

THE BEACON

Published monthly in the interest of
St. Paul United Church of Christ
New Bremen, Ohio

“Empowered Christians Serving God’s People”

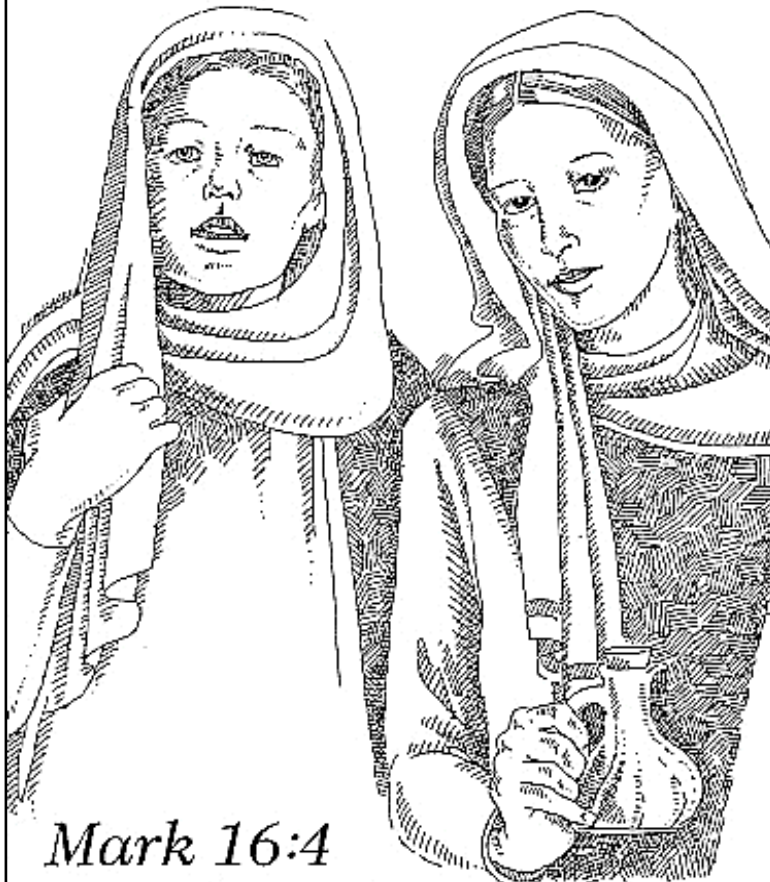
VOL. 64, No. 3



Rev. Rebecca Erb Strang, Pastor

March, 2013

*But when they looked up,
they saw that the stone...
had been rolled away.*



Mark 16:4

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Youth

Serving St. Paul Church

Staff

Rev. Becky Erb Strang Pastor
 Katie Jackson Director of Youth Ministries
 Dot Koeper 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
 Tom Quellhorst Part-time Maintenance
 Kathy Topp Beacon/Web Page Editor

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 Hanenkrafft 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
 Linda Tinsley Representative
 Kristi Voisard 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 Bev Poppe
 Dennis Dicke Rev. Becky Erb Strang
 John Gilberg Sandy Thieman, Chr.
 Cindy Newman 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.
 Deb Hirschfeld 1st yr.

Mission Team

(Raises awareness/promotes mission programs)

Sharon Fiely Amy Scheer
 Joyce & 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.



FROM OUR PASTOR

The Isle of Iona off the western shore of Scotland is the spiritual home of the Iona Community—an ecumenical Christian community that crosses borders, culture and denominations. The Iona Community seeks justice in the world by following the way of Christ Jesus.

About a dozen years ago, the Iona Community published a small book for the Lenten and Easter Season called Lent & Easter Readings from Iona. In this volume, the Rev. Kathy Galloway writes, “This is the meaning of resurrection, that we can dance.”

During March at St. Paul UCC, we will continue our Lenten journey, travel through Holy Week and sing Easter’s alleluias. To paraphrase Rev. Galloway, we will be given our dancing shoes this month that we might dance in joyous celebration of Christ’s resurrection.

You are invited to take part in the Lenten and Easter journey at St. Paul Church. We will share in Holy Communion during the weekend of March 9-10. The youth of our congregation will lead worship on March 17. Young people will be confirmed into the life of the congregation during worship on Palm Sunday, March 24.

Our Maundy Thursday Healing Service will include Communion, healing prayers, and candle lighting at 7:30 p.m. St. Paul Church will host the Ecumenical Good Friday service in our Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. (Please note the difference in the worship start times!) Then we will celebrate Christ’s resurrection on Sunday, March 31, with worship and Holy Communion at 7:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

As we continue this journey together, I share with you Iona Community member Neil Paynter’s prayer for Easter:

*O Christ, Lord of the Dance
in you we live and move and
have our being*

*Through your body and blood
our sins are forgiven
and all we carry which is heavy
you take upon yourself*

*So that we may dance again
and give thanks
and celebrate life*

Let us celebrate

*Let us share the bread and the wine
the bread that dances with the atoms of the
revolving earth*

*the wine that shimmers with the light of the Christ’s
Love*

Amen

Pastor Becky

CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Our confirmation students are hard at work on their faith statements. On Wednesday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m., our youth will share their faith statements with parents, mentors, council members and church members in the Chapel. Parents will bless their children on this night of faith expressed. A welcome reception will follow hosted by the Deacons. All are welcome!

The Rite of Confirmation will be held on Palm Sunday, March 24, during worship at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. Come, and share in the joy of the day!

HOLY WEEK HAPPENINGS

Mar 23 Palm Saturday	Worship (Chapel)	5:00 p.m.
Mar 24 Palm Sunday	Worship w/Rite of Confirmation (sanctuary)	10:15 a.m.
Mar 28 Maundy Thursday	Healing Service w/Holy Communion	7:30 p.m.
Mar 29 Good Friday	Ecumenical Service at St. Paul	7:00 p.m.
Mar 30	(NO Saturday worship service)	
Mar 31 Easter	Sunrise Service w/Holy Communion	7:00 a.m.
Mar 31 Easter	Youth-sponsored Easter pancake breakfast	8:00-10:00 a.m.
Mar 31 Easter	Easter worship w/Holy Communion	10:15 a.m.

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCING FOR ALL AGES: RIGHT NOW MINISTRIES

At the February Church Council meeting, Council agreed to subscribe for a year to Right Now Ministries, video-based ministry for all ages. Every member of the congregation who has an email address and Internet access will be able to use this resource. Bible studies, financial planning seminars, leadership training, programs for youth, and children’s videos are all included with our subscription.

Council’s hope is that you will make good use of this resource--whether you want a Bible study, a resource about prayer, leadership training or even good videos for your children and grandchildren to watch.

To get into the system, Pastor Becky needs your email address. She will then send you an email invitation via Right Now Ministries. You will then be able to create your own username and password to begin using any of the thousands of videos available. Because this is a church-wide subscription, there is no cost for you to use this valuable resource.

Please write your email address in the Red Friendship pad or email it to Pastor Becky at: berbstrang@stpaulnb.org

HOLY LAND JOURNEY 2014

You are invited to prayerfully consider taking a trip to the Holy Land in January 2014. The cost for the 10-day tour includes airfare from Dayton, hotel, tours, breakfast and dinners during our stay in Israel.

A journey to Israel is a life-changing event for Christian pilgrims.

Pastor Becky has brochures with in-depth information about the trip. Feel free to talk to her about this event!

Mission

MARCH MISSION PROJECT

What is our March mission project? It is NuVizion UCC.

Where is it located? It is located on Cherry Street in Toledo, OH across the street from St. Vincent Hospital. It is the lowest-income, highest-crime neighborhood in the metro Toledo area.

When did NuVizion become a church? They came into existence 9 years ago on February 2.

Why was this church established? It was established to help the poor and homeless people of the Toledo area.

How do they help these folks? In addition to worship services, Bible study and fellowship opportunities, they also provide community meals, a food bank, health-hygiene assistance and legal aid. They also have a free store where people can get clothing and a coffee house where breakfasts are provided. They do all of this with limited kitchen facilities, very limited funds, volunteer help and only one paid staff person, Rev. Will Stuart.

How can we help? We can help by making a daily sacrifice in our Lenten coin folder, by making a generous donation in our Easter envelope or by using the envelopes found in our Sunday bulletins.

In Isaiah 58 where the Lord was asked about fasting, he said "The kind of fasting I want is this: Share your food with the hungry and open your home to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear!!"

So as you prepare for Easter, keep this in mind and do what you can to help our sisters and brothers at NuVizion.

Thank you.

Amy Scheer
The Mission Team

OUR NEW BREMEN COMMUNITY WILL WELCOME GOBA

An exciting time is awaiting all residents of New Bremen in June. That is when a possible 3000 bicycle riders will converge on our town as participants in

GOBA (Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure). On June 19, they will be riding into town, traveling from Greenville. Most of them will be staying overnight for two nights, making it necessary for our community to furnish food and lodging for everyone. Their home base for lodging and also for most of the food will be at the high school.

These bicyclers will be very hungry and Angela Hamburg, coordinator for this event, is asking for help from different organizations and churches. It is a chance for a non-profit organization, like our church, to work together to earn money for a special mission outside of our church. The mission team has agreed to promote this opportunity but it will take everyone in our congregation to help make it a success. June is several months away but some plans need to be made already. It was decided to provide baked goods as we have many excellent bakers in our congregation. Needed also will be attendants at booths, sign makers, promoters, clerks, a chairperson or chairpersons, etc. We hope that you all will be as excited as we are about this coming event. Want to help in some way? Contact one of the members of the Mission Team. More news will be given in *The Beacon* as the months go by.

The Mission Team

News & Events

SATELLITE B ASKS FOR HELP WITH VISITATIONS

On **Thursday, March 14**, Satellite B, and any other church members willing to accompany them to visit the residents in the 10 area nursing homes, will meet at the church at 11 a.m. to package gifts for the residents. At noon we will go to the New Bremen Coffee & Books for lunch. After lunch we will deliver the gifts and visit our nursing home residents. Since we have 35 residents to visit we are asking any other members of the congregation to help us with the visitations. Please call Bev Plattner at 419/629-3694 for reservations for lunch and if you are able to help with visits. We need to know how many are planning to attend the lunch and also who will be accompanying us to the nursing homes. Those who are able are also welcome to help package the gifts at 11:00 a.m. on March 14.

Bev Plattner
Satellite B

ATTENTION. ATTENTION, COOKS!

We thank you for the recipes we have received – keep them coming! However, we are especially in need of kid-friendly, vegetables and fruit and Jell-O salads recipes. Got any? We really could use them to help enlarge these sections.

Just a reminder – they need to be simple with around 5 ingredients. We would very much appreciate them by mid-April. Leave them in the "cookbook box" in the church office. Thanks.

Ann Kuhn
Satellite B

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS REMINDER

Your Kroger card needs to be re-registered each year for our Youth Endowment Fund to receive 4% of your purchases. **The month of April is when this needs to be done.** Simply go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and sign in using your email and password. Then find our organization by putting our organization number, **81890**, in the search box or you can type in St. Paul United Church of Christ (This will bring up all of the St. Paul Churches registered with Kroger). Next, under "Find your organization", click on the circle next to our name and then click on the blue "Save Changes" button. If you do not have computer access, and I already have your Kroger card number from the past, I will take care of the re-registration process for you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you again for your generous support of our Youth Program!

Deb Kramer
Ph: 419-202-3451

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Art Barnes -- Art is married to Cathy and joins us by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Urbana, OH. He is a retired associate professor of journalism and speech at Urbana University. His interests include fishing, boating, Habitat for Humanity mission trips and beer making.

Cathy Barnes -- Cathy is married to Art and also joins us by Letter of Transfer from Urbana. She is self-employed as a fiber artist, specializing in quilting and doll making. Cathy enjoys mission trips and card making. An accomplished seamstress, she has designed costumes for various theater troupes and the Ohio Renaissance Festival.

Art and Cathy are originally from the Dayton area, and during Art's 22-year career in the Air Force, lived in Virginia, Germany, England and Indiana. They have 2 grown daughters in Minnesota and South Carolina.

Steve Imwalle joins us by Letter of Transfer. He is married to Kris (Hay) Imwalle. Steve has been employed at Crown for 35 years. He enjoys sports. Steve and Kris are the parents of three grown sons, Shaun, Brett and Brice.

Vince Laviere, joins us by Letter of Transfer. Vince is Director of Spiritual Care/Chaplain at Otterbein-St Marys. His interests include confirmation camp, the University of Michigan, and the Chicago White Sox.

Mark Likens joins us by Letter of Transfer. Mark is married to Lori Likens and likes ice hockey and has run in several half-marathons. He has been employed at New Millennium Building Systems in Butler, IN for four years as a detailer. Prior to that he worked at

Socar in Continental, OH for 32 years as a detailer. Mark has two daughters, a stepdaughter and stepson. He is expecting to become a grandpa in April and then again in June.

NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The New Bremen Historic Association will be holding its annual dinner meeting on **Monday, March 18**, at 6:30 p.m. The event will be held at Holy Redeemer Church in New Bremen. All interested individuals are invited to attend; you need not be a member to participate. A delicious dinner will be catered by Speedway Lanes of New Bremen. Guest speaker for the evening will be New Bremen resident and retired teacher, Gary Stueve. Gary will present an interesting, informative and humorous rendition of his years of teaching and coaching in the New Bremen School system. Tickets are available at the cost of \$15.00 each from Diane Paul, 419-629-2856, rdpaul@nktelco.net, or Barb Ziegenbusch, 419-629-2623, bz222@nktelco.net or any association member. Reservations may be made until one week prior to the event, March 11. We invite all those interested in the history of New Bremen to attend and support the work of this organization. Hope to see you there!

Diane Paul
New Bremen Historic Association

PAGE TURNERS

The March selection blends fact and fiction in a deeply evocative story of ambition and betrayal. *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain, captures a remarkable period of time and a love affair between two unforgettable people--Ernest Hemingway and his wife, Hadley. Join us in the Library, **Monday, March 18**, at 1:00 p.m. for a discussion of *The Paris Wife*. All are welcome.

Selections for the following months include: April--*Waltzing at the Piggly Wiggly* by Rob Dalby and May--*An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff. These books are available at the local library during the month that we will be reviewing the selected book.

Sandy Thieman

SENIOR/RETIREE LUNCHEON

Are you retired – or just plain tired?! Don't feel like making a meal? We've got a deal for you. Join us for the next senior/retiree luncheon on **Thursday, March 21** at noon. Think Lent. Think Lake Erie. Can you guess what's on the menu? Please call the church office to let us know you'll attend. Be there!

Senior Luncheon Committee

The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us.
~C S Lewis

Meetings

MEN'S CLUB

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

John Voress

BUSY TWELVE

The Busy Twelve will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, **March 5**, at Bolly's in New Bremen. We will go to the Educational Building for our meeting.

Eileen Gamble

MISSION TEAM

The Mission Team will meet after the worship service, Sunday, **March 10**. All are welcome to attend.

Joyce Giberger

CHURCH RECORD BOOK

Called Home:

Alma E. Kuest, died January 27, 2013, at the age of 97 years. A memorial service was held at Otterbein, St. Marys, OH on February 3, 2013, and burial followed at German Protestant Cemetery, New Bremen, OH.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Address changes:

Rosemary Heitkamp, 210 N. Washington St., New Bremen, OH 45869-1151 (Rosemary has returned home)

Carrie Paul, 806 N. Blackhoof St., Wapakoneta, OH 45895-1210

Madeline Paul, 806 N. Blackhoof St., Wapakoneta, OH 45895-1210

Molly Paul, 806 N. Blackhoof St., Wapakoneta, OH 45895-1210

Anna Paul, 806 N. Blackhoof St., Wapakoneta, OH 45895-1210

Add new members:

Art and Cathy Barnes, 12018 Eilerman Rd., Minster, OH 45865-9315

Steve Imwalle, 47 Kamman Circle, New Bremen, OH 45869-9676

Vince Laviere, PO Box 114, Spencerville, OH 45887

Mark Likens, 124 Bear Drive, New Bremen, OH 45869-1004

Name Change:

Tammy (Bushman) Oliver from Tammy Davis

Delete:

Alma E. Kuest, deceased



EASTER BREAKFAST

Hosted by St. Paul's Youth Groups

March 31st

After the sunrise service until 10 a.m.

Assembly Room.

We will serve pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice. Donations will be accepted and will benefit our youth programs

MARCH GREETERS

Mar 3

East
North
South

Dennis Dicke & Gen Conradi
Dennis & Gertrude Bushman
Duane & Alice Hartwig

Mar 10

East
North
South

Doris Blanke & Edith Wissman
Tim & Vickie May
Robert & Mary Finke

Mar 17

East
North
South

David & Kelly Muether
Wilbur & Enola Greber
Mack & Vernita Wellman

Mar 24

East
North
South

Palm Sunday

Mark & Lori Likens
Don & Jan Dammeyer
Sue Shockney & Beverly Poppe

Mar 31

East
North
South

Easter, 7:30 a.m. sunrise service

Youth
Youth
Youth

Mar 31

East
North
South

Easter, 10:15 a.m. service

Jack & BJ Hansbrough
James & Diane Gilberg
Ron & Marlene Hittepole

SATURDAY ACCOMPANISTS

Mar 2

Bev Plattner

Mar 9

Sharon Chaney

Mar 16

Connie O'Neill & Saturday Evening Chorus

Mar 23

Bev Plattner

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mar 3

Andrew & Gayle Wray

Mar 10

Anthony & Kay Makley

Mar 15

Michael & Carol Swackhamer

Mar 17

Justin & Kimberly Paul

Mar 27

Scott & Brenda Howell

Mar 28

Paul & Pamela Philpot

Mar 31

Neal & Michelle Voress



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	Doris Wolfe
Marcella Thomas	

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.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Chloe Bornhorst, Angela Kuck, Paige Jones, Kyle Miller, Kylien Miller
- 2 Karen Blumhorst, Jason Dammeyer, Deborah Scheer
- 3 Janet Miller, Elyssa Mullins
- 4 Thomas Millhouse, Hailey Wolters
- 5 Carri Hainline
- 6 Jeff Scheer, Thomas Young
- 7 Wyatt Dicke, Brett Howell, Kerri Loney, Terry Wissman
- 8 Connor Barhorst, Sandra McAdams, Jean Schroer
- 9 Aiden Hammond, Debra Hovestreydt, Betty Quellhorst
- 10 Madison Altman, Austin Hemmelgarn, Neal Hittepole, Mark Likens, Margaret Slife, Karen Voress,
- 11 Ned Gruebmeier, Hannah Klein, Levi Leshar
- 12 Burt Fiser, John Mohrman, Carla Thobe, Michele Ziegenbusch
- 13 John Voress, Adeleine Whitten
- 14 Larry Greber, B J Hansbrough, Tom Quellhorst, Roger Voisard
- 15 Zackary Schroer
- 16 Levi Oaks, Kay Webb
- 17 Robert Bambauer
- 18 Christine Kelser
- 19 Carrie Schwab
- 20 Ellen Tostrick
- 21 Donna Conradi, Matthew Dietrich, Diane Gilberg, Julianne Wyatt
- 22 Kami Fox, Jacob Gilberg, Courtney Hittepole, Johann Klein, Colin Leshar, Tyler Smart, Tyler Wolters
- 23 Jill Clem, David Kettler, Kenneth Sudman, Sandy Thieman, Terry Wigginton
- 24 Dorothy Dammeyer, Brittani Fark, Joann Freeman, Kathy Manbeck
- 25 Evan Wierwille
- 27 Andrew Charlson, Brenda Haynes
- 28 Troy Altman, Kurt Ehemann, Samantha Kuck, Rodney Suchland
- 29 Thomas Holdren, Karl Mesloh, Carol Wilson
- 30 Michael Dammeyer, Jeremy Fiser, Tyler Millhouse, Charlotte Nelson
- 31 Jonathan Gilberg, Jamie Hovestreydt, Ryley Schaefer, Michelle Suchland, Aaron Thobe, Louise Wiedeman

This 'n That

FAITH STATEMENT

(as shared by John Mohrman

during January 27, 2013 worship service)

It wasn't long after I volunteered to be a trustee for 2012 that I realized Becky would ask me to do this. When the inevitable came I agreed but delayed the date for a while. I had listened to others give their statements and wondered what I would say. How can I put into words what seems so natural? But I will try.

In some faith statements, I remember hearing about defining times when someone felt their faith really take shape. I don't have any such moment that I remember. Mine seems to have always been there. Doubts don't seem to hang around long. There have always been positive things to counter them. I have moments that reassure me that God is real.

My great, great, great grandfather, Behrend Mohrmann, held services in his home until he founded this church, so when I was born it was only natural that I would be baptized, attend Sunday school, be confirmed and become a member here.

It seemed like my family always attended church and many of my family sang in the choir and so I have been a choir member from the time I could. It's just natural.

I was born the youngest of six children just ten days after my father died. Growing up, I didn't realize just how hard it must have been for my mother with six children 17 and younger. The oldest boy and younger girl had vision problems and lost most of their sight by the time they were in their teens. I think I was well into my adult years before I realized they were "handicapped". I grew up with this and they were normal to me. I remember being their eyes when they had to go to Dayton to the eye doctor. We would take the bus. They knew where to go and how to get there. I only had to help a little. It was just what family did. It was natural. They both ended up living on their own -- my sister at a younger age than my brother. I learned so much from them.

I don't remember hearing "I love you" much between family members growing up, but I didn't need to. I felt safe, secure and cared for....loved. I know there were disagreements and harsh words at times. All families have some friction, but I remember everyone helping each other and doing what was needed. It was natural.

My wife and I were blessed with 4 children, although there are others who choose to call us Mom and Dad. We have blood and step grandchildren and also non-related children who call us grandparents. We feel blessed. I see the spirit of family cooperation and helping continuing. This is good.

When our older son hung on my arm and begged me to become a Webelos Scout leader when there was none, I became involved in Cub Scouts. When our younger son went into Boy Scouts I became involved in Boy Scouts. I was Scoutmaster until I took a job that took me out of town so much I felt I could not be effective any more and stepped down. Along the way I also had some other scouting positions.

Besides being a choir member and currently a trustee, I served as a deacon twice.

God has blessed me with great health and a great mind. I think I am as healthy as people 20 or 30 years younger than I am. I am no genius and I never went to collage, but I feel I was blessed with a logical mind and a lot of common sense. This has enabled me to do a good job at work and allowed me to do things and go places, that as a child, I never would have dreamed possible with my background and from little old New Bremen, Ohio. I have worked in at least 9 countries other than the USA and passed through more while traveling for my job.

I have also had challenges in life. There were times when things could have been a lot better. I choose not to dwell on those times and events. There were times when I must have had "sucker" written on my forehead—times that I just felt used. I need to get over that. I pretty much knew going in what could happen. After all, I might just do it again. It's just natural to want to help.

My wife and children are very dear to me. We almost always all get together for major holidays and special occasions. For the last five and a half years it has not been as good as it used to be. Our older son committed suicide just after he turned 39 and it has left a large hole. Although God has given me some understanding, the emptiness is always there. You may wonder, how does anyone ever get over something like that? Personally, I don't think you can. But you do have to learn to accept the fact that it did happen and life goes on. The hurt is pretty much forever.

How many times have we all wondered why can't life be perfect—no hatred, no fighting, no war, no sickness, no whatever? I've asked those questions many times. Not so much anymore though. The same answer kept popping up in my head. "This isn't heaven."

There have been times in my life when personal safety issues have made my mind think of what could go wrong and what to do if it does. This has saved me from harm more than once.

I believe in God, that Jesus Chris lived, and I have felt the Holy Spirit. What more do I need? To me, it's natural.

**St. Paul U.C.C. Council Meeting
February 12, 2013**

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

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report for the January 8 council meeting was reviewed. John Mohrman made a motion to approve; Betty Dietrich seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report for period ending January 31, 2013 was reviewed. It showed a ytd deficit, income vs. expenses, of \$2763.22. Diane Gilberg made a motion to approve; Carol Wilson seconded; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: No report. Next meeting scheduled for March 4. (Darlene Gilberg and Cathy Maurer have resigned from the committee.)

Mission: No report. (See New Business for John Gilberg's info about GOBA).

Worship: No meeting – no report.

Choir/Bell Choir Director Search Committee:
No news.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education: Brook Schmitmeyer reported that:

- Linda Tinsley has joined the Board of Christian Ed.

- Vacation Bible School will be held June 2 thru June 6.

- Kristi Voisard is coordinating a collection of new or gently used stuffed animals for Loving Hugs, a mission to aid children affected by war, poverty or natural disasters throughout the world

- The Tribal Hut room is too dark. It needs additional lighting to brighten the room.

Deacons: Jim Mullins reported that:

- Children are needed to serve as acolytes. (It was noted that Shelly Smart has some volunteers).

- Lenten coin folders will be passed out at the Ash Wednesday service and will be available for pickup at the sanctuary entrances during Lent.

Elders: Dee Schroer reported that everything is going well.

Trustees: John Mohrman reported that:

- Beam Construction has completed the church basement foundation reinforcement project.

- The church pews need to be refinished. A good time to accomplish this would be during July-August when church services are held in the Chapel and while the stained glass window project is progressing. The trustees will look for a source to do this project.

Barb Holdren:

- Lawn care treatment: Barb informed the council of the receipt of a contract from Healthy Lawns in Coldwater for lawn care service for the 2013 season. The cost is \$522 to renew the service for 5 treatments covering the church, Educational Building and parsonage lawns only. George Voress made a motion to renew the contract; Brad Holdren seconded; motion carried.

- Worker's Comp: Barb noted that St. Paul currently belongs to Ohio Retail Merchants to get a group rate for Workers Comp. She suggested that we could get a better group rate by going through the Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce. After discussion, Bill Tostrick made a motion to change to the Chamber; Jim Mullins seconded; motion carried.

- Grocery charge account: As Howell's IGA has closed, Barb asked if St. Paul should now have a similar charge arrangement with Wagner's IGA in Minster. Council's decision was to not have a charge account at Wagner's. Anyone who makes purchases for St. Paul must present a receipt to Barb in order to be reimbursed. Barb also emphasized that it would help her tremendously if anyone who spends money under any church accounts turn in receipts when they order and mark who and for what on the receipt.

Rev. Strang's Report:

•Worship:

- >February 13: Ash Wednesday worship.

- >February 16 & 17: Terri Goodwin preaching.

- >February 23-24: Mike Holdren sharing his faith testimony.

- >March 2 & 3: Terri Goodwin preaching (Becky in El Salvador).

- >March 17: Youth Sunday

- >March 24: Palm Sunday/Rite of Confirmation.

- >March 28: Maundy Thursday Healing Service.

- >March 29: Ecumenical Good Friday Service at St. Paul.

- >March 31: Easter worship with communion. (No worship on Saturday, March 30).

- Membership:

- >Five people joined this past weekend. More are considering joining in April.

- Confirmation 2013:

- >Class will begin writing faith statements in one week.

- >March 20: Faith statement evening, 7:00 p.m. in Chapel; council to host reception.

- >March 24: Palm Sunday; Rite of Confirmation.

- Staff contracts: Currently working on updating all contracts. Hope to have all signed by March 1.

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

- SALT Committee 2013: Interviews for candidates, February 23. Will accept two candidates for summer 2013, beginning May 22 (two 30-hour/week positions).

- 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 (tentative)

- Pastoral care: January 9-February 12, 2013:

- >Hospital visits: 3

- >Nursing home: 25

- >Home visits: 4

- >Office visits: 5

- >Phone calls: 14

- >Funerals: 2

- >Notes written: 2

- >Outside worship: 2

- >Home communions: 37 (includes Heritage Manor & Elmwood services)

- Right Now Ministries: Rev. Becky explained that this is an on-line video based ministry program. She feels strongly that this on-line service would be beneficial to staff and other St. Paul members. After discussion, council agreed to subscribe to this program at a cost of \$120/month for one year with funds coming from the Anna Kuest Ministry Education memorial fund.

Katie Jackson's Report:

- JYFS—The JYFS students have talked about spiritual gifts and how those gifts are important to our church, making a difference and stress. We also had one more student join, so our current enrollment is 32 students.

- JH—The JH students finished the “Made to Make a Difference” series two weeks ago. They have chosen to serve at House of Bread in Dayton, a soup kitchen, this May. They will be collecting items to bring with them to hand out to patrons. They have talked about hope as well.

- HS—The HS students finished watching and talking about “Blue Like Jazz”, the book-based movie. Topics in the movie included issues with parents, adultery, drugs and alcohol, college, God's existence, sexuality issues and the church itself. The students really enjoyed the movie as well as the discussion about it. We also had a Super Bowl party. Some students watched the game, some of us just hung out, and everyone ate! It was fun. We will now start a series called Why We Believe.

- 5-6-7 Sunday school—The class just started a series called “The Messiah”, which is all about the life of Jesus. We are having a good time on Sunday mornings.

- Events attended—5 HS boys' basketball games; 3 JH girls' games; 2 JH boys' games; 1 freshman boys' game, and a student-band concert at the bowling alley.

- Past events

- >January 27—Church-wide snow tubing at Mad River Mountain. 37 folks attended and it was a blast! We will be going next year for sure!

- >February 9—Mom to Mom Sale. The sale went incredibly well! We made around \$600; had a huge turnout that has been much bigger than the last two sales. We also had to use both the auditorium and the Chapel for our booth-renters. All feedback of the sale was positive.

- Upcoming events

- >February 15-17—Winter Retreat “Some Assembly Required” for grades 7-12. 9 students and 3 adults are planning to attend from St. Paul, with more from Trinity UMC in Lima. It should be a great time!

- >February 17—NO HS Youth. Hantis party 4-6:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

- >February 28-March 4—Simply Youth Ministry Conference

- >March 14—Loaves & Fishes

- >March 15-16—Camp staff training at Temple Hills (I am co-directing Confirmation Camp again this year with Carri Hainline).

- >March 17—Youth Sunday

- >March 31—Easter Breakfast

- >June 19-22—Alive

- >June 20-23—JH Mission Week

- > July 14-20—Confirmation Camp

OLD BUSINESS

•2013 Project of the Year: Richard Reichart, master craftsman, from Dayton Art Glass Co. was present at the meeting to describe all of the steps that will be taken to renovate the stained glass windows during our Project of the Year. The work is very meticulous and requires great care in order to restore the windows to their original glory.

•Audit: John Wierwille and David Jarvis will audit the church’s books on February 13.

•Part-time maintenance person: Tom Quellhorst has been hired to fill this new position.

NEW BUSINESS

•GOBA (Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure): John Gilberg was present at the meeting to advise of GOBA’s visit in New Bremen during June. Approximately 3000 bicyclists will inhabit New Bremen which will present fund raising opportunities for various organizations, including our church.

•Firearm laws: Terry Wissman was present at the meeting to discuss firearm laws in Ohio. He explained that certain buildings are, by law, designated as gun-free zones (post offices; schools; jails; courthouses; etc.). Terry feels that by being so designated, these types of places become targets for shooters. Signs are posted on our Educational Building entrances that designate St. Paul as a gun-free zone. Places of worship are gun-restricted unless specifically allowed. Terry recommended that council consider allowing CCW (Carry Concealed Weapon) holders to carry their weapons in church. Council took no action, but will take Terry’s comments under consideration and discuss at the next council meeting.

•Cell phone compensation for Pastor Becky and Katie Jackson: After discussion, council approved an allowance of \$50/month in each of their contracts to compensate them for cell phone charges associated with their positions. Jim Mullins made a motion accordingly; Dee Schroer seconded; motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting: March 12, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

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	?

March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						8:00 Men's Club 5:00 Worship
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 Spirit Safari Club 9:00 Chancel choir 10:15 Worship 7:00 Sr. Hi Youth		11:30 Busy Twelve	3:00 JYFS 7:00 Jr. Hi Youth 7:00 Confirmation			5:00 Worship w/Holy Communion
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 Spirit Safari Club 9:00 Chancel choir 10:15 Worship w/Holy Communion 7:00 Sr. Hi Youth		7:00 Church Council	3:00 JYFS 7:00 Jr. Hi Youth 7:00 Confirmation			5:00 Worship
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 Spirit Safari Club 9:00 Chancel choir 10:15 Worship 7:00 Sr. Hi Youth	1:00 Page Turners		3:00 JYFS 7:00 Jr. Hi Youth 7:00 Confirmands' Faith Statements Beacon articles due	12:00 noon Senior Luncheon		5:00 Worship
Palm Sunday 24	25	26	27	Maundy Thurs.28	Good Friday 29	30
9:00 Spirit Safari Club 9:00 Chancel choir 10:15 Worship w/rite of confirmation 7:00 Sr. Hi Youth				7:30 Healing Service w/Holy Communion	7:00 Ecumenical Good Friday service at St. Paul	NO Saturday worship
Easter 31						
7:00 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:00-10:00 Easter breakfast 9:00 Spirit Safari Club 10:15 Worship w/Holy Communion						



SPECIAL DATES:

Mar 20 – Confirmands' Faith Statements, 7:00 p.m.

Mar 24 – Palm Sunday, Rite of Confirmation, 10:15 a.m.

Mar 31 – Easter – 2 services w/communion, 7:00 a.m. sunrise & 10:15 a.m.

Mar 31 – Easter breakfast 8:00-10:00 a.m., Assembly Room

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Vacation Bible School

June 2 thru June 6



March Calendar
 3: HS Youth
 6: JYFS+JH
 10: HS Youth
 13: JYFS+JH
 17: Youth Sunday
 17: HS Youth
 20: JYFS+JH
 24: Confirmation,
 HS Youth
 27: No Youth
 31: Easter Breakfast
 No HS



St. Paul United Church of Christ
P. O. Box 6
New Bremen, OH 45869-0006

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
New Bremen, OH 45869
Permit No. 18

Phone: 419/629-2502
Fax: 419/629-3207
E-mail: stpaulnb@stpaulnb.org
Web site: www.stpaulnb.org
Facebook.com: St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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ORDER FORM—EASTER LILIES 2013



It is time to begin preparations for Easter, including the ordering of flowers as memorials and gifts to decorate the sanctuary for Easter morning. All orders must be placed on this order form and signed by the purchaser. Please put the payment along with this order form in an envelope and place it in the offering plate or take it to the church office **on or before Sunday, March 3, 2013.** This date will not be extended. (Checks should be made payable to St. Paul U.C.C.).

The flowers may be picked up following the 10:15 a.m. worship service on Easter, March 31, 2013. Thank you for your contribution to the beauty of our Easter morning worship services.

_____ (Qty.) Lilies, white, 1 stem at \$9.00/each

In memory of _____

A gift for _____

Purchaser's name _____ Total payment \$ _____