

**St. Paul U.C.C. Council Meeting  
October 14, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 14 members present including: John Voress, Jeff Paul, Cindy Newman, Joyce Holdren, Staci Jones, Ralph Plattner, Kathy Topp, Cheryl Barlage, Shirley Henegar, Brice Schmitmeyer, Mark Barhorst, Dennis Dicke, Ann Nelson, and Rev. Matthews. Meditation was given by Ann Nelson.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the September meeting were discussed and a motion was made by Brice Schmitmeyer to accept the minutes and seconded by Cheryl Barlage. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Voress gave the report in the absence of Tom Braun. We have a deficit for the month of \$4,589.61. We are ahead year-to-date by \$5,640.10. A discussion was held. A question was asked if we pay building and property insurance every month and John said he would ask Tom Braun. Dennis Dicke made a motion to accept the report and Shirley Henegar seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership Committee:** Sandy Thieman is chairperson for the committee this year. The committee met for discussion. It will continue to meet.

**Mission Committee:** The Crop Walk was close to meeting the goal that was set. Money was still coming in. The committee also talked about allocations for the Wing Ding Auction. Where is the money going?

**Pulpit Committee:** The committee selected a candidate. He was very impressed with our church but he sent the committee his withdrawal request. They will continue to read résumés.

### **OTHER REPORTS**

**Board of Christian Ed:** Discussed Christmas program. It will be held on December 14, 2008, during the 10:15 worship service.

**Deacons:** Brice Schmitmeyer reported that we still need four deacons and a treasurer for our church council officers for the coming year.

**Trustees:** The trustees reviewed the hand railings design for the west educational building entrance ramp. The railings are designed to be removable. They should be installed by the end of next November.

Norm Holcomb installed new porch lights and a new mailbox at the parsonage. He also installed new lights at the north entrance of the educational building.

Resealing of the bricks of the sanctuary should be done every 10 years. This needs to be done soon.

**Rev. Matthews' Report:**

- Hospital calling and nursing home visitation.
- Funeral consultation and service.
- Pastoral consultations.

- Meeting with Mission Team, Christian Education Board, Capsule, Stewardship Committee.
- Meeting with New Bremen Ministerium to plan Thanksgiving Eve service and Coordinate the Christmas gift-giving project.
- Consultation for wedding.
- Weekly meetings with John Voress and Jeff Paul, president and vice-president of church council.
- Working with Busy Twelve on obtaining green parameters for church.
- Preparation for and teaching weekly confirmation class. We've been studying the church at worship, learning components of the worship service based on Isaiah 6:1-8 (What's a prelude? Why call to worship goes at the beginning and benediction at end, etc.) Youth then led the worship service on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> and did a good job. We also have learned about the names of the areas of the sanctuary and the architecture, (pulpit, lectern, chancel, nave, vestibule, etc.) and had teams find as many Christian symbols as they could in the church. We made a field trip to Holy Redeemer where we learned some of the rituals, rites, sacraments and symbols of the Catholic church. The next teaching phase will be the church at work.
- Conference at Defiance College.
- Preparation for Saturday and Sunday worship.

**Carrie Cutlip's Report:**

**JYFS—JYFS** has been going well and the group is growing. In the past weeks we have had lessons on communicating with God and trusting God. The children participated in a community clean-up service project. They also worked to collect money for Church World Service Disaster Relief Fund. They collected a total of \$524.61. We also had our first field trip which was a hayride.

**Jr. High & Sr. High—**Jr. and Sr. High Youth group continues to meet weekly. In the past months we have studied freedom in Christ, transformation, and community. The teens have participated in worship experiences that include painting, observation of nature, and memorization of the books of the Bible.

**Recent Youth Activities**

**Revolve All Access Tour—**A group of girls attended the Revolve weekend tour in Columbus, Ohio. The event is aimed at teen girls and covers topics such as self worth, true beauty, and our personal relationship with God. The girls experienced great speakers, dramas and concerts.

**Jr. High Bonfire—**The Jr. High group met for a bonfire at Shelby O'Neill's house.

**Youth-Led Worship Service—**The confirmation class did a great job leading the worship service on Sunday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>.

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**Pumpkin Fest**—The youth and adult volunteers did a great job at the pumpkin festival selling pumpkin pancakes. They raised \$961 to go into the youth travel fund.

**Sr. High Browns vs. Bengals Game**—The Sr. High group met to watch the big game at Jack and Darlene Gilberg's house.

**Jr. High Water Park Trip**—The Jr. High had a weekend retreat at the Kalahari Indoor Water Park in Sandusky, Ohio.

**Crop Walk**—JYFS children and youth participated in the community crop walk.

#### **Upcoming Youth Activities**

**Jr. High Game & Movie Night**—The Jr. High will have a game and movie night on Wed., Oct. 15, 2008.

**Sr. High Water Park Trip**—The Sr. High group will be going on a retreat to Kalahari Indoor Water Park on Oct. 25 and 26.

**Wing Ding**—Youth will be serving the Wing Ding on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Youth Overnights**—We are planning a youth overnighter at the church. Date is TBA.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

It was brought up that it might be nice to get pictures of all our former ministers to hang somewhere in the educational building. This is being looked into.

Recycling boxes for bulletins will be placed at each of the sanctuary entrances for those who don't want to save their bulletin.

Selected old trees have all been taken down due to damage and safety concerns. Planting of the new replacement trees has been completed.

The budget committee has met and will finalize the budget by the next council meeting so it can be presented at the congregational meeting.

We are putting an ad in the Chamber of Commerce booklet to tell people about St. Paul United Church of Christ. Dennis Dicke made a motion to do a quarter-page ad and Shirley Henegar seconded this motion. The cost will be \$595.00. A discussion was held. A vote was taken and motion passed. Kathy Topp will design the ad.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Youth Search Committee:** A committee has been formed which includes 5 adults and 3 youth. They are: Bart Suchland, Shelby O'Neill, Debra Lear, Mike Holdren, Shelly Smart, Emily Topp, Martin Holdren, and Kelsey Davidson. The committee is revising the job description for the Youth Director. A possible interim youth director may be considered until we get a full time person.

**Reception:** On November 23, 2008, there will be a reception for Carrie Cutlip.

**Stewardship Sunday** will be November 16, 2008, along with All Saints Day. We will have communion on this Sunday. Offering envelopes will be sent out before this date.

**Rev. Robert Molsberry:** St. Paul's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary year celebration will conclude on November 9, 2008, with Rev. Robert Molsberry speaking.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting will be on November 11, 2008, at 7:30 P.M.

Brice Schmitmeyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ann Nelson seconded motion. Motion passed and the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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Cindy Newman, Secretary

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John Voress, President