

ST. PAUL UCC COUNCIL MEETING
June 10, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 12 members present including: John Voress, Jeff Paul, Cheryl Barlage, Ralph Plattner, Norm Holcomb, Tom Braun, Joyce Holdren, Brice Schmitmeyer, Kathy Topp, Staci Jones, Rev. Leah Matthews and Carrie Cutlip. Meditation was provided by Jeff Paul.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the May meeting were discussed. Brice Schmitmeyer made a motion to accept the minutes. Ralph Plattner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Fund Activity Report for the month ending May, 2008 was available for review. Tom Braun reported we have a surplus for the year of \$2725. Norm Holcomb made a motion to accept the report and Kathy Topp seconded the motion. A discussion was held and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Catch the Vision: Will try to get this committee back in session by July. This would be a benefit for both Rev. Matthews and the future new pastor. New ideas for the church are requested.

Mission Committee: No report

Pulpit Committee: The church profile has been approved. Candidate profiles are coming in and are being reviewed.

Deacons Report: Brice Schmitmeyer noted that we need to see better deacon attendance at the council meetings.

Trustees Report: The trustees have met with Garman & Miller Architects representatives regarding the electrical upgrades to the educational building as well as both the inside and outside installation locations of the new service. Garman & Miller are working on drawings which will be submitted for state approval before putting out bids to contractors.

Discussion was held on tree replacements on the north side of the church. Two more large maples will need to come down soon due to safety concerns. Two other maple trees had been taken down in the fall of 2007. The Wilton Dicke Memorial Fund will pay for some of the tree replacements. Ralph Plattner made a motion to buy two new trees at this time and two trees next fall. All trees would be of the same species. Kathy Topp seconded the motion. Motion carried. Further discussion also noted that the two locust trees on the south side of the educational building need to be trimmed.

The trustees recommended the purchase of new, more efficient window air conditioners for the three church offices. Carrie's unit stopped working and Rev. Matthews' and Dot Koepfer's units are not cooling sufficiently. A motion was made by Brice Schmitmeyer to purchase three air conditioners, not to exceed \$500. Cheryl Barlage seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A gas leak was found at two connections near the gas meter. Two gaskets were replaced by Kogge Plumbing.

Norm Holcomb reported that the plaques for the stained glass windows are completed. He is making the frames for them. Ralph Plattner will take care of the spraying of weeds along the curb sidewalks. Kathy Topp mentioned that all of the exterior wrought iron hand rails need painting. They will first need to be sandblasted. Kathy volunteered to repaint them.

Rev. Matthews' Report: I attended a "Rotation Model" presentation (the same model as is used by our church school) by Dr. Marian Plant of Defiance College. This was held at the Northwest Ohio Association office. The reason for attending was to see if we can renew this vital part of our church.

I also attended the Ohio Conference Annual Gathering. The theme this year was "Vital Signs: The Pulse of the Church." I attended a workshop on "Generational Tectonics" in which the leader gave an explanation of each generation forming the church, then talked about what makes those generations tick. He went on to say that the vitality of the Christian movement is what we HAVE to pass on to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren and subsequent generations. Vitality of the Christian movement is that WE as a church absolutely have to figure out how to pass on the message of Jesus Christ, and it means doing things differently than we've done them before.

I consulted with two families for memorial/funeral services; made hospital and shut-in visits; led vespers at Otterbein; attended the Senior Luncheon in May and attended the Spring Fellowship on June 9th.

Carrie Cutlip's Report:

JYFS – Since our last meeting, JYFS has gone on break for the summer. The end-of-the-year party went well. Our end-of-the-year trip to Putters Lane was rained out, so we had a pizza party at the church instead. We celebrated summer birthdays and played games. We will resume having meetings at the end of August.

Jr. High & Sr. High – The Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group finished out the year by talking about sharing our faith. To celebrate the end of the year, the Sr. High had a cookout at Bartt & Michelle Suchland's house. The Jr. High had a bonfire at the park for their end-of-the-year party.

Recent Youth Activities – Sr. High cookout; Jr. High bonfire; parent feedback night; youth volunteer meeting; volunteer recognition Sunday; Sr. High paintball; Jr. High pool day; serving the Spring Fellowship dinner.

Upcoming Youth Activities – Alive Christian Music Festival (June 18-21); Cedar Point trip; 175th anniversary carnival; confirmation camp.

Summer Camps – Registration for camp has been completed.

Summer Family Events – The family YMCA night went well. Families enjoyed playing games, swimming and eating snacks together.

Upcoming Family Events

June 29th -- 175th Anniversary Carnival

August 2nd -- St. Paul Pool Party @ 7 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Norm Holcomb and Kathy Topp will keep the congregation updated on the progress of the Project of the Year.

We are awaiting the Busy Twelve's decision regarding giving a gift to the church (possibly brass vases for the chapel altar) in honor of its 100th anniversary. This would alleviate the altar vases in the sanctuary from having to be transported back and forth for the Saturday and Sunday services, causing extra wear of the brass plating.

NEW BUSINESS

Wish List: It was discussed that we need to have a "wish list" for our church. This list would provide members an opportunity to be aware of the needs/wants for our church for their memorial or other gift considerations.

Swing seats: Norm Holcomb has purchased new swing seats for the church park. He will install them.

NCH hymnals: Discussion was held concerning the need for 100 more New Century Hymnals. The cost is \$15 each. It was suggested that perhaps members could purchase hymnals in memory of someone or as a gift. These hymnals are a supplement, not a replacement, to our red hymnals.

Gospel Tent – Auglaize County Fair: Ralph Plattner made a motion to donate \$50 to the Gospel Tent. Kathy Topp seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

OCWM: A thank you was received from OCWM for St. Paul Church's support to missions.

Thank you notes: Thank you notes were read from Sara Beth Jarvis and Samantha Barhorst.

The meeting was adjourned and the Lord's Prayer was said by all.

The next meeting will be held July 8 and 7:30 p.m.

Cheryl Barlage, Secretary Pro-Tem

John Voress, President