

ST. PETER COMMUNITY CHURCH  
400 Wagner Road  
Northfield, IL. 60093



Phone: 847-272-2246      September 2016



*For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every purpose under heaven.*

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

As we mark the changing of the seasons, with St. Peter affirming the decision to enter into merger with Northfield Community Church, we offer you the final regular edition of the St. Peter Lamplighter. While you may still receive written and email communications from the church – perhaps even a special edition of the Lamplighter should that be needed – this will be the final monthly installment of our community newsletter. We hope that you've already received your copy of the NCC Courier (printed on green paper), the newsletter of our newly merged congregation, and that you will look to for information about the life of our new community at NCC. You won't find a calendar in this month's edition, but should have received NCC's calendar of events along with your copy of the Courier.

Meanwhile, we still have much to offer in this edition. Inside you find updates about the decisions that have been finalized as we move toward full unity with NCC, along with some words from our UCC General Minister and President. You'll find Pastor Clint's final column, and you'll find some words of thank you from your friends here at St. Peter. There's still plenty to read and learn, and we hope you'll enjoy this one last publication. It has been our pleasure to compile, edit, and publish your monthly newsletter for these past months, and we're grateful for the opportunity to have kept you in touch with one another and the congregation. Thank you for the privilege of ministering alongside you for this season.

Sincerely yours,

Linda Lambrecht and Clint Collins

### **PICTURES FROM OUR CELEBRATION**

We hope you enjoy the pictures taken at our Celebration Sunday and Picnic, which are printed courtesy of Nancy Hyrczyk.

If you'd like to see them in color, you can find them on our Facebook page at: <http://bit.ly/stpccfb>. In addition, Nancy has created a couple of videos from both events that she'd be happy to provide you on DVD. Contact her by phone or email [nancyhyrczyk@comcast.net](mailto:nancyhyrczyk@comcast.net) to request a copy for yourself!

### **MAKE SURE YOU'RE GETTING THE COURIER**

If you have not received a copy of the Courier, please contact Linda in the office so she can send you one and ensure your name is on the mailing list. E-mail recipients have been transferred to NCC's list and should have already received a copy or should receive it soon. But feel free to request a paper copy in the meantime.



## FROM THE PASTOR'S LAPTOP

“Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!”

-- Dr. Seuss, *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*

Like so many others who graduated in the years following its publication, I received a copy of *Oh, The Places You'll Go!* upon completing my high school education. It's a cute read if you haven't read it – as all of Theodor Geisel's books are – and it's certainly a nice gift to give to that young grad heading out into the world for the first time. But I have to admit, as I'd been thinking about this final column, my mind continued to return to this fun little read. So I pulled my copy off the shelf and read it again, and might gut was right on task. It was worth it to revisit this old 'classic' once again.

Truth be told, I wish I had picked it up earlier during our journey of transition – I could've used it in a sermon or two! For in his typically lyrical and sometimes silly way, Dr. Seuss speaks to what it means to be on the path toward change. After opening with such optimism, Seuss's

protagonist finds himself stuck in “The Waiting Place,” and in hindsight, I think that's where I found you all when I accepted the call to minister among you three years ago.

But my, oh my, you've come a long way since then. And to Dr. Seuss's credit, I'll quote him again! (Did you see how I caused that little couplet to rhyme? Surely you knew that I'd crack given time!)

“And when things start to happen, don't worry. Don't stew. Just go right along. You'll start happening too... On and on you will hike and I know you'll hike far, and face up to your problems whatever they are... And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! (98 and 3 / 4 percent guaranteed.)

CHURCH, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!”

Ok, so I changed “KID” into “CHURCH,” but you already knew the whole point of this quote was that I was talking about you. Because when it comes to you all and the potential you have, I believe every word Dr. Seuss penned. Church, you *will* move mountains.

So... be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray, or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea, you're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So, get on your way!”

St. Peter, or Northfield, or no name all – I know that you will continue to be an amazing community that is capable of amazing things. So with a little bit of sadness and a heck of a lot of pride, know that you go with my blessing as you journey on without me. Your mountain is still waiting, and it's time to be on your way.

In Christian Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clint'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Pastor Clint

## MINISTRY ON THE MOVE

During August, Clint's ministry away from the office involved all of the following:

- Interim Ministry Consult Group – August 1<sup>st</sup>
  - St. Peter Church Council – August 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Partners In Christ – August 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Interim Ministry Consult Group – August 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Saturday Bible Studies
  - Home visitations and meetings
  - And a collection of interviews and conversations with prospective churches.
- Thank you for continuing to support me as I search for my next call! CWC

## UPDATE FROM THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

St. Peter held a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, to consider finalizing the merger with Northfield Community Church. The following summary outlines the discussion and actions taken place.

An updated draft of the Agreement and Plan of Merger was presented at the meeting which included the following provisions:

- Monies will be provided for the following transitional expenses/needs:
  - Up to \$350,000 for St. Peter Cemetery (this amount was raised in order to address certain immediate care and beautification issues at the cemetery)
  - Up to \$100,000 to NCC for projects commemorating St. Peter Community Church and its history on the grounds and in the facilities at Northfield Community Church
  - Up to \$25,000 to NCC for the continued employment of our secretary beyond the 2016 calendar year (reduced from \$50,000 since St. Peter will continue to maintain business functions throughout 2016)
  - Up to \$25,000 for pastoral care needs for St. Peter’s homebound members (this was added in case a need for hiring part-time help should be needed in the immediate term, acknowledging that NCC’s budget for their fiscal year has already been set and approved)
  - The disbursement of \$550,000 (as it becomes available without penalty) to charitable agencies and/or mission partners in honor of St. Peter and its 171 year history
  - The establishment of a legacy endowment fund at NCC with the remainder of the Heritage Fund – approximately \$1.7 million) that will disburse up to \$100,000 per year until the fund is exhausted, which will include provisions for scholarships as part of that annual \$100,000

The disbursement of the initial \$550,000 will be determined by a second congregational survey, which was agreed upon after considerable discussion at the meeting.

A motion was made to merge with NCC, according to the provisions of our constitution and by-laws, that would adopt the draft Agreement and Plan of Merger in its substantive form while empowering our governing bodies to finalize the details and require an additional Special Congregational Meeting if any changes are required that would change the substance or intent of the present draft form. This motion carried by a vote of 24 ayes, 1 nay, and 1 abstention.

A more complete summary of this meeting, along with the actions of the Church Council at its August 2016 business meeting will be mailed following the publication of this edition of the Lamplighter.



### LAMPLIGHTER SPONSOR

Thank you to Nancy & Gene Pflingsten for sponsoring the Lamplighter for the month of September. Thank you also, to everyone that signed up for one or more of the months.

### BENEVOLENT GIVING FOR AUGUST 2016

<b>OCWM.....</b>	<b>\$264.00</b>
<b>EASING.....</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Night Ministry.....</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Louisiana Flood Relief.....</b>	<b>\$65.00</b>
<b>Church World Services.....</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>



**A MEMORIAL WAS GIVEN**

FOR: Frances SaLee Decker  
FROM: Jeff W. Decker



**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 9/1 Lucille Gabrovich  
Kyle Kreiss
- 9/2 Ryan Trout
- 9/8 Lea Jones
- 9/9 William Livingston
- 9/10 Eun Chung Keirns
- 9/14 Don Harrigan
- 9/21 Mary Finlay
- 9/30 Quentin Bobart



**THANK YOU!**

A big THANK YOU to the church family for prayers for my recovery and to the Congregation and the Choir for the meals that they provided. Thank you also for the cards and thoughts for my recovery.

Jim Goettsche

**WAYS TO CELEBRATE GOD'S GIFTS**

**RELEVANT BIBLE STUDY**

**formerly "INTRO TO THE BIBLE"**

(Lea Jones) Currently the Group is studying the book of Acts. Please join us Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. in the Library.

**PARTNERS IN CHRIST**(Nancy Hyczyk)

Partners in Christ will have their next meeting Thursday, September 22nd at 10 a.m. in the Parlor.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Tuesday mornings 10:00-11:30 in the parlor. Each week looking at the Revised Common Lectionary for the following Sunday to aid in understanding Sunday's sermon and worship.

**SUNDAY SEMINAR**

Sunday mornings 9:15-10:15 in the library, will resume on Sunday, September 25th, with a DVD study *Violence Divine: Overcoming the Bible's Betrayal of Its Non-Violent God* featuring John Dominic Crossan.

**PRAYER BREAKFAST**

The 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:30-8:30 a.m. - Breakfast, devotions, sharing and prayer.

**BOOK CLUB**

The 1st Tuesday of the month, 11:45-12:45 in the parlor. Bring a lunch and join in the book discussion.



## **PRAYING FOR PEOPLE**

**We invite you to keep all of these people in your prayers.**

The following prayer concerns have been shared with the community, please hold them in prayer during the coming week.

- Mike Parker –recovering from stroke
- Jim Goettsche – thanksgiving for support following surgeries
- Troy Livingston – thanksgiving for support following surgery
- Linda Ratajczak – recovering from fall
- Christy Bobart’s Grandmother – continuing recovery
- Sherry – Vicki Otis’ sister – recovering from knee replacement
- Eileen Baumgarten – thanksgiving for birth of a granddaughter
- Dick Eiseman – recovering from stroke - friend of Mitzi & Bud Smith
- Thanksgiving for family and visitors attending our celebration
- Prayers for people of Louisiana, California, and all others facing natural disasters
- Prayers for the persecuted church around the world
- Prayers for those suffering with mental illness
- Prayers for the St. Peter congregation as we move ahead into our future together

### **Ongoing Prayer Requests: cancer**

- Glen Stewart – son of Alex Stewart
- Alec Stewart – son of Alex Stewart
- Maria Weiss – friend of Judy Oswald
- Lynn Mitchell – friend of Connie Harris
- Paul Zima – friend of Margaret Weber
- Henry Lopez – friend of Margaret Weber
- Randy Johnson – friend of Bev Kreiss
- Butch Walker – cousin of Gary Eberlein
- Kirk Leighninger – brother of Eric Leighninger

- Luci Pappas – friend of Barbara Marrella

### **Ongoing Prayer Requests: chronic disease**

- Bill Cyr – returned home, continuing to recover from pneumonia
- Harry Young
- Laura Berenson – former colleague of Eric Leighninger
- Dee Zimmerman – sister of Bill Cyr
- Sue Lello – friend of Carol Grill
- Tony Mullins and family – friends of Bud & Mitzi Smith

### **Ongoing Prayer Requests: hospice care**

- Bernice Gustafson – mother of Bev Kreiss

### **Ongoing Prayer Requests: other concerns**

- Randy Johnson – friend of Bev Kreiss – second round of chemotherapy
- Katherine Bellman – granddaughter of Gary & Linda Eberlein
- Bob Marwin – friend of Carol Goff
- Alex Stewart – former custodian at St. Peter
- David Ratajczak – son of Ray Ratajczak
- Ola Burnett – grandmother of Christy Bobart
- Shirley Bastiani’s great nephew
- Amy – daughter of Gary & Linda Eberlein
- Stuart and Whitney – friends of Eric Leighninger
- Isabel Bartol – friend of Seren Livingston

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS: UNITY SUNDAY CELEBRATION ON SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

After gathering on August 21<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the end of one chapter, you're now invited to come together again on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the beginning of a new one! We will join our neighbors as part of the newly merged Northfield Community Church on the morning of Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>, and we hope you'll be there too! This will be a festive worship hour marking the joining of St. Peter Community Church and NCC as one new congregation highlighted by the debut of a new anthem commissioned to celebrate this occasion, which will be followed by a time of food and fellowship as we share with our brothers and sisters in this great family of faith. The celebration will be held during the 10:30 worship service in the sanctuary, and the food and fellowship hour will follow afterward. You won't want to miss this great day in the life of our congregation!

### **MAKING THE TRANSITION: GIVING IN SEPTEMBER**

For those of you who have continued to generously support the ministry of St. Peter with your financial gifts, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. These gifts have helped us safeguard the portion of our legacy that existed in the form of the Heritage Fund. However, we have reached the point in our coming together with Northfield Community Church where it is time to support our larger congregation. Beginning in September, the Council is asking that you begin making your regular offerings to NCC rather than to St. Peter. For those of you who are writing checks, this means that you should make them out now to Northfield Community Church. For those of you who make your gifts in cash, please continue to use your St. Peter giving envelopes until the leadership at NCC asks you to do otherwise. Please note that any designated gifts that you make (OCWM, Northfield Pantry, etc.) will continue to be passed along as directed, so there is no need to change your giving habits. Please also be aware that this means you will receive an end-of-year statement of giving from *both* St. Peter Community Church and Northfield Community Church for your records. If you have any questions, please

don't hesitate to contact the church office or speak with members of your St. Peter Church Council.

### **MUSIC HELPS MANAGE PAIN**

Regardless of our religious tradition, music plays some part of how we express our faith. Congregational singing, chanting, a cantor singing the liturgy, a choir, a praise band, recitation of sacred scriptures, a piano playing underneath a prayer. There are so many ways that music forms the heart of religious practice. Creating music together or even just experiencing familiar and expressive music helps lift our spirits and also affects our bodies. Many research studies show that music helps reduce blood pressure, heart rate and the amount of cortisol (a powerful stress hormone) that gets released into our body. Music has also been shown to help manage pain—both the acute pain that can come from an injury, but also chronic pain that lasts over time. Many people report that singing helps them manage depression and anxiety. How does it work? One theory is that music that is familiar and enjoyable to us triggers the natural opioids in our body. Our body emits its own form of morphine that actually reduces the experience of discomfort. Music may also just help take our minds off of our aches and help us focus on something outside of ourselves. Regardless, music is powerful medicine...and it's one of the strengths that we have as faith communities to promote health and well-being. How can we apply our musical traditions so that they are not just part of our ritual or worship practices, but so that they are an integral part of our outreach to those who are sick or frail? Some faith traditions offer the laying on of hands for healing. Could music be added to enhance the impact of the experience? Could we invite the congregation to feel the music in their bodies as they sing together or listen to the priest chanting, imam reciting or the organ playing? There are many things that faith communities do to support health and wellbeing. Sometimes they are so obvious that we miss them. Look for ways that your house of worship can connect your musical traditions to promote healing

for your members and others in the community.

Resources: [www.advocatehealth.com](http://www.advocatehealth.com); US Pain Foundation, [www.uspainfoundation.org](http://www.uspainfoundation.org); American Chronic Pain Association, [www.theacpa.org](http://www.theacpa.org)

## **A WORD FROM OUR GMP: WHAT YOU DO SAVES LIVES!**

*By Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhaur, General Minister and President of the UCC*

I have the most amazing job. I get to travel across the country and visit our local churches and their leaders. Everywhere I go, I swell with pride at what the United Church of Christ commits to every day to change lives and change the world. In little burgs and villages, in suburbs and cities, our churches make such a profound difference – and I get to witness it firsthand.

On the list of churches I have visited so far, and this is not in any way comprehensive (we don't have the time or space to list them all), these are some of the congregations who are doing amazing work:

- Smith Memorial in Hillsborough NH, where pastor Eric Jackson is preaching a sermon series from box office hits – bringing pop culture and the gospel into the worship space
- Hillsborough UCC in North Carolina keeps putting up rainbow flags in a state where HB2 was written to terrorize transgender citizens, and their flags keep getting stolen or burned. But that doesn't stop them from putting up another one!
- Westminster UCC in Spokane, WA, where they are holding "Enhancing the Survival Mindset" self-defense classes for women again this spring, in partnership with the local police department.
- First Congregational UCC in Berkeley, CA, where youth pastor the Rev. Kit Novotny has produced a Rihanna parody with members of her church to promote their worship and ministry.
- Zion United Church of Christ, Mayview, MO, where last fall, they did a blessing of the animals.
- St. Paul United Church of Christ in Lebanon, IL, who invited Dr. Zulfia Shaikh, founder of the Bangalore School of Speech and Drama in Bangalore, India. While at St. Paul, she spoke in both worship services about her faith journey as a Muslim in today's world.

- Old South Church in Boston, where, on Phyllis Wheatley Sunday, they gave their Open Door Award to Sarah-Ann Shaw, Boston's first female African-American television reporter.

This is but a taste of the glorious work that is done every week through the mission and ministry of our local churches. What an honor it is to serve such a people. You make me so very proud. No matter where your church is located, no matter your size or your setting, remember that you were birthed for mission—and what you do changes lives! Keep doing what you do, and never flag in your zeal to engage in the kind of mission that will make the world a better place.

*This article was originally published in the Summer 2016 edition of Cornerstone Notes, a publication of the UCC Cornerstone Fund. You can view the entire newsletter online by typing in the following link:*  
<http://bit.ly/cn2016summer>

## **LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR – A GLOBAL MINISTRIES STORY**

*"The second is this, you will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these."*

-- Mark 12:31

It's not every day that the Consul General of a Middle Eastern country asks to come for a visit to the Hong Kong Christian Council (HKCC). When the Consul General arrived with his staff, he explained that he was new to his position and was troubled by events around the world involving violence and terrorism. He was concerned about the rise of 'Islamophobia' or anti-Muslim sentiment. He wanted to reach out to other religions in Hong Kong to get to know them and to build better relationships. In our conversation, he learned that the HKCC also actively seeks ways to build friendship and engage in dialogue with other world religions.

At one point, the Consul General asked us how Christians viewed what was happening in the world where more and more violent conflicts were breaking out between cultures and religions. I thought for a moment. And the words of a Syrian Christian I had heard just a few days earlier came to mind: "Christians always stand for non-violence and non-

retaliation. We must always forgive. We are taught by Jesus in the bible to love our enemies.” And that’s what I told him. I couldn’t think of anything else that is more central to our Christian faith than loving God, loving our neighbor and loving our enemy.

The Consul General didn’t know us and we didn’t know him. But he came in search of peace and a sign of friendship among people of faith. I wonder what would happen if local churches and Christians took more initiative

to reach out to get to know people of other faiths. We often speak of “extending the right hand of fellowship” to our Christian brothers and sisters in worship. Perhaps we could find more opportunities to shake hands with those in our own cities that come from other lands and cultures and faiths. Like us, they desire nothing more than living together in peace and friendship.



*This update from your Global Ministries was written by Judy Chan, who serves as a Global Ministries missionary with the Hong Kong Christian Council. Her appointment is supported by gifts made to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, gifts made to Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM), and gifts made by our ecumenical partners in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) You can further support Judy’s work, along with that of numerous other UCC and Disciples of Christ missionaries serving around the globe, by donating to Global Ministries here: <http://bitly.com/givetogm>*