor Bob Ponders . . .

. . . One last time . . . Several theologians and Biblical scholars recently have used the words, The Last Word in book titles related to the various disciplines of the academic church. Just exactly what is the last word? And what does it mean? As most of you know, Dianne and I were away this weekend. What was I doing? I was preaching! A congregation had asked me to preach and so when opportunity knocked, I jumped. What else was a pastor to do on a Sunday morning? It was great fun, just ask Dianne.

The last words we heard from several who listened to that sermon were, “Well, you nailed that one, didn’t you?!” How did you know we needed to hear just those words, in just that way? When can you return and preach again? Wonderful words to assuage the ego. But what of the one for whom the message was not ‘nailed’ but just a useless jumble about a God who has not yet delivered Good News to them? What would their last words to me have been? What will our last words together be?

Dianne and I have tried to be vessels of Good News during our time at St. Luke Union Church. And yet, some we touched did not hear Good News, or receive God’s grace. We are sorry for those missed opportunities. We do know we leave better prepared for the next pastoral position - why?, because we have been here. Thank you all for being vessels of God’s grace for/to us.

As I write this last pastoral letter as your Pastor in the Interim, I ponder last words which have meant so much to me on my faith journey. Words from Micah about ‘ . . . Walking humbly with God; and Matthew, “. . . Go, therefore and make disciples of all the world . . . I will be with you even to the end of the age . . .;” Romans 8, “. . . Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus . . .;” Mark, “. . . And they went forth and preached everywhere . . .;” Luke, “. . . And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God . . .;” and perhaps most important from the original Hebrew in Genesis, “When God created . . .;” it was good;” combined with these words from Revelation, Come, Lord Jesus! . . . Amen.”

Remember therefore, God created you and it was good, the Holy Spirit gifts you to be very good as an angel of the Lord; so nothing will separate you from the Love of God, known in the life, the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen. Famous last words . . .

Because Jesus WILL come again, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob

Fall Group Sale Coordinator Still Needed

No experience required.

Step-by-step written instructions available.

Contact Terry Small or Charlene Beringer.

Money Matters

As of May 31, 2009

GENERAL FUND	JAN/MAY ACTUAL	JAN/MAY BUDGET
Receipts	\$109,314	\$95,875
Disbursements	\$ 83,065	\$93,844

5 YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	JAN/MAY ACTUAL	JAN/MAY PLEDGE
Receipts	\$ 8,586	\$11,933

The 5 year capital loan has been paid in full. We paid \$17,889.36 more than we received in pledges. Are you able to help close this gap by making additional payments?

A complete financial report is available on the Details Board.

Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet on Thursday, July 9th, at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The study will be Lesson #6 entitled "Enemies Become Neighbors" in our study guide *Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor*. Coffee will be served at 1:30 p.m.

Ice Cream Social

We will be celebrating summer with an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 19th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Home-made ice cream and beverages will be provided.

Please bring a cake, pie, brownies, or anything yummy that goes with ice cream to share.

Agape Committee

Thank You

I thank my church family for your continuing prayers and special timely thoughts and personal cards. Jane and I are surely blessed. My recovery is progressing ahead of doctor's expectations.

Thanks again. Pray for others in need as we will too.

Sincerely,

Bob & Jane Little

Prayer Chain

We are praying for these people by name:

Jim Bicknell	Seanna Moyer
Neal Benjamin	Judy Norton
Ron Blankenship	Kathy Otto's Family
Dan Fritcher Family	Ryan Palesh
Jeff DeBruine, Lisa, Anna, Emma	Cassandra Putnam
Mary Desmond	Mark Redick
Jane Edwards Family	Leo Rennhack
Clara Greiner	Bill Robertson
Lori Groetken	Kevin Schaefer
Chris Hammer	Linda Sellberg's brother-in-law Verne & Family
Joyce Hastings	Luke Slusarksi
Ray Hunt	Sharon Stanford
John & Suzie	Kris Sulzberger
Juanita (Linda Sellberg's co-worker)	Evelyne Thomas
Gib Knapp Family	Lois Thompson
Earl Kreinhop	Steve Tiller
Bob Little	Mary Jane Trower
Jennifer Locke	Laurie Vial
Bud Long Family	Andrea Weyhrich
Chester Lyle	Gwen Yurieci
David Marquardt	
Doris McFarland	
Teresa Modendricker	

Congratulations to Charlene Beringer

Charlene Beringer has received the *Outstanding Board Member of the Year* award from the Illinois State Crime Stoppers Association.

She has been on the McLean County Crime Stoppers Board for nine years and is in her second term as president.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Class

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Class will meet at 5:30 p.m. Bring a sack lunch; dessert will be furnished.

July 2009 Lectionary

Date	Hebrew	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
July 5	Ezekiel 2:1-5	123	II Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
July 12	Amos 7:7-15	85:8-13	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-20
July 19	Jeremiah 23:1-6	23	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 26	II Kings 4:42-44	145:10-18	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21

Thank You

The family of Lois Martin wish to thank all her good friends for the fellowship and support that they have shown over the years. She will be missed by all that knew her warm smile and happy heart. A special thank you to Pastor Bob, and the ladies of the church who helped us through a difficult time.

Sharee Marzolf and Family
 Wally Martin and Family
 Sue Martin and Family

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Several members of our church have expressed an interest in the "Prayer Shawl Ministry." Since its inception in 1998, the Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to grow, extending its message of hope around the world. Volunteer knitters and crocheters take part in a tidal wave of caring as they turn yarn into shawls, lap robes, wraps, or baby afghans that are interwoven with prayers.

Those who receive these handmade expressions of love are uplifted by the spiritual comfort they experience while wearing their prayer shawl.

If you would like a suggested pattern you will find some in a container in the church fellowship room. You may also use one of your own patterns. A suggested size is approximately 24x60.

There are two shawls that have been started in the fellowship room. If you have a few spare moments while waiting at the church, pick one up and knit or crochet a few rows.

Finished shawls will be used for our hospitalized or home bound members and friends. If we have extras they will be taken to nursing homes.

Any questions, call Yvonne Harrison.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Don Davis - July 1
Linda Kearfott - July 1
Jennifer Belletete - July 2
Robert Sherman - July 2
Yvonne Harrison - July 3
Keegan Johnson - July 3
Diann Kamp - July 7
James Darnell - July 8
Ed Desmond - July 8
Margie Marquardt - July 9
Glenn Stille - July 9
Summer Shipley - July 11
Hayley Harroun - July 13
Betty Hering - July 14
Sara Simmons - July 14
Amanda Trower - July 15
Wayne Warner - July 15
Jack Moore - July 16
Kirk Cruze - July 17
Theresa Kelley - July 17
Tammy Desmond - July 18
Jacob Blankenship - July 19
Sam Pittmon - July 19
Mindy Stille - July 20
Evelyne Thomas - July 20
Roger Parmenter - July 24
Erwin Manzke - July 25
Olivia Trower - July 25
Miriam Brown - July 27
Anna DeBruine - July 27
Chuck Parlette - July 29
Frances Sprague - July 29
Scott Bork - July 30
Jane Little - July 31
Jim Moore - July 31
Dianne Sherman - July 31

Anniversaries

Jim & Pamela McClure - July 1
Delmar & Terry Small - July 2
Denny & Bonnie Redick - July 6
Marc & Stacy Herren - July 7
Kim & Kathy Johnson - July 12
John & Kathy Otto - July 22

Thank You

Thank you to the congregation for your concern and prayers during my unemployment since mid-September and also the anonymous gifts.

I am currently working part-time transcribing interviews for a friend's doctoral thesis. I continue to work diligently on my job search and try to network and "think outside the box."

Opportunities are still limited and those are flooded with applicants, many much younger than me! But I remain optimistic.

Also thanks for your prayers for Neal and I during our recent health concerns, we are both doing better. Please continue to pray for all Americans who are unemployed or underemployed.

Laurie Vial, Neal & Claire

St. Luke Union Church

2101 E. Washington St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: 309-663-7437
Email: mail@stlukeunion.org

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

Return Service Requested

