

# The Church Crier

October 2008

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

St. Peter - Trinity United Church of Christ

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## From the Pastor: “The Promises to Keep”

Tuesday, November 4 we went to the polls to choose a new president. I've always loved Election Day. Whether my candidates win or loose, I like the way we interrupt business as usual to participate in our inalienable right to decide how this country will be governed.

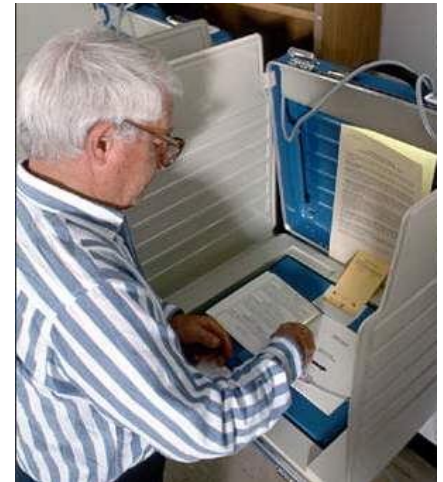
The country in the last eight years has had thrust upon it more than it's share of crisis and challenge. War, natural disaster, and now the worst financial meltdown in the past fifty years are testing our metal. We've made our share of mistakes and missteps. It set the stage for a contentious election. Both sides wasted time and breath on silly attacks that I'm sure could have been better spent. But this has been the nature of competitive party politics since 1797 when Thomas Jefferson ran against John Adams.

I've seen in Sri Lanka how too much of the world responds to troubling challenges and wrestles with political change. I remember a opening line in a Colombo newspaper saying, “Other than the assassination of the presidential candidates of the two political parties, the 1988 election was relatively peaceful”. With all our flaws and faults, we are blessed with the best political system in the world. This was affirmed for me in the close 2000 Presidential contest between George W. Bush and Al Gore, which was finally settled with a 5 to 4 decision of the Supreme Court. This would have lead to violent rioting in many parts of the world.

It was affirmed again in the election of Barack Obama. Even before we know what sort of president he will be, I am proud of what it says about the American people. Much of the world bet we were too racist to elect an African-American president. Many pundits thought this wasn't Obama's year. Many of us can remember when Blacks were systematically prevented from voting in parts of this country by everything from poll taxes, bogus literature tests and outright intimidation.

This Tuesday we experienced the dream spoken of on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial by Martin Luther King in 1963.

We fulfilled a piece of an older promise made in The Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”



We realized the profound Biblical truth: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Gal 3:26-29

We face many challenges, perhaps hardships, in the next four years; Barack Obama may or may not be all that we hope for in a president; but if we keep faith we’ll do all right.

## **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 as she recovers.

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.

### **Funerals:**

Claude Roos died Monday, Oct. 20 at Scenic Hills Nursing Home in Ferdinand. Please keep his sister, Joy Huebschman and brother, Duane Roos and other members of the family in your prayers.

### **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...”



**Water Buffalo Update:**

When we finished our Read to Feed project we found we had raised enough for a small herd of water buffalo. We sent \$1727.40 to Heifer International where they will be able to buy seven buffalo for one of their Asian projects. These buffalo will provide power allowing more cultivation to be done more efficiently. They will provide babies to be passed on to neighbors (a fundamental principal of Heifer International) and milk for the family to drink and sell. Thanks to everyone who helped make this project so successful, particularly Elisa Peters who threw herself into it!

**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



Mel Menke introduces Bev Abma at our Association Meeting.

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 sow beans fell just as we were combining our field, but Leiberger’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 ¼ to a program in Niger, ¼ to a program in Liberia, ¼ to United Church of Christ new agricultural programs and ¼ 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 buildings 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.

## **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 Kirkcubright 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.



## **Halloween Party:**

Imagine our surprise when both Barack Obama and Sarah Palin took time out of their busy campaign schedule to drop by St. Peter's Halloween party. They put aside any political differences they might have had joining in the festivities. After the costume contest we sat down to some hotdogs and hamburgers. This was followed by our annual Halloween auction which raised \$1394.00 for the North Spencer Community Action Center and \$125.00 for Brooklawn Boys fleeces.

### **Continuing Education for Authorized Ministers:**

Most professionals now days are required by their employers to continue their educations to stay current in their fields. The Lincolnland Committee on Ministry is recommending to the Association and its congregations that we formalize the requirement for ministers as well.

They are recommending every pastor employed by a church get a minimum of three units of continuing education a year. A unit would be a morning, afternoon or evening program.

I believe this is a good idea. We voted on this at our Fall Meeting Sunday, Oct. 19. The Committee on Ministry will try to hold pastors accountable, but in the United Church of Christ it is the congregation that has the power to hold ministers accountable. The congregation may want to consider making this a part of our contractual relationship.

### **Lincolnland Benefit Dance:**

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

**Salem United Church of Christ**

***\*Free\****

**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 will be offering 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.

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