

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

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 16 members present including: John Voress, Jeff Paul, Cindy Newman, Greg Maurer, Ralph Plattner, Kathy Topp, Norm Holcomb, Cheryl Barlage, Keith Dicke, Shirley Henegar, Brice Schmitmeyer, Amy Stuhlemmer, Mark Barhorst, Dennis Dicke, Carrie Cutlip and Tom Braun. Meditation was provided by Kathy Topp. A picture of the council members present was taken for the 175th Anniversary Book.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the March meeting were discussed. Ralph Plattner made a motion to accept the minutes. Norm Holcomb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Fund Activity Report for the month ending March, 2008 was available for review. Tom Braun reported that we have a surplus for the month of \$692.32. He said we have to remember Easter was in March and that was helpful. Dennis Dicke made a motion to accept the report and Brice Schmitmeyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee: Tom Braun reported on the Confirmation Reunion to be held on May 4, 2008. Rev. Leah Matthews will be the guest speaker. Cindy Newman thanked Tom Braun and Dot Koeper for addressing and mailing the letters out to the confirmands invited. Carrie Cutlip will talk briefly on the youth programs at church. Baskets will be put out for donations to the youth group for helping out at the reunion.

Pulpit Committee: The committee is coming along well with the profile of the church. They will have John Voress, Tom Thieman, and Rev. Leah Matthews look over it for approval.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education: Meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2008.

Deacons: The candle lighters need to be cleaned. Norm Holcomb will clean these for the church. Ralph Plattner and Norm Holcomb have fixed the hearing devices that were not working correctly.

Elders Report: Greg Maurer had nothing to report. John Voress asked about Jarod's Law (Jarod's Law refers to inspections to check for unsafe conditions related to health, safety and sanitation). Greg will check into this.

Trustee's Report: A quote has been received from Homan & Stucke Construction, Inc. for the total sidewalk/curb project. The total dollar amount is \$8,323.95. A wheelchair ramp entrance to the educational building on the west side of the building was estimated at \$1,590.00. The total cost would be

\$9,913.95. Norm Holcomb made a motion to accept the quote from Homan & Stucke Construction, Inc. and Amy Stuhlemmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Norm Holcomb talked about the electrical work to be done. He will have more information at the May council meeting. Discussion was held.

The lawn mower deck will be changed over. Ralph Plattner will check into this.

The stone on the front side steps of the sanctuary entrance is falling apart. A question was asked if the railings could be removable? Norm Holcomb has a person to do the replacing of the stone and also the railings to be removable. Greg Maurer made a motion for this to be done and Brice Schmitmeyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rev. Matthews Report: One of my priorities is to carefully craft all the worship experiences we have here at the church. With the Easter holy days just past, it has given me pause for reflection. Certainly, Palm Sunday and the confirmation of seven young people marked another significant time in the life of St. Paul United Church of Christ. We had five services during Holy Week, including the Community Good Friday service at Faith Alliance Church. Even though the Easter season is a lot of extra work, it is well worth it when you see so many gathered for worship. The church was beautiful with the adornment of the spring flowers. The music was wonderful. And my thanks to Jack Hansbrough and Dick Hudson and to the choir and bell ringers for all the extra work they did to make our services more meaningful.

I completed Lenten Bible Study the Wednesday of Holy Week. We agreed to discontinue meeting for a short time and then resume for another study later on.

I have had one wedding, two baptisms, two funerals, as well as nursing home calling, two home communions, and, of course, hospital calling.

I have attended two mission meetings, the Lamplighters gathering, the Capsule meeting and also met with John Voress and Jeff Paul almost every week.

Larger Church: I attended the Installation service for the Ohio Conference Minister, Rev. Robert Molsberry on Sunday, March 30th. The Gilberts were also present, representing St. Paul at this important time in the life of the Ohio Conference.

Carrie Cutlip's Report:

JYFS -- In the past month we continued our study of the armor of God. Specifically we had lessons in righteousness and sharing our faith. We went on a field trip to the Roller Dome in St. Mary's. Our April service project is a food drive for Nu-Vizion. The children will be collecting food and personal items from church members.

The end of the year party is scheduled for May 14th at the Putt Putt Golf course in Coldwater.

Jr. High & Sr. High—In Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group our lessons have focused on choices. We had lessons on media, drugs and alcohol, stress, sex, and sin. Our

worship experiences for the month included physical fitness, celebration, and a video meditation. In the next few months we will be looking at sharing our faith with others.

Recent Youth Activities---Confirmation Sunday, Drama for Easter Sunrise Service

Upcoming Youth Activities---Cincinnati Museum trip to see the Bodies Exhibit, video game tournament, youth-led worship service

Summer Camps---The registrations for the early deadline have been sent in. Registrations are still coming in and will be sent before the next registration deadline.

Summer Programs---During the summer months the Jr. and Sr. High youth groups will meet every other week on Sunday nights. In addition to these meetings, several trips are being planned:

- Alive Christian Music Festival—June 18-21
- Confirmation Camp---July 13-19
- UCC National Youth Event---July 24-28
- 7th Grade Moving On Up Retreat---August 8-9

Summer Family Events

- June 29th ---175th Anniversary Carnival
- July---YMCA Night (TBA)
- August 2nd---St. Paul Pool Party

UCC National Youth Event

- Cost is \$345 per student
- Association will give a \$100 scholarship if registered by April 22nd
- St Paul Youth Travel fund will provide a \$100 scholarship

OLD BUSINESS

Stained glass window: Norm Holcomb had a description of the two stained glass windows. Karl R. and Ethel A. Mesloh would like to have their names on the plaque as such. Norm will get an estimate on producing a plaque by next meeting.

Board of Controls: A recommendation was made by the board that a total of \$4,000.00 would be allotted for the 175th Birthday Celebration of the church. The self insurance fund is at \$50,000.00 and the interest from this fund will help pay for the 175th celebration.

Lawn Care: John Voress did not hear from Nature's Green Lawn Care Service. He got an estimate from Healthy Lawns of Coldwater. If paid by April 24, 2008, four treatments would cost \$366.16 and reseeding the north side of the Educational Building would be an additional \$185.00 for a total amount of \$551.16. Another quote was presented from Sidney Landscaping. Four treatments would cost \$580.00. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mark Barhorst to go with Healthy Lawns of Coldwater and the motion was seconded by Norm Holcomb. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Stained Glass Windows and Symbols Pamphlets: Kathy Topp presented two pamphlets of our church. Included is a history of the church and information about the windows and symbols in the church. A black and white copy would cost 30 cents a piece from Staples. This would be printed and folded. A discussion was held. Kathy will check on the price of a color copy of the pamphlet.

Chamber of Commerce dues: A discussion was held as to whether the church should join the Chamber of Commerce again. A motion was made by Brice Schmitmeyer to join the Chamber and Amy Stuhlemmer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Northwest Ohio Annual Meeting April 26, 2008: John and Joyce Gilberg will be going to this meeting..

Children's Toyland: John read a letter requesting a donation for Children's Toyland. A discussion was held. Carrie will check into this for a youth project.

Fax Machine/Copier/Printer is not working properly in the office. A new black and white laser printer costs about \$500.00. Mark Barhorst will check on this and see what needs to be done. If it can't be fixed or if it would cost too much to get it fixed, we will order a new printer. A discussion was held. Dennis Dicke made a motion for Mark to check it out and Cheryl Barlage seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A 175th anniversary meeting will be held April 13 at 1:00 p.m. Anyone interested in helping with this celebration is asked to attend this meeting.

Next council meeting will be May 13 at 7:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Ralph Plattner to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Cheryl Barlage. Motion carried.

The Lords Prayer was said by all.

Cindy Newman, Secretary

John Voress, President