

THE BEACON

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

“Empowered Christians Serving God’s People”

VOL. 65, No. 11



Rev. Rebecca Erb Strang, Pastor

November, 2014



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Serving St. Paul Church

Staff

Rev. Becky Erb Strang Pastor
 Katie Jackson Director of Youth Ministries
 Kristi Voisard Director of Christian Education
 Barb Holdren Office Manager/Bookkeeper
 Anna Hoelscher Lay Minister of Visitation
 Dick Hudson Organist
 Jim Strang Director of Music
 Connie O'Neill Saturday Night Choir Director
 Janet Eilerman Financial Secretary
 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)

Kristi Voisard Director of Christian Education
 Shelly Smart Sunday school Supt.
 Brook Schmitmeyer Asst. Sunday school Supt.
 Lisa Weigandt Representative
 Terri Mullins Representative
 Linda Tinsley 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 Rev. Becky Erb Strang
 Dennis Dicke Sandy Thieman
 Rebekkah Fry John Voress
 John Gilberg, Chr. Dick Watcke
 Bev Poppe

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 Director of Music
 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

November offers us the opportunity to count our blessings and to thank God for his presence in our lives. It is the season when gratitude overflows. A poem that speaks to this comes from e.e. cummings:

*i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes
(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)
how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?
(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)*

Indeed, November is a gift to each of us: a month to dedicate our financial pledges to God. A month to thank our military veterans for their service. A month to gather as friends and family around the dinner table. To quote e.e. cummings, our eyes and ears are awakened and opened to God's blessings.

It seems most fitting that November is the month that holds both Thanksgiving and stewardship seasons. Truly, we cannot have one without the other. We give generously in response to God's blessings, grace, and love. We offer thanksgiving for these blessings as we give generously to God through the work of St. Paul Church.

November—with its blustery winds and blowing leaves—is a month that calls us to Christian discipleship: in our discipleship, in our giving, and in our gratitude.

Consecration Saturday and Sunday are November 8 and 9. During worship on these days, you will be invited to bring your financial pledge forward to be dedicated to God. We grow as Christian disciples when we offer our first fruits—our very best to God. We are called to be stewards of our time, our talent, and our treasure—to care for the gifts that God has generously given to us. As you reflect upon what your giving will be during 2015, I invite your pledge to reflect God's love and grace in your own life.

On that same weekend (November 8 and 9), we will honor our military veterans for their service. Veterans are asked to contact the church office prior to thank weekend so we can include your name in the bulletin.

November reminds us how we are connected to one another, to God, and to all of creation. In response, you are invited to read Lynne McTaggart's The Bond: How to Fix Your Falling Down World—a text on how we are

intimately connecting to one another. We will gather to discuss McTaggart's work at the parsonage over dinner on Sunday, November 23.

Finally, we grow as Christians when Thanksgiving becomes thanks-living: a way of life. You are invited to the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m. at The Church of the Holy Redeemer. Pastors from all four New Bremen churches will lead worship. A community choir will share their music. All who attend worship that evening are invited to bring canned goods for Agape Ministries.

May your November be filled with gratitude, grace, and joy!

Blessings,
Becky

**YOU ARE INVITED TO SOUP NIGHTS:
NOVEMBER 2 & 9**

Pastor Becky and Jim are opening their home on two Sunday evenings at 6:00 in November for Soup Nights. We will eat a light supper of soup, bread and dessert while enjoying one another's company. Following our meal, we will play a fun board game or two.

This is a great opportunity to get to know more folk at St. Paul—whether you have been a lifelong member or have joined recently. Children are always welcome.

You need not bring anything but your appetite and enthusiasm.

Because the parsonage has limited space, please sign up to attend in the church office.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING

And the Word became flesh and lived among us...full of grace and truth. [John 1:14]

Our Thursday evening Bible study will meet three Thursdays in November: November 6, 13, and 20. We gather in the Library at 7:00 p.m. to dig deeply into scripture, following Brian McLaren's Bible study outline in We Make the Road by Walking. All are welcome!

Please contact the church office if you need childcare for this event.

VETERANS RECOGNITION

Veterans who have served our nation with dignity and loyalty will be honored during worship services the weekend of November 8 and 9. Active duty personnel will also be honored at this time. Please contact the church office to let us know your branch of service.

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The four congregations of New Bremen will worship together on Tuesday, November 25, at The Church of the Holy Redeemer at 7:00 p.m. An ecumenical choir is in the works—so stay tuned! This worship is a great opportunity to praise and thank God with our friends and neighbors. All are welcome!

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS!

If St. Paul UCC has become your spiritual home, you are invited to consider taking the step of becoming a member. A New Member Orientation Session will be held on Sunday, November 9, at 11:30 in the Assembly Room.

New members will be received into the life of the congregation during worship services November 15 and 16.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Becky or John Gilberg (chair of Membership Team).

BOOK CLUB: THE BOND: HOW TO FIX YOUR FALLING DOWN WORLD

You are invited to pick up a copy of Lynne McTaggart's The Bond in the church office in November. McTaggart's text is an amazing testimony to the power of relationships and service.

Then, on Sunday, November 23, you are invited to the parsonage for dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by a discussion of the book.

All are welcome!

NURSING HOME WORSHIP

We will worship with our friends at Heritage Manor on Thursday, November 6, at 10:15 a.m. We will also worship with our friends at St. Marys Living Center on Sunday, November 16, at 3:00 p.m.

If you would like to assist with either of these two services, please contact Pastor Becky.

All are welcome!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Families and individuals are invited to contact Pastor Becky to sign up for lighting Advent candles during worship services in Advent and Christmas Eve. Advent begins the weekend of November 29 and 30.

Mission

HOMEMADE LUNCHEON OFFERED

Hungry for homemade food? We hope so, because on **November 16** after church, the Mission Team is preparing a Soup, Sandwich and Dessert Luncheon in the Assembly Room. Choice of soup: chili or chicken noodle. Choice of sandwich: chicken or beef. Choice of dessert: Various pies with homemade ice cream. A free will donation will go to the Project of the Year to help pay for some salary to the five professionals and the one assistant at the El Salvadoran Clinic in San Salvador. We are anxious to make our goal of \$12,000 to help support them for two years of service. The last report said that we had \$9500 donated already.

COME ONE, COME ALL! Enjoy the food! Enjoy the fellowship! Feel good that in this way you are helping others who have so very little!

Joyce Gilberg

THANKOFFERING BOXES

On November 23 there will be an ingathering of Thankoffering boxes. As God has blessed you this past year, our hope is that you have placed coins in your box so that others can be helped.

Food, the necessity of life! Adding our Thankoffering boxes together we are able to feed many—not only locally, but in third-world countries as well.

Won't you be a part of this program? St. Paul has helped feed the hungry with these wonderful little boxes for 25-plus years. Have you forgotten or lost your box? A bag, or jar will do! It's not too late for you to feed the hungry.

On November 23 and the weeks after, a new Thankoffering box will be given so that in 2015, as you are blessed, you can bless others.

The Mission Team

THANK YOU FROM AGAPE

During the month of August we collected 227 personal care items and 67 food items. We also collected \$1586 in cash that Agape has used to purchase additional personal care items.

From mid-September to October 11, we collected 100 coats plus several bags of caps, scarves and head bands that have been donated to the One Warm Coat program.

Thanks to all of you, many of your neighbors will be able to take care of their personal care needs and also keep warm in the months to come.

Please remember there is a need all year long for food items. Your donations can be placed in the blue barrels in the sanctuary and the box on the stage in the Educational Building.

Thank you.

The Mission Team

News & Events

SCRIP GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas is right around the corner. Consider ordering gift cards through our SCRIP program, which benefits the Youth Program. We get a percentage of every purchase, which varies from retailer to retailer. **Orders will be taken Saturday, November 1, 2014, through Sunday, December 14, 2014.** Order forms will be in the Saturday/Sunday bulletins the first weekend in November, or can be picked up at the office or entrances to church. There is a wide variety of popular retailers to choose from. The orders go in on Mondays and are in Thursday or Friday of that same week. If you have any questions, please contact me – Deb Kramer at 419-202-3451. Thank you for your support of our youth programs!

PAGE TURNERS

The Page Turners have chosen The Boys in the Boat for the November read and review. Daniel J. Brown tells the story of the nine-man rowing team from University of Washington who defied all the odds in their quest for gold at the Berlin Olympics in 1936. While the author teaches the reader something about the sport of rowing, the story's main focus is on the triumph of the human spirit, exceeding old limitations, and, most importantly, working together to achieve something great! Previous reviews say that this non-fiction book is, "one not to be missed". Join the Page Turners on Monday, **November 17**, at 1:00 p.m. in the Library to be part of the discussion of this interesting book.

The Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline has been chosen for December 15. All books are available for loan at the local library.

Sandy Thieman

WOMEN'S SERVICE GROUP

On Thursday, **November 13**, The Women's Service Group will travel to Piqua to tour the Nicholas School and Rehab Center for Neurological Development. The Nicholas School is a private school that serves children in grades K thru 8 who have special needs, many of them children on the autism spectrum. The Neurological Center offers personalized programs for adults and children, many with traumatic brain injuries, as well as persons with systemic and muscular disorders. Aquatic therapy, physical therapy and neuro feedback are a few of the programs available to help clients reach their full potential.

The group will leave from St. Paul parking lot at 10:00 a.m. for an 11:00 tour, followed by lunch in Piqua before returning to New Bremen. Anyone interested in this program is invited to join the group for this informative tour and lunch.

Sandy Thieman

SENIOR LUNCHEON

The German food prepared for the October luncheon was a big hit. Thanksgiving will be our inspiration for the **November 20** luncheon. Join us for some good food and fellowship at 12:00 noon. Best of all, we'll do the cooking—you just have to show up! Bring a friend or two. See you on the 20th. Please call the church office to let us know you'll attend.

Senior Luncheon Committee

REMINDER – OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES

Offering Envelope boxes were mailed to all members the week of October 12. If you have not received your envelope box, please contact the church office or me so I can assign you a new box and get it to you. Church office (419-629-2502) or Janet Eilerman (419-629-3102).

Also, just a friendly reminder – Do Not Use your new "2015 Envelopes" until the new year – your envelope number may change from year to year due to keeping records in alphabetical order. If you use next year's envelopes prior to the new year, your contributions could possibly be credited to someone else's account if your number changes.

Thank you so much for your cooperation!

Janet Eilerman/Financial Secretary

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The New Bremen Historic Association will continue a holiday tradition in the community. We will hold our fourth annual Christmas Tree Festival at the Lockkeeper's House. This is the 40th year the NBHA has sponsored a Christmas Open House, beginning at the Museum (Luelleman House) on Main Street in 1974. We look to community involvement again this year to assure the success of this event. Although admission to the display is free, donations received from visitors will go to the New Bremen Historic Association for their continued efforts to preserve New Bremen history.

We are asking every interested business, organization, church, family, child or adult to display a tree or other Christmas decoration that depicts their individual interest. *Prizes for entries will be awarded in several categories.*

In cooperation with the New Bremen/New Knoxville Rotary, the display will be open during the New Bremen Christmas Tree Lighting on Monday, December 1 and during an Open House on Sunday, December 7 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. This year, we will also be open to the community on the following Sunday, December 14 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. The Christmas Tree Festival will remain at the Lockkeeper's House throughout the holiday season. With the Chamber of Commerce located in the building, the public will have access to visiting during the regular Chamber hours as well. Times will be offered to assemble your displays with a *completion date of November 26th*. Special appointments can be made by calling one of the numbers listed below. We hope to continue to "build" this event each year with the community's involvement and participation. If, by chance, you do not have access to an extra tree, we will try our best to find one for you; however, we are hoping this will be an annual event and your tree could be used year after year.

To reserve your space or for any questions, please contact: **Diane Paul, 419-629-2856, rdpaul@nktelco.net or Judy Meckstroth, 419-629-2017 by November 15, 2014.**

Thank you so much for considering being involved in this exciting community tradition!

NEW THIS YEAR!

A HOLIDAY PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

We will have a photographer available on Saturday, December 6, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday, December 7 during the Open House to take photos of your children, family, and pets in front of a festive backdrop of holiday trees. A nominal fee will be charged.

Diane Paul, NBHA



GREEN TIPS

Make Your Own Non-Toxic Air Fresheners

Room Spray—Add 30-40 drops of your favorite essential oil and 1/2 C of distilled water to a dark glass spray bottle. Shake gently but thoroughly. Store away from direct sunlight.

Homemade Gel Air Freshener—Boil 1 C of distilled water and add 4 packages of unflavored gelatin until dissolved. Remove from heat, stir in another C of water, add 10-20 drops of essential oil. If desired, you can add food coloring. For a mold inhibitor, add a splash of vodka or 1-2 T of salt. Pour into a clean baby food jar or other any other decorative glass container.

Simmering Potpourri—Bring a small pan of water to a gentle simmer, add citrus peel, cloves, allspice, nutmeg and cinnamon sticks or ground cinnamon. Allow the potpourri to simmer for an hour or longer. Add additional water as needed.

Information gathered from www.greencleaning.about.com

Jenn Snider

Meetings

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will meet on **Saturday, November 1**, at 8:00 a.m. at Speedway Lanes.

John Voress

MISSION TEAM

There will be a meeting of the Mission Team on **Sunday, November 2, 2014**, in the 4th & 5th grade classroom after worship. We re always looking for new people and new ideas to serve the church in this capacity. Feel free to join us.

Gary Wehmeyer

BUSY TWELVE

The Busy Twelve will meet on **Tuesday, November 4**, at 11:30 a.m. at Speedway Lanes.

Eileen Gamble

Thank You

A special thank you to St. Paul for the many cards, the phone calls, and especially your prayers. It's three weeks since surgery and I feel weak, but content with my recovery. I thank Rev. Strang and Ann Hoelscher for their visits and prayers. The Lord has blessed me in so many ways.

Again, thanks from the bottom of my heart. Your prayers saw me through this.

God Bless,

Donna Conradi

CHURCH RECORD BOOK

Called home:

Mary A. Egbert died on October 1, 2014, at the age of 80 years. A memorial service was held in the sanctuary on October 4, 2014, and burial followed at German Protestant Cemetery, New Bremen, OH.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Change of address:

Jacob Schwable, 316 W. Monroe, New Bremen, OH 45869-1338

Brandi Schwable, 646 N. Ohio Ave, Sidney OH 45365-2170

Miriam Donnerberg, Otterbein-St. Marys, 11314 Bobwhite Lane, St. Marys, OH 45885-9569

Lori Busse-Hubbard, 4633 Woodhaven Ct., Mason, OH 45040-3015

Leslie Humphries, 630 E. Fort Ave, Baltimore, MD 21230-4723

Darlene Altman, 63 Golden Eagle Ln., Littleton, CO 80127-5750

Kara Timm, 5665 Hampden Ave., Rockvale, TN 37153-4436

Rebecca Kettler, 237 E. Hinman Ave., Columbus, OH 43207-1903

Remove:

Mary A. Egbert - deceased

NOVEMBER GREETERS

Nov 2

East Jeff & Lisa Weigandt
North Chuck & Eileen Gamble
South Lori and Jacob Rindler

Nov 9

East Matt & Katie Dietrich
North Randv & Melinda Clark
South Jack & Darlene Gilbera

Nov 16

East Dick & Sandy Watcke
North Lowell & Betty Quellhorst
South Brice & Brook Schmitmeyer

Nov 23

East Tony & Cresta Ritter
North Karl & Ethel Mesloh
South Deb Lear

Nov 30

East Tom & Joyce Holdren
North David & Kelli Muther
South Jeff & Renee Paul

SATURDAY ACCOMPANISTS

Nov 1 Bev Plattner
Nov 8 Connie O'Neill & Sat. Evening
Nov 15 Sharon Chaney
Nov 22 Connie O'Neill
Nov 29 Ethel Mesloh & Edith Wissman

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 2 John & Dot Koeper
Nov 3 Samuel & Andrea Hanson
Nov 8 Mark & Lori Likens
Nov 17 Joseph & Jill Borkowski
Nov 20 Brian & Susan Conradi-Toomey
Nov 23 Marvin & Linda Topp
Nov 24 William & Christine Wilson
Nov 25 Larry & Nancy Busse
Nov 25 R. Jay & Carol Stauffer
Nov 25 Jerry & Andrea Huber
Nov 26 Mike & Barb Holdren
Nov 28 Thomas & Sandra Thieman
Nov 28 John & Virginia Voress
Nov 30 Jim & Theida Tontrup
Nov 30 Jerry & Cindy Newman



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

Victor Maurer

Lois Moeller

Carolyn Pape (*send mail to Carolyn Pape c/o Cheryl Barlage, 41 W. Pearl, New Bremen, OH 45869*)

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-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

LaRue Dicke

Dorothy Feltman (11313 Bobwhite Lane)

Harry Ingram (11108 Circle Drive)

Leota Kellermeyer

Betty Kettler (Room 326)

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

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Marlene Hittepole
- 2 Angela Dammeyer, Jerry Newman
- 3 Andrew Hudson, John Tostrick
- 4 Virginia Braun, Caitlin Puthoff
- 5 Gloria Goodwin
- 6 Ned Conradi, Roland Dicke, Dennis Nelson, Tony Tontrup
- 7 Griffin Huber, Cindy Schemmel, Guy Waterman
- 8 Richard Howell, Frank Moots, Julia Paul, Cynthia Young, Hayden Zeller
- 9 James Dicke II, Rick Stienecker, Alan Topp, Gary Topp, Gary Wehmeyer
- 10 William Bruns, Zelta Fogt, Zachary Tontrup
- 11 Katie Jackson, Joseph Maurer
- 12 Philip Borkowski
- 13 Karen Farley, Kylien Patel
- 14 Ned Dammeyer, Becky Erb Strang
- 15 Todd Thieman
- 16 Wanda Dammeyer, Thomas Rengers
- 17 Cami Davis, Curtis Eilerman, Jessica Tostrick, Austin Webb
- 18 Cathy Barnes, Lauren Dicke, Caleb Felver, Gregory Felver, Jayden Felver, Dale Heitkamp, Beverly Plattner
- 19 William Blumhorst, Lori Busse-Hubbard, Ryne Moots, Linda Rump, Sue Shockney, Elias Slife, Gregg Thobe
- 20 Stacey Fairchild, Tammy Oliver, Mark Stienecker
- 21 Barbara Freewalt
- 22 Mitchell Opperman, Jacob Scheer
- 23 Joni Gatton
- 24 Ethan Buettner, Janet Eilerman, Scott Kettler, Adam Micheal
- 25 Joyce Piper, Justin Schwable, Carol Stauffer
- 26 Emily Dammeyer, Elise Oldiges, Bryan Trego
- 27 James Moeller
- 28 Randall Davidson, Stacy Erb, Rebecca Quellhorst, Sieanna Zeller
- 29 Ryan Gruebmeier
- 30 Jacob Meckstroth, Martha Plattner, Wes Wyatt

**St. Paul U.C.C. Council Meeting
October 14, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 19 attendees including: Lisa Davidson, Mark Dicke, Nelson Erb, Brenda Haynes, Barb Holdren, Mike Holdren, Katie Jackson, Tim May, Ragan Miller, John Mohrman, Dee Schroer, Rev. Becky Strang, Gene Topp, Kathy Topp, Bill Tostrick, Kristi Voisard, George Voress, Carol Wilson. Bill Tostrick provided the meditation.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report for the September 9, 2014, council meeting was reviewed. John Mohrman made a motion to approve; Mark Dicke seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report as of September 30, 2014, was reviewed. The ytd balance, income vs. expenses, shows a deficit of (\$23,963.07). Carol Wilson made a motion to approve; John Mohrman seconded; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: John Voress reported that:

- Porch parties for next year are under review.
- New members will be received November 16.
- Fellowship time coordinator – Bryce Voress will replace Darlene Gilberg.
- Soup nights at the parsonage will resume.

Mission: Dee Schroer reported that:

- Neighbors in Need (NIN), the mission for September, netted \$810.
- The chicken carryout dinner netted \$1208 for the Project of the Year (El Salvador medical clinic).
- The Thankoffering receipts will be divided equally between Agape Ministries and Heifer International.

Worship: No meeting; no report.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Ed: Kristi Voisard, Director of Christian Education, reported that:

- Sunday school attendance has been good. The former computer room is now being used for an extra classroom.
- The Sunday school teachers have created interactive displays in their students' rooms. This will help develop the student-teacher relationships.
- October 19 – the children will lead worship.
- There has been some concern about sanitary conditions in the nursery room. The room needs to be refreshed with new paint and floor covering. Also, some toys are outdated and need to be sorted out. Upon discussion, council agreed to add the nursery room redecorating project to the Wish List at an amount of \$2500.
- The Theater Room audio system is not working and needs to be replaced so that the room can be used for Sunday school purposes.

Deacons: George Voress reported that:

- Three new deacons have been confirmed for the 2015 council. Three more are needed.

Elders: Tim May – nothing to report.

Trustees: John Mohrman reported that:

•A heating outage in the sanctuary on October 12, requiring the worship service to be held in the Chapel, was due to a malfunctioning circulating pump. The circulating pump of the sanctuary heating system has been replaced.

•Four new electrical outlets have been installed in the sanctuary to aid the custodians.

•An estimate for needed church repairs has been received from E. Lee Construction of Delphos, OH:

- >\$5550 – Exterior church masonry, selected areas.
 - >\$1850 – Steeple, replace missing shingles.
 - >\$17,460 – Power wash and paint clock faces; refinish sheet metal.
- No action was taken.

Rev. Strang's report:

•Worship:

- >Oct 19 – Spirit Safari children lead worship.
- >Oct 25-26 – All Saints weekend.
- >Oct 26 – Dedication of restored south stained glass window.
- >Nov 6 – Worship at Heritage Manor at 10:15 a.m.
- >Nov 8-9 – Stewardship weekend.
- >Nov 25 – Community Thanksgiving service at Holy Redeemer at 7:00 p.m.
- >Nov 29-30 – First weekend of Advent.
- Worship Team will meet on Sunday, October 19, at 11:30 a.m. to plan for Advent/Christmas and look at worship through May 2015.

•Thursday Evening Bible Study – starting a new sequence on October 23.

•Confirmation – 20 students currently enrolled, many of whom have been active in our youth ministries, but their parents are not active. ALL of them consider St. Paul to be their church home. Assisting this year are Dee Schroer, Mike Holdren, Lisa Weigandt, Shelly Smart, Diane Gilberg and John Gilberg.

•Sunday Evening Book Club – meeting October 26, 6:00 p.m. at the parsonage, to discuss Barefoot Church and talk about ways we can expand our community and nurture discipleship for St. Paul.

•Oct 28 – St. Paul will host a concert of the St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble from Russia at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Music will be a combination of sacred and Russian folk music.

•Nov 16 – New member class, Assembly Room, 11:30 a.m. New members will be received during worship services Nov 22-23.

•Nov 2, 9, 16 – Jim and I will host Soup Nights at the parsonage.

•Dec 27-Jan 2 – I will take vacation.

•Other – I also serve on:

- >Ohio Conference Board of Directors through 2017.
- >NWOA's cabinet.
- >Emergency on-call pastor (one week every 5-6 months) for Grand Lake Health Care.
- >Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.
- >Facilitator for Ohio Conference's new Excellence in Ministry Program, beginning in October.

●Pastoral care – Sep 10 thru Oct 14:

- >Phone calls: 3
- >Office visits: 6
- >Nursing home visits: 4
- >Hospital visits: 7
- >Home visits: 4
- >Nursing home worship: 2
- >Funerals: 1
- >Home communions: 9
- >Weddings: 1
- >House blessing: 1
- >Pet blessing 1

Katie Jackson’s Report:

●SPLASH: The students are working through their lectionary-based curriculum called Spark. They also made Halloween cards for college and military students.

●JH: We have been working through JH Live curriculum. We have discussed Jesus as our role model, representing Jesus, leading a life of significance, and knowing Jesus better. We will continue with a series on the Bible, the Church and getting along with our families.

●HS: We are working through the Sticky Faith curriculum. We’re also discussing different articles from sources such as Relevant Magazine.

●I was officially installed for a 3-year term as part of the NWOA’s Faith Formation Team, meeting monthly, with a focus on Christian Education for all ages.

●Licensing process: I have begun the UCC Polity and History course.

●Youth Room update: My students and I are grateful for the updates. Thank you so much for investing in our students!

●Student events attended:

- >JH volleyball
- >JH football
- >2 Cross country meets
- >3 Varsity football games

●Past events:

>Loaves and Fishes – Wapak. We served 233 meals. Three of our HS students were able to come. Next date to serve is Nov 20.

>Pumpkin Pancake Breakfast at Pumpkinfest: We made \$570. Thank you to everyone who came and supported our students!

>In the Trenches Team Summit, Loveland, CO: The subject of our time together was “A Strategic Pivot to the Future of Youth Ministry”. We talked about how churches are declining and why, and things we can do to change that. The summit was led by Ministry Architects, a consulting firm that has worked with over 500 churches to develop sustainable ministries for people of all ages.

OLD BUSINESS

●Wish List: Add nursery room redecorating project.

●Online giving: View this website for info: ucc.org/stewardship/electronic-giving/. Still under consideration by council.

NEW BUSINESS

●Parking blocks, south parking lot: Dan Voress has requested removal of the blocks to aid in snow removal. Upon discussion, George Voress made a motion to approve removal of the blocks; Tim May seconded. Motion carried.

●2015 Project of the Year: Council is open to suggestions for next year’s Project of the Year.

●Continuing education for Pastor Becky: She has joined a Facebook blog, RevGalBlogPals, a blogging network supportive of clergywomen.

●National Child Safety Program: A request was read from the police department requesting a donation. Carol Wilson made a motion to donate \$50; Lisa Davidson seconded. Motion carried.

●2015 OCWM goal: Council’s consensus was to strive for a goal of \$40,000.

●New Bremen Emergency Squad: Lisa Davidson made a motion to purchase a \$15 ticket as a donation to the squad; John Mohrman seconded. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting: November 11, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. Devotions, Mark Dicke.

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) 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	Guesstimat ed cost
New flooring in auditorium	\$8000
New lighting for auditorium	?
Additional playground equipment	\$2500
New carpeting, Assembly Room & Chapel	?
New clock faces on steeple	?
Theater Room equipment updates	\$800
Nursery room redecorating – flooring & paint	\$2500
Giving Envelope mailing	\$800-\$1000

November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 Men's Club 5:00 Worship w/Holy Communion
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship w/Holy Communion 11:30 Mission Team 6:00 Soup Night 7:00 HS Youth		11:30 Busy Twelve 7:00 Saturday choir rehearsal	3:00 SPLASH 6:30 JH Youth & confirmation 7:00 Bell choir 8:00 Chancel choir	10:15 Worship, Heritage Manor 7:00 Bible study		5:00 Worship
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship 11:30 New member orientation 6:00 Soup Night 7:00 HS Youth		7:00 Saturday choir rehearsal 7:00 Church Council	3:00 SPLASH 6:30 JH Youth & confirmation 7:00 Bell choir 8:00 Chancel choir	10:00 Women's Service Group (Piqua) 7:00 Bible study	Fall Youth Event	5:00 Worship Fall Youth Event
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship 11:30 Homemade Luncheon 3:00 Worship, St. Marys Living Center Fall Youth Event	1:00 Page Turners	7:00 Saturday choir rehearsal	3:00 SPLASH 6:30 JH Youth & confirmation 7:00 Bell choir 8:00 Chancel choir	12:00 Senior Luncheon 7:00 Bible Study Beacon articles due		5:00 Worship
23	24	25	26	Thanksgiving 27	28	29
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship 6:00 Book Club 7:00 HS Youth		7:00 Ecumenical Thanksgiving service at Holy Redeemer				5:00 Worship
30						
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship (Youth Sunday) 7:00 HS Youth						



SPECIAL DATES:

- Nov 2 & 9** – Soup nights, parsonage – 6:00 p.m.
- Nov 8 & 9** – Veterans recognition
- Nov 8 & 9** – Consecration weekend (financial pledges dedicated)
- Nov 9** – New member orientation
- Nov 15 & 16** – New members received
- Nov 16** – Homemade Luncheon – 11:30 a.m.
- Nov 20** – Senior luncheon – 12:00 noon
- Nov 23** – Book Club, parsonage – 6:00 p.m.
- Nov 25** – Ecumenical Thanksgiving service – Holy Redeemer, 7:00 p.m.



November Youth Events

- 2: HS Youth
- 5: Splash+JH Youth
- 9: HS Youth

- 12: Splash+JH Youth
- 14-16: Fall Youth Event, NO HS Youth
- 19: Splash+JH Youth
- 23: HS Youth
- 26: NO PROGRAMS
- 30: Youth Sunday, HS Youth

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND—2014



It is time to place your orders for the poinsettia plants that grace our sanctuary during the Christmas season. This year we have two colors from which to choose and the cost per plant will be \$10.00. This will include multiple plants in a 6½ inch pot which will be

wrapped in foil with a bow, drip pan and sleeve.

The plants may be picked up **after the 11:00 p.m., Wednesday, Christmas Eve** worship service. (Please be sure to pick up the color you ordered so that everyone will be able to enjoy the color of the plant that each chose.)

Poinsettia color choices and quantities:

Red _____ Qty White _____ Qty

In memory of _____

A gift for _____

I wish to contribute \$ _____ to the Christmas Decorating Fund.

All orders must be placed on this order form and signed by the purchaser. Please put payment along with the order form in an envelope and place it in the offering plate. Envelopes can be found in the pew racks for this purpose. Checks should be payable to St. Paul UCC. You may also drop off the order form and money at the church office. **The orders must be in by December 1. This date will not be extended.**

Every year at this time we also ask for and accept donations to the Christmas Decorating Fund. This money will be used toward decorations for the church and Educational Building.

Please include payment with this order form. **Thank you** for helping make our sanctuary even more beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Special instructions: _____

Signature _____