

# ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL UCC

AUGUST 2021

## Faith---Practicing Goodness

By Harvey Kickover

(The setting is during a different season of the year, but the message is clear.)

*"Always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else."* 1 Thessalonians 5:15

Briefcase in hand, I hustled toward the door of the office building. In the wind and cold I fumbled for my keys. I had the right key, but it wouldn't open the door. I set my briefcase down and tried a little more intently. But the door, not the one I usually used to enter the building, would not open. I turned around, deciding I would have to go around the building to another door. But then a gentleman inside came tapping on the window and gesturing for me to come in. With a warm welcoming smile, he opened the door for me.

It was a small thing, the kind of thing that can happen often. But it warmed my heart and the rest of me as I entered the building.

He didn't have to do it. I could have gotten in by another door, but he blessed me with his good kindness. I remember it still. That gracious act was like a lubricant that made life flow more smoothly.

All of us have been on the receiving end of such simple acts. The shape of these acts varies: smiling kindly to a harried cashier, speaking a word of encouragement when a tear brims in the eye, sending a note of concern at the right time, pausing to listen to a hurting neighbor. You weren't paid to do it. Perhaps no one else noticed it. You may even have forgotten the

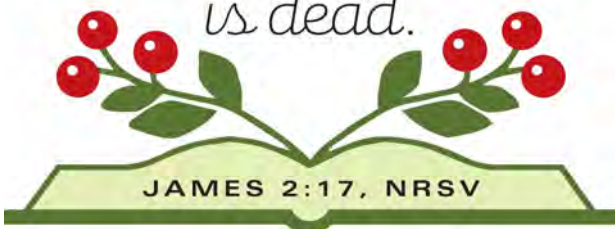


deed, but the world is a better place because you did it!

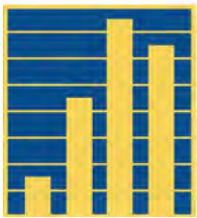
Love is seen in the good and kind care we show to others—and our faith is seen too.

*Lord, help us today to "do what is good for each other and for everyone else." Amen*

*So faith by itself,*  
**IF IT HAS NO WORKS,**  
*is dead.*



## July 2021



## CHURCH BOARD REPORT

Members of your church board met together on Tuesday, July 14, for our regular monthly meeting. The agenda of the meeting was fairly limited. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. We did not have a formal treasurer's report at the meeting, but all is in order and the general finances of the church for the month of June, can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Property management topics were discussed. The fascia trim missing from the back gable of the church building has been put back with the help of David Smothers, from Mt Vernon. We have a guttering problem on the church roof opposite the parsonage and we are seeking a guttering expert's analysis and bid for repair.

We have begun the trimming back of the bush and tree growth around the exterior of the church and fellowship hall. We are playing catch up on this trimming and the initial look after the trimming might appear severe, but this is what we need to do and new growth will fill in eventually.

Our second fellowship gathering at Allan and Pat Ware's on July 17, was another enjoyable success, even though it rained during part the evening. Our next fellowship event at the

Ware's is scheduled for Saturday, August 21. Stay tuned for more details.

We continue our extended time of interim as we seek a new settled pastor. The search committee plans to meet and review the church profile in the next few weeks.

We have appreciated the several people who have been with us to lead worship these past months. We have been very pleased to have Pastor Carey Higgins with us for many recent Sundays and for his willingness to make pastoral calls. Pastor Carey will continue to be with us at least two Sundays a month through December.

Pulpit Supply during the month of August:

August 1: Julie Pappenfort

August 8: Gary/Kimberly Cooper

August 15: Carey Higgins

August 22: Carey Higgins

August 29: Al Gritten

These are all gifted and faithful servants of God, and we encourage everyone to join us for worship and fellowship each Sunday.

There continue to be uncertainties on many fronts regarding the current surge of the covid virus and ongoing efforts to contain it. This is especially true here in Southwest Missouri where many remain unvaccinated, by choice. We do not know what the future holds, but we will continue to monitor developments and the medical and public health communities' advice. Many in our church are more comfortable wearing masks as we gather together in close proximity. This is not by requirement, but we will respect the choices are made in response to this threatening challenge among us.

Thank you all for your faithful support and involvement as we continue to answer the call with joy, thankfulness and commitment to be the people our Lord has called us to be in this place and in this time.

On behalf of St Peter's Church Board,

David Rauch, President



**Friendship Guild**


*Friendship Guild meetings will resume on  
Saturday, August 14  
10:00 a.m.*

*All ladies are invited to attend!*



**The Perseids**, which NASA describes as “the best meteor shower of the year,” will peak in mid-August. Perseids, known for their fireballs, can persist longer than an average meteor streak, due to the larger explosions of color. And, according to NASA, the Perseids are one of the most plentiful showers at 50 to 100 meteors seen per hour. Plus, they’re easy to view.

While it’s possible to see the Perseids as early as 10 p.m. (in any time zone), the best viewing is during the pre-dawn hours. It is predicted that the greatest number of meteors will be seen on the mornings of Aug. 11, 12 and 13.



**August Fellowship Gathering**  
August 21, 2021  
6:00 p.m. at Petal Junction  
(Alan/Pat Ware’s)  
4908 Zoller Road  
Bring a dish to share, a chair, and a friend.  
Everyone welcome!

**ADULT**  
*Sunday School*

**Back in Session!**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Every Sunday**  
**All Adults Welcome**

## August Scriptures

August 1, 2021	2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a Psalm 51:1-12	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 Psalm 78:23-29	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
August 8, 2021	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130	1 Kings 19:4-8 Psalm 34:1-8	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
August 15, 2021	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Psalm 111	Proverbs 9:1-6 Psalm 34:9-14	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
August 22, 2021	1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Psalm 34:15-22	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
August 29, 2021	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**St. Peter's Evangelical United Church of Christ**

**Financial Report**

Cash on Hand June 1, 2021									\$75,800.30
Receipts:		<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Week 4</u>		<u>Total</u>		
Current Expense		1,130.00	925.00	800.00	1,395.00		4,250.00		
OCWM				80.00			80.00		
Loose		40.00	65.00	20.00	22.00		147.00		
Totals		<u>11,700.00</u>	<u>990.00</u>	<u>900.00</u>	<u>1,417.00</u>				\$4,477.00
Rental Income									\$450.00
Interest Income									\$6.72
Total Cash on Hand and Monthly Receipts									<u>\$80,734.02</u>

**ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL UCC  
ACTUAL ANALYSIS  
2021**

	<u>ACTUAL RECEIPTS FOR CUR. EXPENSE</u>	<u>ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS FOR CUR EXPENSE</u>
JANUARY	\$6,033.00	\$5,180.00
FEBRUARY	\$4,201.00	\$1,410.00
MARCH	\$4,622.00	\$6,439.00
APRIL	\$5,573.00	\$1,179.00
MAY	\$5,872.00	\$1,206.00
JUNE	\$4,875.00	\$5,610.00
YTD	<u>\$ 31,155.00</u>	<u>\$ 21,024.00</u>

DIFFERENCE = \$10,131.00

**It's Not All Summer....**

At the time of the hottest, most humid part of the summer months, the ancient Greeks and Romans saw the appearance of the "Dog Star" Sirius, the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (Large Dog). Thus, they called them the "Dog Days of Summer" and knew that summer's time was limited and soon it would be cooling off.

It is wonderful that we serve a God that has purposed different times, seasons, and occasions in our lives. It's not all summer. It's not all fall or winter. It's not all good, but it's also not all bad. His will is that we seek to know Him better no matter what time in our life. How have you purposed in the dog days to deepen your relationship with Him? He is the one that will never change and will always be good (James 1:17)!

# AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> -9:30 AM Sunday School -10:30 AM Worship/ Com- munion	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> -9:30 AM Sunday School -10:30 AM Worship	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> -10:00 AM Friendship Guild
<i>15</i> -9:30 AM Sunday School -10:30 AM Worship	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> -6:00 PM Fellowship Gathering at Petal Junction (Ware's)
<i>22</i> -9:30 AM Sunday School -10:30 AM Worship	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Newsletter Deadline	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> -9:30 AM Sunday School -10:30 AM Worship	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>				

# Mission Update from Paul/Jen Schafer July 18, 2021



Dear friends and family,

We thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for the Safaliba team, the translation, the literacy work, and the Safaliba's ministry outreach among their own people and those in the surrounding region.

We give great thanks that the team continues to be mostly healthy (no COVID so far) and are making good progress in translation, literacy, discipleship and church growth in the area.

Praise-- Last update we informed you all of the translators need for ongoing monthly support and also for help with their increased farming expenses (because of the lack of rain). Praise God with us -- two people have promised to help with some of the team's farming expenses, and just today we got a message from some supporters who will help some with the translators' general support need!

### Translation

The last two weeks, Paul and the team have continued working on the read-through of the book of Matthew as well as the consistency and key terms checks. Please keep on praying for their internet to work well as they have still been having some problems with connectivity.

Also please keep praying for Nicholas's back which really hurts him whenever he rides his motorcycle and also pray for his diabetes and his wife's ongoing health issues.

In addition, please continue to pray for the translators and their farms. The rains this year have been very poor not only in the Safaliba area but across northern Ghana. This means that not only are the Safaliba's crops (next year's food) not growing well, but food in general is scarce and what is available is twice the usual price. Please pray for rain, for a good harvest, and for everyone to be able to get the food they need in the meantime.

### Literacy

Daniel, Moses, Manjeed, Matilda, and Solomon are the 5 volunteer teachers who completed their 2-year basic teaching diploma last year (and are now half-way through an additional two years course to get a degree in teaching). This year, these 5 were assigned to do their 1-year "national service" in the Safaliba schools in Mandari, Gbenfu, and Nsunua. This "national service" includes a small monthly allowance from the government, and these 5 volunteers have proved faithful and used this extra financial freedom to put even more time and creativity into teaching the Safaliba children! They know that through your prayers and financial support, God has blessed them with the opportunity to get an education they would never have dreamed of, and enabled them to be a blessing to the children in their communities. When they started, they hardly knew how to begin to teach, and now they are doing so well!

Matilda has been asking for prayer. In addition to teaching in Mandari, we asked her to stay in our house and look after things while we're gone, and for several weeks some unknown persons have been giving her a very hard time, by putting magical objects in the yard to frighten her. She does not know why they are doing this -- but sometimes if a person seems to be stable and happy and having some success in education and life in general, people feel jealous and wish ill against them. Please pray for protection for Matilda.



Praise: Daniel's school class in Gbenfu - teaching Safaliba letters, using the every-day foods, animals, and objects, that are familiar to the children:

Continued from Page 6...

### **Consultants-in Training**

The translation consultants-in-training program (that Paul is in charge of) continues to go on well. They all continue to do Bible translation work in various parts of Ghana, and study and practice various tasks to prepare them for future consultant duties. Many of them are soon resuming their MA studies, some as early as the end of July and others in August. And all of them have reports due again by the end of this month (which Paul has to review, edit, and send off to their donors). Please continue to pray for this important training/ development program, for the consultants in training and for Paul as he helps them along their way to becoming translation consultants.

### **Family Health**

As a family, we are all so thankful to have stayed healthy most of this year. (You may remember it was almost exactly a year ago that Josiah fell and broke his ankle and had to have a plate and pins put in.)

But we need your prayers on a couple of upcoming issues. Paul has been having nerve issues in his left arm over the last few years, but over the last 6 months it has become a bit debilitating, affecting his finger motions and strength, with a visible wasting of some of the hand muscles, and it's made it difficult for him to type quickly or accurately. So we went to our doctor, who sent us onto a neurologist for testing about six weeks ago, and then onto an orthopedic surgeon a couple weeks ago who said Paul needs to have surgery on his arm ASAP. So they have scheduled surgery for the 21st, this Wednesday. He will be in a sling for two weeks and then will have physical therapy after that. Please pray for the surgery and for the extra expenses.

Also, we need prayer for wisdom as Josiah may need to have the plate taken out of his ankle as it often bothers him. The doctor said this might happen and it might be necessary to remove it. Please pray for wisdom in this process.

### **Praises:**

--We thank God that Paul and the team continue to make progress and good corrections in the read-through of Matthew.

--And we are thankful for the diligence of the teachers and volunteers and the good effect they are having on the schoolchildren.

--We thank God for answered prayers and for more support for the translators (below see a picture of Pastor Sammy's church building in Gbenfu)

--And we are thankful for the neurologist and orthopedic surgeon who have helped diagnose Paul's arm problems.

--Also, we are thankful for good health for all of us as a family, and for God's provision and care over so many years with Wycliffe. (Below, see a picture of all 6 of us at the memorial commemorating Wycliffe's founding in 1934.)

### **Prayer Requests:**

--Please continue to pray for the translation, for the ongoing read-through and consistency checks for the New Testament, for good internet and for wisdom as to how to keep on making good progress, even after Paul's surgery.

--And pray for wisdom and strength for Paul as he also juggles the consultants-in-training and tries to help get their quarterly reports finished up very soon.

--Please continue to keep Nicholas in your prayers as well, for his health, his back issues, his wife's health and all that he juggles.

--Pray for the literacy teachers and volunteers, for their health and continued diligence as well as wisdom for them as they teach their students, and especially for Matilda.

--Also, please pray for rain for all the farmers in the Bole area, but especially for the Safaliba translators and literacy teachers, whose families depend a lot on being able to grow and harvest their yearly crops.

--And lastly, pray for Paul's surgery on the nerves in his left arm this Wednesday and for the healing and physical therapy afterwards.

Thank you to each of you who prays, encourages, and supports us and our colleagues in Ghana! It takes all of us. We appreciate you all.

Serving together,

Paul and Jen

Caleb, Micah, Josiah and Sarah





***Back to School—Time to Shine!***

It's the time that most kids and many teachers dread:

Back to school! Soon the vacations, beaches, fishing trips, and picnics will be in the past. While we are tempted to let out a big groan, perhaps we should remind ourselves what a great opportunity lies ahead of us.

The Lord tells us that we should let our lights shine before men so that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matt. 5:16). That means every class meeting, every ball game, and every lunchtime is an opportunity to be a glowing example of Christianity in action.

After a summer of fun and adventure, it's difficult to return to the books. As Christians, though, we can look forward to getting back into the public life that allows us to let our Christian lights shine. Will you be a light for Christ?



**The Teacher Called Experience**

The knowledge we gain from the teacher called Experience is hard to forget and the most valuable kind of learning. The trouble is that the teacher called Experience gives us the test first and the lesson we needed to learn after the test.

**Bible Quiz**

What was the name of the queen who refused to appear before the king of Persia and his guests and, as a result, was deposed?

A. Esther  
B. Jael  
C. Vashti  
D. Milcah

Answer: C (See Esther 1:12.)

# Puzzle!

Answer each statement by circling the letter in the correct column. Then write the circled letters on the numbered lines below to complete the biblical word.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Naomi is Ruth's mother.	D	<input checked="" type="radio"/> R
2. Ruth is a Moabite.	T	P
3. Naomi wants Ruth to leave her and return to Moab.	N	L
4. Orpah is Naomi's hired hand.	H	S
5. Boaz lives in Bethlehem.	C	B
6. Boaz is a farmer.	U	V
7. Ruth makes a living begging at Bethlehem's gates.	X	E
8. Boaz instructs his field workers to leave extra grain for Ruth to glean.	E	J
9. Boaz invites Ruth to eat with the harvesters.	R	Q
10. Boaz is related to Naomi.	I	W
11. Boaz refuses to marry Ruth.	F	R
12. Ruth is the great-grandmother of King David.	O	G

**R**

9 7 4 6 1 11 8 5 2 10 12 3

Answer: 1. R, 2. T, 3. N, 4. S, 5. C, 6. U, 7. E, 8. E, 9. R, 10. I, 11. R, 12. O; RESURRECTION

“Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful, for beauty is God’s handwriting.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

“God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say ‘thank you?’ — William Arthur





Please send September Newsletter articles to Mary Kastendieck by August 26 at:

marykasten@gmail.com

## **AUGUST** Birthdays & Anniversaries

### **Happy Birthday to ...**

08/04 Braxton Tinsley  
08/16 Kaetlin Dahlman  
08/22 Elliot Rauch-Evans  
08/31 Denise Hampton  
08/31 Jeff Ware

### **Happy Anniversary to...**

08/10 David/Denise Hampton

### **Dear Heavenly Father...**

Open my eyes, Creator of the universe, that I may see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; open my ears, that I may hear what the heavens are telling me about your glory, which transcends all material bounds and yet deigns to reside with human beings.



May I ever marvel at your tender care for us, and give you thanks and praise forever. Amen.

—Prayer suggested by Psalms 8 & 19



### **Nursing Home Care:**

Mary Lou Hutter and Judy Rauch

### **Health & Wellness:**

Jerry Davis, Chet Jenkins, Larry Mathews, Raymond Garbee, Jenise Huffman, Steve Netzer, Aaron Sears (Denise Hampton request), Jeannette Wilson (Friend of Cindy Wagemann), Dwight Worstenholm (Chris Rauch's brother), Ann Staiger (Hearing), Shirley Snyder (Luella Thomas's Friend-cancer), Brandy Richter (Cassie Staiger friend), Mike Rauch, Rebecca Davis (Shauntae Staiger's friend/breast cancer and medication complications), Mary Steinmann, Jessica Verch, Pat Barker (lung cancer), Nora Costley/Costley Family (Amber Tinsley's friends –infant heart surgery), Jennifer Williams (cancer) All those dealing with COVID.

### **For Pastoral Care:**

Contact Carey Higgins, at 417-597-1043

careyshiggins@gmail.com



August 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

*St. Peter's Evangelical UCC  
303 NE Pine  
PO Box 250  
Billings, MO 65610*

