

# The Church Crier

November 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](http://www.stpetertrinityucc.org)

812 529-8232

From the Pastor: “Finding My Way Back Home”

I spent the week before thanksgiving in New York attending meetings on Sri Lanka in and around the United Nations, hosted by the World Council of Churches. Being out of my normal environment often makes me thankful for my blessings. I've always liked visiting New York. If you can read a map it's an easy city to get around in. The subway is like an amusement park for out-of-towners. Not only are there rides, but all the central stops are filled with a variety of subterranean entertainers. You can watch acrobatic brake dancing, hear classical music played on crystal stemware, or listen to a six-piece ensemble of Peruvian pipes. Then of course there are all manner of sights and sounds above ground. But visiting New York City is like vacationing at Disney World in other ways; whereas I enjoyed a three-day pass at Disney World four days begins to get abusive. It true about New York as well. By Thursday I was tired of planning my day around public restrooms. My good shoes, that I had brought to impress, weren't broken in well enough for the long walks between subway stations and meetings, so I had blisters on both feet. And I began thinking about all the things I enjoy about home.



I saw a woman with two small children in the Subway crying softly, obviously lost and overwhelmed. Three other women were helping her, but I couldn't help but think how much I appreciate, good friends and loving family. As I sat through meetings about the grinding cost of the Sri Lankan war on civilians, I appreciated living in a country and a time when I have never worried that my children wouldn't have something to eat, a school to attend or a roof above their heads.

As I learned that Sri Lanka is now considered the most dangerous place in the world for reporters. I recognized how lucky I am to live in a country where a person's right to say whatever he wants is protected.

As I moved through the week my list of things to be thankful for grew: comfortable shoes, convenient bathrooms, good friends, enduring rights and world-envied freedoms.

But it was in a rare airplane conversation that put all these into perspective. I sat next to a young anthropology professor flying home after a three-week visit to Kazakhstan. He told me about his work studying nomadic people. He told me his book that was just published. He told me about his fiancé who was a model. I told him about my meetings in New York and my family. I told him I was a pastor and about my churches. He said his fiancé wanted to get married in a church but he didn't find much use for religion. This led to more than an hour of polite and intense discussion about why I was a Christian, the difference between religion and faith, and perhaps what God had in mind sending Jesus. I'll never know whether the conversation had an impact on my young anthropologist, but it reminded me that my most profound blessing was God's gift of his Son.

## **Congregational Concerns**

### **Hospital News:**

Saturday, Sept. 6 Kenny Joe Beier and Caleb Perkins were in a car accident. Kenny Joe was admitted to Deaconess Hospital with a frontal brain injury. After almost two weeks in intensive care Kenny has now been transferred to Health South where he will receive therapy for another couple weeks. He is now at home, traveling three times a week to Evansville for therapy. We are very grateful for the recovery he has made so far. Please keep both Kenny Joe and his good friend Caleb in your prayers.

Frieda Foertsch was taken to St. Mary's Hospital after suffering a couple falls at work and at home. It's thought she had a heart attack and has been moved to Angel River where she will be closer to her daughter. She is now home again.

Thelma Hunter has had a great deal of back pain and was scheduled for back surgery, but after consultation between the family and her doctor it was thought that other remedies ought to be explored first.

Larry Schulthise, Sharon Myers brother was diagnosed with cancer and continues in our prayers.

Charla Dowlan had another trip to Deaconess Hospital to fight an infection that has settled in the bone of her right arm. After being given antibiotics she is home again where she continues a regiment of strong antibiotics.

We are keeping Mary Anna Schrieffer in our prayers who was diagnosed with cancer.

## **Advent & Christmas Schedule**

St. Peter's Congregational meeting will be after worship Sunday, Dec. 7, when we will vote for next year's church council members.

Everyone is invited to the family Christmas party at St. Peter's on Sunday, December 7, at 5:00 p.m.

Trinity's Congregational meeting to vote on new council members will follow worship Sunday, Dec. 14 and a Family Christmas Party will follow at Karen and Larry Beier's House at 2:00pm.

Trinity's Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, Dec.21 at 5:30 when the kids will put on the Christmas play. This year's play was written by Amanda Hockenberry.

St. Peter's Christmas Eve Program, Dec. 24 will begin at 5:30

St. John's UCC, Lamar will have a musical program Saturday, Dec. 6 at 6:00 pm. This is their family Christmas program with refreshments.

### **St. Peter's Family Christmas Party:**

Everyone is invited to the family Christmas party at St. Peter's on Sunday, December 7, at 5:00 p.m.

The theme is "To Celebrate His Birth". If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a vegetable, salad, or side dish; if your last name begins with N-W, bring a dessert. Bring either a traditional "American" Christmas dish or food from other countries that is their Christmas tradition. If you bring a dish popular in another country, please label your dish. Meat and drinks will be provided.

Kitchen Committee #2 is in charge of food, serving, and clean-up. Here are your names!!

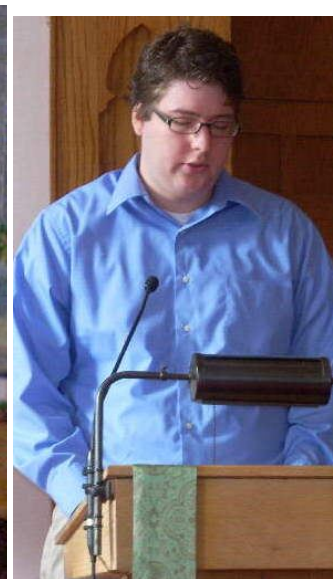
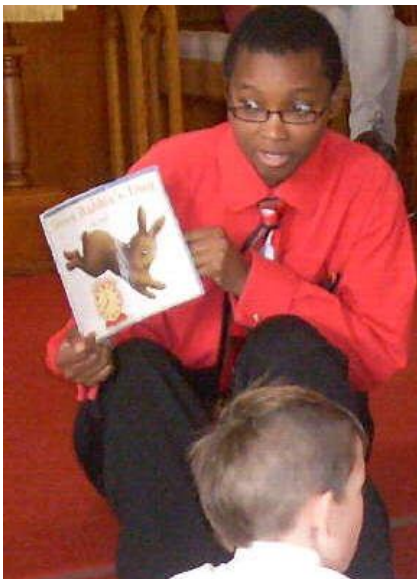
Pauline Marshall  
Judy Neighbors  
Jennifer Bolen  
Nancy Held  
Shirley Ricklefs  
Elisa & Brian Peters  
Lynn Winkler

Pam Groves  
Mary Ann Wetzel  
Marvin & Betty Leiberling  
Erin Vaal  
Robin Neighbors  
Phil Leiberling  
Shawn Leiberling

Jeannie Gruber

### **St. Peter's Missionfest: Seminary Education**

Sunday, Nov.16 worship at St. Peter's will be lead by a group of Eden Seminarians, including Muriel Jahn, Phiwa Langeni (a student who grow up in South Africa) and Mike Coons. They will share with us something of their experiences at our UCC related seminary as it prepares them for life in the Church. Worship will be followed by a meal where Muriel, Phiwa and Mike will be available to answer any questions people may have. Trinity will not hold worship that day in order that folks may attend at St. Peter's. Worship begins at 10:00. \*See below: "Alternative Christmas..."



## **Lincolnland Association News:**

The Fall Meeting of the Lincolnland Association was held Sunday afternoon, October 19 at Mel and Janice Menke's barn. There was a short business meeting where we vote on the Continuing Education requirement for authorized ministers (more below). Most of the meeting celebrated Lincolnland's Food Resource Bank Harvest. Bev Abma represented FRB (Food Resource Bank), sharing stories of her recent visits to FRB agricultural programs in Africa. Though there was still a couple fields in Spencer County to be harvested, yields have been pretty good. Prices on soy beans fell just as we were combining our field, but Leiberling's and Kennedy's are going to hold the beans for a while to see if they don't go up again. It's estimate that our project will raise about \$14,000. We decided that we would divide our project's income sending  $\frac{1}{4}$  to a program in Niger,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to a program in Liberia,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to United Church of Christ new agricultural programs and  $\frac{1}{4}$  to the general fund of the Food Resource Bank.

When the business was completed, Mel opened the rotisserie cooker and began cutting pork off the bone. There must have been 150 present for the carry-in hog roast. We capped things off with thirty minutes of square dancing, and a good time seemed to have been had by all.

## **The Brooklawn Update:**

The kids at Brooklawn have heard about the Splash Park and are eager to play in it next summer. The concrete storm drains (one of the first steps) are going in now!

Lincolnland had raised \$37,731 of the projected \$50,000 cost, leaving \$12,269 to raise before summer! We can do it!

Brooklawn's capital campaign building project is going well. There are five building that are in process now. They are ahead of schedule. Three more cottages are being built, two will house the first girls at Brooklawn. The first one will be completed in December with girls scheduled to move in February 4 through 23.

The horticultural building is also well on the way as is the Activity Volunteer Building. Our friend, Missy Fountain will have her office in this building.

Work on the splash park will start in earnest towards spring or summer. Brooklawn will plan the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the park at a time when Lincolnland Association representatives can participate. We'll keep everyone posted.

We are collecting stocking stuffers and donations for the 18 Brooklawn Boys in The Academy. We are also working to gather a supply of fleeces for the boys (and soon to be girls). Brooklawn tells us they would like to have these items by Dec. 16.

## **Operation School Supplies**

Major Darin Collignon asked his mom, Sandy for help in collecting school supplies for the children of war-torn Iraq where Darin is serving.

This is an outreach program supported by the men and women assigned to Kirkule Regional Air Base and FOB WARRIOR. Through the program, soldiers, sailors, marines, airman and civilian contractors communicate the needs to their families, friends and organizations back home.

Trinity and St. Peter's sent off 9 boxes of school supplies in September 2008. We are now collecting money for soccer balls. \$6.50 pays for a soccer ball and shipping. We will end this fund raising drive on Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008 with a chili lunch put on by the Youth Fellowship after worship at St. Peter's. We hope to have at least enough for 200 soccer balls by then.

### **Back in Action:**

It's good to have our choir back in action again sharing their considerable talents in worship.



### **Merom Memories**

Merom is celebrating 150 years of ministry in 2009 and are compiling testimonials of what Merom has meant to people through the years. They would like your stories and pictures. These can be sent to Merom Conference Center P.O. Box 127, Merom IN 47861-0127. If these are in digital format they can be sent to [memories@merom.org](mailto:memories@merom.org).

### **Lincolnland Benefit Dance:**

**Saturday, Nov. 15 6:30 EST**

**Salem United Church of Christ**

**There will be no cost for the dance other than an invitation to make a donation of money, time or talent to Lincolnland Flood Relief workcamp**

**A group of young adults from the Lincolnland Association are planning a workcamp over March weekends in 2009 to repair homes that were badly damaged in the floods that accompanied the torrential June rains.**

### **Alternative Christmas Market:**

At St. Peter's Missionfest we offered opportunities for everyone to purchase gifts that will benefit more than the recipients. There will be John Conti Coffee that benefits Kosairs Children's Hospital; fruit that will benefit Future Farmers of America; nuts and candy that benefit Koinonia farms. There will be opportunities to buy stock in Heifer International animal projects that benefit people all over the world. This is just a sample. There will be other displays. You're sure to find something for everyone on your Christmas list. And the joy of giving will be doubled!



The displays will be in the gathering room after worship.

**Addresses:** Freida Foertsch  
Angel River  
5233 Rosebud Ave.  
Evansville, IN 47630