

**Special points of interest:**

- Electronic Recycling
- Christmas in July Group & Bake Sale
- August Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Pastor Andy's Trivia Question

August 2010

**From Our Music Director**

The summer is going by quickly, and it is time for the St. Luke Union music ensembles to start rehearsals for the fall.



The first choir rehearsal will take place Wednesday, August 25th at the usual time of 7:00.

The first hand bell rehearsal will take place at 6:00 on Wednesday, September 1st.

I want to thank everyone that provided special music this summer.

As I'm writing this, we

just had the guys sing "America the Beautiful" in church.

I really appreciate the extra participation and encourage more to participate in our regular ensembles.

The more choir members we have, the more strength and flexibility we have in

singing material.

More hand bell members would really help in what we can do music-wise.

Most hand bell music is written for much bigger groups.

For all groups, a music reading background is not required, but it does help.

Thank you to all the members of St. Luke Union that participate in our music worship to our Lord.

*David Sulzberger*

**Home Bible Class**

The Home Bible Class will meet on Thursday, August 12th, in Fellowship Hall at 1:30 p.m.

We will study Jeremiah 24, Chapter 6 entitled "Good Figs, a Heart to

Know God" in our study guide *Jeremiah Demanding Love*.

All the ladies of the church and friends are invited to attend this class.

**Inside this issue:**

High Seas Expedition	3
From Our Pastor . . .	4
Moderator's Notes	5
Get Connected	5
Facebook	6
Reginal's Corner	7
Money Matters	7

## Electronic Recycling

By Laurie B. Vial, Energy Consultant



There may be a new phenomenon as more and more of us use computers and then upgrade our computers, monitors, laptops and other electronic toys.

This is true in our homes and it's true in our churches.

What do we do with these electronic albatrosses when they seem to no longer hold any value to us?

Many people seem to sense they should not be placed in a landfill whether from a sense of environmental responsibility or fear that some hacker will glean personal information from the hard drive, or both.

Thus many report having old desktops, laptops and monitors hidden all over their house waiting for a safe, responsible way to dispose of them.

Mavidea and IBM recently sponsored an electronic collection in downtown Bloomington.

Cars were lined up for blocks and over 16 tons of equipment was collected, some more than 15 years old!

That's 16 tons that was not thrown in a landfill but it

underscores some of the fear surrounding its disposal.

I've participated in a few tours of our churches in my roll as an energy consultant.

And I've seen some of these ancient electronics tucked away in basements and attics.

It's time to educate ourselves about responsible disposal, i.e. recycling and move forward.

And the ideal time to deal with this issue is the day you plug in the shiny, new replacement - while your items may still have some value to someone who has no computer at all or a local school or nonprofit.

Most communities have trusted organizations that will accept your donations, "wipe" the hard drive to remove all data and prepare the unit for the next appreciative user.

If your electronic item is truly DOA or so slow or so small as to be of no use to anyone, then make sure it is recycled and not headed to the landfill.

I know in McLean County there are several locations

where these items can be dropped off at convenient times including Saturdays. There are no more excuses.

And if you are using a technician to transfer your data from one unit to another, ask them if they offer re-use or recycle options.

When you're shopping for new equipment look for energy efficient options.

Many of the new monitors use much less energy than their earlier counterparts with LCD technology and are in fact Energy Star rated.

And while you're at it, purchase printer paper with the highest post consumer waste (PCW) rating possible. For 100% PCW – yes that's 100 PERCENT – check out [www.echopaperstore.com](http://www.echopaperstore.com)

Learn more about FREE energy audits for all churches in our Presbytery using the hot link below.

To contact me, e-mail [greenenergy@greatriverspb.org](mailto:greenenergy@greatriverspb.org). Until next week let's all strive to be good stewards of God's earth.

*Laurie B. Vial*

## All-Church Birthday Party

Please join us during Fellowship Hour to celebrate all birthdays on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

We will be hosting a Birthday Party for everyone in the church.

Each month will have a decorated designated table – come and see who you share your birthday with.

We will be serving cupcakes, donuts, and beverages to celebrate.



## High Seas Expedition - Vacation Bible School

Put your boots and life jackets on and get ready for the High Seas!

Vacation Bible School will take place from August 1st through August 5th.

The evening begins with a

family meal at 5:00 p.m. followed by games, crafts, and a Bible lesson and worship.

The evening concludes at 8:00 p.m.



## Christmas in July Group & Bake Sale

We were happy to net approximately \$1600 for our Christmas in July sale.

Proceeds will be used for Women's Fellowship Triennium (2012) retreats, scholarships and for expenses for the Youth Triennium.

Thanks to all who contributed items and baked goods and to those who spent many hours setting up and packing up.

**The fall group and bake sale is tentatively set for October 15th and 16th.**

Mark your calendars and save your good stuff!

## From Our Pastor . . .

Life on the Gifford farm is coming together.

Ben and Seth enjoy calling our home the “Fantasy Farm,” because they have a place to ride the ATV and have begun construction on a long desired tree fort.

Sandi and I enjoy the space for a large garden, (if anyone needs zucchini let me know), and the quiet aspects of country living.

The other aspect of country living that we have undertaken is the raising of chickens.

We particularly have enjoyed our hens and their now consistent laying of one egg a day.

The two we currently have laying, typically function like clock work for when and where each lay.

It’s very nice and the family consumption and egg production balance themselves very well.

On occasion one of the hens takes a day off.

The reason could be that it’s too hot or too rainy or just that one of the other hens was pecking on her.

We don’t know but in the



words of Anna DeBruine, “One of those hens is not doing her part around here.”

We at St. Luke Union Church are a wonderful family with many different gifts and skills.

We’re active in the community and the life of this church, but as I look around I have to ask, “Are we all doing our part around here?”

### **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

We are all part of the body of Christ and we each have gifts to share in every stage of our lives.

Our gifts do not end when we get older or our children have left the home.

Our gifts merely modify themselves to the new location in life that God has placed us.

Currently we are looking for additional leaders for our youth group, mentors, Sunday school teachers, liturgists, hosts, shut-in visitors, landscape clean-up, choir members, musicians, and the list goes on.

What is the mission that God is calling you to?

How can the Vision & Ministry Council and I, as your Pastor, equip you to fulfill the call Christ has put on your heart to serve?

Peace of Christ,

*Pastor Andy Gifford*

## Moderator's Notes

As I mentioned in my June message, the Vision & Ministry Council did not meet in July.

We will resume our meetings in August to approve a mission statement and bring it to the Congregation for comment, to begin visioning significant initiatives for the church in the coming year and beyond, and other business of the church.

Have you noticed the new roof on the sanctuary?

Have you noticed the improved sound from the organ?

These are but a few of the visible improvements made to the church building and property over the past few months.

There is much still to be done to improve the physical plant.

You can expect to hear about exciting ideas for additional improvements



in the coming year.

I am reading a book written by a former colleague about his exploits working with college students.

He is a great storyteller.

I can recall intently listening to him tell incredible and humorous stories in his South Carolinian twang.

In the book he discusses some extraordinary circumstances he has experienced and how he does not believe in coincidences.

He believes that God

placed him in these circumstances for a reason.

He begins one of the chapters in the book with the following quote from Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, a noted psychiatrist.

Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself and know that everything in life has purpose.

There are no mistakes, no coincidences.

All events are blessings, given to us to learn from.

When I think about all that has happened in the year since Andy became our pastor, I know that it is no coincidence that he is at St. Luke Union Church.

He came to us with a purpose and the events of the past were blessings, given to us to learn from.

Blessings,

*Brent Paterson,*  
Moderator

## Get Connected

Both the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church USA have websites that produce regular newsletters.

You can set up your computer to receive these newsletters via e-mail. Just go to [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) or [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

The Great Rivers Presbytery and Eastern Association also offers a weekly newsletter at [www.greatriverspby.org](http://www.greatriverspby.org) or <http://eastern.ilucc.org>

## August Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays -

Phillip Blankenship - 3  
 Jane Farmer - 3  
 Edward Gottschalk - 3  
 Rachel Dean - 4  
 Megan Murray - 9  
 Austin Swanson - 10  
 Tony Grant - 13  
 Joyce Pomrenke - 13  
 Gene Wright - 14  
 Kristy Grant - 15  
 Ruth Dravis - 16  
 Nate Harroun - 17  
 Deborah Moret - 17  
 Kevin Schaefer - 17  
 Maurine Asbury - 18  
 James Beemer - 19



Craig Stille - 20  
 Dylan Walsh - 23  
 Amy Winters - 23  
 Laura Hinthorn - 25  
 Justine Tarter - 25  
 Hallie Hoffarth - 26  
 Mindy Feicke - 28

Laura Hinthorn - 28  
 Chuck Yurieci - 29  
 Sharon Stille - 30  
 Norma Roberts - 31  
 Dan Staver - 31

### Anniversaries -

James & Judy Ferrier - 1  
 Ray & Karin Hunt - 3  
 Wil & Betty Stevenson - 7  
 Roger & Sherrie Taylor - 9  
 Bud & Norma Roberts - 14  
 Dan & Carla Staver - 18  
 Andy & Keli Chambers - 24  
 Dick & Yvonne Harrison - 27  
 Gene & Lynne Wright - 27  
 Don & Mary Davis - 31

## Facebook

St. Luke Union Church  
 now has a Facebook page.

Become a friend of our  
 page and share in the

experience of social  
 networking with St. Luke  
 Union friends.

## Pastor Andy's Trivia Question

Did you guess the answer  
 to last month's trivia  
 question?

**Who was Jeremiah's  
 secretary or scribe?**

Answer: Baruch

August Trivia Question:

**What is the name and site from the Bible of the two times when God held the waters back so the Israelites could walk through a body of water on dry ground?**

## Reginal's Corner



Even though we sometimes don't get to church each Sunday, because of vacations or just being sick, we still all need to say our prayers everyday.

Here is one of my favorite prayers that I say before I go to bed.

Peace of Christ,  
*Reginal*

Now I lay me down to sleep  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep

Guard me Jesus through the night  
And wake me with the morning light.

Father in heaven hear my prayer  
Keep me in thy loving care  
Be my guide in all I do  
And bless all those who love me too.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John  
Bless this bed I sleep upon  
Four corners to my bed  
Four angels surround my head

One to watch and one to pray  
And two to keep all harm away.

Help us to do the things we should  
To be to others kind and good  
In all we do and all we say  
To grow more loving every day.

## Money Matters As of June 30, 2010

GENERAL FUND	JAN-JUN BUDGET	JAN-JUN ACTUAL
Receipts	\$126,150	\$118,444
Disbursements	\$128,877	\$121,080

A more complete report is available on the Details Board in Fellowship Hall.

## Thank You

Dear St. Luke Friends,  
Sometimes illness can come to family members almost simultaneously and that is what happened to both of us recently.

We give thanks to our

congregation, Pastor Andy, Chaplain Kathy, and many friends for their cards, prayerful support and one very warm prayer shawl.

Blessings to all of you,

*Jay & Marilyn Hammer*



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

Return Service Requested

