

THE BEACON

“Empowered Christians Serving God’s People”

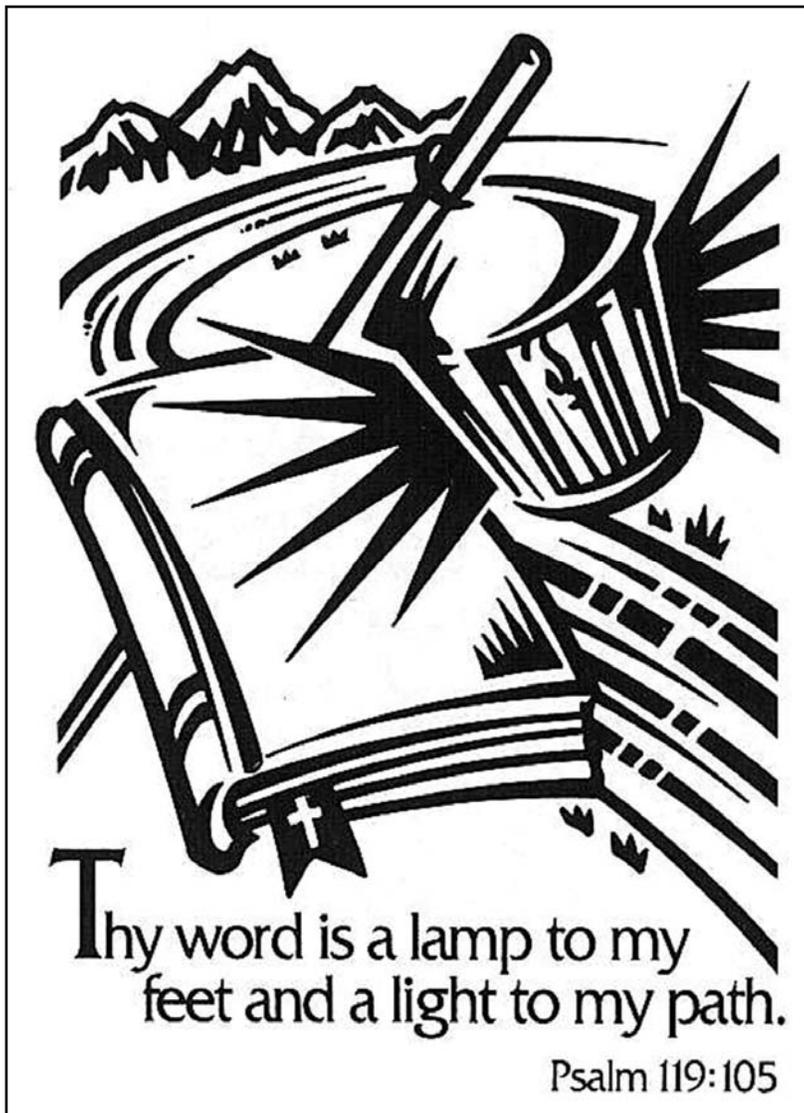
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Rev. Rebecca Erb Strang, Pastor

February, 2013



In This Issue...

Page 2

Serving St. Paul – Council; Committees;
Staff Members

Pages 3-4-5

From Our Pastor; Mission; News & Events,
Thank You

Pages 5-6

Greeters; Accompanists; Meetings;
Directory; This 'n hat

Page 7

Nursing Home; Birthdays; Anniversaries

Pages 8-9

Council Minutes

Page 10

Calendar

Page 11

Youth

Serving St. Paul Church

2013 Church Council (meets 2nd Tue)

(Transacts routine business of the church)

John Voress Interim 2nd yr. President
 TBA 2nd yr. Vice President
 Kathy Topp 2nd yr. Recording Secretary
 Randy Clark 1st yr. Treasurer
 Dee Schroer Sr. Elder
 Tim May Jr. Elder
 Brian Schemmel 3rd yr., Sr. Trustee
 John Mohrman 2nd yr. Trustee
 Allen Bushman 1st yr. Trustee
 Jim Mullins 2nd yr. Deacon/Head Deacon
 Betty Dietrich 2nd yr. Deacon
 Diane Gilberg 2nd yr. Deacon
 Terri Goodwin 2nd yr. Deacon
 Brad Holdren 2nd yr. Deacon
 Donna Schmitmeyer 2nd yr. Deacon
 Mark Dicke 1st yr. Deacon
 Myra Hanenkraat 1st yr. Deacon
 Ragan Miller 1st yr. Deacon
 Bill Tostrick 1st yr. Deacon
 George Voress 1st yr. Deacon
 Carol Wilson 1st yr. Deacon
 TBA Youth Representative
 Brook Schmitmeyer Bd. of Christian Ed Rep.

Board of Christian Education (meets 3rd Tue)

(Partnering with Families, the St. Paul UCC Board of Christian Education strives to guide our children through weekly educational opportunities and ongoing mission outreach)

Stephanie Dicke Director of Christian Education
 Shelly Smart Sunday School Supt.
 Brook Schmitmeyer Asst. Sunday School Supt.
 Theresa Hemmelgarn Representative
 Terri Mullins Representative
 Kristi Voisard Representative
 TBA Representative
 TBA Representative
 TBA Representative
 TBA Representative

Pastoral Relations Committee

Tom Thieman Chairman
 Jan Fiser Member
 Amy Barhorst Member

Membership Committee

(Promotes/encourages membership and participation in St. Paul activities; church publicity; confirmation reunion)

Tom Braun Cindy Newman
 Dennis Dicke Bev Poppe
 Darlene Gilberg Rev. Becky Erb Strang
 John Gilberg Sandy Thieman, Chr.
 Cathy Maurer John Voress
 Dick Watcke

Stewardship Board

(Secures pledges; promotes stewardship programs)

Sally Dicke 3rd yr., Chr.
 Linda Hainline 3rd yr.
 Ann Kuhn 2nd yr.
 Sally Wissman 2nd yr.
 Kim Quellhorst 2nd yr.
 TBA 2nd yr.

Mission Team

(Raises awareness/promotes mission programs)

Sharon Fiely Amy Scheer
 John Gilberg (Chairman) Dee Schroer
 Larry & Ann Kuhn Jean Schroer
 Dot Ourwerkerk Jenn Snider
 Bev Poppe Kristi Voisard
 Gary Wehmeyer (Vice Chairman)

Worship Committee (meets bi-monthly)

Dee Schroer Sr. Elder, Chairman
 Rev. Becky Erb Strang Pastor
 Dick Hudson Organist
 TBA Adult & Bell Choir Director
 Jim Mullins Head Deacon

Budget Committee (meets in August)

(Prepares church budget for following year)

John Voress Interim Church Council President
 TBA Church Council Vice President
 Kathy Topp Church Council Secretary
 Randy Clark Church Council Treasurer
 Dee Schroer Church Council Sr. Elder
 Brian Schemmel Church Council Sr. Trustee
 Sally Dicke Chairman, Stewardship Board

Board of Controls (meets Mar-Jun-Oct)

(Administers St. Paul Memorial Fund)

John Voress Interim Church Council President
 TBA Church Council Vice President
 Brian Schemmel Church Council Sr. Trustee
 Terry Wissman 3rd yr.
 Don Scheer 2nd yr.
 Burt Fiser 2nd yr.

Staff

Rev. Becky Erb Strang Pastor
 Katie Jackson Director of Youth Ministries
 Dot Koepfer Church Office Secretary
 Anna Hoelscher Lay Minister of Visitation
 Dick Hudson Organist
 Jim Strang Interim Adult Choir Director
 TBA Bell Choir Director
 TBA Junior Choir Director
 Connie O'Neill Saturday Night Choir Director
 Stephanie Dicke Director of Christian Education
 Janet Eilerman Financial Secretary
 Barbara Holdren Bookkeeper
 Betty Hatfield Educational Building Custodian
 Greg Hainline Sanctuary Custodian
 Ralph Plattner Groundskeeper
 Kathy Topp Beacon/Web Page Editor



FROM OUR PASTOR

Wednesday, February 13, marks the beginning of Lent. At St. Paul UCC, we will honor this day with Ash Wednesday worship at 7:30 p.m.

The use of ashes for penitence dates back to at least the sixth century. However, it wasn't until the 11th century when the Lenten season began with the marking of ashes upon the foreheads of Christians.

Traditionally, the ashes used each year are made from the palm branches of the previous Palm Sunday worship. Our confirmation class will burn and prepare the palms into ash for our upcoming worship service.

For the earliest Christians, as well as for us today, Lent's six weeks offers us a "time out" to reflect on our faith, to add a spiritual discipline or two, and to prepare for the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

During Lent, I invite you to come home—come home to St. Paul UCC, come home to Christ, and come home to the Spirit that resides within.

Peace, Becky

**JOB OPENING:
BUILDING MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN**

In December, the congregation voted to hire a Building Maintenance Technician—a 20 hour/month position that will be responsible for performing routine maintenance and minor repairs on all of St. Paul properties. The position works closely with the Trustees and Senior Pastor.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact John Voess, Congregation President or Pastor Becky by February 10. Interviews will begin soon after that date with the hopes to have someone hired and ready to begin by March 1.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AND WELCOME

If St. Paul UCC has become your spiritual home, you are invited to consider taking the step of membership. A New Member Orientation will be held on Sunday, February 3, at 11:30 in the Assembly Room. Folk will be received into the life of the congregation during worship services on February 9 and 10. Please see Sandy Thieman, Membership Team Chair, or Pastor Becky if you have any questions.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP AT ELMWOOD

All are invited to Elmwood Community on Sunday, February 3, at 2:00 p.m. for worship with our sisters and brothers. We will share in Holy Communion, sing songs of our faith, and praise the Lord!

ASH WEDNESDAY: FEBRUARY 13 AT 7:30 P.M.

All are invited to the Ash Wednesday service on February 13 at 7:30 p.m. This service will include Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Come: Let us usher in Lent together!

HOLY LAND TRIP: 2014

If you have always wanted to go to the Holy Land, Pastor Becky and Jim Strang will be leading a trip to Israel January 12-22, 2014. There will also be an option for a three-day extension in Jerusalem. Brochures about the itinerary and costs should be available soon. Please see Pastor Becky if you would like to join this life-changing journey!

Mission

BLANKETS PLUS

We will be concentrating on supporting Blankets Plus as our mission project for January. This project is especially important this year due to the effort by Church World Service to provide aid to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Thousands of blankets, personal care kits, clean-up kits, etc. were distributed to those residents along the Atlantic coastline who lost everything as a result of Super Storm Sandy. We hope to restock these important relief materials with our monetary gifts to Blankets Plus. Every \$5.00 received will buy a blanket or provide items for personal care or clean-up kits. The mission Team urges members of St. Pal UCC to dig deep to provide this emergency care for others who do not have our warm, secure homes to go home to each day.

Bev Poppe, Mission Team

LENTON COIN FOLDERS

This year, money collected in the Lenten coin folders will be donated to NuVizion UCC, an inner city church in Toledo, OH. Look for more information about NuVizion in your March *Beacon* and the Sunday bulletins.

You can pick up your coin folder at the Ash Wednesday service, February 13, and also at the Saturday and Sunday services on February 16 & 17.

Amy Scheer, Mission Team

THANK YOU

Christmas has come and gone, but the money you donated to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross will help retired UCC clergy and lay employees throughout the year. Because of your generosity during the month of December, we will send \$3211 to the Christmas Fund to be used to provide assistance in situations of critical need.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Amy Scheer, Mission Team

LET'S CELEBRATE THE 5 SAND DAMS

The Mission Team is happy to announce that our congregation, with the help of some community friends, has met a goal of providing five sand dams for the drought stricken areas of Africa. We have received **\$31,725.08** for the 2012 Project of the Year. These funds will go to Church World Service to be distributed to the neediest areas. We can be proud of this mission project that will provide clean drinking water, water for health purposes, plus support for animals and gardens for thousands of African people. As usual, St. Paul UCC has met an important need beyond the doors of our community. Thank you so much.

Bev Poppe, Mission Team

EL SALVADOR TRIP PLANNED

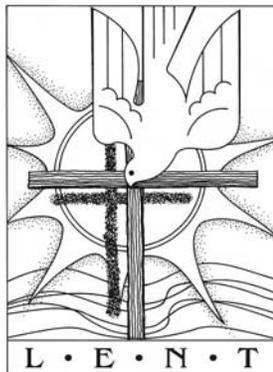
On February 28 through March 8, 2013 a trip to El Salvador is again planned. John Gilberg will be leading a group of six students and a professor from Heidelberg College to learn about the people and their culture. Also going is our pastor, Becky Erb Strang and Joyce Gilberg. Two of the students participating are the grandsons of Dr. Ralph and Sue Quellhorst. The Northwest Ohio Association is sponsoring this trip as an extension of our Global Partnership with the Lutheran Church in that country.

We will be visiting and possibly helping at an organic farm in a remote village sponsored by the church, visiting and interacting with different congregations, serving a meal at a soup kitchen, visiting historical sites and generally learning the culture of the country. We will be again taking all kinds of good used children's clothing, over-the-counter medications, soccer balls, school supplies and other useful items for the very needy people.

There will be a box on the stage in the auditorium for donated items. Checks can be written to the church for medications that will be bought at Schwieterman's Pharmacy.

Thank you for your generosity for our friends in El Salvador.

John Gilberg



News & Events

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, **February 24, 2013**, the annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following the morning worship service. At this time reports will be reviewed and any other appropriate business will be considered. It is important that St. Paul members participate in directing the program and ministry of our church. We are counting on you.

PAGE TURNERS

The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. Raised by parents with many problems of their own, the Walls children learned to take care of themselves and each other. They fed, clothed and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered. Jeannette Walls has a story to tell—a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar, but loyal, family. Join the group on Monday, **February 18**, at 1:00 p.m. in the Library to be part of the discussion of this interesting book.

Selections for the coming months: March—*The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain; April—*Waltzing at the Piggly Wiggly* by Rob Dalby; May—*An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff. These books will be available at the community library during the month that we will be reviewing them.

Sandy Thieman

SENIOR/RETIREE LUNCHEON

Would you like to enjoy a good, home-cooked meal with no fuss or muss on your part? Then join us at the next senior luncheon on Thursday, **February 21**, at noon to find out what the cooks are cooking up this time! As always, there's plenty of food and fellowship to go around. Bring a friend or two and enjoy the day. Remember, everyone is welcome—St. Paul membership is not a requirement! Please call the church office to let us know you will attend.

Senior Luncheon Committee

Thank You

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. The family of Lester Topp thanks everyone who expressed their love and sympathy and to those who sent cards, flowers and memorials. Also, thank you to all who called. A special thank you to Pastor Becky for the service, her prayers and visits. Also, thanks to the Funeral Luncheon Committee. Everyone's support was appreciated and will always be remembered.

Ruth Topp and family

FEBRUARY GREETERS

Feb 3

East Rob & Diane Paul
North Dennis & Ann Nelson
South Greg & Cathy Maurer

Feb 10

East Dan & Michelle Voress
North Randy & Melinda Clark
South Dave & Deb Hirschfeld

Feb 17

East Dan & Kathy Nedderman
North Jerry & Cindy Newman
South Phil & Teresa Hemmelgarn

Feb 24

East Vernon & Julie Paul
North Edith Wissman & Cindy Newman
South Gary & Emily Wiedeman

SATURDAY ACCOMPANISTS

Feb 2 Bev Plattner
Feb 9 Sharon Chaney
Feb 16 Sharon Chaney
Feb 23 Connie O'Neill

Meetings

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will meet at Speedway Lanes on Saturday, **February 2**, at 8:00 a.m.

John Voress

BUSY TWELVE

The Busy Twelve will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 5**, at New Bremen Coffee Co. & Books. We will go to the Educational Building for our meeting.

Eileen Gamble

CHURCH RECORD BOOK

Called Home:

Janice E. Schroer, died January 6, 2013, at the age of 74 years. A memorial service was held in the sanctuary on January 10, 2013, and burial followed at German Protestant Cemetery, New Bremen, OH.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Change of address:

Rosemary Heitkamp, St. Marys Living Center, 1209 Indiana Avenue, St. Marys, OH 45885-1310

Jill May, Heritage Manor, 24 N. Hamilton St., Minster, OH 45865-1117

Harry Ingram, Otterbein-St. Marys, 11108 Circle Dr. St. Marys, OH 45885-9559

Adam N. Leshner, 04414 Southland Rd., New Bremen, OH 45869-9722

Julie Beake, 3101 N. 45th St., Phoenix, AZ 85018-6475

Blake Hirschfeld, 20 S. Eastmoor Dr, New Bremen, OH 45869-1011

Leslie Humphries, 1630 S. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21230-4417

René Hammond, 200 South St., St. Marys St., P. O. Box 12, New Knoxville, OH 45871-0012

Lisa Weigandt, 5458 Lock two Rd., New Bremen, OH 45869-9412

Change of phone number:

Kim Quellhorst: 419/733-0513

Delete:

Janice Schroer, deceased

This 'n That

ATHEIST IN RESIDENCE

Father John Powell, a professor at Loyola University in Chicago, writes about a student in his Theology of Faith class named Tommy: Some twelve years ago, I stood watching my university students file into the classroom for our first session in the Theology of Faith. That was the day I first saw Tommy. My eyes and my mind both blinked. He was combing his long flaxen hair, which hung six inches below his shoulders. It was the first time I had ever seen a boy with hair that long. I guess it was just coming into fashion then. I know in my mind that it isn't what's on your head but what's in it that counts; but on that day I was unprepared and my emotions flipped. I immediately filed Tommy under "S" for strange... Very strange.

Tommy turned out to be the "atheist in residence" in my Theology of Faith course. He constantly objected to, smirked at, or whined about the possibility of an unconditionally loving Father/God. We lived with each other in relative peace for one semester, although I admit he was for me at times a serious pain in the back pew. When he came up at the end of the course to turn in his final exam, he asked in a cynical tone, "Do you think I'll ever find God?" I decided instantly on a little shock therapy. "No!" I said very emphatically. "Why not," he responded, "I thought that was the product you were pushing."

I let him get five steps from the classroom door and then called out, "Tommy! I don't think you'll ever find Him, but I am absolutely certain that He will find you!" He shrugged a little and left my class and my life.

I felt slightly disappointed at the thought that he had missed my clever line: He will find you! At least I thought it was clever. Later I heard that Tommy had graduated, and I was duly grateful. Then a sad report came. I heard that Tommy had terminal cancer. Before I could search him out, he came to see me. When he walked into my office, his body was very badly wasted and the long hair had all fallen out as a result of chemotherapy. But his eyes were bright and his voice was firm, for the first time, I believe.

"Tommy, I've thought about you so often; I hear you are sick," I blurted out. "Oh, yes, very sick. I have cancer in both lungs. It's a matter of weeks." "Can you talk about it, Tom?" I asked. "Sure, what would you like to know?" he replied. "What's it like to be only twenty-four and dying?" "Well, it could be worse." "Like what?" "Well, like being fifty and having no values or ideals; like being fifty and thinking that booze, seducing women, and making money are the real biggies in life."

I began to look through my mental file cabinet under "S" where I had filed Tommy as strange. (It seems as though everybody I try to reject by classification, God sends back into my life to educate me.)

"But what I really came to see you about," Tom said, "is something you said to me on the last day of class." (He remembered!) He continued, "I asked you if you thought I would ever find God and you said, 'No!' which surprised me. Then you said, 'But He will find you.' I thought about that a lot, even though my search for God was hardly intense at that time." (My clever line—he thought about that a lot!) "But when the doctors removed a lump from my groin and told me that it was malignant, that's when I got serious about locating God. And when the malignancy spread into my vital organs, I really began banging bloody fists against the bronze doors of heaven. But God did not come out. In fact, nothing happened. Did you ever try anything for a long time with great effort and with no success? You get psychologically glutted, fed up with trying. And then you quit. Well, one day I woke up, and instead of throwing a few more futile appeals over that high brick wall to a God who may be or may not be there, I just quit. I decided that I didn't really care about God, about an after life, or anything like that. I decided to spend what time I had left doing something more profitable. I thought about you and your class and I remembered something else you had said: 'The essential sadness is to go through life without loving. But it would be almost equally sad to go through life and leave this world without ever telling those you loved that you had loved them.'"

"So, I began with the hardest one, my Dad. He was reading the newspaper when I approached him. "Dad." "Yes, what?" he asked without lowering the newspaper. "Dad, I would like to talk with you." "Well, talk." "I mean, it's really important." The newspaper came down three slow inches. "What is it?" "Dad, I love you, I just wanted you to know that." Tom smiled at me and said it with obvious satisfaction, as though he felt a warm and secret joy flowing inside of him. "The newspaper fluttered to the floor. Then my father did two things I could never remember him ever doing before. He cried and he hugged me. We talked all night, even though he had to go to work the next morning. It felt so good to be close to my father, to see his tears, to feel his hug, to hear him say that he loved me. It was easier with my mother and little brother. They cried with me, too, and we hugged each other, and started saying real nice things to each other. We shared the things we had been keeping secret for so many years. I was only sorry about

one thing--that I had waited so long. Here I was, just beginning to open up to all the people I had actually been close to. Then, one day I turned around and God was there. He didn't come to me when I pleaded with Him. I guess I was like an animal trainer holding out a hoop, 'C'mon, jump through. C'mon, I'll give you three days, three weeks.' Apparently God does things in His own way and at His own hour. But the important thing is that He was there. He found me! You were right. He found me even after I stopped looking for Him."

"Tommy," I practically gasped, "I think you are saying something very important and much more universal than you realize. To me, at least, you are saying that the surest way to find God is not to make Him an instant consolation in time of need, but rather by opening to love. You know, the Apostle John said that God is love, and anyone who lives in love is living with God and God is living in him. Tom, could I ask you a favor? You know, when I had you in class you were a real pain. But (laughingly) you can make it all up to me now. Would you come into my present Theology of Faith course and tell them what you have just told me? If I told them the same thing it wouldn't be half as effective as if you were to tell it." "Oooh. I was ready for you, but I don't know if I'm ready for your class." "Tom, think about it. If and when you are ready, give me a call."

In a few days Tom called, said he was ready for the class, that he wanted to do that for God and for me. So we scheduled a date. However, he never made it. He had another appointment, far more important than the one with me and my class. Of course, his life was not really ended by his death; only changed. He made the great step from faith into vision. He found a life far more beautiful than the eye of man has ever seen or the ear of man has ever heard or the mind of man has ever imagined.

Before he died, we talked one last time. "I'm not going to make it to your class," he said. "I know, Tom." "Will you tell them for me? Will you...tell the whole world for me?" "I will, Tom. I'll tell them. I'll do my best."

So, to all of you who have been kind enough to read this simple story about God's love, thank you for listening. And to you, Tommy, somewhere in the sunlit, verdant hills of heaven, I told them, Tommy, as best I could.

If this story means anything to you, please pass it on to a friend or two. It is a true story and is not enhanced for publicity purposes.

With thanks,

Rev. John Powell, Professor
Loyola University, Chicago

Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven, but they don't want to believe, do, or say anything to get there?



Pastoral Care is very important. Unfortunately, local health care facilities are not always able to notify us in a timely manner when your loved one is sick. Please call the church office when you or a family member or friend enter a hospital or care facility so the pastor and church friends can be supportive.

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

ELMWOOD ASSISTED LIVING

711 S. Walnut St., New Bremen, OH 45869

Lavon Dicke	Wilbert Gruebmeier
Dale Fledderjohn	Victor Maurer
Dolores Fledderjohn	Barbara Schmidt
Bill Gilberg	Jean Waterman
Clara Greiwe	

HERITAGE MANOR

24 N. Hamilton St., Minster, OH 45865

Don Dicke	Doris Howe
Gloria Goodwin	Jill May
Thomas Goodwin	Alice Waterman
Kenneth Henschen	

THE GARDENS-CELINA

1301 Myers Rd, Celina, OH 45822

Ethel Sudman

THE GARDENS-WAPAKONETA

505 Walnut St., Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Louise Kettler (Room 222)

GOLDEN LIVING CENTER-VALLEY

1140 S. Knox Ave., St. Marys, OH 45885

Charles Waesch

ST. MARYS LIVING CENTER

1209 Indiana Ave., St. Marys, OH 45885

Eldine Blumhorst	Marcella Thomas
Rosie Heitkamp	Doris Wolfe

OTTERBEIN-ST. MARYS

11300 Circle Dr., St. Marys, OH 45885

Dorothy Dammeyer
 John & LaRue Dicke (11323 Bobwhite Lane)
 Dorothy Feltman (11313 Bobwhite Lane)
 Harry Ingram (11310 Bobwhite Lane)
 Leota Kellermeyer (11123 Circle Dr.)
 Betty Kettler (Room 326)
 Alma Kuest
 Rose Marie Wehmeyer (Room 412)
 June Wiehe

BRIARWOOD MANOR

100 Don Desch Dr., Coldwater, OH 45828

William (Bill) Jackson

FAIR HAVEN

2901 Fair Rd., Sidney, OH 45365-9574

Martha Mouk

AUGLAIZE ACRES

13093 Infirmary Rd., Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Luella Poppe (send mail c/o David Poppe,
 06700 Lock Two Rd., New Bremen, OH 45869)

Happy Birthday

These people have the special day of their birth this month. May God bless all of you birthday people on your special day.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Madilyn Mauter, Cathy Stevens, Thomas Thieman, Gayle Voress
- 3 Jack Oldiges
- 4 Aubrey Fairchild, Ian Fairchild, Jamie Kuhn, Avery Rhinehart, Ron Tontrup
- 5 Amy Barhorst, Olivia Dicke, Sue Kettler, Christopher Pfenning
- 6 Kurt Dammeyer, Deborah Gibson, John Tomhafa, Matthew Tontrup
- 7 Sue Schnelle
- 8 Lois Dicke, Gregory Hainline, Alexander Homan, Marissa Topp, Mark Winner,
- 9 Andrew Charlson, Belinda Hudson, Larry Rismiller, Katie Sok
- 10 Cynthia Charlson, Brietta Fark, Enola Greber, Christine Schott, Robert Wissman
- 11 Kirk Greber
- 12 Deborah Millhouse, Monika Sudman
- 13 Phyllis Fledderjohann
- 14 Jan Dammeyer, Ashley Fraley, Eileen Gamble
- 15 Larry Kuhn, Evelyn Rupert
- 16 Sarah Kramer, Pamela Miller, Beverly Reineke, Brett Schaefer, Trevor Schaefer
- 17 Kristen Nelson, Kurt Topp
- 18 Genevieve Conradi, Taylor Jones, Carrie Paul, Sherri Tontrup
- 19 Kathy Nedderman
- 20 Molly Borkowski, Charles Dicke, Doris Howe, Kayla Lear, Jason Maurer, Carolyn Pape
- 21 Tracey Dammeyer, Debra Kramer, Thieda Tontrup, Kate Topp, Steven M. Topp
- 22 Grant Dicke, Rodney Hainline, Eric Hirschfeld, Erica Hirschfeld, Sheila Kuhn, Lisa Thobe, Jim Tontrup
- 23 Howard Fark, Morgan Felver, Sarah Heinfeld, James Hudson, Denise Joyce, Jean Waterman, Lisa Weigandt
- 24 Gillian Grieve, Jeffrey Dicke, Robert Weinberg, IV
- 25 Shelby Ehemann, Tanner Howell, Samuel Simon, Tyler Wiedeman
- 26 Craig Siefing
- 27 Lori Greber, Brian Hatfield, Patricia Moeller, Keith Quellhorst,
- 28 Lucille Francis, Daniel Jacoby, Emily Topp
- 29 Zachary Hegemier, Carlee Hosterman,
Brady Pape

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

May God bless these anniversary couples on their special day.

- 3 Dennis Dicke & Genevieve Conradi
- 7 Tim & Vicki May
- 8 Kurt & Rachel Topp
- 14 Jordan & Ashley Fraley
- 24 James & Kathy Naylor
- 28 Gregg & Lisa Thobe

**St. Paul U.C.C. Council Meeting
January 8, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 16 attendees present including: Betty Dietrich, Diane Gilberg, Terri Goodwin, Barb Holdren, Brad Holdren, Katie Jackson, Ragan Miller, John Mohrman, Jim Mullins, Brook Schmitmeyer, Rev. Becky Strang, Kathy Topp, Bill Tostrick, George Voress and Carol Wilson. John Voress provided the meditation.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report for the December 11 council meeting was reviewed. John Mohrman made a motion to approve; Carol Wilson seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was reviewed. It showed a deficit of \$5735.47 through December 31, 2012. Terri Goodwin made a motion to approve; John Mohrman seconded; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: John Voress reported that the committee met on January 3. Upcoming events are:

- February 3 – New members orientation.
- February 9 & 10 – New members received.
- May 5 – Confirmation reunion.

Mission: No report – next meeting, January 13.

Worship: The committee met January 6. Rev. Strang has established the schedule for 2013.

Choir/Bell Choir Director Search Committee:
No news.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education: No report.

Deacons: Jim Mullins reported that the deacon Easter schedule has been set up.

Elders: No report.

Trustees: John Mohrman reported that:

- Allen Bushman has accepted the open trustee position.
- Greg Maurer will continue to coordinate the stained glass window restoration project.
- The kitchen sinks drainage issue will be followed up on.

Rev. Strang's Report:

- Worship:
 - >Christmas Eve worship attendance (3 services):
2010 – 340; 2011 – 392; 2012 – 413 (5:00 p.m. – 116; 7:30 p.m. – 139; 11:00 p.m. – 158)
 - >January 12 & 13: Baptism of Jesus & Sand Dam celebration.
 - >January 26-27: Faith testimony, John Mohrman.

- >February 13: Ash Wednesday worship, 7:30 p.m.
- >February 16 & 17: Terri Goodwin preaching.
- >March 2 & 3: Terri Goodwin preaching.

•Christian Unity Event at Faith Alliance with lunch and program, January 27 at 2:30 p.m.

•Membership: New member orientation, February 3 at 11:30 a.m. Reception of new members during worship services, February 9-10.

•Confirmation class: Seven confirmands. Beginning a month-long Made to Make a Difference curriculum.

•Continuing Ed 2013: El Salvador with Northwest Association, February 28-March 8.

•SALT Committee 2013: Committee members John Mohrman, Diane Gilberg, Dee Schroer and Katie Jackson and Rev. Strang will meet soon.

•Sabbatical planning (June-July-August 2014). Working with mission team. Grant paperwork due April 19, 2013.

•Upcoming vacation time:

- >February 14-20 (Ben on college tour)
- >May 27-June 3

•Pastoral care: December 11 – January 8, 2013:

- >Hospital visits: 17
- >Nursing home: 8
- >Home visits: 5
- >Office visits: 2
- >Phone calls: 8
- >Funerals: 2
- >Baptism: 1
- >Notes written: 4

Katie Jackson's Report:

•JYFS—The JYFS students had their movie day (The Muppets) and Christmas party to finish off 2012. In January we plan to discuss hope, spiritual gifts, making a difference and our relationships with our parents.

JH—Our winter wonderland-unicorn Christmas party was a lot of fun. We made unicorn horns, had a 'snowball' fight and played some other fun games. The kids had a fun time. On Wednesday we'll start the "Made to Make a Difference" series with the Confirmation class. The series will last four weeks.

HS—The HS students finished their last week talking about dating. My hope is that our recent discussions will help them in their relationships now and in the future. Our Christmas party was a lot of fun. We ate dinner, played sardines and Nintendo 64 and even sang. Next Sunday we'll start our study on the film "Blue Like Jazz", based on a book with the same title by Donald Miller. The film is about a kid who goes to college and is exposed to all different kinds of people, ideas and religious views. It should be a good change of pace for us.

●5-6-7 Sunday School—The class just started the series “Something Bigger 2”. It started with a discussion of Samuel being called by God and trusting God.

- Events attended:
 - >2 JH boys basketball games
 - >2 HS basketball games
 - >HS band & choir concert
 - >JH band concert
 - >A HS girls basketball game

- Past events
 - >December—Christmas parties

- Upcoming events
 - >January 27th—Church-wide snow tubing at Mad River Mountain
 - >February 9th-Mom to Mom Sale 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - >February 15-17—Winter Retreat “Some Assembly Required” for grades 7-12. Sign up deadline is February 1st.
 - >February 28-March 4—Simply Youth Ministry Conference. I have been asked to lead something again this year so my registration is free. I’m planning to room with 2 other people so the hotel cost will be about \$170.
 - >Summer 2013: Ichthus has been cancelled. We have decided to go back to Alive this year, which is June 19-22nd. We are also planning to participate in a Lima mission for JH students. I will need volunteers to make both events happen simultaneously.

OLD BUSINESS

- 2013 Project of the Year – Good Shepherd stained glass window repair/restoration. The project has been fully funded by a memorial in memory of Dr. Alexander Reed. Work will start after Easter. The project’s fund drive will now focus on the north window, Jesus knocking on the door.
- John Wierwille and David Jarvis will do the year-end audit.

NEW BUSINESS

●Indoor Park: Laura (Mrs. Keith) Steineman was present at the meeting to explain a proposed program and to request the use of St. Paul’s auditorium for an indoor park for children, ages 0-5. This program would offer a service to the community as a way for young families to connect. The program would run one day a week (Tuesdays) during the months of October-November-January-February-March, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and would be open to the entire community. Supervision would be provided by the parents of the children. Toys and lunches would be supplied by the families of the participating children. A storage area would be needed to store the toys. Any setup and cleanup would be the responsibility of the participating families.

Upon discussion of this proposal, the consensus of the council was that St. Paul is a welcoming church, and that this program would provide a service to the

entire community. George Voress made a motion to approve the use of our property for this program; Brad Holdren seconded. Motion passed.

●Communion in March: Rev. Strang requested that due to her being in El Salvador, the March 3 communion date be changed to March 10. She also requested that there be no communion on April 6-7, due to the previous weekend being Easter with its communion services. A motion was made by Diane Gilberg to accept these communion changes; Betty Dietrich seconded; motion carried.

●Paper folder: The church office paper folder is nearing its end of service. A quote for a new folder has been requested for consideration if/when the old folder breaks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

●Next meeting: February 12, 2013, 7:00 p.m. Devotions – Kathy Topp.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and closed with all saying the Lord’s Prayer.

Kathy Topp, Secretary

John Voress, President

WISH LIST

What is the Wish List? It’s a list (in no particular order) that the church council has developed that will help direct attention to items which families or groups may want to consider purchasing for the church. This list is for reference only. Other ideas are welcome.

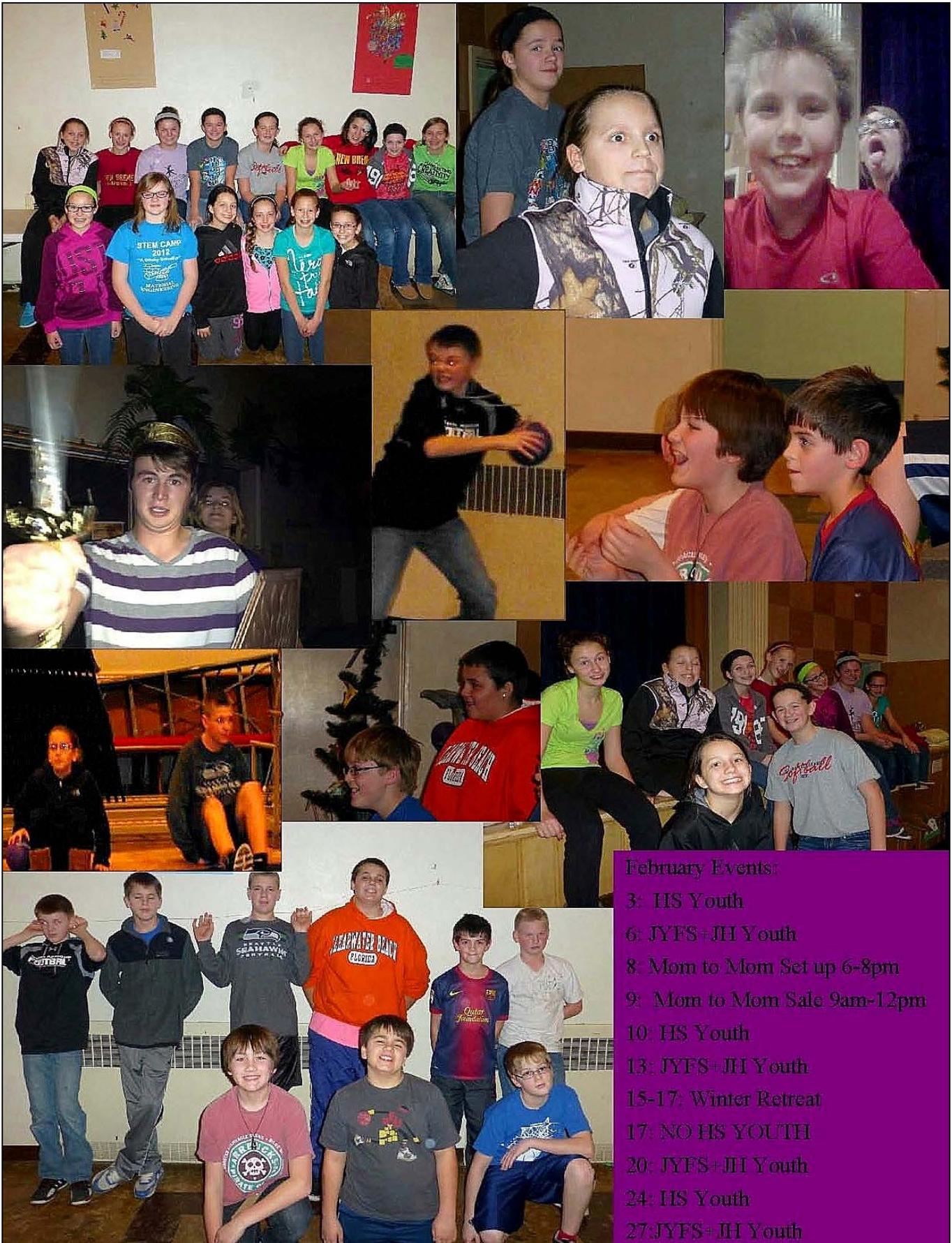
Item	Guesstimated cost
New flooring in auditorium	\$8000
New lighting for auditorium	?
Additional playground equipment	\$2500
Fellowship area & handicapped accessible restroom at rear of sanctuary	?
Inflatable video screen & DVD player	?
Storm windows for the stained glass windows of the sanctuary	?
New carpeting, Assembly Room & Chapel	?
Ice maker for kitchen	?
Water filter	?
Laminator	?

February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						8:00 Men's Club 5:00 Worship w/Holy Communion
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 Spirit Safari Club 9:00 Chancel choir 10:15 Worship w/Holy Communion 11:30 New member orientation 2:00 Elmwood worship 7:00 Sr. Hi Youth		11:30 Busy Twelve	3:00 JYFS 7:00 Jr. Hi Youth 7:00 Confirmation	10:15 Heritage Manor worship		9:00-12 noon Mom to Mom Sale 5:00 Worship (New members received)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 Spirit Safari Club 9:00 Chancel choir 10:15 Worship (New members received) 11:30 Mission Team 7:00 Sr. Hi Youth		7:00 Church Council	Ash Wednesday 3:00 JYFS 7:00 Jr. Hi Youth 7:30 Ash Wednesday Worship	11:30 Satellite B		5:00 Worship
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 Spirit Safari Club 9:00 Chancel choir 10:15 Worship 11:30 Board of Christian Ed	1:00 Page Turners		3:00 JYFS 7:00 Jr. Hi Youth 7:00 Confirmation Beacon articles due	12:00 noon Senior Luncheon		5:00 Worship
24	25	26	27	28		
9:00 Spirit Safari Club 9:00 Chancel choir 10:15 Worship 11:15 Congregational Meeting 7:00 Sr. Hi Youth			3:00 JYFS 7:00 Jr. Hi Youth 7:00 Confirmation			



- SPECIAL DATES:**
Feb 3 – New member orientation
Feb 9 & 10 – New members received
Feb 13 – Ash Wednesday worship, 7:30 p.m.
Feb 14-19 – Pastor Becky on vacation
Feb 21 – Senior luncheon, 12:00 noon
Feb 24 – Congregational Meeting following worship
Feb 28 – Pastor Becky leaves for El Salvador



- February Events:**
- 3: HS Youth
 - 6: JYFS + JH Youth
 - 8: Mom to Mom Set up 6-8pm
 - 9: Mom to Mom Sale 9am-12pm
 - 10: HS Youth
 - 13: JYFS + JH Youth
 - 15-17: Winter Retreat
 - 17: NO HS YOUTH
 - 20: JYFS + JH Youth
 - 24: HS Youth
 - 27: JYFS + JH Youth

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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E-BEACON

Want to get a “jump start” on reading the latest *Beacon* instead of waiting for it to be delivered via snail mail? It’s easy. Just send your email address to the church office. You’ll receive an email each month with a link to the latest *Beacon* on our church website.