
ST PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Sharing God's love by serving others

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FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

Pastor's Annual Report

What a year this has been! Shortly after giving this report a year ago I fell on the ice and broke my ankle which was quite a life changing event for me during the rather lengthy recovery period. During that time you extended the call for me to become your Designated Pastor. About that same time First Christian in Fulton extended a call to Mindy to be the Settled Pastor there after being unable to find another suitable candidate in their search process. We both believe that the Holy Spirit must be part of this because neither of us has ever felt more engaged in ministry or happier than we do in these two congregations.

One of the things that I am so appreciative of here at St. Paul is the amount of cooperation that I have received as we have attempted new things and faced new challenges together. We are truly blessed with talented, hardworking, and dedicated leaders who know how to motivate people and get things done!

Our newest venture has been the After School Bearcats program. This has been an amazing success and I am thankful for the work of the New Beginnings committee, the many volunteers, and the leadership of the director, Christina Menke. That program is certainly meeting a need for those that we are serving. The volunteers that I have talked to found it extremely rewarding to work with the students and some have even learned some things, especially about the way math is taught these days! If you would like to become a volunteer, please talk to Chris.

We also started a program this fall to help feed children who often do not have enough to eat. Each Wednesday afternoon several volunteers gather at the church where they pack brown bags with food and then deliver them to the schools where they are distributed to those who need them before the week-end or before holidays. For many of the children this is the only food

that they have when school is not in session. Please see Maureen Heck if you would like to be a part of this outreach ministry.

Our congregation is also very involved with Samaritan Outreach which is the outreach that we do ecumenically with other Churches in the Hermann area. Donations of clothes, furniture, and other household items are stored at the old Middle School and then given to needy families. Volunteers from our congregation go there almost every Wednesday to sort and organize all of the donations for distribution. If this is something that you are interested in helping with, please see Maureen Heck.

Another new endeavor for the congregation in 2017 was the "Pony Express" program. This is, as you know, the way we promoted the annual fund drive. I am very pleased with the support you have shown and I am confident that we now have a solid foundation to build upon in the coming years. This is just one area of stewardship though. The Stewardship Committee is also focusing on planned giving and endowments. Jim Buchholz is our in house guru on this topic and will be happy to help answer any questions that you may have about making such a gift. There are giving instruments like a Charitable Remainder Trust which gives donors a life-time income and still leaves a gift at the donor's death to the congregation or other charitable organizations of their choice. If you are interested please talk to Jim or your own financial advisor.

Now I want to share some statistical information. I am happy to report that there were three baptisms, three young people confirmed and seven new members added to the congregation in 2017.

I also officiated at 12 funerals (eight of which were for our own members) and performed eight marriage ceremonies.

Finally, I want to conclude this report by thanking all of you for the support that you have shown

to me and all of the hard work and leadership that you have provided to make this ministry possible. In a time when congregations are closing and declining at a faster rate than we have ever witnessed before, this congregation remains strong and vital thanks to all of you and what we have been able to accomplish together. I am confident that we will continue to thrive as we strive to share God's love in this community and beyond by serving and loving others.

God Bless,
Rodger

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the congregation was held January 14, 2018 following the worship service.

The various reports for 2018 were presented for review, along with the minutes for the previous Annual Meeting. Mike Mueller, chairman of the Budget Committee, presented the 2018 budget.

Shirley Kunz, chairperson of the Audit Committee presented their report.

The schedule of special services and communion services were set for 2018 and approved by a voice vote.

The nominees for the Church Council and Christian Education were elected by acclamation.

In discussion of conference delegates, Mike Mueller and Maggie Stiegman volunteered to serve. Gigi Mueller will attend an Eastern congregation meeting in Washington the weekend following the annual meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Those who were elected to the new council for 2018 include: Michael Grosse, Jill Jacob, Kenny Kunz and Susan Nichols. They were installed January 28 at the worship service. These four persons join the continuing members, which include Nancy Kirchhofer, Keely Uthlaut, Mark Leech, Sharen Speckhals, Ruth Hulsey, Ervin Rehmert, Tom Rethemeyer and Maggie Stiegman. They met January 26 to appoint the committees for 2018.

Maggie Stiegman was elected president, Keely Uthlaut was elected vice-president, Sharen Speckhals remains the treasurer, and Susan Nichols was elected secretary.

Those whose terms ended in January were Linda Heck, Susan Lenger, Rebekah Mayberry and Darren Schutt. We thank them for their faithful service for the past three years.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Those who were elected to the Christian Ed committee for a 3-year term are Brian Grannemann, Christina Menke and Maranda Anderson.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Jill Jacob and Shannon Berkemeyer have agreed to continue to serve as Sunday School co-superintendents for another year.

CHOIR NOTES

"Sing and Rejoice to the Lord."

The Senior Choir has returned to the loft and

is busy preparing for the Easter Season. They will present "Once Upon A Cross", written by Pepper Choplin, on Good Friday at 7:30.

This is a STORY OF LIFE, taken from the Gospel of Luke, that leads us through the range of emotions in the human experience-the celebration of the triumphal entry, the struggle of Gethsemane, the tenderness of a mother's grief, anger in the face of strength.

You are invited to join us for an inspirational Good Friday service.

LaNette Kotthoff, Music Director

HANDBELL CHOIR TO HOST TRIVIA NIGHT

Our Handbell choir will host a fund-raising event for the purpose of sending choir members to the Area 8 Handbell Musicians of America semi-annual 5-state conference. This trivia night will be held at St. Paul U.C.C. Church the evening of Friday, March 2, 2018.

Choir members will attend the conference in June to improve their ringing skills, learning from nationally acclaimed clinicians. This year there are 8 or more members attending the three-day conference.

Please plan to attend to support our Handbell choir and to have an evening of mind-jogging fun. In addition to trivia, there will be desserts available. There are more details in the ad below.

Ruth Hulsey, Handbell Choir Director

St. Paul UCC Handbell Choir

Trivia Night

Great Prizes - Exciting Categories

Bring your own team or join another

Friday, March 2

Doors open at 6:15 - Games begin at 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul UCC Fellowship Hall, 136 W. First St.

\$10 per person - Tables for 10 available

Call for Reservations - Ruth Hulsey 573-252-4653

or Nancy Fagerness 573-486-3700

Snacks, beverages & desserts will be provided.

You may bring your own non-alcoholic beverages & food for your table.

Benefit for St. Paul UCC Handbell Choir

(Will be rescheduled in case of inclement weather)

ASH WEDNESDAY

There will be a worship service at St. Paul UCC on Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. to begin the Lenten season. Communion will be offered at that service.

Special Lenten offering envelopes are included with this issue of the newsletter and will be available on the tables during the Lenten season.

LENTEN OFFERING: SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year the Sunday School students will be making their own Lenten banks to receive the special Lenten offerings. The Christian Education Committee will meet later

to decide where the Lenten offering will be directed. Whatever money comes in at the end of Lent through the regular class offerings will be matched by the Christian Education Committee. The Lenten gifts should be returned to the Sunday School on Easter Sunday or as soon thereafter as possible.

LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday service will be February 14 at 7:30 with communion

Good Friday service will be held at 7:30 p.m. on March 30 with Holy Communion. The Senior Choir will present a special service with readers and music.

Easter Sunday, April 1, there will be services at 6:30 and 10:15 a.m. with Holy Communion and special music by the Senior Choir. Easter Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00 that morning.

If anyone is willing to help serve breakfast, clean tables, etc. please call Cheri Fricke 486-2453 or Dawn Page 486-5265. A big thank you to Dawn & Cheri for co-chairing the Easter Breakfast again this year.

NEW MEMBERS

Three new members have been received into church membership recently. They are: Derek and Christina Menke and Georgia Jordan. We welcome them to our church family. If anyone else would like to become a member of St. Paul UCC, please see the pastor or call the church office.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

On February 4, Rev. Constance Tanis will lead the service which will include Communion. There will also be a Mission moment with Lisa Drier, the Emmaus Homes Chief Development Officer and music by the Emmaus Home Bell Choir. Pizzas will be served for lunch for the guests from the Emmaus Home.

On February 11, Rev. Constance Tanis will lead the worship service. There will also be a Mission Moment by Jeremy Force, Director of Outdoor Ministries speaking about Camp MoVal. The 2018 Camp Brochure and Registration Form are available on the table near the church office if anyone is interested in attending camp this year. Early registration is due April 1. The theme is "Beyond Belief, The Universe of God".

COMMITTEES

The Council reviewed the committees and appointed chairs and members where applicable. Chairpersons for the following committees are:

Audit: Shirley Kunz

Bluff Trimming: Jeff Scheible

Budget: Mike Mueller

Christian Education: Carol Schluss

Communion: Mary Leeper

Confirmation: Rodger Kiepe

Easter Breakfast: Cheri Fricke & Dawn Page

Evangelism: Sharen Speckhals

Family Life: Darren Schutt

Flower Bed: Maureen Heck

Historical: Lois Kruse & Susan Nichols

New Beginnings: Maureen Heck

Nurturing: Marcella Huxel

Pastor/Parish: Maureen Heck

Personnel Review: Mark Leech

Property Maintenance: Darren Schutt

Sound System: Gordon Heck

Stewardship: Rodger

Student Loan: Wayne Heck & Nancy Kirchofer

Transportation: Dale Maune

Worship/Greeter/Usher/Music: Nancy Kirchofer

Youth: Gig Mueller

Delegates: Mike Mueller, Maggie Stiegman, Gig Mueller,

Jack Wendleton, Rodger Kiepe

ALL COMMITTEE MEETING

There will be a meeting for all committees on March 11 following worship service along with a carry-in meal. This will be a time for the committees to share meeting dates and discuss goals, etc.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

St. Paul UCC Women's Fellowship will again hold a rummage sale in the church basement some time this spring. Money raised from the sale will be used for Women's Fellowship benevolences, a majority going to St. Paul UCC general fund. Items will be accepted in the church basement after Easter. More information will be available later.

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club meets the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 for breakfast at The Hermann Diner. They would like to assist anyone who needs help with handyman projects. If you or someone you know has a project they can help with, please let Rodger know.

LIT n' LATTE BOOK CLUB

The Lit n' Latte Book Club meets the second Monday of each month and all who may be interested may join them for coffee and discussion at 10:00 a.m. at Miss Clara's. Please contact Nancy Kirchofer 486-2943 for more information. All are welcome.

SNOW CANCELLATIONS

In case snow and ice would make it necessary to cancel worship service on a Sunday morning, Fox 2 News and KPLR will be contacted and the message will be scrolled across the bottom of their broadcast along with whatever other cancellations they may have. So if you are wondering about worship service, please check there.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

There are still some boxes of 2018 offering envelopes on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you did not find one and would like to have one, please call the church office. The Sunday School 2018 envelopes were placed in the Sunday School classrooms.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS MAILED

The annual statements of giving for 2017 have been mailed. If there are any questions, please call the church office at 486-5525. Please remember that these statements reflect

those gifts that were received between January 1 and December 31, 2017.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

March 11 is set for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering through United Church of Christ. God is at work doing so much more than we can imagine! And when we contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing, we are part of God's work in the world. There are special envelopes for this benevolence on the tables.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

Lorene Beckmann, Jim Schulte, Angie Scheidegger, Elizabeth Klemme, Bob Soetebier, Dolores Smith, Gene Schaefer, Michelle Mueller, Ed Moody, Eloise Sturkey, Marcia Bucher, Lyndon Ruediger, Shirley Waddle, Brandi Wendleton, Joe Hart, Geneva Brink, Donnie Mueller, Carol Collins, Nadine Ulrich, Bob & Mary Fritz, Jim Held, Amy Williams.

MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE BELL RINGERS

Thank you to everyone who took a turn ringing the Ministerial Alliance bells to collect money for the kettle. The volunteer ringers for December 8 and 9 were Derek Menke, Barbara Schutt, Ed Knehans, Nancy Wright, Dale & Dawn Maune, Jill Jacob, Sharen Speckhals, Ellen Scheible, Nancy Fagerness, Jerry Scheible & Family, Becky & Lydia Mayberry, Nancy & Bob Kirchhofer and Rodger Kiepe. All the money collected was turned in to the Hermann Ministerial Alliance.

COFFEE HOUR

Everyone is invited to come to the basement every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 for refreshments and fellowship. You can join other parents there if you have children in Sunday School. It's a great way to catch up, relax and get to know each other!

LIT n LATTE BOOK CLUB

The Lit n Latte Book Club will meet February 12 at 10:00 at Miss Clara's. They are reading "God's Secretaries" by A. Nicholson.

NURSING HOMES MINISTRY

Pastor Rodger provides worship service at Frene Valley at 2:00 p.m. followed by service at Victorian Place the first Sunday of every month. Please join him in this ministry if you are available. He especially needs someone to play the piano for the hymns and someone to help with communion and fellowship for the residents.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. Dawn Grosse will be the featured speaker. She will give a presentation on the Brown Bag Program. Many members of St. Paul are involved in this ministry. Everyone is welcome to attend! The March meeting the women will play Bingo. The Women's Fellowship will

hold their annual spring rummage sale with a date soon to be determined. As you do your winter/spring cleaning, save items to be sold at the sale. This is a large fundraiser.

All women are welcome to attend! We meet at 2:00 p.m. in the church basement. Bring a friend!

YOUTH RETREAT

The Missouri Mid-South Conference is hosting a youth retreat for youth in grades 9-12 on February 17 & 18 at Camp MoVal. Sharen Speckhals is willing to accompany any youth interested in attending. Please call or text Sharen at 573-220-0965 if you are interested or have questions.

YOUTH SUNDAY

The youth of St. Paul will lead and participate in the Sunday morning worship service on Sunday, March 18. They will have special music, readings and a skit. They will meet February 11 from 5:00-7:00 in the Fellowship Hall for pizza and planning.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Evangelism Committee has been discussing a homecoming celebration for the fall of 2018. Plans are being made for a Homecoming Weekend on September 22 & 23. There will be a church picnic on Saturday, Sept. 22 and a Homecoming Worship Service on Sunday, September 23. This would take the place of the traditional church picnic. We want to gather all our church family and we need your help with addresses of members who have moved. Please drop them by the church office or email Linda Heck at lheck@me.com. Plans will be finalized on this topic at the February council meeting.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday greetings are extended to the following members of our church family who will celebrate birthdays in February.

- 1- Kelly Hanger Linda Landolt, Lisa Winkelmann
- 2-, Howard Horstmann
- 3-Lauren Dickerson
- 5-Betty Held
- 6-Maranda Anderson, Eleanor Bickmeyer, Linda Heck
- 7-Ben Kattelmann
- 9-Sharon Hoerstkamp
- 10-Vernon Brinkmann, Alex Gleeson, Mike Koepke
- 11-Connie Aubuchon, Mason Scheible
- 15-Andrea Held, Carol Paubel
- 18-Nancy Fagerness
- 21-Debra Brethorst
- 22-Thelma Kattelmann
- 23-Ashley Schaefer, Larry Schulte
- 24- Tara Stephen, Keely Uthlaut
- 26-Terra Landolt, Alex Smith
- 27-Brad Hart

Birthday greetings are extended to the following members of our church family who will celebrate birthdays in March.

- 3-Wayne Rupp
- 6-Cathy Foust, Nancy Kirchhofer, LaNette Kotthoff,

Betty Oelschlaeger
 8-Mary Goth, Marilyn Loehnig
 9-Carol Graue
 11-Chad Struttman
 13-Duane Kraettli
 15-Melissa Eikermann, Forrest Koeller
 17-Jeffery Speckhals
 18-Tyler Groteweil, Katlyn Rector
 19-Megan Pohlmann
 21-Jack Greene
 24-Nathan Eikermann, Robert Kottwitz, Angela Sherrow
 25-Pearline Eikermann, Shane Graue
 26-Dalton Bickmeyer, Kurt Bickmeyer,
 Blake Grannemann
 27-Gladys Hauser, Rhonda Scheible, Frank Struttman III
 29-Michael Horstmann, Sheri Schneider, Adlee Witthaus
 30-Lindsey Peterson
 31-Dan Bohl

ANNIVERSARIES

The following members of our church family will be celebrating their anniversaries in February. Ken & Jane Meyer will celebrate their 54th anniversary on February 8 and Wayne & Doris Grannemann will celebrate their 51st anniversary on February 17

8-Ken & Jane Meyer
 14-Ken & Fern Wray
 17-Wayne & Doris Grannemann
 22-Jeff & Ellen Scheible

ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following members of our church family who will celebrate anniversaries in the month of March. Jim & Gladys Schulte will celebrate their 56th anniversary on March 17.

4-Mike & Julie Ruediger
 14-Dave & Nancy Fagerness
 17-James & Gladys Schulte

MEMORIALS

Current Fund

In memory of Mildred Brandt
 In memory of Dorothy Haeffner
 In memory of Carl Ploeger

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

Handbell Fund

In memory of their parents
 M/M John Bartel
 In memory of parents
 M/M Terry Loehnig

Choir Fund

In memory of B.A. Wagner
 LaVerne Wagner & Family
 In memory of parents
 M/M Terry Loehnig

Current Fund

In memory of Eric Hampton
 The Eric Hampton Family
 In memory of Pat Anderson
 Maynard Anderson
 In memory of their parents

M/M Ed Bickmeyer
 In memory of Brian Tilly
 M/M William Tilly
 In memory of family & friends
 M/M Don Althaus
 In memory of loved ones
 M/M Elwood Wesselschmidt
 In memory of Robert & Norma Lloyd, Gary Lloyd & Carol Lionberger
 Brad & Chery Fricke
 In memory of Jenna Lenger, Leland & Anna Mae Lenger & Dave Huxel
 Steve & Susan Lenger & Family
 In memory of James Richard Held
 Jim & Betty Held
 In memory of Harold & Annie Horstmann
 Barb & Howard Schutt
 In memory of family
 Joe & Janet Hart

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Several flowers were presented for the Christmas season in memory of special people.

In memory of Eric Hampton
 The Family of Eric Hampton
 In memory of Harold & Annie Horstmann
 Barb & Howard Schutt
 In memory of Eric Heldt
 Chris Heldt Family
 In memory of Reuben Peters & Otto & Martha Peters
 Fredia Peters
 In memory of Liz Lassen
 Walter Lassen

GIFT

Current Fund

St. Paul UCC Women's Fellowship
 In honor of their 61st anniversary
 Jim & Betty Held

Handbell Fund

Donald Figler

DEATHS

Funeral service was held December 12 at Toedtman & Grosse Funeral Home for Carl Ploeger who passed away December 8 at Frene Valley of Hermann Stonebridge. Mr. Ploeger was born in rural Hermann on January 19, 1925. He proudly served his country during World War II in the U.S. Army in the Philippine Islands and in Japan with units of the 41st Infantry Division. He was a member of St. Paul UCC, the Hermann Masonic Lodge, the Scottish rite, Bay Community Post 541, American Legion, National Association of Letter Carriers and Charter member of the 41st Infantry Division Association. He is survived by his wife Eunice of 63 years; a nephew and two nieces and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents. Burial was at Oak Haven Memorial Gardens.

Funeral service was held December 28 at Toedtman & Grosse Funeral Home for Dorothy Haeffner who passed away December 22 at Frene Valley of Hermann Stonebridge. Mrs. Haeffner was born November 20, 1923 in Moscow Mills. She was a member of St. Paul UCC and the Quilters; She is

survived by two sons, Mike and Donnie Haeffner & special friend, Cyndi Smith; by nephews Christ Rethemeyer and wife Lisa, Tom Rethemeyer & wife Marilyn, Gary Gumper and wife Pam; by a niece Patricia Schowe and husband Wayne; many other friends and relatives. She was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Haeffner; two sisters, Hazel Gumper and Opal Rethemeyer and two brothers, Elton & Pete Gumper. Rev. Kiepe officiated at the service.

Mildred Brandt passed away Friday, December 22 at Frene Valley of Hermann Stonebridge. She was born in Senate Grove on May 12, 1934 to Louis & Edna VonBehren. She was a member of St. Paul UCCC. She is survived by a son, Glenn Brandt & wife Carol; two daughters, Carol Schluss & husband Walter and Lynn Roetemeyer & husband Scott; five grandsons, Michael, Gregory & Caleb Brandt, Craig & Jeremy Schluss; and a sister Selma Holtgrewe. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph of 62 years; by a sister Lorene Brandt; two brothers, Louis & Harvey VonBehren; sisters-in-law Alice Rohlfing, Elda Bredemeyer and Helen Brandt; brothers-in-law, Ralph Rohlfing, Lawrence Bredemeyer, Harold Brandt, Melvin Holtgrewe and Victor Brandt. Funeral service was held at Toedtmann & Grosse Funeral Home on December 28 with burial at Loutre Island Cemetery, McKittrick. Rev. Kiepe officiated at the service.

OUR SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to the family of Marion Schmidt who passed away recently. He was the uncle of Doug & wife Carol Graue, Darla & husband Darren Schutt, & Mark & wife Maggie Stiegman. Funeral service is in St. Louis recently.

Our sympathy to Lisa Schulte and family on the passing of her mother, Judy Baumstark, on January 28.

SAMARITAN OUTREACH

The phone number for Samaritan Outreach (under the direction of the Hermann Area Ministerial Alliance) is 573-569-2082 if anyone is in need of assistance. The 5th Sunday of each month is designated as Samaritan Outreach and special envelopes are available for donations at that time.

FRANKLIN COUNTY CASA

Franklin County CASA is now advocating for children in Gasconade County. The CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program trains community volunteers to become advocates for children in foster care. There is no experience needed, only a little time and a big heart. Please call 636-583-4422 if you have any questions.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to the Nimble Thimbles Quilting Group for the gift of three white tables to be used wherever needed.

IN APPRECIATION

To the Adult Sunday School for putting up the Christmas tree to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

To Darren Schutt, Jerry Scheible and anyone else who helped with snow & ice removal recently.

To Linda & Gordon Heck for setting up and taking down the Creche.

To everyone who provided floral and monetary gifts for the Christmas season.

To the Family Life Committee for providing the meal for Advent Workshop and to everyone who helped with crafts etc. and provided refreshments following the hanging of the Greens service on December 3.

To everyone who turned in their Time and Talent Sheets and volunteered for committees and various other duties.

To LaNette Kotthoff for preparing the Advent services, and to the Confirmation Class for being readers at the Advent worship.

To Anne Althaus and Sharen Speckhals for their help in the office recently.

To Gigi Mueller and everyone who helped with the blood drive and to everyone who helped surpass the quota of units of blood.

To everyone who accompanied the pastor to the nursing homes for ministry recently.

Thank you to Lois Kruse for continuing to serve as the church organist and to Margie Greene and everyone else for filling in as organist whenever necessary.

Thank you to Mike Mueller, Becky Mayberry, Dawn Maune and Jeff Scheible for loading the information for the projection system. This takes a lot of time and effort to do every week. If anyone else is willing to help with this, please let one of them or the church office know.

Thank you to everyone who has helped on Sunday mornings to handle the projection of the worship service program and announcements.

Thank you to everyone who joined the carolers on December 17 around town and at Victorian Place. The nursing home was under quarantine for the flu so they could not entertain those residents.

To everyone who made donations of items for Every Child's Hope Christmas and to Sharen Speckhals for delivering the gifts.

To Mona Schaefer for changing altar clothes and providing flowers for the altar.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the Sunday School classes, their teachers, and LaNette Kotthoff for presenting the Sunday School Christmas Program "Hanging of the Greens" on December 3. Also thanks to the Family Life Committee for serving refreshments following the program.

Thank you to the Handbell Choir for presenting their special concert on December 10. Thank you to the Choir for working so hard and presenting their concert on December 17.

FOOD PANTRY

Members of St. Paul UCC are asked to bring food items for the community food pantry and place them near the church office. Monetary gifts are also welcome. For February: sugar, shortening, margarine. For March: jelly, flour and soup. Please mark any perishable items and place them in the refrigerator in the basement.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

	12/3	12/10	12/17	1/14	1/21	1/29
Pre-Kind.	5	4	6	4	7	6
1 st /2 nd Grade	-	7	9	7	12	10
3 rd /4 th Grade	8	6	4	6	5	8
5 th /6 th Grade	5	4	2	3	4	4
Jr. High	11	9	6	7	7	10
Confirmation	4	5	5	5	7	5
Sr. High	-	4	--	--	--	4
Adult Class	7	9	9	10	8	11
Staff	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	41	49	42	43	51	59

BANNER CLASS

The Banner Class for the month of December was the Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Class. The Banner Class for the month of January was the Confirmation Class. Congratulations.

WORSHIP SERVICE

12/3	12/10	12/17	12/31	1/14	1/21	1/29
173	160	156	66	91	113	137

The attendance for Christmas Eve was 116 at the 10:15 service and 141 at the 7:30 service.

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Gigi and St. Paul UCC:

Thank you for sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive on Dec. 11. We were very pleased with the drive overall, and the willingness of the donors to share this life-saving gift.

The efforts of St. Paul UCC have always been greatly appreciated and their support of the community blood program will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives.

There were 42 donors registered and 35 units were collected. Thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of this important community program. I look forward to working with you again on an upcoming blood drive.

Amanda Okenfuss, Account Manager
American Red Cross

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$150.00 to help strengthen communities worldwide. Through your support of Church World Service, you are helping to fight the connected challenges of hunger, lack of access to safe water and improved sanitation and extreme poverty...

The men, women and children with whom CWS works are both strong and determined. They are building the futures they deserve and we are proud to help them as they do. I am so moved by the determination of generous people like you, who are standing in solidarity with families in need in the United States and around the world

May God bless you for your support.
Rev. John McCullough
President and CEO Church World Service

St. Paul United Church of Christ -- Council Minutes - November 6, 2017

Members present were: Pastor Kiepe, Linda Heck, Nancy Kirchhofer, Susan Lenger, Becky Mayberry, Ervin Rehmert, Darren Schutt, Sharen Speckhals, Maggie Stiegman. Not present: Ruth Hulsey, Mark Leech, Tom Rethemeyer and Keely Uthlout
The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Kiepe.

Susan Nichols of the Historical Committee spoke about the need for steel cabinets to store archival materials in, showed the council what they would like, and requested two.

Mike Mueller presented the proposed budget for 2018 on behalf of the Budget Committee and answered questions. It was agreed we need to somehow show income from permanent gifts in the budget. The committee is projecting a deficit of about \$9,800 for 2017.

Dear St. Paul UCC:

As we focus upon another year, we take a moment to reflect on the generosity of those who have made the past year successful. Thank you for your contributions to the Community Christmas Program. This year with your generosity we served over 85 low-income families, about 210 children. The success of the Community Christmas Program could not be made possible without the time, money and effort that you have provided. When the community works together, we can make a difference.

Also, thank you for your donation of \$277.00 towards Community Christmas. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and was used to provide so much to children in our community. We appreciate your continued support throughout the year. Thanks you and God bless!

Community Christmas Committee

Dear St. Paul UCC:

Thank you for supporting Every Child's Hope this Christmas. Your church's donation of \$40.00 has helped our staff offer the children and youth we serve the opportunity to find the family they seek or secure resources they need.

Also, thank you for your donation of miscellaneous toys for the Christmas store to Every Child's Hope. This generous gift allows us to help the children, youth and families we serve have hope for a better future..... If you would like more information, call 314-427-3755 or check out our website at www.ech1858.org.

Sincerely,
Michael P. Brennan, CEO

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your contribution of \$545.00 to the Hermann Food Pantry Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. Also, thank you for your contribution of \$200.00 to the Children's Backpack Fund. Your gifts support our efforts to create a more generous community through philanthropy. These gifts nourish children and families, advance community projects, create legacies to support future generations.

Brian Fogle, President
Community Foundation of the Ozarks

Dear Youthfest Participants:

We are delighted to announce that the meals from your meal packaging event on 10/15/16 have been shipped in a container totaling 282,744 meals from our Kansas City warehouse. The meals will be received by our in-country partner Salesian Missions in Haiti.

Thank you for volunteering with Stop Hunger Now. We truly appreciate your dedication and commitment to the vision of a world without hunger.

Gratefully,
Baylee DeLaurier, Program Manager,
Stop Hunger Now Kansas City

Note: this letter came from Festival of Sharing Youthfest. If you would like to check out the entire article, it is posted near the church office.

Minutes of the October meeting were approved on motion made by Susan Lenger and seconded by Becky Mayberry. The October Financial Report was approved on motion made by Ervin Rehmert and seconded by Sharen Specials. Motion carried.

Pastor Kiepe gave his monthly work report.

Old Business:

Candidates for 2018 Church Council need to be considered in December for the Annual Congregational Meeting.

The new pictorial directories have arrived and will be distributed by the Evangelism Committee.

New Business:

Pastor Kiepe will arrange for Matt Wagner to give the council a portfolio review sometime after Feb. 1.

Maggie Stiegman made a motion to purchase the cabinets requested by the Historical Committee and Ervin Rehmert seconded the motion. Motion carried

A request was made by Megan Schebaum and Joshua Barton to be married here June 23, 2018 by Rev. Rick Hoelzer from Fenton. Motion to approve was made by Nancy Kirchhofer and seconded by Maggie Stiegman. Motion carried.

Pastor Kiepe spoke with Doug Dissenger about the increased premium for After School Bearcats. Dissenger explained it is in the same risk category as a preschool and the only such increase we should see.

Motion to approve the budget as proposed was made by Maggie Stiegman and seconded by Susan Lenger. Motion carried. There was also discussion of including the Sunday School program as part of the Christian Education budget.

The Council will meet Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 6:30. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 14, 2018.

Maggie Stiegman said she and Amanda Schaefer would be willing to help with a pinochle party/chili supper. Nancy Kirchhofer said she'd do the chili and Susan Lenger offered to help.

Susan Lenger reported we will need another van driver in the coming year, as we are losing one and that she would like a replacement for arranging the drivers.

Ushers for December communion will be the senior high Sunday school class.

The next council meeting will be Monday, December 4 at 6:30 pm.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Ervin Rehmert and seconded by Maggie Stiegman. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Heck, Secretary

St. Paul United Church of Christ Council Minutes - December 4, 2017

Present: Pastor Kiepe, Linda Heck, Ruth Hulsey, Nancy Kirchhofer, Mark Leech, Susan Lenger, Becky Mayberry, Ervin Rehmert, Sharen Speckhals, Maggie Stiegman, Tom Rethemeyer.

Not present: Darren Schutt and Keely Uthlaut.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Kiepe. Maggie Stiegman led the meeting in Darren Schutt's absence.

Mark Leech offered congratulations on behalf of the church to Maggie Stiegman on finishing her doctorate.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved on motion made by Susan Lenger and seconded by Nancy Kirchhofer. Motion carried.

Financial reports for November were approved on motion made by Mark Leech and seconded by Ervin Rehmert. Pastor Kiepe gave his monthly work report and will be reporting on the Pony Express at the Sunday morning service. He will be gone January 29 to February 12, 2018. Sharen Speckhals will take care of arranging pastoral supply.

Old Business:

Discussion of the printer: Bids were reviewed. It was suggested to increase the line item 5712 for office machines to cover the possibility of payments on a new machine. Fay Scheible will be asked for her input on the machines in the bids. Purchase will be tabled until the machine needs to be replaced.

An Ad Hoc Nominating Committee for 2018 Church Council Candidates was established: Pastor Kiepe will ask Bob Bohl, Mary Leeper and Susan Lenger to serve. The committee will present 4 candidates for the approval of the council at the January 2 meeting.

Changes in the constitution are tabled until next year. A committee will be created for that purpose.

New Business:

Time and Talent Sheets were mailed with the Hilltop Herald.

The Council will meet Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 6:30. (Nancy Kirchhofer will be gone.)

January 7, 2018 ushers: Ervin Rehmert, Maggie Stiegman, Susan Lenger and Tom Rethemeyer

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 14, 2018.

The organizational meeting of the new council will be January 22, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Ushers for the 10:15 am Christmas Eve service: Becky Mayberry, Susan Lenger, Maggie Stiegman and Ervin Rehmert

Sharen Speckhals and Maggie Stiegman will arrange for ushers for the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve service.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Becky Mayberry and seconded by Maggie Stiegman. Motion carried. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Heck, Secretary

Have you remembered the church in your will?

