



February 2011

The Peace Visitor

Dear Friends,

“Thirty days has September, April, June, and November. All the rest have thirty-one, except February which has twenty-eight, until leap year gives it twenty-nine.”

Poor February! It is afflicted with leap year. It is the shortest of the months. And it doesn't seem to rhyme very well.

Still, by the time we get to February it seems to me we are on the downhill side of winter. Oh it might be snowy, even bitterly cold before spring finally shows. But the promise of spring begins to draw nearer and the hope begins to brighten once we get to the short month!

I think that is what Paul means in Romans 8:24. “We are saved by hope.” Just like we have experienced spring before and we can read the calendar, we know that God is going to remain true to the promises. Because we have had winters before our hope for spring is not some untested, untried, unpredictable dreaming. Just so our faith in Christ is not just light and fluffy sentimentalism because we have gone through the trials and crises of our lives and through the winter times of our soul before.

Yes, we do have those winters of our soul that weigh us down and slow us down and even bring a chill to our heart. Whether it is grief, or illness, or incapacitation, or depression, or any of the infirmities of the body and spirit we know that healing takes time. But we know that we can trust God to bring springtime to our heart again. In the same way we know that the season of winter is long and hard too. But spring will come!

With Christ nothing is hopeless. We can hold on to him. That is the hope in which we are saved. Because Christ is with us the promise draws nearer and the hope brightens. Because Christ is with us we can close our eyes and open our hearts, even uttering those sighs too deep for words.

In these days of February I invite all of us to live in that hope. I invite all of us to practice the presence of Christ. I invite all of us to lift up in prayer our sisters and brothers who may be dwelling in the winter times of the soul.

Salom,
Pastor Hal

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

January 20, 2011

Present: Pastor Hal Spann, Lela Clark, Shirley Hoff, Mark Hoff, Deb Yunek, Jay Yunek, Roger Barthelemy, and Val Broste

Agenda: approved

Opening Prayer: led by Pastor Hal

Secretary's Report: approved as printed in the January Visitor

Financial Secretary's Report: Lela reviewed donations received over the past two months including continued contributions to the Renovation Fund. Memorials were received for Garnet Feldhusen. The Women's Fellowship paid the October Xcel Energy bill. Thanksgiving Eve collection was designated for Caritas Food Shelf. A refund or rebate of some kind was received from Zurich American Insurance Co. Report was approved.

Treasurer's Report: We started the year 2010 \$382 in the negative and ended the year \$5,000 in the black. See information about an upcoming capital campaign under New Business and Renewal Task Force.

Pastor's Report:

- Since we last met I led worship on December 19, for the Christmas program. December 24 for Christmas Eve and December 26. Also January 2 and January 9 and 16. We observed communion on Christmas Eve and January 2nd. 168 persons attended Christmas Eve worship.
- Thanks to everyone who helped with the Christmas program and the potluck that followed. A great celebration.
- Thanks to all who helped with the candles for Christmas Eve, putting them up and taking them down.
- Thanks to all who helped with de-decorating the church on January 4.
- On December 21 I participated in Habitat for Humanity "House Blessing" for the two homes on 8th Avenue just north of us.
- On December 28 I led worship at Talahi Care Center.
- Had a discussion with the Adult Group on January 2 and January 16.
- Attended the Ethics Committee Meeting at St. Cloud Hospital on January 5.
- Attended the Reach Out Committee Meeting at Peace UCC on January 5.
- Stayed home sick from January 6 until January 14! Went to the doctor for medicine on January 7. Thanks to Fred Grunke, Dennis Clark, and Michelle Dettmann for filling in on January 9.
- Missed Pastor Parish and Deacons meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Hal Spann

Deacons: Didn't meet. Lela will call Deacons to assist with Sunday's potluck.

Trustees: Roger Barthelemy, Linda Vierkant, Pastor Hal, Shirley Hoff, Mark Hoff and Fred Grunke met earlier this evening. They approved minutes from previous meeting and reviewed Treasurer's Report. The budget for 2011 was approved. We need to inspect for asbestos in the carpet and tile in the sanctuary and may need to install new carpet over the old. The next meeting is the third Thursday in the month.

Time, Talent and Treasure: Committee hasn't met but has worked to fill openings on various committees. Some openings remain.

Christian Education: Didn't meet.

Special Events: No one from the committee is here to report.

Pastor Parish: Didn't meet.

Renewal Task Force: This group has done two congregational surveys. The first was to collect ideas for projects that might be considered for inclusion in the upcoming capital campaign. The second was to prioritize these possible projects. The next step will be to get estimates of the costs of these various projects to present to the congregation. Once prioritized, the number of projects that get included in the capital campaign will depend upon the pledges received.

Mission Committee: No one from the committee is here to report.

Reach Out Committee: Met last Wednesday to get the last parts of the directory put together for mailing.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Pilgrim Point is looking for some work groups for this spring to complete some upgrades there. Information on this was given to Brad to share with Mission Committee.
- Plans for the annual meeting (Jan.23) were discussed. Information will be shared then about the next steps in the capital campaign plans and the work of the Renewal Task Force.
- Another congregational meeting is tentatively set for February 27th. By then it is hoped that we will have estimates on the various proposed projects. This will be the kickoff for the capital campaign.
- We would hope to have a celebration of the capital campaign around April 10th.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Val Broste

Peace United Church of Christ
2010 Annual Meeting - January 23, 2011

In attendance: 46 members; quorum requirement is met.

Call to Order: Moderator, Brad Hanson, opened the meeting.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Hal led the congregation in prayer.

Agenda: Motion made (Mark Hoff), second (Jim Thares), and passed approving agenda.

Secretary's Report: Motion made (Mark Hoff), second (Maureen Barthelemy), and passed to approve Secretary's Report as printed in the annual report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hal congratulates the congregation on its ability to work with one purpose, its unity, generosity and care. See written report in annual report.

Treasurer's Report: In brief, Peace UCC ended the year with a General Fund balance about \$6,500 higher than we began the year. Motion made (Joann Higgins), second (Lester Zika), and passed to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Approval of Budget for 2011: Trustee, Roger Barthelemy, presented an overview of the 2011 budget. He identifies that the amount pledged for 2011 is a 13% increase over the amount pledged for 2010. The 2011 budget includes a 2% increase in the pastor's salary. \$3,000 has been added to the budget for bookkeeper services. A motion was made (Mark Hoff), seconded (Roger Towler), and passed to approved the 2011 budget.

Election of Officers and Committee Members: Time Talent and Treasure Committee's nominations are printed in the annual report. Vacancies were identified. A number of volunteers stepped forward to fill some of these vacancies. Additions to the nomination roster were Mark Hoff for the Deacons, Lela Clark for Pastor Parish. Ann Grunke for Special Events, Jim Thares for Christian Education, Lela Clark, Mark Hoff and Joann Higgins for Reach Out. Bev Tallent also agreed to continue on Reach Out for one more year. A motion was made (Lela Clark), seconded (Jim Thares) and passed to allow for additional members to volunteer beyond today's meeting to allow opportunity for those not present today to step up. An additional motion was made (Lela Clark), seconded (Bob Gustafson), and passed to approve the slate of candidates as printed and amended.

Committee Reports: are printed in the annual report.

New Business: Brad Hanson spoke on the activities of the Renewal Task Force. Two surveys have been completed recently. The first of these was to gather input from the congregation about projects that they would like to see included in the 2011 Capital Campaign. The second survey was designed to prioritize the projects submitted. Going forward the Renewal Task Force will be gathering details from the congregation and then estimates of the costs of these projects. It is hoped that this can be accomplished over the next month. A February 27th congregational meeting is planned to review these projects and their costs and kick off the Capital Campaign. The number of projects tackled will depend upon the amount pledged in the Capital Campaign. It is expected that the Capital Campaign will run thru April 10th. Brad notes that we owe approximately \$121,000 on the elevator loan. Brad also notes that we may want in the future to establish a building maintenance fund for routine maintenance of the building.

A motion is made (Mark Hoff), seconded (Norma Dettmann) and passed to adjourn the meeting. Meeting is adjourned.

The meeting is closed with the Lords' Prayer.
Minutes are respectfully submitted by Val Broste

Happy February Birthday!

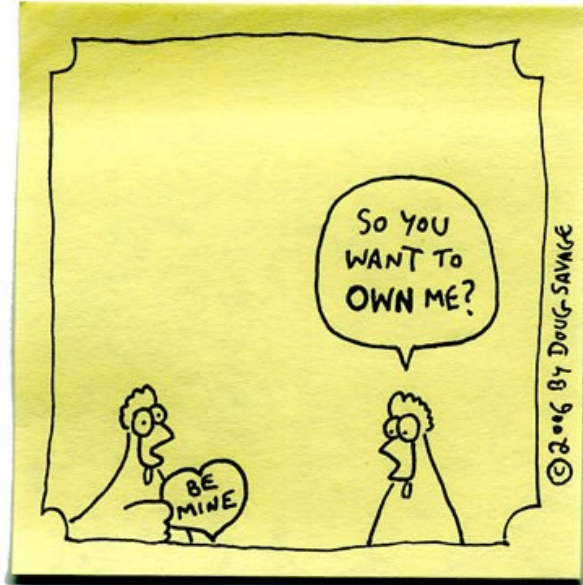


Nolan Foss – 2
Matt Seibring – 3
Henry Doeden – 5
Trevor Nieland – 5
Robyn Anhorn – 6
Marge Johnson – 6
Dixie Giloy – 7
Carol Schleicher – 9
Christine Knettel – 10
Deloris Reich – 10
Michelle Seibring – 12
Phyllis Hartwig – 13
Ned Taylor – 13
Liz Thares – 13
Von Malinen – 15
John Foss – 22
Andrew Grunke – 23

Happy Valentine's Day!

Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



If you like **Savage Chickens**
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Committees

**The office needs to know who will chair
the following committees:**

Mission, Trustees, Council & Special Events.

**Please put a note on the secretary's desk, email, or leave a phone
message with this information A.S.A.P.**

Thanks!

2011 Committees

MODERATOR: Mark Hoff 2011

VICE MODERATOR: Brad Hanson 2011

SECRETARY: Karen Johnson 2011

TREASURER: Chet Johnson 2011

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Lela Clark, Dennis Clark 2011

DEACONS:

Lela Clark 2011 & 2012

Deb Yunek 2011 & 2012

Jay Yunek 2011 & 2012

Roger Towler 2010 & 2011

Chet Johnson 2010 & 2011

Mark Hoff 2011 & 2012

TRUSTEES:

JoAnn Higgins 2011 & 2012

Nona Peterson 2011 & 2012

Fred Grunke 2010 & 2011

Linda Vierkant 2010 & 2011

Dennis Clark 2010 & 2011

PASTOR PARISH:

Megan & Andrew Pederson 2011 & 2012

Lela Clark 2011 & 2012

Bob Gustafson 2010 & 2011

Mark Hoff 2010 & 2011

Phyllis Behrens 2010 & 2011

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE:

Val Broste 2011 & 2012

Dorothy Zika 2011 & 2012

Curt Hutchens 2011 & 2012

Linda Vierkant 2010 & 2011

Liz Thares 2010 & 2011

Ann Grunke 2010 & 2011

MISSION:

Lisa Hanson 2011 & 2012

James Thares 2011 & 2012

Cameron Werdlow 2010 & 2011

Melanie Thares 2010 & 2011

Joshua Hanson 2010 & 2011

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Ann Grunke 2011 & 2012

Pam Hartung 2011 & 2012

Roger Towler 2010 & 2011

Fred Grunke 2010 & 2011

Steph & Jan Bluhm 2010 & 2011

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Lisa Poster /Steve Poster 2011 & 2012

Wendy & Darryl Forbregd 2011 & 2012

Jay Yunek 2010 & 2011

Jolene Foss 2010 & 2011

REACH OUT:

Shirley Hoff 2011 & 2012

Deb Yunek 2011 & 2012

Lela Clark 2011 & 2012

Bev Tallent 2010 & 2011

Mark Hoff 2010 & 2011

JoAnn Higgins 2010 & 2011

DELEGATES

& ALTERNATES:

Jon Tufte 2011

Shirley Hoff 2011

JoAnn Higgins 2011

Jim Thares 2011

USHERS:

Mark Hoff 2011

HISTORY:

Phyllis Hartwig 2011

Janette Weis 2011

MEMORIAL:

Clarence Pfuhl 2011

RENEWAL TASK FORCE:

Ann Grunke, Fred Grunke, Roger Towler, Brad

Hanson, Dennis Clark

My Dear Friends at Peace Church,

Ned and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers , cards and heartfelt wishes since my breast cancer diagnosis. We feel very fortunate to have found the best church family one could hope for at Peace Church. Though no one wants to hear the word “cancer” I’d like people to know that the circumstances in my case all point to a positive outcome. I’ve had the first of eight chemo treatments and will continue treatments every other Friday through April.

Even though we are moving to St. Paul, you haven’t seen the last of us, we will be visiting.

As I step down as treasure, Chet Johnson will step into that role and Linda Bueckers of TMW Partners has been hired to fulfill the bookkeeping piece of that position. Please be patient as she learns the business.

Thank you for your kindness,
Connie Taylor

Stewardship Message

Raising Up Tomorrow’s Clergy

Here am I; send me! Isaiah 6:8

If you own a UCC Desk Calendar, you will notice that every once in a while the Church has designated Sundays for special emphasis. At the end of February, the Calendar calls us to observe “Seminary Sunday/Church Vocations Sunday.” It’s not one of those top ten Holy Days that many observe, but in the long Epiphany Season this year, you might want to take a moment to think about this one.

I am the second child and first daughter of my home church. I still give thanks for all the support, both financial and spiritual, that my congregation gave me many years ago when I heard God’s call and went to seminary. If your church has a student in discernment, preparing for ordained ministry, you are honored indeed, and they need your care. If you don’t, there are probably students somewhere in your Association or Conference who also need your care, for someday your church may be seeking a new pastor and you will rely on qualified candidates being available!

There’s one more step you might take. When was the last time you encouraged a high school or college student in your congregation to consider ordained ministry? Is there someone in your congregation feeling a call mid-career who needs encouragement and support? It takes a local congregation to raise up tomorrow’s clergy. Give thanks for your pastor; give help to those who will serve the next generation of your congregation!

Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.

February 2011

God is still speaking,

This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.