

**St. Paul U.C.C. Council Meeting
January 12, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by President Lisa Davidson with 19 members present including: Dana Blanchard, Jill Borkowski, Randy Clark, Stephanie Dicke, Betty Dietrich, Phyllis Fledderjohann, Diane Gilberg, Terri Goodwin, Barb Holdren, Katie Jackson, John Mohrman, Jim Mullins, Amy Scheer, Don Scheer, Dee Schroer, Rev. Becky Strang, Kathy Topp and Brian Tostrick. Lisa Davidson provided the meditation.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the December 13, 2011, meeting were reviewed with a motion to approve by Brian Tostrick; seconded by Don Scheer. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The council reviewed the December 2011 Fund Activity Report presented by Barb Holdren. There was a deficit of \$2055.53 for December. For 12-31-11 ytd, there was a deficit of \$3387.13. Amy Scheer made a motion to approve the report; seconded by John Mohrman. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: No report.

Mission: Amy Scheer reported that approximately \$1045 in loose offerings had been collected from the three Christmas Eve services, and will go for the building of a sand dam in a village in Africa.

Worship: No report. Next meeting, Sunday, January 15.

OTHER REPORTS

Board of Christian Education: Stephanie Dicke, Director of Christian Education, presented a "St. Paul UCC Christian Education Vision" statement, a partnering of families and the board to guide our children to:

- Be biblically literate, be unafraid of the Bible and know how to access what is in it.
- Have a vibrant prayer life.
- Be inquisitive and unafraid of their faith and be able to articulate their faith.
- Have a heart for mission and service; to experience mission work.
- Be able to discover their gifts and work hard at developing them.
- Connect with our church.
- Grow disciples of all ages.

Dana Blanchard made a motion to adopt the vision statement; Diane Gilberg seconded. Motion carried.

Deacons: Don Scheer, head deacon, reported that after the Lenten worship schedule is firmed up, the deacon schedule would be set up for the balance of the year. It was noted that there will be no mid-week Lenten services after Ash Wednesday.

Elders: Lisa Davidson read an email from Gary Wehmeyer, senior elder, expressing a concern about wine from the unused communion cups that is currently being discarded after communion services. It was decided that to curb the waste, fewer cups would be filled, being mindful of attendance figures for certain times of the year.

Trustees: Lisa Davidson presented the trustee report for Greg Maurer, senior trustee, who was unable to attend the meeting, concerning the following:

- Cracked window in the chapel (still no resolution).
- New disability signs will be installed this spring.

Other items discussed for trustee attention were:

- Complaints of center chandelier lights being too bright.
- Slow-draining utility sink in kitchen needs a plumber's attention.
- Address water fountain issues in Educational Building.

Rev. Strang's Report:

- Worship:
 - >Christmas Eve worship attendance—three services: 2010, 340 total; 2011, 392 total.
 - >Commissioning of Pastor Becky for trip to Israel: January 15.
 - >Commissioning of El Salvador travelers: January 22.
 - >Hymn Sing Weekend: January 28 and 29.
 - >Ash Wednesday: February 22.
 - >Week of Prayer for Christian Unity event: February 5 at 12:30 p.m. Hosted by St. Paul UCC.
- Called to Care: We would like to grow our membership since we have so many people who are home-bound.
- Confirmation: We are studying a new curriculum by Max Lucado. We are also discussing a mission project gift from the class.
- Pastoral care: December 13, 2011 – January 11, 2012:
 - Weddings: 1
 - Hospital visits: 10
 - Home visits: 9
 - Office visits: 4
 - Nursing home visits: 2
 - Notes written: 2
 - Phone calls: 4
 - Baptisms: 2
- Sand Dam Project of the Year Kick-Off: February 26, 6:00 p.m. In support of the project, there will be an exterior display on the front lawn of the church. The Mission Team also proposes an interior display that would involve the removal of the two front pews of the south-most section of the sanctuary in order to make room for the display as the year progresses. After discussion, Amy Scheer made a motion to remove the pews; Jill Borkowski seconded. Motion carried.

Katie Jackson's Report:

•Past events:

>Christmas parties—HS, 21 attended; JH, 31 attended.

>Loaves and Fishes—5 of our students helped, including two who have not helped before. The meal served 125 people. Our next L&F date is March 1st.

•HS: We just started a series called "Did Jesus Really Say That". We talked about the implications of John 3 and the parable of the Good Samaritan. Next Sunday we'll cover Jesus talking to the woman caught in adultery.

•JH: The JH students have been working through a series called "Plugged In". Being plugged in to Jesus helps us navigate between rules versus relationships, God's way versus our way, and doing versus knowing. We'll finish the series next Wednesday.

•JYFS: We've added one more student, so we're up to 28 kids with two more potential students. The JYFS students started the "Plugged In" series this week. Next week we go to Elmwood, so we'll continue the series in 2 weeks.

•Grades 5-6-7 Sunday school: We started a series called "Tempting Stuff". We've talked about what temptation is and also the temptation to be selfish. We have two more weeks in the series.

•Events attended since the last council meeting: HS girls' basketball game; 3 HS boys' games including one where I played with the pep band.

•El Salvador trip update: 8 students (Kayla Lear, Jessica Schemmel, Rodney Davis, Andersen Reed, Conner Barhorst, Chris Albers, Taylor Haynes, Ben Strang) and 4 adults are going so far. We will have a fundraiser starting this Sunday where we will request donations of different amounts from members of the church. This will be one of our last fundraisers targeted to church members. The Christmas ornament sale raised around \$300.

•Upcoming events:

>January 22: Tubing at Mad River Mountain—this is for JH and HS students but families are also invited to attend. Grades 6-12 may attend with the youth group but anyone younger must come with supervision and have their transportation provided. 22 people signed up so far. January 18th is the sign-up deadline.

>January 28th: Winter Jam in Columbus. 12 students are signed up.

>February 3rd: HS youth group is in charge of the Cardinal Pride baked-goods raffle at the basketball game. Baked goods are needed for this event!

>February 4th & 5th: Souperbowl of Caring before church services. People may bring non-perishable foods or money to be donated to Agape in St. Marys.

>February 11th: Mom to Mom Sale, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

>March 1-5: Simply Youth Ministry Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

OLD BUSINESS

Wish List: No changes

Chapel Altar Drape: Jill Borkowski presented several options for reusing the purple altar drape--a memorial gift, which was removed from the chapel area during the repainting process in October. After discussion, Kathy Topp made a motion to reuse the existing drapery with minor alterations, to be centered directly behind the chapel altar. Phyllis Fledderjohann seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff salary direct deposit: Barb Holdren reported on a recent staff query regarding the preference of salary direct deposit. The overwhelming response was in favor of direct deposit. Randy Clark made a motion to have staff salaries direct deposited. Diane Gilberg seconded. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting: February 14, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.
Devotions: Terri Goodwin.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian Tostrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Betty Dietrich seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Kathy Topp, Secretary

Lisa Davidson, President

WISH LIST

What is the Wish List? It's a list (in no particular order) that the church council has developed that will help direct attention to items which families or groups may want to consider purchasing for the church. This list is for reference only. Other ideas are welcome.

Item	Guesstimated cost
New flooring in auditorium	\$8000
New lighting for auditorium	?
Additional playground equipment	\$2500
Fellowship area & handicapped accessible restroom at rear of sanctuary	?
Inflatable video screen & DVD player	?
Storm windows for the stained glass windows of the sanctuary	?
New carpeting, Assembly Room & Chapel	?
Ice maker for kitchen	?