

THE BEACON

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

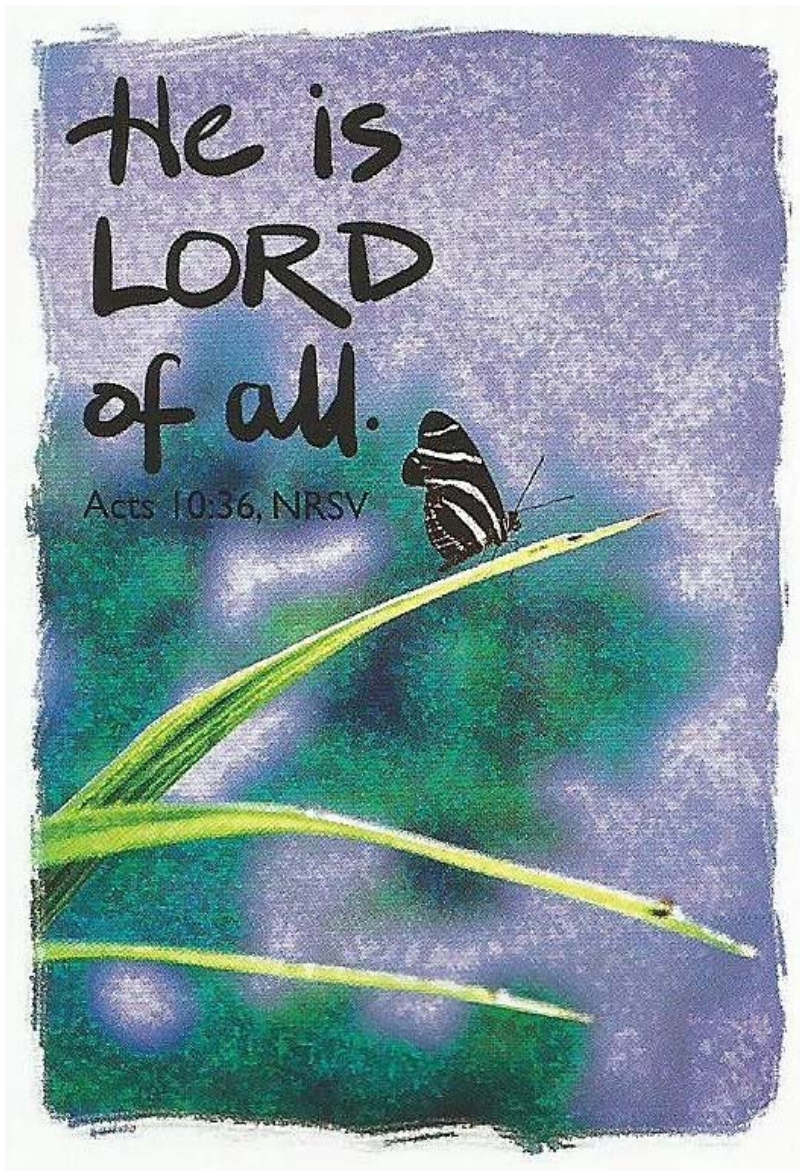
“Agree to Differ, Unite to Serve, and Resolve to Love”

VOL. 67, No. 6

9 God
is still
speaking,

Rev. Rebecca Erb Strang, Pastor

June, 2016



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Youth

Serving St. Paul Church

Staff

Rev. Becky Erb Strang Pastor
 Katie Jackson Director of Youth Ministries
 Katie Jackson Interim Christian Education Director
 Barb Holdren Office Manager/Bookkeeper
 Anna Hoelscher Lay Minister of Visitation
 Dick Hudson Organist
 Jim Strang Director of Music
 Jack Hansbrough Bell Choir Director
 Connie O'Neill ... Organist; 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 Editor
 Marta Hoelscher Webmaster

2016 Church Council (meets 2nd Tue)

(Transacts routine business of the church)

Mike Holdren President
 Art Barnes Vice President
 Lori Likens 1st yr. Recording Secretary
 Kathy Nedderman 2nd yr. Treasurer
 Joyce Topp Sr. Elder
 Terri Goodwin Jr. Elder
 Norm Holcomb 3rd yr. Trustee
 John Mohrman 2nd yr. Trustee
 (Open) 1st yr. Trustee
 John Knost 2nd yr. Deacon
 Teri Leshner 2nd yr. Deacon
 Cindy Newman 2nd yr. Deacon
 Jeff Quellhorst 2nd yr. Deacon
 Shelly Smart 2nd yr. Deacon
 Jay Snider 2nd yr. Deacon
 Brenda Haynes 1st yr. Deacon
 Tyler Hirschfeld 1st yr. Deacon
 Tracy Oldiges 1st yr. Deacon
 Brice Schmitmeyer 1st yr. Deacon
 Gary Wehmeyer 1st yr. Deacon, Head Deacon
 Shelly Zeller 1st yr. Deacon

Board of Christian Education (meets last Monday)

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

Katie Jackson—Interim Director	Terri Mullins
Dana Bornhorst	Kristen Nelson
Myra Hanenkraft	Brook Schmitmeyer
Deb Hirschfeld	Shelly Smart
Katie Jackson	Lisa Weigandt
Ragan Miller	Shelly Zeller
Kelly Muether	

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)

Tom Braun	Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Dennis Dicke	Sandy Thieman
Rebekkah Fry	John Voress, Chairman
Bev Poppe	Dick Watcke
	Emily Wiedeman

Stewardship Board

(Secures pledges; promotes stewardship programs)

Gary Wiedeman	3rd yr., Chr.
Deb Hirschfeld	3rd yr.
Sally Wissman	2nd yr.
Sally Dicke	2nd yr.
Roland Dicke	1st yr.
Dan Nedderman	1st yr.

Mission Team

(Raises awareness/promotes mission programs)

Art Barnes, Chairman	Larry & Ann Kuhn
Sharon Fiely	Bev Poppe
John & Joyce Gilberg	Amy Scheer
Marta Hoelscher	Gary Wehmeyer

Worship Committee (meets bi-monthly)

Mike Holdren	President
Art Barnes	Vice President
Rev. Becky Erb Strang	Pastor
Joyce Topp	Sr. Elder
Dick Hudson	Organist
Connie O'Neill	Organist
Jim Strang	Director of Music
Gary Wehmeyer	Head Deacon
Brenda Haynes, Anna Hoelscher, Ann Kuhn, Bev Plattner, Dee Schroer	

Budget Committee (meets in August)

(Prepares church budget for following year)

Mike Holdren	Church Council President
Art Barnes	Church Council Vice President
Lori Likens	Church Council Secretary
Kathy Nedderman	Church Council Treasurer
Joyce Topp	Church Council Sr. Elder
Norm Holcomb	Church Council Sr. Trustee
Gary Wiedeman	Chairman, Stewardship Board

Board of Controls (meets Mar-Jun-Oct)

(Administers St. Paul Memorial Fund)

Mike Holdren	Church Council President
Art Barnes	Church Council Vice President
Norm Holcomb	Church Council Sr. Trustee
Terry Wissman, Don Scheer, Burt Fiser	

Financial Advisory Committee

(Consults with bookkeeper regarding church investments)

Don Scheer	Member
John Voress	Member
Bob Wierwille	Member
John Wierwille	Member



FROM OUR PASTOR

In 2006 Reverend Dale Davis, UCC pastor in Pennsylvania, spent his sabbatical studying mainline protestant congregations. Specifically, he wanted to determine what characteristics thriving congregations share.

His list includes:

1. People talk about being disciples of Jesus and followers of God, not as church members
2. Lay leaders are committed to prayer, worship, and discerning God's will when they gather.
3. Thriving churches are intentional about choosing their leaders.
4. There is a high priority on mission and focus on others, instead of focus on self.
5. Thriving churches are comfortable and encouraging of multiple times and styles of worship.
6. Worship space and church property are viewed as tools for ministry and easily changed and adapted as mission and purpose evolve.
7. Mature and longer-term members challenge younger and newer members to be creative and innovative with the future direction of the church.
8. The leadership qualities, spiritual and theological depth of staff members are highly developed.
9. Thriving churches anticipate and view change as God's movement within them.
10. Thriving churches are open, encouraging and welcoming of new members; they are pro-active in identifying a pool of potential new members.

St. Paul is, indeed, a thriving congregation, but there is always room for growth: as Christians, as disciples, as children of God. This month, prayerfully consider this list, asking God for guidance and direction as we move into God's future together.

Blessings,

Becky

SUMMER PORCH PARTIES

This summer will mark the seventh summer of St. Paul folk gathering for summer porch parties on Sunday evenings. We are seeking hosts who are willing to open their homes/yards for a meal, fellowship, and good times.

Dates:

Jun 5—Jim and Becky Strang, hosting at parsonage beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Jun 26—John and Nancy Knost, hosting; 1585 Cardo Road, Ft. Loramie at 6:00 p.m.

Jul 10—Art and Cathy Barnes, hosting; 12018 Eilerman Road, Minster at 6:00 p.m.

Jul 24—Discipleship Team, hosting.

Aug 14—Date available

Hosts typically cook the meal (hamburgers, hotdogs, and the fixings can be provided by the church) along with water and lemonade. Please let Pastor Becky or Barb Holdren know if you would like to host a party.

Sign-up sheets for summer porch parties can be found on the refreshment table on Sundays and the side cabinet on Saturdays. Guests bring either a side dish or dessert to share. Guests are also asked to bring lawn chairs.

All are welcome!

SUMMER COFFEE SHOP

Pastor Becky is taking a break from coffee shop hours until September, but you are encouraged to meet at New Bremen Coffee Company on Mondays between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

All are welcome!

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

All are welcome to participate in the prayer chain's ministry to St. Paul and beyond. You can participate by requesting prayers, by joining the prayer chain, and by adding your woven prayers into the prayer tapestry in the sanctuary. Prayer is a gift we give not only to God, but to one another and the world!

SUMMER MUSICIANS

While the chancel choir and bell choir take the summer off, you are invited to volunteer to play your instrument or sing as "Special Music" during worship services. Please contact Music Director Jim Strang at 419-584-6310 to let him know you are interested.

SUMMERTIME WORSHIP

Beginning Sunday, May 29, through Sunday, September 4, we will worship in the air conditioned chapel rather than the sanctuary. Saturday worship services will continue in the chapel.

NEW BREMEN COMMUNITY PICNIC: AUGUST 28

The New Bremen Ministerium is hosting a community-wide picnic on Sunday, August 28, at 5:30 p.m. at the New Bremen Pavilion. AC Swing will perform at 6:30. Games and activities will be provided for children. St. Paul is hosting this year's picnic, so the Discipleship Team will take care of the hotdogs. Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert that will feed 12 people.

Stay tuned this summer for more details!

SEEKING: ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, SCRAPBOOKERS

Beginning September 10 and 11, our worship services will be anchored in the Narrative Lectionary. Since the bulletin covers from the United Church of Christ are Revised Common Lectionary based, we are seeking folk who would be willing to design bulletin covers for a month at a time. *[continued]*

Volunteers will be given the scriptures and themes for their chosen month. Photography, scrapbook artistry or other visual arts are welcome.

Please see Pastor Becky or Barb Holdren to volunteer.

FROM OUR CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As we make our way into June, I would like to thank everyone for their continued giving to the General Fund and the 2015-2016 Project of the Year-South/East Parking lots. \$30,299.01 was the balance on January 1 that we still needed to raise to cover the cost of the parking lots. As of May 20, the amount still needed is \$18,588.86. We would like to have this amount raised by July 31.

General Fund giving is up approximately \$4800 over last year. Let's keep it going, and please prayerfully consider your giving the next few months. (Remember, we now offer online giving! Questions? Contact the church office.)

Katie Jackson, our Director of Youth Ministry/Interim Christian Education Director has resigned to pursue her dream of becoming an ordained minister. She will be starting seminary this August. Council's intent is to hire an Associate Pastor of Faith Formation, Youth & Family Life Ministries (working title). The search committee has been formed and begun the search process. Members include Myra Hanenkratt, Kim Hemmelgarn, Emily Langenkamp, Keith May, Eli Schmitmeyer, John Voress and Michelle Voress.

Thank you!

Mike Holdren
Council President

SACRED DISCUSSIONS AROUND HOMOSEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE EQUALITY [Comments by Brenda Haynes]

Shortly after the Supreme Court decision was announced last summer, a friend's teenage daughter said, "I don't care what the Bible says..." (Due to my hearing issues, I didn't understand the rest of her comment). I realized I could not fully comment because though I thought I knew what it said, I wanted to be sure. So when the sacred discussions regarding same sex marriage were announced I figured I would get the information I needed to answer the question if it came up again. I didn't realize that I would get so much more.

At the first meeting, we listed all the reasons we could think of for getting married. I realized the list applied to everyone. Anyone who wants to make that commitment should be able to do so. It brought home to me that the couples I had known and currently know had been denied the right to do something that I had taken for granted. I felt bad that I had never considered that they would want to give the person they loved and were committed to that security. To be able to provide medical coverage if or when it was needed. To have the legal rights a spouse automatically has, that ultimate

commitment that shows everyone how important they are to each other. I hadn't considered it and felt sad and ashamed. It was a hard realization for me – one that still hits me hard.

As the sessions went on, we explored what the Bible says about homosexuality. While the Old Testament is very explicit and states it is wrong, the New Testament talks of loving everyone. We discussed how marriage in the Church and the treatment of women has evolved over time. If "traditions" were held to the letter, I would not be able to be a divorced, single mom with full time job and both of my children in college. I would not be able to vote or own property. Things that were commonly accepted less than even 100 years ago are no longer acceptable today.

We also heard from various people and their experiences. Gender or sexuality identification is not a choice, but how God made you. If God doesn't make mistakes, how can we treat someone with anything but acceptance and love? If we say we are open and accepting, how can we place limits on that acceptance?

Some of my first thoughts when Council was talking about having these discussions and the eventuality that as a congregation we would have to decide whether or not to allow same sex marriages in our sanctuary were: "What if one or both of my children wanted to marry someone of the same sex? Wouldn't I want them to be able to have that commitment ceremony in our sanctuary if that is what they wanted?"

Some people may want to stick with "tradition" and the way it has always been and others may want change. During a situation a couple of years ago someone said something like "traditions are like milk – if you change them and water them down, pretty soon all you have is water with very little milk in it". Later that day a younger man said something like "if you leave milk sit, eventually you will have rotten milk." While both statements can be true, I would like us to consider another possibility. Given the right amount of time, temperature and mixture of things, milk can become something completely different: cheese. Maybe we should consider making cheese: something different and good that has come from something good and nourishing.

Mission

MISSION PROJECT FOR JUNE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

When you invest in the vision supported by Strengthen the Church, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and help develop the spiritual lives of our youth and young adults.

It also supports the "God is still speaking" campaign by the United Church of Christ to remind us that God still has a lot more to say. Working with thousands of churches and individuals across the country, it encourages the extension of an extravagant welcome to all -- because no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

Following is an article written by Joyce Schroer, a “daughter of our church,” who welcomes the help received by this offering in starting a new church.

May 18, 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

Churches and traditions change, but faith remains. Thank you so much for supporting the Strengthen the Church special offering of the United Church of Christ. Last year, Green House Spiritual Community was the recipient of a small start-up grant because of your generosity. New churches in exploration count on your giving. Green House Spiritual Community is rooted in the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church Disciples of Christ, which are both known for unity, inclusion and wholeness. Grounded in these traditions, we seek to share God’s love with our brothers and sisters seeking wholeness in a fragmented world.

I was called to plant this new church in Eastern Ohio Association in the area known as Green near the Akron-Canton Airport. It is my desire to focus on spiritual formation, group discussions, social justice and of course, engaging worship.

Our mission is to be a welcoming and progressive community of faith and exploration, seeking wholeness in a fragmented world—seeking spiritual transformation through worship, theological reflection, and service to others.

The location of The City of Green was selected because demographic studies show that this is a growing area. There is a resurgence of families with children in their younger years as well as a young retired population. Although the area has a number of large churches, it lacks a church that offers a progressive voice about social and moral issues. We have already gained the support of the Harmony Springs Disciples of Christ congregation in this community and the Church Vitality Team of WRA/EOA associations.

The leadership team for Green House Spiritual Community has been active and includes a number of representatives from sister congregations, both clergy and lay. Strengthen the Church offerings help to do God’s work. We started with no people, no building, and no money but thanks to your giving, we now have ten consistent members who gather for dinner and worship either in homes or at the local grocery store that has a café setting.

On behalf of Green House Spiritual Community, I ask you to pray for us and spread the word about our ministry. Better still, become a partner in ministry, by once again supporting Strengthen the Church offering.

If you have questions please contact me!

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Joyce E. Dicke Schroer
1972 Liberty Dr. NE
Louisville, OH 44641

joyce.schroer@roadrunner.com

www.Facebook.com/groups/greenhousespiritualcommunity

BLESSING CABINET

What a blessing it is to have the simple things in life—soap, toilet paper, Kleenex etc. Sometimes we take for granted these simple items that we all use on a daily or monthly basis, however for others these items are not affordable. We have set up a Blessing Cabinet that people can donate supplies to, or if people are in need of these items, they can come to the Blessing Cabinet that is located on the north end of the Educational Building and take the items at no cost.

If you come across the buy one, get one free sale or the coupons that allow you to get items at a reduced price why not take the extra one and drop it off inside the cabinet or the church office. This is a great way to help other people in need. We are looking for the following items:

Toilet Paper	Hand Sanitizer
Kleenex	Baby Wipes
Paper Towels	Diapers (baby to adult)
Soap (dish; hand; laundry; shower)	Sunscreen
Chap Stick	Shampoo
Band Aids	Conditioner
Deodorant (men & women)	Toothpaste
Tampons/Pads	Toothbrush

This cabinet is for anybody, to come at any time and take what they are in need of and to which anybody can donate. The people receiving these items will be so happy, knowing that they can brush their teeth tomorrow morning or have soap to take a shower. You may never see the tear in their eyes or hear their heart beating so loud when they open up the cabinet and can reach in and take out what they are in need of, but you will feel the blessing when you drop off the supplies, turn and walk away knowing that you are helping God’s children. We are all God’s children and we are all here to help each other whether it is by donating an item/items or taking what you need.

The Discipleship Team

Local Aid Expenditures, Apr 20, 2016 – May 19, 2016	
\$855.46	Utilities
\$309.72	Clothing/bedding – fire victims
Gift cards restocked	
\$250	Food cards
Gift cards & certificates distributed	
16	Aldi certificates
8	Marathon cards



News & Events

53RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION OF THE UCC

This meeting was held on April 30, 2016, at Calvary United Church of Christ in Crestline, Ohio. Fifty-one Churches were represented with 165 attendees. John and Joyce Gilberg and Pastor Becky Erb Strang were the representatives from our church.

The keynote address was given by Phil Hart, our designated Ohio Conference Minister. Phil has been a guest preacher in our church several times in the past. He is ending his term as Ohio Conference Minister in July of this year and will be working with the Canada UCC in the wider church.

He did state that when he came to lead the Ohio Conference in 2013, our two camps were \$300,000 in debt. He is happy to report that, at this date, there is now a surplus of over \$50,000.

The Ohio Conference has a working partnership with the Evangelical Church of Westphalia in Germany. In a very brief report from his speech, he said, "Germany is celebrating the 500 year anniversary of the great reformation. (Martin Luther tacked his 95 Theses on the Wittenberg church door on October 31, 1517.) Since the beginning of Pentecost, it seems that every 500 years the Christian church goes through a change. Paul lived through this period with the spread of Christianity. We are now living in a period of great emergence.

If we are staying in a comfort zone as a church, we are actually unsafe. The main thing is the feeling of God's presence.

Jim Ditzler, who heads the Disaster Ministries in the Ohio Conference, gave the following report:

In 2015, members of Ohio Conference Churches have responded to storm damage on the Atlantic coast, severe flooding in the Ohio Conference in West Virginia and the preparation of several hundred disaster kits. The Northwest Ohio Association continues to be the largest provider of kits.

At this meeting, 515 clean-up kits plus \$300 was delivered from the Northwest Ohio Association's churches. The personal health care kits numbered 324. Our church supplied 28 clean-up kits and 22 health kits.

A full report on finances in our NWOA was given. Because of a decrease in the giving to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission), our bookkeeper's hours were cut by eight hours. There was no other place to cut expenses. We are retaining 60% of the donations in the association. 40% will be passed on to the Ohio Conference and to the National UCC office in Cleveland.

The eight forums (workshops) offered, one-hour sessions each, morning and afternoon were:

•**That They May All Be One-Creative Community**—Rev. Phil Hart.

•**Intentional Ministry with Older Adults**—Rev. Beth Long Higgins, United Church Homes.

•**Human Trafficking**—Rev. Jeannine Weber, CCM, BCTPC Human Trafficking-Sisters in Shelter.

•**Open and Affirming 101: How ONA can reduce conflict and build consensus**—Andy Long, Executive

Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC.

•**Loving and helping our neighbors to our South in Biloxi and El Salvador**—John and Joyce

Gilberg (El Salvador) along with Rev. Jeanette & Terry Tangeman (Biloxi).

•**Social Media for Churches 101**—Ryan Shields, Youth pastor at St. John's UCC-Genoa.

•**Small Group Ministry Open Forum**—NWOA Faith formation Ministry Team.

•**A Christian Faith Big Enough for an Interfaith World**—Rev. Jan Linn, author & lecturer.

Our church was given certificates recognizing us as a "5 for 5" church for meeting our OCWM goal of \$36,287.80 and a certificate thanking us for our support from the NWOA. These can be seen on the bulletin board outside of the church office.

This article is only touching on some of the information that we received at this meeting. There are Team Reports and Institutional Partners in Ministry Reports all in a book that will be in the office detailing all the workings of our Association. Please take time to read it. Calvary UCC in Crestline were wonderful hosts and served a wonderful meal. This is mentioned because:

WE ARE TO BE THE HOSTS FOR THE 54TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION ON APRIL 29, 2017!

Joyce and John Gilberg, Delegates

PAGE TURNERS

William Henry is a Fine Name, written by Cathy Gohike, is the Page Turner choice for June.

The shadow of a face in the window, a quilt on the line, howling dogs, threatening intruders and a railroad that runs underground. Thirteen-year-old Robert had known little of the things growing up. His southern adolescence consisted of his mother, who viewed slavery as a natural part of life, and his father, whose late night disappearances were becoming more frequent and disruptive. Then there is William Henry, Robert's best friend. They did everything together—until the summer of 1859. That's when Robert realizes William Henry knows more about the late night mysteries than he does. It's also when Robert is told that William Henry is less than human...because he is black. Now Robert must decide for himself where he stands on slavery. With his loved ones pitted against each other, he struggles to understand justice and wonders how high a price he is willing to pay for it. And then he gets a chance to find out...

Join us at 1:00 p.m., **June 20**, as we share our thoughts when we get a glimpse of the Underground Railroad and the life of a young boy in 1859.

Sandy Thieman

SENIOR LUNCHEON

Our May luncheon was a delicious carry-in. Now that it is summer, we will be taking a break. We will begin again in September.

Have a great summer.

Senior Luncheon Committee

Meetings

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will meet on Saturday, **June 4**, at 8:00 a.m. at Speedway Lanes. After taking off the months of July and August, we will resume meeting in September.

Thank you.

John Voess

BUSY TWELVE

The Busy Twelve will meet at the New Bremen Coffee Company on **June 7** at 11:30 a.m. Following lunch, we will hold our meeting in the Assembly. Room.

Eileen Gamble

WOMEN'S SERVICE GROUP TO PLAN 2016-2017 AGENDA

The women's service group will meet on Thursday, **June 9**, at Bruce Miller's lake home at Southmoor Shores. Those wishing to car pool should meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. Directions to Bruce's lake home are available from Bev Plattner. We will be meeting at the lake around 11:30 a.m. for a light lunch and a business meeting. Each member and guest should bring a salad for lunch. Hostesses are Bev Plattner, Ann Hudson & Sandy Watcke. All members should please call Bev, Ann or Sandy if you are able or if you are not able to attend. Other ladies of the church or anyone interested are invited to attend. Help us plan our coming agenda for next year. Thanks!

Bev Plattner

Thank You

AGAPE THANK YOU

Thank you, St Paul, for your donations for the recent food drive for summer food backpacks. We delivered 121 items. The need continues for "child friendly" items including soups (chicken, tomato, vegetable), cereals, snacks, peanut butter, noodles and spaghetti.

Thank you for your continued support. All is appreciated.

Ann Hudson

St. Paul Agape Representative

I would like to thank St. Paul Church and congregation, Rev. Becky, Ann Hoelscher and all the other people who visited me during my time at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima, Ohio. All of the visits and cards that I received helped me during my recovery. I am now back at Elmwood Assisted Living in New Bremen.

Warm wishes

Irene Jarvis

CHURCH RECORD BOOK

Called home:

Roger "Jay" Stauffer, Jr. died on May 9, 2016, at the age of 76 years. A memorial service was held on May 14, 2016. Burial will take place at the MRE Cemetery, Berne, IN.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Add new members:

Jack and B. J. Hansbrough, 02416 Glynwood Rd., St. Marys, OH 45885.

Address change:

Vince Laveiri, PO Box 50384, Kalamazoo MI 49005.

Becky Voess, 1705 E. West Highway, Apt. 407, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Stan Kuenning, Elmwood Assisted Living, 711 S. Walnut St., New Bremen, OH 45869.

Remove:

Roger "Jay" Stauffer, Jr – deceased.

Orville & Bonnie Heidt – transfer.

GREETERS

Jun 5

North Joyce Topp
South John & Sandy Wierwille

Jun 12

North Peg Henschen
South Ben & Barb Rhinehart & Isabel

Jun 19

North Ralph Plattner
South Bev Plattner

Jun 26

North Gary & Emily Wiedeman
South Kathy Topp

SATURDAY EVENING ACCOMPANISTS

Jun 4 Bev Plattner
Jun 11 Katie Paulus
Jun 18 Ethel Mesloh
Jun 25 Marta Hoelscher

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Jun 5 Cathy Barnes
Jun 12 Cathy Barnes
Jun 19 Cathy Barnes
Jun 26 Brook Schmitmeyer

ALTAR FLOWER SCHEDULE

Jun 5 Ralph & Bev Plattner
Jun 12 John & Nancy Knost
Jun 19 Dennis & Linda Hainline
Jun 26 June Oaks

JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jun 1 John & Rachael Nelson
Jun 4 Robert & Mary Finke
Jun 5 Michael & Nicole Tontrup
Jun 9 Dan & Diane Koenig
Jun 11 Dan & Kathy Nedderman
Jun 14 John & Joyce Gilberg
Jun 14 Dale & Stephanie Heitkamp
Jun 16 Lafe & Amanda Schweissguth
Jun 18 Ned & Nancy Conradi
Jun 21 Kurt & Julie Ehemann
Jun 23 Levi & June Oaks
Jun 25 Gary & Staci Jones
Jun 26 Michael & Kay Webb
Jun 26 Andrew & Abby Bushman
Jun 27 Dan & Sally Dicke
Jun 27 Jeff & Kelsey Kuenning
Jun 29 Don & Sue Kettler



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.

ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

ELMWOOD ASSISTED LIVING

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

Irene Jarvis
Stan Kuenning
Lois Moeller
Louise Wiedeman

HERITAGE MANOR

24 N. Hamilton St., Minster, OH 45865

Thomas Goodwin
Jill May
Alice Waterman
Jean Waterman

THE GARDENS-WAPAKONETA

505 Walnut St., Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Louise Kettler (Room 222)

THE GARDENS-CELINA

1301 Myers Rd., Celina, OH 45822

Wilbur Greber

ST. MARYS LIVING CENTER

1209 Indiana Ave., St. Marys, OH 45885

Marcella Thomas

OTTERBEIN-ST. MARYS

11300 Yost Circle, St. Marys, OH 45885

Doris Blanke
Dan Chamberlin (11410 Cardinal Lane)
LaRue Dicke
Miriam Donnerberg (11314 Bobwhite Lane)
Dorothy Feltman, (11110 Yost Circle, Apt 110)

VANCREST ASSISTED LIVING

1140 Knoxville Avenue, St Marys, OH 45885

Cindy Dicke, Room 305

BRIARWOOD MANOR

100 Don Desch Dr., Coldwater, OH 45828

William (Bill) Jackson

SWISS VILLAGE

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

Mary Lou Campbell, Room 658

PARKVUE COMMUNITY

3800 Boardwalk Blvd., Sandusky, OH 44870

Mary Ahlers, Room 108

SYCAMORE GLEN RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

317 Sycamore Glen Dr. #417, Miamisburg, OH 45342

Dot Ouwerkerk

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.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Grace Dicke, Sally Fark, Greg Meckstroth, Rachael Nelson
- 2 Randall Clark, Brett Maurer, Amanda Schweissguth
- 3 Heather McCoy
- 4 Rob Messick
- 5 Dana Bornhorst, Ellen Paul, Melisa Waterman
- 6 Leif Dietrich, James Gilberg, Ann Hoelscher
- 7 Leslie Humphries, Eric Kuenning, FaithAnn Voress, Shelly Zeller
- 8 Anthony Garcia, Jeff Topp
- 10 Drew Davis, Bailey Hubbard, Joseph Leshar, Timothy Swackhamer
- 11 Cheryl Barlage
- 12 Jeremy Dammeyer, Daniel Davis, Gordon Fairchild
- 13 Kathleen Gruebmeier, Anthony Schott, Tyler Topp
- 14 Robert Koeper, Mason Kuenning, Matthew Slife, Rylee Willrath
- 15 Jeffrey Smart, Emma Weinberg
- 16 Josie Bornhorst, Andrew Makley, Lois Moeller
- 17 Scott Howell, Kloie Knueve, Tracy Oldiges, Rachel Schrader
- 18 Robert Paul, Chelsea Waterman
- 19 Jill Borkowski, Tim Maurer, Dennis Sudman, John Wierwille, Landon Zimmerman
- 20 William Tostrick, Quinci Voisard, Rhese Voisard
- 21 Michael Holdren, Brenda Howell, Delores Stienecker, Jane Topp
- 23 Mary Lou Campbell, Keith Dicke, Andrea Hanson, Dan Koenig, Shay Miller
- 24 Caleb Alig, Sydney Holdren, Laura Koenig, Marvin Topp
- 25 Donald Mohrman, Scott Schnelle, August Slife, Allen Swackhamer, Rebecca Voress
- 26 Christopher Albers
- 27 Mitchell Craft, Jacob Leshar, Braylon Thobe
- 28 Dean Quellhorst
- 29 Ian Ahlers, Spencer Alig, Brice Imwalle, Lori Likens, Tammy McCullough, Jim Strang
- 30 George Voress, Jr., Leila Wallace

**St. Paul UCC Council Meeting
May 10, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by President, Mike Holdren with 16 attendees including: Terri Goodwin, Barb Holdren, Katie Jackson, John Knost, Terri Leshner, Lori Likens, John Mohrman, Kathy Nedderman, Cindy Newman, Tracy Oldiges, Jeff Quellhorst, Shelly Smart, Rev. Becky Strang, Joyce Topp and, Shelly Zeller.. Devotions provided by Cindy Newman.

Secretary's Report: Amendment to [April 2016] Secretary's Report as follows: It was noted that One Great Hour of Sharing brought in \$1178.00. Cindy Newman moved to accept Secretary's Report as amended. Terri Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report as of April 2016 reviewed. Report shows year to date balance of \$1,715.57. John Mohrman moved to accept Treasurer's Report. Shelly Smart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: There will be two new members joining the church on May 15, 2016.

Mission: Art Barnes submitted a report: Mission Team collected \$1,425 for Magdalene-St. Louis (Human Trafficking) in April, and May's mission will be Local Aid, with June's to be Strengthening the Church.

Worship: No report

Discipleship: Discipleship Committee will be hosting a Community Dinner on September 19, 2016, from 4:30-6:00. This will be for anyone in the community. They will be asking for some assistance from the congregation for this as well. More to come. Also, Discipleship Committee is preparing a Blessing Cabinet. It will be in the Educational Building, at the North Door in the hallway. This will hold necessities, health and beauty aids, toiletries, baby needs, etc. for anyone in need. This includes those in need in the community. All items will be free of charge.

OTHER REPORTS

Christian Education and Katie's Youth Activities report combined: A report was submitted by Katie Jackson. She is taking over the Christian Education Leadership through July 31 of this year. Marta Hoelscher is doing some clerical aspects as well.

•The year will conclude May 15 with the End of the Year Party

•The Sunday school kids led worship and did a wonderful job on May 8.

•Organization of all the Sunday school supplies during May and June.

•Meeting in June or July to choose next fall's curriculum.

•Main focus currently for children's ministries is Vacation Bible School, July 11-15, at St. Paul, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

•HS: Completed the year with rummage sale in April. We made over \$1,100 for our New York trip, July 16-22, 2016, in Long Island.

•Continuing Ed: "Journeys of Paul" through Greece and Turkey in April 18-29, 2016. What an incredible opportunity. The trip was phenomenal! Please ask me about it, I would love to tell you!

•Confirmation Camp – July 6-9, 2016, and all incoming confirmands are encouraged to attend. We have five students attending as of right now.

•HS students opted to go on a mission trip to Long Island, NY this summer, July 16-22. We have 10 students and adults signed up to go.

•JH students are invited to spend a few days in mission and service in Lima June 25-28. Five students are signed up to go.

•Planning teams: Faith Formation through NWOA, Confirmation Camp director through the conference.

Deacons Report: Gary Wehmeyer submitted a report: He reports that there have been intermittent failures on Becky's headset mic. Both Gary and John Mohrman have tried to work on the headset and it can only repair this temporarily. Permanent replacement is necessary. Gary has offered to go to Sweetwater Pro Audio in Ft. Wayne to look at options. John Mohrman voiced his interest in going as well. It was decided that this could be solved by the time we are back in the sanctuary in the fall.

Elders Report: Joyce Topp - nothing to report

Maintenance Report: John Mohrman reports: There are new floodlights in the front of the church. Also, the north clock face lights have all been installed. All auditorium lights have been installed in ceiling. Working on the open areas of the Sunday school walls between rooms to help sound proof/sound quality. Jill Borkowski to assist in getting new blinds for these rooms. New shelving in storage room on top of old roof. Also, no-touch towel dispensers have been placed in the bathrooms.

Trustees Report: Combined with Maintenance Report this month.

Pastor Becky's Report:

•May 14 and 15 – Megan Hanenkratt preaching; Pentecost, wear red

•May 22 and 23 – Andersen Reed preaching

•May 28 and 29 – Hymn sing weekend. First weekend for Sunday worship in Chapel

•June 4 – 2 baptisms during worship

•June 11 and 12 – Katie Jackson preaching

•June 18 and 19 – Terri Goodwin preaching

•Discipleship Team will meet June 7 at 7:00 p.m.

•Stewardship Team using a new stewardship program for the fall: Consecration Sunday. Stay tuned for more details.

•Summer Porch Party dates (in need of hosts): June 5, (Strang's host); June 26; July 10; July 24 (Discipleship Team hosts); and August 14.

•Coffee shop hours continue on Mondays from 2:00-4:00 p.m. 7-13 persons attending on average. Will add Monday mornings in May from 7:00-8:30 a.m. Will take the summer off.

- Pastor Becky continues her gingersnap cookie crusade with delivery systematically through the directory to families of the church. She would welcome any volunteers to assist in baking or delivering cookies! She also keeps cookies in the cookie jar in the church office.

- Pastor Becky plans to take Thursdays as professional reading days. I take Fridays off for personal time. I will return calls on Sat. or Mon. (Been averaging 50+ hours a week since Oct. That needs to be curtailed).

- Upcoming vacation time: July 22-31 to Majorca in Spain.

- Continuing Education combined between 2015-2016: Biblical Italy, June 8-23.

- Becky is serving at the Ohio Conference Board of Directors through 2017 and on NWOA's Cabinet. Also serving as emergency on-call pastor one week every 5-6 months for Grand Lake Health Care. Becky is on the Southwestern Auglaize Co. Chamber of Commerce Board of Dir. through 2016. Also serving on the New Bremen/New Knoxville Rotary Board and is a facilitator for the Ohio Conference's Excellence in Ministry Program.

- Pastoral Care April 11, 2016 – May 10, 2016:

- Hospital visits: 6
- Home visits: 8
- Nursing Home: 7
- Phone calls: 7
- Baptisms: 0
- Office visits: 3
- Coffee shop hours folk: 50
- Weddings: 1

Katie Jackson, Director of Youth Ministries Report:
See Director of Christian Education Report (combined).

OLD BUSINESS

Wish List: Ongoing

Church Evaluation: Ongoing; still considering using our in-house resources for maintenance and prevention.

Project of the Year 2015-16: The remainder of the debt for this project is now \$18,908.

Same Sex Marriage – Meetings/Vote: There will be reflections in *The Beacon* every other month from people that were at the meeting regarding this. There will be an article in May *Beacon*.

Council Nominations: Still in need of a trustee. Please prayerfully consider this position if you are able or contact council if you have a nominee.

General Fund Deficit: Ongoing work to resolve this.

Serendipity Flooring: Plans being made to have new linoleum laid over the existing flooring. Quotes are being accumulated.

Landscape (south parking lot): Planning to get a group of people together soon for this project. Grass has been planted along the edge of the yard adjacent to parking lot. Still ongoing.

NEW BUSINESS

Associate Pastor/Youth Director: A group was formed from youth, advisors, and others with interest in the youth programs. These individuals met and formed a job description with principle responsibilities/duties to be Christian education and youth ministry, but also some associate pastor responsibilities and assistance for Becky. It was discussed during council meeting, and a motion was made by Joyce Topp to go forward with hiring an Associate Pastor of Faith Formation, Youth and Family Life Ministries. Shelly Smart seconded the motion. Motion carried. Currently, the job description is 65% Director of Christian Ed. and Youth ministries duties, 20% Young Adult ministries and 15% Shared Pastoral duties.

Stained glass windows: Council is looking at options to get the stained glass window-refurbishing project done in a timelier manner.

Sanctuary sound system: See Deacons Report.

Exterior building work: Council is currently looking at estimates for repair and restoration of dormers, cupolas and bell tower supports. This would involve painting and wood repair. Estimate received from Midwest Maintenance, Inc. currently for this job. Ongoing discussion.

Thank You: A thank you was received from Minster State Bank for new church account with them.

Announcements: Next meeting – June 14, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. Devotions – Shelly Zeller

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Lori Likens, Secretary

Mike Holdren, President

WISH LIST	
Flooring, Auditorium	\$8000
Additional Playground Equip.	\$2500-\$20,000
Carpeting-Chapel & Assy. Room	?
New clock faces-steeple	?
Giving Envelope mailing	\$800-\$1000
Air conditioning-Youth Room	\$3600
Cross, vases, candleholders for Chapel altar	\$1,500-\$2,000
Laminator	\$2,900-\$3,000

St. Paul United Church of Christ - New Bremen OH
Treasurer's Report as of April 2016 for General Fund

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Account Name	Period Activity April 2016	YTD Balance April 2016	Annual Budget 2016	Annual Budget Remaining 2016	Previous YTD April 2015
Income					
Contributions-General Fund	21,257.15	92,849.39			89,358.39
Rent - Nursery School	300.00	1,200.00			1,200.00
Rent - Misc. Building	0.00	50.00			50.00
Contributions-Beacon	75.00	755.00			210.00
Contributions-Misc-General Fund	0.00	280.00			115.00
Enlistment	5.00	430.00			0.00
Office Sup	0.00	118.63			0.00
CHURCH CAMP	140.00	210.00			105.00
INTEREST INCOME-checking acct	5.97	24.31			21.91
Total Income	\$21,783.12	\$95,917.33			\$91,060.30
Expense					
Senior Pastor Base Salary	4,983.92	19,935.68	59,807.00	39,871.32	19,544.64
Senior Pastor Insurance	895.80	3,129.04	10,000.00	6,870.96	1,904.30
Senior Pastor Pension	0.00	5,442.44	10,885.00	5,442.56	5,335.68
Senior Pastor Income Prot.	0.00	583.12	1,400.00	816.88	571.68
Senior Pastor Cell Phone Stipend	50.00	200.00	600.00	400.00	200.00
Senior Pastor Continuing Ed	0.00	580.00	1,000.00	420.00	40.06
SR. MINISTER BUSINESS EXPENSE	25.74	196.46	1,000.00	803.54	80.92
TRANS FROM SR. MINISTER ENDOW	(530.00)	(1,990.00)	(4,800.00)	(2,810.00)	(1,600.00)
Youth Pastor Salary	2,542.08	10,168.32	33,625.00	23,456.68	9,668.64
Youth Pastor Housing	260.00	1,040.00			1,320.00
Youth Pastor HEALTH INSURANCE	365.50	3,601.00	5,000.00	1,399.00	2,404.72
CONTINUING EDUCATION	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Pastor Pension	0.00	1,159.50	4,638.00	3,478.50	1,153.75
Youth Pastor DISABILITY & LIFE	0.00	96.47	550.00	453.53	96.47
Youth Director Cell Phone Stipend	50.00	200.00	600.00	400.00	200.00
YOUTH MINSTER BUSINESS EXPENSE	0.00	233.40	1,000.00	766.60	248.17
ENDOWMENT INCOME	(3,000.00)	(12,000.00)	(36,000.00)	(24,000.00)	(12,000.00)
Organist Salary	400.00	2,000.00	5,200.00	3,200.00	1,700.68
Music Director	60.00	255.00	780.00	525.00	1,522.68
Senior Choir Director	225.00	875.00	1,950.00	1,075.00	0.00
SATURDAY NIGHT CHOIR DIRECTOR	52.08	208.32	625.00	416.68	600.00
SPIRIT SAFARI DIRECTOR	987.50	3,908.32	11,600.00	7,691.68	3,900.00
BEACON Editor	217.50	870.00	2,610.00	1,740.00	902.42
Visitation Ministry Salary	0.42	1.68	5,225.00	5,223.32	891.68
Bell Choir Director Salary	100.00	400.00	1,200.00	800.00	0.00
Web Page Editor	150.00	600.00	1,800.00	1,200.00	106.66
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper	2,125.00	8,500.00	25,500.00	17,000.00	8,333.36
Financial Secretary Salary	418.08	1,672.32	5,017.00	3,344.68	1,639.68
Ed. Bldg Custodian Salary	1,076.34	4,305.36	12,916.00	8,610.64	4,221.04
Sanctuary Custodian Salary	624.66	2,498.64	7,496.00	4,997.36	2,449.68
Lawn Care Salary	426.00	426.00	2,982.00	2,556.00	417.57
Maintenance Salary	893.76	3,575.04	10,725.00	7,149.96	3,900.00
Vacation Replacement	150.00	525.00	4,200.00	3,675.00	1,400.00
Telephone-CHURCH	111.62	446.66	2,000.00	1,553.34	591.86
Staff Cell Phone Reimburse	50.00	300.00	1,200.00	900.00	0.00
Natural Gas-CHURCH	490.15	3,284.44	10,000.00	6,715.56	4,789.76
INTERNETSERVICES	160.95	643.80	2,100.00	1,456.20	639.80
NATURAL GAS-PARSONAGE	56.61	418.65	1,500.00	1,081.35	658.18
Electric-CHURCH	601.18	2,552.18	8,500.00	5,947.82	2,725.44
Trash-dumpster	56.53	225.56	750.00	524.44	219.46
Worship Materials & Supplies	532.59	1,230.03	3,500.00	2,269.97	1,804.79
WORSHIP-SATURDAY EVENING	120.00	640.00	2,000.00	1,360.00	510.00
Pastoral Care	0.00	304.20	600.00	295.80	389.12
Music	125.78	182.48	500.00	317.52	73.80
Delegate's Expense	32.00	32.00	300.00	268.00	219.00
Membership Dues	92.61	187.56	500.00	312.44	167.61
Enlistment Materials Exp.	114.13	669.08	2,000.00	1,330.92	(406.00)
Church Growth & Development	36.12	690.90	2,500.00	1,809.10	1,486.17
Postage	203.98	1,136.51	4,250.00	3,113.49	1,021.02
Shipping	48.66	183.21	750.00	566.79	354.19
Mileage/Travel	264.06	2,513.41	10,000.00	7,486.59	3,191.71
Payroll Preparation Services	247.00	372.00	600.00	228.00	150.00
Office Supplies	346.59	1,417.49	4,500.00	3,082.51	937.01
Custodial Supplies	77.58	607.70	1,500.00	892.30	492.54
Office Equipment Maintenance	786.53	2,691.89	5,500.00	2,808.11	1,871.70
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	145.00	1,500.00	1,355.00	360.75
SPIRIT SAFARI CLUB EDUC. MATL	0.00	814.46	1,000.00	185.54	175.31
SPIRIT SAFARI CLUB SUPPLIES	101.02	673.33	2,000.00	1,326.67	334.66
Camperships	300.00	300.00	4,000.00	3,700.00	564.00
Program Materials-Grade School	86.89	229.75	1,500.00	1,270.25	695.19
Program Materials-Junior High	73.37	271.51	2,000.00	1,728.49	211.73
Program Materials-Senior High	45.13	846.04	2,000.00	1,153.96	281.44
Real Estate Taxes	0.00	1,230.02	2,500.00	1,269.98	1,196.74
FICA Taxes (Employer)	1,147.08	4,398.86	17,000.00	12,601.14	4,720.69
Confirmation Expenses	15.02	366.93	650.00	283.07	586.61
Total Expense	\$19,872.56	\$94,201.76	\$289,331.00	\$195,129.24	\$92,168.76
Difference	\$1,910.56	\$1,715.57	(\$289,331.00)		(\$1,108.46)

June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
						8:00 Men's Club 5:00 Worship
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:15 Worship 11:30 Mission Team 6:00 Porch party (Jim & Becky Strang)		11:30 Busy Twelve 7:00 Discipleship Team		11:00 Women's Service Group		5:00 Worship
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:15 Worship		6:30 Church Council				5:00 Worship
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:15 Worship	1:00 Page Turners JUL-AUG BEACON ARTICLES DUE					5:00 Worship
26	27	28	29	30		
10:15 Worship 6:00 Porch party (John & Nancy Knost)						



SPECIAL DATES:

Jun 5 – Porch party, 6:00 p.m., Jim & Becky Strang

Jun 25-28 – JH mission trip, Lima

Jun 26 – Porch party, 6:00 p.m., John & Nancy Knost

for **OUR STUDENTS**

Confirmation Camp 2016
July 6-9th
There's still time to register!

Contact Katie with
questions or sign-up information!

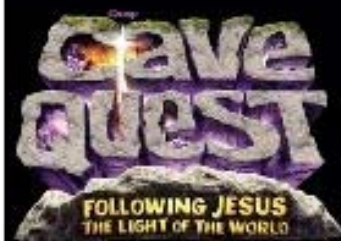
HELP US GET TO NEW YORK!

Our transportation costs for our New York trip have doubled because of the Republican National Convention being held in Cleveland at the same time.

Our travelers are working on solutions to pay for the bus. There are envelopes in the chapel for donations, and keep an eye out for more opportunities to help!

Please consider supporting our students as they travel to New York to serve families affected by Superstorm Sandy!

*Our original budget was \$1,000. The cost is now \$2200!



Community Vacation Bible School
July 11-15th, 9-11:30am at St. Paul
4 years-6th graders may participate!

Registration forms
are available in the
church office!

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

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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Pictures have arrived! Those of you who had pictures taken for the pictorial directory—they can be picked up at the church office anytime the office is open. The free directory available to those having had pictures taken will not be available until late summer.