

**St. Paul UCC Council Meeting  
July 7, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 14 members present including: John Voress, Jeff Paul, Cindy Newman, Staci Jones, Ralph Plattner, Kathy Topp, Norm Holcomb, Cheryl Barlage, Keith Dicke, Brice Schmitmeyer, Dennis Dicke, Ann Nelson, Rev. Matthews and Tom Braun. A prayer was said by Rev. Matthews.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the June meeting were discussed. Dennis Dicke 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 June, 2008, was available for review. Tom Braun reported we have a surplus of \$9,906.63 year-to-date. This is up \$8,000 from last year in the first 6 months. The Mission Team had a profit of \$1,239.26 from the chicken dinners for the 175<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. The receipts were \$2,907.16 and the expenses were \$1,667.90. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Norm Holcomb and seconded by Brice Schmitmeyer to accept the report. Motion passed.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mission Committee:** \$4,700.00 was sent to Dr. Rivas in El Salvador.

**Pulpit Committee:** The committee is reviewing portfolios that they have received.

#### **OTHER REPORTS**

**Deacon Report:** The deacons will light the altar candles before church so they don't have to worry about the floor fans blowing out the candle lighter flame if they light them at the start of the service.

**Trustee Report:**

- Homan & Stucke will start the sidewalk replacement project on July 14, 2008.
- Electrical Upgrade Status: New cable entry will be underground. Three new services will be put in place. New Bremen village will order the new transformer.
- Plaques are in place for the stained glass windows in the south sanctuary entrance.
- Window air conditioners. Norm Holcomb has measured windows and will get air conditioners the week of July 7, 2008. These are for Rev. Matthews' office and Carrie Cutlip's office.

There is a dead tree across the street in the parking area behind the post office that needs to be cut down.

Denny Sudman will be contacted to take down two large maple trees on the north side (West Second Street) due to safety concerns because of hollow limbs

and two locust trees along the south parking lot due to ice storm damage and their messy droppings onto vehicles parked beneath them. Replacement trees for all will be planted this fall.

All of the doors in the parsonage can now be properly locked.

Ralph Plattner installed new towel dispensers in all restrooms.

**Rev. Matthews' Report:**

Rev. Matthews was involved with two funerals and one wedding. She visited several shut-ins. She made follow-ups on hospitalizations. She attended numerous meetings and spent a considerable amount of time preparing the worship services, especially for the June 29<sup>th</sup> celebration service.

Rev. Matthews writes: I would like to thank the Council for the graciousness with which money was allocated to make June 29<sup>th</sup> an extraordinary celebration in the life of the church. And thanks to all of those who made the day happen. Each person did his or her job in coordinating a particular part of the day and it was a wonderful occasion, one to be remembered in the life of the church and an occasion of which to be proud. I did spend some time sending out personalized notes of thanks to many.

I never cease to be amazed at the willing spirit of all of you who work so hard to make things happen at the church.

Thanks also to those who have pulled weeds, cut down trees/shrubs, trimmed, planted, and manicured the lawns around the parsonage and the church. What a lot of hard work! The grounds are looking beautiful.

**Carrie Cutlip's Report:**

**JYFS---JYFS** is on break for the summer.

**VBS---Vacation bible school** went exceptionally well. The program for the week focused on serving God, our families and others. The children participated in lessons, music, games, and crafts each day. Friday was a service day and the children participated in different service projects throughout town.

**Jr. High & Sr. High---Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups** are on break for the summer.

**Recent Youth Activities**

**Alive Christian Music Festival---The Alive trip** went very well. The teens got to hear dozens of Christian bands play and many great speakers. We also got to listen to several professional athletes, including Brady Quinn, share about their faith. In addition to speakers and bands, we spent time swimming, boating, putt putting, visiting exhibits, and hanging out at our camp site.

**Cedar Point Trip---We took a group of 19 to Cedar Point on Wednesday, June 25, 2008.** We had a great day of fellowship and fun while enjoying the park.

**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Carnival**---Families and young people really enjoyed the carnival. The inflatables, games, cotton candy, and snow cones were well received by the children. I greatly appreciate all the help from the members of the Board of Christian Education and Youth Volunteers in running the various activities.

### Upcoming Youth Activities

**Confirmation Camp**---A group of 10 will be attending confirmation camp July 13-19<sup>th</sup> at Pilgrim Hills. Shelby O'Neill and I will be attending as counselors.

**Sr. High Pool Party**---On Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, at 5 P.M. the Senior High Group will be having a pool party and cookout at the home of Tom and Sandy Thieman.

**National Youth Event**---A group of 5 will be attending the UCC National Youth Event in Knoxville, TN. We will be gathering with 3000 youth from around the country for worship, workshops, faith, fun and fellowship.

**Moving On Up Retreat**---A retreat to welcome new 7<sup>th</sup> graders into youth group is planned for August 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> at Glacier Hills Camp Ground.

**Summer Family Events**---The next Family Event of the summer will be on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are hosting a St. Paul Pool Party @ 7:00 P.M. at the New Bremen public pool. This event is meant to provide a time for fellowship and fun for all members of our church family.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Busy Twelve is considering buying two sets of vases for the altar flowers, celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. One set would be used in the sanctuary and one in the chapel area of the assembly room.

Twenty-one New Century Hymnals have been ordered as of July 8, 2008. These hymnals are \$15.00 each.

We will have a float representing St. Paul UCC in the Bremenfest parade. If you would be willing to help with this float, please contact Carrie Cutlip or Amy Stuhlemmer.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A discussion was held on a Wish List for the church. If anyone would like to purchase a gift for the church, they could look at this list for suggestions.

Saturday, November 1, has been set as the date for the Wing Ding. This will be the last celebration event for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

President Voress thanked everyone who helped with the 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration on June 29<sup>th</sup>. He also thanked everyone for coming to the celebration.

The next council meeting will be held on August 12, 2008, at 7:30 P.M.

Ralph Plattner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Norm Holcomb seconded. Motion passed.

The Lord's Prayer was said by all.

---

Cindy Newman, Secretary

---

John Voress, President

<p><b>St. Paul UCC Council Meeting August 12, 2008</b></p>
--

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 19 members present including: John Voress, Jeff Paul, Cindy Newman, Joyce Holdren, Greg Maurer, Ralph Plattner, Kathy Topp, Norm Holcomb, Cheryl Barlage, Keith Dicke, Shirley Henegar, Brice Schmitmeyer, Mark Barhorst, Dennis Dicke, Dan Nedderman, Ann Nelson, Rev. Matthews, Carrie Cutlip, and Tom Braun. Meditation was given by Cindy Newman.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the July meeting were discussed. Joyce Holdren made a motion to accept the minutes. Cheryl Barlage seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Fund Activity Report for the month ending July, 2008, was available for review. Tom Braun reported we have a surplus of \$11,757.44 year-to-date. A discussion was held. Brice Schmitmeyer made a motion to accept the report and Dennis Dicke seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Pulpit Committee:** The committee is continuing to review more portfolios of candidates.

### **OTHER REPORTS**

**Deacon Report:** Brice Schmitmeyer reported that the video tape recording machine is not working correctly. Kathy Topp has one that she said she would donate. The video camera is not working too well, either. Brice Schmitmeyer will check out the price of a new camera.

**Trustee Report:** On August 12, 2008, the trustees and Garman and Miller met with interested contractors who wish to bid on the electrical upgrade project for a pre-bid walk around. The bid deadline is August 22, 2008. There will be a special council meeting on August 26, 2008, at 8:00 p.m. to decide which contractor will be awarded the project.

Healthy Lawn and Sidney Landscaping have been contacted to place bids for the grading and reseeding of areas that were disturbed when the new sidewalks were installed at the front of the church and the west side of the educational building.

Two large maple trees on the north side of the church and two locust trees on the south side of the educational building will be taken down. They will be replaced in the fall.

#### **Rev. Matthews' Report:**

Summer has not been the "lazy, hazy days of summer." Church life has continued to be busy. We have had many people hospitalized. And summer activities have kept all the staff busy.

- 3 wedding consultations/1 wedding
- 1 funeral consultation/1 funeral
- 2 baptism consultations/3 baptisms
- 2 new members
- 2 nursing home worship services
- 22 hospital visits; 3 in Dayton; 2 in Columbus
- 10 nursing home visits

Fall is almost here so plans are underway for beginning confirmation. There will be a meeting for parents and confirmands on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Spirit Safari church school program begins on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Plans for the fall worship schedule have begun.

I spoke with Sandy Thieman about beginning the senior luncheon meals again.

#### **Carrie Cutlip's Report:**

**JYFS**—I have been working to get the JYFS volunteer team established for the fall. Right now, I have about 15 adults lined up to help with the program. I am still looking for a few more people to help with field trips and service projects.

JYFS will start up again on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Jr. High & Sr. High**—A great volunteer team for the Jr. & Sr. High groups has been assembled. We held a planning meeting for the fall and the program is starting to take shape. I am still looking for 2 more Jr. High Volunteers.

#### **Recent Youth Activities**

**Confirmation Camp**—Confirmation camp went extremely well. Each day, the teens had lessons on worship, biblical history, and Christian living. In addition to classes, the teens got to go canoeing, plan a worship service, go swimming, help with a work

project, and many other activities. This camp is a great way to build a sense of unity with the new confirmation class.

**Sr. High Pool Party**—The pool party went well. It was a great time for fellowship and to reconnect with the Sr. High youth.

**National Youth Event**—We had a great trip to Knoxville, TN. While we were at the National Youth Event we got to attend concerts, hear dynamic speakers including the president of the UCC, be introduced to members of the collegium, make connection with youth from the Ohio Conference, and take part in recreational activities. This was a great opportunity for the youth to learn more about our denomination and begin to think about many important issues like acceptance of all people, environmental awareness, and peacemaking.

**Moving on Up Retreat**—The retreat was a great way for our new 7<sup>th</sup> graders to get connected into the youth program. While at the retreat, the teens camped out, learned how to do personal devotions, were informed of youth group activities and goals, and had lots of time for swimming and other recreational activities.

**Sr. High Reds Game**—The Sr. High group attended a Cincinnati Reds game. We had a great day at the ball park in spite of the Reds getting beat.

#### **Upcoming Youth Activities**

**Bremenfest Parade**—Youth will be riding on the St. Paul UCC float for the parade. Marv Topp will be pulling the float with his tractor.

**Jr. & Sr. High Parents Meeting**—Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> @ 1 P.M.

**Back to School Blowout**—Jr. & Sr. High Youth Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6 P.M.

**Jr. High Kick Off**—Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7 P.M.

**Sr. High Kick Off**—Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7P.M.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

These suggestions are on the current Wish List:

- Cart for moving keyboard
- New refrigerator for kitchen
- New windows for educational building
- New flooring in auditorium
- Refinishing pews and woodwork in sanctuary
- Air conditioners for Assembly Room and Chapel
- Risers for Spirit Safari Club for children's programs
- Youth Endowment fund contributions
- Van for transportation
- Replace outdoor lamp posts
- Replace parsonage porch lights
- Replace educational building entrance lights
- Replace all wrought iron exterior handrails
- TV for youth room (DVD adaptable)
- Computer keyboard for youth room
- New overhead garage doors for parsonage garage

The Busy Twelve would like to give a lasting gift to the church in honor of its 100th anniversary in October.

We have orders for 52 New Century Hymnals right now. The plans are to purchase a quantity of 100. Kathy Topp made a motion to purchase 48 more. Norm Holcomb seconded the motion. A discussion was held. These hymnals will supplement, not replace, the red hymnals. A vote was taken and motion passed.

The Wing Ding will be held on Nov. 1, 2008. Marv Topp is heading this again.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Carrie Cutlip's contract. John Voress went over all of the particulars that were discussed for Carrie's contract. It was decided by the committee working on this to give Carrie a 5% increase (3% cost of living; 2% job performance). Dennis Dicke made a motion to accept this recommendation from the committee and Mark Barhorst seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Budget Committee will be meeting on Sept. 3, 2008, at 7:00 P.M. This committee includes the President, Vice President, Secretary, Senior Elder, Senior Trustee, and Chairman of the Stewardship Board.

The Nominating Committee is looking for 5 deacons, a junior elder, a trustee, and a treasurer. If anyone is interested in any of these positions, please contact John Voress.

UCC Steeples is a plan to bring a UCC ad campaign called "Steeple" to network TV in September on a pay-as-you-go plan. Every dollar donated will be used to buy air time on prominent cable TV networks. Norm Holcomb made a motion to donate \$250 for the UCC Steeples campaign. Greg Maurer seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Garman/Miller Architects' bill for preparing blueprints and submitting them to the state for Project of the Year is \$7,933.75. Norm Holcomb made a motion to pay this bill and Jeff Paul seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The steps at the northwest auxiliary sanctuary entrance need some work. The trustees will look into this.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next meeting: Sept. 9, 2008, at 7:30 P.M.

A motion was made by Brice Schmitmeyer to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ann Nelson. Motion passed and we all said the Lord's Prayer.

---

Cindy Newman, Secretary

---

John Voress, President