



## ***“The Voice”* Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton**

201 Troendle Street SW; PO Box 413  
Mapleton, MN 56065

**DECEMBER 2015**

*Address Service Requested*

*“The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship  
of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated  
to the Maple River community.”*

The United Church of Mapleton  
PO Box 413, 201 Troendle St SW  
Mapleton, MN 56065



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF MAPLETON

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship  
 9:00 a.m. Nursery Care  
 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship  
 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month: 6-7 p.m.  
**G.I.F.T. (Generations In Faith Together)**  
 A meal will be served.



## DECEMBER 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	2 <b>6:15 p.m. Meet at The United Church to participate in Snowflake Dazzle Parade</b>	3	4	5 9:00-11:00 a.m. Kilties
6 9:00 a.m. Worship with <b>Communion and Loaves &amp; Fishes Food Shelf Collection</b> 9:15 a.m. Children practice for Christmas program	7	8 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	9 <b>7:00 p.m. Deacons</b>	10 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study	11	12 8:30—10:30 a.m. Community Breakfast at St. John Lutheran  9:00-11:00 a.m. Kilties  <b>5:00-9:00 p.m. Parents Night Out</b>
13 9:00 a.m. Worship with <b>Christmas Program for all ages</b> 10:00 a.m. Conf. Class 10:15 a.m. Christmas Eve Music Practice 4:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service	14 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship	15 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	16 <b>6:00—7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T.: Generations In Faith Together</b>  <b>7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees</b>	17 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve guitar practice	18	19 <b>RECYCLE!</b>  9:00-11:00 a.m. Kilties
20 9:00 a.m. Worship with <b>Youth Center Collection</b> 10:00 a.m. Conf. Class 1:00 p.m. Christmas Box packing for Loaves & Fishes at St. Teresa Church	21	22 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder <b>8:00 a.m. Newsletter articles/reports are due into the church office</b>	23	24 <b>7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</b>	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> Church office is closed	26
27 9:00 a.m. Worship	28	29 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	30	31		

# The Voice

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Phone: (507) 524-3141

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Date:	December 6	December 13	December 20	Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.	December 27
<b>Greeters:</b>	Delbert and Ella Conrad	Robert and Geri Howieson	Warren and Cindy Alleven	Hugo and Pat John	Robert and Lisa Shubert
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Diaconate	Women's Fellowship	Youth Center	N/A	Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf
<b>Head Usher:</b>	Diaconate	Diaconate	Diaconate	Diaconate	Diaconate

## Church Financial Envelope

For privacy and ease, please make a notation on the front of your envelope: **c/o Financial Secretary**. Thank you!



## Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call **Karen Stanton at (507) 327-8168** or **Joyce Johnson at 524-3727**. Please let them know your prayer request, including the name of the person to pray for if applicable, and whether or not you would like your request included in the church's public prayer list or if you'd prefer the request be kept privately within the prayer chain.

## Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

**Sunday, December 6th, 2015** we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission.

## The Maple River Youth Center

**Sunday, December 20th, 2015** the Coffee Hour and Collection jar will go towards helping support our local youth at the youth center.

## How to Contact Pastor Ashley

Pastor Ashley's cell phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is [pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org).

Her usual weekly schedule includes these times and places. *Monday* Sabbath. *Tuesday* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Pastors' Preaching Text Study Group in Mankato, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Maple River Youth Center. *Wednesday* noon--1:00 p.m. Maggie J's Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours may change occasionally and will be announced here), 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-noon church office, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study. *Friday* Sermon writing. At other times, she may be making pastoral visits or be serving elsewhere in the community. Please feel free to contact her for a visit or meeting!

## Sign-Up for Lay Readers and Ushers

**Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the main office.** Thank you in advance for your service.

If you would like more information, please contact Marian Mallory or any member of the Diaconate.

Pastor's Corner – December 2015

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

*Psalm 51:10-12 (NRSV)*

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “visit.” In this season, we wait for the Advent of the Messiah (or Christ, who is Jesus, the blessed Son of God) on earth. Advent not only looks back in time to Christ’s birth, but also looks forward to the second coming of Christ.

The Advent wreath marks these four Sundays of Advent and points us to the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love throughout the narrative of Jesus’ birth. Three of the four candles are purple, to match the sacred season of Advent with its themes of both reflective waiting and hopefulness. The third candle is rose colored to signify a day of joyful anticipation in the nearness of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent begins the liturgical year; the church’s worship calendar that guides us through the seasons of Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection, a calendar that also guides us as we study Scripture in worship. It’s only appropriate that Advent begins the liturgical year – the year begins as we look ahead to the beginning of the life of Jesus Christ. (*Liturgy* or *liturgical* simply means “the work of the people,” which is a beautiful way to think about the true meaning of worship!)

Since Advent is the “Christian New Year,” it’s only appropriate to think about refocusing and rededicating our lives to Jesus Christ as we prepare to welcome him into the world on Christmas. *Partners in Prayer* is an Advent devotional written by members of The Young Clergy Women Project (of which I am a part). Each Sunday of Advent at The United Church, all are welcome to come to the Overflow Room immediately after worship to join in a time of devotions using this resource (with bars and coffee, of course).

Rev. Sarah Gladstone (Pastor, Hampshire Colony Congregational Church, Princeton, Illinois) writes in *Partners in Prayer* about this time of preparation and “turning the page” of our calendars into the new liturgical year. She says:

“This is the time of year I think about fresh starts and clean slates. Perhaps it has something to do with all the memories that come rushing back during this season of family gatherings, office parties, and Christmas cards. I think about how I should reconnect with this family member or that. I wonder about mistakes I’ve made once upon a time or, sometimes, yesterday. I mull over those broken places and missing pieces.

David and I are kindred spirits this time of year. In Psalm 51, we hear David praying for a new beginning, a fresh start. He prays for God to forgive his sins of yesterday, which are many. Thankfully for David, and for us, we pray to a God of steadfast love and abundant mercy. During this season of preparation, let us open our hearts to God’s cleansing work, for it is through our Lord’s love that we receive wholeness and new beginnings.”

Amen!

Blessings,  
Pastor Ashley

## In Our Prayers

### Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Kathy Cramer, David Keller, Dawn Dietz, Stan Solie, Lloyd Mitchell, Jack Madsen, Jaine Firstbrook, Aubrielle Howley, Mary Beth Fritz, Marian Mallory, Alberta Samuelson
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All those who are grieving and mourning
- Those affected by mental illness, including anxiety and depression
- Former President Jimmy Carter, a lifelong Baptist, who announced that he has cancer in his brain and is undergoing treatment
- Gabe Samuelson, who is in Advance Individual Training for computers and communications for the Army Reserves in Augusta, Georgia through March
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- Marian Mallory, who was recently diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer and is undergoing treatment
- Jack Madsen, who recently had knee surgery and is in recovery and rehabilitation in Mankato
- Sue Prenzlow, who is recovering from toe surgery
- Eli, husband of Mary Dietz (sister of Dawn and Dick Dietz), who had a stroke on Saturday and was airlifted to Rochester
- All those affected by Hurricane Patricia, which made landfall on the southwest coast of Mexico on October 23rd as the strongest storm ever measured at sea
- All those affected by the Russian plane that crashed in Egypt on Saturday, killing all 224 people on board
- The people of Paris, France, after a terror attack on Friday evening that claimed the lives of 129 people and left 433 injured including 80 in critical condition as of November 17th
- The people of Beirut, Lebanon, after a bombing there on Thursday that claimed the lives of 43 people and left 239 injured
- The people of Baghdad, Iraq, after a bombing there at a funeral on Friday that claimed the lives of 18 people and left 41 wounded
- The people of Bamako, Mali, after militants took 170 hostages at the Radisson Blu Hotel on November 20th, claiming the lives of twenty people.
- The people of Tunisia, after an explosion on a military bus killing at least twelve people on November 24th.



### The prayer requests and praises shared with the congregation during last month's worship services include:

#### Thanksgiving:

- For family from away, renewing times past and love, and prayers for their safe journey home
- That Dad's (Jack Madsen's) recent surgery went well and he is on the mend at assisted living facility in Mankato
- To God for Norma's presence with us in worship
- To God for continued time with my mother, Norma, and the support of this church. We feel very blessed.
- For The United Church of Mapleton and everyone who serves and makes the church run
- To our Lord for his healing powers as we welcome Jack back into our fellowship
- To God that Bruce survived his fall two years ago and has recovered!

#### Prayers:

- For Alberta Samuelson's continued recovery
- For guidance and strength for parents of children with special needs
- In remembrance of Louie Fritz
- For my 94 year old aunt, Jeanne Martinson, whose husband of 75 years, Oke, passed away last week
- For extra strength and guidance for my family
- For God to bless the little children and bring them to learn about Jesus
- For families without a church home, that they may find one
- To give comfort to all who were harmed, mentally and physically in the events in Paris last week. Help us to remember all are children of God and to ask for God's guidance as we continue our lives in God's service.

During the prayer time, Norma shared, "It is wonderful to be HOME. I've looked forward to this day. May God bless."

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church are extended to the family of Madison and Mariah McConville, who passed away on October 16th, 2015. The twin baby girls are great-granddaughters of Jack Madsen.

### Sunday Morning Wheelchair Assistance

If you are in need of wheelchair assistance on Sunday mornings, please let us know by calling the church office at (507) 524-3141 ahead of time to make arrangements **or** you may have an usher assist you on Sunday morning when you arrive at the church.

There is a ramp located on the east side of the church which can be utilized by parking in the east parking lot. If it is too difficult for you to push a wheelchair up the ramp, please feel free to contact an Usher or Deacon for assistance.

### Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations committee (PRC) exists to foster healthy and clear communication between pastor and congregation. PRC meetings are a regular and confidential means of support and accountability for the pastor.

PRC members keep their ear to the ground in the congregation to help keep the pastor in-the-know about possible issues or concerns, and they can bring constructive and addressable concerns to the pastor from the congregation.

**Our PRC members are Laura Fritz, Warren Allevan, and Joyce Johnson.**

### Pastoral Care Connections

If you or a family member is ill, in the hospital, is homebound, would like a pastoral care visit for any reason, or would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, **please let the church know!**

Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office to let us know so that we may serve you.

Pastor Ashley's phone number is: (507) 381-8199 and the church phone number is: (507) 524-3141. Thank you!

### Quilters Group

Anyone is welcome to join the Quilting Group. We meet on Tuesdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m., ending each work day with coffee and fellowship.

If you wish not to sew, no problem, we also need people to tie quilts. If you would like to learn how to sew quilts, we will help you learn this creative craft.

### Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Loaves & Fishes hours are Tuesdays from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00-Noon. The food shelf is always in need of volunteers to work. Please contact your church food shelf board member to volunteer!

### Maple River Youth Center

A mission jar will be in the back of the Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month for this local mission.

### Senior Dining/Meals on Wheels of Mapleton

You are invited to dine at the Town & Country Leisure Center! Nutritious and delicious **Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m.** The cost of a meal is \$4.00, as a suggested donation for those 60+. Low-salt and diabetic meals are available. Stay afterwards to play cards or games and to enjoy the company of others.

Meals on Wheels is also available for those who wish to eat at home. Call Darlene at (507) 524-4868 for more information or to reserve your meal.

Meals are being furnished by Maple River School, Mapleton. You may also look for us on Facebook.

### Free Community Breakfast

On the second Saturday of each month, everyone in the community is invited to a free breakfast held at St. John Lutheran Church. See you **Saturday, December 12th** from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

### Christmas Eve Music Practice

**Sunday, December 13th at 10:15 a.m.**, we will hold a practice with guitars/instruments/voices for all those interested in singing or playing an instrument at Christmas Eve Service.

If anyone has an instrument they would like to play for Christmas Eve, please contact Sheila at 524-3141 **by December 6th** so we may prepare ahead of the Sunday, December 13th practice.



### United Church Christmas Pageant for All Ages

During worship on Sunday, December 13th, all are welcome to participate in the United Church Christmas Pageant this year—young and young at heart alike! This year, the Board of Christian Education will be presenting the “No Fuss, No Muss Christmas Pageant.” Costumes of all sizes will be available and there are no lines to learn. Participants will be invited to join the tableau in character groups as the Christmas story is proclaimed and favorite carols are sung by all.

During worship on November 29th and December 6th, children 5th grade and younger are invited to their Sunday School classroom after the Message for God’s Children to learn the Christmas story and the first verse of “Joy to the World.”

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Board of Christian Education (Liz Bair, Louise Webb, Linda Whitney, Marissa Pfeffer, Jeff Whitaker) or our new Christian Education Coordinator, Pam Foster. Thank you!

### Advent Reflections Worship Service

The community is invited to join in a service of readings, reflections, and music to welcome the deeper meaning of this Advent season. Come, light a candle to hold in love a memory, or a hope for the future. This service will be held at 1st Congregational United Church of Christ, 150 Stadium Court, Mankato, MN on **Sunday, December 6th, 4:00 p.m.**

Worship leaders for this worship service will include: Rev. Ashley Whitaker, Mapleton UCC; Rev. Michelle Hargrave, Centenary Methodist; Rev. Cherie Daniel, St. Paul’s/Peace UCC; Rev. Dana Mann, 1st Congregational UCC; Rev. Ava Adams-Morris; and Prof. Blake Couey.

### Thursday Bible Study Group

The final Bible Study session will be held Thursday, December 10th, 2:00 p.m.

### Annual Reports

**Please submit all board, committee and group annual reports into the church office by, and no later than Friday, January 8th, 2016. Thank you so much for your consideration!**

### GIFT Update—Generations In Faith Together

GIFT will not be meeting on Wednesday, December 2nd. Instead, everyone is invited to help promote Parents Night Out (PNO) at Snowflake Dazzle and serve as a living nativity! We will have a float in the parade route displaying our living nativity and also advertising PNO, and we’ll have two people in cow costumes handing out fliers for PNO along the parade route. If you would like to participate in the Living Nativity and parade, **meet at The United Church at 5:45 p.m. to get in costume** and head to the Christmas Tree (located by the Fire Station) by 6:00 p.m.! At 6:45 p.m., we will head up to the old Casey’s to get ready for the parade. The parade ends at the Christmas Tree, which will be lit in a ceremony when the parade ends with our Living Nativity scene next to it. **Please dress warmly!** We need some hay bales to help set the scene on our parade float—if you have we could borrow, please let the church office know. **All are welcome to help promote The United Church and PNO at Snowflake Dazzle!**

GIFT will meet on its regular 3rd Wednesday date on December 16th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The Christian Education Committee (Liz Bair, Louise Webb, Linda Whitney, Marissa Pfeffer, Jeff Whitaker, and our new Christian Education Coordinator, Pam Foster) is seeking your feedback about GIFT and the Church School model we have been trying this fall at The United Church. The Board of Christian Education will be meeting on Wednesday, December 9th to discuss our Christian Education plans for 2016, so please share your feedback with a board member before then. Thank you!



### 100th Birthday Celebration!

Please join our family to celebrate the **100th birthday for Sylvia Moore** on Sunday, January 3, 2016, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Mapleton T&C Leisure Center, 304 2nd Ave. NE, Mapleton, MN. Your presence is your gift. **Please R.S.V.P. to 507-340-4023.**

### Holiday Boxes!

It's that time of year and in the holiday spirit, Maple River Loaves & Fishes will again be handing out Christmas boxes. In these boxes are a complete meal, including a turkey or ham and all the trimmings plus dessert.

We will be packing the boxes on **December 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at St. Teresa's** and handing them out on December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at St. Teresa's in Mapleton. We can always use volunteers to help!

The cost for the boxes is \$40/box and we anticipate handing out over 130 this year. Please consider sponsoring a box (or several) this holiday season.

Remember, for every dollar you donate, we are able to buy \$10.00 worth of food. Our mailing address is PO Box 227, Mapleton, MN 56065.

Thank you for your generous support for our food shelf, both financially and with prayer. God Bless!

### Deacons Report

The Diaconate met November 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Members present were Pastor Ashley, Marian Mallory, Chad Kunkel, Carolyn Becker, and Pat Carter. Dick Dietz joined the meeting to present information on the proposed new church structure and help explain the process.

Minutes were approved from the October meeting. Pastor Ashley informed us that she has requested off February 28, 2016 and pulpit supply is needed for that date. An organist will be needed for the month of January. Kathy Byram will provide this service for the Christmas Eve Service. The Diaconate will usher during the month of December and there is a need for lay leaders during this time. Marian will complete the list of job duties for the ushers to be kept with the attendance book. The Community Thanksgiving service will be November 25th at St. Johns. Marian will represent the church at this service.

*Continued*

We discussed having Bibles placed in the pews during church services for the congregation. This will be discussed more in the future. Currently, Bibles will be placed on tables at the back of the Sanctuary if anyone would like to have one to use during the service. The Christ Candle is now in place on the altar and is being lit when Pastor Ashley and the lay leader for the service come forward. Prayer concerns were discussed.

Dick Dietz led a discussion on the proposed new church structure and how our new committees will provide services.

Our next meeting will be December 9, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted by Pat Carter

### Women's Fellowship

November 9, 2015

Before our meeting began, Dick Dietz joined with us to explain the way the new constitution amendments would affect us. The Women's Fellowship will be under the Community Outreach Committee.

The meeting was then called to order by President Louise Webb. There were 10 members present.

**Devotions:** Given by Darlene

**Secretary Report:** Given and accepted as read.

**Sunshine Committee:** Sunshine Chairperson, Mabelle sent out two birthday cards and three get well cards.

**Business:** On a Sunday before Christmas, there will be a Silent Auction for a Christmas quilt.

We have ordered poinsettia plants for our homebound members and have decided on other gifts to give.

On Saturday, December 12th the United Church will be hosting Parents Night Out. On Sunday, December 13th Circle 3 is in charge of hosting Coffee Hour, and Monday, December 14th will be our next meeting date. Lunch for our December meeting will be Christmas cookies. Everyone is encouraged to bring cookies for this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Darlene Fezler, Secretary

### **Board of Christian Education Report**

The Board of Christian Education met on Wednesday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m. Linda Whitney, Marissa Pfeffer, Ashley Whitaker, Pam Foster and Liz Bair were in attendance. Pam Foster was welcomed to the meeting. She will be taking on the Christian Education Coordinator position after the annual meeting in January. The GIFT program was discussed. There have been approximately 12 to 15 in attendance each week. There have been three youth attending on a consistent basis and two children. Previously the board committed to having GIFT through December and then re-evaluating. The board feels that GIFT is a good program and would like to continue through May. Bringing back Sunday School for those in grades PreK-2nd was a topic of discussion. We are going to try to get feedback from the families with children before the next meeting and make a decision at that time. GIFT will not be held the first week in December due to the United Church participating in Snowflake Dazzle.

The board decided to proceed with the “No Fuss, No Muss” Christmas Program. This program will allow any age that is interested to participate. No practice is needed, and those interested in participating will pick up their costume of choice the morning of. Ashley will be asking the youth in confirmation to narrate. The program will take place on December 13th during worship. PreK-5th grade will be invited to Sunday School on November 29th and December 6th, at which time they will be going over the Christmas Story and practicing the first verse of “Joy to the World.”

The Board of Christian Education will host coffee hour on November 22nd. Our next meeting date will be December 9th at 6:00 p.m. If you have any feedback on GIFT, or a Sunday School program please share it with a board member before December 9th.

Respectfully Submitted by Liz Bair, Chair

### **Mission Committee Report**

Our last mission project was Treats for Troops. A big thank you to all who brought in treats and to those who helped pack the boxes on November 14th at St. John Lutheran Church. We packed 28 boxes which were sent to local men and women serving in the military or to those who are relatives of local people.

The next mission that we will be receiving offerings for will be the Christmas Fund (UCC) and Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (ABC). In these missions we send thank you gifts of money to our retired ministers and to our missionaries. This is a wonderful mission. It is a way of letting these people know how much we appreciate all they have done and are doing. Please give generously. This mission offering will begin November 30th. This is a way we can make a difference in our world!

Respectfully Submitted by Robert Ward

## Board of Trustees Report

November 18, 2015

Board Members Present: Dick Dietz, Ron Conrad, Gary Fritz, Lisa Shubert, Patrick Pfeffer, Dave Byram, Sean Mallory

Treasurer: Keith McCutchen

**Meeting called to order by Dick Dietz at 7:08 pm.**

**Secretary's minutes** from October meeting reviewed.

*Motion to approve the minutes made by Dave Byram, seconded by Patrick Pfeffer. **Motion passed.***

**Treasurer's report** was reviewed.

Bills to be paid were presented.

*Motion to approve the Treasurer's report and the bills to be paid was made by Dave Byram and seconded by Sean Mallory. **Motion passed.***

**Alter Lighting project**

Since the project cannot be completed by Christmas and we still only have one bid, it was tabled until the next meeting.

**Parsonage Bathroom**

We received one bid for fixing the shower in the main parsonage bathroom as well as repairing the wall and ceiling of the family room. The bid was for \$3,060 and would be completed before Christmas as long as there are no unforeseen circumstances once the current shower has been removed.

*Motion to approve the bid from Ron Schultz was made by Lisa Shubert and seconded by Patrick Pfeffer. **Motion passed.***

**Parsonage Furnace and Water Heater Replacement**

The water heater in the parsonage has not been heating the water very well. The unit is approximately 20 years old. The furnace is also very old and would make sense to replace both units at the same time. An estimate was received from Schwickerts to replace the furnace and the hot water heater with higher efficiency models and a water heater that is an on-demand unit.

*Motion to approve replacing the furnace and water heater in the parsonage with more energy-efficient units not to exceed an amount of \$7,500 was made by Lisa Shubert and seconded by Patrick Pfeffer. **Motion passed.***

**Organist replacement**

Ads have been placed. We need a plan in place for January 1, if we do not have someone hired by then as both Jola Walker and Kathy Byram will be out of town.

**Pastor's Contract**

The board reviewed the current pastor's contract/benefits package and a proposed one for the 2016 year. There was significant discussion related to the contract with the following being major points of discussion:

- 1) Should we make the contract a two year contract rather than having to re-negotiate it annually
- 2) Should the contract contain some element of incentive for additional benefits/compensation
- 3) For a church of our size, location, annual budget, and experience of the pastor are we offering a fair compensation package.

The topic was tabled for further discussion.

**Money Counters for remainder of November** - Dick Dietz.

**Meeting on new church structure/organization** – Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

**Next meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00 pm.

**Meeting Adjourned** – motion made by Lisa Shubert at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Shubert, Secretary