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Rhonda's Reflections



During Lent we contemplate our mortality and reorient our lives toward the one who gives us life.

A few years ago, artist Candy Chang noticed a large abandoned building and with permission from the town and her neighbors, Chang turned the eyesore into a work of art. The recent loss of a close friend in a sudden, unexpected death gave her pause to consider death and gratitude for life which in turn brought clarity to what is truly meaningful in her life. Recognizing how easy it is to get caught up in the day to day and forget what really matters she saw one wall of the abandoned building as a blank canvas and stenciled these words: “Before I die I want to _____.”

The response of persons writing their answers on the wall was incredible. The power of the “Before I die...’ wall is that it actually didn’t make people think about death so much as it made them think about life. Contemplating death became a powerful tool to restore perspective and remember what brings meaning and value to life.

The season of Lent invites us to restore perspective and remember what gives meaning to our lives.

And so, we give up something like Starbucks or soda or surfing the internet or gossip, not just to do it. Not to prove anything to anyone or to impress God. We give it up to remind ourselves that those things don’t really matter. Our life in Christ does.

We worship on Ash Wednesday reflecting on our sin, asking for forgiveness, and seeking to live a new life free from it, recognizing we have short-changed life by living our own way rather than God’s. We receive ashes because we remember our mortality, not

to be morbid, but to remember to live for God now, because our life is a precious gift that we should live to the full.

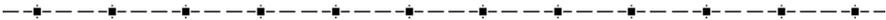
During these 40 days, how will you restore perspective and remember the gifts you've received from God that make life full and meaningful?

Then maybe you'll be ready to truly live.

Before I die, I want to _____.

Think about it.

Rhonda



On Sunday, February 9, 2020, we welcomed Rev. Rhonda Hainer and Rev. David Hainer into our church as new members. If you have considered joining our church family, please call the church office (419) 394-3811.



Wednesday Lenten Services to be held in the sanctuary. There will be six services with the last one occurring on April 1st. Make this worship experience part of your Lenten remembrance.



Please note Pastor Rhonda's Installation date change. The date of her Installation has been changed to Sunday, March 15 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A potluck meal will follow worship in Fellowship Hall

ELEVATOR UPDATE

As you are aware, construction on the elevator began on February 17. After all these years, it has finally happened. We wanted to give all of you an update on the finances for this project. Donations in hand currently stand at approximately \$410,250.00 with another \$5600.00 pledged that has not yet been received. The cost of the elevator from Dorstens is \$459,000.00, with \$11,000.00 still owed to Garmann/Miller. We still need about \$54,000.00 to fully fund the project. We applied for grants through Midwest Electric and Kroger, but Kroger has declined. Keep your fingers crossed for help from Midwest. If you haven't yet made a donation, we need your help now. There are several ways for you to donate: You can send checks and cash to the church office - please designate that it is for the elevator. We have a GoFundMe page - St Paul's UCC Church Elevator. You can donate here AND challenge all your Facebook friends to help. You can also go to our website - www.stpaulsuccsm.com. There is a "donate" button that you can select which will give you a variety of funds to donate to. Just select the elevator fund and designate how much you want to donate. Remember, all donations are tax deductible and for every \$250.00 you donate, you be entered in our contest to be the first person to ride in the new elevator. We truly need YOUR help to raise all the money we need. We also want to make sure that those who depend on the elevette to attend services can still get here. We feel that the easiest way to enter the sanctuary is through the front doors on Perry Street. We are asking those who normally park on Perry - if you are able - to park a little farther away so that those who need to, can park closer. Also, if you need help, please let the office know so we can have volunteers at these doors to help. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Glenn Hadley, Bill Nuss, Greg Walter, Kyle Opperman, or Larry Kill. You can also leave word in the office and we will all do our best to help. The next few months may be a little frustrating at times, but the end result will be worth the wait. Thanks to all of you who are supporting this project.

DECORATE THE ALTAR FOR EASTER!

We are asking the congregation to help decorate the altar for Easter!! Donations of spring flowers for the altar need to be in Elevation Room by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11th.



Don't forget to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday evening, March 7th, before you go to bed. That way you'll be on time for worship!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – March 8th

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, we are planting seeds of new life.

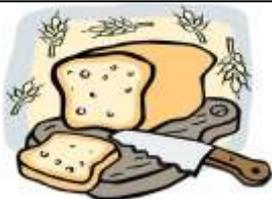
Together, we are investing in communities worldwide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all.

These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God's children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives.

Through your generosity, the world is a better place. But more is needed. Today, you have an opportunity to plant seeds into the lives of others. Be a co-worker with God. Building, planting, watering...and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for your generosity

IT'S A NEW YEAR AND A NEW BEGINNING FOR OUR TOILET PAPER MISSION

What a great start to the New Year. We have collected 564 rolls of toilet paper to date. Just keep the TP rolling. ~ Jane Nuss.



BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY MEAL

St. Paul's offers a weekly free community meal, "Breaking Bread." We serve meals from 4:30 to 6:00 pm on Thursdays (***except the first Thursday of each month***).

- March 12
- March 19
- March 26

BREAKING BREAD DURING CONSTRUCTION: *Everyone will enter the Fellowship Hall door as there will not be access to the Heritage Hall door. There will be help for using the steps. For only those who are absolutely unable to use the steps, someone will take your order and bring it to your car. Dining room and carry-outs will remain the same.*

Do you shop at Gordon Foods? If so, much like the Kroger Rewards Program that the Women's Guild has, Gordon Foods has a points system. This point system greatly helps with purchasing food for our Breaking Bread meals. The next time you shop at Gordon Foods, ask them to credit your points to St. Paul's Account **#002159887!** A little bit goes a long way! Thank you!

EASTER BAKE SALE

It's hard to believe that it is almost time for the best bake sale in Auglaize County - **THE ULTIMATE EASTER BAKE SALE!!!!!!!** This year will celebrate the 15th year that we have held this fundraiser. Once again, proceeds from the sale will benefit our local St Marys Tailgate for Cancer. For the last several years, bakers from several local churches have joined forces with us to bake - now known as the "church lady bakers". We are asking all of you for help to make the bake sale a success once again by donating your tastiest treats. Easter themed cookies, cupcakes and cakes really sell well. And everyone who attends is always looking for a good homemade pie. We also hope to have homemade noodles and colored eggs as well as Jell-O eggs. The bake sale will be held once again at Minster Bank in St Marys, Thursday afternoon - April 9, and all-day Friday, April 10. If you have any questions, or are able to help at the bake sale, please contact Sara Seewer or Lynda Hadley.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

2 – Tyler Birt	15 – Lucy Spencer
6 – Carsen Long	16 – Nickales Dieringer
7 – Henry Klosterman	20 – Piper Marsee
13 – Ava Winget	24 – Rylee Dieringer
14 - Sam Wheeler	29 – Reece Wheeler



PERFECT ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2020

NURSERY Pre-School Kindergarten Toby Turner Harrison Silber 1st Grade 2nd Grade 3rd Grade Aubrey Birt Emily Turner 4th Grade Lincoln James Vince Walter 5th Grade 6th Grade 7th Grade Caleb Turner	8th Grade Cody Birt Sophie James Brian Speckman Ray Walter Senior High Tyler Birt Brooke Turner Calvin Caywood Brett Speckman Emma Birt Brad Speckman Leah Walter Carly Caywood Kalie Gayer
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CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

THANK YOU to Kara Birt and Julie Speckman for filling the Interim Christian Ed Coordinator position and providing outstanding continuity to our program. Thank you, Kara and Julie.

We welcome Mary Holtzapple as our new Christian Education Coordinator. Mary is excited to be serving God and growing our Christian Education Department here at St. Paul's UCC.

The Youth Group will be leading the Sunday Morning Service on March 8, 2020. Please join us as we lead a traditional service with a non-traditional Message. We'll invite you to use your imagination to explore the thoughts and emotions several people from the Bible may have experienced at a specific moment in their lives. We often know the stories within the Bible, but we may not take the time to think about the choices each person had to make. In a short moment, a decision was made, but if that moment could be unfrozen, you may find a thousand thoughts that were racing through their minds.

Aluminum Can Recycling for the Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who is saving aluminum cans for the **YOUTH GROUP**. We will continue to save, collect, and recycle cans. Cans need to be **rinsed out** and brought to St. Paul's - **just leave them behind the curtain under the stairs of the Creation Station door**. If you have a lot of cans and would like to just take them on to recycling and donate the money, it may be just as easy once they are in your vehicle. Thank you for your support.

INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW...

Have you moved or have a new telephone number? A new email address? Do you have a child in college or leaving for college soon? We will need their new address too. Keep your church family updated with any new phone/address changes that you may have. Please contact the church office with your updates by either calling the church office at 419-394-3811 or emailing us at smucc@bright.net. Thank you!

All Church Potluck & Fellowship Night

Please mark your calendar to join in the fun at Fellowship night on Sunday, March 29th from 4:45 pm – 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. The theme for our potluck is Italian. Please bring a dish or dessert to share. Table service and drinks are provided. After our meal, we will be playing BINGO. Please let Amy Keller know if you have an item that you would like to donate as a small prize or you can also drop a small prize off at the church office.

WOMEN'S NEWS

Cookies for Crossroad

32 dozen assorted cookies were delivered to Crossroad on February 12. Thank you to all who contributed. They really appreciate the cookies and that we are thinking of them!

Thank You

To all who stayed for the February 9 Soup & Sandwich. \$169.00 was donated to Women's Guild and your generosity is appreciated.

KROGER REWARDS UPDATE: Thanks for supporting this program! Our supporters (33 households) who shopped at **Kroger** between **11-1-2019** and **1-31-2020** (SK5720) have contributed to our **\$140.61** total donation. Thank you for your continued support of your local Kroger store.

DO YOU CROCHET OR KNIT? HELP NEEDED!

Looking for volunteers that are able to help out with making baby afghans. Yarn is available in the sewing room if needed.

Questions? Call Margaret Hunter at (419) 733-4332.

QUILTERS meet on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to ??? in the sewing room. Questions? Call Margaret Hunter at 419-733-4332.

BUSY NEEDLES meet in the old kitchen on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to?? We knot lap robes and comforters for local nursing homes, VA hospitals, Shriners hospitals in Cincinnati and Lexington, Ky., and anyone in need to keep warm. We are looking for anyone wanting to help with this Mission. If you can thread a needle, we need you. Thanks for everyone who has donated fabric and yarn to this Mission. It is through the donations of many that this program has continued for over 35 years. It only costs the church for the electricity we use in a few short hours. For more information, call Margaret 419-733-4332.



The St. Paul's UCC Women's Guild will be holding BINGO on the following dates:

- March 9, 2020 Grand Lake Health 6:30-7:30 pm
- April 13, 2020 Otterbein 6:00-7:00 pm
- May 11, 2020 Vancrest 6:30-7:30 pm
- June 8, 2020 Grand Lake Health 6:30-7:30 pm
- July 13, 2020 Otterbein 6:00-7:00 pm

We are in need of BINGO helpers. Please call Janice Katterheinrich at (419) 394-3264 to let one of them know if you can help work the Bingo or if you can bring cookies.



Dear Women's Guild of St. Paul's and Consistory,

Thank you so much for the gift card and the money back at Christmas time! It was very much appreciated! Also, thanks for always being there for my family and I. It's wonderful to have such a great church family!

Love,
Andrea Spencer

~~*~*

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for the Valentine bag! I enjoyed all of the goodies and reading all of the notes. It sure is nice to be remembered by my church family.

Janet Hoge

~~*~*

To all of the wonderful people at St. Paul's,

Thank you for the Valentine bag. Your thoughtfulness was really appreciated and it was almost enough to make a grown man cry! Thank you all very much.

Vernon Luedeke

~~*~*

Such an outpouring of love from so many members! It was a joy to open and read all of the notes and Valentine cards! Thank you ALL very much.

Sincerely,
Mary Alice Stoner

~~*~*

Thank you everyone for the Valentine cards and sweet treats! I enjoyed looking at each valentine, and seeing who they all were from. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day, and I look forward to coming back for college day.

Thanks,
Natalie Ginter

~~*~*

Dear Church Members,

Thank you so much for thinking about me with the special Valentine treats. You're all a blessing to me!

Wilma Tester

~~*~*

Dear members of St. Paul's,

We are so grateful to all of you! The kids absolutely love the cookies! We are grateful for you continued generosity ad we know our kids are as well! Bless You!

Kyle Zanker
Chief Development Officer at Crossroad

~~*~*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for remembering me on Valentine's Day! I loved my Valentine bag of goodies and notes! It was very much appreciated.

God bless you all!!
Nellie Krauss



Congratulations to Tim and Sandi Hirschfeld on the birth of a new granddaughter, Emry Kay.

~*~*~*~*

Congratulations to Laura and Chase Drewes on the birth of their son, Charlie Robert. Charlie was born February 16, 2020. The proud grandparents are DeWayne and Billie Marsee.



On February 9, 2020, the church welcomed through baptism Oliver Matthew Lemmerman into the church. Oliver is the son of Matthew and Leah Lemmerman and the grandson of Daniel and Heidi Lemmerman. Oliver's sponsors are Luke Lemmerman and Mindy Puthoff. Welcome into our church family Oliver!

~~*~*~*

On February 23, 2020, the church welcomed through baptism Kyler Michael Solomon into the church. Kyler is the son of Jason Solomon and Samantha Stabelli. Kyler is the grandson of Nancy Stabelli and great-grandson of Janet Keller. Welcome into our church family Kyler!



Our sympathy to the family and friends of the following members who have passed away since the last newsletter.

- † Donald Nedderman, February 10, 2020
- † Bernard "Bud" Lehman, February 17, 2020

In Memoriam

- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Tom Hevlin:**
Keith Fledderjohann, Mary Alice Stoner, Janet Keller and Family, David and Marilyn Dickman, John and Linda Hall, Lynn and Carol Schmidt.
- **To the New Elevator Fund in memory of Karen Adams:**
David and Marilyn Dickman.

CHURCH INFO

CALL-EM-ALL - Please let the church office know if you are experiencing any problems with the Call-Em-All phone messages. **Also, please contact the office if you would like to be removed from the calling list, or listen to the broadcast and at the end follow their directions to 'opt out' of any future broadcasts - this will remove your number from the calling list.** Thank you!

'BREAKING BREAD' COMMUNITY DINNER - If you would like to make a financial contribution to help with costs for the weekly community dinner, these will be gratefully accepted. Donations can be placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed to the church office. Please be sure to indicate your name on the envelope if you would like to receive credit on your giving statement. Contributions of #10 canned food are also accepted.

FOR THE RECORD - INFORM US PLEASE!!

☎ If you will be going to the hospital or if someone you know is hospitalized, please call the church office and let us know.

☎ Please call the church office with address corrections or if you do not see your **Birth**day or **Anniversary** listed during the correct month. Call 419-394-3811. Thank you!!

☎ **Cell phone # for** Pastor Rhonda (563) 210-3508

✉ **rhainer@bright.net** – Rev. Hainer's e-mail address.

✉ **smucc@bright.net** - church e-mail address. Use this to e-mail articles for the newsletter/messages for the Sunday bulletin.

✉ **christianed@bright.net** - Christian Education and Youth Director email address.

✉ **cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com** to contact Carol Schmidt for the Email Prayer Team Requests.

✉ **spmedia@bright.net** – to contact Jim Huckemeyer or Rich Spencer email address.

🌐 **www.stpaulsuccsm.com** - church web site address and most current worship service videos can be seen here.

☒ **Televised worship service-** our worship service here at St. Paul's is shown on **TSC cable - Digital channel 1 OR non-digital channel 2,** every Sunday at 10:30 am and also on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. There is a one week delay of the service shown.

STAFF OF ST. PAUL'S UCC:

- ... **Rev. Rhonda Hainer, Pastor**
- ... **Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant**
- ... **Amy & Mark Dieringer, Youth Directors**
- ... **Jim Huckemeyer, Director of Music**
- ... **Andrea Spencer, Organist**
- ... **Ann Vogel, Organist**
- ... **Cynthia Hanover, Pianist**
- ... **Bob Schumacher, Custodian**
- ... **Rich Spencer, Audio and Video**
- ... **Carol Schmidt, Email Prayer Team Contact**
- ... **Mary Holtzapple, Christian Ed Coordinator**
- ... **Julie Speckman, Church School Superintendent**
- ... **Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher**
- ... **Kim Opperman, Nursery Supervisor**



Kroger Fund Raiser for the Women's Guild – If you would like to support Women's Guild with the Kroger fundraiser, log on to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com to sign up & register your Kroger Plus card. **NPO# is SK5720.** If you do not use the internet, but would like to sign up, please contact Jane Nuss or Kris Vanderhorst.

EYEGASSES FOR THE NEEDY - collected by the church school classes. Donated glasses should be placed in the basket at the North entrance to the sanctuary.

LIFT CHAIR is available for 'loan' to anyone in the church who might have a need for it. Please call the church office for more information.

ATLAS 600 VISION MACHINE - to assist those who have vision problems with reading books, newspapers, prescription labels, writing personal checks or viewing family photographs - making this possible with video magnifiers. **This item is currently unavailable.**

ANOTHER VISION MACHINE - to assist those who have vision problems with reading books, newspapers, prescription labels, writing personal checks or viewing family photographs - making this possible with video magnifiers. **This item is currently available to church members on a “temporary” basis. If you are interested in checking out this machine, please contact the church office.**

WALKERS - If you have need of a walker for assistance in getting around, please call the church office. One of our church members has several different type walkers, which are available for loan.

RESTROOM ITEMS: If you have a need for shower chairs, toilet seat elevators and hand-held shower adapters, please call the church office. One of our church members has graciously donated a few of these items.

LAMINATOR - available in the church office. This is used by the Sunday School teachers for classroom projects and activities and by the office staff. We will also laminate items for church members for a fee of \$1.00 per item (**NOTE: maximum size we can laminate is 8 ½ x 11 inches**).

OFFERING ENVELOPES - are distributed by quarterly mailing. Please notify the church office if you are not receiving envelopes and would like to be added to this mailing list. Also.....**PLEASE**

NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

COPIES - if you need copies made of any personal items, you may stop by the church office and we will be glad to make them for you. If it is a large project, it is best to call ahead. **Cost for making copies for church members is 15 cents per copy if you use the office paper or 10 cents per copy if you bring your own paper.**

THE DVD/CD DUPLICATOR in the church office enables us to make multiple copies of the morning worship service. Please call the church office to request a copy. **The charge for duplicating a DVD will be \$2.00 each.** Monthly sets of worship DVD's can also be mailed at a cost of \$10.00 per month. Call the church office for more information.

2020 CHURCH OFFICIALS

President of Congregation	Luke Leffel
Vice-president of Congregation	Jeff Dieringer
President of Consistory	Ralph Heckler
Vice-president of Consistory	Marsha Landers

2020 Members of Consistory

Elders:	Ralph Heckler	Virginia Burroughs
	Jane Nuss	Marsha Landers
	Joan Leffel	Mary Holtzapple
Deacons:	Joel Tangeman	Victor Long
	Carol Waesch	Luke Leffel
	Lynn Schmidt	Melinda Silber
	Lynda Hadley	Kellie Kill
	Susan Braun	Linda McDonald
	Jennifer Ginter	Susan Spencer
Trustees:	Greg Walter, Kyle Opperman and Larry Kill	

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2020:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through January 31, 2020 = \$ 22,394.00
- Received through January 31, 2020 = \$ 16,216.00
- Expenses through January 31, 2020 = \$19,759.56
- Received through January 31, **2019** = \$ 10,539.50

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through January 31, 2020 = \$ 1,250.00
- Received through January 31, 2020 = \$ 845.00
- Received through January 31, **2019** = \$ 513.00

Status of 2020 Budget:

Current Fund:

- Budgeted through February 29, 2020 = \$ 44,788.00
- Budgeted through February 16, 2020 = \$ 39,189.50
- Received through February 16, 2020 = \$ 28,411.00

Mission Fund:

- Budgeted through February 29, 2020 = \$ 2,500.00
 - Budgeted through February 16, 2020 = \$ 2,187.50
 - Received through February 16, 2020 = \$ 1,465.00
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MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2020 CONSISTORY MEETING

The regular meeting of St. Paul's UCC Consistory was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by President Ralph Heckler. Pastor Rhonda Hainer gave each Consistory member a Valentine and opened the meeting with a reflection on the meaning of love and the impact each of us makes in this world when we love ourselves and others as God commands us.

Present: *Elders:* Jane Nuss, Joan Leffel, Mary Holtzapple, Marsha Landers, Virginia Burroughs and Ralph Heckler; *Trustees:* Kyle Opperman, Larry Kill and Greg Walters; *Deacons:* Kelly Kill, Carolyn

Waesch, Lynda Hadley, Lynn Schmidt, Luke Leffel, Jennifer Ginter, Susan Braun, Linda McDonald and Susan Spencer. Also present were Pastor Rhonda Hainer, Treasurer, David Dickman, Custodian Bob Schumacher, Administrative Assistant Carolyn Garrison, Jim Huckemeyer (media screen) and Jeanette Tangeman (Breaking Bread and Back Bay Mission).

Breaking Bread and Construction: Guest Jeanette Tangeman

- Jeanette inquired as to when construction may start. Trustees spoke up and stated that they have a meeting scheduled for tomorrow and will know more then.
- Since access to the Heritage Hall door will be closed during the construction process, Jeanette asked what door would be unlocked on a daily basis. Her question was answered that the Fellowship Hall doors will be open on a daily basis during construction.
- Jeanette asked about handicap access. Guest Jim Huckemeyer explained that they (he and Glenn Hadley) met with Kaup Pharmacy out of Fort Recovery regarding ramps to rent for entry to the sanctuary. Said ramps would cost \$10 a foot per month, so roughly \$200 a month. Jim mentioned that a commercial chairlift would be more costly. Trustees agreed that they will look further into the matter for a more definitive answer.
- Pastor Rhonda suggested that maybe Breaking Bread can work/serve at another location such as the Union Hall or if another church would allow them to borrow the space. Jane Nuss informed Jeanette that she would get the phone number of the contact person of the Union Hall for her.

Sanctuary Media Screen: Guest Jim Huckemeyer

- Jim reported that the front screen was delivered yesterday. Trustees will need to have electric run up there once we know where to install the electric. The rear screen and projector have been ordered and will be delivered in a few weeks.

Christian Education and Nurture: No report

Minutes:

- Minutes from the January 8, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Marsha Landers made a motion to approve the minutes. Mary Holtzapple seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: David Dickman

- David reviewed the Financial Report for the month of January 2020. David stated that once tax season is completed, he will see about having an independent audit completed. There being no other questions, President Ralph asked to file the financial report for review by the church Administrative Assistant.

President's Report: Ralph Heckler

- Ralph passed around two thank you cards received from staff.
- Ralph reviewed a request from the fire department regarding their child fire safety program. It was the consensus of the Consistory to not donate at this time.
- Ralph briefed everyone on the letter from the county fair Gospel Tent sponsorship. The matter was deferred to Christian Mission and Outreach.
- Ralph read an email letter from Joel Tangeman having to step down as a Deacon due to the sale of his home, moving, and availability. Ralph informed everyone that Becky Rasawehr is willing to step in and finish Joel's term year.
- Ralph inquired if there is anyone willing to be a church representative at the NWOA Annual Meeting in April. Jim Huckemeyer attended last year. Ralph will check with Jim.
- Where do we want to designate the Wednesday Lenten Loose Offering? Last year it was designated to the Current Fund. Kyle Opperman made a motion to keep it the same as last year. Jane Nuss seconded it. Motion carried.

- Ralph asked Consistory if there is a reason that only the child's initials appear on a baptism plate. Jennifer Ginter spoke up and stated that one of her daughters were the first to receive a box with a plate and hers has just the initials. Carolyn stated that the cost for a first and middle name is the same. After discussion, Carolyn is to check with Unique Awards and inquire about the cost of the plate should a child's name be very long.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rhonda

- Pastor Rhonda reported that she is leaving for a one-week vacation tomorrow and that her husband, David, will be preaching this Sunday. Jeanette Tangeman will be filling in for any funerals and/or emergencies.
- Due to some of the members of the Search Committee and Rev. Jeanette being at Back Bay Mission the week of March 1st, Rhonda's installation date has been moved to March 15th so that everyone will be able to attend. There will be a potluck following the installation.
- Rhonda asked everyone to think about the "Connection" at St. Paul's. What are our goals? Long range planning? Suggestions: A Men's Club, a Mom's Group to be formed, a Young Men's Group as well as a Grief Support Group.
- At the February 23rd service, Rhonda will be commissioning those members traveling to Back Bay Mission.
- In March, Stewardship Committee will be focusing on a three-week series on stewardship. What other ideas does anyone have other than the tear-off pledge? Virginia Burroughs mentioned that she would like to see more involvement in the community rather than ask for money, ask for service and be a part of the community.
- Rhonda received a request from the singing group Unclouded Day wanting to perform the Sunday before Thanksgiving. It was the consensus of Consistory to pass at this time. Lori Now wants to start a Yoga Class. There would be no charge, but would accept a free will donation

that would go toward church missions. The classes would be held two times per week in March and April. Lynda Hadley made a motion to approve said class. Joni Leffel seconded. Motion carried.

Loose Offering for 2nd Sunday of March:

- Even though our members will already be in Biloxi, gift cards or cash are always welcome. Lynda Hadley made a motion to accept Back Bay Mission as the designated loose offering for the second Sunday in March. Linda McDonald seconded. Motion carried.

Budget and Finance: David Dickman

- David reported that he received a letter from Cisco Accounting firm. Apparently, they failed to bill us for one month in 2019. Rather than bill us all at once, they are offering to bill an extra \$43.75 a month over the year until paid in full.

Trustees: Greg Walter

- As part of the Pastor's office renovation, new carpet has been laid, bathroom fixtures installed and new chairs have been delivered. Rhonda expressed how thankful she is and that she loves it!
- Contractor has been hired to fill in the holes (formerly windows) in the library. Trustees will paint once the contractor is done.
- Plumber has run a camera to ensure that it will be okay to close off certain drains for the upcoming construction.
- Trustees will be meeting with the Contractor and Elevator Committee tomorrow.

Elders: Ralph

- The schedule is up, please check it out. Ralph will help with Ash Wednesday communion.

Deacons: Lynn Schmidt

- There is a need to review how pew communion is conducted. There will be a short practice after worship on the 23rd.

- Attendance is believed to be a bit off. Deacons have been asked to conduct their count after the first hymn when everyone is seated.

Christian Mission and Outreach: Lynda Hadley

- They have not met; however, they have been in communication with each other and are trying to organize something to raise money for Templed Hills.

Personnel: Joan Leffel

- Evaluations are completed and they are in the process of getting staff contracts signed.
- Elder, Mary Holtzapple, was asked to leave the room. Joan stated that after she ramped up advertising with Apollo, Rhodes, Lake Campus, TLC and Kids Kastle, there were no replies received. Personnel did receive two internal applicants; however, one withdrew their candidacy. At this time, Personnel would like to recommend Mary Holtzapple for the position of Christian Ed Coordinator. Mary displays a faith and believes that God is calling her to this position. President Ralph stated that it was mentioned to him that a paid staff member cannot hold a position on Consistory. After extensive research of the church Constitution and past Consistory minutes, there was no evidence found for this to be true. Should there be a vote where it conflicts with her paid position, Mary will abstain from voting. Kara Birt's last day is February 23rd and Julie Speckman will remain until the end of the Sunday School year. CE&N members will need to meet on a regular basis. Kyle Opperman made a motion to allow Mary to maintain her Elder position while she is a paid employee of the church. Larry Kill seconded. Motion carried. Mary Holtzapple then returned to the meeting.
- Jim Huckemeyer has made a wish to become the full-time choir director. Kelly Kill made a motion to accept this request. Virginia Burroughs seconded. Motion carried.

- Jim Huckemeyer has expressed his interest in the paid position of Bell Choir Director. After much discussion, Kelly Kill made a motion for Jim to complete an application and for Personnel to post the position for one month first before hiring. Virginia Burroughs seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Joan Leffel made the recommendation that Andrea Spencer and her “team” of people volunteer as the Youth and Children’s Choir Director until the end of May. Each member of the team will complete a background check.

Stewardship: Joan Leffel

- Along with crafts that several of the ladies of the church helped make, there will be cloth bags with a church tri-fold flyer and treat inside handed out to those in attendance at the sale.

Elevator Committee: Lynda Hadley

- They are meeting with contractors tomorrow.
- Received a rejection on our grant request to Kroger.
- There are concerns about the ramp and safety with it as there are no hand rails.
- A newsletter article will be prepared and submitted.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Mike Laird inquired about absentee ballots/proxy votes for those members in nursing homes, etc. Jane Nuss made a motion for Mike to form a committee to further research the issue. Virginia Burroughs seconded. Motion carried.

There being no further regular business, Kyle Opperman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jane Nuss seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Ralph Heckler, 2020 Consistory President
 Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant



Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. for the **April issue** of *The Communicator* will be **March 19th at 9 a.m.**



Saint Patrick's Day

March 17



BLARNEY
CHARM
CLOVER
DANCE
DUBLIN
EMERALD

GOLD
GREEN
IRELAND
ISLE
LEPRECHAUN
LIMERICK

LUCK
MARCH
PARADE
RAINBOW
SHAMROCK



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