



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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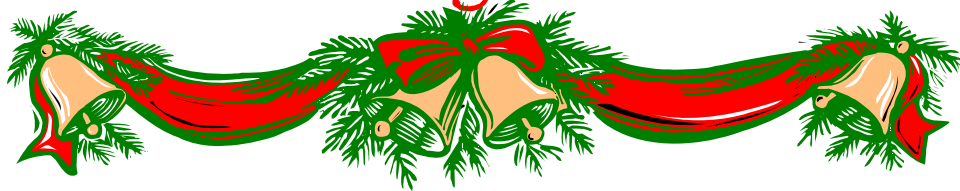


# CONNECTIONS

December 2009



## Christmas Magic at St. Peter's



### March to the Manger

December 6



Nothing says St. Peter's like our "March to the Manger" traditional service. People come forward in costume as the story of the Christ child's birth is told. From year to year, no one knows who will don the costumes so that the nativity becomes real for us all.

### A Christmas Cantata

December 13

Our choir is a wonderful choir led by internationally known Zachary Carretin. They will be treating our ears and our hearts in worship to some old carols that we don't hear very often anymore. The Cantata will be enhanced by solos and instrumental music as well. God will be praised in old ways but with renewed passion!



### A Fruitcake Christmas!

December 20, Children's Program

You will enjoy watching our children as they weave the theme of this year, "Fruits of the Spirit" into an activity meant for the Christmas season! They will be adding their own special ingredients to the batter and the cake will be delicious to our souls. Meanwhile, if you claim to have the one fruitcake recipe that EVERYONE likes, please bring it for coffee hour! We will enjoy a fruitcake sampling experience.



### A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

with Special Music, December 24, 6:00 p.m.

Of course, Christmas worship wouldn't be right without a candlelight service. This service will include a time for children and wonderfully special music with some guest musicians! We will enjoy a time for "Silent Night" while the candles glow in anticipation of the birth of Christ.



### Christmas Caroling!

If you would like to bring joy to many people who are home and nursing home bound, please come and sing with us as we travel to our church members to help them feel our Christmas spirit all around them!

Please meet at the church at 1:00 p.m. on December 13. Pastor Laurie will have a route for us all to follow so we can bring Christmas cheer to all. Please sign up in the hall for this event so we know approximately how many to tell the facilities to expect.

Can't sing? No problem! Just smile and mouth the words! The Holy Spirit and the Angels will drown you out!

### Christmas Music Galore!

December 27 — We will continue our enjoyment of the Christmas season with the singing of lots of carols and Christmas hymns that bring joy to each of our hearts. Rev. Tom Norwalk, our Eastern Association Minister, will lead the service.



### Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Sign up to "ring in the season" for the Salvation Army! Ringers are needed from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 12 at the County Market on Kirby and Duncan.

But wait . . . There's More!

## All-Church Christmas Open House

Don't miss the Tuesday Circle's All-Church Christmas Open House on December 15 at the home of JoAnn Malloch. Vegetable soup will be ready to eat at 12 noon and 5:00 p.m. or anytime in between. Arrive at anytime and stay as long as you wish. Please sign-up on the bulletin board. Contact JoAnn at 356-8030 if you have any questions.



## A Christmas Fund

The last of Our Church's Wider Mission giving opportunities is right around the corner. A Christmas Fund is an offering used to support retired pastoral personnel in need of assistance. In 2009 there were more than 1,500 people affected by this ministry. Of those, more than 20 are greater than 100 years old! We will be collecting this offering on December 20, 2009. Please pray about this offering and consider your gift toward helping our former church leaders. Be on the lookout for more information on this opportunity in the coming weeks!



## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Hark the Herald Angels Sing! Glory to the Newborn King! This is the time for music playing in stores, in our cars and homes, and most importantly in our worship. We hear ourselves humming or singing along as the music goes on. In the beginning of December, it helps to "put us in the mood" and helps us to remember the reason for why we are shopping for others. We are celebrating the birth of a child who has changed the world, saved the world and has touched our own hearts.

So, here's my challenge! So many of you have told me that you need help in knowing how to "evangelize". "Evangel" means to tell the good news. So, my instruction, especially at this time of year when we have so many wonderful programs going on that you can invite your friends to . . . is to follow the angels (true evangelists, notice their name is in the middle) . . . The first thing they normally say is "Do not fear." This is important especially to folks who have not been to a church or have had difficult experiences in churches. They don't go to church because they are afraid. They need someone to explain what's going to happen, or

that their casual clothing is appropriate, etc. They need to know you will sit with them and help them through the service. It may be helpful for them to see a bulletin ahead of time. Keep one in your glove compartment, so you not only have my numbers if you need them, but you can also share what happens.

The second message of angels is "Good news!" When we experience something wonderful in our lives, we share that good news with others. "Did you try that new restaurant?" "Have you ever shopped at this new store?" Then, we proceed to tell our friends why we like it and what it's doing for us, personally. If we are inspired by the wonders of music and God's message in worship, we can tell them the same thing. I know that it's sometimes difficult to bring up the conversation about church, but here, now, in this special season, the opportunity looms around us! "What are you doing for Christmas this year" is a common conversation! Be sure to include that you are going to worship and what's happening at that worship service for that conversation!

The angels always praise God! When you are telling your family and friends about your life, if you give God the glory for the gifts and blessings you have, this praise to God will be and is very contagious! Everyone wants to be involved in goodness! It's far too underrated in our society! Goodness is what helps us stay accountable to each other, to work on our relationships, to see the silver lining and to act in accordance to what will make God happy! Love, truth, justice, hope and kindness, amongst others.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing! This Christmas, YOU be an angel and sing Glory to the Newborn King!

And the joyful and peaceful blessings of Christmas be with you now and always . . . from my family to yours,  
Peace, *Pastors Laurie and Steve*



## Annual Report Submissions

Committee Chairs, it's the time again in the year where we need to start gathering your submissions for the 2009 annual report. Your submission should include: members of your committee, goals for 2009, activities and successes of 2009, and any goals you may have for 2010. If you need any guidance on your report don't hesitate to contact us and we can help make sure you cover all the essentials! Please submit your reports to the Church and Ministry Committee no later than January 17, 2010. Thanks!

*Church and Ministry Committee  
Nick Voss, Ann Swearingen,  
Fern Eheart, Gary Hollen, Jeff Jewett*



## Holiday Office Hours

The Church Office will be closed December 24, 2009 through January 3, 2010.



## In Memoriam

The families of three members of St. Peter's Church family are in our thoughts and prayers during this holiday time.

**Maxine L. Colson** passed from this life to life eternal on November 9, 2009 at the age of 90. Maxine was born September 24, 1919, the daughter of Marion L. and Callie Webb. On November 9, 1941, Maxine was united in marriage to Roy Colson.

Maxine was a graduate of the Shioton, Wisconsin High School and attended beauty school in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She was employed as a cosmetologist, as well as being a devoted military wife and homemaker.

A long-time member of St. Peter's, Maxine utilized her love of needlework and handcrafts by participating in a weekly church sewing circle.

Survivors include a son, Steve Colson, and his wife Tina, of Vienna, Illinois; a daughter-in-law, Karen Colson of Hagerstown, Maryland; grandchildren Chad and Micki Colson, Paul Colson and Quin Colson; and several nieces and nephews. Maxine was preceded in death by her parents, Marion L. Webb and Callie Webb Sayers; her husband, Roy; and son John Gilbert Colson.

**Dr. Merwyn Zarbuck**, 78, died at Illini Heritage Nursing Home on Monday, November 9, 2009.

Dr. Zarbuck was born on August 30, 1931, to Gustav Zarbuck and Bertha Hethke Zarbuck in Normal. He married Joan Henson on February 17, 1951.

He is survived by his children, Kathleen Cullop, Joleen Anderson, Merwyn Zarbuck Jr., Tucker Zarbuck, Colleen Zarbuck and Angeleen Zarbuck all of Champaign; Dr. Todd Zarbuck of Urbana, Lorleen Davis of Savoy, Taraleen File of Mansfield and Merleen Becker of San Leandro, California; 19 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by one brother, Dr. Gwain Zarbuck of Champaign. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Joan.

Dr. Zarbuck attended Trinity Lutheran grade school and Bloomington High School. He graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic, and began practicing at Zarbuck Chiropractic Clinic, Urbana, in 1951. As a doctor of chiropractic for over 50 years, Merwyn was a man of unfailingly good humor and compassion.



**George L. Malloch**, passed from earthly life to life eternal on November 13, 2009 at the age of 77.

George was born September 21, 1932, in Urbana, a son of George G. Malloch and Mabel Smith. His parents were divorced and his mother then married Maurice "Doc" King who raised him. He married Jo Ann Eichhorst on June 6, 1953.

George He graduated from Urbana High School in 1950, where he played football and basketball. He entered the U.S. Navy in 1951, stationed in Norfolk, Va.

He was assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet on the USS Tidewater. He was discharged in 1955.

He farmed for the Hammel family in Thomasboro and he worked for Illini FS delivering gas. He sold Country Companies Insurance. He started at the University of Illinois Fire Department in 1962 and retired as a Battalion Chief in 1990. During his tenure at the university, he also worked at Willard Airport as a Crash Rescue Specialist. He worked for Frasca International and Colberts Kitchens as a carpenter.

In 1972, he started George Malloch Company and started building houses, installing garage doors and openers. He also repaired small appliances, and was an authorized service representative for Nutone for 15 years.

George enjoyed bowling, playing softball, playing cards, and attending his children's and grandchildren's school activities and sporting events. He was an avid sports fan and loved watching the Illini and any sporting event his grandchildren were involved in. He loved spending time with his family.

He was an active member of St. Peter's United Church of Christ. He served as Trustee for Hensley Township for many years and as a representative on the regional planning committee. George was a member of the American Legion Post 24 in Champaign and a member of the Champaign County Farm Bureau.

Survivors include his wife, JoAnn and children, Steve Malloch (Debbie) of Urbana, Diann Wingler (Bill) of Urbana, Sally Martinie (Jim) of Champaign, and Beth Trotter Aquino of Rankin; grandchildren, Jerry Lighty of Urbana, Rick Malloch (Michelle) of Savoy, Susan Lighty of Urbana, Bryan Malloch (Erica) of Champaign, Randy Prince of Urbana, Chris Wingler (Amber) of Monticello, Dan Wingler of Savoy, Kate Martinie Berry (Sean) of Lexington, John Martinie (Jackie) of Savoy, Mike Martinie of Savoy, Rob Trotter (Tracie) of St. Joseph, Jessi Trotter Kasper (Blake), Rico Aquino, of Rankin; great-grandchildren, Bergen and Mitchell Lighty, Tanner and Addison Malloch, Eden Trotter of St. Joseph, Sophie and Jack Kasper; two brothers, Russell Malloch (Pat) of Mahomet and Phillip King.

He was preceded in death by his parents and stepfather, as well as a daughter-in-law, Christie Hoss Malloch, and a son-in-law, Mark Aquino.



## There's a New Cook-Off Queen!



Well, the queen chili maker had to give up her prize crown, I mean, apron to LiAnne Kitchen in the annual "Cook-off" for the Hanging of the Greens. The prize winning recipe follows . . . it was yummy! Other soups, breads and desserts were yummy, too! Thanks everyone for staying to decorate the church!

### Rueben Soup

6 c. chicken broth	½ c. chopped onion
¾ c. cooked corned beef, chopped	½ t. dried thyme
1-10 oz. can sauerkraut, drained	¼ t. white pepper
1 large carrot, grated	¼ t. dried tarragon
1 garlic clove, minced	1 bay leaf
3 T. cornstarch	2 c. shredded Swiss cheese
⅓ c. water	1 c. whipping cream
	rye bread cubes, toasted

Combine first 10 ingredients in a large Dutch oven. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 30 minutes. Remove and discard bay leaf.

Combine corn starch and water, stirring until smooth, stir mixture into soup. Bring to a boil; boil 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Add shredded cheese and whipping cream, stirring until cheese melts. Top with toasted rye bread cubes. Yield: 12 cups



## December Anniversaries

3 Jim and Jill Acheson (1955)  
23 Howard and Felice Rhodes (1951)

## December Birthdays

2 Violet McDuffee  
Sean Taylor  
11 Jim Hershberger  
16 Vicky Welser  
17 Allison Wrobel  
20 William O'Neill  
Maura Healy  
21 Kaitlyn Edwards  
23 Meta Greeson  
25 Jesus Christ  
Sharon Jeter  
Carole Vilchis  
29 Lindsey Hallett  
Jeff Taylor



Editor's Note: We apologize for omissions or errors. Information for the newsletter mailing list, birthday list and anniversary list is taken from Church records. Please report changes in writing to the Church Office. You may mail changes, place notes in the Office Manager's mailbox or send an email to office@stpetersucc.com. Thanks for your help!

## Consecrated Stewards

November 8, 2009 marked a very important day in the stewardship of St. Peter's. We celebrated and committed ourselves to our giving of time, talents and treasures for the 2010 year. Great times were had by all. There was beautiful music and the sharing of much joy through the fellowship of our church family. Plus, great food! The Stewardship and Mission Committee is very grateful for all those who helped put this event on.

Thanks to Zachary and Chris for the sharing of their musical talents. Thanks to Bonnie and Judy for printing, stuffing and mailing all of the associated letters. Thanks to Melissa, Mark and Amy for the generous sharing of their experiences in this church that we might all have remembered why our church is such an important part of our lives. Thanks to our consecrating steward, Larry McCure, for his time and his inspiration on this year's journey. Thanks to Jocelyn for putting it all together, and of course thanks to Pastor Laurie for her leadership and guidance.

Most of all thanks to all of you — a giving and generous congregation whose time, talents and treasure keep our church and our programs of Christian love running each and every day.

I'm sure you all would like to know the results of the campaign. Please be watching the newsletter and expect announcements in church as the office finalizes tallying all the numbers still coming in. If you haven't yet pledged for 2010 please consider doing so. There are additional pledge cards available from the church office and they can be sent in anytime.

Thanks again to everyone for their support, their gifts, their time and their talents.

*Your Stewardship and Mission Committee,  
Jocelyn Voss, Nick Voss, Fern Eheart*



## Church Mailbag

*Thank you seems very inadequate for all you people did for our family after George's death – Laurie's understanding presence, marvelous service, Chris' beautiful voice and organ – the calls, the hugs, the food, the hugs, the sound system, the bells, the hugs – Our family will never forget.*

*JoAnn Malloch & Family*

## December Ushers

Lee Eichhorst	Gary Hollen	Lester Rabe
Sandy Eichhorst	Jeff Jewett	Larry Zahnd

*Have a safe and blessed*

*Merry Christmas!*

*from St. Peter's Staff*





# December

## St. Peter's United Church of Christ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9 a.m. Weight Loss Support Group	<b>2</b> 6 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> March to the Manger 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Communion 11:15 a.m. Bells Second Sunday in Advent	<b>7</b> 6 p.m. Worship Committee	<b>8</b> 9 a.m. Weight Loss Support Group 6 p.m. Building & Grounds	<b>9</b> 6 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 5 p.m. Illini Country Stitchers – Fellowship Hall	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Choir Cantata Third Sunday in Advent 1 p.m. Caroling Party	<b>14</b> 5:30 p.m. Church & Ministry 6:30 p.m. Stewardship & Missions	<b>15</b> 9 a.m. Weight Loss Support Group 12 noon All Church Open House at JoAnn Malloch's 7 p.m. Mayberry Bible Study <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>16</b> 6 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 5 p.m. Craft Club	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Children's Program Fourth Sunday in Advent Consistory Meeting	<b>21</b> First Day of Winter	<b>22</b> 9 a.m. Weight Loss Support Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Office Closed <i>Christmas Eve</i> 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> Office Closed <i>Christmas</i>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10 a.m. Worship Guest Speaker: Rev. Tom Norwalk	<b>28</b> Office Closed	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b> Office Closed	<b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i> Office Closed		



Friday/Saturday – Pastor's days off

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905 South Russell Street  
Champaign, Illinois 61821-4419

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



## NEWSLETTER

### Church Office Phone: (217) 356-3635

Church website: <http://www.stpetersucc.com>

Email: [office@stpetersucc.com](mailto:office@stpetersucc.com)

Office hours: Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Voicemail available after hours

### Parish Nurse Phone: (217) 356-3467

Flexible hours. Will arrange meetings by appointment.

Confidential answering machine is available.

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### Church Staff

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Zachary Carrettin  
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### Newsletter Staff

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