

The Church Crier

April 2008

“United in Christ to Show and Share the Love of God”

St. Peter - Trinity United Church of Christ
12338 N. St. Peter Church Rd. Lamar, IN 47550

Rev. Paul "Chip" Jahn

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From the Pastor: “An Easter Parable”



Karen was forty-two years old, with a husband, Steve a fifteen-year-old daughter, a ten-year-old son and job that was quickly becoming too physically demanding for her; because Karen also had terminal cancer. She had first been diagnosed two years before when she found that lump on her breast. Then she had been strong, fit and determined to beat the disease. Surgery and a couple years of chemotherapy had taken their toll. Now she spent most days battling fatigue and nausea. All the treatments hadn't kept the cancer from spreading to Karen's liver. The cancer itself left Karen in constant pain. But what pain her most was the fact that she hadn't spoken to her mother in almost three years. Oh, they couldn't help but be thrown together at family gatherings, but that made their self-imposed silence all that more awkward. It started with a misunderstanding that grew into a disagreement. The disagreement too quickly became an argument. The argument turned into estrangement, as angry words became a festering silence. The family watched helplessly for the last three years as the women would show up at graduations and baptism, birthday parties and holiday celebrations but would talk around each other.

Ruth was Karen's friend. She would sometimes pick up the kids and distract them on Karen's bad days. Ruth would drive Karen to treatments to keep Steve from having to take a day off. These car trips might start with the women critiquing “American Idol” performances from the night before, but they inevitably evolved into intimate sharing of each other's soul. Over the months of treatments, Ruth listened as Karen's initial hope in her doctors eroded away, but was replaced by a faith in God. As Karen's body was losing the war with the cancer, there was a struggle to make peace with world. Ruth saw the wound hardest to heal was her alienation from her mother. Though Karen didn't have a clear memory as to what had first caused the argument neither could she see a way of resolving it. She became angry at the idea that she should make the first gesture of compromise.

It was when her doctor told Karen that the cancer had spread to the liver and recommended she look into hospice care that Ruth decided she would have to do something. She called Karen's mother. The woman burst into tears at the bad news, but was immobilized by shame and grief. Ruth then went again to Karen, describing her mother's reaction. Ruth asked, “Its a lot to ask, but is God asking any more of you in this situation than he was willing to give on the cross?”

“It's not fair” responded Karen.

“Your right, Baby, there's nothing fair about any of this. But it's never been about fairness. It's about agape.”

The next week Karen's mom drove her to get her treatment.

“Peacemakers will be called children of God.”

Congregational Concerns:

Prayer Chain:

Betty Leibreing was taken to Jasper's Memorial Hospital Friday, May 3 after what seemed to be a seizure. She was admitted for tests.

Please keep Steve Gordon and his family in your prayers as his mother was also taken to Jasper Memorial hospital.

Dan Jochim's father, Louis Jochim has been in the Memorial Hospital in Jasper since Monday of this week. He has pneumonia and is improving, but very weak; please keep Louis in your prayers.

Howard Phillips (Debbie Mills husband) has been diagnosed with cancer in his lungs and also a spot on the spine. He will begin radiation therapy on Monday, continuing for four weeks.

I'm asking for prayers for my brother, Mark Casebolt. He was life-flighted from Perry County Hospital to St. Mary's in Evansville. He has advanced Emphysema and had pneumonia. He was in intensive care for 3 days and wasn't able to exhale the carbon monoxide from his body. They have moved him out of intensive care and his breathing is better but he has a long way to go.

Karla Beier

New Addresses:

Frieda Foertsch
Sterling House of Evansville
6521 Greensdale Dr. Rm. 135
Evansville IN 47711
812 867-7900

Faye & CT Grubb
1232 Walts Road
Georgetown, IN 47122
812 951-3809
ctfaye@verizon.net

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday:

Folks are reminded that there will be our annual commemoration of Passover/Maundy Thursday meal and service Thursday, April 14. We will begin gathering around 6:00 with the meal at 6:30. If you would be willing to help decorate or cook contact Elisa or Brian Peters who are hosting the meal.

Good Friday:

St. Peter's will host this year's ecumenical Good Friday service, April 15 at 7:00. Heritage Hills Baptist, Dale Presbyterian and Santa Claus Methodist Churches will participate in the service. Our choir will lead the congregation through the crucifixion of Christ with the cantata, "The Seven Last Words". Garrett Brown will read with the choir.

Easter Sunday:

Trinity will begin Easter with a carry-in breakfast at 8:00. Easter Service at both churches will include Holy Communion. After worship at both Trinity and St. Peter there will be our annual Easter Egg Hunt for the kids organized by our Sunday schools.

Health Ministry

The Health Ministry Team will be taking blood pressures and checking blood sugars before and after church today.

Dr. Jeanne Gruber will be giving a public presentation on the topic of weight loss. The forum is free and open to the public.

*Call and make your reservations at 937-4120

When: Wednesday, April 15 6:30 pm CST

Where: Lobby of Santa's Medical Center

92 West Christmas Boulevard in Santa Claus

*Please see the announcement on the bulletin board in the gather room!

*Inspiring quote for the week from the health ministry group:

“Too often we under estimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” Leo Buscaglia (1924-1998), American Writer, Educator

Local Missions:

A group of men from St. Peter have given a couple Saturdays to help with two work projects. One crew built a ramp for Oleta Coultas out her back door.

A second group went to Merom our church camp and helped with the removal of several large trees. The gift of their time and talents are greatly appreciated.



Indiana-Kentucky Annual Meeting

Education Day:

Eddie Hammett, the senior leadership coach for Lake Hickory Learning Communities and Valwood Christian Leadership Coaching and a founding partner for the Columbia Partnership. He has authored four books dealing with preparing the church for a more effective ministry into the 21st century. He has recently completed a book with Leonard Sweet on the coach approach to building an EPIC (Experiential, Participatory, Image-driven, and Connection) Church. “The Gospel According to Starbucks” was released in 2007. His most recent book is “Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60”. This is also the subject for Education Day the Thursday before the I-K Annual Meeting June 4. It will be at St. John’s UCC, (Southport) The cost will be \$30.00, which will include lunch. Registration will be 9:30.

Annual Meeting:

The Indiana Kentucky Annual Meeting will be Friday and Saturday, June 5 & 6 at Indianapolis University. The president of the United Church of Christ, Rev. John Thomas will be our keynote speaker.

Dave Ramsey Classes



The Dave Ramsey Course lead by Brian Peters is going very well. Brian is taking more than 20 participants through Ramsey's step-by-step prescription to debt relief and renewed financial independence. Dave Ramsey uses his own life story to talk about the dangers of undisciplined use of credit cards and how it almost destroyed his family. The course helps folks dig out from under credit card dependency and build a sustainable household budget. It explains different saving plans and investment tools. It shows individuals and families how to use these tools to build a healthy and disciplined life of faithful stewardship.

Brian says the group that has met Tuesday evenings has shown a lot of dedication to the program and it's process. We are grateful to Kenny Heckel, who helped us secure a grant of \$1500 from Alcoa to put on the classes.

Special Worship Services

This Lenten seasons I have been blessed by a lot of talented folks helping me with worship: Heritage Hills High School Chorus brought out a large crowd for a Sunday evening performance March 1. Rick Roos led worship Sunday morning while I was in Washington March 8. Kevin Hunter and Kevin Kennedy took the Wednesday evening service March 11. The St. Peter's choir and Jenny Thomas led Lenten service March 18. Muriel Jahn with Hailey Leiberling took over the week of March 22 -29. And the Youth Group built a worship service around humor, skits and music April 1.

