

**St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting
January 8, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 14 members present including: John Voress, Cindy Newman, Tom Braun, Keith Dicke, Dennis Dicke, Brice Schmitmeyer, Dan Nedderman, Kathy Topp, Ralph Plattner, Shirley Henegar, Cheryl Barlage, Ann Nelson, Rev. Matthews and Carrie Cutlip. Meditation was provided by John Voress.

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and told what position they held on the council. President Voress then passed a paper around for everyone to sign up for monthly meditations and their email address if they have one.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the December 11, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Ralph Plattner made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Brice Schmitmeyer seconded and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Financial Activity Report was available for review. Tom Braun was present to review it for the council. The total Year-to-Date income was \$214,852. The Total Expenses for 2007 were \$219,024 for a Total deficit of \$4,172. Tom then gave the Total Mission giving for 2007 which was \$63,616. President Voress commended the congregation for giving so greatly with the missions. Discussion was held on the report. Dan Nedderman made a motion to accept the report as written and Cheryl Barlage seconded the motion. Motion was approved. John thanked Tom for the wonderful job he did on the Financial Activity Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee: No meeting has occurred.

Mission Committee: Tom Braun discussed the Mission Giving in the Financial Report. The congregation has done a super job in supporting the missions of the church.

Worship Report: No report available.

Catch the Vision: This committee is on hold until we get a new minister.

Pulpit Committee: John Voress reported that the Pulpit Committee had an organizational meeting. Tom Thieman led the meeting. Randy Clark will be heading the Pulpit Committee. They will be meeting with Dan Bush on January 14, 2008. Randy will be giving John a report from each meeting they have.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education: No report

Deacon Report: Brice reported things went well for the first time the new deacons were on. The video camera is not working well with the speakers. Need to get this fixed because several people have asked why they cannot hear the service on the tape. Brice will get prices on a new video camera and tapes. He will talk to Fowlers in St. Marys.

Brice reported that Mark Barhorst will be doing the deacon duties on most of the Saturday night services.

Elder's Report: no report

Trustee Report: Ralph Plattner reported that Roland Dicke is taking care of sealing the bricks. Ralph will be talking to Norm Holcomb about the sidewalks around the church. They need to be replaced.

Rev. Matthews' Report: Instead of giving statistics about what she has been doing at the church, she shared with council some reflections about the life at St. Paul. Rev. Matthews was deeply touched by the Christmas Season. Beginning with the "Search for the Christmas Treasure" and throughout the month of December, the spirit of Christmas infused the life of the church -- the decorated sanctuary, manger scene in front of church, singing Advent and Christmas hymns, caroling, snow storm, the children's program and family Christmas service on Christmas Eve, candles and carols. This all spilled over culminating in the Epiphany service on Saturday and Sunday on January 5 and 6, 2008.

All that we do at St. Paul is grounded in our worship and our faith together. We are infused with the spirit of God and seek to serve God in the best ways we know how, in the church and beyond the church. You are the church at work in the community and the world and your care for

each other and those beyond yourselves marks the sign of a loving and caring family of God's people. As we begin this new year together, may God be ever present in all that we say and in all that we do, empowering us to continue to be God's people in this community and in the world.

Carrie Cutlip's Report:

JYFS: In December we had weekly meetings where our lessons focused on goodness and faithfulness. Along with our lessons we took part in a cookie decorating service project. The cookies were given to church members we caroled to. We also had a Christmas party at the bowling alley. In January we will finish our study of the fruit of the spirit with lessons on gentleness and self-control. Our service project of the month will be spending time and making picture frames with our church members who are in nursing homes.

Confirmation: The confirmation class is going well. The teens have been learning about service. They are strongly encouraged to take part in the Jr. High's service trip to Nu-Vizion in February. The confirmation class will also take an active role in leading the Youth Lead Worship Service at the end of the month.

Jr. High: The Jr. High teens have taken part in weekly meetings, caroling, and a Christmas Party. Our lessons in December focused on the identity of Christ. In January our lessons will focus on teaching the teens about worship and helping them learn several spiritual discipline practices.

Sr. High: The Sr. High has met weekly over the past month. They also participated in Christmas caroling and a Sr. High Christmas party. The Sr. High service trip had to be rescheduled because of scheduling conflicts. The clothing donations are being brought to Lotts Creek next week by volunteers. The Sr. High spent time studying the Life of Christ and his identity. They will be learning about worship during the month of January.

Upcoming Youth Activities: Winter Break Over Night (Jan. 20-21); Youth Lead Worship Service (Sun., Jan 27th); Prayer Labyrinth Experience, Super Bowl Party (Feb. 3); Sr. High Retreat (Feb. 17-18); and Jr. High Trip to Nu-Vizion (Feb. 29-Mar. 2).

Involvement Outside of Church: The adult youth leaders and I are making a conscious effort to attend the youths' activities outside of church. We have attended basketball games, swim meets, races, and bowling tournaments.

Adult Leaders: Continuing to do a great job. Our monthly meeting was very productive. We began to create our summer schedule for the youth and evaluated our current programs.

OLD BUSINESS

Project of the Year: John Voress asked the trustees to be thinking of suggestions for a project since 2008 is a Building Improvement Year.

Snow Blower: Tom Braun received the bill for \$550.00.

NEW BUSINESS

Librarian: John Voress will be contacting Joyce Ruedebusch to see if she is still interested in helping with the church library. We do need a person to take care of the library because the books are stacking up and not being put away the way they used to be.

Ash Wednesday Services: Ash Wednesday is February 6, 2008. Leah asked about Lenten services. A discussion was held. It was decided by council that there would be an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, February 6th and this year just have Holy Week Services and not regular Wednesday Lenten Services due to lack of attendance in the past years. There would be a Maundy Thursday service, and Good Friday services.

Announcements:

Next council meeting is February 12, 2008.
175th anniversary meeting on January 13, 2008 at 1:00.

With no other business to discuss, Dennis Dicke made a motion to adjourn. Kathy Topp seconded, and the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Cindy Newman, Secretary

John Voress, President