

Special points of interest:

September 2009

- Women's Presbytery of Great Rivers Fall Gathering
- The Booth Brothers Southern Gospel Music Concert
- Women's Fellowship Fall Rally
- Save the Date and Your Treasures!
- Learning at St. Luke Union Church/Education Ministry Volunteers Needed

From the Pastor . . .

As a youth I loved to ride on roller coasters.

Growing up in a Chicago suburb we would always make great efforts to spend one day each summer at Great America in Gurnee, IL.

Each year brought new excitement because each year there always seemed to be one new ride that had to be conquered.

There would be much talk in the weeks leading up to the day's event.

The day would come, (typically the hottest day in the summer), and when we hit the gate, we would head straight for the new ride of anticipation.

Of course, the wait would exceed an hour's time, but was well worth the feeling you had as you climbed onto this "device of thrill."

Now the last thing that would happen before the ride began was that some sort of restraining device would befall upon you, locking you into place.



At this point, the operators would offer some sarcastic comment of hope and survival and off you would hurl.

September 1st marks the completion of my first month as the Pastor at St. Luke Union Church.

There have been some times when we have been a bit overwhelmed, but we know that God has called the Gifford family to a place where good work will be done.

But we need to be careful when comparing St. Luke Union and a roller coaster because it only works to a point.

The difference between a ride on a roller coaster and how we have begun to travel with St. Luke Union Church is that roller coasters always end up at the same place they began and we at St. Luke Union will forever be moving forward in the

unique way that God is calling us.

Roller coasters also give you a slight feeling of doom but what we have received from our new congregation is only joy and encouragement.

We continue to look forward to getting to know each and everyone of you.

Please know that you are always welcome to stop by and spend a few moments getting to know the Giffords and me. Climb aboard God's train, a ride that never ends and just keeps getting better.

Peace,

Pastor Andy

Inside this issue:

Call4Names	2
Crop Hunger Walk	3
Family Bible Study Begins	5
From Our Music Director	7
Home Bible Class	7
Installation Date Set	9
From the Moderator	9

Call4Names

Your Presbytery Nominating Committee is looking for **talented elders** to serve on the various committees and commissions of our Presbytery.

Because you know elders who have skills in organizational development, financial analysis and spiritual discernment, you can help us by sharing the names of those elders with us.

Don't worry about the fact that the elders are

inexperienced (or busy) or that they are young (or that they are old).

Disregard the fact that they might live far from Peoria or that they might be involved in local church committees.

Just give us their names and we will take it from there.

Yes, I am pleased to share these names with the Nominating Committee:

1. _____
Name

City

2. _____
Name

City

3. _____
Name

City

4. _____
Name

City

Women's Presbytery of Great Rivers Fall Gathering

Join Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Great Rivers Fall Gathering, September 19, 2009 at the Farmingdale Presbyterian Church, in Pleasant Plains.

The topic will be "Reciprocating Hospitality."

Registration is from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The cost will be \$6.00 for the meal.

Contact Yvonne Harrison at 454-6774 by September 10th if you would like to attend, or for more information.

Thank You

Thank you, again, to our church family for your thoughts, prayers, and cards during the past several months and after Mary's passing.

Knowing she is in a place where there are no wheelchairs, seizures and pain bring us comfort and peace.

Ed Desmond Family



CROP Hunger Walk

The CROP Hunger Walk is here again!

The walk is at Second Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 4th at 2:30 p.m.

Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP) was started in the late 1960s to raise awareness and money to help those who were in need of food in a community in South Dakota.

In McLean County and Bloomington/Normal, CROP Hunger Walk walkers have raised close to \$62,000 since 1992.

This year our goal is to raise \$10,000 with 10



churches and 200 walkers participating raising money for the walk.

Twenty percent of the money raised will be divided between Midwest Food Bank, St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry and Home Sweet Home Ministries.

The rest of the funds raised will go to Church World Service to help educate countries around the world to help increase food supply and raise

awareness about health issues.

If you would like to volunteer for this year's walk or would like more information, come to our recruiter rally on August 31st at 6:30 p.m. at Second Presbyterian Church.

If you would like to sign up to walk, sponsor a walker, or just make a contribution to the CROP Hunger Walk, log on to www.bncropwalk.org or contact Kerry Modendricker (825-1969).

Help us be a Community Responding to Overcome Poverty and hunger in Bloomington/Normal and McLean County!

Disaster Relief Buckets



Ten Disaster Relief Buckets have been delivered to the UCC Disaster Relief Program.

The cost of the buckets was about \$40 each.

If you would like to help defray the cost of the supplies, please put a donation in an envelope and mark "Buckets."

Thank you.

Thanks to everyone for the prayers said on my behalf. Also, for the food. They were very much appreciated.

Doris Rice

Money Matters

As of July 31, 2009



GENERAL FUND	JAN/JUL ACTUAL	JAN/JUL BUDGET
Receipts	\$142,050	\$131,655
Disbursements	\$123,719	\$133,517

5-Year Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign loan is paid but a little over \$15,000 was taken from capital improvements to cover the amount for pledges that were not fulfilled. Your additional donations marked "Capital Campaign" will help repay this fund.

The Booth Brothers Southern Gospel Music Concert

A fundraiser featuring The Booth Brothers in concert will be held at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, September 13, 2009 at Second Presbyterian Church, 313 N. East Street, in Bloomington, IL.

Doors open at 3:00 p.m. A love offering will be taken

at the concert.

\$15 and \$20 tickets are available at:

Hoerr's Berean (Peoria, Bloomington and Decatur) or at the Midwest Food Bank (Bloomington 309-663-5350 or Peoria 309-691-5270).



Addresses Needed

It is that time of year again when school starts and the youth go to college.

It is also that time of year for me to ask that if you would like your college aged youth to receive cards from the Youth Group,

please get their addresses to me (even if by some chance the address hasn't changed).

You can e-mail them to me at: sarah.franks@mcleancountyl.gov or leave them for

me at the church, whatever works for you.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sarah Franks

Birthdays

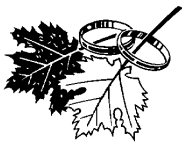
Alex Moore - Sept 2
 Sandra Kelley - Sept 3
 Rebecca Hepner - Sept 5
 Karin Hunt - Sept 7
 Todd Stille - Sept 7
 Betty Potts - Sept 8
 David Ferrier - Sept 9
 David Colee - Sept 10
 Denny Redick - Sept 12
 Lucas Trower - Sept 12
 James Ferrier - Sept 13
 Kim Schultz - Sept 13
 Eleanor Larrick - Sept 17
 Priscilla Harper - Sept 20
 Julianne Schultz - Sept 21



Debra Grant - Sept 29
 Jake Stille - Sept 30

Sean Baker - Sept 25
 Betsy Larson - Sept 25
 Allen Otto - Sept 26
 Andrew Claugherly - Sept 27
 Sandra Colee - Sept 29

Anniversaries



Don & Linda Kearfott - Sept 3
 Matthew & Christine Kubiak - Sept 9
 Ron & Norma Scott - Sept 12
 Matt & Traci Wright - Sept 13
 Kevin & Rebecca Schaefer - Sept 24

Michael & Dede Verplaetse - Sept 26
 Jim & Louise Moore - Sept 27
 Joel & Amie Keeton - Sept 28
 Robert & Joyce Pomrenke - Sept 29

Family Bible Study Begins

Kids of All Ages -

Join us for Family Bible Study, starting September 16th at 6:00 p.m. Bring your Bible and an adult to study with you.

We'll have fun learning Scripture and applying our faith to everyday life!

Any questions, contact Doug Ferrier or Rebecca Schaefer.

Save the Date and Your Treasures!

If you haven't heard – the St. Luke Union Church Bake and Group Sale is on October 30th and 31st.

However, before anything is sold we will need YOUR help.

We need a volunteer to coordinate set-up for the group sale. This job entails getting people to the church on Sunday, October 25th to bring up shelves from the basement and tables from the garage.

Also, we need someone to coordinate the tear down at 12:00 p.m. on the 31st.

This job entails getting people to the church after the group sale and taking the shelves back to the



basement and the tables back to the garage. Trucks and drivers are needed after the group sale as well to take any left over items to the missions.

Also volunteers will be needed the week of the group sale to help get the treasures on the correct tables and priced.

And for the bakers out there, warm up your ovens and prepare for the bake sale.

Please watch for sign-up sheets on the bulletin

board.

Treasures can be brought to the church Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 27 and 28.

If you have any really nice or exotic items, please let us know so they can be listed in the ad.

Thanks to Chuck & Gwen Yurici who have volunteered to be in charge of setup and the Tarter Family for providing human power and vehicles for hauling goodies to the missions.

Sarah.Franks@mcleancountyil.gov. 808-1609

Yvonne Harrison
EVONUSH@aol.com
454-6774



Women's Fellowship Fall Rally

All women are invited to attend our Women's Fellowship Fall Rally on September 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

The program will be presented by the women

who attended the Presbyterian Women's Triennium in Louisville, Kentucky.

The theme was "God Will Do Wonders Among Us."

We will also have election of officers.

Refreshments will be served.



From Our Music Director

We are now starting our Fall worship season, and I'm wondering where summer went.

First, I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes with Kris's cancer progress.

Chemotherapy continues with gradual, positive progress, so your thoughts and prayers are continually welcome.

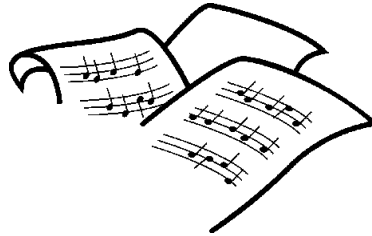
I am really looking forward to our music groups resuming worship participation.

Choir will start singing the first or second week in September.

Rehearsals will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Handbells will rehearse for the first time on September 9th at 6 p.m.

starting in September, I will reserve the third Sunday of the month for children's music in the anthem spot.



As always, I encourage solos and other musical talents to be shared.

Thank you to Doug, Rebecca, Kris, the youth, the choir, and the Stevenson family for providing special music over the summer.

I would like to invite any member of the congregation to join our musical groups and share your musical gift to the worship of our Lord.

A common misconception is that you have to read music.

Some in choir do and some don't.

We have a very talented choir which makes it very easy to learn the music if you don't read music.

It would be great to fill our choir chairs more often.

Our handbell choir can always use members.

The more people, the better music we can play.

Again, you don't have to read music although some rhythmic understanding is beneficial.

Please feel free to visit one of our rehearsals and talk to me if you are interested.

David Sulzberger

Home Bible Class



The Home Bible Class will meet Thursday, September 10th, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The study will be Lesson 7 entitled "The Oppressed Are Set Free" in our study book entitled *Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor.*

Coffee will be served at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer List

We are praying for these people by name:

Dillon Beemer
Family of Ron Blankenship
Jeff DeBruine & Family
Mae Ferrier
Curly Flynn
Karen Frost
Clara Greiner
Lori Groetken
Jack Harrison Family
Ray Hunt
Don Kearfott

Libby Lair
Doris McFarland
Teresa Modendrick
Judy Norton
Mark Redick
Doris Rice
Kevin Schaefer
Luke Slusarksi
Susan Sylvester
Kris Sulzberger
Evelyne Thomas

Mary Jane Trower
Laurie Vial
Ethel Weirman Family
Andrea Weyhrich
6 Friends of Dick Swanson

Thank You



Dear St. Luke Friends,

We would like to thank you for all the cards, calls and prayers we received during Don's hip surgery.

The surgery was supposed to be a revision of the original hip surgery that

was done 18 years ago but it turned out to be another total hip replacement.

Don is doing well and making a lot of progress. Very soon he will be able to do full weight bearing on the leg.

He is going for out-patient therapy twice a week.

The recovery process has been a long and slow one.

Don & Linda Kearfott

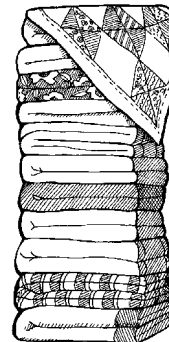
Church Women United

Thank you to everyone who participated in the special "Blanket" collection.

\$195.00 was donated to Church World Service and your help is very much appreciated.

Karin Hunt,

for Church Women United



From the Moderator



Mark Hamner submitted a final restitution payment to the court in mid-August.

We hope to have received the money by the time you read this – but sometimes the wheels turn slowly.

This event will close the “final chapter” in the story of St. Luke Union

Church’s relationship with the former Reverend Mark Hamner.

We will almost certainly have to return to our insurance company some, and perhaps all, of the money we received from them.

The Vision & Ministry

Council will then prayerfully determine how the remaining funds will be used.

With thanks to God,

Rod Hawkins,
Moderator

Installation Date Set

Installation of The Reverend Andrew J. Gifford as the third head of staff of the St. Luke Union Church will take place on September 13th at 3:30 p.m. in the afternoon.

A reception will be held in Fellowship Hall immediately following the Service of Installation.

Please make plans to attend.

Pew Bibles

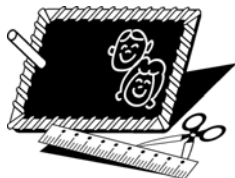
The new Pew Bibles will arrive soon. The order is ready to be mailed.

Thanks for the great response.

Worship Team



Learning at St. Luke Union Church



We have a fantastic year planned for Christian Education.

You might find yourself gathered round a table for Sunday morning Bible Study, or making a mess in the fellowship hall with the kids on Wednesday evenings.

No matter where we are on our faith journeys we are called to build up each other in Christ.

Are you looking for a place to get started?

Try one of these classes on for size:

- **Garden (K-5)**

Beginning Sept. 13, join us every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. for an hour of fun and study.

We'll start in the sanctuary at 9:00 with some singing. It worked well last year, so we'll have the kids sing in church every third Sunday throughout the year.

Then, we will move downstairs to the Garden where we will learn about Jesus and the parables (Cokesbury Curriculum) through reading, art and games.

- **Bible Study (All Ages)**

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 13

at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room.

- **Sunday Night After Church - SNAC (6th Grade through Senior in High School)**

We will be starting a series on World Religions this fall.

What is it that we believe and how is this similar or different than other religions?

- **Sunday, August 30 (noon until 2) After Church Cookout.**

We'll talk about goals for the 2009-2010 year. Parents are invited.

- **Sunday, September 13 (3:00 until 4:30)**

We'll meet as a youth group at church to welcome Pastor Andy Gifford as he is installed as our head pastor.

- **Sunday, September 20 (4:30 until 6:45) First official Youth Group Sunday at St. Luke Union Church**

Sunday, September 27 (time TBA) Youth Group Outing at Funk's Grove

- **Family Night (Pre-K through Adult)**

Wednesday, September 16th is our first Family

Night of the fall.

We're taking back the night with a lot of activity at St. Luke Union Church.

5:00-6:00 Church Family Dinner

Everyone is invited (donations are welcome)

6:00-7:00 Family Bible Study – Children (Pre-K through 8th)

Attend with an adult.

They will read and memorize Bible verses that will be reinforced with fun activities.

6:00-7:00 Bell Choir/ Adult Bible Study/Some Committee Meetings

7:15-8:15 Choir

And there will be more fun planned along the way. So, join us for any or all of these weekly activities starting this month.

Special note to parents:

Please turn your *Permission Forms for Youth Under 18 Years of Age* in to the church office.

Don't worry. If you need another, or if you have a friend that would like to join us, we have more in the church office.

Just let us know, and we'll get a permission form to them.

Education Ministry Volunteers Needed

Are you ready?

We need Mentors and Teachers.

We're all given gifts of ministry in Christ.

Some of us bake, some of us crunch numbers, some of us preach and some of us teach.

And if this last gift is just bubbling up inside of you, the education ministry needs volunteers for 2009-2010.

You do not need to be an expert in Theology, far from it.

You won't be doing it alone, and we'll give you resources to get started.

If you think you might be able to help us with one of the following areas, please **contact Doug Ferrier at dsferrier@gmail.com by September 20th:**

Mentors (needed for 6th - 12th grade)

We need adults from the congregation who are willing to be a spiritual coach to members of our church youth group (6th grade through Seniors in High School).

We have resources for you



to use as a guide, but what we really need are people who are accessible and willing to listen.

A mentor might attend a ball game or concert.

This person (or couple) would attend some of our youth events, invite the youth to attend church/community events and stay involved in the youth's spiritual journey.

Youth Group Volunteers (needed for 6th - 12th grade)

Are you geared up for shooting hoops, mission trips and a bit of adventure?

We need at least one more female volunteer to help us lead Sunday Night After Church (SNAC) events for the church youth.

While we need a female, we'll take the guys too.

Wanna try it as a couple,

we'll take ya.

We meet Sunday evenings from 4:30 until 6:45.

Garden Teachers (needed for K-5)

We have an exciting year planned, and there are quite a few youngsters who are ready to learn.

We need volunteers to both take the lead and act in a support role (cutting, glueing, smiling, praying).

Our plan is to have at least two adults leading every Sunday.

Classes are from 9:00 to 10:15 on Sunday mornings.

St. Luke Union Church

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Bloomington, IL 61701

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

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