

**St. Paul U.C.C. Council Meeting
October 13, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by President John Voress with 15 members present including: John Voress, Jeff Paul, Cindy Newman, Cheryl Barlage, Terri Goodwin, Kathy Topp, Norm Holcomb, Larry Kuhn, Mark Barhorst, Dennis Dicke, Ann Nelson, Gary Wehmeyer, Tom Braun, Rev. Strang and Katie Jackson. Norm Holcomb gave the meditation. John announced that the staff Christmas dinner would be held on December 1, 2009, at 6:30 in the Assembly Room at church.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the September meeting were discussed. A motion was made by Norm Holcomb to accept the report as printed and seconded by Gary Wehmeyer. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Braun presented the report and a discussion was held. We have a deficit for the current month of \$1805.58 and a deficit for the year to date of \$8134.26. Tom also went over the funds report for nine months ending September 30, 2009. A motion was made to accept the report as written by Mark Barhorst and seconded by Cheryl Barlage. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee: John Voress reported that the team is still working on name tags.

Mission Team: Next year, missions will be emphasized for six months of the year and the Youth Endowment Fund, the other six months.

Worship Committee: Will be meeting on October 22, 2009.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education: Terri Goodwin initiated a discussion about Lesson & Fun, and what should be happening during Lesson and Fun.

Deacons: Mark Barhorst expressed concern about when heat would be available in the chapel area. Kathy Topp reported that Kogge's will be here over the next few days to get the entire heating system up and running again after the summer shutdown for the heating system upgrade.

Trustees: Kathy Topp reported that smoke testing of the village sewer system revealed that the downspout on the northeast side of the parsonage needs attention. This will be checked into. Thieman Stamping has been contacted about the replacement of handrails around the church. An exterminator was hired to take care of the bees that are present on the front porch of the parsonage. Betty Hatfield, Educational Building custodian, has a concern about people using the kitchen and not cleaning up afterward. A notice will be posted in the kitchen as to

what is expected of everyone using this area and any other area of the church. There will be an Open House for the 100th anniversary of the parsonage on Sunday, October 18, 2009, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. A certificate honoring the historical significance of the parsonage will be presented to the council from Rachel Barber of the Auglaize County Historical Society. Kathy presented a brochure that was produced to be passed out to visitors during the Open House. The brochure contains memories by James Melchert of growing up in the parsonage. Mr. Melchert is the son of Rev. John Melchert, pastor at St. Paul from 1922-1947.

Norm Holcomb will have available a sample of the proposed outside lights for the next meeting. Norm announced that many old trophies that have been in storage in the Educational Building will be given to the New Bremen Historical Society, if they want them. The new walk-off mats are in place at the entrances of the Educational Building. We are awaiting vendor quotes from Kogge Plumbing and New Knoxville Supply for air conditioners for the Assembly Room and kitchen.

Larry Kuhn reported that the basement doors have been installed. Gary Topp helped with this project.

Pastor Strang's Report:

•Worship: Attendance at Saturday and Sunday services holding steady

•All Saints Observances will be held during worship October 31 and November 1.

•November 8: Stewardship Sunday; Recognition of Veterans; Children's Worship

•Rev. Dan Busch will preach on Saturday, Nov. 21, and Sunday, Nov. 22.

•Installation Service set for 3:00 p.m., Nov. 22, 2009. Rev. Bill Youngkin, preaching.

•Membership: Commas will be given for newer members

•Pictorial Directory

•Called to Care will meet on Oct. 26, 2009

•Circle of Friends

•Comfort Pillows

•Visitation of Homebound

•Home Communion

•An anonymous gift of \$100,000 over the course of 5 years (\$20,000/year) has been gifted. John Voress and I will be meeting with this person on Monday, Oct. 19, 2009.

•Pastor's Emergency Fund

•Cottage Meetings Summary

•Pastoral Care: September 9--October 13, 2009:

Funeral: 1

Hospital Visits: 14

Home Visits: 8

Nursing Home Visits: 4

Office Visits: 2

Phone Calls: 20

Notes Written: 1

Katie Jackson's Report:

•JYFS—Everything is going well, including the new time structure, and attendance has been steady.

•Jr. High—Game night last week was very successful and very fun.

•High School is also going well. Attendance has been steady, allowing us all to become a closer group.

•Junior High and High School lessons: We have had lessons on God's longing for us and his relentless pursuit of us. Students also learned about how and why we should grow like Jesus. The truth of God's purpose for every person was also discussed. We also talked about how to be a Godly friend to everyone, not just those we choose.

•Past events: Pancake sale—we made almost \$800. It was very successful and we are thankful to all of those members of the community who came and supported our students.

•CROP Walk: CROP Walk was a big success this year. We had 26 students affiliated with St. Paul that walked on Sunday. Our tailgate party was also a huge success! We are going to try to make this an ecumenical event next year and have both Faith Alliance and Holy Redeemer involved.

OLD BUSINESS

•New Church Directory: Greg Garman from New Bremen has been contacted to take pictures and produce the directory for us this year. Larry Kuhn made a motion to contract with Greg to do the directory and have a free will donation to offset the cost. Norm Holcomb seconded the motion. Motion carried. Photo sessions will be conducted from November 21 through December 8. The Membership Committee will be in charge of scheduling.

NEW BUSINESS

•OCWM—Our church will send \$35,000 to OCWM for this year.

•Cindy Newman reported that the Lamplighters met and will not be decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season this year, as it is just getting too difficult for the group to do. They will be willing to help whoever will be doing the decorating. Katie Jackson said she would get the youth to do this as long as the Lamplighters would help them as to what needed to be done. They will be decorating on Monday, Nov. 30, 2009, at 6:00 p.m..

ANNOUNCEMENTS

•Next Meeting will be on November 11, 2009. Meditation will be given by Gary Wehmeyer.

•A thank you letter was read by John Voress from The Lockington New Beginnings Church. "Sharon Fiely used her expert computer skills to help us in designing the letterhead for our church. She would not take payment, but suggested we make a donation to her church to the El Salvador Mission Fund". They donated \$100.00 to this fund.

•Also a letter was read from Evelyn (Bassler) Baur: "Here is a small donation for sending me The Beacon for all these years. I believe my dad, Emil Bassler, started it back in 1947 when we moved to New Bremen. While we seldom get to New Bremen, I find this a great way to keep up with people I once knew. The article about the parsonage was especially interesting. I had no idea it was a Sears kit. My bedroom was the one on the left when you faced it from Franklin St. My husband and I had a parsonage in Jefferson City, MO which was exactly the same floor plan even including the wrap around front porch. It was brick, however. I'll have to check and see if it was a Sears kit or if they simply "borrowed" the floor plan from Sears. Thanks again for the Beacon". Evelyn (Bassler) Baur

A motion was made by Kathy Topp and seconded by Mark Barhorst to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was closed with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Cindy Newman, Secretary

John Voress, President