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WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.

Faithfully serving in Jesus' name since 1880. Honoring traditions of the past, growing spiritually in the present, and preparing for the future.

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL UCC

***Message from 2021 Board President,
David Rauch.....***



Dear St. Peter's Members and Friends,

Our prayers and hopes are with each of you as we continue to move forward in the midst of many challenges these days. I want to bring you up-to-date as we manage some changes in our lives together as a congregation.

First, the newly-elected church board met after our annual congregational meeting Sunday, January 24. During that meeting, I was elected to serve as your board president; Pat Ware will serve as your vice president. The remaining board positions were elected to serve as follows:

- Sherry Coker, Trustee
- Amber Tinsley, Secretary
- Jeff Ware, Treasurer
- Sam Faris, Sunday School Representative
- Judy Crockett, Ladies Friendship Guild Representative

Please make sure to thank the following individuals who retired from the board at the end of 2020:

- David Hampton
- Lee Lurvey
- Lavona Lurvey
- Chris Rauch

Their faithful service to St. Peter's has been greatly appreciated. As expressed at the annual congregational meeting, we want to again emphasize our deep appreciation to David Hampton for his dedicated and selfless service as board president the past two years! We have experienced challenges on many fronts, and David managed them all with great sensitivity and faithfulness.

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Second, Pastor Larry Worden resigned as interim pastor after Sunday's worship service, January 24. We want to thank him and his wife, Carmen, for their attentive and caring service to our congregation for more than a year. We are working diligently to schedule supply pastors for future worship services and discern the direction we feel led to consider as we move forward together as a household of faith.

Lastly, we are pleased to welcome Associate Conference Minister Damien Lake this Sunday, January 31, as the leader of our worship service. Rev. Lake has the primary responsibility for assisting churches in our conference with the search and call process. He will be working with the search committee as they prayerfully and intentionally continue to pursue new, long-term pastoral leadership. You may read Rev. Lake's full bio [here](#). Please join us as you are comfortable and able to do so. Masking and social distancing will be required during the service.

Please keep the board, search committee, and each other in your prayers. Reach out to any of your board members with questions, concerns, or comments anytime.

Blessings,

David Rauch
President, St. Peter's Church Board

February Scriptures

Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2021	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 84 or <i>Psalm 24:7-10</i>	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 7, 2021	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
Transfiguration Sunday February 14, 2021	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
Ash Wednesday February 17, 2021	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or <i>Isaiah 58:1-12</i>	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
First Sunday in Lent February 21, 2021	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
Second Sunday in Lent February 28, 2021	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38 or <i>Mark 9:2-9</i>

JANUARY 2021 CHURCH BOARD REPORT

The St. Peter's board meeting was called to order at 6:40 p. m. on Wednesday evening January 13th with all board members present. Prayer requests from various board members were taken and then prayer was led by David Hampton. The minutes from last month's meeting as well as December's treasurer's report and reviewed and then both were approved with unanimous votes.

Pastor Larry gave his Pastoral report showing several dozen contacts with various church members thru phone calls, texts, emails, cards sent as well as preaching on each Sunday of last month.

The following items of new business were handled:

- The board discussed the need for more upgrades to our sound system and projector. Bids for the those proposed upgrades will be reviewed in next month's meeting.
- The board decided that current in place Covid-19 protocols will continue to be followed as outlined in our weekly bulletin.
- The board and Search Committee members will all be meeting with Associate Conference Minister Reverend Damian Lake on Tuesday evening January 19th.
- Reminder was made of the Audit Committee Meeting on Saturday 1/16/21 in the Fellowship Hall.
- The board reviewed the agenda for our annual Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday 1/24/21 following services that morning. We discussed the fact that we still have not found anyone to fill the 3 year trustee position.
- Jeff Ware is working on getting an assessment of the condition of the church roof as well as will be obtaining a couple of bids for roof replacement.

The following items of Old Business were handled:

- Review of our 2021 Insurance policy on all church properties.
- Suggestion was made that the board allow Steve Springer to continue to mow the church property next summer.
- Decision was made to purchase a new laptop for use in the sound booth and as needed for other church business.

Outgoing board President David Hampton gave his thanks to the board for serving with him the last couple of years. The new incoming board will set the planning calendar at their first meeting next month. There being no other business the board adjourned.

God's Word urges we Christians to "seek first the Kingdom of Heaven and to pursue righteousness".

As we continue our journey toward Heaven I urge all to stay in God's Word daily and to follow the teaching in this holy inspired Word of God.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as board President. Thank you all and may God Bless each and everyone is my prayer.

David Hampton

St. Peter's Evangelical United Church of Christ

Financial Report

Cash on Hand December 1, 2020						\$92,951.47
Receipts:		<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Total</u>
Current Expense		1,390.00	800.00	1,015.00	1,175.00	4,380.00
OCWM			30.00	50.00		80.00
Loose			63.00	20.00		113.00
Totals		<u>1,390.00</u>	<u>893.00</u>	<u>1,085.00</u>	<u>1,205.00</u>	\$4,573.00
Rental Income						\$950.00
Interest Income						<u>\$7.31</u>
Total Cash on Hand and Monthly Receipts						\$98,481.78

**ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL UCC
ACTUAL ANALYSIS
2020**

	<u>ACTUAL RECEIPTS FOR CUR. EXPENSE</u>	<u>ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS FOR CUR EXPENSE</u>
JANUARY	\$6,231.00	\$3,099.00
FEBRUARY	\$5,636.00	\$3,922.00
MARCH	\$3,807.00	\$8,085.00
APRIL	\$6,821.00	\$3,412.00
MAY	\$11,752.00	\$3,796.00
JUNE	\$8,828.00	\$12,119.00
JULY	\$6,327.00	\$14,012.00
AUGUST	\$5,876.00	\$4,030.00
SEPTEMBER	\$5,406.00	\$7,100.00
OCTOBER	\$5,510.00	\$3,327.00
NOVEMBER	\$6,701.00	\$7,808.00
DECEMBER	\$5,450.00	\$10,709.00
YTD	<u>\$ 78,351.00</u>	<u>\$ 81,618.00</u>



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Worship At 10:30 am</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14  Transfiguration SUNDAY	15  Presidents Day	16	17  <i>Ash</i> WEDNESDAY	18	19	20
21  FIRST SUNDAY in LENT	22	23	24	25	26	27
28  SECOND SUNDAY in LENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Worship Service at 10:30 am on Sundays</i> • <i>All other church activities are cancelled due to Covid</i> • <i>Masks and Social Distancing are highly recommended</i> 					

Mission Update from Paul/Jen Schaefer
January 28, 2021



Dear friends and family,

Thank you so much for your prayers over the last week or so! We just wanted to give you a quick update on answers to prayer and need for continued prayer.

Translation

1. We thank God that there have not been any further issues with the electricity in the Safaliba area, and Paul and the team have been able to make more progress with fewer interruptions. They are in the home stretch of Acts, with just about 6 chapters left to check. **Please pray for no more interruptions and that they will be able to finish it in the next week or so.**

2. The team will work through next week on Acts (and hopefully will finish it), but after that they will have to take a two-week break as Nicholas finishes up his school assignments and travels to the seminary near Accra to attend the next session of classes. **Please pray the completion of Acts, for Nicholas to be able to finish his papers well and for his safe travels to school and back.**

3. Stanley has also been on break from school and has been able to be involved in the translation checking of late, for which we are very thankful. He will return to school in Tamale Friday. **Please pray for safe travels for Stanley and for his upcoming studies.**



Gbenfu classes resuming...

Sumaila (in white) is one of the volunteer-teachers

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Literacy

4. School has properly reopened in Ghana and the volunteer teachers are back helping out in the schools. Please **pray for the volunteer-teachers' diligence and consistency** in order to help the next generation of Safaliba students to be able to learn to read well and go far in their education.

5. **Please continue to pray for the Safaliba literacy program in the schools.**

Teacher Samua has still not had his transfer reversed back to Mandari which will be a huge blow to the program if he is not transferred back. So please continue to **pray that the Bole Education Office would agree to allow Samua to stay in the Mandari schools.**

6. But in addition to this problem, **Eden just wrote that the head teacher of one of the Mandari elementary schools has also been transferred out** (this is the school where Samua had been teaching, which had done so well with the Safaliba literacy program for children). And in his place they have put another head teacher who is known for being not diligent in teaching or school management. **Please pray for God to bring good out of this bad turn of events and pray for Him to make a way for the literacy program for the children to still go on well.** The benefits to the Safaliba children's long-term learning are almost immeasurable.

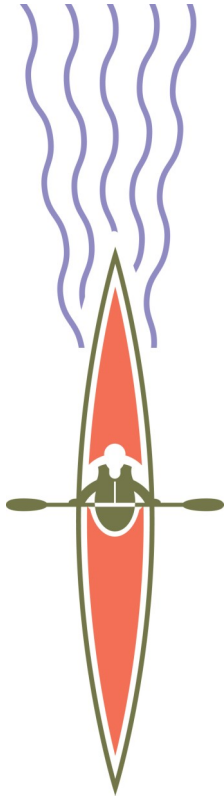
7. Lastly, **please pray for Paul** as he has a number of additional Ghana responsibilities (as Linguistics Coordinator and as Coordinator for the Consultants-in-Training) especially over the next week or two. **Please pray for strength and health, guidance and wisdom as he works on these additional things.**

Thanks so much for your ongoing prayers for the work and our colleagues in Ghana!

Serving together,
Paul and Jen and family



Here is Adams, one of the long-time faithful volunteer teachers, who gained admission to one of the well know teacher training programs down south.



Paddling through Lent —and life

Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you've ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn't a bad image for Lent — or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it's no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we're traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, set me straight again!" Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don't get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling!

—adapted from Carlos Wilton, in *Homiletics*

Lenten living

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17 this year. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth — a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.



Pack Well

During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

—Based on the "Journey to Hope" sermon series, www.rethinkchurch.org/lent

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 2-01 Becky Pannucci
- 2-08 Ruby Dahlman
- 2-08 Hudson Walter Staiger
- 2-10 Lee Lurvey
- 2-19 Karen Rumley
- 2-20 Luella Thomas
- 2-22 Jay Staiger
- 2-23 Curtis McCroskey
- 2-23 Clifton Wallace
- 2-24 David Rauch
- 2-27 Cynthia Wagemann



Please send any **March Newsletter** articles to Mary Kastendieck at: marykasten@gmail.com



Bible Quiz

What was the name of Moses' wife?

- A. Miriam
- B. Jochebed
- C. Zipporah
- D. Leah



Answer: C (See Exodus 2:21.)



Prayer List

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), Alan Ware, Herman Steinmann, Jessica Verch, Pat Barker (lung cancer), Bob McGehee, Denver & Janice Looney (Covid) All those dealing with COVID or quarantine.

A daily prayer

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we're in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen.

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"

—Corrie ten Boom



February 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						

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