

Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ
515 East Third Street
Dayton, OH 45402



February 2020

Dear Friends,

As some of you are aware, I began the year in the same manner as I have the past few: by journeying to sunny Phoenix, AZ and attending a gathering of the Next Generation Leadership Initiative of The United Church of Christ. As I wrote last month, my NGLI course for this year was based around "Practices of Fruitful and Faithful Congregations." While that topic sounds a bit nebulous, we spent a good five days talking about new and emerging practices in engaging local communities, building systems of faith formation, generating faithful and generous stewardship, and leadership development in the local church. To say that things were a little intense would be an understatement; we essentially crammed a graduate level course into one week! Nonetheless, the course was HIGHLY beneficial in both its information and its timeliness.

Right now, we're stepping into a new model of doing ministry and leadership at St. John's and the tools I've brought back from NGLI are proving to have value straight-out-of-the-box! I'm currently working through a process of meeting with each new team lead and discussing how they see their team fitting into the mission and vision of St. John's. Rev's Jeff and Hector will also soon be joining me in these meetings as we begin to develop more scope on what, where, when, and how we might do things for the upcoming year. At present, I am taking something of a "slow burn" with getting our teams up and running. We're at something of a "lull" period as far as church activities, so we have the luxury of taking our time to really think-out and scheme/dream what it is we see our ministry teams and our congregation doing in the upcoming year.

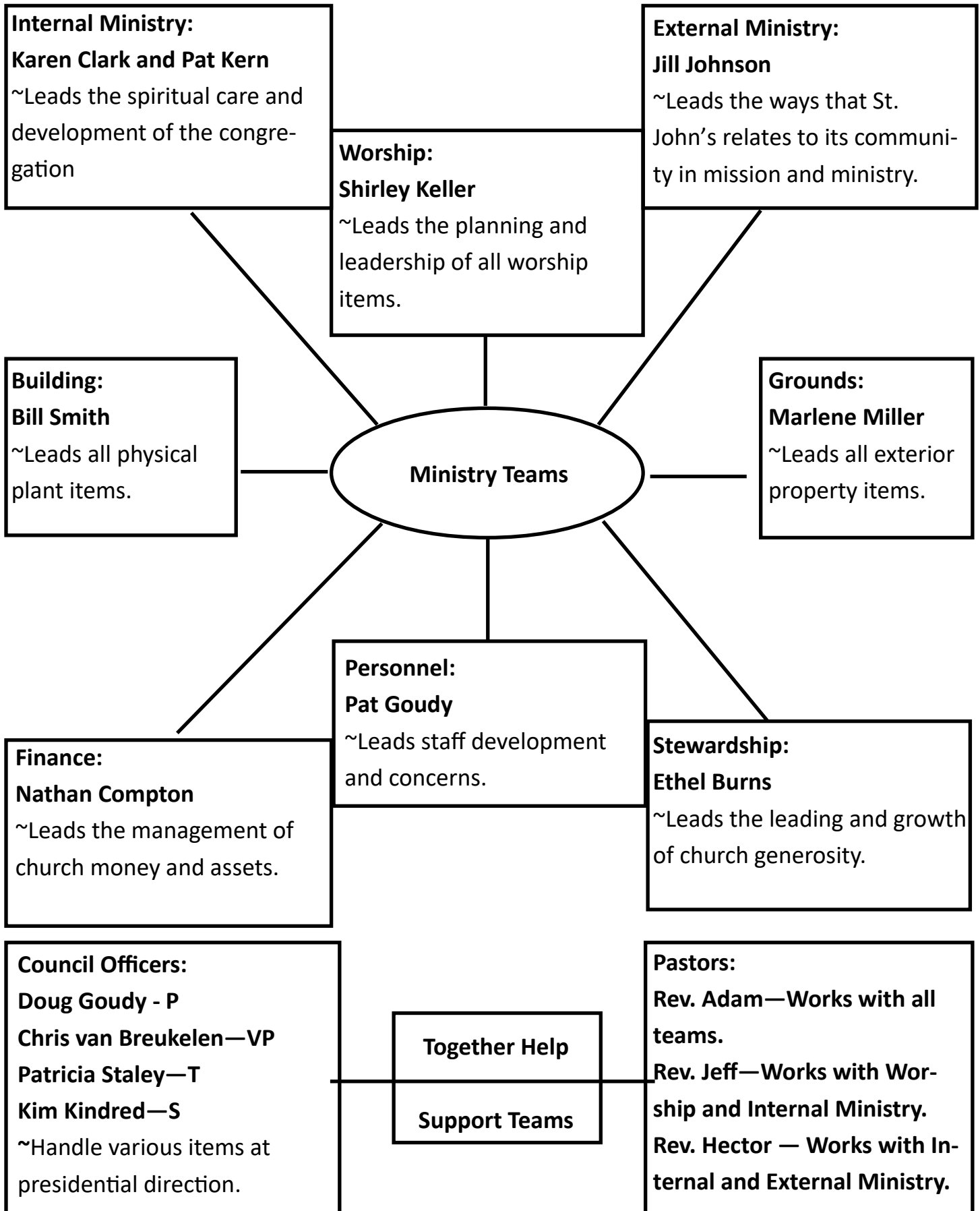
As I mentioned during our service on the 19th of January, this new model involves all of us being ministers of gospel and grace, with our ministry teams acting as focusing lenses for the congregation. In that vein, please don't hesitate to contact the team leads or myself if you have any comments, questions, and especially ideas!



My Best,

ALW

Who Does What Around Here With The New Teams?!?!



A Thought from the Loft
By Rev. Jeffrey Campbell, Minister of Worship



Fat Sunday?

Mardi Gras is a French word meaning “Fat Tuesday”. At St. John’s we will be celebrating Mardi Gras on Sunday, February 23. So, I guess we could call it “Fat Sunday”? Maybe we should use the German word – “Fastnacht.” It seems more polite.

The celebration is called for because Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Many cultures prepare for Lent by a big party where all the rich food and crazy fun gets out of their system.

We will have rich food and crazy fun at St. John’s on February 23. Our 10:30 am worship will be in the Fellowship Hall that day followed by a carry-in dinner. The theme of the day will be “Holy Humor”, which is observed once a year in many churches.

In the service that day, you will be invited to share a clean joke. The hymns and music will be joyful and light-hearted. David Wion will play the piano and the choir has a fun anthem planned.

Bring rich and delicious dishes to share. We will probably eat dessert first! In Germany for Fastnacht there are pranks, and jokes and other zany events. This is a great Sunday to invite family and friends!

Don’t worry we will get serious by Ash Wednesday, when you are encouraged to come to our service at noon or 7:00 pm.

Speaking of Lent...

I will be leading four Lenten Services on Wednesdays, March 11, 18, and 25 at 7:00 pm. The theme will be ***“Jesus Did What? Why? And How Does That Affect Me?”*** The service will have hymns, prayers, a short sermon by me and Holy Communion. Please mark your calendars as you consider making this a part of your Lenten Journey this year.

We Would Love For You To Be In Our Choir!

Would you consider singing with the choir from now until Easter? We can use your help. Plus, you will enjoy this opportunity to serve and be part of a fun and funny, yet faithful group. Practice is at 9:15 on Sunday morning. Try it! You’ll like it!

The very first month of the 2020 is almost over. I am pretty excited how our Almighty God would bless us this year that will enable us as a body of Christ to bless others through our active participation to the various ministries of St. John's. The PRAYER-GROUP is preparing to launch PRAYER as a ministry soon. I believe God wanted to touch His people personally to address whatever needs they have and he has established prayer as a tool to do that. Remember, God is good and faithful all the time in every way. He is willing and able to meet the needs of his people if we will just ask. It is through our prayers that God can heal and minister to our need. Though God doesn't really need our help, but he allows us to be part of the miracle of divine encounter. Someone said, "It is by grace that we can pray, and by grace that others can receive through our prayers."

The PRAYER-GROUP continues to meet twice a month in the church for study and prayer. We are glad to extend our invitation to all to join the group. February 6th and 20th is the schedule for the meetings. We are also open to bring the PRAYER-GROUP meetings to your homes if you wish to host.

Finally, let me encourage you with the words of our Lord Jesus Christ when said,,
"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 6:41)

Thank you very much!

Yours in Christ,

Hector



Tower Times – Feb., 2020

Steve Boggs, our “Haus Meister” & Custodian was honored for his 25 Years of Service to St. John’s. We were happy that we were able to share the Sunday with many friends and enjoy the good fellowship. Thank you, Steve!

Dayton Foundation – “Scholarship Connect” HS Seniors/College Students can now complete their applications. Students must provide FAFSA info & other requirements, but the Dayton Foundation is generous to MANY young people.

Deadline for Completion: Fri., March 6 - 4:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris van Breukelen - Vice President



STIVERS FUND We want to thank all those who contributed to our Stivers fund for the period early fall through the end of 2019: Kim Kindred, Pat Kern, Linda and John Murray, Dottie Norton, Annita Torgeson, Chris and Wilfred Van Breukelen, Ballard Yates, Anita Hedeker, Doug and Pat Goudy, Steve Carroll. We were also fortunate to receive a grant of \$906.04 from the Heartland Conference (the official new name for the Ohio Conference) as of December.

Pat Kern



WORSHIP TEAM

Yes to Little Things

We tend to think that saying yes to God's call on our lives involves the big issues-the dramatic "Here I am Lord! Send me" events. But being available to be used by God can often be seen best in our willingness to do the small things-the little yesses that may seem unimportant at the moment but make a big difference. Helping others but, more importantly, changing us.

Saying yes to inconvenience so someone else might be blessed.

Saying yes to a backseat role though we're fully qualified to drive.

Saying yes to doing the unseen, the unnoticed and the underappreciated.

Saying yes to overlooking faults and inconsiderate slights.

Saying yes to patient listening though there's much to do and more to say.

Saying yes to chores others should rightfully do.

Saying yes when we'd rather say no.

What will YOU say yes to in 2020?

The core of the worship team has been formed and looking forward to an exciting and uplifting year at St. John's. If you are interested in participating in any of the worship activities, please feel to contact me. Don't feel you have to make a year long commitment. Just want to learn how to set up communion? No problem! Just want to help clean up after the communion service once in awhile? We would be glad to have you. Our meetings will be held during the Fellowship Hour on an as needed basis. (None of us want to drive after dark!)

I look forward to the coming year and working with the amazing people on the Worship Team.

Regards,

Shirley



Hands to Work, Hearts to God will be providing lunch at St Vincent's Shelter on Saturday February 22, 2020.

We will be serving the following items:

Sloppy Joe's

Potato Salad

Sliced Peaches

Potato Chips

We will serve dessert that has been donated to St Vincent's from various businesses in the Dayton area.

If you are able to help with this mission, please contact Ethel Burns, or Brian Thompson.

Please arrive at St. Vincent's by 10:30am.

If you want to turn in your receipt for your items that you purchased for this meal, you will be reimbursed.

Thank you,
Ethel Burns
Chairperson

EXTERNAL MINISTRIES

External Ministry Team met and discussed St John's ministries for 2020. We discussed local, national, and international missions and the impact we desire to make.

Locally we discussed how St John's can best help meet the basic needs of our neighbors in need. Basic needs are: shelter, food, clothing, and emergency assistance like keeping heat on during winter months.

The non-profit missions St John's has supported in the past, including 2019, and plan to continue to support are:

Shelter

St Vincent DePaul (StVDP) Gateway Women's Shelter

St John's supplies a lunch once every 2 months on the 4th Sat of that month. This helps keep the shelter open by assisting with one of the services offered at the shelter.

The Women's shelter is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at is located at 120 West Apple Street, Dayton, OH 45402

Food

StVDP Women's Shelter (lunch provided mentioned above)

Good Neighbor House

St John's provides nonperishable food items to their food pantry several times a year along with toiletries and toilet paper.

Good Neighbor House is open Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 5:30 pm and is located at 627 East First Street, Dayton, OH 45402. Notice they are just around the corner from St John's!

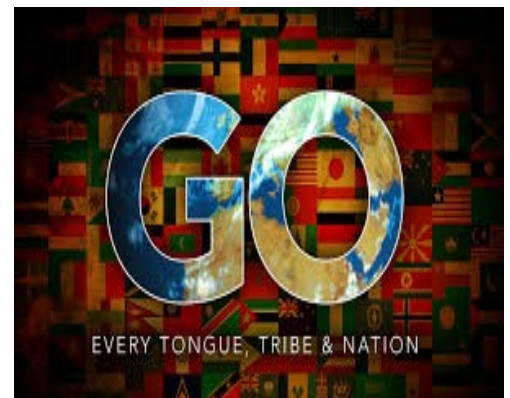
Clothing

Good Neighbor House

Good Neighbor house has a thrift store where neighbors can obtain clothing items, shoes, coats, etc.

Emergency Assistance

CityHeart



Emergencies are things like pending eviction, disconnection of utilities which puts families at risk of losing their homes. CityHeart provides these services as well as other services. They are open 5 days a week from 10-3p. They are located at 20 W First St, Dayton OH 45402.

Since St John's is somewhat small in manpower resources, due to current size of our congregation, we discussed partnering with these organizations as the pathway to local missions.

What does being a PARTNER mean? Possibly it includes both volunteer time and financial support. Without these non-profits, the impact St John's could make in our community would dramatically be reduced. The discussion, what it means to be a partner with local missions, is still on-going. If you have ideas or thoughts on what it means to be a partner with local missions, please join in on the dialogue. See me or Susan Kolze. We will make sure you get folded in to this important topic to St. John's and our community.

We briefly discussed national and international missions. In the past, including 2019, St John's supported the United Church of Christ 5 for 5 missions. They are:

Our Church's Wider Mission & Special Mission Offerings

One Great Hour of Sharing

Strengthening the Church

Neighbors in Need

The Christmas Fund

We are continuing our discussion on these missions.

We will be using the narthex between the educational wing and sanctuary to inform on "good news" accomplished through these missions, current needs of these missions and how you can assist.

In 2019, the Dayton community lived through several trying events that stressed the missions within Dayton – tornado, a shooting, KKK protests, on top of the daily struggles that life can bring. External Ministries are an important part of St John's as we help others around us and in the world. Together, we are and will continue to make a difference in our world.

Jill Johnson

External Ministries Team Lead

Building, Property and Grounds

"Snow was falling,
so much like stars
filling the dark trees
that one could easily imagine
its reason for being was nothing more
than prettiness."

— **Mary Oliver (1935 – 2019)**

Not all of us would agree with the sentiment as we shoveled the driveway or attempted to break the ice away from the windshield. Traveling was its own not-so-thrilling circus ride. But there were some of us who did have the opportunity to watch and enjoy the flakes glide through the air and brush the ground white with a stillness, grace and beauty.

The major news for January from the Building group was snow and more snow with a bit of ice. A great BIG THANK YOU to Steve and his diligence stay after the parking lots and walkways. The safe conditions were great appreciated by a wedding the first weekend. The ESL classes continued, and the walks were safe. The following weekend was a battle of extreme cold temperatures, rain, snow and then ice. Thank you, Steve.

Discussions continue with the Women of St. John's concerning the dish washer in the kitchen. We are seeking a sustainable resolution applicable to our needs, environmentally friendly and practical. The goal is to have equipment in place by March assuming we can coordinate all the various parts of this project.

The drain on the east side was attached but water continues to find its way into the ceiling and down the wall which is causing the problem in the stairway basement wall. Continued inspection is necessary to find the source of the leak. Once repaired we can move forward with repair of damage both visible and behind the wall to roof.

Plumbing problems continue to surface relating to the furnace or structure drainage. The plumbing and heating systems are long-range issues. The most immediate needs are fixed to make it through the cold season. In the meantime, attempting to develop a reasonable long-term solution.

During this cold season we are planning to plan. This means a careful examination of needs. This would be both short- and long-term. The goal is to have a broad-brush draft ready to Council (and Congregation) review in April. But priority remains to keep up with the immediate needs to maintain services and do no permanent harm to the building.

In keeping with that promise and mission the St. John's Building Team moves forward in striving to meet the needs of its community.

For the coming year MARK YOUR CALENDAR

More information is coming your way. The first step is to check your calendar. When can you answer the call to serve for any of the many activities and happenings at St. John's?

May 4 to May 8 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Need two people a day to support this project. The commitment could be for one day or for a part of a day

June 22 to July 23

Two hours a day. Could be for a week-at-a-time or the entire season.

June 29 to July 10

All types of activities and support. What are your talents? Paintings? Repair? Cleaning? Moving?

August 30 – Congregation Refresh Day – Sunday 11:30 to 1:00

Check your calendars and determine your days of stewardship, possibilities and opportunities.

More information as the dates get closer.

If you know you can volunteer at any or all of these events, please email available dates and times. I will calendar you in for those date and times. More information and training dates will be sent to you as we close in on those events.

St. John's 2020 Building and Facilities Team Members: : Brian Dunkle, Bill Smith, Brian Thompson, Wilfred van Breukelen Support: Jill Johnson, Marlene Miller, Steve Boggs, Rev Dr. Adam Wirrig

Building and Facilities Team Seeking Members

Do you have an interest in carpentry? Do you understand the mysteries of electronics and/or technology? How about having fun and enjoying the fellowship with others who enjoy the idea of stewardship by fixing up the House of the Lord?



Join the Building Team. Going to be an exciting year. We need many hands to join together in preparing our facility to meet the needs of our community, Contact any member listed above for more information and become part of this happy crew.

Improvement of Facility Care Equipment

New salt spreader for ice and snow was purchased

New vacuum cleaner purchased

Continuing to monitor equipment needs

Parking Lot Security Lights

Thanks to a generous donation by former member – LED flood lights over the west parking lot were installed.

Continuing discussing about what is the best option for light security on east side of building

Need to maintain the light in back lot over the APM pay machine.

LONG RANGE PLANNING and Needs

Upper floor of Education Building needs painted (ESOL School)

Elevator needs to be planned and established

Annual maintenance brick and exterior inspection and repair

Bell repair – not emergency

Replace lighting and change to LED lighting

Review and Move to environment safe practices

Schedule cleaning and repair of major facility spaces

Fellowship Hall

Kitchen

Chapel

2nd floor offices and rooms

Sanctuary

Planning for renovation and repair of Basement side rooms

Clean and repair storage areas in Basement

I am out of the state but spiritually with you

Brian and Wilfred to carry-on as they have for so many previous years.

If there are emergency decisions to be made, please contact Brian and Wilfred.

I am in communication by telephone or email. Please do not hesitate to contact me if needed. I can't image what that might be, but one ever knows.

~Bill Smith

Council Minutes
St. John's United Church of Christ
January 9, 2020

Prior to this council meeting the Budget and Finance Committee asked that council approve moving the currently held funds for the Construction Loan Escrow to Citi Bank's online Savings until such time the funds are needed or released for our use. Per President Doug Goudy on 12/22/19: "based on majority of council voting yes, the decision is to use Citi Bank."

Present: Douglas Goudy, Chris van Breukelen, Kim Kindred, Bill Smith, Karen Clark, Nathan Compton, Pat Goudy, Jill Johnson, Shirley Keller, Pat Kern, Marlene Miller.

Meeting called to order by President Doug Goudy at 06:03 p.m.

Devotions: Devotions and Prayer by Doug Goudy.

Review of Format

Council members are permitted to attend any meeting whether they are marked as a monthly or quarterly member in the constitution.

Previous meeting minutes are to be reviewed in each council meeting by the secretary.

No vote is required for minor changes to the minutes if addressed before the upcoming council meeting.

No treasurer report is required today. A yearend report is currently in the process of being reviewed for accuracy.

Old Business

Social Hour (Committee)

A decision needs to be made by council as to whether we do or do not have a social hour.

Chris Van Breukelen shared several thoughts...if we continue the social hour:

print it once again in the bulletin

continue the carry-in once a month, Council has January, some of the teams are small if they would like to work together to cover a social hour (next carry-ins are February 9 and March 8)

state the other Sundays as "coffee and donuts" and if you choose to do more, that would be fine

Bill Smith reminded council that Rev. Adam Wirrig is asking members to read a book together that addresses why we do things, including this social hour issue. Council discussed that social hour is important to our church. Could a person(s) oversee our social hour? Could we break up the preparation into smaller tasks, so it is not so overwhelming? Offer a template on how to do things (example: instructions on how to make coffee) to encourage participation?

President Doug Goudy concluded the conversation by asking council members to e-mail their ideas to him. Rev. Adam Wirrig's book recommendation will likely help us to move forward.

New Business

Council Meeting Structure/Welcome New Team Leads

Do's and Don'ts were reviewed by President Doug Goudy:

- we try to keep the meeting under 2 hours (sometimes will run over)

- follow Robert's Rules

- stay on topic

- all can put any item on the agenda

- copy Rev. Adam Wirrig and Chris Van Breukelen on all agenda item additions

- remember this is a business meeting

- Purpose is to be sure the church can operate within financial guidelines, "for the good of the church."

Evan's Electric Proposal to Install 2 LED Lights for Parking Lot

Bill Smith explained that a son of a current member graciously offered to pay for new lighting in the parking lot. Bill received an estimate from Evan's Electric for installation of 2 LED lights. Brackets and electric still exists from 3 previous lights on the church. Two lights were removed and the third is a halogen light that is expensive and difficult to maintain. It will be removed, and the two new LED lights will be put in, connecting them to the current electric and timers. The cost with the rebate is \$1125. The donator has approved the amount.

Jill Johnson made a motion to approve installation of the lights for \$1125 paid for by the church and funded by a donor which was seconded by Karen Clark. Jill Johnson made a motion to amend the motion by adding that "the lights will be in the parking lot". This was seconded by Karen Clark. Motion passed by vote of the church council.

Bill Smith added that the lights will be install Thursday.

Council Hosting Steve Boggs 1/12/2020 Carry-In

Final plans were reviewed for Steve Boggs' 25th Anniversary celebration scheduled for January 12th, 2020. Confirmed is the set up and take down, purchase of 100 pieces of chicken and a cake, no warming of plates, stewardship box for Steve's cards, picture taking, greeters at the doors, receiving covered dishes, and presentation of a plaque.

On an unrelated note: President Doug Goudy asked that members let him know if they are coming for a council meeting, so he can pick the appropriate location.

Committee Reports Received

The following Individuals and Committees submitted written reports: Building and Property and Lead Minister.

Items for the Good of the Order:

AED Defibrillator. Doug Goudy would like to know who wants to be trained. Please e-mail him. He will schedule it with Steve Carroll who is certified as a trainer.

Karen Clark spoke about bringing back Andrea Harker's high school students. Andrea trains them and last year they helped to scrub the kitchen and dust throughout the church. Chris Van Breukelen stated that Andrea is very professional, but please check with Building and Property as to what the students can do. Talk to people who were there previously. Bill Smith added that we are in discussions for the dates of 6/22-7/24. They would attend Monday through Thursdays for 6 weeks. There is 1 supervisor with every 3 students ages 16-22. The proper paperwork will be completed.

When are reports due? Doug Goudy will consult Rev. Adam Wirrig and report back to council.

Jill Johnson announced that the Narcan Kits are reaching the end of their shelf life of 24 months. Her and Ethel Burns are investigating how to turn in and receive new kits.

Calendar:

Per President Doug Goudy reminder of the following dates:

Council Reports Deadline: February 10, 2020

Next Council Meeting: February 13, 2020

Tower Times Deadline: January 23, 2020

A question was asked "what does the council report consist of?" President Doug Goudy can send samples. He stated that copies of reports are to be sent to all who receive the agenda. Secretary Kim Kindred is to put the final copies in the office file. The council monthly members must submit reports monthly. He will check with Rev. Adam Wirrig concerning the expectations of a report from the quarterly members. He will also seek clarification concerning whether paper copies will be distributed or only e-mailed to all members.

Council members are responsible for reading e-mails before each meeting. All members can vote. Devotions are assigned.

Bill Smith announced that Wilfred Van Breukelen and Brian Dunkle will be attending council meetings in place of him for the next 2 months while he is gone. Proxies are permissible but do not vote. Bill will write the reports. Please coordinate any activities with Wilfred or Brian, or if something breaks contact them. Steve Boggs is informed.

Chris Van Breukelen announced that January 19, 2020 is the installation of council members and teams.

Bill Smith stated that Rev. Adam Wirrig is ordering the recommended books. If you are paying for your own book, arrange it with Rev. Adam. President Doug Goudy will confirm if book discussions will replace the opening devotions. Everyone is still responsible for their prayer assignments.

Nathan Compton shared that the Realm software is great! He uses it for notification to his team members. Also, Realm is very good for entering the Sunday offerings.

Adjournment

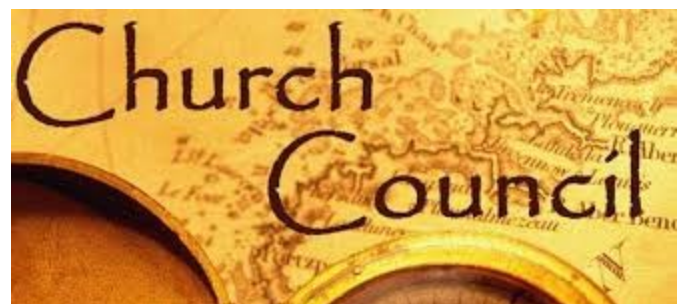
Karen Clark made a motion that the meeting be adjourned which was seconded by Pat Kern and approved by vote of the council.

Closing

The meeting was closed at 7:17pm with all praying the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted,

Kim Kindred, Council Secretary

Next regular meeting Thursday February 13, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.





From Steve:

To the members and friends of St. John's UCC, thank you for all of your cards and expressions of appreciation you gave me for my 25th anniversary as your custodian. Thank you to all who worked in the kitchen, brought food, and made every one who came feel welcome.

Love, Your Custodian and Friend,

Steve Boggs



In loving Memory

Memorial Contributions Were Made in Memory of:

***Rev. Dr. Bob McCann* by: Norm and Janet Neubauer, Patsy Goin, Karen Clark, Butch and Betty Lou Martin, Chris and Wilfred van Breukelen, Pat and Doug Goudy, Steve Boggs, and Ann and Tony Morrissey.**

***Mary Fessler* by: Steve Boggs, Anne Pepiot, Barbara Sterling, and Ann and Tony Morrissey.**

***Helen Rex* by: Anne Pepiot, Steve Boggs, and Ann and Tony Morrissey.**

February Birthdays

Benito Botteri—08

Nancy Duckson—08

Vivian Giesert—10

Dottie Norton—12

Marlene Miller—26



Flowers & Fellowship

Flowers

02/02: Chris and Wilfred van Breukelen

02/09: Doug and Pat Goudy

02/16: Open

02/23: Anita Hedeker

Fellowship Hours


02/02: Norm and Janet Neubauer

02/09: Open

02/16: Open

02/23: Carry-In

February 2020

SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT Feb 1
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Worship Service 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am Staff Meeting 	
2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Worship Service 12pm Realm Tutorial 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Finance Meeting 	4	5	6	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am Staff Meeting 	8
9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Worship Service 4pm Spirit(s) Bar Church 	10 <div>Council Reports Due</div>	11	12	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Church Council 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am Staff Meeting 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Good Grief @ Christopher's
16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Worship Service 12pm Realm Tutorial 	17	18	19	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am Staff Meeting 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am H2WH2G - St. Vincent's
23 <div>Tower Times Articles Due</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Worship Service 	24	25	26	27	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am Staff Meeting 	29