

The Church Crier

February 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

Website: www.stpetertrinityucc.org

812 529-8232

From the Pastor: “Creative Responsibility”

A recent Time Magazine article described the struggle rural congregations are having as they try to attract new pastors. No argument there. But I had to shake my head with aggravated disbelief as I read an un-named seminary professor warning his best and brightest young students not to consider a call to a rural congregation saying, “Don’t go. You’re too creative for that”.

It was the summer I had moved from my home in St. Louis into Trinity and St. Peter’s parsonage. I was driving some kids home from a morning of vacation Bible school and mentioned to then 6-year-old Andie Leiberling (Vance) that after I dropped her off, I was going over to Ralph and Helen Kennedy’s farm and learn how to drive a tractor. She was unimpressed, telling me she’d driven a tractor. I looked at her skeptically and asked when. She casually replied, “A long time ago, when I was a little kid.” At that moment I felt like creative self-reliance had kind of been bred out of most of the suburban kids I had grown up with.



Rural communities and congregations have demanded creativity to survive and thrive the thirty years I have been a pastor. In Spencer County it begins with volunteerism. There is culture here of neighbor helping neighbor that I love. It’s not just the way our farmers clear the back roads after a snowstorm or how folks open their homes when their neighbors when the electricity is out. It’s the way they serve on community committees and boards. It’s the way they devote their days off from the mines or factories to train to be a volunteer firefighter.

I like the way people feel responsible for solving problems here. I remember a group of women meeting twenty-five years ago to talk about the problem of domestic violence in Spencer County. It was just beginning to be addressed in larger cities where communities set up shelters for women. It was quickly decided that model wouldn’t work with our rural, dispersed population. The women started by forming a twenty-four hour telephone help-line. It slowly grew as the same folks that answered the phone at two in the morning, helped raise money the next day. There was no model for the women to follow so they made their own. Now Crisis Connection is helping to write the book on how rural communities can successfully address the problems of sexual and domestic violence.

Our rural community has thrived over the three decades I’ve lived here because people step up. I remember giving a sermon early in my ministry and being met at the door by a wise farmer who said, “That wasn’t a bad sermon. What do you intend to do about it?” I responded I didn’t know. To which he said, “Son, don’t talk about problems you’re not willing to work to solve.” I have no idea what I preached about that Sunday, but I’ll never forget the lesson he taught me. We’ve got our problems here, but it’s cutting edge creativity, a culture of personal responsibility and old fashion caring for each other that has met the challenge in the past and will well into the future.



News from the National Council of Churches

From the National Council of Churches Website:

Religious leaders ask Secretary Clinton to assert U.S. influence in Sri Lanka
New York, February 16, 2009 –

As the government of Sri Lanka presses its advantage against the insurgent Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), U.S. religious leaders have expressed alarm that tens of thousands of innocent civilians are trapped in the cross fire.

"It is reported by the International Committee of the Red Cross that as many as 250,000 civilians are trapped between the LTTE who are accused of using the people as human shields and government forces that are bombing and shelling this shrinking conclave with little regard to the cost in noncombatant casualties," the leaders wrote to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to ask for U.S. intervention.

"No one knows the precise numbers of deaths and injuries because the government has refused independent international observers access to the area and has silenced the national media through various forms of violence and intimidation," the letter said.

The letter was generated by Miriam Young, Director of US Advocacy, US NGO Forum on Sri Lanka and Director of US Advocacy, International Working Group on Sri Lanka; and the Rev. Dr. Paul F. Jahn, Chair, US NGO Forum on Sri Lanka. The Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, also signed the letter.

"Credible sources report the shelling of hospitals, civilians being fired upon while trying to reach so-called safe zones, life-threatening lack of food, medical supplies, shelter and sanitation," the letter said. "It is reported that Tamil civilians that do evacuate the area are treated as captured enemy, leaving those in the combat zone mistrustful of the Sri Lankan Government's entreaties to make their way to safe zones."

The leaders called on Secretary Clinton to "consider explicit sanctions against the government of Sri Lanka if it does not agree immediately to a ceasefire and to allow the UN and the ICRC to carry out an evacuation operation. The UN must be able to specify the conditions and modalities under which such an operation is to be implemented. In addition, we urge you to call for a discussion in the UN Security Council of the situation in Sri Lanka."

The Tamil insurgency to gain independence from Sri Lanka has been going on for 25 years. "The violence and suffering in Sri Lanka has been a deep concern for all observers," Kinnamon said. "The tragedy of the situation is beyond measure and the pain and misery is a daily reality. I hope Secretary Clinton will bring to bear all possible influence to bring it to an end."

The conflict in Sri Lanka is reportedly nearing an end. According to Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa, the battle is now in the "mopping up" stages. But the New York Times reports that an end to the fighting will not mean an end to the bitterness that is likely to linger for years. Without outside diplomatic intervention, the situation will remain dangerously unstable.

The full text of the letter to Secretary Clinton follows:

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
Washington, DC
February 16, 2009

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We are writing to add our voices of concern and outrage over the humanitarian tragedy playing itself out in northern Sri Lanka.

When violence endangered the civilian population in Gaza, the news went out all over the world. Unfortunately, a catastrophe, no less appalling, is taking place in Sri Lanka. Yet this disastrous conflict has received a fraction of the international media attention, allowing the tragedy to unfold without the worldwide scrutiny given to places such as Darfur, Gaza or the Congo. It is reported by the International Committee of the Red Cross that as many as 250,000 civilians are trapped between the LTTE who are accused of using the people as human shields and government forces that are bombing and shelling this shrinking conclave with little regard to the cost in noncombatant casualties. No one knows the precise numbers of deaths and injuries because the government has refused independent international observers access to the area and has silenced the national media through various forms of violence and intimidation. Credible sources report the shelling of hospitals, civilians being fired upon while trying to reach so-called safe zones, life-threatening lack of food, medical supplies, shelter and sanitation. It is reported that Tamil civilians that do evacuate the area are treated as captured enemy, leaving those in the combat zone mistrustful of the Sri Lankan Government's entreaties to make their way to safe zones.

We appreciate the public statement of concern you issued together with UK Foreign Secretary David Miliband. However, each day brings news of more deaths from bombing and a continued disregard for international humanitarian law. Meanwhile, quiet diplomatic appeals seem to be ignored.

We would ask you to consider explicit sanctions against the government of Sri Lanka if it does not agree immediately to a ceasefire and to allow the UN and the ICRC to carry out an evacuation operation. The UN must be able to specify the conditions and modalities under which such an operation is to be implemented. In addition, we urge you to call for a discussion in the UN Security Council of the situation in Sri Lanka.

This is an opportunity for the new administration to reassert this country's moral leadership on behalf of desperately vulnerable people.

**Thank you for your attention to our shared concerns.
Sincerely Yours**

**Miriam Young
Director of US Advocacy
US NGO Forum on Sri Lanka and Director of US Advocacy
International Working Group on Sri Lanka**

**Rev. Dr. Paul F. Jahn
Chairman
US NGO Forum on Sri Lanka**

**Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon
General Secretary
National Council of Churches USA**

Congregational Concerns:

Wedding:

Lisa Beier and Eric Stallman were married Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14 at St. Peter's. Muriel Jahn, who is studying at Eden Seminary to become an ordained minister, helped Rev. Jahn with the Service.



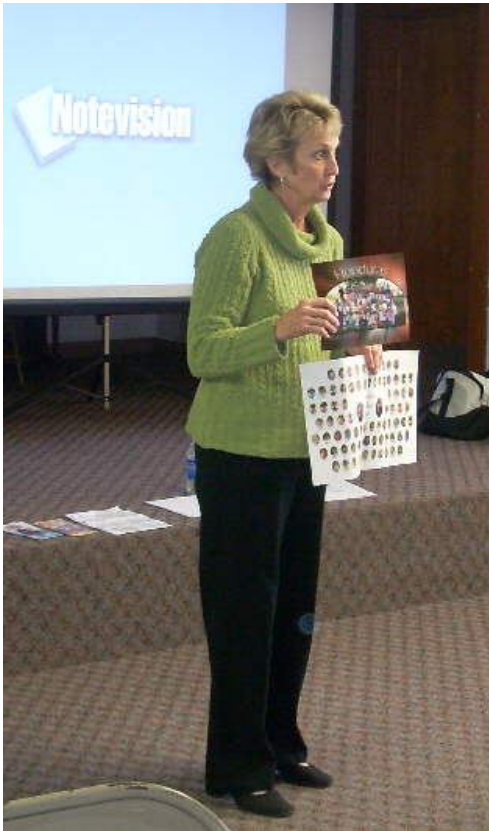
Retired:



Frieda Foertsch didn't go to work for Santa Claus Land until she was 43 and her girls had graduated from high school. I don't think anyone would have guessed then that she would put in 55 years of employment at Holiday World. The park held a retirement party for her Thursday, February 26. Frieda is 98 years old.

St. Peter's Health Ministry:

I would like to write this letter to St. Peter's congregation in order to restart the health ministry program. I have some ideas for this year. With the help of the health ministry team and their insight, I hope we can once again get off to a good start. I hope everyone at St. Peter's will again support the program. Health ministry programs are an integral part of the ministry of the church, promoting physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being. The health ministry program in church congregations continue to grow. We will start taking blood pressure on the second Sunday of the month between 9:30-10:00 and 11:00-11:30. The bulletin board in the gathering room will be used for educational information each month. I also hope to put some entrees in the bulletin. The program this year can involve everyone. A CPR class, diabetic education, hand washing lessons for young children and probably health screening. A new program called "Get My People Going!" is based on the story of Exodus. Children and adults of all ages and health condition may take part. The eight week course encourages participants to choose the lifestyle areas they would like to improve; such as exercise, diet, sleep, prayer, time with friends or even drinking more water. I will be giving more details later. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is also a good program to support. Our congregation is a very talented giving family. If anyone would be interested in being a part of the health ministry team please let me know. We welcome



any idea you may have. Thanks again. I will be calling a meeting soon for anyone interested. God bless, Angie Matheis and the St. Peter's Health Ministry.

Adult Bookstore Ordered to Cease Operation:

(Television Station: WHAS11)—From 08:45 PM EST on Friday, January 2, 2009

Broadcast:

Back in October 2005, the 231 Adult Plaza became the first adult business to try to operate in Spencer County, Ind. in 20 years. The problem was, courts ruled that the business never got permits to renovate the building. After the ruling the business violated new rules for adult businesses set up by the county. Three years later, a judge has finally ruled “no more”.

Spencer County is known for quiet country roads, well-fed cows and America’s first family theme park, Holiday World. But another roadside attraction has been getting the attention of county officials, ministers and fed up residents since it opened three years ago. Rev. Chip Jahn, St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, is leading the battle against the business. Jahn has baptized, married and buried a pretty good chunk of Spencer County over the past 29 years.

“This is my home. It’s where I’ve raised my kids and these are the people I love and care for,” Jahn said. Jahn said the adult business threatens his home. “It devalues people when we make sexuality a commodity. It just undermines self esteem of both men and women,” Jahn said.

Ronnie Bayer lives a quarter of a mile from the business and his nativity scene greets customers. “The lord was against it in the bible. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for the same thing and I think he’ll destroy them for the same thing they got over there,” Bayer said. In hundreds of pages of court transcripts, the business’ owners said the county’s ordinance is unconstitutional and violates the first amendment.

The latest ruling gives the business until next week to cease operation and pay one-third of a million dollars for repeatedly violating court orders.

“I’ll know it’s over when these folks move out,” Jahn said.

The 231 Adult Plaza is represented by the same lawyer who represents Hustler Magazine owner Larry Flynt. We left a message at his office, but haven’t heard back from him. The county paid for its extended battle against the bookstore with money it received from the Aztar Casino in Evansville.

Indiana-Kentucky Conference News

Conference Minister Elect: Rev. Steve Gray, Indiana-Kentucky’s Conference minister will complete his term in September 2010 and retire. The Board of Directors has decided to call a conference minister-elect to have on staff by the beginning of next year. This will allow for continuity of program while the new conference minister works to implement the I-K Conference Vision Plan.

2008 Conference Budget Deficit: Last year’s I-K Conference deficit is nearly \$140,000. The six-figure deficit that we have been fearing over the past three years actually happened in 2008. In 2007, we intentionally designed a 2008 budget with a \$90,000 deficit in the expectation that we might need to decrease the professional staff from three to two and, at the same time begin implementation of the Vision Plan. About the only positive outcome was that, due to careful spending, the actual Conference deficit for 2008 was \$41,000. However, Merom Conference Center planed on a balanced budget, but ended up with a \$96,000 deficit. Merom expenses went up and income was down from 2007. Compounding the situation is a drop in the value of Conference reserved funds, due to the stock market crisis, from 1.7 million to 1.1 million. This deficit will come from reserve funds but will limit work on new and renewing churches that depends on income from these investments.

MARCH 2009

MENU

REGULAR BOX

Balanced nutrition and variety with enough food to feed a family of four for a week.

1.5 lb. Ribeye Steaks (4 x 6 oz.)
 3 lb. Split Chicken Breast
 1.5 lb. Country Fried Steak Patties (6 x 4 oz.)
 1 lb. Package 80/20 Ground Beef
 1 lb. Fully Cooked Meatballs
 1 lb. Mild Italian Sausage
 12 oz. Deli Sliced Ham
 1 lb. California Blend
 1 lb. Green Beans
 20 oz. Shoestring Fries
 1 lb. Pasta
 28 oz. Marinara Sauce
 21 oz. Condensed Soup (makes 5 servings)
 1 lb. Pinto Beans
 32 oz. 2% Shelf Stable Milk
 Dozen Eggs
 Dessert

\$30.00

SENIOR/CONVENIENCE BOX

For Seniors or People on the Go! Ten perfectly seasoned, nutritionally balanced, fully cooked meals—just heat and serve. Each meal has been developed with the dietary needs of senior citizens in mind, and contains 3 oz. of protein, a starch & two vegetables or fruit.

BBQ Pork Rib Patty with Sweet Potato Casserole and Green Peas

Red Beans & Rice with Smoked Sausage, Cabbage and Diced Carrots

Home-Style Meatloaf with Zesty Tomato Sauce, Diced Rutabagas and Lima Bean

Asian-Style Pork Fried Rice with Ginger Carrots and Cabbage

Peppered Beef Patty with Loaded Potato and Mixed Greens

Flame-Broiled Salisbury Steak with Brown Gravy, Sour Cream & Chive Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables

Chicken Sausage with Seasoned Baked Beans, Red Skin Whipped Potatoes and Peas & Carrots

Pot Roast and Gravy with Vegetables, Diced Potatoes and Green Peas

Chicken & Bean Burrito with Cheesy Sauce, Mexicorn and Applesauce

Char-Broiled Beef Meatballs with Rice & Gravy, Peas & Carrots and Lima Beans

10 2-pack, individually-wrapped cookies

\$28.00

All New!! ALLERGEN-FREE BOX

Processed to eliminate the eight top serious allergens: Peanuts, Soybeans, Milk, Eggs, Fish, Crustacea, Tree Nuts and Gluten (wheat, rye and barley). Great for children and adults!

1 lb. Coated Chicken Tenders

1 lb. Coated Breast Filet

1 lb. Coated Chicken Nuggets

1 lb. Coated Chicken Wings

1 lb. Coated Cubed Steak (Chicken Fried Steak)

\$25.00

*****One or More Specials Below Available Only with the Purchase of Either of the Boxes Above*****

MARCH SPECIAL #1
7 lb. Assorted Meat Box **\$22.00**

2 lb. New York Strip Steaks (4 x 8 oz.)
2 lb. Thick-Cut Pork Chops (4 x 8 oz.)
1.5 lb. Baby Back Ribs
1.5 lb. Bratwurst with Cheese

MARCH SPECIAL #2
4.5 lb. Meat Combo **\$21.00**

3 lb. Sirloin Strip Steaks (6 x 8 oz.)
1.5 lb. Bacon-Wrapped Chicken Filet (4 x 6 oz.)

MARCH SPECIAL #3
Mom's Easter Sunday Dinner Box **\$22.00**

2 lb. Mom's Favorite Recipe Meatloaf
(Pure Beef Seasoned with Vegetables)
2 lb. Choice Cut Beef Roast
2 lb. Boneless Pork Roast

MARCH SPECIAL #4
Mom's Easter Sunday Dinner Side Box
\$19.00

2 lb. Heat & Serve Corn
2 lb. Heat & Serve Green Beans
2 lb. Heat & Serve Mashed Potatoes
1 Brown Gravy Mix
17 oz. Cornbread Stuffing
8 ct. Dinner Roll
1 Dessert

MARCH SPECIAL #5
Chicken Tenders Box **\$18.00**

10 lb. Breaded Chicken Tenders

MARCH SPECIAL #6
Fresh Fruit and Veggie Box **\$22.00**

3 lb. No. 1 Premium Idaho Baking Potatoes
3 lb. No. 1 Premium North Carolina Sweet Potatoes
1 head Premium Florida Green Cabbage
1 lb. Premium California Carrots (cello-packed)
2 lb. Premium Western Grown Yellow Onions
2 pack Premium Fresh Jumbo Garlic (2 pack tube)
1 Large Premium Sweet Cantaloupe
3 lb. Premium Tree-ripened Valencia Oranges
4 each Premium Tree-ripened Honey Tangerines
4 Large Premium Washington State Granny Smith Apples
3 lb. Large Premium Washington State Fuji Apples
1 each Premium Tree-ripened Mango

Angel Foods Ministry March orders need to be into Shelly Morris by Sunday, March 15. Orders can be picked up at St. Peter's Saturday morning, March 28 between 9:00 and Noon. Folks are asked to bring boxes or bags to load food into to save time for Shelly and her crew. Special thanks to Shelly and her family for taking charge of this important ministry.

Prayer Chain:

Our prayers are with the family of Norman "Bud" Scheerle who passed away Monday, Feb. 2 at Beverly Healthcare in Tell City. Services for Bud were held at Fuller's Funeral Home in Dale Thursday Feb. 5.