

# The Church Crier

January 2008

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

St. Peter - Trinity United Church of Christ

Rev. Paul "Chip" Jahn

12338 N. St. Peter Church Rd. Lamar, IN 47550

Website: [www.stpetertrinityucc.org](http://www.stpetertrinityucc.org)

812 529-8232

## From the Pastor: “Tools for Tough Times”

As Barack Obama was being sworn in as the president of the United States of American, our soldiers were fighting two wars overseas, unemployment was rising, our federal budget deficit exploding and the stock market plugging. And yet colleges cancelled classes and grade schools wheeled televisions to the front of the room, sport bars turned from ESPN to CNN, body shops and beauty shops tuned to National Public Radio to listen as



more than a million people filled the National Mall to hear Barack Obama take the oath of office.

You didn't have to vote for him to feel proud of the country. Just a couple years ago Hollywood thought it was provocative making a movie about a black president. During the primary campaigns, pundit's claimed white voters might say they support Obama, but once in the privacy of the voting booth they would surrender to prejudicial fears and vote for the more traditional white candidate. Watching Barack Obama inauguration day reminded me of the closing passage of Lincoln's first inaugural address:

“The mystic cords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”

Regardless of an individual's politics, the swearing in of our first Black president was a historic moment for this country and a substantial payment on the promises made in our founding documents; promises based on far older, too often ignored New Testament truths.

The United States shouldn't be mistaken for the Kingdom of God. But when we look beyond color and creed, and judge people by the content of their character we are moving in the right direction. Faith in Jesus' message helps us recognize the shared sacredness of all human beings. Hope in the Gospel assures us that God is leading the world in this direction. Love is the mechanism of transformation.

Our new president isn't likely to be the answer to all our problems. Even if he's as good and wise as his most fervent supporters claim, he remains one man. Our problems are more than even a government alone can remedy. It's not the man or the government, but rather evidence of people's courage and tenacity struggling against their broken nature that gives me hope. We may flounder in bigotry, falter in fear and fall over our greed, but we have a record of picking ourselves up, dusting ourselves off and in the end surrendering to the “better angels of our nature”.

There are surely difficult times ahead. We may not be able to depend on our government entitlements, our financial institutions, our exuberant market place, but we can depend on our greatest gifts: faith, hope and love. If we lead with these, we will preserve the best in us, while building a future worthy of our prophets' dreams and our patriots' sacrifices.



St. Peter's	President-	Matt Leiberling
Council	Vice President-	Danny Roos
	Secretary-	Mary Ann Wetzel
	Sexton-	Jake Knepper
	Financial Secretary-	Nick Held
	Treasurer-	Sandy Collignon

## ST. PETER'S FINANCIAL REPORT 2008

CHECKBOOK BALANCE 01/01/08	\$	103.73
TOTAL RECEIPTS 2008	\$	151,848.64
TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE	\$	151,952.37
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2008	\$	136,979.81
CHECKBOOK BALANCE 12/31/08	\$	14,972.56 *

\*(includes \$10,000 borrowed to pay wiring expense)

### OFFERINGS AND SPECIAL INCOMES:

REGULAR SUNDAY OFFERINGS	\$	104,133.05
PICNIC PROFIT	\$	3,010.95
OGHS OFFERING	\$	1,633.00
NIN OFFERING	\$	655.00
BUILDING FUND	\$	1,710.00
COOKBOOKS	\$	215.00
FOOD RESOURCE BANK	\$	8,000.00
HEALTH MINISTRY	\$	231.98
PARSONAGE FUND	\$	2,100.95
TRINITY PAYMENTS	\$	11,105.26
SRI LANKA	\$	232.00
WATER PARK--BROOKLAWN	\$	256.05
BREAST CANCER	\$	488.00
HEIFER PROJECT	\$	195.00
LOCAL MISSIONS not in regular budget)	\$	2,500.00
ADOPTION FUND	\$	240.00
BASEMENT TABLES	\$	1,313.80
CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING	\$	1,376.00
MISSION FEAST OFFERING (PHIWA)	\$	510.00

**2008 St. Peters Memorial Fund Report:**

Checkbook		
Balance on hand 1/1/2008		\$6,930.84
Total deposits		6,030.86
Expenses:		
St. Peters Cemetary Fund	\$200.00	
St. Peters Sunday School	30.00	
Spencer Co. Hospice (Roos)	500.00	
CIM Technology (Projector)	1,282.00	
Spencer Co. Bank (checks)	<u>16.75</u>	
Total Expenses	\$2,028.75	
Balance on Hand 1/1/2009		<b>\$10,932.95</b>
Money Market		
Balance on hand 1/1/2008		\$5,937.34
Interest earned		<u>46.51</u>
Balance on hand 1/1/09		<b>\$5,983.85</b>
CD Matures 4/21/2009		
Balance as of 10/21/2008		<b>\$1,361.92</b>

**St. Peter's Cemetery Fund:**

Checking Account	\$6,305.76
Freedom Bank CD	\$10,000.00
Investments: Income Fund of America	\$13,598.57

<b>Trinity:</b>	<b>President-</b>	<b>Jenny Keller</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>Secretary-</b>	<b>Marilyn Hopkey</b>
	<b>Financial Secretary-</b>	<b>Roy Myers</b>
	<b>Treasurer-</b>	<b>Carl Schwindel</b>

**Trinity Income**

<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>\$6206.08</b>
Offering	\$12,684.00	
CD Int	160.05	
Stock Interest	208.00	
CD Int.	533.50	
Spring BBQ	1554.00	
Fall BBQ	1485.75	
Quilt Raffle	916.00	
One Great Hour of Sharing	145.00	
Neighbors in Need	59.00	
Ray Schulthise Trust	708.00	
Insurance Check	442.83	
Wittman Sale	234.03	
Carl Schwindel Refund	44.60	
<b>Total Income \$9,174.76 + 6206.08 =</b>	<b>25,300.84</b>	

**Total Expenses** **\$20,260.62\***

<b>Trinity's Expenses</b>	<b>2008 Budget</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Budget</b>
<b>12/31/07 Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$6789.58</b>	
Fire Dues	60.00	60.00	60.00
Electricity	300.00	300.00	350.00
Organist	400.00	280.00	350.00
Fuel (Superior Ag.)	500.00	541.94	600.00
Misc. (BBQ, Safe Box)	1300.00	1289.23	1300.00
Insurance (Gurnell, Home Mutual)	700.00	613.72	700.00
Storm Repairs (McElroy Metal)		335.37	
Lincolnland OCWM	300.00	300.00	300.00
Indiana-Kentucky Conf. OCWM	300.00	300.00	300.00
NIN		59.00	
Trinity's Contribution	14,857.50	14,468.00	14,962.50
Expenses		\$18,591.26	\$19,922.50

### **Trinity Cemetery Fund 2008**

Beginning Balance		\$3553.36
<b>Income</b>		
John Wm Dersch donation	100.00	
Interest	16.21	
Interest	16.03	
Interest from General Fund CD	177.91	
Total Income		310.15
<b>Expenses</b>		
Mowing 6x\$90	540.00	
Mowing 6x\$90	540.00	
Carl Schwindel Tree clean up	50.00	
Total Expenses		-\$1130.00
Closing Balance		\$2733.51
Correction for Interest Deposits (2007)		-213.09
(2008)		-177.91
Total paid to General Fund		-\$391.00
Ending Balance Dec. 31, 2008		\$2342.51

### **Trinity's Women's Guild Report 2008**

Opening Balance Jan. 2008		\$795.80
<b>Income</b>		
Women's Guild Offering		276.25
Food Bank Offering		186.00
Noble's Receipts		85.70
Thank Offering		86.56
Christmas Offering		43.00
Missionfest Table		45.00
Ice Cream Social		330.25
Family Picnic		35.00

Paint & Primer for the shelter house were donated by the Scherers and Hopkeys.

Expenses

Food Bank		120.00	
Ice Cream Supplies		65.00	
Audrey Hass (Mission)		9.00	
“These Days”		49.50	
Thank Offering IN-KY Conf.		86.56	
Misc.		20.88	
Christmas Offering “Hoyleton”		43.00	
Christmas gifts for Shut-ins		45.72	
Christmas for Jahns		300.00	
Christmas for Mary, Gayle, Nathan		100.00	
Sharon Myers		200.00	
Jan.1, 2008	795.80	Saving	896.58
Jan.1, 2009	933.61	C. D.	1,300.00

**Trinity Sunday School Report 2008**

Balance on hand January 1, 2008 \$705.26

Income:

Offering	73.00
Heifer Project	1802.40
Christmas Program	125.00
Total	\$2000.40

Expenses:

Flowers Basket	8.45
Gayle Morley Jahn (Books)	57.03
Father’s Day	15.00
Gayle Morley Jahn (VBS)	181.32
Heifer Project	1802.40
Walmart (fruit basket)	16.86
Crossroads (Christmas offering)	125.00
Total	\$2206.06

Balance on hand January 1, 2009 \$499.60

Christmas treat donations: Kenny & Bobbie Hedinger and Carl & Edna Schwindel

**Recycling Missions: A Good Practice**

Start 2009 off right by bringing drugs and computers to church for recycling. During the rest of January we will be collecting out-dated drugs at church. These will be disposed of properly at our Spencer County Solid Waste Center in Chrisney. We will also be collecting computers for recycling. There is a \$5.00 for recycling computer monitors, the rest of the computer is free.

If you don’t already recycle this would be an excellent time to start. Remember at Spencer County’s 8 Recycle Sites it is free to recycle #1 & #2 plastics, glass of all colors, steel cans, newspaper, office paper and junk mail, magazines, cardboard, batteries, used oil, plastic shopping bags,.

## **Congregational Concerns**

### **Thanks You:**

Thank you from all our family for the friendship and concern. Love, Amber, Autumn Robert Crowe

Dear Friends,

Thank you once again for making Christmas special for the boys in the Academy (Sycamore and Oak Halls.) Your church's gifts of amazing stocking stuffers were a wonderful



treat for the boys. You even remembered the staff with fruit baskets! Thank you.

Thanks too, for providing 115 handmade stockings for every boy on campus. That's going over and above!

Thank you so much for your partnership in Brooklawn's ministry to children. St. Peter's Trinity churches are truly examples of God's hand at work in our world.

I hope each of you had a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for a healthy and happy new year.

Sincerely, David A. Graves President of Brooklawn

There was also a thank you note from the house parents of Brooklawn's Oak and Sycamore Halls.

### **Weddings:**

Lisa Beier and Eric Stallman will be married at St. Peter's (Three hundred invitations were sent, which the couple thought might strain Trinity beyond its limits) 2:00 pm Saturday, February 13.

### **Prayer Chain:**

Our prayers have been with Sandy Collignon and the family with the death January 5 of Carney. He will be missed by the community he loved and served so well.

Please keep Sandy and Allan Kramer in your prayers. Allan is home and they say he is doing better. They have lost three of their dogs in the last month.

Others that continue in our thoughts and prayers are Dottie Wittman, Dwane Roos, Mary Ann Schriefer, Bill Barnett, Larry Schulthise, Mary Lambeck's dad and Frieda Foertsch.



### **Missions**

**Soccer balls:** We have written the new chaplain at the Kirkuk air base. As soon as we hear back we will be sending more than 230 soccer balls for the kids.

**Trinity's Mission Sunday:** Sunday, Jan. 18 Trinity started with breakfast and then filled 105 Church World Service Health Kits. We ended the morning with our Annual Meeting.

## Angel Food:

St. Peter begins working with Angel Food Ministries this January. This is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and contributing to benevolent outreaches in communities throughout the United States. This is a coop where boxes of food are bought at a reduced rate. Orders need to be into Shelley Morris by Thurs. Feb. 12. Food will be delivered to St. Peter's and available for pick up the third Saturday of the month between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

There are a variety of boxes available and a varying menu. February's menu includes: sirloin strip steaks, chicken breasts, boneless pork chops, breaded chicken nuggets, Salisbury steak, sliced bacon, hot dogs, stir fry vegetables, carrots, peanut butter, 2% shelf stable milk, crinkle-cut fries, mac'n cheese, rice, bean soup mix, dozen eggs for \$30.

There are other boxes available: Senior Convenience Box (\$22), Assorted Meat Box (\$21), Steak Box (\$21), Super Value Fajita Kit (\$21), Frozen Sides & Fixin's Box (\$16), Fresh Fruit & Veggie Box (\$21), Tangerine Box (\$15).



### **Lincolmland Association Brooklawn Trip:**

The Lincolmland Association is sponsoring a bus trip (and paying for the cost of the bus) and tour of the Brooklawn Home in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Indiana-Kentucky Conference, the national United Church of Christ, and the Lincolmland Association have been long supporters of the Brooklawn facility which provides shelter, education and well-being to many boys and now girls, too.

Schedule: All times are Central Standard

8:30 – leave St. John’s, Boonville, parking lot

9:15 – pick up additional passengers at Wendy’s parking lot at Ferdinand exit #63 – Hwy 162.

Arrive at Brooklawn 11:00 for lunch

Tour facility

2:15 – board bus for return trip (approximately 2 hours)

Additionally: we will take up a “love offering” to help defray the cost of the lunch.

And consider bringing along the following “arts and craft” supplies as “gifts” to the residents: tissue paper, poster board, origami paper, foam board, glitter glue, paint brushes, beads, string, art kits, washable paint, pipe cleaners, construction paper, coloring books, wooden sticks, duct tape.

Thanks! Looking forward to yur reservations by Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. Bob Shofner

### **Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace:**

We began our 13 part Dave Ramsey Christian financial training this past Tuesday. Brian led our group of over 20 participants in a study of Ramsey’s seven “Baby Steps”: 1) As soon as possible set aside \$1000 as an emergency fund. 2) Pay off all debts except the house utilizing the debt snowball (explained in another lesson) 3) Three to six months expenses in savings. 4) Invest 15% of your household income into a Roth IRA’s and pre-tax retirement plans. 5) College funding. 6) Pay off your home early. 7) Build wealth and give!

We are providing childcare. Brian says if you were interested in the program there’s still time to catch up. Give Brian a call so he can order material.

### **Community Table:**

Dale Presbyterian Church has invited local congregations to join them in a ministry hosting a weekly meal at their church Thursday nights at 6:00 pm beginning Feb. 5. They are looking for groups willing to take a week.

### **FireProofing Your Marriage:**

Rev. Jahn and Rev. Martha Friz-Langer will begin a six week marriage enrichment class Tuesday, Feb. 17. It is build around the movie Fireproof soon to be out in video. The class will challenge participants to love as scripture describes how God first loved us, to grow together as a couple in fellowship, to learn new methods for building a stronger life-long marriage.

**Christmas Programs:**

We had two great Christmas programs. Trinity's Sunday school had theirs Sunday, Dec. 21. St. Peter's was Christmas Eve:

