

THE BEACON

"Empowered Christians Serving God's People"

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



Rev. Rebecca Erb Strang, Pastor

VOL. 64, No. 9

September, 2013



THERE IS BUT ONE
LORD
Jesus Christ...
1 CORINTHIANS 8:6, NIV

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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
 John Mohrman Building Maintenance Technician
 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 Hanenkraatt 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	Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Dennis Dicke	Sandy Thieman
John Gilberg, Vice Chr.	John Voress
Cindy Newman, Chr.	Dick Watcke
Bev Poppe	Rebekka Whitten

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

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.

Financial Advisory Committee

(Consults with bookkeeper regarding church investments)

Don Scheer	Member
Bob Wierwille	Member
John Wierwille	Member



FROM OUR PASTOR

There has been much talk among Christians in our country about shifting the focus of how we see "Church." In years past, most congregations could have been described as Consumer Churches—congregations in which members see the

church as a dispenser of religious goods and services. People, in this model, attend worship to be fed. Members expect quality programs to meet their needs. A common refrain is, "I go to church."

But a powerful shift is happening among Christian congregations. We are moving to a missional focus. Missional churches see themselves as a body of people sent on a mission into the community and world. These folk gather regularly for worship, encouragement and teaching of the Word. Missional Christians are spiritually fed throughout the week by on-going spiritual disciplines: Bible study, meditation, small groups, art, and service. A common refrain among missional Christians is, "I am the church."

At St. Paul UCC, we are the church. We are focused beyond our four walls to bring hope and light to others. My prayer is that we continue to "be the church" rather than "coming to church."

You are invited to join us at church each weekend and throughout the week. On the weekend of September 7 and 8, the Membership Team will be hosting significant fellowship times following both worship services to offer each of us the opportunity to be the church for one another. Homecoming Weekend is a terrific time to "come home."

If you have been away from St. Paul Church for a summer or a year or two (or more), you are warmly invited to come home. God is still speaking in our congregation—in the laughter of our children, in the songs of our youth, in the passion of our Mission Team, in the diligence of our Council, and in hundreds of other ways.

Indeed, we are the church together!

Peace,

Becky

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation will take place this fall in conjunction with the Junior High Youth Group. We will eat (an optional) meal together each Wednesday at 6:30. Class and youth group combined will go from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Classes begin Wednesday, September 11. Please contact Pastor Becky or Katie Jackson if you have any questions.

BIBLE STUDY: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Beginning Thursday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Becky will offer a five-week Bible Study on the Gospel of John.

All are welcome to join us in the Library. If you need childcare during the study, please let Becky know in advance.

PRAYER CHAIN EVENT

The Prayer Chain is an on-going ministry at St. Paul United Church of Christ. Our ministry "chain" is primarily by email, but we get together a couple of times each year for Bible study, sharing and prayer.

This month we will gather on Monday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. As our meditative practice, we will learn Zentangle.

Even if you have not joined the Prayer Chain, you are welcome to join us on September 23!

All are welcome!

WORSHIP TEAM

The St. Paul Worship Team will meet on Sunday, September 29, at 11:30 a.m. in the Library. We will look at worship services through February.

Please see Pastor Becky if you have any questions.

NURSING HOME WORSHIP SERVICES

St. Paul folk will be leading worship at Heritage Manor in Minister on Thursday, September 5, at 10:30 a.m. Worship will also be led by St. Paul at the St. Marys Living Center on Sunday, September 15, at 3:00 p.m.

All are welcome to join us!

CALLED TO CARE

God gifts us with a variety of gifts for ministry. Among these gifts are listening, hospitality, and caring. If you feel called to a caring ministry within St. Paul UCC, you are invited to join the Called to Care Team.

Called to Care members visit, call, and send cards to folk within our congregation who are homebound or recuperating.

Our fall organizational meeting is set for Monday, September, 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. All are welcome!

HYMN SING WEEKEND: SEPTEMBER 28-29

As is custom at St. Paul UCC, the fifth weekend of any given month is a Hymn Sing Weekend. You are invited to place the names of your favorite hymns on index cards in the offering plates throughout the month of September. We will sing the hymns chosen most often during services on September 28-29. Let us sing praises to God!

Mission

JOINING HANDS

After a few projects and many, many willing hands, our St. Paul congregation was able to reach out to many in need.

In May, our mission project was "local aid." This fund helps with many unexpected emergencies that life can bring to each and everyone. Pastor Becky administers this fund.

By joining hands, the Women's Service Group (formerly Satellite B), with their plant, pie and extras sale, was able to raise \$500. The GOBA bike event provided another opportunity to add to the fund with a bake sale held under the able direction of Jeff and Lindsey Quellhorst. Our members were quick to volunteer, helping with the booth or providing a variety of delicious baked goods. This effort provided \$850 to the fund.

Adding the monies given by our members, we had a grand total of \$3114.60. Wow!

Together we have helped our friends, our neighbors and any stranger to weather a rough spot in their lives. Warm fuzzies to all who helped!

Ann Kuhn

News & Events

WOMEN'S SERVICE GROUP

Are you available to enjoy a group with women from our church? The group will enjoy fellowship, as well as learn and worship together. The meetings will be on the second Thursday of each month, beginning in September and ending in June.

The opening meeting will be September 12, at 1:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room at the church. Anna Louise Hoelscher will speak with us about her lay ministry. Worship and snacks will follow the meeting.

Sally Dicke

PAGE TURNERS

Chasing Fireflies by Charles Martin is the book chosen to be reviewed in September. The author writes a story of one man's journey for his identity, a boy's ability to communicate without words and the honor and integrity of a man willing to make a lifelong sacrifice for those he loves. Join Page Turners on Monday, September 16, at 1:00 in the Library to discuss this well-written, warm, moving, yet funny book.

Book selections for the coming months include The Noticer by Andy Andrews in October, and Defending Jacob by William Landay, in November. Page Turner selections are available at the local library.

Sandy Thieman

SENIOR/RETIREE LUNCHEON

It's that time again! Another season of senior/retiree luncheons will resume on Thursday, September 19, at 12:00 noon. After a summer of rest and relaxation, the senior luncheon cooks have been busy planning the meals for the coming months. If you have a friend or know of someone who would enjoy a meal out, bring them. All are welcome -- you don't have to be a member of St. Paul. Please call the church office (419-629-2502) to let us know you will attend. Try us -- you'll like us!

Senior Luncheon Committee

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2013 Crop Walk has been scheduled for October 13. Come join the New Bremen community in raising money for hungry families in our neighborhoods as well as across the world. You don't have to be an avid walker to join in the fun. We have made the walk shorter so all could enjoy this community-wide event. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the walk starting at 2:00 p.m. Please contact Kristi Voisard at 937-420-2218 if you have any questions or wish to help in the planning of this year's Crop Walk.

Kristi Voisard

NEEDED: SEWING MACHINES & SEWING NOTIONS FOR AFRICAN MISSION TRIP

Bev Plattner's daughter, Vicki Quellhorst, is going on a mission trip to Africa in October. Vicki is planning to teach the African women to sew. She is in need of 5 good, used portable sewing machines. She will take care of cleaning and maintenance of machines. They, however, are to be donated for the women to use after the mission participants return home. Also needed is fabric (no less than 1 yard). It should not be heavy fabric as the temperature is never cold. She could also use any sewing notions such as tape measures, needles, pin cushions, embroidery scissors, and dressmaker shears (preferably Fiskars). Please call Bev Plattner at 419-629-3694 if you are able to donate any of the above items. Sewing machines should be donated soon, as we are not sure how long it will take to get them serviced. Thanks so much for your help!

Bev Plattner

Salt News

The summer has flown by for the SALT team! We have continued hospital and nursing home visits. We also wrote the bulletins for the whole month of

July. Confirmation camp took place the third week of July. Planning events for all ages has kept us busy! We took the high school youth group to the Beach Waterpark and the junior high youth group to Squirry Worm in Lima, OH. We hosted a senior luncheon, as well as having college night at Casa Lupita to get all of the college-age kids together. It has been great to work with so many people in the church. We have gotten to know so many great people through the events we plan, book study, and church services. It has been a busy summer, but we have loved every minute of it!

Kelsey Davidson & Megan Hanenkratt
SALT Leaders

Thank You

We would like to say thank you to everyone during the recent passing of our daughter and sister, Connie Wellman. Thank you to Pastor Becky for her kind, comforting and sincere words, to Gilberg-Hartwig Funeral Home, and to the funeral luncheon committee and those who furnished cookies; also to everyone who sent cards, flowers and gave memorials to church and juvenile diabetes. It was such a comfort to us. Your generosity and kindness will never be forgotten.

Mack & Vernita Wellman and family

Spirit Safari News

My, how the summer has flown by! There are a few announcements for Spirit Safari and Discover. First, we will kick off the new school year on September 8. On our first day we will get reacquainted with games and a whole lot of fun (along with some smiles and giggles)! I am sure the kids have a lot to share about their summer and I cannot wait to hear all about it!! During the 10:15 worship service on September 8 we will be holding Bible presentation for children going into Cubhouse (just turning three during this school year) and 3rd graders. The Board of Christian Ed has decided to discontinue Discover (Lesson and Fun) during Sunday services. Nursery ages will be extended through kindergarten. Children who are in 1st grade and up will stay in church. There will be activity bags available during the service. See you soon!

Stephanie Dicke

Meetings

BUSY TWELVE

On Tuesday, September 3, at 11:30 the Busy 12 will gather at the New Bremen Dairy Queen for lunch. After lunch we will go to the church social room for our meeting.

Sue Kettler

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will meet on Saturday, September 7, at Speedway Lanes at 8:00 a.m.

John Voress

MISSION TEAM

The next Mission Team meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the Library on Sunday, September 15, after the church service.

John Gilberg

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	?
New carpeting, Assembly Room & Chapel	?
New hymnals	\$4500
TV screen – sanctuary	\$14,000
Clock faces on steeple	?

There are two types who say very little: the quiet type and the gabby type. - [Unknown]

Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something. - [Plato]

Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret. - [Ambrose Bierce]

When you are arguing with a fool, make sure he isn't doing the same thing. - [Unknown]

Never miss a good chance to shut up. - [Will Rogers]

CHURCH RECORD BOOK

Called home:

Martha K. Mouk died on June 26, 2013, at the age of 95 years. A memorial service was held on June 28, 2013, and burial followed at Cedar Point Cemetery, Pasco, OH.

Connie J. Wellman died on June 30, 2013, at the age of 59 years. A memorial service was held on July 6, 2013. Burial followed at German Protestant Cemetery, New Bremen, OH.

Clara W. Greiwe died on July 11, 2013, at the age of 94 years. A service of memory was held on July 15, 2013, and interment followed at German Protestant Cemetery, New Bremen, OH.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Change of address:

Adam Leshner, 5 Meadowview Terrace, New Bremen, OH 45869-1345

Joseph Dicke, 178 E. Warren St., Celina, OH 45822-2234

Ashley Grevenkamp, 02918 Lock Two Rd., New Bremen, OH 45869-9644

Vince Lavieri, P. O. Box 334, St. Marys, OH 45885-0334

Robert & Suzy Blake, 29670 Roscommon Dr., Elkhart, IN 46514-7930

Sara Beth Jarvis, 135 Garfield Pl., #401, Cincinnati, OH 45202-5731

Levi & June (Hertenstein) Oaks, 18 Fox Hollow Drive, Ormond Beach, FL 32174-8429

Jessica Quellhorst, 2076 Wendy Drive, Columbus, OH 43220-2420

Shelley Dicke, 19 S. Eastmoor Dr., New Bremen, OH 45869-1010

Helen Wissman, Elmwood Assisted Living, 711 S. Walnut St., New Bremen, OH 45869-8705

Remove:

Martha K. Mouk, deceased

Connie J. Wellman, deceased

Clara W. Greiwe, deceased

Alicia Nelson Kittle Hoey, per request

BIRTH CANDLE ON THE ALTAR

Welcome:

Lucy Reeves Beake was born to Bradford and Julie (Barlage) Beake on July 24, 2013.

Elliott Leshner was born to Jacob and Beth Leshner on July 30, 2013.

SEPTEMBER

GREETERS

Sep 1

East
North
South

Peggy Henschen & Kathy Manbeck
Joyce Topp & daughters
Andrew & Cindy Charlson

Sep 8

East
North
South

Ben, Barb & Isabel Rhinehart
Lori, Jacob, Nathan & Owen Rindler
Ginny Braun & Sue Shockney

Sep 15

East
North
South

Neal & Karla Wiedeman
Chuck & Eileen Gamble
Larry & Bonnie Rismiller

Sep 22

East
North
South

Don & Shelly Smart
Beverly Reineke
Michael & Kay Webb

Sep 29

East
North
South

Vernon & Julie Paul
Don Scheer
Gary & Emily Wiedeman

SATURDAY ACCOMPANISTS

Sep 7

Bev Plattner

Sep 14

Sharon Chaney

Sep 21

Connie O'Neill

Sep 28

Sharon Chaney

SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

May God bless these anniversary couples on their special day.

Sep 1

Daniel & Leeann Sherman

Sep 2

Bryan & Janelle Callahan

Sep 3

Don & Michelle Smart

Sep 4

Wilbur & Enola Greber

Sep 5

Casey & Lyndsay Hammond

Sep 6

Shawn & Amy Sayers

Sep 8

Michael & Monica Bushman

Sep 8

David & Debra Hirschfeld

Sep 9

Robert & Diane Paul

Sep 9

David & Kelli Muether

Sep 13

Wade & Johanna Schroer

Sep 14

Terry & Sally Wissman

Sep 15

Robert & Betty Dietrich

Sep 17

Lowell & Betty Quellhorst

Sep 17

Norman & Donna Jacoby

Sep 18

Joseph & Nicole Dicke

Sep 21

Todd & Mari Thieman

Sep 24

Melvin & Phyllis Fledderjohann

Sep 24

Gary & Donna Schmitmeyer

Sep 26

Robert & Janet Eilerman

Sep 28

Mark & Belinda Hudson

Sep 29

Aaron & Carla Thobe



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

Dale Fledderjohn Barbara Schmidt
 Dolores Fledderjohn Jean Waterman
 Wilbert Gruebmeier Helen Wissman
 Victor Maurer

HERITAGE MANOR

24 N. Hamilton St., Minster, OH 45865

Gloria Goodwin Jill May
 Thomas Goodwin Alice Waterman
 Doris Howe

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. Knoxville Ave., St. Marys, OH 45885

Charles Waesch

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

Dorothy Dammeyer
 John & LaRue Dicke (11323 Bobwhite Lane)
 Dorothy Feltman (11313 Bobwhite Lane)
 Harry Ingram (11310 Bobwhite Lane)
 Leota Kellermeyer (11128 Circle Dr.)
 Betty Kettler (Room 326)
 Rose Marie Wehmeyer (Room 412)
 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)

EMERALD CROSSINGS

7220 Muirfield Rd., Dublin, OH 43017-2862

Enola Hirschfeld

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.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Isaac Erb, Ava Huber, Ben Strang
- 3 Dick Hudson, Betty Kettler, Emily Willrath
- 4 William Jackson, James Reineke, Lauren Wolters, Leanne Wolters
- 5 Leah Gilberg
- 6 Brenna Shonk
- 7 Levi Clem, Natasha Fogt, Casey Hammond, Lowell Quellhorst
- 8 Sophia Fox, Myra Hanenkratt, Claire Jarvis, LeAnn Topp
- 9 Rexford Fogt, Thomas Goodwin, Danielle Sudman
- 10 Kendall Hubbard, Bart Maurer, Jacob Rindler
- 11 Kathy Tontrup
- 12 Charles McAdams, Ethel Mesloh, Vernon Paul, Charlotte Schwabero
- 13 Alivia Dammeyer, Amelia Dammeyer, Donna Schmitmeyer
- 14 Dan Dicke, Allison Franklin
- 15 Brian Alig, Betty Dietrich, Ian Grieve, Brittany Kuhn, James Moore, Trevor Reed, Jeffrey Trego, Gary Wiedeman
- 16 Donald Kettler, Rylee Nelson
- 17 Sue Belton, Kathryn Cochrane, Dean Egbert, Ryan Nelson, Doug Schaefer, Shaun Voress
- 18 Jenna Miller
- 19 Robert Blake, Jordan Gilberg, Lauren Hohler, Sara Beth Jarvis, Brian McCullough
- 20 Kevin Goodwin, Betty Hatfield, Joel Miller, Steve Tostrick
- 21 Justin Blumhorst, Allie Bornhorst, Judy Dammeyer, Robert Dietrich, Ann Kuhn, Molly Paul, Jennifer Schemmel, Brook Schmitmeyer, Alyssa Thieman, Xavier Wyatt
- 22 Griffin Greber, Mary Mohrman, Diana Schroer
- 23 Beverly Poppe
- 25 Melvin Fledderjohann, Nolan Fox, Jerry Koeper, Makena Pfenning
- 26 Darlene Altman, Travis Elsass, Michael Jacoby, Tracy Jacoby, Jayne Knost
- 27 Tony Holdren, Teresa Leshner, Sydney Nelson, Adam Rhinehart
- 28 Jerry Bambauer, Alec Fox, Linda Holdren, Matthew Hudson, Brian Quellhorst
- 29 Taylor Haynes, Jeff Meckstroth, Brad Waterman
- 30 Beth Heidt, Barbara Koeper

**St. Paul U.C.C. Council Meeting
July 9, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 19 attendees including: Allen Bushman, Kelsey Davidson, Betty Dietrich, Terri Goodwin, Megan Hanenkratt, Myra Hanenkratt, Barb Holdren, Brad Holdren, Katie Jackson, Tim May, Ragan Miller, John Mohrman, Dee Schroer, Rev. Becky Strang, Kathy Topp, Bill Tostrick, George Voress, Carol Wilson. Bill Tostrick provided the meditation.

Prior to the start of the regular meeting, Sandy Thieman reported on her attendance as a NWOA delegate at the 29th UCC General Synod held in Long Beach, CA, June 28 thru July 2. She noted that the schedule was very busy. A number of resolutions were considered via random committees, with Sandy being a member of a committee that discussed bullying. Among other issues considered were climate change, educational expenses for ministerial candidates, care for veterans, status of women, affordable housing, etc. Sandy emphasized that the world takes notice of what happens at the General Synod and that it was good to be in a place where so many people are so enthusiastic about their faith. Held every other year, the next General Synod will convene June 26-30, 2015, in Cleveland, OH.

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

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report for period ending June 30, 2013, was reviewed. It showed a ytd balance, income vs. expenses, of \$564.82. Myra Hanenkratt made a motion to approve; Brad Holdren seconded; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: No meeting; no report.

Mission: No meeting; no report.

Worship: No meeting; no report.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education: No meeting; no report.

Deacons: Nothing to report.

Elders: Nothing to report.

Trustees: John Mohrman reported that:

- Energy-efficient light bulbs are being installed in the sanctuary pendant lights.

- A tree stump was ground out by Tom Leffel of New Knoxville at no charge. A thank you note was sent to Tom.

- Earl Dicke of Hoffman Decorating is making good progress on refinishing the sanctuary pews.

- Two outside electrical outlets have been installed on the west exterior of the Educational Building. This will be helpful when landscape work is being performed with electrical tools.

- Allen Bushman presented a cleaning quote from Rainbow in Celina:

- >\$355 – Carpet, Educational Building hallways and steps into the sanctuary.

- >\$95 – Carpet, Chapel.

- >130 – Carpet, Assembly Room.

- >\$650 – Pew cushions, sanctuary.

Kathy Topp made a motion to have Rainbow perform the work as noted for a total of \$1200; Dee Schroer seconded; motion carried.

Rev. Strang's Report:

- Worship:

- >July 14: Worship at Elmwood, 2:00 p.m.

- >July 20 & 21: Christmas in July.

- >August 3 & 24 (Saturdays): Rev. Jeff Davis (St. Paul-Wapak) will preach.

- Sabbatical planning: So that a negotiation guideline can be established, Rev. Becky asked council to consider what salary amount would be paid to the fill-in pastor while she is on sabbatical leave in June-July-August 2014. Her research indicated that a fair salary for 16 weeks (includes 2 weeks before and 2 weeks after her sabbatical) would be \$13,125, with no pension or disability to be paid. After discussion, council's consensus vote was that the salary should be approximately \$13,000.

- SALT 2013: Kelsey Davidson and Megan Hanenkratt are doing an outstanding job. All are invited to join our book discussions of Rob Bell's Velvet Elvis at 7:00 p.m. on July 8, 22, 29. Last day to work: July 31.

- Porch Parties:

- >Jul 14 – Lloyd Schroer and family.

- >Aug 18 – Community-wide picnic at St. Paul.

- Carillon update: Awaiting arrival of "isolation box" to work between organ, midi and carillon so that the carillon can easily be played on the organ. Assuming this is in place soon, we will dedicate the carillon on Sunday, September 8, Homecoming Sunday.

- Upcoming vacation time: July 18-19 in Cleveland for a Solas Concert.

- Pastoral care: June 11 – July 9, 2013

- >Hospital visits: 12

- >Nursing home visits: 6

- >Home visits: 5

- >Office visits: 6

- >Phone calls: 20

- >Continuing education: 1

- >Funerals: 3

- >Notes written: 2

- >Baptisms: 1

Katie Jackson's Report:

- JYFS: Will be sending out registration information at the beginning of August.

- JH: Working on finalizing the schedule for the year as well as finding volunteers to serve the meal.

●Upcoming events:

>Confirmation Camp – 9 of our students are signed up to go, as well as two CITs; and Megan will be attending as a counselor.

>JYFS and JH resume on September 11; HS resumes on September 15.

●SALT stuff: July 10 – HS trip to The Beach Waterpark in Mason; July 25 – Senior Luncheon; College-age dinner at Casa Lupita. July 30 – JH trip to Squirty Worm in Lima.

SALT Leaders’ Report: Our service for June 11 thru July 9 included:

- Nursing home visits with Ann Hoelscher.
- Jr. High Lima mission trip.
- Planning/implementing:
 - >Sr. High event to The Beach Waterpark.
 - >Jr. High event to Squirty Worm.
 - >Senior luncheon.
 - >College night at Casa Lupita.
 - >Confirmation camp.

OLD BUSINESS

Project of the year: Stained glass windows – Dayton Art Glass has provided a quote for the renovation/restoration of the remainder of the stained glass windows for a total of \$125,240 as listed below:

- \$70,780 – (4) medium-sized windows @ \$17,695/ea.
- \$46,940 – (4) small-sized windows @ \$11,735/ea.
- \$ 6,395 – Large transom window, east
- \$ 1,125 – Small transom window, east

NEW BUSINESS

●Educational Building roof: John Mohrman reported that serious consideration should be given to the status of the Educational Building roof. Cotterman & Co. has repaired the “hip” areas that have lost a number of shingles. Preliminary quotes for a new roof are:

- >\$170,000 – Metal roof, Cotterman & Co.
- >\$45,000 – Asphalt 30-yr. roof, Nitro Roofing.

No action was taken until the budget committee meets to discuss further.

●Staff vacation policy: A clarification is needed in staff contracts regarding the wording of what constitutes a vacation week. Upon discussion, council agreed that the contracts should be changed to say that a “week” means five working days. John Mohrman made a motion accordingly; Betty Dietrich seconded; motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting: August 13, 7:00 p.m.
Devotions: Tim May

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

**St. Paul U.C.C. Council Meeting
August 13, 2013**

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

Secretary’s Report: The secretary’s report for the July 9 council meeting was reviewed. John Mohrman made a motion to approve; Carol Wilson seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer’s report for period ending July 31, 2013, was reviewed. It showed a ytd deficit balance, income vs. expenses, of (\$5794.28). Tim May made a motion to approve; Betty Dietrich seconded; motion carried.

Barb Holdren reported that an invoice for \$4500 was received from Hoffman Decorating for the pew refinishing project. Hoffman’s donated \$500; the remaining cost of \$4000 was covered by members’ donations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Pastor Becky reported that Cindy Newman will be the new chair of the Membership Committee; John Gilberg will be the vice-chairman. Homecoming weekend will be held September 7 & 8.

Mission: The 2014 Project of the Year is to be decided.

Worship: No meeting; no report.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education: No meeting; no report.

Deacons: Jim Mullins - nothing to report.

Elders: Tim May – nothing to report.

Trustees: John Mohrman presented quotes received from Nitro Roofing & Construction, Cotterman & Co., and Frost Roofing for the Educational Building roof. John advised that the 8 power roof vents were not

working. Council's opinion was to have new power vents installed along with the new roofing rather than trying to fix the present vents which have been in use for many years. After discussion, council's consensus was to hire Nitro Roofing to reroof the building, but to wait until spring 2014. John is to verify if Nitro's quote includes all new power vents. Bill Tostrick made a motion to hire Nitro Roofing; Kathy Topp seconded; motion carried.

Rev. Strang's Report:

•Worship:

>Aug 17-18: Blessing of school backpacks.

>Aug 24: Terri Goodwin will preach.

>Sep 5: Worship at Heritage Manor, Minster.

>Sep 7 & 8: Homecoming weekend; Bible presentations; dedication of carillon during Sunday worship.

>Sep 14-15: Faith testimony, Trisha Schemmel.

>Sep 15: Worship at St. Marys Living Center

>Sep 28-29: Hymn sing weekend

•Community-wide picnic and celebration: Sunday, August 18, 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul. Sponsored by the four congregations of New Bremen. (Replaces the Christian Unity Service held in January in previous years). AC Swing band will play; games and activities for children.

•Carillon update: We will dedicate the carillon on Sunday, September 8, Homecoming Sunday. Donors Ethel Mesloh and Edith Wissman will play the carillon from the organ on that Sunday.

•Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, September 11.

•Betty Hatfield, Educational Building custodian, is on indefinite leave for medical reasons. Linda Hainline is filling in for her.

•Upcoming vacation time:

>October 19-25

>December 25-January 1

•Pastoral care: July 9– August 13, 2013

>Hospital visits: 17

>Nursing home visits: 11

>Home visits: 5

>Office visits: 8

>Phone calls: 19

>Blessing of rings: 1

>Funerals: 2

>Nursing home worship: 1

>Weddings: 2

Katie Jackson's Report:

•Splash: The name of JYFS has been changed to Splash. It's not an acronym, but I'm taking suggestions! Registration papers went out last Wednesday.

•JH: Working on finalizing the schedule for the year as well as finding volunteers to serve the meal. The calendar and permission forms were mailed Wednesday.

•HS: We've still been doing our Hantis and DQ days. It's been fun and we'll keep doing it until school starts.

•Past events:

>Confirmation Camp—9 of our students went, as well as Conner Barhorst and Chris Albers as CITS. Megan Hanenkraft attended as a counselor. It was a fantastic week!

>I attended Flight Risk concerts at the Auglaize County Fair, Mercer County Fair, and Bremenfest. I saw a lot of our students and the band sounded great!

•Upcoming events:

>Splash & JH resume on September 11.

>HS resumes on September 15.

>Big Day of Serving in Lima on September 21.

>Pumpkin Pancake Breakfast on September 28.

>IT3 Conference in Loveland, Colorado, September 29-October 3.

OLD BUSINESS

•Project of the year: Stained glass windows. Dayton Art Glass has submitted incremental costs for the window project, dividing the windows into panels to make it more financially feasible for individuals or families to make donations for the project. Watch the Sunday bulletins for revised costs.

•Refinishing of pews and cleaning of pew cushions: This project has been finished.

•Rick Weir and Lavon Dicke memorials: Trees will be planted this fall in memory of Rick and Lavon.

•Tree trimming: Council reviewed quotes from Schmiesing Tree Service and Robbins Tree Service to trim 1 crab apple tree, 3 maple trees, and 3 oak trees. After discussion, Allen Bushman made a motion to hire Schmiesing to perform the work at a cost of \$475; John Mohrman seconded; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

•Contract for Serendipity Pre-School: Jim Mullins made a motion to approve a fee of \$2000 annually, plus \$125/mo. for storage fees for Jun-Jul-Aug; Tim May seconded; motion carried.

•Hiring of sabbatical fill-in pastor: Pastor Becky recommended Darrin Harvey as her sabbatical fill-in pastor. Kathy Topp made a motion to hire Mr. Harvey; Terri Goodwin seconded; motion carried.

•Exterminating contract: Upon discussion, council agreed to renew Buckeye Exterminating's contract for 2014 at a prepay total of \$558.72. Allen Bushman made a motion accordingly; Terri Goodwin seconded; motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting: September 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions: Diane Gilberg

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

This 'n That


JUST CHECKING IN TODAY

A Minister passing through his church
In the middle of the day,
Decided to pause by the altar
To see who come to pray.
Just then the back door opened,
And a man came down the aisle,
The minister frowned, as he saw the man
Hadn't shaved in a while.
His shirt was torn and shabby,
And his coat was worn and frayed,
The man knelt down and bowed his head,
Then rose and walked away.
In the days that followed at precisely noon,
The preacher saw this chap,
Each time he knelt just for a moment,
A lunch pail in his lap.
Well, the minister's suspicions grew,
With robbery a main fear,
He decided to stop and ask the man,
'What are you doing here?'
The old man said he was a factory worker
And lunch was half an hour
Lunchtime was his prayer time,
For finding strength and power.
I stay only a moment
Because the factory's far away;
As I kneel here talking to the Lord,
This is kinda what I say:
'I just came by to tell you, Lord,
How happy I have been,
Since we found each other's friendship
And you took away my sin.
Don't know much of how to pray,
But I think about you everyday.
So, Jesus, this is Ben,
Just checking in today.'
The minister feeling foolish,
Told Ben that it was fine.
He told the man that he was welcome
To pray there anytime.
'It's time to go, and thanks,' Ben said
As he hurried to the door.
Then the minister knelt there at the altar,
Which he'd never done before.
His cold heart melted, warmed with love,
As he met with Jesus there.
As the tears flowed down his cheeks,
He repeated old Ben's prayer:
'I just came by to tell you, Lord,
How happy I have been,

Since we found each other's friendship
And you took away my sin.
Don't know much of how to pray,
But I think about you everyday.
So, Jesus, this is me,
Just checking in today.'
Past noon one day, the minister noticed
That old Ben hadn't come.
As more days passed and still no Ben,
He began to worry some.
At the factory, he asked about him,
Learning he was ill.
The hospital staff was worried,
But he'd given them a thrill.
The week that Ben was with them,
Brought changes in the ward.
His smiles and joy contagious.
Changed people were his reward.
The head nurse couldn't understand
Why Ben could be so glad,
When no flowers, calls or cards came,
Not a visitor he had.
The minister stayed by his bed,
He voiced the nurse's concern:
No friends had come to show they cared.
He had nowhere to turn.
Looking surprised, old Ben spoke up
And with a winsome smile;
'The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know,
He's been here all the while.
Everyday at noon He comes here,
A dear friend of mine, you see.
He sits right down and takes my hand,
Leans over and says to me:
'I just came by to tell you, Ben,
How happy I have been,
Since we found this friendship,
And I took away your sin.
I think about you always
And I love to hear you pray,
And so Ben, this is Jesus,
Just checking in today.'



September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:15 Worship w/Holy Communion	Labor Day 2 	3 11:30 Busy Twelve	4	5 10:30 Worship, Heritage Manor	6	7 8:00 Men's Club 5:00 Worship (Homecoming Weekend)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship (Homecoming weekend)		7:00 Church Council	3:00 Splash 7:00 JH Youth Group 7:00 Confirmation	1:00 Women's Service Group		5:00 Worship
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship 11:30 Mission Team 3:00 Worship, St. Marys Living Center 7:00 HS Youth	1:00 Page Turners 7:00 Called to Care		3:00 Splash 7:00 JH Youth Group 7:00 Confirmation	12:00 noon – Senior Retiree luncheon 7:00 Bible Study	Beacon articles due	Big Day of Serving- Lima 5:00 Worship
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship 7:00 HS Youth	7:00 Prayer Chain		3:00 Splash 7:00 JH Youth Group 7:00 Confirmation	7:00 Bible Study		Pumpkin Pancake Breakfast 5:00 Worship (Hymn Sing)
29	30					
9:00 Spirit Safari 10:15 Worship (Hymn Sing) 11:30 Worship Team 7:00 HS Youth						
Katie to IT3 Conference, Loveland, CO – Sep 29 thru Oct 3						



SPECIAL DATES:
Sep 8 – Spirit Safari resumes
Sep 7 & 8 – Homecoming weekend
Sep 11 – Confirmation begins
Sep 28 & 29 – Hymn Sing weekend



September Youth Events:

- 11: Splash+JH Youth**
- 15: HS Youth**
- 18: Splash+JH Youth**
- 21: Big Day of Serving in Lima**
- 22: HS Youth**
- 25: Splash+JH Youth**
- 28: Pumpkin Pancake Breakfast**
- 29: HS Youth**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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