

**St. Paul UCC Church Council Meeting
February 12, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 14 members present including: John Voress, Dr. Jeff Paul, Joyce Holdren, Staci Jones, Ralph Plattner, Kathy Topp, Norm Holcomb, Brice Schmitmeyer, Cheryl Barlage, Amy Stuhlemmer, Dennis Dicke, Ann Nelson, Rev. Leah Matthews and Carrie Cutlip. The meeting began with a prayer by Rev. Matthews.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the January 8, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Brice Schmitmeyer made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Norm Holcomb seconded and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Fund Activity Report was available for review. The total year-to-date income thru January 2008 was \$18,670. The total year-to-date expenses were \$18,384, leaving a surplus of \$286 thru January. Discussion was held on the report. Dennis Dicke made a motion to accept the report as written and Joyce Holdren seconded the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee: The membership committee is busy working on the confirmation reunion scheduled for Sunday, May 4. John Gilberg is the chairperson.

Mission Committee: Amy Stuhlemmer shared a thank you note received from Heifer International for St. Paul's donation of \$477.85. The mission team is also involved with helping to plan the picnic being held on June 29 in honor of our church's 175th anniversary and will be in charge of the food concessions as a mission fund-raiser project.

Worship Committee: No report.

Pulpit Committee: Council reviewed the open position one-line ad description to be placed in publications. After discussion regarding a minor wording change, Cheryl Barlage made a motion to approve the ad. Amy Stuhlemmer seconded the motion. Pulpit Committee chairperson, Randy Clark, will inform the congregation about the progress of the search process at the congregational meeting on February 24.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education: Carrie Cutlip reported that there will be a child sexual safety training session held on Sunday, March 30 at 2:00 p.m.

Deacon Report: Brice Schmitmeyer reported that the video camera is not working well with the speakers. The sound still cuts in and out. Brice did get a quote on a new camera (\$600) or a new plug for the existing camera (\$300). After discussion, it was determined that the problem is more likely that new wiring for the audio needs to be installed from the control board downstairs to the balcony connection upstairs. The trustees will look into this.

Elder's Report: Staci Jones reported that plastic communion cups will be used for all future communion services.

Trustee Report: The trustees presented three options for the Project of the Year:

1. Update electrical service for educational building and the sanctuary, to be done in phases.
2. Replace east (Franklin Street) sidewalks and west educational building entrance-only sidewalk.
3. New windows, educational building.

After discussion, it was decided that the electrical upgrade was the immediate priority along with the sidewalk replacements. Cheryl Barlage made a motion accordingly; Ann Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Rev. Matthews' Report: It's hard to believe that Lent is already here. Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of this liturgical season with a service of worship with Communion and imposition of ashes.

I continue to make hospital and shut-in visits; hold consultations for weddings and baptisms; led Bible studies and confirmation classes; attend various meetings. I also gave the invocations at the Wapakoneta/New Bremen 175th anniversary program and the Boy Scouts awards banquet.

I am attending NWOA training sessions, Preparing Boundary, for the next 3 Tuesdays. Attendance is required of all clergy, pulpit supply people, etc.

Overall, I think things are going well. We've been having over 40 at the Saturday evening service, except when weather and/or sports interfere. On those times, we still have 25 or so attending. Attendance in Sunday service has been good as well.

Carrie Cutlip's Report:

JYFS: In January, we finished our study of the fruit of the spirit with lessons on gentleness and self-control. Our service project of the month was a trip to three local nursing homes to visit with members of our congregation. While we were there, we made a craft project together.

In February, we will be starting our curriculum on the Armor of God. Our service project will be making care packages for our college students.

Confirmation: The confirmation class has participated in field trips to Holy Redeemer and to a Jewish synagogue. These trips helped the teens identify similarities and differences between other faith traditions and ours. The majority of the confirmation class will be participating in the service trip to Nu-Vizion at the end of the month.

Jr. High & Sr. High: In Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group, we have been learning about different aspects of worship. Specific lessons focused on public and private worship, prayer, and the importance of scripture. We experienced different types of worship such as dancing, scripture memorization, and resting. The teens ended their study on worship by providing leadership to a Sunday morning worship service. They organized, planned and led the service on January 27.

Recent youth activities: Winter Break Overnight at Celina YMCA with youth from all over Auglaize County; youth-led worship service; Super Bowl party.

Upcoming youth activities: Sr. High retreat to Kalahari Indoor Water Park (Feb 17-18); Jr. High service trip to Nu-Vizion (Feb 29-Mar 2); prayer labyrinth experience.

Volunteer & parent meetings: This month, meetings are scheduled for both JYFS and youth volunteers to evaluate our current programs, brainstorm new ideas and make plans for the summer months. A parents meeting was held for parents of Jr. High students attending the Nu-Vizion service trip.

Child safety course: A child safety course has been scheduled for Sunday, March 30, at 2:00 p.m. Jason Cupp from Mercer County Children's Services will be leading the training.

Summer camps: Information about summer camps has been distributed to the children and youth. Registration will begin very soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Stained glass window: Norm Holcomb is working with Karl and Ethel Mesloh on the history/background and inspiration for the stained glass window, created by the Meslohs, in the elevator vestibule at the south sanctuary entrance door. A plaque will be affixed in this area with the appropriate recognition.

Project of the Year: Electrical upgrades/sidewalks (see trustee report).

Librarian: John Voress is still working to find a person to maintain the library.

NEW BUSINESS

Baptismal records: Tom Braun has asked if it would be possible to get a CD of the church's baptismal records. Discussion concerned how this information would be used. Tom was not present at the meeting. Further action was tabled until the next council meeting.

Joyous Echoes book: Dennis Dicke presented a prototype of a soon-to-be published book entitled "Joyous Echoes". This book contains all of the Joyous Echoes columns, written by Marge Lietz, that were included in *The Beacon* from 1984 to 1999. The cost of printing this book is being donated. It is hoped that the book will be available for sale by Easter. The proceeds will be earmarked for *The Beacon* fund.

Funds for 175th celebration: The Board of Controls will review possible sources for the anticipated (\$3000-\$5000) funds needed for this celebration.

Display case: The historical display case in the educational building is in need of organization and updating. Joyce Holdren volunteered to help with this project.

Rev. Tostrick: Rev. John Tostrick has been extended an invitation to return to church as a parishioner, the time as of his choosing.

Lawn care: John Voress will get cost estimates for lawn care treatment (parsonage and church yards only) for the coming season.

Goldie Mueller bequest: The church has received a \$45,000 endowment bequest from the estate of Goldie Mueller.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank yous – Thank yous from the Crescent Players and the TLC CCL group were read.

Senior Luncheon – Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008.

Girl Scout Sunday, March 9, 2008 – the Girl Scouts will worship in our church.

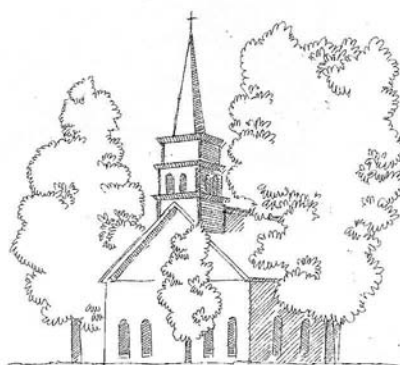
Auglaize Valley Region Workshop – Sunday, February 24, 2008 at Bluffton.

Bob Molsberry will be a guest pulpit speaker on Sunday, November 9, 2008, in conjunction with the final celebration of our 175th anniversary.

With no other business to discuss, Ralph Plattner made a motion to adjourn. Brice Schmitmeyer seconded, and the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Kathy Topp, Secretary Pro-Tem

John Voress, President



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