



# January 2012

## The Peace Visitor

Dear Friends,

**Happy New Year!** When I was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade the church held a New Year's Eve party for families. I had been allowed to stay up for the New Year before so I wasn't sure I wanted to go to church and give up that fun. But Dad insisted.

There were soups for supper. There were lots of board games. There was a gymnasium so there was basketball and volley ball. As 11:00 PM approached the adults went to the sanctuary and we kids went to watch a movie on a portable screen. It was a movie about the Second Coming. This was 1960 – 1961. 1961 was the first 'upside down year' since 1881 and according to the film it was going to be horrific. The film started with the mushroom cloud of an H-bomb and ended with images of people screaming in hell's fire. The leaders then invited all of us to kneel down and ask Jesus to forgive us and to come into our hearts. Everyone did!!!

But 1961 came and went and Jesus didn't show up. I was relieved but puzzled. The Youth Group leaders I had trusted said Jesus was coming. But he didn't. I didn't think it through, but after that I was less attentive when people started talking about the Second Coming and the End of the World.

So this year the Mayan Calendar ends on 12/21/12. That frightens many people. Some are claiming Nostradamus and Edgar Cayce have predicted catastrophe for this year. Some folks are stitching Bible verses together to see if this year is THE year.

Well, if God chooses this to be THE year, so be it. But I place my trust in the Lord and not in someone's interpretation of someone else's so called predictions. I choose to live my life following Jesus not walking in fear. I aim to be a servant of Christ and not a slave to whatever the current buzz happens to be.

So let this truly be a **Happy New Year!** May your days be blessed and bright. May your friends be faithful, honest, and funny. And may all whom you love be healthy and content.

Shalom,  
Pastor Hal

**Peace United Church of Christ**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**

December 15, 2011

Present: Pastor Hal Spann, Karen Johnson, Mark Hoff, Shirley Hoff, Val Broste, Jay Yunek, Chet Johnson

Opening prayer led by Pastor Hal.

Secretary's Report: November meeting minutes approved as printed in the December Visitor.

Financial Secretary's Report: Reviewed the November report. Member donations are a little behind where we typically are at for November. The Capital Campaign pledges received in November were less than in previous months.

Treasurer's Report: We are still solvent but the general fund balance is down considerably from last year at this time.

Pastor's Report: Since we met in November we have worshipped four times and had communion on December 4.

On November 27, after coffee time, a group helped decorate the sanctuary. Thanks to everyone.

The new minister from First Presbyterian Church stopped by to introduce himself. His name is Darin Seaman. Is interested in Community Good Friday Services but was not excited about having an Ecumenical Thanksgiving service.

Led the Sunday morning Adult Group on four Sundays as we plow through First Corinthians.

Met with the Pastor-Parish Committee on December 1.

Met with Christian Education Committee on December 8 and went over the plans for Lessons and Carols this Sunday and the Pot Luck meal following.

Met with the Trustees prior to this meeting. Reported on the Stewardship Campaign. Last year at this time we had received 57 responses and pledges for \$122,237.00. This year we have received 54 responses for pledges of \$104,314.00.

Visited Delores Olson, Ron Vierkant, Greg Sorenson, Rose Gronau, Lil Fors, Janette Weis and Bernice Hofstater.

Deacons: Met after church on 12/4/2011. Arrangements were made to cover communion on Christmas Eve. We decided to move January's communion service to the second Sunday (1/8/2012) because of New Year's falling on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1/11/2012

Trustees: Met on 12/15. We are working on a draft of the budget, but due to the lower pledges this year, have not been able to arrive at a balanced budget. The office copier needs to be replaced. We are looking into purchasing a used copier.

Time, Talents and Treasure: No meeting. Committee members have been working to fill committee nominations. We have also sent a reminder letter to those who have not yet completed their pledge cards.

Christian Ed: Met 12/8/2011 to finalize plans for "Lessons & Carols" Christmas program on Sunday 12/18. Forbregds will lead our Children of God in a song and reading presentation during the program. Arrangements were completed for potluck after the 12/18 service. We discussed goal of putting on full Christmas Pageant next year with costumes and children participating in readings.

Attendance has been very good in Children of God with 8-10 showing up on a regular basis. Approximately 6 have been attending Sunday School for the older kids led by Jim Thares. There will be no Children of God or Sunday School classes before services on Christmas and New Year's Day.

We are looking for just 1 more helpful soul to fill out our committee. We meet for about ½ hour the second week of the month at 7 p.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday 1/12/2012.

Special Events: No meeting.

Pastor Parish: Met on 12/1.

Mission Committee: No meeting. Angel Tag gifts will be delivered to Salvation Army.

Reach Out: No meeting. Nothing planned until spring home potlucks.

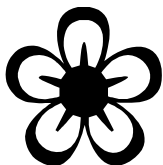
Old business: Reminder to all committees – Please have your year end reports to Ann by no later than **Jan 8<sup>th</sup>**.

New business: The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Constitution will be re-written to reduce committees from six members to five with the exception of deacons and trustees which will remain at six members each. Potluck will follow the meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Johnson.



The staff would like to thank the congregation for remembering us this Christmas with your generous gifts. It is such a pleasure to work at Peace UCC and be among such wonderful people. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Your staff

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**Happy  
January  
Birthday!**



Nancy Fors - 1  
Sue Towler - 1  
Charlotte Naegeli - 4  
Harriet Lehner - 5  
Orrin Davis - 8  
Rose Gronau - 14  
Alina Manea - 14  
Janette Weis - 15  
Katie Hoff - 17  
Robert Speer - 17  
Brenda Naegeli - 19  
Kathy Bratland - 23  
Roz Hoff - 24  
Lisa Poster - 25  
Kaleb Rosenow - 29  
Jan Gohman - 31

**Charlotte Naegeli**  
900 14th Ave S  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

**Deloris Olson**  
Legends of Heritage Pl.  
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Sartell, MN 56377

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**Rose Gronau**  
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Sartell, MN 56377

**Bernice Hofstater**  
358 3rd St. NE  
Sartell, MN 56377

**Lief Larsen**  
1790 W Mill Street  
Paynesville, MN

*Are you able to visit or send  
a note to these members  
who are homebound, or  
living in long-term care?*



*They would love  
to hear from you.*



***Joys & Concerns***

**18 Christmas Cards Sent**

*Please let the office know  
if there are mistakes on this page,  
or information that should be added.*

***Thanks!***

# **Annual Meeting and Potluck**

**January 22nd**

**Meeting 11:00 a.m.**



**Potluck Follows**



**Please bring a dish or two to share.**

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## **Peace United Church of Christ**

Pastor: Rev. Hal Spann

Office: (320) 251-6289

Church Office Hours: Tuesday -Friday 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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