

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



www.stpaturbana.org

September 2021

This is our story

On July 1, 1901, the cornerstone was laid for the first parish church of St. Patrick, a wooden structure that served while the brick church was being built. In September of 1981, the first issue of *In Focus* came out. So, for 40 of our parish's 120 years, *In Focus* has told the story of our life together.

It's a very human story. For some of us, it includes several generations of our families. It is the joy of watching our young people progress through the sacraments, from Baptism to Marriage. It is the sorrow mingled with hope that we share at the death of a loved one. It is the quiet satisfaction of seeing ourselves and those we care about growing in faith, shaped by God.

It's a story of our life together as a community. It is the gift of laughter from The Cath'lic Boys at Ladies Knight Out, and the gift of glee in a bouncy house. It is the adjustments that we make as priests and staff come and go. It is the courage to be open with one another at a retreat or base community gathering. It is the respect that we have for the gifts of others. It is the witness of faith that we give one another as we gather for



our patient rhythm of prayer, Sunday by Sunday, year by year.

But our life as a parish is more than the sum of our individual lives and more than what we do together. We are the Body of Christ living here in Urbana. The story of our parish is a chapter in the story of Jesus. Jesus the teacher is teaching through us, in every catechist, homilist, and team leader. Jesus who feeds our hungers operates the Food Pantry and comes to be with us in the Eucharist. Jesus

who cares for the outsider helps Habitat build homes and reaches out to people of other

faiths. Jesus who listens takes time to be with those in need.

These are the stories of our parish, stories of people and organizations, stories of God's action, stories of working through difficult times,

see **In Focus** on page 2

Are you homebound and want to receive Communion? Then read this!

Father Anthony, accompanied by Kurt Buckley and his three children, recently visited Brookdale's assisted living facility in southeast Urbana — was this maybe a visit to bring Communion to the homebound? Yes! Eucharistic ministry visits to our homebound parishioners are back! If you've ever been in the position of not being able to get to the church for Mass and praying with your friends, you may understand what this ministry means to them.

At present, these visits occur on Thursday. In the morning, Eucharistic ministers visit individual homes and residents of Clark-Lindsey Village. In the afternoon, Deacon Cliff and his wife, Dorothy, visit residents of Brookdale, including those in assisted living and in the memory care unit.

A homebound parishioner need only call the parish office (217/367-2665) and ask to be included on the list of those to receive a weekly visit from a Eucharistic minister. Homebound parishioners need not prepare anything — just themselves — for the visit. The Eucharistic minister will lead them in prayer both before they receive Communion and afterwards.

Eucharistic ministers often spend a few minutes in friendly conversation with homebound parishioners if

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stories of celebrating wonderful times. *In Focus* tries to capture and share them all. Mary Lou Menches, who has worked on *In Focus* since the first issue recalls its beginnings. Then-pastor Fr. Doug Hennessey was looking for a way to pull people together. Copies were mailed to every family, so even those on the fringes of our parish received them.

Today, *In Focus* is included in the parish bulletin and available online. Since the parish website, <http://stpaturbana.org>, was updated last year, the archive of back issues can now be found at an alternate website: <http://stpatsurbana.org/focus>. (Note the extra “s”.) You can search for names of people and events, so it’s a great resource for family history and local history buffs.

If you value *In Focus*, please consider working with the Communications Committee to create it each month. There’s always a need for writers, photographers, page layout wizards, idea people, and information sources. You can come to our monthly meeting (via Zoom, these days) or just accept an assignment from time to time. Interested? Contact Cathy Salika (csalika@illinois.edu or 217/367-7861), current chair.

Can you help *In Focus* happen?

Many people contribute their time and talents to help *In Focus* come out each month. We’re happy to have all kinds of help, but we have two special needs right now.

Page Layout: Three or four times a year, you would receive files of edited articles and photos, lay them out using whatever software you prefer, and create a PDF.

Committee Member: We meet monthly (virtually, for now) to brainstorm articles for the next issue. Meetings are usually held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Interested? Contact Cathy Salika at 367-78761 or csalika@illinois.edu.

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they are up to it physically. Their life stories often are fascinating, and they truly appreciate the visits as well as receiving the Body of Christ.

Taking the Eucharist to the homebound is a very rewarding ministry in that they truly crave receiving the Body of Christ each week and really appreciate that St. Patrick Parish provides this opportunity to them. And they enjoy the personal contact with the

Did You Know?

The Knights are going to help the women of St. Patrick’s enjoy a night out — yes, the Ladies Knight Out is really coming, later this fall! Be sure to mark your calendars for **November 13!** Hmm — I wonder what The Cath’lic Boys are planning that will tickle our funny bones this time around!

From Fr. George Remm, former pastor

Congratulations to all those who have shared in the past and continue to share in the present the news of St. Patrick’s parish communal life in *In Focus*. Every parish preserves sacramental records of Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations, Marriages, and Deaths. Parish Sunday Bulletins record many activities. But I know of no other parish than St. Patrick’s of Urbana, Illinois, where for 40 years parishioners have preserved the communal life of their parish in articles, reports, reflections, pictures, and prayers, as has been captured and preserved in *In Focus* every month. This has been due to the dedication, persistence (maybe stubbornness), hard work, and faith of all who have contributed to its publication through all these years. If, and when, someone tries to compile a comprehensive history of St. Patrick’s Parish, Urbana, Illinois, the archives of *In Focus* will be a primary resource for the lived experience of this faith community.

God bless all who have preserved this treasure!

Fr. George Remm

The SVDP Food Pantry Garden is flourishing!

As of August 11, SVDP Food Pantry Garden Coordinator Anna Fedders and her volunteer gardeners have delivered more than 140 pounds of fresh produce to our parish food pantry. This included tomatoes, bell peppers, green beans, peas, lettuce, collard greens, zucchini, mustard greens, and eggplants, as well as small amounts of carrots, cilantro, and basil. A number of parishioners have also been generously sharing harvest from their home gardens. Our food pantry guests have greatly enjoyed it all!



Summerfest 2021

It was a picture perfect evening for our parish Summerfest on June 22. Beautiful weather, great food, and fun games all contributed to this delightful celebration. The bouncy house, balloon animals, and food trucks were all popular. And, yes, Fr. Anthony got dunked!

Congratulations and thanks to the Parish Council, The Women of St. Patrick, the Knights of Columbus, and the many individuals who came together to make this event happen.



Meet Mick Harmon, full-time custodian at St. Patrick

When Mick retired after 35 years in higher education, he wanted to continue his active life style. He was an Eagle Scout and has been a Cub Scout leader. Following graduation from Central High School, Champaign, Mick attended Parkland College, studying Law Enforcement and Political Science. Two years later, he received his B.S. in Political Science from Eastern Illinois University at Charleston, followed by an M.S.Ed. in Educational Administration in Higher Education and Educational Psychology Counseling and Guidance at EIU.

Mick was employed at Eastern Illinois University's Admissions and Records and with EIU Housing Office before coming to the University of Illinois, first at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts as an Assistant to the Director and Production Manager, then as Admissions and Records Supervisor for the College of ACES.

While working full time as a Certified Audit Encoder for the U of I, he worked part time for Upkeep Maintenance Services. After retiring from the U of I, Mick continued working with Upkeep Maintenance Services, which included part time at St. Patrick's. Mick's attention to detail brought him to Craig Goad's attention, with the result that Mick is now employed as full-time custodian at St. Patrick's from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. five days a week.

Waking at 4 o'clock and enjoying the quiet drive with nature from

his home in Pesotum is relaxing to Mick. He also likes being off at 2 in the afternoon with time to do things.

Mick and Cathy have been married 27 years. She works at Allied Capital Title in Champaign. His son Nolan lives in Columbus, Ohio. Nolan



graduated from Ohio State University and is in sports broadcasting and journalism. His stepson Ryan is a professional welder and lives in Alabama. Mick's family owned Harmon's Interiors in downtown Champaign for 44 years.

Cathy and Mick like to go hiking in the early morning.

Cathy is the cook in the kitchen while Mick specializes in outdoor cooking. His recipes include grilling hamburgers or wrapping a pork roast in foil and burying it in coals for 3 hours. They can go hiking and come back home to find all is cooked. He is especially fond of sweet chili sauce for roasts or for marinating.

"This is a wonderful staff to work with," says Mick. He says that Craig is showing him the ins and outs of air conditioning, painting, plumbing, and electrical work along with the main work of keeping the building clean and doing setups. Mick says that he is entering a brand new life of learning. Craig has given Mick the title of sanitation engineer.

Welcome, Mick, it's good to get to know you. We hope to get better acquainted in time to come!

A little night music from SPYO

The St. Patrick Youth Orchestra (SPYO), with some of their alumni, performed on the lawn in front of the parish center after Mass on Saturday, August 7. Although it had been a hot day, the evening turned cool with a refreshing breeze which kept away the mosquitoes.

Hundreds of parishioners and friends attended the concert bringing their lawn chairs and blankets to sit on. Old friends happily greeted one other whom they had not seen in person for many months and many stayed after the concert ended to catch up.

The student-run orchestra played selections from "Hamilton," "Lord of the Rings," and "Carmen," among others. Surprisingly the sounds of cars driving up and down Main Street were minimal. There was a loud helicopter on its way to Carle Hospital, but it blended with "Singin' in the Rain" as its rotors sounded like claps of thunder.

This was the last concert for outgoing SPYO conductor Lisa Altaner. Norah Kopolow will lead the group this year.

The stated mission of St. Patrick Youth Orchestra is to have fun while making beautiful music together and to share that love of music with the community. They certainly fulfilled their mission on that evening!

*Joy
with glimpses sometimes rare
among the clouds,
like sun,
is always there.
Ruth R. Rains*

Pandemic graces us with Fr. John

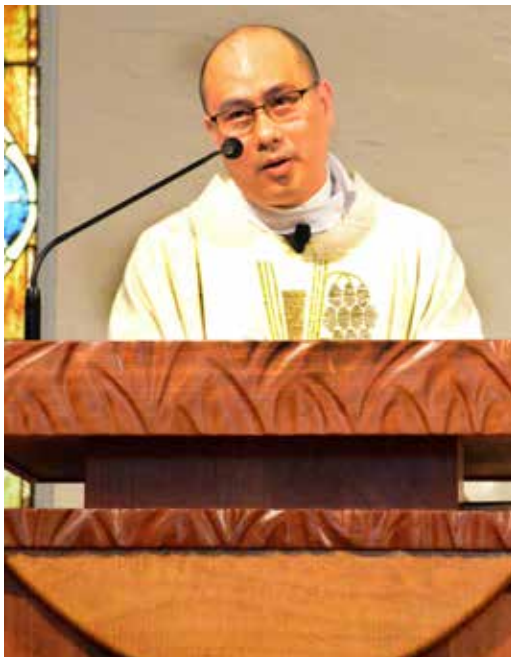
It's been wonderful having Fr. John Pham visiting with us! Fr. John was assigned to St. Patrick from 2016 to 2017, so many of us remember him warmly. Unfortunately, his stay is only temporary, as he will return to Vietnam as soon as circumstances allow. The delay is due to travel restrictions because of Covid-19, as well as the expense of the current quarantine requirements there. Nonetheless, his visit here has been a blessing for us all.

Hello Parishioners of St. Patrick's Catholic Church,

I am writing today to thank you for making me feel welcome and accepting my ministries to which God calls me and thank God for having had the opportunity to minister to your parish, especially in the celebration of Eucharist every day and the administration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, visiting the sick, and the generous spirit in your Parish enlightens me and reminds me that our Lord is building us up for His Kingdom, as Jesus says in the Gospel: "Love one another as I love you... It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain..." (John 15: 12-17). That is why I was sent back to serve in your Parish in this hard time.

I am so happy to be back with you all at St. Patrick's church. I would like to say that it is important for me to focus on serving to you at this testing time. I ask that with your kindness and generosity, please pray for me to know God's will and accept it as the volunteer priest here. Please give me a chance to love and serve you as Jesus has done for each of us.

Sincerely in Jesus Christ,
Fr. John Huy Pham



Fr. John Pham in 2017

Finding your way around St. Patrick's

Welcome to St. Patrick's! Here are some tips to help you find your way around:

Parking

The big lot to the north of the buildings is especially convenient. On weekdays, the green spaces are rented to Carle's staff, and the yellow ones are for parishioners' use. On evenings and weekends, the whole lot is available for parishioners. You can also park along the streets.

Handicapped Access

Handicapped parking spaces are the ones closest to the buildings. There's a button-activated door opener on the main door of the church. For many events, the door to the parish center is unlocked; it too has an opener.

If you enter the church building through the main church doors just off the parking lot, to your left is the parish center, with staff offices, meeting spaces, and St. Brigid Hall. To your right is an elevator, which will take you up to the church or down to Trinity Hall.

You'll see a wide staircase leading up to the church itself. If you sit in the front pew, the Communion ministers will come to you. There is room for wheelchairs near the front of each section of pews, near the back, and along the side aisles. An usher will be happy to help you find a place.

Meeting Spaces

The Gathering Space is at the bottom of the stairs that lead up to the church.

There are two large meeting spaces. Trinity Hall is located below the church. You can get there via stairs or the elevator. St. Brigid Hall is in the parish center, past the secretary's office and the kitchen.

The Trinity Hall foyer is below the church, just outside Trinity Hall itself.

The lounge is located in the parish center near the secretary's office.

There are six classrooms, named for saints, all adjacent to St. Brigid Hall. St. Mary and St. Joseph are at the east end of the hall. Sts. Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John are in the hallway to the north.

Other Important Locations

Defibrillators are available for cardiac emergencies. One is in the church, near the Reconciliation Room. There is another in St. Brigid Hall, along the north wall. A third one is located down in the lobby of Trinity Hall, near the elevator.

Restrooms are located throughout the buildings:

Inside the Main Street door of the church

In the Gathering Space

In the lobby of the parish center

In the Trinity Hall foyer

In the south hallway of St. Brigid Hall



Q: How can I find information about St. Patrick's online?

A: There are actually several places on the Internet that provide information about St. Patrick's Parish, parish ministries, and parish activities. Here are the websites and social media to which the parish subscribes, and how you can access them:

The parish website is a good place to start: Go to www.stpaturbana.org.

Facebook is another: Go to www.facebook.com; in the search

box, type "St. Patrick's Catholic Church"; if presented with an "invite" button, click on that and the moderator will accept you into the group with access.

YouTube is helpful in yet another way. Go to www.youtube.com and type "St. Patrick Urbana" in the search bar to access and stream Masses and other videos the parish staff has added.

Another site, Flocknote, presents

updates and current information about planned activities, changes to pandemic protocol for Masses, notes from our pastor, etc. You can access this by opening the parish website (www.stpaturbana.org). Scroll to the very bottom of the home page, where you are invited to click on

a "sign me up" button, which will direct you to insert your name and telephone number, and your mobile phone number if you have one. Signing up enables you to receive, on your computer or mobile phone, communications and updates from the staff.

And don't forget In Focus, with its newsy articles, information about upcoming parish activities, and

photos of parishioners at prayer, at work, and at play. This monthly newsletter is printed in the parish bulletin but is also available online, where both the latest issue and back issues of In Focus can be found.

Go to the parish website (www.stpaturbana.org); at the top of the home page, place your cursor over "About," select "Bulletins and In Focus," and you're on your way.

Vocation Prayer

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown?
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

—From "The Summons," lyrics by John L. Bell

Slave to the slaves

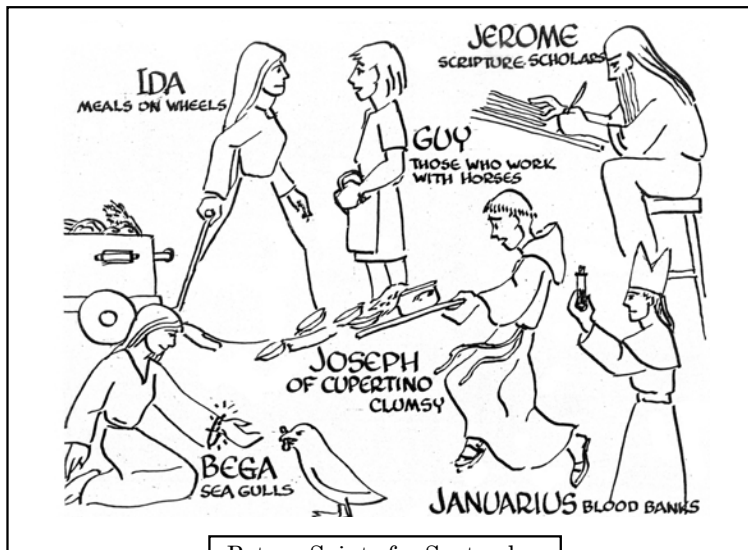
Have you ever been on a Caribbean cruise that sailed into the port of Cartagena, Columbia? There are many tourist attractions to interest you. You can climb to the top of the 17th-century fortress of San Felipe de Barajas for a bird's eye view of the city. You can shop for emeralds in the many jewelry stores or for native crafts in Las Bovedas, the old military vaults. But the most interesting and rewarding excursion is to Old Town, with its brightly painted colonial Spanish architecture. There, in the Plaza de San Pedro, is our destination, the Church of Saint Peter Claver, "the slave to the slaves."

Peter Claver was born in Catalonia, Spain, in June 1580 to a devoutly Catholic farming family. While he was a student at the University of Barcelona, he became known for his intelligence



and piety. After two years of study Peter wrote in his journal, "I must dedicate myself to the service of God until death, on the understanding that I am like a slave." He entered the Jesuits in 1602, to become a missionary in the colonies of the New World. Later, the Jesuits sent him to Cartagena, Columbia, where he was ordained in 1616.

Seventy years before Peter was born, King Ferdinand of Spain authorized the purchase of 250 African slaves for his territories in New Spain, the Caribbean. By the time that Peter Claver sailed to



Fr. George Wuelner

Patron Saints for September

see **Peter Claver** on page 8

A call to love

What is racism? How is racism a sin? In what way is racism a life issue? Why is racism at odds with the Christian vision for our families, communities, and society? Why do we need to talk about racism all the time — can't we all just get along?

These are just some of the questions to be addressed in a monthly anti-racism series that will take place at St. Patrick from October through May. Inspired by the US Catholic Bishops' 2018 pastoral letter against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts: An Enduring Call to Love*, it will look at why we are obligated as Catholic Christians to work against racism and racial injustice.

"But I'm not racist!" some of us will protest. We may not actively take part in racist actions or speech, but the bishops point out that the evil of racism is also present in "the sin of omission, when individuals, communities, and even churches remain silent and fail to act against racial injustice when it is encountered." As they remind us,

When we begin to separate people in our thoughts for unjust reasons, when we start to see some people as "them" and others as "us," we fail to love. Yet love is at the heart of the Christian life. When approached and asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus answered:

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall

love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt 22:37-39). This command of love can never be simply "live and let others be." The command of love requires us to make room for others in our hearts. It means that we are indeed our brother's keeper (see Gn 4:9). [OWOH, p. 17]



This series will use prayer, Scripture, spiritual reflection, conversation, and speakers from our local community who will tell us their stories. There will be one session a month, usually 90 minutes long. There is no commitment — come to one session, several, or all, depending on your schedule. There is no required reading,

although there will be a resource list available for anyone interested. Sessions will be recorded so that if you miss one or can't attend in person, you will be able to watch it later online.

The first session, "What Is Racism?" will be held Thursday, Oct. 7, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in St. Brigid Hall. If Covid-19 restrictions require it, the program will be offered via Zoom. Watch the weekly bulletin for information on how to sign up, as well as for future dates and topics.

How are we loving our neighbors, our sisters and brothers? How are we failing to love? What do we need to do to more closely follow Jesus' command? The bishops advise that we heed Pope Francis' words: "Let no one 'think that this invitation is not meant for him or her.' All of us are in need of personal, ongoing conversion." Let's learn together.

*The vision still has its time,
presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint;
if it delays, wait for it,
it will surely come, it will not disappoint.*
Habakkuk 2:3

Peter Claver from page 6

Cartagena, it had become the center of the slave trade. From West Africa each year, 10,000 slaves poured into the port. These slaves traveled under conditions so foul and inhuman that a third of them died in transit across the Atlantic Ocean.

As soon as a slave ship entered the port of Cartagena, Peter Claver moved into its infested hold to minister to the ill-treated and exhausted slaves. When they were herded out of the ship, chained, and held in nearby yards to be gawked at by the crowds of buyers, Peter plunged in among them with medicines, food, bread, brandy, lemons, and tobacco. With the help of interpreters, he gave basic instruction and assured them of their human dignity and God's love. During his 40 years of ministry, he baptized 300,000 slaves.

When the seasonal slave ships were not in port, Peter traveled from plantation to plantation throughout Columbia to give spiritual consolation to the slaves. He didn't

accept the hospitality of the owners but lodged in the slave quarters. Peter became a moral force, the apostle of Cartagena. He preached in the city square and gave missions for sailors and traders.

Peter Claver died at the age of 74 on September 8, 1654, after suffering for four years from Parkinson's Disease. The city magistrates ordered that he be buried at public expense with great pomp and ceremony. His body is preserved and venerated in a glass coffin in the Jesuit church that had been built in 1603 and was renamed in his honor.

Peter Claver's mission continues today in the work of the Apostleship of the Sea, whose members visit ships in the name of the Church. The Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver is a congregation of women dedicated to serving the spiritual and social needs of the poor around the world, particularly in Africa.

Peter Claver was canonized by Pope Leo XIII, who in 1896 proclaimed him patron of all Roman Catholic missions to African peoples. He is also the patron saint of slaves and of the Republic of Columbia. His feast day is September 9.

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

St. Patrick's Parish In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

Please send news items to infocusstpats@gmail.com. You may also send them to a Communications Committee member, leave them in the committee's mailbox in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. Bylines are generally omitted.

Editorial board: Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (j-fierke@comcast.net); Denise Green, 553-7110 (dgree1@gmail.com); Elizabeth Hendricks, 328-2184 (elizabethwahlhend@gmail.com); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 (mmenches@illinois.edu); and Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@illinois.edu).

Associates: John Colombo, Frances Drone-Silvers, Rachael McMillan, Nancy Olson, Rick Partin, Shirley Splittstoesser, and Jerry Walsh.

Articles, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Anna Conner, George Fahey, Judy Fierke, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Mary Lou Menches, Fr. John Pham, Cathy Salika, Shirley Splittstoesser, and Mary Tate. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Jerry Walsh; page layout by John Colombo.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Anna Conner

Rhubarb Custard Pie

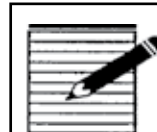
3 eggs
2-2/3 T milk
1-1/4 c sugar
4 T flour
3/4 t nutmeg
4-5 cups rhubarb
1 T butter
9" unbaked pie shell



Mix eggs, lightly beaten, and milk in a large bowl and set aside. Mix well sugar, flour, and nutmeg, and add to egg mixture. Wash and cut rhubarb into inch-long pieces and add to mixture. Pour into pie crust and dot with butter. Cover edges of pie crust with foil to avoid over-browning. Bake 50-60 minutes at 420°, then turn oven down to 375° for the last 20 minutes.

* * *

If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, mmenches@illinois.edu). The only requirement is that it be easy and quick to prepare!



Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of In Focus is **Sunday, September 12.**