



St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
905 S. Russell Street  
Champaign, IL 61821  
217-356-3635  
E-mail: office@stpetersucc.com  
www.stpetersucc.com

# CONNECTIONS

November 2010

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite hymn memories is singing "I Love to Tell the Story". When our consecrating stewards, Mark Jacobs, Rhonda Shoudel and Jocelyn Voss tell about how thankful they are for St. Peter's UCC, it creates a new warm memory of "Telling the Story"! The "bio sketches" of our new consistory members and board of CE members also tell a story of gratitude. And when we hear our new office manager, Mary Anderson tell her story, it's simply heart-warming. When she expresses her love for the United Church of Christ and how she puts her skills to use as an administrative ministry to the church it's downright inspirational and motivational to me! Watching all of us work together for good, whether we're greeting or washing dishes at a Chicken Noodle dinner or stitching ornaments or patting someone on the back, makes me realize why I love being the pastor of St. Peter's and am looking forward to each new chapter of ministry as we serve and worship God together! Not only is it important to "Tell the Story", it's important to do a "happy dance" as we celebrate all God has done for and with us.

The opportunity of Celebrating and Giving Thanks is coming up! The Stewardship Committee has worked very hard on this event and hope that you will make it a special Sunday so that we can all give our thanks to God together for His many blessings in our lives! We will first worship, hearing God's message through Rev. David Robberts-Mosser, our "Witnessing Steward". During the Stewardship Moment, you will be asked to come forward and put your time and talent sheets and estimate of giving cards in a basket. The basket will be on the floor level for those of you who struggle with stairs and ushers will help those who need the plate delivered to them. (We will have extra for those who need them). Chris Holman will play soft, reflective music will play while we all are asking God to guide us toward our giving estimates. Charts are included in this newsletter to help us all see where we are and pray about how much we can offer in thanksgiving.

Then we will celebrate how we are so very gifted by our God in abundance! We will be enjoying a catered lunch (don't worry, it is budgeted for and reasonably priced)

and enjoy a few minutes (15-20 minutes) of special music from our own Chris Holman and Jodi Prosser. Mostly we will be celebrating how wonderful God is to us, His sons and daughters at St. Peter's United Church of Christ.

Love and Peace,  
Pastor Laurie

## New Office Manager!

The Church & Ministry committee & I, with the consistory's blessing, are pleased to introduce you to our new office manager, Mary Anderson. We reviewed over 45 resumes and selected the one who has been our temporary help. Mary is a member of Community United Church of Christ and was strongly recommended by Patty Kobel, who has been training her, her pastor, her pastor's husband and Rev. Karen Bush, campus minister. In the temporary position, she has been learning and catching on very quickly to the way our church is managed. However, please give her some time to learn, remember and when she makes a mistake, show her how St. Peter's is a church filled with grace, like the way you do with me. I have asked Mary to write a short bio sketch, which you can find below. Please join me in welcoming our newest staff member and her family on Oct. 31st and/or whenever you drop by the office. ~Pastor Laurie

Hello!- My name is Mary Anderson and I am so thrilled to be serving at St. Peter's United Church of Christ! I was born and raised here in Champaign, graduating from Centennial in 19(cough). I can remember fondly coming to St. Peter's as part of the CUCC youth group and participating in Dance-A-Thons, Rock-A-Thons and Lock-Ins to raise money to attend RYE, NYE and several General Synods, even serving as a youth delegate at the El Paso, TX meeting. I have enjoyed walking around the building and having those happy memories come flooding back. I will be married to Jared for 14 years on November 9<sup>th</sup> and we have two boys, Brent, who is a junior at Centennial and Brady who is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Jefferson. Outside of work, I am a voracious reader and a lapsed scrapbook addict. I love football but was advised that perhaps it will not be wise to mention my favorite team (it rhymes with Clean Day Hackers). Thank you again for your warm Welcome and continued patience!

**Mary**

## Young St. Peter's Group Forming~

Are you in your 20's or 30's or thereabouts? Join Pastor Laurie for dinner on November 2nd at 6:00 pm to think, dream, and ponder the possibilities of a new group especially for you!! Pastor Laurie will make her "famous" beef stew and salad and bread, and a yummy dessert. Babysitting will be provided with kid friendly food, if needed. Please let Pastor Laurie know asap, via email, facebook, note, or in person as soon as possible if you can make it. If you can't make it but have an idea of what you'd like to have happen, let her know. She'll add your voice to the others.

## Totenfest~ November 7<sup>th</sup>

We are soon approaching our celebration of Totenfest. This is a celebration of our family and/or friends who have passed away in the last year (since last November 1st, 2010). Of course, we have the names of church members who have passed, but if you have someone whose life you would like to celebrate and remember, please either fill out one of the forms in the office or send your request via note or email to Pastor Laurie or the church office with your name, the name of your loved one, their relationship to you and their date of death. Also indicate if you would like to come forward to light the candle during the service. If you don't indicate it, then Pastor Laurie or the liturgist will read the name for you.

Also if you have friends and family you would like to invite for this service, please feel free to do so! See Pastor Laurie for concerns and/or questions.

- Your name
- Name of the honored
- Relationship to you
- Date of death
- Would you like to light the candle when your honored one's name is called?



## Hanging of the Greens and Casserole Cookoff!

November 21 – Stay after worship to help decorate the church building for the Advent and Christmas season . . . and then, we will have a Casserole Cookoff!

Do you think you can take the Winning Prize Apron away from our last year's Soup winner, LiAnne Kitchen? If you think you have what it takes, sign up on the bulletin board in the hall! We had a great time last year tasting the many soups. They were all yummy! Let's look forward to some of your favorite casseroles this year!

## 2011 Nominees for Consistory and Board of Christian Education

The nominating committee is happy to introduce to you the newly elected member(s) to Consistory, Trustee, and the Board of Christian Education. I would like to thank the members of this year's nominating committee for their service in helping to find those called to serve in these capacities within our church. So, a great many thanks to: **Bonnie Joop, Lee Eichorst, Fern Eheart, Celeste Honn, and Gladys Hemp.** Further I want to thank our new church leaders for their upcoming service! Regards, *Nick Voss, Chair of the Nominating Committee*

### Les Rabe – Consistory

I grew up on a farm in Western Illinois and was confirmed in the Payson Congregational U.C.C. I attended Southern Illinois University where Nancy and I were married. After military service I moved to Champaign to attend graduate school at the University of Illinois and remained in Champaign after graduation. A special interest of mine is Christian education. When I am not programming computers at work, I enjoy reading philosophy, theology and Biblical history.

### Melissa Records – Consistory

I grew up in Washington, D.C. and attended the First Congregational United Church of Christ during my childhood. My family moved to Washington State, then to the Chicago area. I moved to Champaign-Urbana in 1978 to attend UIUC and just never left! I've worked as an archaeologist, a cartographer, a computer technician, and for the last 13 years as a reference librarian at the Champaign Public Library. I started attending St. Peter's after my parents became members. I've been involved in BCE for the last couple of years and in the Focus Outreach Group. Through their loving care, the members of St. Peter's have truly blessed me by showing me concrete examples of God's love in action. I enjoy walking, mountain biking and gardening and I seem to spend a fair amount of time trying to figure out how to fix things around my house.

### Mark Jacobs – Consistory

I'm the guy you might have seen bumping around the church with a white cane. I have recently had to face the challenge of a loss of vision and this has led to a period of self-examination as I prepare myself for the next chapter in my life. From the first time I came to St. Peter's, I was impressed with the warm, genuine welcome I received, which led to me becoming a member. I am a native of the State of Kansas and earned a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois. I consider Champaign-Urbana to be my home and am grateful to the St. Peter's community for the opportunity to participate in church work, activities, and leadership.

### **Amy Durukan – Consistory**

I have been a member of St. Peter's since I was confirmed at age 12. I was baptized and married here, and my daughter Erin was baptized here, too. I've served two terms on the Board of Christian Education, and am currently on Women's Fellowship and Stewardship Committee. I feel that I know a little about a lot of different parts of our church. It would be a privilege to serve on Consistory.

### **Ann Swearingen – Trustee**

I have been a member of St. Peter's since I was confirmed in the church. I was active in the youth group, taught Sunday school and sang in the choir before I was married. Rich and I were married at St. Peter's and our three children were baptized and confirmed here. Two of them were also married here. I taught Sunday school and Bible School during many of those years and was active in the Tuesday Evening Circle. I have served on the Consistory before and held the position of secretary, benevolence treasurer, general treasurer and vice president. Most recently I have served on the Church and Ministry committee for several years, chaired the Women's Fellowship and am currently a member of the altar committee. Rich and I are still involved in our farming operation with our son Brian, I handle my mother's farm business and my mother-in-laws business affairs. We have nine grandchildren and two great-granddaughters. We enjoy attending their activities and special events such as baptisms, confirmations, graduations, and music and sports programs. For relaxation I love to read, garden and golf. I look forward to taking on the role of trustee of St. Peter's United Church of Christ.

### **Shari Schultz – Board of Christian Education**

Hi, I'm Shari Schultz and I live in Champaign. Mark Schultz and I have been married about 11 1/2 years now. I was raised in Monticello and am an only child. I have two grown sons Nick (Jocelyn) and Adam (Melissa). When Nick & Adam were teenagers, in a big moment of insanity, I agreed to have another baby. Sam is my final son. I am the Fulfillment Director (customer service) at Human Kinetics where I've worked for 19 years. I've always had a love of reading, have a strong musical history and a love of rose bushes in every yard I've lived in.

### **Lisa Carson (Wright) – Board of Christian Education**

My name is Lisa Carson. I grew up in a small town called Oreana near Decatur, Illinois. I have lived in Champaign for seven years. I recently married Michael Carson. We have two children, Carolina Barnard, and Sophia Carson. I stay pretty busy at home taking care of my girls. I am also a licensed daycare provider and care for several other children each week, including two of my nieces and one nephew. When I do have any spare time, I love to scrapbook and make greeting

cards, and of course spend time with my family. I am so happy to be a part of St. Peter's church and look forward to serving on the Board of Christian Education and to continue serving the Lord!

### **Amanda (Burr) Fougue**

I have attended St Peter's United Church of Christ all my life with my mother and my aunt. Growing up in the Church, I participated in Sunday School, WINN, SHLURPEE and multiple Cabaret programs. I also attended church camp at Pilgrim Park. I have been a member of the handbell choir off and on as school has allowed. Now that I am married and living in Urbana, I feel that St Peter's is my church home and I am very interested in seeing our Christian education program continue and grow especially our youth programs.

## **THANK YOU!!!!**

To all those who helped in the Chicken Noodle Dinner!!! A Big Thank You goes to Patty Kobel and Celeste Honn who did the planning and the buying and the organizing and the directing and all that which goes before the rest of us worker bees show up to work! But thanks to all who made this event possible! We appreciate everyone from the dessert bakers to the dessert servers, potato peelers to mashers, chicken buyers to those who scooped them onto plates, and dish setters to dish doers!! Get ready for our sausage supper on February 26, 2011. . . we'll be hauling out the pots and pans for that dinner, too!

St. Peter's is known for their dinners . . . we are known for our welcoming spirit and delicious food! Let's become known for our worshipful and welcoming spirit all the time! Thanks again to everyone who helped make St. Peter's a place of comfort and warmth!

## **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the December issue of *Connections* is Monday, November 15. Please submit articles to the Church Office or leave them in the Office Manager's mailbox. Please include your name and phone number. Thank you!



## **Church Mailbag**

*St. Peter's- The breakfast that you supplied for our walk was amazing! We fed an army of volunteer, the entire Parkland basketball team, and provided snack for several classrooms who had a REALLY late lunch that day.*

*Your generosity touched our hearts!*

~ Westview PTA & Staff



## November Acolyte

- 7 Sam Schultz
- 14 Roy Yoos
- 21 Erin Durukan
- 28 Carolina Barnard

## November Liturgist

- 7 Ann Swearingen
- 14 Rhonda Shoudel
- 21 Terri Smith
- 28 Advent Candles #1

## November Ushers

- Amy Durukan
- Carolyn Hamrick
- Bill Kuhne
- Marjory Seitz
- Ann Swearingen
- Richard Swearingen (Team Captain)

## November Anniversaries

- 4 Steve and Laurie Hill (1978)
- 9 Mary and Jared Anderson (1996)



## November Birthdays

- 4 Sean Berry
- 5 Marjory Seitz
- 7 Clayborn Lofton
- 8 Jocelyn Voss
- 12 Barbara Schaeede
- 13 Michael Martinie
- 15 JoAnn Malloch
- 18 Dorothy Woller
- 19 Larry Zahnd
- 20 Barb Kobel
- 21 William Lyons
- 23 Doris Drake
- 26 Bobbie Burr
- 27 Esther Lyons
- Barb Jewett
- Jim Berbaum
- 28 Elton Roberts
- 29 Cara Marcum
- Pam Berbaum
- 30 Dorothy Yates



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](mailto:office@stpetersucc.com). Thanks for your help!

## "A Musical Salute... To Those Who Serve"

Sunday, November 7, 2010 • 7:00 p.m.



The CHORALE opens its 28<sup>th</sup> Season with its annual **Celebration of Life** Concert at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 7, 2010. This year's concert, "A Musical Salute..To Those Who Serve", features works by guest conductor, Dr. Craig Jessop. This year's concert presents music honoring all who serve their county in the interest of peace. This free concert will be held at McKinley Presbyterian Church, 809 S. Fifth Street, Champaign. Donations to The CHORALE's Scholarship Fund are gratefully received. Additional information about The CHORALE and the upcoming concert are available at [www.thechorale.org](http://www.thechorale.org).

## Book Review- Les Rabe

The Celtic Way of Evangelism by George G. Hunter, III.

Last winter I did some reading on Christian Evangelism as I was engaged in thinking about the growth opportunities of the congregation at St. Peters. One of my first readings was this very interesting book by George Hunter. My son had engaged me in reading Thomas Cahill's book "How the Irish Saved Civilization", so this book stood out as an interesting sequel when I discovered it on the United Church of Christ's web page as a recommended book.

Dr. Hunter starts out with a refresher of the life of St. Patrick. Dr. Hunter tells the full story of his conversion and ministry while including much about the culture and times that Patrick encountered both in England and in Ireland. An understanding of how Christianity interacts with the surrounding culture is woven throughout the book. Chapter 2 expands on this cultural perspective by contrasting the culture of Irish Christians of Patrick's time versus the Christianity in both England and continental Europe. Chapter 3 continues this theme with a look at how the Irish Church functioned for the next two centuries after Patrick contrasted with the "Roman Way" of Christianity pursued by Pope Benedict on the European Continent.

In Chapters 4 and 5, Dr. Hunter goes deeper in this theme, developing the "Celtic Model" of Evangelism which proceeds in stages from fellowship, to ministry, to belief. This is contrasted with the "Roman Model" which proceeds in stages from preaching, to conversion, and then to fellowship. He offers evidence that suggests that the Celtic Model is a model that resembles the

findings of contemporary social science for a model that will be more successful in changing the attitudes and beliefs of people.

Dr. Hunter presents further information in Chapter 6 that the way of spreading the Gospel in the Celtic tradition used the ideas and symbols of the existing Celtic culture to lead unbelievers toward the Church. The symbols of the existing culture were used as a bridge to explain the truth of the Christian message to the unbelievers. Chapter 7 then applies this method to situations of the church today, and proposes some ways in which the Christian message can be presented to those who are searching for the truth but who have not yet discovered the Christian message.

I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the growth of the Church or who is interested to think about how their daily interaction with others is really a valuable source of ministry. It is also an interesting book to read for its telling of a history that is not well known. I enjoyed the book, and I am putting my copy in the library at St. Peters for others to enjoy.

## 14 Thoughts on Being or Becoming Generous ([www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org))

1. From the heart it has come, To the heart shall it go.~*Beethoven's inscription of his Mass*

2. So I would hope they would develop some kind of habit that involves understanding that their life is so full they can afford to give in all kinds of ways to other people. I consider that to be baseline spirituality.~*Susan Sarandon*

3. Living in the moment gives you a sense of reverence for all of life's blessings. What I know for sure is that what you give comes back to you.~*Oprah Winfrey*

4. You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes, you might find, you get what you need.~*The Rolling Stones*

5. Many people think money is something to be set aside for a rainy day. But honestly, how much money do you really need for a dozen or so hours of inclement weather?~*Miss Piggy*

6. Keep feeling the need for being first. But I want you to be the first in love. I want you to be the first in moral excellence. I want you to be the first in generosity.~*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

7. Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others.~*Barbara Bush*

8. When I chased after money, I never had enough. When I got my life on purpose and focused on giving of myself and everything that arrived into my life, then I was prosperous.~*Wayne Dyer*

9. Hard as it may be to believe in these days of infectious greed and sabers unsheathed, scientists have discovered that the small, brave act of cooperating with another person, of choosing trust over cynicism, generosity over selfishness, makes the brain light up with quiet joy.~*Natalie Angier, The New York Times*

10. Giving is God's way. It is the way that I now understand is the truth of the Universe. Giving multiplies me and makes me feel complete and fulfilled. Giving makes me feel that I make a real and important difference.~*Mark Victor Hansen and Robert G. Allen, The One Minute Millionaire: The Enlightened Way to Wealth*

11. It is the heart that does the giving; the fingers only let go.~*Nigerian saying*

12. If you haven't any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble. ~*Bob Hope*

13. Seeker, empty the boat, lighten the load, be free of craving and judgment and hatred, and feel the joy of the way. ~*Buddha*

14. I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.~*Lauren, age 4*

### Consecration Sunday November 14th, 2010

#### Worship & Celebration Dinner!!!!

During Worship:

- Rev. David Robberts-Mosser, our Consecration Steward will preach.
- We will be dedicating ourselves in time, talent and treasure during the service.

After Worship:

- We will be enjoying a catered dinner from Foudini's! You won't have to bring a thing!
- Enjoy a short musical presentation by Jodi Prosser and Chris Holman.

**PLEASE RSVP ASAP!!!** We would like this to be a Wonderful Family Celebration so we need everyone!!! Friends, family, Everyone's invited!!!! Come to the Feast of Thanks!



# November



## St. Peter's United Church of Christ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 6 p.m. Worship Comm.	<b>2</b> 9 a.m. Stitches 9 a.m. Weight Loss Support Group 6 p.m.- Young St. Peter's Dinner  <i>Election Day</i>	<b>3</b> 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 10 a.m.- Graveside Memorial for Leonard Lloyds Stevens	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10 a.m. Worship Communion  <i>Totenfest</i>	<b>8</b> 5:30 p.m. Church & Ministry 6:00 p.m. Stewardship & Missions	<b>9</b> 9 a.m. Stitches 9 a.m. Weight Loss Support Group 6 p.m. Building & Grounds	<b>10</b> 6 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b>  <i>Veteran's Day</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 Stewardship Meeting and Luncheon <i>Stewardship Sunday</i>	<b>15</b> 6 p.m. Consistory  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>16</b> 9 a.m. Stitches 9 a.m. Weight Loss Support Group	<b>17</b> 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 5 p.m. Craft Club 6 p.m. Illini Country Stitches - Fellowship Hall	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 Hanging of the Greens and Casserole Cookoff  	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9 a.m. Stitches 9 a.m. Weight Loss Support Group 7 p.m. Mayberry Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <i>Thanksgiving</i>  Office Closed	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>  
<b>28</b> 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Board of Christian Education  First Sunday of Advent	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Tuesday Circle				

Friday/Saturday – Pastor's days off

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



## NEWSLETTER

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

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

Pastor	Laurie H. Hill
Office Manager	Mary Anderson
Parish Nurse	LiAnne Kitchen
Choir Director	Jodi Prosser
Organist	Chris Holman
Custodian	Carol Martin
	Janet Martin

### Newsletter Staff

Editor and Layout	Mary Anderson
Historian	Virginia Zindars

### Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship

