



The ANNOUNCER

Quick Upcoming

- 5/1 **UNDY 500 BEGINS!**
- 5/2 **National Day of Prayer**
- 5/4 9AM – CMA Spring Meeting
- 5/5 **St. Peter's UCC 157th Anniversary /Blessing of Offering of Letters; 11:15AM - Special Coffee Hour**
- 5/12 **Mother's Day**
- 5/19 **Pentecost**
11:15AM - Church Council meets
5:00PM – Spaghetti Dinner (RSVP required)
- 5/20 **Announcer Deadline**
- 5/26 **Trinity Sunday**
11:15AM – Fourth Sunday Conversations
- 5/27 **Memorial Day**
Office Closed

HOSPITALIZED

Jane Abramchik continues for now at the McGaw Care Center, Frank Murdough Pavilion, in Evanston. Dorene Schurman remains in hospice care in Ohio, and MaryLou Noorts is in hospice care at The Arbor in Glenview. Also in hospice: Dorothy Stielow, 95, at 908 Talbot, Lake Bluff, IL 60044-1562.

A publication of St. Peter's UCC in Skokie

FOURTH SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS; OUR OWN WORLD CAFE



Calling all members and friends of St. Peter's! Your Church Council has launched a series of Fourth Sunday Conversations, gatherings for members and friends at special coffee hours on the fourth Sunday of each month. By the time you read this, we will have had our first Fourth Sunday Conversation on April 28th! If you missed it or want to come back for more conversation, mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, May 26th and Sunday, June 23rd.

We will spend a little—but not too much—time in intentional conversation. We are having these coffee chats after worship so that it's easy for you to drop in, enjoy a bit of conversation, and then get on with your early summer days. What are Fourth Sunday Conversations, you ask? First,

let's start with what Fourth Sunday Conversations are not. Fourth Sunday Conversations are NOT about planning next steps after Pastor's departure, but they are about matters of the heart and how we thrive as a community today, tomorrow, and for years to come. Fourth Sunday Conversations are NOT strategic planning sessions, although you may find yourself engaging in conversation about hopes and dreams for our church. Fourth Sunday Conversations are NOT a platform for expressing opinions, rather Fourth Sunday Conversations are a time for authentic sharing. We want to listen together and learn from the experiences, knowledge, and feelings of everyone—and we mean everyone.

Fourth Sunday Conversations are NOT your standard coffee hour, but you should anticipate relaxed conversation about matters of mind and heart, and you will experience joy in fellowship. Fourth Sunday Conversations ARE about strengthening community and talking about what matters most. Are you still wondering what Fourth Sunday Conversations are all about? Come join us and find out!.

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

As I draw nearer to the time of my retirement, I thought that some mutually agreed-upon "rules for engagement" between myself and Beth, and the church and its members/friends, ought to be communicated. I thought this would be a good place, and good timing. However, more intentional work needs to be done between the Council and the Lanfords, so there is nothing specific to report at that time, except the general rule that under almost all circumstances, there isn't to be any contact between us and the members of Saint Peter's for a considerable amount of time. This allows the new pastor to get called and begin settling in, planting his/her/their own roots of relationship with you, and allows me to be really retired. More about that in the next Announcer, however!

I thought that with that not ready at all, I'd do a walk down Memory Lane in the 1990's block. When Beth and I came in the summer of 1992, the church did not have any computers, although when I was installed in February of the next year, the church gave me a PS/1 or 2 as the installation gift, so the ice was broken! Getting on the Internet came a few years later.

Before I had even started, I remember Ed Biegert and I helping to unload the truck which had the long, red pew cushions. We helped lug them up the Oakton Street steps, and we still use those to this day.

One of the first things I did besides that was to ask for some \$\$ to buy directional signs to put near our entrances, and around the church. Our building is not easy for visitors to find their way around. The Kettlers put up the money and Ed Paige mounted the changeable letter signs that went on walls. We still have those today, including the ones on moveable stands. Got to be inviting!

I asked for a long-range planning session, which took place in the middle of March 1993. It snowed pretty good, dampening the attendance. All the same, one of the things that arose from that planning session was the creation of the Church Growth and Evangelism Committee. For some years that Committee did good, if unheralded, work. Some of the things we did were the creation of the Supplemental Songbooks (which underwent a few incarnations), the Kids Activity Bags which hang outside the narthex, and advertising in the newspaper on a regular basis. The Committee itself had many members come and go over the years.

Our mission activity through the then-Good News Community Kitchen began before we got here, but it blossomed in the 1990s under Rich Miller at the helm. Later in the 2000s he handed it over to others, including Beth, but it was a big part of our mission work then as now.

The Softball team was created in time for the inaugural season of 1994. Among the players for us were Beth and John Sterba, Paul and Beth Brzozowski, Alane Schaller, Elaine Goldberg, Bob Kuehn, Mark and Brenda Karol, Henry Muhrer, scorekeeper Eric Svenson, and others. In the 1990s we had a Tuesday bag-lunch and Bible Study, which was attended by retirees.

I continued Pastor Tom's tradition of midweek Lenten day services on Wednesdays.

The Youth Fellowship was ready-made and waiting. With help from Carol Iannotti and several others, the group and its adults put on a Halloween Party for neighborhood kids, and a Haunted House which developed a scary reputation over the years. When some kids like Eric Svenson aged out of the Youth Fellowship they continued to oversee, and ran, the Spook House. Then there were a few Youth Fellowship lock-ins. I think we stopped at two; my temperament was not made for those.

One of the great climaxes of the decade was in Advent 1998, when we received 12 new members into St. Peter's – the most ever at one time under my pastorate. Maybe even cooler was that I baptized 3 adults joining that day: Chuck LeCroy, Heather and Katy Schuhrke.

I know this is long; good thing I chose to stick to the '90s!

May all our memories be blessings.

Keep, and share, the faith, Rev. Richard Lanford

UNDY 500 ALL OF MAY

The UNDY 500 is BACK for all of May! We are collecting brand new underwear (colored only please) in all sizes including plus sizes needed for The Night Ministry to distribute to Chicago's most needy. Collection baskets will be in the sanctuary and Memorial Room. For questions contact Maria Altmayer. Sponsored by our Micah 6:8 Committee!

SPAGHETTI DINNER WITH "ROAST AND TOAST"

On Sunday, May 19th at 5PM St. Peter's is bringing back the Spaghetti Dinner for a special evening of memories, fellowship, and traditional Spaghetti Dinner food and drinks. During the meal, we'll have a "Roast and Toast," of Pastor and Beth - we want to hear your favorite funny, meaningful, or celebratory stories about their positive impact here. Short personal anecdotes are welcome from everyone! This will be an informal gathering for St. Peter's family, not open to the public, with a special focus on the over 40 youth that have been a part of Pastor's ministry, whether through Sunday School Chapel, Youth Fellowship, Confirmation, or the softball team. A \$5 suggested donation for adults and \$3 for children under 10 covers the cost of food, and there will be Raffle Baskets to bid on. Reservations are requested so we can plan our space accordingly – see the insert in your bulletin to *RSVP by May 12th!*

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY & OFFERING OF LETTERS

This coming Sunday, **May 5th**, marks Saint Peter's U.C.C. turning 157 years old! We'll mark our anniversary in worship, and also with a coffee hour. Within worship we'll also dedicate or bless the Offering of Letters written by members and friends of St. Peter's in support of increased funding for the S.N.A.P. program, per the information provided by the Christian organization Bread for the World. We had an "engaged coffee hour" on

April 14th learning about this Offering of Letters, how and why to write them, and many were even sent over the Internet that very morning before the Coffee Hour ended! The Board of Elders will also hold its meeting during the Birthday Coffee Hour. It will be a fellowship-filled coffee hour (with the Board of Elders also holding its meeting during it). Please plan to stay to enjoy a bite of birthday cake at this anniversary coffee hour.

SAVE THE DATE FOR ONE LAST GOODBYE

June 30th is retirement day for Pastor. After 32 years at St. Peter's, we are saying goodbye to Pastor and Beth with a celebration. All of the church family and friends are invited to join us **at 5:00PM** at St. Peter's for this celebration. We will have food, drinks, laughs and maybe even a few tears. More details will be coming soon. Donations to the Lanford Celebration Fund will help to defray the cost of this banquet. If you would like to donate, send a check with "Lanford Celebration Fund" on the memo line.

CMA MEETING

Pastor Richard, Church President Peggy Reins and Treasurer Chad McCoy are going to attend the annual Spring meeting of our Chicago Metropolitan Association on Saturday, **May 4th from 9 AM to 3 PM**. The host will be the Church of the Good Shepherd at 5700 S. Prairie Avenue. The deadline for early registration will pass before this hits your eyes, but it is possible that other members of our church will join them in going and being exposed to the resources and folks of the CMA! The theme is "Ubuntu," which as a noun means "I am because we are."

GRADUATIONS

William Hoellerich is graduating on Saturday, May 11th from North Park University with a Master's Degree in Education. Congratulations! If there are other upcoming graduations you'd like mentioned in future Announcers, please contact Laura in the office to let her know!

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAK

The last day of Sunday School for our program year will be Sunday, May 19th. We will resume again in September, probably on September 8th but check your Announcer of that month or August, to be sure!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1 – David Rees
Dayle Zelenka
- 5/2 – Dale Todd
Diana Pappadakis-Haun
- 5/4 – Bill Karol
- 5/5 – Ken Paige
Molly Uchtman
- 5/6 – Laura Medaglia
- 5/12 – Maya Lundeen
- 5/13 – Gianna Iannotti
- 5/14 – Jake Ryan, Evelyn Loach
- 5/17 – Jessica Schneider
- 5/18 – Annie Noorts
- 5/21 – Hayley Bruhn
- 5/22 – Gail Hoellerich
Pastor Richard Lanford
- 5/24 – Diane Meggs
- 5/25 – Angelo Iannotti
- 5/26 – Braxton Meggs, Finch
Bernant
- 5/29 – Heather (Schuhrke)
O'Hara
Melissa Erickson
- 5/30 – Jack Hoellerich

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/11 – Mandy and Mike
McDonald
- 5/16 – Christine and Maykel
Salvatierra
- 5/23 – Ann and Mark Aler

Budget at a Glance, March 2024

	March Actual	Monthly Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$17,932	\$16,008	\$41,107	\$48,024
Expenses	\$17,353	\$15,939	\$46,674	\$47,817
Gain/(Loss)	\$579	\$69	(\$5,567)	\$207



Lector/Nursery for May 2024

May 5th	Nursery: Annie N. Lector: Rita M.
May 12th	Nursery: Kathy Z. Lector: Olivia A.
May 19th	Nursery: Laurie M. Lector: Peter S.
May 26th	Nursery: Heidi T. Lector: Rich S.
June 2nd	Nursery: Annie N. Lector: Carolyn V.



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WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING – APRIL 10, 2024

St. Peter's Women's Guild met on Wed. April 10 at 11:30 a.m. Hostesses were Judy Paige and Dorothy Panzke, who served strawberry shortcake in celebration of Spring! Marlene Russell gave her usual poignant Devotions, Sue Bailey reported that our Treasury stands at \$1500, and Ginger Kalensky reported that Easter cards were sent out, as well as Get Well cards.

Annie Noorts brought us up to date on plans for the 2 dinners in honor of Pastor Lanford's retirement. Invitation E-Mails are going out shortly for the Spaghetti Dinner on May 19, which is for church members, including Youth Fellowship alums. The Guild will assist in setting up on Sat. May 18 and will contribute dessert. Chef Richard Schneider will create the meal and will oversee decorations, etc. Pastor Lanford reported that there will be no Clergy Service on the afternoon of June 30,, as previously thought, but we will have a Farewell Dinner at church at 5:00 and it will be catered by Lee & Eddies. More information will be in the June Announcer, etc. There also was some discussion about another private item, which will be disclosed later. It was suggested that reservations for the Spaghetti Dinner begin on April 21 and close on May 5. The big BUNCO party is coming up on April 27 and donations for the GIANT RAFFLE are still needed.

There will be no meeting in May because of all our special events, but our next and final meeting before summer will be on **Wed. June 12 at 11:30AM** at the Todds and will be hosted by the Board. Our special guests will be Pastor and Beth. Let Barb Todd know if you are coming. It will be a good time!

Barbara Todd, Pres.