



“But those who
hope in the LORD
will renew their STRENGTH.
They will SOAR on
wings like eagles;
they will RUN and
not grow weary,
they will WALK
and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31



In This Issue...

Page 2

Serving St. Paul – Council; Committees;
Staff Members

Pages 3-4-5-6

From Our Pastor; Mission; News & Events;
Meetings; Directory

Pages 7-8

This 'n That; Greeters; Saturday
Accompanists; Anniversaries

Page 9

Nursing Home; Birthdays

Pages 10-11

Council Minutes

Page 12

Calendar

Page 13

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 Music Director
 Connie O'Neill Saturday Night Choir Director
 Janet Eilerman Financial Secretary
 Barbara Holdren Bookkeeper
 Dennis & Linda Hainline Ed. Building Custodian
 Greg Hainline Sanctuary Custodian
 Ralph Plattner Groundskeeper
 John Mohrman Building Maintenance Technician
 Kathy Topp Beacon/Web Page Editor

2014 Church Council (meets 2nd Tue)

(Transacts routine business of the church)

John Voress President
 Mike Holdren Vice President
 Kathy Topp 1st yr. Recording Secretary
 Randy Clark 2nd yr. Treasurer
 Tim May Sr. Elder
 Brenda Haynes Jr. Elder
 John Mohrman 3rd yr. Trustee
 Allen Bushman 2nd yr. Trustee
 TBA 1st yr. Trustee
 Mark Dicke 2nd yr. Deacon
 Myra Hanenkraft 2nd yr. Deacon
 Ragan Miller 2nd yr. Deacon
 Bill Tostrick 2nd yr. Deacon
 George Voress 2nd yr. Head. Deacon
 Carol Wilson 2nd yr. Deacon
 Lisa Davidson 1st yr. Deacon
 Jeff Dicke 1st yr. Deacon
 Nelson Erb 1st yr. Deacon
 Phil Hemmelgarn 1st yr. Deacon
 Dee Schroer 1st yr. Deacon
 Gene Topp 1st yr. Deacon

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)

Shelly Smart Sunday school Supt.
 Brook Schmitmeyer Asst. Sunday school Supt.
 Lisa Weigandt 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
 Rebekkah Fry Sandy Thieman
 John Gilberg, Vice Chr. John Voress
 Cindy Newman, Chr. Dick Watcke

Stewardship Board

(Secures pledges; promotes stewardship programs)

Ann Kuhn 3rd yr.
 Sally Wissman 3rd yr.
 Kim Quellhorst 2nd yr.
 Deb Hirschfeld 1st yr.
 Gary Wiedeman 1st yr., Chr.

Mission Team

(Raises awareness/promotes mission programs)

Art & Cathy Barnes Bev Poppe
 Sharon Fiely Amy Scheer
 John & Joyce Gilberg Dee Schroer
 Marta Hoelscher Jenn Snider
 Larry & Ann Kuhn Kristi Voisard
 Dot Ouwerkerk Gary Wehmeyer, Chr.

Worship Committee (meets bi-monthly)

Tim May Sr. Elder, Chairman
 Rev. Becky Erb Strang Pastor
 Dick Hudson Organist
 Jim Strang Music Director
 George Voress Head Deacon

Budget Committee (meets in August)

(Prepares church budget for following year)

John Voress Church Council President
 Mike Holdren Church Council Vice President
 Kathy Topp Church Council Secretary
 Randy Clark Church Council Treasurer
 Tim May Church Council Sr. Elder
 John Mohrman Church Council Sr. Trustee
 Gary Wiedeman Chairman, Stewardship Board

Board of Controls (meets Mar-Jun-Oct)

(Administers St. Paul Memorial Fund)

John Voress Church Council President
 Mike Holdren Church Council Vice President
 John Mohrman Church Council Sr. Trustee
 Terry Wissman 3rd yr.
 Don Scheer 2nd yr.
 Burt Fiser 2nd yr.

Financial Advisory Committee

(Consults with bookkeeper regarding church investments)

Don Scheer Member
 Bob Wierwille Member
 John Wierwille Member



FROM OUR PASTOR

Wednesday, March 5, 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

**CONTINUING BIBLE STUDY:
NON-CANONICAL BOOKS**

On Thursday, March 6 and 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library, Pastor Becky will continue to lead a class on books that did not make it into our New Testament canon. On March 6 we will explore the Gospel of Philip. On March 13 we will discuss the Gospel of Truth. All are welcome!

**THE SPIRIT OF CREATIVITY:
A HANDS-ON BIBLE STUDY**

On four Thursday evenings in Lent, Pastor Becky and Katie Jackson will lead a hands-on Bible study in the craft room from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Each evening we will explore a different biblical text before embarking on a creative/artistic journey.

This Bible study is open to youth sixth grade and up and to adults of all ages. We will begin on Thursday, March 20, and conclude on Thursday, April 10. No artistic skills are needed or required—just an open heart and a willingness to explore your spirituality.

SUNDAY SOUP NIGHT: MARCH 2

Pastor Becky and Jim Strang invite you to their home on Sunday, March 2, at 6:00 p.m. for a soup supper and a round or two of Apples to Apples. All food is provided—you simply need to contact the church office to let us know you can join us. All are welcome!

SALT: SUMMER ADULT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

All young adults age 19-25 who have been out of high school for a year are invited to consider applying to be a SALT Leader at St. Paul UCC. SALT Leaders work closely with staff and lay folk to create programs, visit

the homebound, lead worship, and assist in a variety of other ways. The program runs for 10 weeks for 30 hours per week. Assisting with Confirmation Camp is an expectation.

Application deadline is Friday, March 14. Interviews will take place the weekend of March 22-23. Applicants are encouraged to come home for the interviews.

See Pastor Becky for an application, cover letter and information.

REV. WILLIAM C. YOUNGKIN MEMORIAL SERVICE

The service to celebrate Pastor Bill's life will be held on Saturday, March 8, at 2:00 p.m. at Harmony Creek Church (UCC) in Kettering, Ohio. (5280 Bigger Rd, Kettering, OH 45440). Pastor Becky will be assisting with the worship service. A reception will follow in Harmony Creek's Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Bill served as the Interim Senior Pastor at St. Paul in 2009. If you plan to attend the worship, you are welcome to contact the church office so we might coordinate rides.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: MARCH 9

The Spirit Safari Club children will help lead worship on Sunday, March 9, at 10:15 a.m. They will share what they have learned about the Lord's Prayer during the Children's Moment, Sermon and Prayer Time.

All are welcome!

REV. PHIL HART PREACHING AT ST. PAUL UCC

The Rev. Phil Hart, Designated Ohio Conference Minister, will preach the Word during worship services on March 15 and 16.

All are welcome!

Mission

OGHS – MISSION FOR MARCH

One Great Hour of Sharing is the relief, refugee and development fund of the United Church of Christ. It is one of the Special Mission Offerings received by the United Church of Christ and is a part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM).

Donations to OGHS will be collected throughout the month of March. Announcements will be made during church services in the near future.

Please keep in mind that this fund distributes aid right here at home as well as nationally and globally.

The Mission Team

**NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION
TRIP TO EL SALVADOR**

John and Joyce Gilberg will be leading a trip to El Salvador for the Northwest Ohio Association March 19 to 27. Our UCC Association has the Lutheran Church in El Salvador as our global mission partner. Sharon Fiely from our church will be joining this group along with our

association minister, the Rev. Daniel Busch, and his daughter, Alison, who will be our translator. Others going are Dr. Alan Mikesell and the Rev. Rebecca Sunday from St. Paul UCC in Wapakoneta, the Rev. Adrian Sunday from the Buckland UCC, the Rev. Steven Nelson, a retired minister of the Lutheran Church in Wapakoneta and Andy Lacefield, the grandson of Ralph and Sue Quellhorst.

Each one of the travelers will be carrying two suitcases filled with items needed by those in the poorest section of San Salvador. Each suitcase will be carrying up to fifty pounds. Help is needed to fill them. This year we will not be taking any medications. Items needed are the following: Medical supplies such as band-aids, medical tape, gauze, splints, diabetic testing supplies, rubber gloves, tongue blades & etc., soccer balls (deflated), pumps, needles (for the balls), match box cars, beanie babies, small toys (no military), sewing supplies, light-weight material, craft supplies like knitting and crocheting needles, yarn, crochet thread, school supplies, Spanish books, puzzles, sheets, pillow cases, ball caps, small samples of soap, shampoos and lotions that are given at motels. Cotton or cotton blends for clothes as they have a very warm climate. They cannot wear the very large sizes that you see in our country. Women in the villages will always wear dresses or skirts and blouses. In the city, you will find women wearing capris or jeans along with the skirts and blouses. Little girls wear dresses. Little boys will wear shorts or cool long pants. Teen-age boys wear jeans or lightweight long pants. You will see very few wearing shorts. Teen-age girls like capris, light weight long pants or jeans. No shorts for them. T-shirts made of cotton are worn by both girls and boys. Colorful hair ribbons for the girls. Mothers love baby clothes and lightweight blankets for their babies. Lightweight sweaters for the cooler regions are needed. A special request added to this list was clothes for the clergy who are paid very little and clothes are expensive.

Help will be needed for the packing of all items on Saturday, March 15, in the auditorium at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

There will be a box for gifts for El Salvador on the stage in the auditorium to receive your gifts. All gifts will be appreciated by these wonderful people. Any questions? Call John at 419-629-2947.

John & Joyce Gilberg

MISSION PROJECT OF THE YEAR

[Reprinted from February Beacon]

Many years ago the church council, with approval by the congregation, decided to have a specific Mission Project of The Year. On alternating years, donations would be for the benefit of our local St. Paul Church and the next year they would be for the benefit of a mission outside the local church. Two years ago money was raised for Sand Dams in Kenya and last year for the restoration of our church's stained glass windows.

In April of 2013, Bishop Gomez from El Salvador visited us here in Ohio and he shared with us that the Lutheran Church in El Salvador was having trouble keeping their clinic for the poor open because of lack of funds. He said that the Lutheran Churches of El Salvador serve mostly very poor people. Persons, who visit the clinic, are not able to contribute much for the support of this vital mission. Patients pay two dollars per visit if they can pay. Those that can pay are very proud that they are able to pay. There are many people who need medical care but can't afford to see a doctor.

We, the Mission Team, decided that it would be great if our St. Paul Church would fund the salaries for the staff of the clinic. The clinic employs two medical doctors, one dentist, one lab technician, and one pharmacist who each earn \$100 per month. They all work part time and most of their time is donated. It costs the church in El Salvador \$500 per month or \$6000 per year to pay the salaries. It is hoped that enough money can be raised to pay the next two years of salaries or \$12,000. Bishop Gomez says that after two years the church should be able to pay the salaries on its own.

This mission project was presented to council and it was approved by 100 percent. When the \$12,000 amount is raised for the clinic support, the balance will be donated to the building of a new church building. The present church building is not safe and is being torn down.

Special envelopes are in the holders in the pews for everyone's convenience. Many events are being planned throughout the year to help fund this mission project.

Thank you for all your support of our partner church in El Salvador.

"God loves a Cheerful Giver."

The St. Paul Mission Team

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE PROJECT OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE

In regards to the previous article telling about the "Project of the Year", there will be a soup and sandwich luncheon served in the Assembly Room after the morning church service. This will be offered on **March 16**. A basket for a free-will offering will be available. More details as to what soups and sandwiches will be served will be listed in the church bulletins.

Many years ago, for about twenty-five years, a yearly fish fry was held on Maundy Thursday. This year we are renewing the fish fry with a meal served in the Assembly Room before the worship service that evening. It is to be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17, beginning at 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. The menu will be fish, coleslaw, tartar sauce, applesauce, bread and a dessert bar. More details will be in the April Beacon.

The St. Paul Mission Team



The St. Paul UCC crew remodeling a house on Lee Street — at Back Bay Mission: Dan Nedderman, Kathy Nedderman, Amy Scheer, Ann Kuhn, Larry Kuhn, Linda Topp, Cathy Barnes, Art Barnes, Phyllis Fledderjohann.

ST. PAUL PUTS MUSCLE INTO MISSION IN MISSISSIPPI

While west-central Ohio was shivering in the sub-zero weather of early February, nine members of St. Paul were basking in the foggy, misty, windy dampness of a Mississippi winter. It wasn't exactly escaping to an early spring climate, what with 30- to 40-degree temperatures constantly chilled by breezes from the Gulf of Mexico, but it was a rewarding 900-mile trip as our team put some muscle into the missions of St. Paul UCC.

The New Bremen mission crew rose above the weather to repair a hurricane-damaged home, working within a contingent of five UCC churches from New Bremen to Sandusky and joining a UCC congregation from Connecticut. They also served meals in a soup kitchen, distributed food through a local pantry and provided other services of Back Bay Mission, a UCC ministry to the homeless and impoverished in Biloxi, MS., for 90-plus years.

The monthly mission of St. Paul for January 2014 netted \$1,103 for Back Bay Mission. Amy Scheer delivered a check on behalf of our church, as she led the largest mission crew from Ohio, including Dan & Kathy Nedderman, Ann & Larry Kuhn, Cathy & Art Barnes, Phyllis Fledderjohann and Linda Topp.

The same regional contingent is scheduled for a return to Back Bay in 2015, Feb. 1-7 — when the Mississippi weather should be much warmer. For more information about the mission trip, see Amy Scheer after you go online to check out www.thebackbaymission.org.

Art Barnes, Mission Team

GREEN TIP

Spring is just around the corner! Many of us will be giving our home a good cleaning. This year make it green! Make a list of non-toxic cleaning supplies you will need. Green, DIY cleaning recipes are everywhere these days (search magazines, newspapers and online to find what you need to get the job done). Use microfiber cloths or cut up old t-shirts or sweatshirts instead of using paper towels. If you will be machine

washing bedding, linens, etc. be sure to wash with a full load and air dry as much as possible. Clean out your closets and pack items in cardboard boxes rather than non-biodegradable containers. (Don't forget to label the outside of each box!)

The Mission Team

News & Events

PASTOR BECKY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

We will have a reception on Sunday, **March 9**, right after worship to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Pastor Becky's ordination. Please plan to join us to honor Becky on this special occasion.

John Voress
President, Church Council

WANTED: SUMMER HOUSING

This May we will welcome Rev. Darrin Harvey and his family to St. Paul while Pastor Becky is on sabbatical. His contract with us calls for the congregation providing his housing. Unfortunately, rental properties in the New Bremen area are at a premium—there seem to be none available.

We are hoping that someone in the St. Paul family might have a furnished lake house or cottage that could be rented by St. Paul for the summer for the Harvey family's use. They would need a minimum of two bedrooms.

If you have something available or know someone who might, please see John Voress, Mike Holdren, or Pastor Becky.

LIBRARY NEWS

The following books have been purchased and placed in the Library (northeast corner of the Educational Building).

For the children's section:

The Miracles of Jesus by Tomie de Paola.

The Lord's Prayer illustrated by Tim Ladwig.

The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones.

If the World Were a Village by David Smith.

Route 66-A Trip Through 66 Books of the Bible, an activity book for grades 2-5 (these activities need to be copied from the book by teachers or parents).

The Library is open and available to all. Please sign your name on the card found in the book(s) you want to use or read and place in the box. Return by placing book(s) by the box.

Thanks.

Sue Maxson

PAGE TURNERS

On July 5, 1906, scandal breaks in the small Georgia town of Cold Sassy, when a man, barely three weeks a widower, elopes with someone half his age and a Yankee to boot. As their marriage inspires a whirlwind of local gossip, fourteen-year-old Will Tweedy suddenly finds himself eyewitness to a family scandal, and that's when his adventure begins. Cold Sassy Tree, by Olive Ann Burns, is an entertaining and moving account of small-town, Southern life in a bygone era, exploring themes such as religion, death and social taboos. Join the Page Turners to discuss this classic bestseller on Monday, **March 17**, at 1:00 p.m. in the church library.

The selection chosen for April will be Inconceivable: A Medical Mistake.... by Carolyn and Sean Savage. All books are available at the local library.

Sandy Thieman

SENIOR/RETIREE LUNCHEON

The February Senior/Retiree lunch was held on the perfect February day with a break from the cold temperatures we've experienced this year. Let's hope for more spring weather for our March luncheon. That will be on **March 20** in the Assembly Room at noon. After all, it is the first day of spring. Please call the church (419.629.2502) to reserve a space.

Senior Luncheon Committee

Meetings

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will meet **March 1** at 8:00 a.m. at Speedway Lanes.

John Voress

BUSY TWELVE

On Tuesday, **March 4**, 2014, at 11:30 a.m. the Busy Twelve will gather at Green Thumb Restaurant for lunch. After lunch we will go to the church social room for our meeting.

Eileen Gamble

MISSION TEAM

There will be a meeting of the Mission Team on Sunday, **March 9**, 2014, in the Library after worship. We are always looking for new people and new ideas to serve the church in this capacity. Feel free to join us.

Gary Wehmeyer

WOMEN'S SERVICE GROUP PLANS

ANNUAL NURSING HOMES VISITATION:

On Thursday, **March 13**, the Women's Service Group will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room to wrap gifts for our nursing home residents and then

have lunch at New Bremen Coffee Co. & Books. Reservations are required; menus will be available for ordering prior to our 12 noon lunch. At approximately 1:00 p.m. the group and any other guests will leave for their visitations to the various nursing homes where members of our congregation are residing. We are always in need of more people to help with the visitation so please feel free to call if you are able to help. Guests are also invited to join us for the meal at the coffee shop. Please call Bev Plattner at 419-629-3694 or Alice Hegemier at 419-629-2508 to help and/or make reservations for the lunch. Thanks so much for your help with this project.

Bev Plattner

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the cards that I have received. Also, thanks to everyone for your prayers while I have been at Otterbein since my fall last August.

Carolyn Pape

Thank you to fellow members of St. Paul Church for the cards and visits during my recent surgery. A special THANKS to Pastor Becky for the comforting words and prayers during my recovery. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Marvin Topp

RECORD BOOK

Called home:

Charles W. Waesch died on February 20, 2014, at the age of 82 years. A memorial service was held on February 23, 2014, and inurnment followed at German Protestant Cemetery, New Bremen, OH.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Change of address:

Rebecca Voress, 7561 Murray Hill Rd., Apt. 122, Columbia, MD 21046-1831

Kara Timm, 364 Shoshone Pl., Murfreesboro, TN 37128-2870

Rebecca Kettler, 369 Frebis Ave., Columbus, OH 43206

Briana Hemmelgarn, 207 S. Washington St., New Bremen, OH 45869

Keith May and Steven Meyers, 8900 St. Rt. 274, P.O. Box 102, Kettlersville, OH 45336

Remove:

Charles W. Waesch, deceased

BIRTH CANDLE ON THE ALTAR

Welcome:

Bryson Robert Eilerman, was born to Mitch and Kristy (Allen) Eilerman on February 1, 2014.

This 'n That

AM I A FIREMAN YET?

In Phoenix, Arizona, a 26-year-old mother stared down at her 6-year-old son, who was dying of terminal leukemia. Although her heart was filled with sadness, she also had a strong feeling of determination. Like any parent, she wanted her son to grow up and fulfill all his dreams. Now that was no longer possible, the leukemia would see to that. But she still wanted her son's dream to come true. She took her son's hand and asked, 'Billy, did you ever think about what you wanted to be once you grew up? Did you ever dream and wish what you would do with your life?' 'Mommy, I always wanted to be a fireman when I grew up.' Mom smiled back and said, 'Let's see if we can make your wish come true.'

Later that day she went to her local fire department in Phoenix where she met Fireman Bob, who had a heart as big as Phoenix. She explained her son's final wish and asked if it might be possible to give her 6-year-old son a ride around the block on a fire engine. Fireman Bob said, 'Look, we can do better than that. If you'll have your son ready at seven o'clock Wednesday morning, we'll make him an honorary fireman for the whole day. He can come down to the fire station, eat with us, go out on all the fire calls, the whole nine yards! And if you'll give us his sizes, we'll get a real fire uniform for him, with a real fire hat; not a toy – one with the emblem of the Phoenix Fire Department on it, and a yellow slicker like we wear, and rubber boots. They're all manufactured right here in Phoenix, so we can get them fast.'

Three days later Fireman Bob picked up Billy, dressed him in his uniform, and escorted him from his hospital bed to the waiting hook and ladder truck. Billy got to sit on the back of the truck and help steer it back to the fire station. He was in heaven. There were three fire calls in Phoenix that day and Billy got to go out on all three calls. He rode in the different fire engines, the paramedics' van, and even the fire chief's car. He was also videotaped for the local news program. Having his dream come true, with all the love and attention that was lavished upon him so deeply touched Billy that he lived three months longer than any doctor thought possible.

One night all of his vital signs began to drop dramatically and the head nurse, who believed in the hospice concept—that no one should die alone—began to call the family members to the hospital. Then she remembered the day Billy had spent as a fireman, so she called the fire chief and asked if it would be possible to send a fireman in uniform to the hospital to be with Billy as he made his transition. The chief replied, 'We can do better than that. We'll be there in

five minutes. Will you please do me a favor? When you hear the sirens screaming and see the lights flashing, will you announce over the PA system that there is not a fire?' It's the department coming to see one of its finest members one more time. And will you open the window to his room?' About five minutes later a hook and ladder truck arrived at the hospital and extended its ladder up to Billy's third floor open window. Sixteen fire fighters climbed up the ladder into Billy's room. With his mother's permission, they hugged him and held him and told him how much they LOVED him. With his dying breath, Billy looked up at the fire chief and said, 'Chief, am I really a fireman now?' 'Billy, you are, and The Head Chief, Jesus, is holding your hand,' the chief said. With those words, Billy smiled and said, 'I know, He's been holding my hand all day, and the angels have been singing. He closed his eyes one last time.'

HOT WATER BOTTLE

[This is a story written by a doctor who worked in Africa.]

One night I had worked hard to help a mother in the labor ward; but in spite of all we could do, she died, leaving us with a tiny, premature baby and a crying two-year-old daughter. We would have difficulty keeping the baby alive, as we had no incubator (we had no electricity to run an incubator).

We also had no special feeding facilities. Although we lived on the equator, nights were often chilly with treacherous drafts. One student midwife went for the box we had for such babies and the cotton wool that the baby would be wrapped in.

Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly in distress to tell me that in filling the bottle, it had burst (rubber perishes easily in tropical climates).

'And it is our last hot water bottle!' she exclaimed. As in the West, it is no good crying over spilled milk, so in Central Africa it might be considered no good crying over burst water bottles. They do not grow on trees, and there are no drugstores down forest pathways.

'All right, ' I said, 'put the baby as near the fire as you safely can, and sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from drafts. Your job is to keep the baby warm.'

The following noon, as I did most days, I went to have prayers with any of the orphanage children who chose to gather with me. I gave the youngsters various suggestions of things to pray about and told them about the tiny baby. I explained our problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the

hot water bottle, and that the baby could so easily die if it got chills. I also told them of the two-year-old sister, crying because her mother had died.

During prayer time, one ten-year-old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt conciseness of our African children. 'Please, God,' she prayed, 'send us a hot water bottle today. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon.'

While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added, 'And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?' As often with children's prayers, I was put on the spot. Could I honestly say 'Amen?' 'I just did not believe that God could do this.

Oh, yes, I know that He can do everything; the Bible says so. But there are limits, aren't there? The only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending me a parcel from the homeland. I had been in Africa for almost four years at that time, and I had never, ever, received a parcel from home.

Anyway, if anyone did send me a parcel, who would put in a hot water bottle? I lived on the equator! Halfway through the afternoon, while I was teaching in the nurses' training school, a message was sent that there was a car at my front door. By the time I reached home, the car had gone, but there on the veranda was a large 22-pound parcel. I felt tears pricking my eyes. I could not open the parcel alone, so I sent for the orphanage children. Together we pulled off the string, carefully undoing each knot. We folded the paper, taking care not to tear it unduly. Excitement was mounting. Some thirty or forty pairs of eyes were focused on the large cardboard box. From the top, I lifted out brightly colored, knitted jerseys. Eyes sparkled as I gave them out.

Then there were the knitted bandages for the leprosy patients, and the children looked a little bored. Then came a box of mixed raisins and sultanas. That would make a batch of buns for the weekend.

Then, as I put my hand in again, I felt the... could it really be? I grasped it and pulled it out. Yes, a brand new, rubber hot water bottle. I cried. I had not asked God to send it; I had not truly believed that He could.

Ruth was in the front row of the children. She rushed forward, crying out, 'If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too!'

Rummaging down to the bottom of the box, she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. Her eyes shone! She had never doubted!

Looking up at me, she asked, 'Can I go over with you and give this dolly to that little girl, so she'll know that Jesus really loves her?' 'Of course!' I replied.

That parcel had been on the way for five whole months, packed up by my former Sunday school class whose leader had heard and obeyed God's prompting to send a hot water bottle, even to the equator. And one of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child—five months before—in answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year-old to bring it 'that afternoon.'

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. [Isaiah 65:24]

MARCH GREETERS

Mar 2
 East Duane & Alice Hegemier
 North Tim & Vicki May
 South Duane & Alice Hartwig

Mar 9
 East Jack & Darlene Gilberg
 North Burt & Jan Fiser
 South Don & Sue Kettler

Mar 16
 East Girl Scouts
 North Girl Scouts
 South Girl Scouts

Mar 23
 East Ron & Michelle Sudman
 North Charles & Eileen Gamble
 South Bob & Mary Finke

Mar 30
 East Staci & Paige Jones
 North Dr. Jeff & Renee Paul
 South Ben & Barbara Rhinehart

SATURDAY ACCOMPANISTS

Mar 1 Connie O'Neill
 Mar 8 Sharon Chaney
 Mar 15 Bev Plattner
 Mar 22 Connie O'Neill & Sat. Evening Chorus
 Mar 29 Sharon Chaney

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 Philipot
 Mar 31 Neal & Michelle Voress



Pastoral Care is very important. 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

Wilbert Gruebmeier

Victor Maurer

Barbara Schmidt

Helen Wissman

HERITAGE MANOR

24 N. Hamilton St., Minster, OH 45865

Gloria Goodwin

Thomas Goodwin

Doris Howe

Jill May

Alice Waterman

Jean Waterman

THE GARDENS-CELINA

1301 Myers Rd, Celina, OH 45822

Ethel Sudman

THE GARDENS-WAPAKONETA

505 Walnut St., Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Louise Kettler (Room 222)

ST. MARYS LIVING CENTER

1209 Indiana Ave., St. Marys, OH 45885

Eldine Blumhorst

Marcella Thomas

OTTERBEIN-ST. MARYS

11300 Circle Dr., St. Marys, OH 45885

John & LaRue Dicke (11323 Bobwhite Lane)

Dorothy Feltman (11313 Bobwhite Lane)

Harry Ingram (11310 Bobwhite Lane)

Leota Kellermeyer (11300 Circle Dr.)

Betty Kettler (Room 326)

Carolyn Pape

June Wiehe

BRIARWOOD MANOR

100 Don Desch Dr., Coldwater, OH 45828

William (Bill) Jackson

AUGLAIZE ACRES

13093 Infirmary Rd., Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Luella Poppe (send mail c/o David Poppe,

06700 Lock Two Rd., New Bremen, OH 45869)

SWISS VILLAGE

1350 W. Main St., P. O. Box 284, Berne, IN 46711

Mary Lou Campbell, Room 658

Happy Birthday

May God bless all of you birthday people on your special day.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Chloe Bornhorst, Marta Hoelscher, Paige Jones, Angela Kuck, Kyle Miller, Kylien Miller, Jessica Quellhorst
- 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 Kelsner
- 20 Henry Callahan, Roger Callahan, 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 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, Emma Lammers, 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

**St. Paul U.C.C. Council Meeting
February 11, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 18 attendees including: Randy Clark, Lisa Davidson, Mark Dicke, Nelson Erb, Brenda Haynes, Barb Holdren, Mike Holdren, Katie Jackson, Tim May, Ragan Miller, John Mohrman, Dee Schroer, Pastor Becky Strang, Gene Topp, Bill Tostrick, George Voress, and Carol Wilson. Gene Topp provided the meditation.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report for the January 14, 2014, council meeting was reviewed. Carol Wilson made a motion to approve; Tim May seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report as of January 31, 2014, was reviewed. It showed a ytd balance, income vs. expenses, of \$14.51. John Mohrman made a motion to approve; Tim May seconded; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: No meeting; no report.

Mission: The January mission project, Back Bay Mission, netted \$1103; February's mission project will be CWS Blankets +; the mission for March will be One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS).

Lenten coin folders will not be used this year. Instead, St. Paul will host a shrimp boil, with proceeds going to Back Bay Mission.

Worship: Worship schedule has been mapped out through May

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education: Stephanie Dicke has resigned as Director of Christian Education. There will not be a replacement at this time. The board members have rallied to work as a team for now.

Deacons: Nothing to report.

Elders: Nothing to report.

Trustees: There have been ongoing heating issues in the Educational Building and the sanctuary. Kogge has installed a new thermostat in the sanctuary; the thermostat in the financial secretary/music director's office still is not working properly.

Rev. Strang's Report

•Worship:

>Mar 1 & 2: Transfiguration weekend.

>Mar 5: Ash Wednesday, worship at 7:30 p.m.

>Mar 8: Memorial service for Rev. Bill Youngkin, at 2:00 p.m., Harmony Creek UCC, Kettering, OH.

>Mar 9: Spirit Safari Club children assist with worship.

>Mar 15 & 16: Rev. Phil Hart, Designated Ohio Conference Minister, preaching.

>Mar 29 & 30: Hymn Sing weekend.

•Called to Care: The team will lead the Maundy Thursday Healing Service.

•Bible Study: A 6-week Bible study of books that did not make it into our New Testament canon and that began on February 6 will continue on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

•Soup nights: February 16 & 23 and March 2 at 6:00 p.m. Jim & Becky are opening their home for light dinners of soup, bread and dessert on these dates. Please sign up in the church office.

•Director of Christian Education: Stephanie Dicke has resigned effective January 31.

•SALT Team: The team will meet to begin discussion of the upcoming summer on Sunday, February 16, 11:30 a.m. in the Library.

•Confirmation classes: Going well. Work on Faith Statements begins March 12.

•Upcoming vacation time:

>May 15-18: Jimmy's graduation weekend from Miami.

>Sometime in October: Ben's graduation from boot camp.

•Pastoral care: January 9- February 11, 2014:

>Hospital visits: 4

>Nursing home visits: 8

>Home visits: 1

>Home communions: 8

>Funeral: 1

>Phone calls: 1

>Notes written: 4

>Continuing Ed: 3

Katie Jackson's Report:

•SPLASH: Our students have discussed Jesus' birth, baptism and temptation, as well as his relationship with the Pharisees. We will be making Valentine's gifts for nursing home residents.

•JH: Due to school cancellations, we will finish our Made to Make a Difference series tomorrow. We will then continue our journey through the New Testament, starting with The Kingdom.

•HS: The HS students have discussed different articles from Relevant Magazine, including ones on dating and their faith. We also had a Super Bowl party at Kim & Tim Hemmelgarn's house.

•5-6-7: We have continued through the NT lessons we started a while ago, and will keep going until the summer.

•School events attended:

>2 JH girls' games

>1 8th-grade girls' game

>3 HS boys' games

>1 JH boys' game

•Other events:

>Feb 1: Directors' meeting at Pilgrim Hills. I have been asked to be a worship consultant at MADD Camp, June 14-21, and will be directing a Confirmation Camp/retreat July 31-August 3. There is a possibility that I'll be asked to direct a 6-8th grade camp in July as well.

>Feb 8 & 9: Youth led worship.

>Feb 18: The Youth Ministry: Settings and Issues class from Ohio Northern will be visiting during the day for a few hours to hear about our church and ministry, as well as my personal experience as a youth minister. It should be a neat opportunity for them and for me.

>Feb 23: Church-wide family and youth group tubing at Mad River Mountain (postponed from January 26).

>Mar 6-10: Simply Youth Ministry Conference in Columbus.

•El Salvador: We will be taking a student trip back to El Salvador June 2-9, 2014. Seven students are signed up to go with the possibility of one more. We have collected a lot of aluminum cans, but will gladly take more. The next pickup date is March 2. John Mohrman and I will be taking the cans we have to Chickasaw for scrapping next week.

•Mom-To-Mom sale: Our turnout wasn't great, but we did make \$475, with a few payments outstanding. To compensate for the "deficit" we are going to be doing a Tupperware sale in March. Other fundraisers include the rummage sale, aluminum can collection and shareholders.

OLD BUSINESS

•Educational Building roof: A meeting with Nitro Roofing is scheduled for Thursday to sign a contract and set a start date.

•Right Now Ministries: No one has responded to Pastor Becky if using or not. After council's discussion, a motion to cancel membership was made by George Voress; seconded by Lisa Davidson; motion carried.

•Parsonage privacy fence: A quote was received from Sidney Lawn & Landscape Service; other quotes will be solicited.

•Microphones: Still working on a solution.

NEW BUSINESS

•Lawn treatment program: A quote from Healthy Lawns (Coldwater) for the 2014 season was reviewed. After council's discussion, Randy Clark made a motion to have Healthy Lawns do a 5-step treatment of the church/parsonage/Educational Building area at a cost of \$105/treatment (\$525) and a 2-step weed control treatment of the park area at \$130/treatment (\$260), for a grand total of \$785; Bill Tostrick seconded; motion carried.

•New Bremen Historic Association fundraiser request: Tim May made a motion to donate \$20; Brenda Haynes seconded; motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

•Next meeting: March 11, 2014; devotions, Lisa Davidson.

•Annual congregational meeting: February 23.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Barb Holdren, Secretary Pro-Tem

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 that families or groups may want to consider purchasing for the church. This list is for reference only. Other ideas are welcome.

Item	Guesstimate d cost
New flooring in auditorium	\$8000
New lighting for auditorium	?
Additional playground equipment	\$2500
Fellowship area & handicapped accessible restroom at rear of sanctuary	?
New carpeting, Assembly Room & Chapel	?
TV screen – sanctuary	\$14,000
New clock faces on steeple	?

March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 Men's Club 5:00 Worship w/Holy Communion
2	3	4	Ash Wednesday 5	6	7	8
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship w/Holy Communion 11:30 Board. Of Christian Ed 6:00 Soup Night 7:00 HS Youth Group		11:30 Busy Twelve 7:00 Saturday Evening Chorus	3:00 SPLASH 7:00 JH Youth Group 7:30 Ash Wednesday worship	7:00 Winter Bible Study		2:00 Rev. Youngkin memorial service – Kettering 5:00 Worship
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship 11:30 Mission Team 7:00 HS Youth Group		7:00 Church Council 7:00 Saturday Evening Chorus	3:00 SPLASH 7:00 JH Youth Group 7:00 Confirmation 8:00 Chancel choir	10:00 Women's Service Group 7:00 Winter Bible Study	SALT Application Deadline	5:00 Worship
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship 7:00 HS Youth Group	1:00 Page Turners	7:00 Saturday Evening Chorus	3:00 SPLASH 7:00 JH Youth Group 7:00 Confirmation 8:00 Chancel choir	12:00 Senior/Retiree luncheon 7:00 Hands-on Bible Study Beacon articles due		5:00 Worship
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship 7:00 HS Youth Group		7:00 Saturday Evening Chorus	3:00 SPLASH 7:00 JH Youth Group 7:00 Confirmation 8:00 Chancel choir	7:00 Hands-on Bible Study		5:00 Worship (Hymn Sing)
30	31					
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship (Hymn Sing) 7:00 HS Youth Group						



SPECIAL DATES:

Mar 2 – Soup night, parsonage, 6:00 p.m.

Mar 9 – Children's worship

Mar 9 – Pastor Becky's 20th ordination celebration reception following worship

Mar 15 – Packing for El Salvador

Mar 15 & 16 – Rev. Phil Hart preaching

Mar 16 – Soup & sandwich luncheon following worship

Mar 20 – Senior/Retiree luncheon, 12:00 noon



El Salvador Mission Trip update

8 students are participating in the mission trip. We will be collecting aluminum cans (March 2nd, 5pm) until we leave, as well as doing an envelope donation request and a Tupperware sale. Please consider supporting this trip both financially and with prayer. Thank you!

March events:

- 2: El Salvador meeting 6pm, HS Youth
- 5: Splash, JH Youth
- 9: HS Youth
- 12: Splash, JH Youth
- 16: HS Youth
- 19: Splash, JH Youth
- 23: HS Youth
- 26: Splash, JH Youth
- 30: HS Youth

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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