

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Visitor ~ December 2015

915 North Ironwood Drive ♦ South Bend, Indiana 46615 ♦ (574) 232-1500

E-Mail: sbstpeters@juno.com ♦ Website: www.sbstpeters.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:30 A.M.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

We are a Christian community committed to:

Joy in Worship

Warmth in Fellowship

Compassion in Outreach

Growth in Discipleship

Church Staff

K. Scott Bowie, Pastor

Lori Wiseman, Director of Music

Lynne Zesinger, Accompanist

Whitney Culp, Director of Children's & Youth
Ministries

Sandy Villwock, Administrative Assistant

Church Leadership

Cindy Bingaman, Congregation President

Karen McKibbin, Congregation Vice-President

Chris Horning, Chair of the Deacons

Michael Phelps, Chair of the Trustees

Looking Ahead at St. Peter's

- December 5 St. Peter's Annual Holiday Craft Sale & Cookie Walk for Mission—9am-2pm
- 6 *One Silent Night: A Christmas Ballad of Love & Joy*—Presented by the Sanctuary Choir during the 10:30am Worship Hour
- 9 St. Peter's RTAs' Christmas Luncheon at Evil Czech—12:30
- 12 Dress Rehearsal for *We Three Spies*—10:00am-12:30pm
- 13 *We Three Spies*—A Christmas Musical Presented by the Children & Youth of St. Peter's during the 10:30 Worship Hour followed by an All Church Luncheon in the Multipurpose Room
- 14 Men's & Ladies' Nites Out at Carmela's at Macri's—6:30pm
- 20 4th Sunday in Advent with the Celebration of Communion—10:30am
- Living Nativity Pageant on the Lawn at St. Peter's followed by Refreshments & a Special Craft for Children—7:00pm
- 24 Family Oriented Christmas Eve Worship Service—4:30pm
- Christmas Eve Service of

WEEKLY WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M.

Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity!



By November 23rd, we have received **32 pledges** for a total of **\$61,896**. Pledges ranged from **\$240.00 per year** to **\$7,920.00 per year**, with an average pledge of **\$1,934.25**. It is not too late to provide a pledge to St. Peter's UCC. We are more than halfway there!

What is a pledge? A pledge is an opportunity for you to declare what you hope to donate to St. Peter's UCC each week or each month during the year 2016. It may be that some months you are able to give more than you pledged and, some months, you may find you need to give less.

Why pledge? The pledges made provide a guideline for our upcoming 2016 budget. The money given by congregation members is the single greatest source of income for our church's ministry. These monies provide salaries, underwrite programs, pay utilities and enable facility upkeep as well as providing support for mission work in our neighborhood, the larger community, and beyond. When pledges are low, concern is raised that we might need to modify programs in order to reduce deficit spending. The more your pledge, the more you give, the greater the impact St. Peter's can make in the world.

How do I pledge? Letters and forms for pledging were sent to members and friends of St. Peter's, but anyone is welcome to pledge. If any of the mailed forms were misplaced, more are available in the office or from Cheryl Nix, Stewardship Elder. If you wish, you can choose to make an anonymous pledge. Once again, pledges are for the purpose of building our 2016 budget, as well as for each of us to set a goal for our giving in the year ahead.

What is the timeline? There will be a vote accepting our 2016 budget at a Congregational Meeting in early January. While it will be helpful to have received all pledges by the first of the year, pledges are welcome anytime.

~ Cheryl Nix, Stewardship Elder

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. PETER'S

Children's & Youth Christmas Service 2015: The children and youth of St. Peter's and the Christian Education Committee cordially invite our St. Peter's family, friends, and community to our 2015 children's and youth led Christmas Worship Service on December 13 at 10:30am in the sanctuary. We have planned a festive service with performances from all ages of children, youth, and a couple of those who are young at heart. This year's box office feature is a jolly and stellar rendition of "A Classified Christmas Adventure: *We Three Spies*." Following this service we invite all to join us in the Multipurpose Room for a delicious lunch provided by parents and friends of our performers.

Christmas Luncheon: St. Peter's parents, please note that you will be contacted in the next few days to find out what your family would be willing to bring to the luncheon that follows the children's & youth Christmas worship service. We will need two dozen cupcakes, Cuties, bananas, carrots & dip, peanut butter & jelly sandwiches and chips. We ask that you plan to bring your donations to the final dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 12, so that the Fellowship Committee has ample time to set up for the luncheon.

Christmas Worship Service Rehearsals: There are only two more rehearsals left before our Children's & Youth Christmas Service! Listed below are the remaining scheduled rehearsals:

Sunday, December 6, following the Sanctuary Choir Cantata. A lunch will be provided; please pick up your child at 2:00 pm. This rehearsal is for all performers.

Saturday, December 12, from 10:00am-12:30pm. This is the **Final Dress Rehearsal. This rehearsal is for all performers.**

Living Nativity Pageant: Mark your Calendars for Sunday, December 20, for our 5th Annual Living Nativity, beginning at 7:00pm on the lawn at St. Peter's that faces the corner of Ironwood & Corby. Come join us for an interactive telling of the Christmas Story, complete with live farm animals and carol singing. The pageant will be followed by refreshments and a special craft for small children in the Multipurpose Room. St. Peter's children & youth should arrive no later than 6:10pm for costuming, makeup, and some simple staging. If you would like to help with these preparations, please call Whitney Culp at (574) 340-2262.

Morning Cafe: Please join your favorite youth director and fellow youth for a short practice of our own St. Peter's rendition of the *12 Days of Christmas*, a festive



**A Christmas Musical
Presented by the
Children & Youth of St. Peter's
Sunday**

December 13 at 10:30am

**Followed by lunch in the
Multipurpose Room for the entire
St. Peter's Church family**

Shhh! Grab your trench coat & your dark shades and go undercover to join the exciting Christmas mission of *We Three Spies*. Secret agents E, L, and F are recruits with the C.I.K. (Christmas Intelligence Kids), a covert group of spies who secretly bring Christmas cheer to the needy.

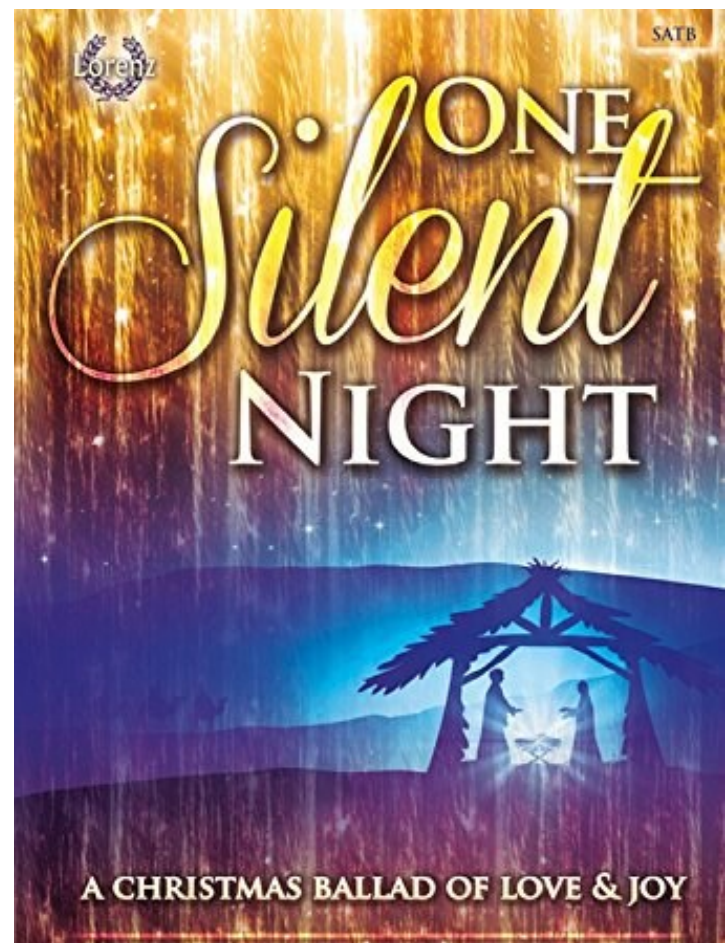
Christmas Cantata

**Sunday • Dec. 6
During Morning Worship**

**Lori Wiseman & Jonathan Embry
Directing**

**Lynne Zesinger & Jonathan Embry
Accompanying**

**Featuring St. Peter's
Sanctuary Choir**



Holiday Craft Show

St. Peter's

Saturday • December 5th
from 9am to 2pm

Do Some Christmas Shopping & Support
Area Crafters with Your Purchases

Time to Plan Your
Holiday Baking
for Missions

December 5
9am-2pm

with the Holiday Craft Show



Cookie Walk

A holiday tradition at St. Peter's, the Cookie Walk provides a wonderful opportunity for you to sample the baking prowess of the St. Peter's membership while purchasing some confections



St. Peter's
Sanctuary Choir

Choir Rehearsals

Thursday, December 3 & 10 • 7:00pm

Sanctuary Choir Party • Thursday,
December 17 at the Scheel Home

No Rehearsals
the Week of Christmas or New Years

Ladies' Nite Out

Wow! What a great Ladies Night Out! We had the biggest group ever. We met at Legend's on Notre Dame campus on Monday, November 16th. The food was delicious as usual and, obviously, everyone likes their food. We were happy to welcome Evelyn Orlowski back after a long absence. We also welcomed Cindy Himple and her mother, Jane Erk, as well as Janet Tappan as first time guests. We hope they will return in the future. Cindy supplied birthday cake for both the women's and men's tables in honor her mother's birthday. We sang "Happy Birthday" three times for those who had birthdays in November: Evelyn, Jane, and me. Those attending were Carrie Bowie, Cindy Bingaman, Laurie Costello, Carol Cestone, Jan Gaines, June Scott, Carol Mayernick, Jeanne Pietrzak, Evelyn Orlowski, Janet Tappan, Loanna Rockstroh, Lori Wiseman, Jackie Scheel, Lynne Zesinger, Jane Erk, Cindy Himple and myself.

Our December celebration will be on Monday, December 14th at Carmela's at Macri's, 214 North Niles Avenue in downtown South Bend at 6:30pm. As is our tradition, we will have a Christmas ornament exchange. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped Christmas ornament to exchange. Please know that participation in the ornament exchange is neither mandatory nor expected, only welcomed. All ladies of the church and their friends are welcome. Make your reservation with me by December 13th or sooner, either in person, by phone — 855-3653 — or email— carolyn1115@comcast.net.

~ Carolyn Hoffman

Men's Nite Out

Another fine evening of fellowship with the St. Peter's gents that dined at Legend's on Notre Dame campus for our November outing. I believe this was the largest group of ladies & men for this event. It was so nice to congregate & swap stories, solve problems, "both church & world" along with humor & just plain fun. Libation was a huge choice, & tasty, along with very fine meals & prompt service. A favorite place enjoyed by all. The gents that attended were: Rev. Scott Bowie, Jim Gaines, Ed Kuszmaul, Bob Mayernick, David Orlowski, Dick Rockstroh, Bob Severeid, Dean Wiseman, Tom Costello, Jonathan Embry, & a *big welcome* to two newcomers: Brian Himple & Ted Tappan. I truly hope that we have even more for our Christmas dinner to be held at Carmela's Italian Restaurant on Monday, 12/14 @ 6:30. Carmela's is located at 214 Niles Ave So. Bend.

We contacted many restaurants that could serve large groups for a Monday



On the Lawn at St. Peter's
Sunday · December 20th · 7:00pm

Join Us for Refreshments & a
Craft Project for Small Children
afterward in the
Multipurpose Room

Family Worship

*An Interactive Celebration
of Our Lord's Nativity for
Young and Old*

4:30-5:30 in the Sanctuary

Candlelight & Carols

*Celebrating the Sacred
Birth in Story & Song*

10:30-11:30 in the Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS

EVE

At St. Peter's



Help Decorate

St. Peter's Hat & Mitten Tree

**Your gifts will help to keep children in our area
warm & dry this winter. Located in the coffee
area just outside the Church Office, the tree is
ready & waiting for you to hang your gifts!**

Christmas Poinsettias

Tis the Season...

Once again, it is time to decorate our sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmastide. You may order a poinsettia plant to the glory of God and in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend. Help us beautify the church and honor your loved ones by ordering poinsettias. Each plant costs only \$8.00. Simply fill out the form below, write a check payable to St. Peter's for the total amount or attach cash, and return to Chris Horning or the church office, by Sunday, December 6th.

In Memory / Honor of: _____

From: _____

Total # Ordered: _____



The “Birthday Card Lady”—aka Carolyn Hoffman— would very much appreciate any donations of postage stamps, birthday cards, or funds to help continue St. Peter’s ministry of sending birthday greetings to our members & friends. Feel free to pass any donations on to Carolyn or to drop them off



RTA Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday • Dec. 9

**12:30 at Evil Czech Brewery
3703 N Main Street, Mishawaka**

All-you-care-to-eat Buffet

\$11.95 · Includes Soft Drink & Dessert from the Sampler Buffet

RSVP ASAP to Allan & Mary Henry (255-0140)

St. Peter's Recycled Teen-Agers

**Welcomes All Who Are Retired & Not-At-All
Retired to Join Them for This Informal Time of
Holiday Cheer & Sharing Food**

Ladies' & Men's Nites Out Christmas Celebration

Monday ▪ December 14 ▪ 6:30pm



***214 North Niles Avenue
Downtown South Bend***

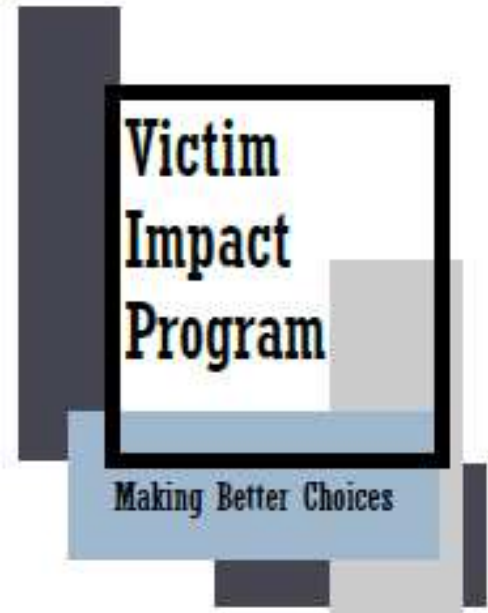
***Make Your Reservations with
Jim or Carolyn Hoffman
(855-3653)***

by Sunday, December 13

***All are welcome to celebrate the joy of
the season with your St. Peter's
family and friends!***

St. Peter's Is Proud to Be Hosting

Rev. Dr. Carol Mayernick's



Second Wednesday of Each Month

**In the Multipurpose Room
(Sign in begins at 6:05pm)**

This Program is directed toward:

- Those charged with impaired driving
- Those ordered by the court to attend
- Driver education students
- All victims and offenders referred by agencies and counselors
- The general public

Stories of victims are presented in the hope that the participants will understand the very real consequences that may result from making the choice to drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol as well as other instances of driving with impaired decision making capacity.

The program works to instill in its participants the results of making better choices.

For more information, contact the church office.

Did You Know?

That the United Church of Christ is actively involved in providing resettlement assistance right here in the United States

to International Refugees Fleeing War & Violence

Recent global media coverage of the desperate plight of international refugees has sparked the encouraging commitment among United Church of Christ congregations to assist in resettlement in the United States. Your help is needed.

There are a variety of ways in which we as individuals and St. Peter's as a community of faith can be part of the Co-Sponsorship and Welcoming Congregations effort of the United Church of Christ. Not only can refugees from many parts of the world benefit from welcoming actions here in our community, they can be assisted in their resettlement through generous gifts of time and resources.

Families currently being resettled in the U.S. have already been in the resettlement system for several years. Since the U.S. government has made the background check process stringent, if not cumbersome, it is likely that families now ready for resettlement will be from parts of the world other than from those areas currently embroiled in conflict and war. For example, Syrian families that become part of the process today will likely not be resettled in the U.S. for another 2-3 years from now.

In addition to contacting local, state, and federal lawmakers encouraging them to pass legislation that honors our common history as a nation of immigrants by welcoming the refugee, your donations to the United Church of Christ for refugee assistance will enable deeper and more critical assistance throughout the world to the millions of men, women, and children displaced by conflict throughout the world. Gifts may be made to "One Great Hour of Sharing UCC International Emergency Fund." Should you wish your gift to specifically support Syrian families, simply designate "Syrian Humanitarian Crisis."

Be sure to watch your monthly *St. Peter's Visitor* and our weekly bulletin over the coming weeks and months for more information on how we as a community of faith can

Adult Sunday School



Our Adult Sunday morning Sunday School will be suspended during the Advent & Christmas Holiday Seasons. It will resume on Sunday, January 10, at 9:15am.

PRAYER LIST

In Care Facilities:

Bill & Nancy Murrmann (St. Paul's)
Dennis Nimtz (Fountainview)

Special Needs:

Ronald & Susan Bottjer, Evelyn Or-
lowski's Cousins
Edna Brandley
Dick Deardorff
Debbie Decker
Lester & Karen Folks, Friends of the
Orlowski's
Barb Hensler
David Hoffman, Jim Hoffman's Son
Mike Hoffman, Jim Hoffman's Son
Karen Horvath
Brian Johnston
Kenny Kaniewski, Bill Murrmann's
Cousin
Jennifer, Randy & Tabitha Kutz
Rev. James Langdoc, Ruth Ann Bauert's
Cousin
Jill Lofland, Jack Swantz's Cousin
Bill & Nancy Murrmann
Evelyn Orlowski
June Scott
Dorie Shaffer
Sandy Sharkey
Jack Swantz
Harry & Karen Thompson
Mary Wesner

Abroad:

Everyone Serving in our Armed
Forces

Happy Birthday Wishes to ...

Gisela Hinz	December 1
John Wien	December 5
Coral Dorsch	December 11
John Hunter Bowie	December 13
Allan Henry	December 13
Lynne Zesinger	December 13
Karen Horvath	December 17
Andy Scheel	December 19
Zoë Zesinger	December 19
David Sholly	December 21
John Dale	December 25
Brian Himpele	December 29
Tom Trethewey	December 29
Kim Baldwin	December 31

Anniversary Best Wishes to ...

Scott & Karen McKibbin December 18



Scripture:..... 2:41-52
Eternal Candle: Darlene Wesolek
Flowers: Christmas Poinsettias
Nursery:.....TBA
Greeters/Coffee Hosts:.....Gladys Sattler
 & Darlene Wesolek
Ushers:Jim & Jan Gaines,
 David Sholly, & David Orlowski

Scripture: John 1: (1-9.) 1:18
Eternal Candle:.....
Flowers:.....
Nursery:.....
Greeters/Coffee Hosts:..... Allan & Mary
Henry
Ushers: Jim & Jan Gaines,
David Orlowski & David Sholly

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Eternal Candle:
Flowers:.....
Nursery:.....
Greeters/Coffee Hosts:....Karen McKibbin
Ushers:Darlene Wesolek, Lois Bank,
Brian & Cindy Himple

Scripture: John 2;1-11
Eternal Candle:
Flowers:.....
Nursery:.....
Greeters/Coffee Hosts:..... Scheel Family
Ushers: Jim Hoffmann, Allan Henry
Jeff Bergstrand & Jim May-PHELPS

Scripture:Luke 4:14-21
Eternal Candle:
Flowers:
Nursery:
Greeters/Coffee Host:....Bob & Jill Bonnell
Ushers:Jackie, Andy& Danielle Scheel,
and Vincent Belkiewitz

Scripture:Luke 4:21-30
Eternal Candle:
Flowers:
Nursery:
Greeters/Coffee Hosts:..... Dorsch Family
Ushers: Bob Bonnell, Jim May,-Phelps
and Fred Nix.

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 1st Sunday in Advent	30 Christian Education Committee—600	1 AA—5:30	2	3 Sanctuary Choir—7:00pm	4	5 Holiday Craft Sale & Cookie Walk—9:00am to 2:00pm
6 2nd Sunday in Advent Sanctuary Choir Cantata—10:30 Children's &	7	8 AA—5:30	9 Victim Impact Program—6:00	10 Sanctuary Choir—7:00pm	11	12 Children's & Youth Dress Rehearsal for <i>We Three Spies</i> —
13 3rd Sunday in Advent Children's & Youth Led Worship Followed by	14 LNO/MNO at Carmela's & Macri's—6:30pm	15 AA—5:30 Worship Committee—6:00	16	17 Sanctuary Choir Party at the Scheel Home—	18 Free Team Trivia—Doors at 7:00—Game Begins at 7:30	19
20 4th Sunday in Advent Living Nativity Pageant—7:00pm	21	22 AA—5:30	23	24 Family Christmas Eve Worship—4:30 Candlelight	25	26
27 1st Sunday after Christmas—10:30am	28 Church Council—7:00	29 AA—5:30	30	31		