

St. Peter's 2010 Annual Report

Reflections from the rector . . .

*In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow.*

These words catch some of my felt experience of 2010. Since mid-2009 here at St. Peter's we've experienced a number and variety of losses: loss of health as some of our members struggle with life threatening illnesses; death (Helen Willson, Pat Johnsen, Eula Williams, Skip Mogab, Skip Carson and close relatives of parishioners); James O'Hare's retirement and John Horn's moving on to Christ's Church, Burlington; some long term members have left the Quad Cities and some have chosen to join other churches; and, after several years of increased monetary giving and nearly balanced budgets we're back to struggling financially. Denial, anger, sadness and anxiety are part of our human response to loss. I've sensed some of this amongst you in the past eighteen months and I've certainly experienced it myself.

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.*

Each Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, light coming into our darkness. As I look back over the past year I see light, signs of new life among us: many of these are described in the following pages but I'd like to highlight some. Looking at a \$20,000 deficit, our vestry could have been paralyzed by anxiety and hopelessness; instead they had faith, got creative, worked hard and you

responded with generosity. Although we continue to miss those who have left, we have new members in our midst and together we are moving into God's future. We "hung in there" together through eight months of musical interim and out of that journey came Karl and the energy, enthusiasm and musical talent he brings to our worship. In the midst of difficult economic times, your care for others has been apparent through your participation in the Community Meal and contributions to the Bettendorf Food Pantry and the abused women's shelter. Your reaching-out to the our former members the Borcherdings, during the difficult and sometimes dark times following the very pre-mature birth of their twins, has made a difference. I'd also like to thank you for your understanding and support during my father's last months and following his death. I have experience God's love and consolation through you and (in the words of one of our younger members) I'm moving toward "putting my smile back on."

*What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—
give my heart.*

The words of the last verse of the hymn, *In the bleak midwinter* (Hymnal 112), invite us to "give our hearts" to Jesus. What would our lives, our community, our world be like if each of us gave more of him/herself to God, to following Jesus, to working with God and one another to build the kingdom of God here on earth? During the season of Epiphany, we hear Biblical stories in which the first disciples are called to follow Jesus. It's a time to consider anew what following Jesus looks like in our individual lives and in the life of St. Peter's.

Lynne+

Passages in the Life of the Parish

The Vestry (term ending)

Shelley Chambers (2011)
Sonita Oldfield-Carlson (2011)
Marty Yeast (2011)

Nancy Czubara (2012)
Jane Hoffman (2012)
Anne Petrie (2012)

John Swarney (2013)
Duane Timm (2013)
Keith Wilson (2013)

During the year 2010, we

Baptized:

Alyssa Ann Kerns
Trevor Ethan Kerns

Married:

Kristin Ann Koch and Nicholas Scott Hansen

Entrusted to God the souls of the faithful departed:

Skip Carson
Pat Johnsen
Skip Mogab
Eula Williams

Welcomed:

Margy, Neil, Seth Christiansen
Karl, Cait, Josef Bodenbender
Frances Nyweide
Sam, Kay Smith

Sent off with our blessing:

Joe and Marla Tedesco
Mark and Nancy McMullen
Laura Kauffman

Annual Meeting Minutes - January 24th, 2010

(submitted but not yet approved)

The annual meeting of St. Peter's Episcopal Church took place January 24, 2010 at the church. Following brunch, Jane Hoffman opened the meeting with prayer. A slide show of 2009 highlights was presented. The minutes from the previous year were in the packet received via mail. Paul Koch moved and Nancy Czubara seconded a motion to accept. **Approved.**

Rev. Lynne Carver pointed out some handouts on the table and offered an opportunity for anyone

who had not previously completed a parish questionnaire to do so. Other handouts included a compilation of feedback from the questionnaires, copies of the slide show, brochures regarding the Lenten Retreat in February, an invitation to a workshop about "paperless music" and a meeting agenda.

Jane reviewed the process for selecting Vestry members. Four members are leaving (Paul Koch, Joan Marttila, Steve Trainor and Mike Johnson). They were thanked for their service. Nominations for 3 of the positions (3 years each) were Duane Timm, Keith Wilson and John Swarney. The 4th – a one year position is vacant and those interested are to see Lynne+ or Jane. After the required period of wait time for any nominations from the floor, Len Dose moved and Doug Druckenmiller seconded the slate be accepted by acclamation.

Approved.

Lynne+ spoke to some attributes of a long term pastorate and the resulting effect from the perspective of both the pastor and the congregation. She briefly discussed some remaining work related to the parish/pastor sabbatical.

Four small workgroups were asked to meet for 30 minutes to begin planning for 2010. A vestry member lead each group – bioswaile, fund raising, music and outreach. Results from the discussions will be presented to the Vestry.

The group came back together and Bruce Tinsman reviewed 2009 and 2010 budgets. He reported 98% of pledges came in and that is typical in most years. He described an approximate \$20,000 shortfall for 2010, due in part to some pledging units that have left the parish. Bruce thanked Len Dose who provides for the payment side of the financial process. Jerry Yeast asked about the process for determining each parish's Diocesan asking. Bruce explained amounts are based on previous year's information and that the request is made in the spring. Therefore, St. Peter's amount is based on 2008 year end data. Discussion included a statement from Maggie Tinsman with regard to the annual Diocesan asking and the fact St. Peter's always pays their share. Bob Petrie

asked if we had received any funds from the Schnucks grocery store fundraising opportunity and Bruce responded \$146 had come from that project. Mike Johnson explained that the parish will incur some maintenance expense from a leak in the west windows.

Joe Chambers moved and Hovey Tinsman seconded the 2010 budget be accepted.

Approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Huddleston

WARDENS' REPORT

We at St Peters continue to be extremely busy as a congregation. We all have hectic lifestyles, raising families, working our jobs as well as volunteering in the community. Some of us in retirement are enjoying our well deserved time and offering some of that time to the service of others.

This past year was, as usual, full of changes. There were a number of challenges along the way which presented very early in the year and deservedly earned the attention of the Vestry. The challenges were centered on issues of finance. It was evident at the time of the Annual Meeting in January, 2010, that pledges, for a variety of reasons, were down from the previous year. We also had additional lofty goals regarding the development of an outdoor Labyrinth as well as a Bioswaile to improve drainage and beautify the property. Bids were sought and received. Along the way, it was discovered that there are significant problems with the drainage tiles around the building. The repairs (which eventually will need to be completed) as well as the cost of the completion of the Bioswaile were more than could be justified in light of the 2010 budget. Ongoing will be the repairs to the building, the Bioswaile (when affordable) as well as the development of the Labyrinth project.

Early in the meetings of 2010, the Vestry began to examine ways in which costs could be reduced to fit with the reality of pledges received. Contracts

were examined and small reductions were made to improve the bottom line. In the Spring it was evident that there were no additional cuts to make. The Parish has a history of commitment to the Diocesan Asking but it was clear that we could not meet that commitment and keep the lights on in the building by the end of the year. Prayers and faith were needed - faith that God would show us the way. It happened! St Peter's members overwhelmingly responded to a letter as a one time request to "close the gap". This allowed us to proceed to pay our bills as well as the Diocesan Asking for 2010. The Diocese also responded by deferring our building loan which reduced our cash outflow.

Challenges for 2011 will be how to finance the needed repair to the building, complete the Labyrinth and Bioswaile projects and meet our Asking request to the Diocese. The Vestry is suggesting that the Parish members provide feedback in scheduled meetings in early 2011 regarding the Asking. Another challenge will be to explore how we can use St Peter's building to offer additional services to the Community. Our building is unused much of the week. Mother Lynne's dream would be to provide outreach for holy, healthy living activities. We have a head start with Yoga classes. How could we use our new kitchen to provide additional community services? Ideas and prayers are needed as we go into the new year.

Jane Hoffman and Anne Petrie, Co-Wardens

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Atrium of the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* is a special place created for our youngest members (ages 3-5). The Atrium is a unique environment where Bible stories are told and each child is given the time and space needed to grow in relationship with God as he or she works with the materials. Our church school classes are using an Episcopal web-supported curriculum entitled *Weaving God's Promises*. Teachers have access to a wide variety of educational materials and activities for children ranging in age from 3 to 11.

The curriculum helps children connect their experience with the Biblical story, Christian faith and Episcopal tradition. St. Peter's and Trinity Cathedral jointly offered Vacation Bible School during the summer. *BAOBAB BLAST* took the children to the rainforest of Africa where, through music, games, science, storytelling and crafts, they learned: "trust in God, love never fails, follow Jesus, care for others, share your faith." The *Journey to Adulthood* Program offers a peer group with whom youth can travel through their middle and high school years. It provides information and teaches skills needed by adult Christians. In July, St. Peter's J2-A members and their mentors traveled to New Orleans for their pilgrimage where they participated in TEAMEFFORT'S Hurricane Disaster Relief program which repairs damaged homes thus helping families re-establish their lives.

2010 saw members of the Sunday morning "Continuing Education for Adult Christians" class watching and discussing: *Living the Questions 2.0*, the history of the Christian church, *Living Faith: Exploring the Essentials of Christianity* and *A History of God*. St. Peter's Annual Lenten Retreat at St. Mary's Monastery in Rock Island focused on the Christian mystical tradition. After our Wednesday Lenten evening soup suppers youth and adults watched and discussed videos on major world religions. The Tuesday afternoon book group read and discussed: *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christians, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding*, *The World's Religions* (Huston Smith), *The Help* (Kathryn Stockett), *One Good Dog* (Susan Wilson), *The Last Waltz in Vienna* (George Clare) and *South of Broadlawn* (Pat Conroy). We have been once again delighted to offer the *Education for Ministry* Program. (Our group includes members from St. Peter's and St. Paul's, Durant.)

Pat Kirkland continues her preparation for the vocational diaconate. She has taken several courses through the e-seminary of the Diocese of Iowa (Anglican Lives and Times, Christian Mystics and The Old Testament) and through online work with the Episcopal Divinity School of the Pacific (The Ministry of the Deacon and Deacons and the Church). Pat co-lead St. Peter's Lenten retreat on

Christian mysticism and helps facilitate St. Peter's congregational care team. She is currently participating in the CPE (chaplaincy training) Program of Genesis Medical Center

Leaders in the 2010 Christian Education Program include Lisa Bancroft, Patrick Carlson, Rev. Lynne Carver, Joe & Shelley Chambers, Ghada Hamdan-Allen, Alex Heesch, Jane Hoffman, Pat Kirkland, Linda Neuman, Lorri Swarney Sharon Tinsman and Sarah Wesson.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

From time to time we all have needs that seem insurmountable, and for those occasions St. Peter's family wants to be of assistance. St. Peter's Congregational Care Team consists of volunteers from our congregation (just about everyone has volunteered) to share their time and talents -- this is an opportunity to assist individuals who have either long term or temporary needs.

Congregational Care Team Members volunteer to listen, support, encourage, befriend, send cards, prepare a meal, make a home or hospital visit or telephone call, help with simple house or yard work, provide food for and/or help with a reception, provide a ride, babysit, and/or pray with or for individuals.

The ministry of congregational care is a compassionate presence in imitation of Jesus' care of people, especially those who were hurting and in need. It is the fulfillment of our Baptismal Covenant "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship activities build community, help us experience Christ in one another and provide opportunities for inviting others in.

Thanks to Gaye Dunn & Steve Trainor, Sonita & Patrick Carlson, Shelley & Joe Chambers, Ghada Hamdan-Allen, Jane Heesch, Jane Hoffman, Peter & Kitty McAndrews, Monique McDonald, Mark &

Nancy McMullen, Lanell Mogab, Bob & Anne Petrie, Linda Roy & Dave Snowball, Marty & Jerry Yeast for serving as coffee hour hosts on Sunday mornings.

Additional fellowship activities during 2010 included Lenten soup suppers, two picnics, Nine-to-Dine groups and a cookie exchange. Our renovated kitchen served as home base for the J2-A chili fundraiser and the following parish game night. It also supported our July 4 fundraiser which was also great fun!

OUTREACH (to those beyond our doors)

This may be the way we best represent Christ on earth. Remember Jesus' words in Matthew's gospel: "just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me." THANK you for your help. Please continue to give what you can: 'Many hands make light work!'

The biggest impact is probably the every-other-month "Community Meal," where many give food and others serve the dinner at Davenport's Salvation Army, on 6th and Harrison. Thanks to all who bring food! Thanks to Jane Hoffman, Monique McDonald, and Anne Petrie for their leadership and Kris Ion-Rood for her help. SPECIAL thanks to Keith Wilson who ALWAYS cleans up (bless him!!) As many as 120 meals are served at these times. If you show up by 5:30, you'll be on your way by 6:45.

Ruth Killinger, Jean O'Hare and Fran Carson lead the way to (and work AT) the Bettendorf Food Pantry which always needs supplies. The "birthday can" donations have been given to the food pantry. St. Peter's has been very generous in bringing food -- thank you!

The J2A group baked and sold cookies, and donated their proceeds to favorite charities. Members of St. Peter's donated eye glasses to the Diocese of Nzara in the Sudan. Led by the Rite-13 group, St. Peter's donated money to the CROP walk for hunger and helped three families at Christmas.

Through the rector's discretionary fund, St. Peter's, along with other Bettendorf churches, financially supported the Bettendorf Care Link Program that provides social work services (primarily referral

and financial help to people who come to our door or call asking for assistance. In addition we helped several people directly. We also contributed to the National Children's Cancer Foundation, Special Olympics, Children's Wish Foundation, and American Association of the Deaf-Blind.

The table in the hallway continues to be filled by your generosity for those women & children seeking safe haven at the Domestic Violence Shelter. We made many deliveries on your behalf. A notice-of-needs is posted every month, telling you of the latest. If it's some toiletry you've picked up on your travels...or an item sitting around your home you haven't used and won't in the future -- someone can use it to help start their life over again.

PROPERTY

Property concerns in 2010 were focused on simple maintenance and continuing to work on the ongoing problem of dampness in the undercroft.

Exterior

The loose flashing around the roof windows at the front of the church was reattached by Precision Builders. The sign at the driveway entrance was repainted. The window wall in the nave (west wall) was assessed for deterioration, water infiltration and ant nests. Exterior caulking was performed by JD Coussens Co. Orkin was hired to handle the infestation of carpenter ants. The tree limbs touching the roof were cut back to eliminate that access for the ants. We have been advised that there is little we can do about the cracking in the concrete driveway apron at the back of the church. There is more water going to the drain than the driveway can handle. Replacement or permanently removing the concrete are the solutions which were offered.

Unfinished tasks

Replacing the non-structural horizontal wooden members inside the aluminum cladding of the window wall. Cleaning out gutters and downspouts to discourage the return of ants. Although the roof has been checked, there is water coming in over the front doors on occasion. Tuckpointing is recommended on the east wall

(outside the Atrium) The wall of Mary's Garden is leaning. The diversion of extra rain water is being addressed in the Bioswale Project. A bioswale would cause excess ground water and rain water to be directed away from the building which would reduce water infiltration through the block walls.

Interior Electrical / Heating Plant

Ballasts and water-stained ceiling tiles were replaced in the undercroft bathrooms. Emergency/exit lights were moved and added as needed so they work and are in useful locations. A new thermostat was installed in the great room of the undercroft. Schebler replaced a bad heat exchanger on the #3 Trane furnace.

Interior Water Issues - Annual removal of classroom mold. Dehumidifiers were placed strategically so they can drain rather than shutting down until emptied. This allows them to run continuously, when necessary, thus controlling excessive humidity more efficiently than in previous years. We completed deepening 2 of the 3 sumps to keep ground water out of the undercroft heating ducts thus keeping excessive moisture from being distributed to the classrooms.

Anne Petrie and John Swarney

SPIRITUALITY

Early evening most Mondays find several members of St. Peter's gathering in the chapel for meditation. We follow the model suggested by the World Community for Christian Meditation which includes a short prayer, contemplative music, 20 minutes of silent meditation and a musical closing. Linda Neuman leads the group.

For several years St. Peter's has rented space during the summer months for a yoga class taught by Jeani Mackenzie of the Davenport School of Yoga. In September of 2010 we began to offer our own weekly beginner hatha yoga class. The class is taught by Joan Marttila. It is open to the wider community and donations to St. Peter's are accepted.

WORSHIP

We have celebrated Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10 on Sunday mornings and at 5:30 on Wednesday evenings. (During the summer months we worshipped at 9 a.m. to help members get to know each other better.

Thanks to the altar guild who is responsible for setting up and cleaning the altar flowers, candles, vestments, hymn numbers – for every service that is held at St. Peter's. Members during 2010 have been Caryl Bucksbaum, Sherree Koch, Nancy McMullen, Lanell Mogab, Sonita Oldfield-Carlson, Marty Yeast and Lori Shaffnit. Marty Yeast makes the communion bread. We appreciate the financial support for flowers and plants to remember special times and people. Envelopes are available in the back of the church for donations with space for the date, the occasion, or any other requests you may have. The Christmas evergreen fruit wreaths are made by the altar guild and support team. Many heartfelt thanks go to all who helped in taking the wreaths down and cleaning up. During 2010, robes were purchased in smaller sizes for our youngest acolytes as well as new, enclosed processional torches with accompanying bases.

Thanks to **acolytes**: Alex Heesch, Emily Jones, Ella & Eli McDonald, Katelyn O'Hare, Corinne Scheidecker, Lydia & Tavia Swarney, Ben & Emily Tinsman and Sammie Wesson; **chalice bearers**: Doug Druckenmiller, Jane Heesch, Ruth Killinger, Pat Kirkland, Paul Koch, Lanell Mogab, Linda Neuman, Joan Marttila, Henry Neuman, Bruce Tinsman, Maggie Tinsman, Jennifer Busch and Jerry Yeast; **lay readers**: Jennifer Busch, Joe Chambers, Gaye Dunn, Ghada Hamdan-Allen, Larry Johnsen, Mary Jo Johnson, Pat Kirkland, Paul Koch, Joan Marttila, Monique McDonald, Mark McMullen, Linda Neuman, Bruce Tinsman, Hovey Tinsman, Hovey Tinsman, Maggie Tinsman, Sharon Tinsman, Steve Trainor and Jerry Yeast; **ushers**: Jennifer Busch, Ghada Hamdan-Allen, Jane Hoffman, Mary Jo & Ron Huddleston, Mary Jo Johnson, Pat Kirkland, Sherree Koch, Joan Marttila, Kitty & Peter McAndrews, Monique McDonald, Lanell Mogab, Linda Neuman, and Marty Yeast.

With the end of December 2009 retirement of James O'Hare, who faithfully served St. Peter's for many years, we entered an interim period with our music. We explored different types of church music led and accompanied by "in-house" musicians. (**Thanks to Doug Druckenmiller, Joan Marttila, Linda Roy and Duane Timm!**) This music included traditional and contemporary hymns, Taize chants and "paperless" or "sung by heart" music. (In February we invited Ben Allaway, a church musician from Des Moines and a national leader within the Episcopal paperless music community, to introduce us to "paperless" music and to help us experience how this style of singing can enrich our worship.) In May, vestry, music task force members and the congregation discussed their experience and reached the following conclusions: 1) we desire a variety of music and 2) in our new music director, we want an individual who is flexible, open to and skilled in using the variety of music we experience as enhancing our worship of God and who is good at bringing our and nurturing the musical gifts of St. Peter's members as they contribute to our worship.

In June we interviewed Karl Bodenbender whose name Lynne+ had received from a colleague, and visited the church he served. Following the interview, the reaction of the group (young and old, musician and self-declared "non-musician") was "hire him!" We welcomed Karl as music director on Sunday, August 8.

Following a long break, St. Peter's choir resumed singing as a group in September to the delight and enjoyment of the congregation for the special music they provide. Members of St. Peter's choir included Doug and Pat Druckenmiller, Jane Heesch, John Hoffman, Mike Johnson, Carolyn Krenos-Bodnar, Mark Petrie, Robert Petrie, Linda Roy, Bruce Tinsman, Eula Williams, Jerry Yeast, and John Swarney. **Thanks choir!!**

Most will agree that a high point of worship this year was the Christmas Eve Service which included the pageant *People Look East* (by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard). Almost everyone "got in the act" with special parts being played by Emily Tinsman (The

Angel of the Lord), Ben Tinsman (Adam), Tavia Swarney (Eve), the choir (Animals of the Kingdom), McKenzie Wilson & Lydia Swarney (Angels), Corinne Scheidecker (Mary), Will Snowball (Joseph), Ellis Carlson, Sammie Wesson, Katelyn & Sharon Tinsman (Shepherds), Josef Bodenbender, Clare Tinsman, Rachael Wesson (Sheep). **Thanks to all the participants and to pageant directors** Karl Bodenbender and Sharon Tinsman, who were assisted by Katelyn O'Hare and Emily Tinsman, to Anne Petrie and Lorri Swarney who created costumes, props and set, and to church school teachers and parents for their support. A DVD of pictures has been made by Jerry Yeast; copies are available.

Karl and Lynne+ need help planning worship that is Episcopal but also uniquely St. Peter's. We want our worship services to help us all praise God. We want them to be times when we encounter God both in prayer and through one another. We desire to be transformed by our participation in worship and prepared to live more fully as Christians in the world. It is the work of the parish worship committee to design services that help us meet these goals. It will be the particular responsibility of the 2010-2011 worship committee to work with Karl in developing our new music program. If you would like to serve on the worship committee, please talk with Lynne+ or Karl.

STEWARDSHIP

St. Peter's again followed *The New Consecration Sunday* program in our Stewardship Campaign. This approach to financing the operational ministries of a congregation teaches stewardship from a spiritual perspective, rather than from a fund-raising perspective. Directed toward raising the level of stewardship rather than toward raising the church budget, *New Consecration Sunday* focuses on the question, "What is God calling me to do?" rather than on the question, "What does the church need in order to pay its bills?" We welcomed our guest leader Rev. Pat Genereux on Sunday November 14th. This year's Consecration Sunday resulted in a 5.6% increase in giving, including three new families and 4 new pledges.

January Birthdays

1/02 Clare Tinsman
1/07 Bruce Tinsman
1/10 Sue Peterson
1/12 James O'Hare
1/13 John Swarney
1/15 Rick Leuthauser
1/15 Renee Long
1/15 Ava Satterfield
1/20 Shelley Chambers
1/22 Margy Christiansen
1/25 Mary Carroll
1/26 Patrick Carlson
1/28 Kayla Shaffnit
1/31 Jose Bucksbaum

January Anniversaries

1/02 Mark and Kathy Dittmer
1/04 Pat Kirkland and Len Dose
1/27 Ron and Jessie Anderson

February Birthdays

2/04 Patrick Dittmer
2/04 Marty Dittmer
2/09 Larry Johnsen
2/09 Amira O'Hare-Bouagadi
2/10 Caryl Bucksbaum
2/10 Mary Holtam
2/12 Ron Anderson
2/14 Sherree Koch
2/14 Sonita Oldfield-Carlson
2/18 Mark Dittmer
2/23 Neil Christiansen

February Anniversaries

2/21 Hovey and Maggie Tinsman
2/23 Henry and Linda Neuman

We include January and February birthdays and anniversaries at the end of copies of the Annual Report that are mailed, as the report also serves as St. Peter's winter newsletter.