

Pastor's Thoughts

Well, here we are, almost finished with January. It just seems like we said Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I guess they are right when they say each year you get older, the time passes quicker.

Since our last newsletter a lot has happened around Zion. If you recall, we were entered into three Christmas parades and I must say we look mighty fine! In the Albion parade our entry received 2nd place and a \$75 gift. We also put on our first "Live Nativity". I would like to thank all that assisted in this year's effort. I must say that even though it turned out to be the coldest day of the year, we saw 350 people attend. In 2009 we will be doing another "live nativity".

Then on New Year's eve we held a party and I mean a party. We welcomed over 100 persons to the movie "Fireproof". During the showing there were some in the fellowship hall playing games. In an estimate we are saying 130 person were in attendance. After the movie all received communion.

For me, the highlight of the evening was there were three couples that renewed their efforts to save their marriages. Also there were three persons who asked Jesus into their heart.

Since New Years I have been preaching on the film, "Fireproof". Thus far, our average attendance is up by 20 person. We have seen others make recommitments to their marriages and to their Lord. All in all, we are seeing one of the best years in ministry thus far!

Now turning to our Cluster Ministry, "Threads of Hope". As many of you know January is our month to run this exciting ministry. Just like in our church ministry, we saw God move in mighty ways. Just last week we opened the ministry with my testimony prior to opening the center to shop. There were approx. 15 persons listening and when I asked if any wanted to receive Christ, four did. Wow! I don't think my feet hit the floor the rest of the day. This is where I want to share my thoughts this month.

Many of us feel good about the ministry we do to people, however, few of us do ministry FOR the people. Listen to what I mean. For example, Threads is a great ministry which helps to give clothes **TO THE PEOPLE**. But I wanted to give them more than a shirt, pants, socks, shoes, etc. I wanted to give them the gift that **KEEPS ON GIVING**. That gift is "Salvation". Jesus died on the cross and arose **FOR THEM**. So should we. We should die to our fear of approaching someone, or group, and share our love for what God has done for us. Also we should offer them an opportunity to receive what Christ did **FOR THEM**. Let me encourage you to do more sharing this year. Don't wait for others to do it, God wants you!



Now some news. I have started a new Church Online Community at The site address is www.mychurch.org/wszumc. On this site you may join as my friend, then click on the church picture and join Zion United Methodist Church as well. Once you have joined the church page you may click on the **media button** and find that I have put my most recent **sermons in audio** on there. I have also put **PDF files of my sermons** on this page. Check it out, spread the news, and lets get sharing Jesus with our friends.

If you would like to see our monthly calendar go to www.qbgm-umc.org/wszumc and then click on the calendar button. I hope you find these way of staying connected helpful.

In the Master's arms,
Pastor Mike

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up. 1 Thessalonians 5

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MINUTES

THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MET DECEMBER 14, 2008 AT THE CHURCH. CLARA MARKMAN OPENED THE MEETING WITH PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS. THE SECRETARY'S REPORT WAS READ AND TREASURERS' REPORTS GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL	\$ 1,052.35
MEMORIAL	3,727.39
TRUSTEES	2,922.28
SUNDAY SCHOOL	508.33
MISSIONS	NO REPORT

JEAN MADE MOTION, SECOND BY KAREN, TO APPROVE ALL REPORTS. MOTION PASSED.

PASTOR MIKE REPORTED WE HAD AVERAGE OF 120 PER NIGHT FOR OUR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SERVICES AND THE OFFERING FOR VALOR III WAS \$1200.00.

OUR CHURCH WON SECOND PLACE IN THE ALBION CHRISTMAS PARADE - WE RECEIVED A PRIZE OF \$75.00.

NEW YEAR'S EVE THE MOVIE "FIREPROOF" WILL BE SHOWN AT 7:00 P.M. COMMUNION WILL ALSO BE SERVED PLUS GAMES AND REFRESHMENTS.

OUR CHURCH WILL WORK AT "THREADS OF HOPE" THE FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAYS OF JANUARY.

JEAN BOWEN PRESENTED THE NEW ALTAR CLOTHS. THEY ARE REALLY PRETTY. WE THANK JEAN FOR HAVING THESE DONE FOR US.

PASTOR MIKE WILL HAVE DEVOTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH. WITH NO MORE BUSINESS, MARY MADE MOTION, SECOND BY SHIRLEY, TO ADJOURN. GENE GAVE THE CLOSING PRAYER. THOSE ATTENDING WERE CLARA MARKMAN, SHIRLEY HEDGE, CHARLES & MARY LYNCH, JEAN BOWEN, BETTY PAINTER, KAREN HUNT, LESLIE LUTHE, MORRIS HOLMES, PASTOR MIKE & BETH, JAMIE MEWES, GENE SEALS AND JOYCE MILLER.

JANUARY ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING

The Administrative Board met January 11, 2009 at the church. Gene Seals opened the meeting with prayer and devotions in the absence of Pastor Mike. The secretary read her report and the treasurers' reports were given as follows:

General	\$ 3,078.82
Memorial	4,120.37
Trustees	3,443.59
Sunday School	874.91
Missions	8,623.14

Shirley made motion, second by Jean, to approve all reports; motion passed.

For old business it was reported the altar cloths had been paid for out of the memorial fund.

For new business: The trustees are meeting Monday night, January 12, for a walk through of the church to see what needs to be taken care of.

There was around 350 visitors (including workers) that visited the live nativity scene. On New Year's 100+ viewed the movie "Fireproof". The movie was showed again the following Sunday evening with 40+ viewing it.

The Methodist Men are already seeing ways to build the nativity during this year as a project so it will be ready for Christmas. Pastor Mike has devotions next month. Gene gave closing prayer. Those in attendance were Karen Hunt, Jean Bowen, Lavada Smith, Ruth Giese, Shirley Hedge, Clara Markman, Betty Painter, Charles & Mary Lynch, Judy Simms, Jim Short, John Summerfield, Jamie Mewes, Pluma Litherland, Alwyn Lechner, Joyce

TRUSTEES

The Trustees met December 14 at 8:00 a.m. Those members present were Marilyn Mewes, Cody Williams, Eric Goldsmith, Matthew Lynch, John Summerfield, Larry Markman, Karen Hunt and Brian Mewes. Matthew called the meeting to order by asking John to have the opening prayer. Karen read the secretary's minutes. Marilyn gave the treasurer's report with an ending balance of \$2,922.28. John made a motion to accept reports as read, second by Eric, motion passed.

It was decided to have Duane Lear check outside lights and Michael Troyer to check stools in bathrooms. We talked about the water bill as it had been a lot higher last month and Eric mentioned that some months are estimated and this is what happens when they have to play catch up on the bill. It was mentioned that there is a small step outside the west door of the fellowship hall that needs to be smoothed out with a small ramp to keep people from falling. Dean Colyer will be notified and hopefully this will be taken care of in the spring. John made the motion to ask Dean and Karen seconded the motion. The carpet in the parsonage basement and leaves in the guttering were also mentioned but wasn't acted on.

We will have to elect a new treasurer in January as Marilyn will be going off the board. We thank her for being treasurer this past year. She done an excellent job.

We have a special meeting schedule December 15 to meet with Michael Troyer about the heating and cooling system.

Brian made the motion to adjourn.

Special meeting on Monday, December 15 with Michael Troyer.

Those in attendance were Larry Markman, Cody Williams, Matthew Lynch, Marilyn Mewes, Karen Hunt, Marge Crabtree and Judy Mason.

Michael went over some of the problems of our present heating system. It comes down to the fact that the boilers that take care of half of our space are struggling and inefficient. Parts are obsolete and no longer made. Michael suggested that we replace that half of our heating system and let the other half go until such time we feel it has to be replaced to perform consistently. He suggested a forced air system at a cost of approximately \$22,600. This would have a lifetime guarantee on the heat exchanger with 5 year warranty on all parts and include new A coils on the air conditioner.

Michael also presented a picture of a water cooler that was up to code. It would be wall mounted and fit in the space where our present cooler sits. Consists of a double fountain at a cost of \$810.

Hopefully, both of these items will be acted on at our next regular meeting. We thank Michael for taking the time to come to this meeting.

Karen Hunt, Secretary

TRUSTEES MEET JANUARY 11

Those on the board attending the January 11, 2009 meeting were Cody Williams, Kent Fields, Matthew Lynch, John Summerfield, Judy Mason, Karen Hunt and our outgoing treasurer, Marilyn Mewes. Matthew asked John to open the meeting with prayer. Marilyn gave the treasurer's report with an opening December 1 balance of \$2,922.28 and an ending December 31, 2008 balance of \$3,443.59. Karen gave the secretary's report. Motion to approve reports made by John, second by Cody. Motion passed.

Old business: We discussed the purchase of a double water fountain that would be handicapped accessible and be up to code. Karen made the motion, second by John to purchase it and have Michael Troyer install it.

New business: As Marilyn's term on the trustees was up, we needed to elect a new treasurer. Karen nominated John, and Kent seconded. John accepted the position for his remaining time on the board which is two years. In other new business, we had been informed that the toilet for the main bathroom at the parsonage needed replaced. It was voted to let Mike and Beth purchased whatever they choose and Michael Troyer would install it as soon as possible.

Karen brought up the need to take a walk through of the church to check on work that needs to be done and get the new members of the trustees aware of the building and where items are located. It was decided to do this on Monday, January 12 at 6:30. After the walk through, members will bring their ideas back to the board for next month's meeting.

Karen made motion to adjourn, second by Cody.

Secretary, Karen Hunt

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met Tuesday evening at the church on January 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. with the following members responding to roll call: Patsy Witte, Billie Tyler, Pam Schwarzlose, Ann Scott, Ann Smith, Lavada Smith, Alwyn Lechner, Shirley Hedge, Ruth Giese, Arlie Gill and Marge Crabtree.

Our president, Shirley, welcomed each one and then led us in saying our U.M.W. Purpose. Our prayer concerns were then reviewed and Lavada had our opening prayer. There were no minutes to report due to having the Christmas party in December. Treasurer reported a balance of \$766.71. We then collected our offering, pennies and mission treats. Arlie made a motion, second by Lavada, the treasurer's report be accepted. Motion carried. The Cunningham District Project was discussed and Ann Smith made a motion, second by Lavada, our unit send \$93.00 toward the Chapel District Fund. Motion carried.

Announcements included our unit has been asked to host the Kaskaskia River District Executive meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Those volunteering to make preparations were Marge Crabtree, Ann Scott, Ruth Giese and Shirley Hedge. Also plans were discussed for our unit to host a birthday party at the Albion nursing home on Tuesday, April 14, at 2:00 p.m. Billie and Shirley agreed to make plans for the day. We then filled out our program sheet for the year. Shirley then read a letter on the action the ACLU was taking against Judge Roy Moore for displaying the Ten Commandments in his office. Alwyn then shared a thank you note from Cunningham Children's Home for the Christmas gift cards amounting to \$60.00 from our unit. She also shared an article from the prayer calendar on the work that Isabelle, age 16, is serving at the West Side Urban Mission in Syracuse. The Mission cooperates with several churches, schools and community organizations working with residents to improve their quality of life in that area.

We then enjoyed delicious refreshments prepared by Patsy Witte. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m. with Arlie giving the lesson and Billie the devotions with Lavada preparing the refreshments. With no further business, Shirley closed our meeting with prayer.

Ruth Giese, secretary

FEBRUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Morning Worship 4:00 PM 180 Youth 5:00 PM Little Women 5:00 PM W.S. Manor Service - Builders Class 6:00 PM Evening Worship	2 Gary Ellis (B) Jane Hedrick (B) Jerry Hedrick (B)	3 Phil & Mary Ann Scranton (A) 9:00 AM Morning Bible Study	4 Darrell & Sharon Troyer (A) Herb & Linda Reckling (A) 7:00 PM Conversations with God's Word	5 7:00 PM Bible Study at the home of Gene & Sue Ellen Seals	6 Jonathan Mason Stephen Keener (B)	7 Leota Boewe (B) 7:30 AM United Methodist Men meet at R & J's cafe
8 Logan Miller (B) 8:00 AM Trustees meeting 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Morning Worship 4:00 PM Reaching Higher 5:00 PM Administrative Board meeting 6:00 PM Evening Worship	9	10 9:00 AM Morning Bible Study 6:30 PM United Methodist Women	11 Dustin Leek (B) 7:00 PM Conversations with God's Word	12 Derra Williams (B) 7:00 PM Bible Study at the home of Gene & Sue Ellen Seals	13 Anya Mays	14 Jerry Mewes (B)
15 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Morning Worship 4:00 PM 180 Youth 4:00 PM Reaching Higher 6:00 PM Evening Worship	16	17 9:00 AM Morning Bible Study	18 7:00 PM Conversations with God's Word	19 Karen Sanders (B) 7:00 PM Bible Study at the home of Gene & Sue Ellen Seals	20 Jacey Schwarzlose (B) 2:00 PM SHARE food sign up and distribution	21 Jayla Schwarzlose (B)
22 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Morning Worship 4:00 PM Reaching Higher 6:00 PM Evening Worship	23 Lucille Schnitz (B)	24 Ann Smith (B) 9:00 AM Morning Bible Study	25 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	26 Brian & Melanie Wiseman (A) 7:00 PM Bible Study at the home of Gene & Sue Ellen Seals	27 Kenneth & June Mewes (A)	28 Amanda Arvin (B) Jennifer Goldsmith (B)
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