

ST. PETER COMMUNITY CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

In the Spirit of Jesus, St. Peter Community Church welcomes all and is open to all. You are invited to worship, learn, serve, and share the God of Jesus.

Worship Service: 11:15 A.M.

400 Wagner Road

Northfield, IL. 60093

847-272-2246

www.StPeterNorthbrook.org

Annual Report 2015

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January 2016 Congregational Meeting Agenda

Opening Prayer

Cemetery Board Report

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Approval of 2015 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Approval of Special Congregational Meeting October 4, 2015

Review Merging Option with Northfield Community Church

Review and Discussion of Budget

Retention of Legal Counsel Regarding Decisions about St. Peter, the Cemetery and Heritage Fund

Review of merits of obtaining legal advice related to:

1. Transfer of Cemetery to Village of Northbrook
2. Heritage Fund Protection – Mike Melander thoughts

Constitutional Issues

1. Vote on merger (first vote requires 2/3 approval – will require second vote not less than six months later, which will need ¾ approval).
2. Ultimate fate of Church assets in the event of dissolution – may require Constitutional amendment

Adjournment

St. Peter Community Church Congregational Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 25, 2015

DRAFT

St. Peter Community Church

400 Wagner Road

Northfield, IL 60093

Council Members Present – Barbara Balch, Christy Bobart, Ken Gardner, Jim Keirns, Eric Leighninger, Julie Leighninger, Phil Reinemann.

Council Members Absent – Carol Goff

Call to Order

Jim Keirns (Ken Gardner arrived later) called the meeting to order at 12:50 PM. Rev. Clint Collins opened with prayer.

Elections

Cemetery Board

Harold Schirmer's term is expiring and he has chosen to not be re-elected. Clint asked for a nomination to fill this position, there were no volunteers. The nominations were closed with the hope that someone will volunteer to fill this vacancy in the near future. The Church constitution required that there be three members on this board. Jim Goettsche reminded the congregation that council members and AMB members can serve on this board. Jim made a motion to accept Harold's resignation and leave the board at two persons for now. Bud Smith seconded. Approved. Cemetery Board Members are Bud Smith and Jim Goettsche.

Asset Management Board

The current board is comprised of Jim Goettsche, Joyce Hutchings, Eileen Knox, Milt Lemke, Michelle Swartzentruber. Ken Gardner is the council liaison. Bud Smith made a motion to reappoint the current members of the AMB for 2015. Julie Leighninger seconded. Approved.

Council

The church council has three vacancies. One three year term and two one year terms to be filled. Christy Bobart and Ken Gardner have been reelected to serve a second three year term. Margaret Weber (in abstentia) has agreed to fill one of the two one year terms. There were no volunteers from the floor to fill the two remaining vacancies. The nomination process was closed. Shirley Bastiani made a motion to accept Christy, Ken and Margaret as council members. Connie Harris seconded. Approved.

Rev. Clint Collins thanked Harold for serving on the Cemetery Board and Julie and Eric for serving on council.

There was considerable discussion regarding reducing the council size from 9 to 7. This was originally proposed by Milt Lemke at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2006. Currently the number of active, regular attendees at a typical Sunday service averages 28-35 people so it is difficult to find 9 people willing to serve. Clint commented that hearing the ideas and opinions of 9 people rather than 7 on council is a definite plus with respect to determining our future. Quorum size was discussed – if the council is reduced to 7, what constitutes a quorum? Ken Gardner stated that the council has significant decisions to be made in the next 6 months, so the more input the better the council can serve the congregation. Ken suggested that someone consider becoming a council member for 6 months – no volunteers.

Joyce Hutchings made a motion that the Church constitution be changed to reduce the council size from 9 to 7. Vicki Otis seconded. Approval was never asked for.

Shirley Bastiani made a motion that if the council was reduced to 7 people that the quorum be 5. Connie Harris seconded. Approval was never asked for.

Cemetery Board Report

Bud Smith reported the following expenditures that were made by the board: \$7000 – for brush/tree removal; \$1550 – to renovate bell memorial; \$15295 for headstone refurbishing; \$2600 – landscaping; for a total of \$26445. A perimeter fence was damaged– cost to repair was \$750 (this amount was contributed by an anonymous donor). Milt Lemke noted that \$30,000 was contributed from the Heritage Fund to the Cemetery board. \$1245.00 was contributed by the Northbrook Historical Society. Bud shared that he has a problem receiving statements from Glenview State Bank. Jim Goettsche reminded the congregation that council is to help with an audit of the cemetery bank accounts. Ken Gardner said he will look into this, but it will not be accomplished by the end of the fiscal year. Jim asked about insurance on the cemetery – Ken noted that item is in the budget and additional coverage will begin in March. Vicki Otis made a motion to accept the cemetery board report. Julie Leighninger seconded. Approved.

Asset Management Board Report

Eileen Knox noted that Michelle Swartzentruber was absent from the meeting, but there were no questions. Bud Smith offered thanks for a job well done.

President's Report

Ken Gardner noted that his report was printed in the annual report and he hoped that the congregation had read it.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Clint Collins said that he has learned a lot in the past year. He applauded the fact that the congregation has held together weathering well all that has happened in the past twelve months and is praying that next year is less stressful. He is also looking forward to the transition that will result in a new St. Peter.

Approval of 2014 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Joyce Hutchings noted that the dates for the new fiscal year need correction.

Bud Smith made a motion that the corrected minutes be approved. Eric Leighninger seconded. Approved.

Review and Request for Affirmation Regarding “Option3”, i.e. Exploring Possible Cooperative Ventures with Other Churches

Rev. Clint Collins briefly reviewed the four options that the church council had decided were viable options for St. Peter. 1. Live within our current giving and have a ¼ time pastor; 2. Live within our current giving and use 1/2 the interest from the Heritage Fund which would allow us to have a ¾ time pastor; 3.Partnership (could include merger or yoked) with another congregation (church) and 4. Revitalization Minister – use as much of the Heritage Fund as necessary to spark a new start/rebirth.

Clint stated that if we were to close our doors, our constitution tells us how to do that. There are no provisions in our constitution that allows us to choose another option. Clint read the ballot to the congregation and asked for questions. Ken stated that he believes that Northfield will not kick us out at the end of our current lease (August 31) but that if we renew, the rent may rise significantly. Clint stated that we really cannot continue to live in the shadow of a larger church. Christy Bobart stated that we need to continue to do Christ’s work. Several items to consider when looking for a permanent space/place to worship include distance congregants would need to travel, acceptance by new congregation. It was also mentioned that it has been nice not having to deal with a leaking roof or a boiler that might need to be replaced. We have been blessed to worship in the comfort of Northfield’s Chapel, but our time to do that is coming to an end.

The wording on the ballot:

For your consideration as the membership of St. Peter Community Church:

Shall the gathered congregational body affirm the consensus recommendation of the Church Council to seek out partnerships with other congregations as the direction for our future together as St. Peter Community Church, and in doing so commission the Church Council to lead the congregation in this undertaking?

Please respond by checking either yes or no.

_____ YES

_____ NO

Ballots were distributed and results tallied by Harold Schirmer and Julie Leighninger. Results: 26 yes 0 no 1 abstention. Option 3 passed.

Review and Discussion of Budget

Two line items #10 Advertising & Promotion and #107 North Shore Super Senior (#10 to be removed and #107 to be added) were retroactively approved by the congregation. Harold Schirmer made a motion to accept this action. Mitzi Smith seconded. Approved.

Ken Gardner presented the proposed budget noting a salary increase for Clint and that he expects Clint to do a yeoman's job in 2015. He also noted a 3.5% increase in salary for all three staff members noting that they have had no increases for a few years.

Professional Services fees were touched on lightly including a proposed decrease for Attorney Fees and the addition of Document Recovery Services to help protect from the loss of documents in the future if/when there is a computer failure. Potential Litigation with former employee. Clint touched briefly on the issue dealing with Jan Smith and the potential subsequent payment to her.

Bud Smith made a motion to accept the budget. Gary Eberlein seconded. Approved.

Ken Gardner left the meeting to attend to emergency work issues.

Jim Goettsche noted that there was no line item that included the safety deposit Box - \$65.00 per year. Harold Schirmer made a motion that we amend the budget to include this amount. Jim Goettsche seconded. Approved.

Retention of Legal Counsel Regarding Decisions about St. Peter, the Cemetery and Heritage Fund

- a. Possible modifications to St. Peter as an institution; this is a broad category and there would have been more discussion if Option 3 had not been voted in the affirmative. We will continue to function as St. Peter for the immediate future so this is now a non-issue.
- b. Continuation of Cemetery; what we can/cannot do with the cemetery – additional research needs to be done. The tax issue is to be resolved with the help of Mike Melander from Padgitt, Padgitt & Peppery in Winnetka.
- c. Heritage Fund Protection; most likely and beneficial Christian use would be for missions – no other details or discussion.
- d. Potential Litigation with Former Employee; this was touched upon by Clint during the review and discussion of budget line item #93.

Review of Constitution/By-laws Motions

Mike Melander has shared with Clint and Ken that it makes more sense to address this issue once we determine our direction. No additional discussion. Ken Gardner was not present at this point in the meeting so there was no additional input from him.

There was additional discussion as to how best to designate the disposition of the Heritage Fund in case we dissolve no decision was made.

Adjournment

Shirley Bastiani made a motion to adjourn at 3:09 PM. Christy Bobart seconded. Approved.

Respectfully submitted.

Barbara Balch

CC: Church Office

Joyce Hutchings, Historian

Special Congregational Meeting

October 4, 2015

DRAFT

St. Peter Community Church
400 Wagner Road
Northfield, IL 60093

Council Members Present – Barbara Balch, Christy Bobart, Rev. Clint Collins, Ken Gardner, Carol Goff, Jim Keirns, Jean Lorenz, Phil Reinemann, Margaret Weber.

Call to Order – Council President Ken Gardner called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Rev. Clint Collins gave a brief opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes – 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting

There was an oversight and these minutes had not been printed for the meeting. Phil Reinemann made a motion to postpone the approval of the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes until the next congregational meeting. Vicki Otis seconded. Approved.

Budget Overview and Request for Amendments

Proposed Amendment #1: Facilities Agreement

Under the terms of the new Facilities Use Agreement with Northfield Community Church, our monthly fees increased from \$1600 per month to \$2000 per month effective September 1, 2015.

Milt Lemke made a motion that the FY2015 Budget be amended to increase the allocated amount for the line item “Rent – NCC” from \$19,200 to \$21,600 in order to facilitate the increases agreed upon in the new NCC facilities agreement effective September 1, 2015. Eileen Knox seconded. Approved.

Proposed Amendment #2: Storage

Our storage locker fees increased from \$193 per month to \$214 per month in July.

Gary Eberlein made a motion that the FY2015 Budget be amended to increase the allocated line item “Storage Locker Fees” from \$2316 to \$2484 in order to facilitate the increase in rates that became effective in July of 2015. Judy Oswald seconded. Approved.

Proposed Amendment #3: Contingency Fund

Given the circumstances of the St. Peter Cemetery and the need to pay county property taxes in the interim while the tax-exempt status is fully resolved, the Council has authorized over \$3000 in payments from the Contingency Fund to make these payments. The Contingency Fund currently has an available balance of \$1615.31 for the remainder of FY2015, the Council is asking for an amendment to the FY2015 budget for an additional \$1000 to be added to the Contingency fund, increasing the total authorized amount from \$5000 to \$6000.

Milt suggested that the additional amount be increased to \$2000. Gary agreed with that suggestion, noting that amount would potentially negate having another Congregational meeting prior to the annual meeting in January. Gary made a motion that the FY2015 Budget be amended to increase the allocated amount for the line item “Contingency Fund” from \$5000 to \$7000, with the understanding that the congregation will continue to be notified of any expenditure made out of this line item. Mike Parker seconded. Approved.

Updates

- Jan Smith Complaint – Ken reiterated the course of events relating to Jan Smith’s complaint. Her lawyer originally sent a letter to St. Peter in July 2014 stating that she be paid ~\$50,000 for retirement and sabbatical monies. Based on Jan’s calculations, St. Peter’s lawyer offered her ~\$3000 which was rejected by Jan’s lawyer. A meeting was suggested by Smith et al, but St. Peter and their lawyer saw no reason for a meeting. No further contact has been made by Jan Smith’s lawyer. If this were an Illinois Law employment issue, there is a ten year time limit. This is a Federal Law issue with a two year time limit. Jan Smiths’ official time of employment with St. Peter officially ended on June 30, 2013. Council has no current plans to spend any additional time on this issue.
- Council Membership – Ken stated that council is still lacking one member and he is hopeful that someone will volunteer to fill this position (officially council currently has 8 members). Ken also stated that he hopes the council will remain at its current size of 9 people and the quorum size stay at 5, since 10 or 11 months from now we most likely will not have a St. Peter council. Ken also mentioned that we will continue to need the current St. Peter staff during the next 10 or 11 months. Judy made a motion to take the Constitutional Amendment to reduce the Council membership from 9 to 7 off the table. Bud Smith seconded. Approved. Judy then put this Constitutional Amendment to reduce the Council membership from 9 to 7 back on the table. Jim Goettsche seconded. Approved.
- Cemetery tax status – Clint gave an update on the ongoing saga of reinstating the 2 small parcels of land adjacent to our cemetery as tax exempt. Certificates of error have been filed with the county. St. Peter has made payments on both parcels, however, the taxes paid by St. Peter will be reimbursed, hopefully sometime in 2016.

Adjournment

Christy Bobart made a motion to adjourn at 2:00 P.M. Judy Oswald seconded. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Balch

CC: Church Office
Joyce Hutchings, Historian

PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear members and friends of St. Peter Community Church,

I found myself preparing to type my now traditional, “Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus our Christ” – the same way that I’ve begun the last two annual reports I’ve written for you. But just as I was about to put fingers to keyboard, I was struck by the realization that this year will be different, and that this report should be different as well. So instead of borrowing from the words of Paul, I greet you this year with the words of the prophet:

“Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it?
I’m making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.”

- Isaiah 43:19

Of course, I don’t mean for you to read those words as coming from me, but from God – just as the prophet intended – because I am reminded that 2016 will be a year of doing new things for all of us. And while I think all of us recognize this at some level, it is time for us to ask an important question of ourselves. Are we ready to follow God into the desert? Are we willing to embrace a path that emerges from within our wilderness? Like the prophet speaking to the exiles in Babylon, I believe that God asks us to be courageous, and invites us to step forward into the unknown, because within it we will find our way home.

However, we cannot move forward into the new until we have paused to take stock of that which we have, so I would like to spend a few words looking back at our life together in 2015. Perhaps the best place to start is offer a words of *gratitude*. In spite of the less-than-ideal circumstances in which we have found ourselves, God continued to call us together as community to worship, to fellowship, to pray, and to support one another. We held fast to God, and God has held fast to us. It’s also important that we remember those who have worked so diligently to make this year of being the church a reality. Our staff has put in the hard work behind the scenes to make sure that our worship life is strong and that the day-to-day administration of the congregation is attended to. Many of you have also stepped up to volunteer in numerous ways as well. Singing, worship leading, teller duties, food sharing, communion preparation, shut-in ministry – all of these gifts and more have kept our congregation strong throughout 2015. In light of all the transitional work that we have done, I would like to especially lift up those who volunteered to serve on the Church Council. They have worked hard to provide guidance for us as we struggled to discern our future together, and I want to commend them for their dedication to a difficult and exhaustive task. As we can see, there is much for which we can be grateful, and it is important that we celebrate this abundance of goodness as we move forward into the year ahead.

In much the same way, 2015 was a year of *generosity* as well. In spite of the fact that we had the benefit of the Heritage Fund to supplement our budget as a congregation, we continued to give generously to mission beyond the church, both at home and around the world. You can see the full details of our offerings, on page 15, but I would like to bring a couple of highlights to your attention here as well. Our general offerings increased – this year by almost \$1,000 over what we collected in 2014 – while our outreach continued to be strong. You contributed over \$4,800 to Our Church’s Wider Mission, making you one of the more generous congregations in the Illinois Conference on a per-capita basis, while still providing over \$1,400 to UCC special offerings and disaster relief. In addition, you provided another \$775 in aid in the wake of the Nepal Earthquake, and generously supported local ministries including our food pantries and local service agencies by providing over

\$2,500 to further their work in our communities. As I mentioned, the full details are available in the financial section of your annual report, but I think it is important to celebrate our commitment to Christ's mission as we prepare for the work that lies ahead.

In spite of this good news, we all know that 2015 wasn't a year without its challenges. We have mourned the loss of loved ones, both individually and as a community (a complete list of those whom God has welcomed home can be found on page 14). We have also worked our way through procedures, tests, illnesses, and dealt with the stresses of work, family, and life in general. It has without question been a year of *perseverance* for all of us as individuals, just as it has been for us as a congregation as well. We managed to get to the root of the tax-exempt status issues surrounding our St. Peter Cemetery, identifying the problem and the path toward a solution. The paperwork to correct this issue is currently working its way through the appropriate channels at the office of the Cook County Assessor. In addition, we handled the complaint raised by former Associate Pastor Jan Smith with composure and grace. Yet beyond all of this, we also persevered throughout an additional year of prayerful discernment. After affirming a recommendation for your Church Council that St. Peter find a congregation with which to partner to ensure our future together, we pursued those possibilities together – offering one another respect, care, and love. Given the difficulties that decisions can produce, the level of grace you offered one another is no small feat.

Which brings us to the recognition that 2015 has truly been a year of *discernment*. In the midst of maintaining our weekly life as a worshiping community, we also managed to reflect, to pray, to discuss, and to discern our way to this present moment. By remaining faithful to this task, we have managed to arrive at the crossroads of decision. I pray that this gift of discernment that has served us so well, will continue to guide us as we begin to chart the course that will determine the future of St. Peter Community Church.

As your transitional pastor, I think it is important to speak to the decision that lies before you, and to offer you what wisdom I can. And the first thing I must state is that I cannot tell you how you should vote on the Council's recommendation to pursue a merger with Northfield Community Church. In spite of the fact that a decision of this magnitude will ultimately have lasting consequences which will affect all of our lives, I don't believe there is necessarily a "correct answer." The decision is far more complicated than that, weaving

together the stories and journeys of too many people to allow there to be one, simple, correct answer. What I can offer you is the reassurance that there is a faithful approach to making decisions with such lasting effects, and it has been my honor to have accompanied you in that faith-filled work for these past 32 months. Throughout this process, you have strived to be attentive to the needs of everyone within the community while remaining faithful to the call of the Gospel, and it has been a blessing for me to bear witness to that. If we can maintain that same careful and care-filled approach as we make decisions at this annual meeting and throughout the weeks ahead, we will find that God will provide a way forward through our wilderness.

However, as your transitional pastor, it is also important for me to remind you that it will only be "our" wilderness for a short time longer. My call to you began with a charge and challenge, and I entered into this call with some trepidation that I might not be equal to the task. Yet you supported me and loved me as I grew alongside you – you empowered me to be a leader among you during this time of decision – and I know that you can likewise empower one another to be the leaders you will need when my ministry here concludes. While I recognize that any decision you make today will not bring your journey through the wilderness to an

immediate end, I am confident that your Christ-inspired love for one another will enable you to follow God's path through and beyond the wilderness long after my journey with you has been completed.

So I want to remind you that my call to St. Peter Community Church was to a ministry of decision making, rather than congregation building, meaning that my time with you will conclude this year. My current letter of call expires on August 31st, and the Council and I have agreed that together, we have accomplished that which we set out to accomplish. While the decisions that we have made over these two years have not met any of our definitions of perfection, we have done good work together and ministered in the name of the Gospel faithfully throughout. While I'm not convinced that a pastor can ever leave a call feeling that she or he has truly "finished" the work that they set out to do, I know that I have accomplished the ministry that I can. You have left me humbled time and again by the trust that you have placed in me to carry out this work alongside you. Now I ask you to continue to offer me that same trust, as I share with you that I feel the tug of the Holy Spirit leading me to pursue a new ministry elsewhere.

This, however, does not mean goodbye. Our work isn't through yet, and depending on decisions that we make today, we will have much still to accomplish in the months ahead. So allow me conclude my report by offering you these final words from Paul:

"Finally, brothers and sisters ... put things in order, respond to my encouragement, be in harmony with each other, and live in peace—and the God of love and peace will be with you."

- 2 Corinthians 13:11

Yours in Christian love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Clint Collins', written in dark ink.

Rev. Clint Collins
Transitional Pastor

St. Peter Community Church President's Report for 2015 (January 31, 2016 Annual Meeting)

In my previous President's reports I have described the meaningful role that St. Peter has served in our lives - even in its most difficult days. I asserted that we could keep St. Peter vital and thriving even through momentous change. Immediately after the sale of 2700 Willow Road there was a period of anxiety and unhappiness that affected us all - perhaps we could term it a time of darkness. But in keeping with words from the Book of John we have been guided by and helped preserve the light that shines in the darkness so that the darkness has not overcome it or us. So as we enter into the last stages of our transformation there is much work ahead, and we welcome - need - your support, ideas, concerns and blessing.

Looking back at the past four plus years since the sale of our former property I think we have been fortunate and wise. We have had the resources to continue despite the loss of our previous "home" and we successfully set up proper administrative mechanisms and procedures to protect that resource. We found temporary shelter with friends at Northfield Community Church and have carefully established the beginnings of a possible much closer relationship. We managed to find a gifted transitional pastor and have allowed him to put his talents to work without petty bickering or factional strife. Now, although things have progressed more slowly than I expected a year ago (or as in Sam Cooke's song "It's been a long time coming"), our good fortune and good works allow us to undertake the next part of our journey with hope and confidence.

We have carefully examined our membership roll to ensure that it is truly representative of those who wish to continue being part of our church family and participate in the crucial decisions that lay ahead.

We have begun meaningful discussions with Northfield Community Church regarding a possible merger, and, if the Congregation takes the necessary first step at today's meeting, we will attempt to craft a mutually beneficial partnership with our current host in time to present a detailed plan for your consideration in July of this year.

As part and parcel of this process we have begun the process of applying to the Village of Northbrook to assume ownership of St. Peter's cemetery. Although this is not a "sure thing" we believe that this is the most promising way we can meet our obligation to ensure the long term future of this precious asset.

Finally we are also attempting to develop alternatives for ultimate disposition of the Heritage Fund if merger is ultimately approved. We have sought legal advice regarding several general ways to establish a long term charitable entity, but realize there are other means to use the remaining moneys to make meaningful contribution to our community and preserve the memory of St. Peter. To this end we have asked you to come forth with any ideas that you may have. Gary Eberlein and Jim Goettsche have volunteered to coordinate this process and we hope to have a viable plan for your consideration within two months.

I sincerely appreciate the work and care contributed by Organist Eileen Baumgarten, Pastor Clint Collins, Church Secretary Linda Lambrecht, and Choir Director Carolyn Wiggins. My thanks also to Council Secretary Barbara Balch, Vice President Carol Goff, and Treasurer Phil Reinemann and Council members, Christie Bobart, Jim Keirns, Jean Lorenz and Margaret Weber. In addition I want to recognize our Asset Management Board, Jim Goettsche, Eileen Knox, Joyce Hutchings, Milt Lemke, and Michelle Swartzentruber, and Cemetery Board members Gary Eberlein, Jim Goettsche and Bud Smith.

Ken Gardner

Council President 2015.

CONGREGATIONAL CHANGES - 2015

* = Non Members

BIRTHS

Lily Claire Lenceski - Born to Cristin & Kent Lenceski - Barbara Marella's Great Granddaughter -
March 4, 2015

Kensi Grace Bastiani - Born to Tony & Christine Bastiani - August 31, 2015

BAPTISMS

None

CONFIRMATIONS

None

MARRIAGES

None

TRANSFERRED

None

NEW MEMBERS

Glen Bobart - March 15, 2015

DEATHS

Lucille Pfingsten - March 18, 2015

SUPER SENIOR

Betty Oswald - May 21, 2015

St. Peter Community Church - Northfield IL
Donations Account Balances (01/01/2015 - 12/31/2015)

Giving Accounts

101 - Current	55,010.66
102 - Loose Offering	295.25
103 - Initial Offering	75.00
105 - Bonuses for Staff	300.00

Offerings **\$55,680.91**

121 - Ash Wednesday	60.00
122 - Palm Sunday	5.00
123 - Maundy Thursday	55.00
124 - Good Friday	70.00
125 - Easter	180.00
126 - Christmas	825.00
127 - Lamplighter	380.00

Direct Program Gifts **\$1,575.00**

201 - OCWM	4,834.00
202 - Blanket Fund & Tools of Hope	50.00
203 - Christmas Fund	400.00
204 - Neighbors in Need	340.00
205 - One Great Hour of Sharing	470.00
206 - Strengthen the Church	125.00
211 - BENV Disaster Relief	10.00

Benv UCC Conference Gifts **\$6,229.00**

242 - Lakeview Pantry	615.00
243 - Northfield Pantry	1,040.00
245 - EASING	528.00

Benv Non-UCC Gifts **\$2,183.00**

301 - Memorial Fund	635.00
302 - Memorial - Music	10.00

Memorial Gifts **\$645.00**

251 - Community Renewal Society	50.00
252 - BENV Open Communities	400.00
254 - Youth Services Glen/North	100.00

TOTAL OFFERING INCOME **\$66,862.91**

501 - Easter Breakfast	141.00
525 - Tape Ministry	5.00
528 - Nepal Earthquake	775.00
958 - Christian Education	50.00
Night Ministry	367.00
Solar Empowerment Project	30.00

Pass Through Events **\$1368.00**

Total Giving Accounts **\$68,230.91**

ALTAR COMMITTEE

The Altar Committee continues to serve the congregation by handling the preparation for Communion. Special thanks to Bud Smith for Communion Preparation many Sundays. Pastor Clint Collins prepared and served Special Communion during Advent. All supplies must be ordered and church seasons noted in order to keep the Chancel area current. The Chapel was decorated for the Christmas season. Joyce Hutchings, Julie Leighninger and Jean Lorenz decorated the tree with the Chrismons and hung wreaths. Joyce Hutchings also changed and arranged the flowers on the altar for the different seasons.

For 2015, Maundy Thursday service and dinner were conducted in Fellowship Hall, which was shared with Northfield Church. Clint Collins, Ronda Bower, and Duayne Meyer served Communion and led the service.

Presently serving on the committee are: Joyce Hutchings, Julie Leighninger, Jean Lorenz, Judy Oswald, Carolyn Wiggins, and Mitzi and Bud Smith.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who made all these things possible. Your faithfulness is greatly appreciated.

Mitzi Smith, Chairman

ST. PETER BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Our Bible Study Group strives to make the Bible relevant to our daily lives with readings, discussions, and sometimes a little research. This year we finished off the book of Isaiah and have started studying the book of Acts. We feel that Acts will give us a sense of what is essential to being a church.

The format for our study is informal. We begin with sharing joys and concerns in our lives and move on to reading the Bible. We encourage folks to bring different versions of the Bible which may make a difficult passage clearer (and sometimes makes it more difficult). We go at our own pace, discussing questions as they come to us. No pressure, no quizzes, and no homework (unless you want it).

Everyone is welcome! We meet in the library on Saturday mornings from 8-9 a.m. Please join us!

Lea Jones

CEMETERY BOARD

During the year 2015 there were two interments in the cemetery.

This past year we were approached by the Civil War vets historical group who do research and monument restoration for Civil War vets. We have some Civil War vets who do not have a monument stating that they were a Civil War vet. The leader of the group thought that he would be able to get some type of monument from the Government, but they said no.

The price of landscaping were up this past year an additional ten dollars a cut. That is not bad. We average cutting 12 to 14 times a year.

Again a big thank you to Boy Scout Troop 55 from Glenview for putting flags on all the Vet. graves this past Memorial Day weekend. They again did a great job.

Jim Goettsche
President

CHANCEL CHOIR

2015 has been a wonderful year for the choir. Our faithful core of twelve singers, augmented by several others, sang moving anthems each Sunday during the school year as well as being part of our once a month pick up choirs in the summer.

We participated in a variety of other church activities. Christy Bobart and the choir hosted the annual church picnic at the Bobart home. Carolyn hosted the annual August retreat at her home. All of the choir helped with the Crop Walk that Christy chaired. Several choir members and the Eberlein's daughter and two grandchildren sang carols for several shut ins during the Christmas season.

Our singing for the candlelight Christmas Eve Service was very special for both the choir and the congregation. The regulars were joined by both Laura Jaye and Tommy Grill, Valerie and Cassandra Bobart, Mike Parker's nephew, Seren Livingston, Vicki Otis, and Bev Kreiss. What joyous songs of praise we raised!

Without Eileen's fantastic accompaniment and Clint's adding his voice it would not have been possible to be the important support for worship that the choir has become.

Carolyn Wiggins
Choir director

PARTNERS IN CHRIST

Annual Report for 2015

The Partners in Christ Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, with the exception of July and August. Our purpose is to keep in contact with church members and friends who are ill, who reside in permanent outside facilities, or for whatever reason could use a little extra care and concern. We write notes and cards. We sent out under 200 friendship cards this year.

As an additional project, we sent Christmas cards with photos of our members around the Advent Wreath and the Christmas tree this year. It was very well received by the recipients, as well as regular church members requesting copies. We were very pleased with the results.

We enjoy our monthly fellowship and are “spiritually fulfilled” with the many “thank yous” that we receive for our efforts.

If you like to write notes/letters, we would love to have you join us.

Committee Members:

Barbara Balch

Clint Collins

Nancy Hyrczyk

Jean Lorenz

Joan Tsuruda

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hyrczyk

Chair – Partners in Christ

WEB SITE

Saint Peter Community Church has had a web site for more than 12 years.

The link is: www.stpeternorthbrook.org The site provides general background about our church and activities.

The “Events” page displays events in the near future at St. Peter or elsewhere in the community.

The button to link to the “Events” page is third from the left at the top of the home page.

PDF copies of the “Lamplighter” newsletter and the monthly calendar are loaded onto the web site shortly after Linda finishes them.

Pictures and brief sound recordings can be put on the web site.

If you notice something that you would like me to change or think of something that you would like me to add, please E-mail me at jkeirns@comcast.net.

Sincerely,

Jim Keirns

2015 TELLER TEAMS

The year 2015 has been both eventful and trying but the 6 Teller Teams worked as if nothing out of the ordinary had occurred. They worked smoothly, and when bumps in the road happened, they covered for one another; another name would be good teamwork! Thanks to all involved!

To those not on a Teller Team perhaps you would like getting involved with our "Super Stars"! Here's hoping for a great 2016 for St. Peter and our Teller Teams!

Respectfully Submitted,

Bud Smith

COUNCIL FOR 2015

NAME	TERM EXPIRES (end of)
Ken Gardner - President	2017
Carol Goff - Vice President	2016
Barbara Balch - Secretary	2015
Phil Reinemann - Treasurer	2016 (finishing Chuck Otis' term)
Christy Bobart - Member	2017
Jim Keirns - Member	2016
Jean Lorenz - Member	2015 (finishing Julie Leighninger's term)
Margaret Weber - Member	2015 (finishing Eric Leighninger's term)
Vacancy (3 year term)	

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

February 7

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99; 2 Cor 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Eric Leighninger, Scripture Reader

Lorenz Team, Tellers

Fellowship Server, here's your chance to share, looking for servers

February 14

First Sunday in Lent

Deut 26:1-11; Ps 91:1-2, 9-16; Rom 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Shirley Bastiani, Scripture Reader

Bastiani Team, Tellers + Ash Wednesday

Fellowship Server, here's your chance to share, looking for servers

February 21

Second Sunday in Lent

Gen 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps 27; Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Phil Reinemann, Scripture Reader

Eberlein Team, Tellers

Fellowship Server, here's your chance to share, looking for servers

February 28

Third Sunday in Lent

Isa 55:1-9; Ps 63:1-8; 1 Cor 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Gary Eberlein, Scripture Reader

Smith Team, Tellers

Fellowship Servers, here's your chance to share, looking for servers

MEMORIALS WERE GIVEN

FOR: Lu Griffin

FROM: Judy & Terry Oswald

FOR: Gordon Juhl

FROM: Judy & Terry Oswald

FOR: Robert Reavis

FROM: Judy & Terry Oswald

BENEVOLENT GIVING FOR DECEMBER 2015

OCWM.....	\$449.00
Christmas Fund.....	\$400.00
EASING.....	\$25.00
Night Ministry.....	\$35.00
Northfield Pantry.....	\$85.00
Lakeview Pantry.....	\$50.00
Youth Services.....	\$50.00

STAFF OF ST. PETER

Pastor Clint Collins
Phone: 312-434-7048
E-Mail: clintwcollins@gmail.com

Eileen Baumgarten - Organist
Phone: 847-446-3442
E-Mail: randeileen@aol.com

Carolyn Wiggins, Choir Director
Phone: 847-272-1551
E-Mail: cjpwiggins@icloud.com

Linda Lambrecht, Secretary
Phone: 847-272-2246
E-Mail: secretary@stpeternorthbrook.org



LAMPLIGHTER SPONSOR

The Lamplighter Sponsor sign-up sheet for 2016 is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Thank you to Pastor Clint Collins for sponsoring the Annual Report/Lamplighter for the month of January. Thank you to the Bobart Family for signing up for February. Thank you also, to everyone that signed up in 2015.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/5** Joyce Hutchings
Vicki Otis
- 1/6** Jeanne Truelsen
- 1/14** Judy Oswald
- 1/19** Lindsay Knox
- 1/23** Andrew Oswald
- 1/26** Brandon Ejupi
- 1/29** Harold Schirmer
Matthew Oswald
Cora Kasper
- 1/30** Kristin Zick
- 1/31** Dennis Maihack
Katherine Weber

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/5** Ken Truelsen
James Bellman Jr.
- 2/6** Michael Oswald
- 2/8** Kevin Oswald
- 2/10** Lorraine Georgeff
- 2/12** Mitzi Smith
- 2/15** Bud Smith
- 2/16** Sandra Heppner
- 2/16** Nancy Pfungsten
- 2/17** Christa Bastiani - Rossi
Alyssa Zimmer
- 2/21** Louis Triebold Jr.
Anthony Podolak
- 2/27** Julie Leighninger
Taylor Lemke

WAYS TO CELEBRATE GOD'S GIFTS

"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 February 18th at 10 a.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council meets once a month.

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday February 17th,
at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

CHOIR REHEARSAL (Carolyn Wiggins)

Choir rehearsals will be held on Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYING FOR PEOPLE

(Fill out a Prayer Card, put in offering plate)

The following prayers were lifted up during our time of worship, and we invite you to keep all of these concerns in your prayers for the coming week.

- Helen Bass--former St. Peter organist--knee replacement surgery scheduled for Jan. 19
- Mitzi Smith – recovering from successful outpatient surgery
- Vickie Collins – Pastor Clint’s mother – had hip replacement surgery
- John Marrella – had cataract surgery
- Prayers of condolence for the family and friends of Nicholas Woloszyn, a student at Glenbrook North High School, who passed away on January 9th.
- Prayers of condolence for the Winnetka and New Trier communities following the losses of Christopher McQuillen, Patrick Wetzel, Lanny Patrick Sack, and Mori Weinstein in a canoe accident on January 3rd.
- Prayers of condolence for the family and friends of Wanda Grandys – Barbara Marrella’s friend – on her passing.
- Prayers for all who suffer with mental health concerns.
- Family & Friends of Dick Maetzold, friend of Barbara Marrella
- Bill Cyr – COPD – rehabilitating at Lexington Healthcare
- Troy Livingston – recovering from back surgery
- Paul Zima - Margaret Weber’s friend- cancer
- Henry Lopez – Margaret Weber’s friend - cancer
- Travel mercies for all those traveling throughout the extended holiday season.
- Prayers for the victims of flooding and severe weather throughout the country.
- Cindy Fromm – Judy Oswald’s cousin – treatment for leukemia
- Imelda Long – Brooke Owsald’s mother – second round of chemotherapy for breast cancer
- Bob Duncan – Judy Oswald’s cousin – continuing treatment for lung cancer

- Heidi – Barbara Marrella’s friend – treatments for malignant brain tumor
- Sherri Davis Long - Vicki Otis’s sister – complications from knee replacement surgery
- Prayers for peace and fellowship, that we might learn to embrace others who are different without fear and distrust
- Please pray for Shirley Bastiani's fellow co-workers, husband and wife. Their 23 year old daughter has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer throughout her body. Please help them deal with this, and help the daughter to not be in too much pain.
- Diane Shoemaker – Pastor Clint’s friend – completed final radiation treatment for breast cancer
- Karen Sander – Pastor Clint’s friend – just diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer
- Mary Anne Duderstadt – Nancy Hyrczyk’s friend – recovering from cataract surgery
- Marianne Stoery at Brandel Care Center
- Prayers for all of those who struggle with mental illness during this extended holiday season.
- Larry Kammes – Barbara Marrella’s friend – struggling with cancer
- Laura Berenson – former colleague of Eric Leighninger – advanced Multiple Sclerosis
- Randy, along with his sisters Judy & Pam -- a Friend of Bev Kreiss – recovering from pancreatectomy for cancer treatment
- Julie Allen – coworker of Vickie Otis – donated a kidney to her brother, both are recovering at home
- Father Bob Heinz – priest at St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook parishes – brain cancer and his future after surgery
- Nancy Hyrczyk’s sister-in-law – dealing with stage four COPD
- Tom Gassner & Tina Kreiss Gassner – Bev Kreiss’s in-laws – both were involved in a motorcycle accident.
- Mary Ann – friend of Nancy Hyrczyk – ongoing recovering from a stroke
- Stuart and Whitney - friends of Eric Leighninger – Stuart is recovering from a 14 hour brain surgery procedure
- Dee Zimmerman - Bill Cyr's sister - Parkinson's
- Dorothy and Cliff Fromm – Judy Oswald’s parents – prayers for Dorothy’s dementia, and for Cliff as he struggles to provide care for her
- Cheryl Kaziny – friend of Connie Harris – surgery for ongoing cancer
- Scott Harris – Connie Harris’s brother-in-law – rupture appendix, discovery of stage 4 colon cancer
- Chris Jones's husband, Denny – friend of Connie Harris – diagnosed with stomach cancer
- Sue Lello - friend of Carol Grill – early-onset Alzheimer’s disease
- Norma Koenig – family relative of Bev Kreiss – recovering from minor strokes, life adjustments
- Lisa Kreiss – sister-in-law of Bev Kreiss – double mastectomy and ongoing chemotherapy & radiation treatments for breast cancer
- Isabel Bartol - dear friend of Seren Livingston, struggling to recover from a horrific auto accident
- Butch Walker – Gary Eberlein’s cousin – cancer treatments
- Mark Zimmer – friend of the community - second stem cell treatment for cancer
- Sarah Schirmer’s mother – hospitalized with illness
- Kirk Leighninger – Eric Leighninger’s brother – recurrence of esophageal cancer
- Robin Mullins and Family, caretakers of Tony Mullins
- Diane Olmstead – ongoing complications due to diabetes
- Marlene Cotto – Cancer – sister of former member Phyllis Kreiss
- Shirley Bastiani's great-nephew - health concerns
- Luci Pappas – friend of Barbara Marrella – cancer