



The St. Paul Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Bellville, Ohio

February, 2010

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New Ministry Team Formed

A new ministry team has been formed called Samantha's Outreach Servants (Team SOS). The mission of the team is to minister to those in need by performing repairs, remodeling, and general maintenance to their homes. The team is looking for members who can help with this mission. They are also looking for projects in the community. If you would like to join the team or suggest a project please contact the church office or Joel Marhenke at (419) 524-8432 or jjmarhenke@earthlink.net.

This team is already looking at a major project that will hopefully get started in early March. They hope to help the Longshore family whose daughter Meghan has cerebral palsy. A bathroom needs to be remodeled to make it handicap accessible and a downstairs bedroom needs to be made visually accessible from the parent's room upstairs. Donations can be made to the Samantha Fund to help with this or other projects.

Replacing Our Child Ministry Coordinator

Following the resignation of our Will Humphrey, our Child Ministry Coordinator, Pastor Doug came into contact with a person whom he believes would suit us admirably. Their conversation came about through a set of circumstances that could be called serendipitous, but the candidate and Pastor Doug prefer to think of it as the working of the Holy Spirit. Pastor Doug and the candidate have met to explore how well the two of them might work together.

This person is currently employed in full time ministry in the Lutheran Church. The person:

- has extensive experience in a variety of ministry settings and in a variety of faith traditions.
- is desiring to move from a full time position to a half time position.
- is desiring to work in an associate role in a ministry setting.
- has a masters degree in ministry.
- is an enthusiastic, optimistic, and creative person.
- is a person of deep and genuine faith with a vibrant love of the Lord.
- is a person whom is easy to like and to love.
- works well with others.
- would be able to do the ministry that was defined for the Child Ministry Coordinator, and more.

Previously we had “hired” our Ministry Coordinator (Dawn Armstrong) and our Child Ministry Coordinator. But this person is a rostered person in the ELCA, and rostered persons are called, not hired. (A rostered person can be a pastor, an associate in ministry, or a deaconess.) If we would call this person to serve us, it would involve the following procedure:

1) Our ministry body would need to commit itself to calling a rostered person and to make provision for it in the 2010 budget. Since the annual meeting will be this Sunday, January 31, the following motion will come before the congregation:

Pastor Doug moves that we form a call committee for the express purpose of calling a half time rostered person to serve in an associate in ministry capacity. This call committee will be appointed by the Guardians and will engage in the process of developing the call expectations, interviewing the candidate, and any other candidates the Northeastern Ohio Synod might recommend, and will send to the Guardians their recommendation of whom to call.

In the 2010 budget, the Guardians - at the recommendation of the Budget Team - set the pay for our Child Ministry Coordinator at \$13,500 for 15 hours per week, but the recommendation last year had been to have a salary of \$18,000 per year for 20 hours per week. Although salary discussions take place only after a call has recommended, it is obvious that the person would not be able to start until later in the year. Hopefully the \$13,500 would be enough for this year’s salary but the following year it will undoubtedly be more than that since we will expect the person to work 20 hours. In any case, the ministry body will vote on the salary at the time of the vote to call.

2) After the ministry body approves the call process, Deaconess Judy Hoshek, the assistant to the Bishop in charge of making the arrangements for the calls of rostered personnel, will meet with the Guardians and the newly appointed call committee.

3) The call committee (team) would then engage in the process for calling a rostered person. This includes listing the congregation's priorities, reviewing our ministry objectives, determining the scope and the limitations of the person's ministry, and the traits desired in the person being called. Pastor recommends that we go through this process so that even before the call team is introduced to the person the team has determined what qualities, skills, and characteristics we desire. If the team's expectations and if the candidate's expectations and the candidates' qualifications match, then the team would interview the candidate and determine whether or not to recommend this person to our ministry body.

4) The Guardians would also interview this person and determine a salary package.

5) The candidate would be introduced to the congregation.

6) A congregational meeting would be held to vote on whether or not to call the candidate. The salary package would be a part of the vote.

7) The candidate has 30 days to accept or reject the call.

8) If the candidate accepts the call, the person would resign their current call, and together we would determine a date to start ministry here.

Gift of the Month

Cans of Soup on Souper Bowl Sunday

February 7 is one of the most important days on the calendar. No, not for the Super Bowl - which will be played that night - but for the Souper Bowl. That Sunday we will be joining the national program to collect cans of soup for local food banks. There will be large kettles at each entrance before each service to collect your donations of canned goods and or money to buy food for the local food pantry. Please give generously. Make it a record year!

In the following weeks of the month, please donate non-perishable items for the BNOG food pantry, especially cooking oil, detergent and paper products. Also, supplies for the Community Dinner including spaghetti noodles, sauce, salad dressing, Parmesan cheese, and apple sauce.

Flower Chart

The 2010 Flower Chart is on the bulletin board by the Community Room. The cost is \$30.00 for two vases. Find your special date.

Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is up again. Each year we collect gloves and hats for both Bellville and Butler Elementary Schools. Our teachers tell us that quite often children arrive on very cold mornings without gloves, hats or scarves, and they are most grateful for our donations. Please take advantage of winter clearance sales to fill the tree, so we can help needy children keep warm.

New Baby

Gunnar Eugene Dill was born December 22, 2009 to Lance and Susan Dill. Gunnar weighed 6 pounds 6 ounces and was nineteen inches long. He is the grandson of Larry and Luanne Dill.

___Daren and Sara Walker gave birth to twin boys on January 8. They are named Lincoln and Zachary, and although they were premature they are home. Everyone is doing well. They are the grandchildren of Drew and Jean Dill. Jean Dill is the great grandmother.

Haiti Donations

Lutheran Disaster is already at work in Haiti and has been since the first earthquake. Donations to them can be made by marking "Haiti" on your check or envelope. Thrivent members can have their donations matched one dollar for every two, up to \$500 per Thrivent member. Please mark your donation, "Thrivent Haiti." So far you gave \$1,925.

Resurrection Bible Study

Don't give up chocolate for Lent. Add a good book to your life. Study the Bible and the best story in the Bible - The Resurrection of Jesus! Starting Monday February 22 and running for eight Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. will be a Bible Study using the book, *Experiencing the Resurrection*. Plan now to attend by signing up on the Golden Rod to order the book. Or call Stacy Wright at 419-886-4617 or e-mail her at jeffstacywright@embarqmail.com.

Love to Party?

We are looking for people interested in being on the Planning Team for the 2nd Annual Kids Alive! Carnival. We will be having an organizational meeting on Tuesday, February 16th, at 7:00. If interested please contact Sherri Brokaw (419-565-1778) or Jeannie McLaughlin (419-565-4713). The Carnival will be Saturday, August 28.

Email Edition Available

To get this newsletter by email contact us at StPaulBell@AOL.com.

Food Addicts Anonymous

Food Addicts Anonymous meets on Tuesday nights at 7:00 in the Social Room. This is a twelve step program based on the model first developed by *Alcoholics Anonymous* and is open to anyone who recognizes their need to be free from their addiction to overeating. The meetings last one hour and are held each week. There is no cost to participate.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday February 17. This is the start of Lent and we begin with a worship service that night at 7:00. Lent is a time of reflection on the places that we need God and this year will focus on forgiveness. We will look at all the places in our lives where we need forgiveness and ask God to bring us the forgiveness that we need. This worship service reminds us of our mortality and need of God. It will be a service of Holy Communion.

A Supper and A Song

During Wednesday evening during Lent we have a Simple Supper followed by a Simple Worship Service. The supper is from 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and the worship - which includes a lot of singing - is from 6:40 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. This is a good time of connection to God and others. Volunteers to cook or help out can contact Dawn Armstrong at 419-886-9822

<p style="text-align: center;">Annual Meeting Sunday, January 31, 2010 9:15 AM to 10:20 A.M.</p>

Guidelines in Formatting the 2010 Proposed Budget

As the Budget Team wrestled with how to set the priorities in determining what would go in or out of the budget they came up with the following guidelines. They are given here so that you might understand how the various decisions were made.

Guideline 1: The synodical benevolence will remain at 15% of the General Fund Giving, and we will not remove from the budget the agencies we have supported in the past. This is a year when all agencies that support other people will need our help.

Guideline 2: The bottom line of the budget will need to be the same as or smaller than the anticipated giving. This is not a year in which we can afford to reduce our carry-over. A carry-over amount of \$15,000 is the minimum we should have every year. The Budget Committee recommends that we set a goal to have a carry-over amount that equals three months of our actual expenses, but this is not the year to take on that goal.

Guideline 3: We budgeted funds for every request that we received. If there was not a request made for items that had been in previous budgets, then it was the committee's discretion to keep it, reduce it, or eliminate it.

Guideline 4: A 20% reduction was made on any item possible to strike a balance between what was requested, the historical spending and budget constraints.

Guideline 5: The budgeted amount for the part time-staff position was reduced by 25%, but retained as the Guardians feel it is an essential position for the future of our Church. *(This was done prior to Will's resignation.)*

Guideline 6: We need to make sure that we fully fund the children and youth ministries because they are the future of our church.

Guideline 7: We were approached by the BNOC and asked to give 3-5% of our General Fund income to help support their organization. We fully support the mission and efforts of the BNOC, but didn't think it was feasible to fund this request from General Fund Income. We do feel that we can pull from the Love Fund for this purpose, as the BNOC will now help the transients whom would have otherwise come to our door. We will start out giving the BNOC 50% of the Love Fund giving. Based on historical data we estimate the Love Fund receiving at least \$6,000 a year. You may also make a designated gift to the BNOC and we will continue to help members and other special needs out of the Love Fund.

Guideline 8: Any request that was to be of assistance to a single family will be taken out of the Love Fund and not put in the General Fund budget.

Guideline 9: All salaries will be frozen at current levels for 2010.

PASTOR'S LETTER January 28, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and combobulation to you.

I don't know if combobulation is a word but three times in the last two hours I have answered the query, "How are you," by saying "I'm discombobulated!" So, don't be like me, be combobulated.

It is an interesting experience to think that you know it all and then to have it all turned upside down. Before the this afternoon I knew exactly what I was going to write in this letter. The first thing I was going to pass on to you is an answer to a recent catechism quiz question.

Question: What is the Tenth Commandment.

Normal Answer: You shall not covet...

Meghan Strickling's Answer: You shall not want what someone else loves.
Have you ever heard a better definition of covet?

Then I was going to recap my sermon from Sunday. It seems that forgiveness is the theme of the day. Everywhere I have turned there have been people in need of forgiveness. Folks holding grudges. Others struggling with resentment. Bitterness sinking its tenacious roots into souls. All these encounters have been God's voice telling me to explore the different dimensions of forgiveness throughout the Lenten season. We will explore forgiving others who are unrepentant, forgiving yourself, pulling out every last root of bitterness, and forgiveness by nations, races, or classes. These are some of the aspects that I planned to focus on during Lent.

On Sunday it seemed that God was saying to me that sins are like debts which are owed and forgiveness is the payment of the debts. Or perhaps more accurately, forgiveness is the releasing of those debts so that nothing is owed to anyone. I thought it an excellent illustration and used the image of \$5 sins, \$500 sins, and \$5,000,000 sins. Now before you chastize me for ranking sins, I realize that a sin is a sin is a sin. There are no worse sins than others. The ranking of sins is something that humans do. I have often told folks that it does not matter whether I step off a cliff by an inch or a mile, the result is the same. So it is with sin. Despite that Jesus said "calling someone a 'fool' is tantamount to murder" may make them spiritually alike, but most of us experience the consequences of those two actions with great dissimilarity. So on Sunday I preached about how do you say, "I'm sorry. I sinned against you when I ... Please forgive me."

Well, in meeting with a couple of clergy this afternoon I talked about my sermon, and they said that I have the concept of sin and forgiveness all wrong. They tried to explain it to me but I could not understand what they were saying. Possibly, maybe even probably, I have a lot more to learn about forgiveness. Well, it's always better to be one who struggles alongside everyone else in discovering the work and grace of God in our lives. Being "The Fount of All Knowledge" proclaiming from on high doesn't seem to very much like Jesus. So this must be His plan to move me from discombobulation to combobulation.

Combobutate,
Pastor Doug

Rummage Sale News....

This year the Rummage Sale is March 7th – 13th. This is when we transform the Community Room into a showcase amazing treasures!! You won't want to miss it!! Please sign up on the Golden Rod sheet in your bulletin or contact Diane. We will begin receiving your treasures at noon on March 7th until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, March 9th. We need help sorting, pricing and selling. We have a job for everyone!! The money generated from this rummage sale supports the workcamp trip. This year will take us to Midland, Michigan. Clean out your closets, drawers, attics, garages and sheds. Questions or comments, see Diane.

Library News

Recent additions to our church library are:

- *All the Women of the Bible* by M.L. del Mastro;
- *The Christians: An Illustrated History* by Tim Dowley;
- *Didn't My Skin Used to Fit? Living, Laughing, Loving Life After Forty* by Martha Bolton;
- *Have a Little Faith* and *One More Day* by Mitch Albom;
- *My Life With the Saints* by James Martin, S.J.;
- *Our Daily Bread Vol. 2, Daily Readings from the Popular Devotional*;
- *So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore: An Unexpected Journey* by Wayne Jacobsen and Dave Coleman;
- *The Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible* by A.J.Jacobs.

To borrow a book or two, please fill out the sign-out sheet and return them in two weeks.

Rummage Sale Workers

Name: _____

The rummage sale to sponsor the youth at work camp this year will be March 7 - 13. Are you able to help out? If so please check all the boxes that show when you are available. You will be contacted to let you know when we need you.

Sunday, March 7th

Set up sale: Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, March 8th

Set up sale: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Will provide light dinner

Tuesday, March 9th

Set up sale: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Will provide light dinner

Wednesday, March 10th

Set up sale: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Will provide light dinner

Thursday, March 11th - Work the Sale

8:30 a.m. - noon

noon - 3:00 p.m.

Will provide a light lunch

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday, March 12th - Work the Sale

8:30 a.m. - noon

noon - 3:00 p.m.

Will provide a light lunch

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 13th - Work the Sale

8:30 a.m. - noon

noon - 2:00 p.m.

Will provide a light lunch

1:45 p.m. to clean up

I will donate **PEPSI** products to sell.

I will donate **Baked Goods** for Friday's Bake Sale.

Thank You's

Dear Church Members,

Thank you for the lovely gifts from the church given to the residents at Country Meadow Care Center. The gifts were very appropriate and added a special touch to the Christmas party. My parents are sharing a room at Country Meadow now.

With sincere appreciation,
Janet Rhodebeck, Larry & Mary Murphy

Bob and I sincerely thank you folks for the Twelve Days of Christmas letters and gifts (including the carols) you shared with us just prior to our leaving on vacation. We truly appreciated it!

The world is full of miracles to those who recognize them. God has shined His light and blesses us with the importance of life –faith, hope, optimism and joy – precious gifts that can be ours when we open our hearts and believe.

It's comforting to know that our church's youth loves and appreciates it seniors.

Love,
Joyce and Bob Myers

Thank you for the *Twelve Days of Christmas*. It was a big surprise and we enjoyed every day. It was lots of fun to get the gifts everyday.

Remember God loves you and so do we.
Gerald & Jane Boyce

To Senior High Youth of St. Paul and Helpers,

I was delighted with the bag of gifts and corresponding letters for the Twelve Days of Christmas given to me,. Everyday was a new surprise that matched your meaningful Bible verse in the well thought-out letter giving good advice and assurance that God is always loving and ready to help me.

Thank you so much for remembering me.
Marge Balliett

Dear Sr. High Class at St. Paul Lutheran Church,

When Diane brought over the many packages, presents, and boxes, our hearts were overwhelmed with gratitude. Six boxes of diapers! Wow, what a wonderful blessing. I think the purple gloves and scarf are beautiful and Duane will be using his new gloves to keep warm shoveling snow.

Kaytie likes her play gym and can push the buttons and pull the handles to make the music. She still uses it laying down but will soon be sitting to play. All of the clothes you picked will get much use this summer. She seems to like the pink one the best, but I like all the purple outfits. The ball and gem toy get shaken, rattled, chewed on, and explored every day. The big fuzzy blanket is beautiful and Kaytie will use it throughout our cold winters.

A.J. was so excited as he opened the Tonka trucks he pushed them all over the house making engine noises. Thank you for the undershirts; he wears one every day. The snow suit is perfect. He will wear it this year and probably next winter too. The hat, scarf, and gloves are so cute and match both his old coat and new snow suit. He is learning how to build with the Duplo blocks and will use them for many years. Both A.J. and Kaytie like the puzzles.

Since we regularly shop at Stoodts the gift certificate is an especially useful addition to all the wonderful gifts you chose for us. Duane, A.J., Kaytie and I are thankful to each of you for your generosity and outpouring of love. Your generosity helped make our Christmas peaceful and blessed.

Thank you all so much,
Barbara Meadows

Thanks so much...for being so nice!
Mary Castotter

Thank You's Continued

Dear Ladies,

I appreciated your lovely gift *basket of cheer*, which it really was. So many good things all in one basket. We enjoyed the goodies and made good use of the rest.

Thank you!
Marge Balliett

To my wonderful Church Family,

Thank you so much for the Willow Tree Angel of Good Health. It's on my fireplace mantel watching over me. Your love and thoughtfulness amazes me.

*Yours in Christ,
Ruth Ann Griebeling*

To the Ladies of St. Paul,

Thank you so much for my Cheer Basket. It's kind of nice to be on the receiving end. A special thanks to Judy Adams for taking care of the basket till she could get it to me. Those were the only Christmas cookies I had this year. Thanks again.

Your sister in Christ,
Ruth Ann Griebeling

We are so grateful for your gifts to the Kairos Prison Ministry. Through your donations, the ministry is able to pursue its mission of ministry to those who are impacted by incarceration. Through the grace of God, and enabled by your gifts, we are working to bring persons lost in shame, guilt, unforgiveness, and hatred to know the healing and saving power of Jesus Christ, and a new way of life.

We hope you understand how much your support of this ministry means to the people with whom we come into contact. Lives are touched and new hope is born because God has put our work on your heart. We are eternally grateful and hope that your love for us and our mission in Christ's name might continue.

*Douglas W. Hart
Financial Secretary, SOCF*

Dear wonderful people at the Lutheran Church,

Thank you so very much for helping us during the kettle drive. You raised \$2,072.26! This is almost half the amount raised!!

Thank you for your continued support of the Salvation Army and in general, helping anyone in the Clear Fork area. Your church has helped many many folks.

God bless you all.

In His Name,
The Salvation Army

To St. Paul's Parishioners,

We want to thank you for the caring and thoughtfulness you have shown to the residents of Country Meadow Nursing Center at Christmas time. Our Aunt, Esta Crowe, was a recipient of your kindness. We live in Michigan and don't get down to visit as often as we would like. It is a comfort to us to know that there are people like you out there.

*God Bless You,
Jim & Alice Lusko*

To Our Friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for all the love and support you have shown our family this fall. You're generosity has meant so much to us.

You have such a great testimony in our community and beyond as you minister to your own church members and community members alike. It is people like all of you that make the Clear Fork Valley such a great place to live.

Thank you so much!
With love,
The Longshore Family

Thank You's Continued

Dear Friends,

We are residents of the Country Meadow Care center and earlier this month we were given Christmas gifts, valuable gifts that we cannot identify, and to date we have not expressed our appreciation for them. A heavily fleeced lined BLANKET of JOY!! A man's L John Ashworth green dress shirt, then miscellaneous gifts, socks, stationary, beautiful! Etc.

Do you have any John Deere friends in your congregation? John is a retired dairyman, our first tractor was a 1946 John Deere. Clyde Mowry came to see us with a snowmobile he "happened" to have on the truck. We had the hills; God had the snow! And we made memories. Bellville is a village of people who care. Any repair work was fixed in a minute. Our room was crowded the afternoon they were here and identification is impossible.

John Simmons

What a wonderful church family!! Starting with the Pastor who came to see me in the hospital, to all the cards I received, both Christmas and get-well, to the phone calls, prayers, etc. Thank you all so very much! You certainly showered God's love on me.

May God bless all of you,

Ruth Ann Griebeling

Thanks to Diane Hammett and the Senior High Youth who came caroling several Sundays ago and brought me a "calorie free" Cheer basket - very, very nice. May God bless you.

Madonna Long

St. Paul Family,

Thank you for Christmas and prayers throughout the years. Especially this last year.

Blessings to you all. Irene Ammons

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good... Psalm 107.1 and a special thanks to you. We really appreciate letting us use the church. We all had a good time.

The Markers and Hoeflichs

I'm Rose Hagel. My mom is Mary Timan currently residing at Country Meadows Nursing Home, Bellville, Ohio. She is 83 years old and will turn 84 on January 5, 2010. She has been diagnosed with dementia (Alzheimer's). At her current stage she's wheel chair bound and needs total assistance with her every day needs. On her behalf I would like to thank the parishioner who purchased the shower gel, body lotion, and night gown Christmas gift. As with every task Mom was unable to unwrap the items without help, and I'm not sure she could identify the items received. As a family member, though, I would like to thank the thoughtfulness of its giver.

Because the gift was given anonymously, I don't know that this "Thank you" will ever get to the specific giver of Mom's gifts, but know that the work of your congregation is much appreciated!

Gratefully, Rose Hagel

Thank you so very much for taking time at this busy time of the year to think of me and give me such a beautiful Christmas basket!

Blessed Holidays to all.

Elsa Cullen

Ladies,

I wish to thank you for the wonderful Christmas basket delivered to me the other day. It was so generous of you and I appreciate it all very much. The fruit was beautiful and so delicious and the cookies also. I enjoyed them as I am unable to bake any more. Thank you again and Merry Christmas to you all.

Sincerely, Louise E. Smith

CHAP Changes

The members of the Friends of CHAP would like to express our sincere appreciation for the support and participation of St. Paul Lutheran Church in our efforts, over the past four and a half years, to raise awareness of the CHAP (Community Health Access Project) program through sponsoring Baby Showers in order to provide much needed supplies to the mothers and infants enrolled in the program. The response from this community has far exceeded our expectations. Thanks to you and your generous donations, these clients have been provided with a wealth of items that would not otherwise have reached them through other programs.

Unfortunately, due to the decline in membership, the Friends of CHAP has not been able to continue to function effectively. Therefore we have been forced to disband and will no longer be able to provide this service. We want to assure you that any monies or goods donated to the Friends of CHAP have been and will continue to be used to benefit the clients enrolled in the program. Should you wish to continue to support the CHAP program, you may contact the office directly at 419-525-2555.

Thanks again for your past generosity and support.

Sincerely,
The Friends of CHAP _____

Fellowship Days

The women of the church are having their Fellowship Days from 9:30 to 3:00 all the Wednesdays in February. During these days the women put together Quilts for Lutheran World Relief, make Cheer Baskets, finger puppets, Linus blankets, and do other projects to aid the needy. A Hot Soup Lunch is served at noon! It is a great time of fellowship and service. Come join the ladies.

Will's Resignation

To my Friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church,
The Guardians and Pastor Doug Pretorius,
Regretfully, I am resigning my position of Children's Ministry Coordinator effective January 31 at 11:59 p.m. I have enjoyed the interaction with you all, my sisters and brothers in Christ: I have enjoyed the opportunities to share my faith, and to listen to the faith stories of the children, and adults alike, and I have enjoyed both my own and facilitating other's growth in Christ.

My reasons for leaving are very multifaceted. There are personal, professional and spiritual reasons. One of my goals now is to complete a seminary program to further develop the gifts God has entrusted to me. I trust that God will provide my replacement within His time and I trust whomever God selects will have the gifts and dispositions to accomplish the programming and the growth sought by the Church.

I leave knowing that God is truly present at St. Paul and that God is directing me elsewhere.

In God's Peace, humbly submitted,
William Humphrey

Financial Information Month of December

General Fund:

Receipts to date	\$231,133.36
Disbursements to date	\$244,659.48
Budget to date	\$272,392.00

Building Funds:

Receipts to date	\$99,407.01
Disbursements to date	\$99,407.01

Principal Balances 12/31/09

Original Loan	\$347,384.77
Bell Street Parking Lot	\$54,639.71

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Richland County Solid Waste Electronics Collection Facility

Facts:

Fifteen million computers enter waste streams annually. More than 315 million obsolete computers could potentially be disposed of in landfills. This amounts to the introduction of 102 billion pounds of lead, two million pounds of cadmium, and over 400,000 pounds of mercury into waste streams. Most people will trade in their computers for new models within two years of purchasing them.

Electronics Recycling: In 2004, with becoming obsolete so quickly and the coming of digital TV signals, the Richland County Solid Waste Authority first saw the necessity of providing a way for residents, businesses and schools to recycle their electronics. Many types of electronics equipment contain hazardous materials such as lead, mercury, arsenic and cadmium. When these toxins are properly contained in the equipment they pose no problems. However, these materials become an environmental and health hazard if they are thrown away with other household garbage. The hazardous materials often become airborne or leak into the ground water and cause a threat to drinking water.

In response to the problem of what to do with obsolete and worn out equipment that cannot be repaired or used as a donation, the Mid-Ohio Electronics Collection Facility was developed to offer collection of computers, computer peripherals monitors, stereos, radios and TV's. Mid-Ohio Electronics Collection Facility ships the equipment to a recycler who takes it apart and recovers usable components for reuse in new products, or sold, as are the precious metals used in making parts of the equipment.

The Facility accepts computers, printers, CD/Rom Drives, telephones, fax machines, mouse, hard drives, radios, console TV's, microwaves, key boards, scanners, stereos, cell phones, monitors, computer speakers, typewriters, VCR's, TV's.

Donation Policy:

The Board of Trustees of the Richland County Solid Waster Authority has adopted a donation policy. "We welcome donations of working Electronics for recycling. Just inform our staff that you would like to donate your electronic item." The price list includes Console TV's - \$10; Table Top TV's - \$4; Microwaves - \$10; All other electronic items: Free.

Mid-Ohio Electronics Collection Facility is located at 1125 National Parkway (off Trimble Road), Mansfield, Ohio 44906. It is open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:00 - 4:30; closed holidays. Phone 419-774-5861. E-mail joannemudra@earthlink.net.

Scrap Tire Collection Event

Richland County Solid Waste is sponsoring a Scrap Tire Collection Event starting February 28th, and will take place on the last Saturday of each month at their Solid Waste/Electronics Collection Facility, 1125 National Parkway, Mansfield. Cost: (10 tire limit per visit) \$3 per tire for tires up to 16 inches; \$5 for tires on the rim; \$8 for semi-tires off rim; \$25 for tractor tires off rim. Call 419-774-5861 with questions.

February Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

1 Austin Boyd	7 Dennis Tenison	16 Jim Shaum
3 Carly McCue	8 Lloyd Hull	16 Ethan Zimmerman
5 Stacy Wright	9 Gary Lantz	17 Diane Hammett
5 Zoe McCue	13 Cliff Worner	21 Gary Brenneman
6 Tyler Weaver	13 Eugene Leedy	24 Amos Fry
7 Tom Boyd (Jr)	14 Bobby Sharp	26 Barbara Peiker
		28 William Hartley

February 1, 1992 Jim & Mary Wise
 February 15, 1975 Russ & Lynn Ousley
 February 16, 1980 Jerry & Denise Lang
 February 24, 2001 David & Charla Irvin
 February 25, 1974 Dan & Joyce White

Please Pray for and Remember Our Shut-Ins

Please remember people in our congregation who have not been able to worship with us. Your cards, letters, and visits give them much joy. It is important that we help them remember they are part of our church family.

Country Meadow Care Center

4910 Algire Rd., Bellville, OH 44813
 Ruth McKinnon, Ed Mazur

Winchester Terrace Nursing Home

70 Winchester Rd., Mansfield, OH 44907
 Marilyn Au

Homebound Church Family:

Rubert Hill, Marsades Mast

If you know of someone who needs added to the list, please contact the church office at 419-886-3521.

Anonymous Forgiveness Stories Wanted

Throughout the season of Lent Pastor Doug will be exploring the theme of forgiveness during the Sunday morning and the Wednesday night worship services. And he needs your stories about forgiveness.

Pastor Doug would like to use them in his Sunday sermons and on Wednesday nights, if we have enough folks who are willing to share a forgiveness story. Usually forgiveness stories involves someone else and frequently they are not public because of the potential to harm or defame someone else. So, if you are willing to share your story - and this can be one about you forgiving someone else, someone forgiving you, or experiencing God's tremendous forgiveness, - Pastor Doug will hear it and then when he tells it he will change the details so that the individuals cannot be recognized.

Give him a call and arrange a time to tell your story. He already has the first one and would welcome the opportunity to hear how God is bringing forgiveness to you.

SYNODICAL BISHOP'S LETTER

January 14, 2010

There is nothing as over as Christmas. Especially in northeastern Ohio. In January. In the snow. The remains of desiccated fruit cakes, dead Christmas trees at the curb with that one pathetic piece of garland clinging to needle-less branches, the dark, which before Christmas seemed so cozy, now just seems gloomy, another Super Bowl without the Browns. Some might argue that this is perfect weather for Lutherans – a climatological confirmation of sin. And there is nothing that we can do to make spring come any faster. I think Jeremiah must have written Lamentations in Ohio in January.

Well, now that I have brought us all down, what meaning can we find in a time like this? remember hating winter quarter in college because I knew it would be a losing battle to keep my feet dry and warm as I trudged to classes through the snow and slush. I was reminded daily that there is only a thin barrier between me and the elements. It was clear to me, in spite of all of my Girl Scout training, that I would not last a week in the wilderness. It was an unsettling and helpless feeling that ruthlessly stripped away any illusion that I was completely in control. January has always reminded me that I am in bondage to sin and cannot free myself. And January finally brought home to me Luther's brilliant truth in his explanation of the third article of the Apostles' Creed, "I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or strength believe in Jesus Christ or come to him."

This is a fundamental tenet of the Lutheran witness to the gospel. Since the churchwide assembly in August many people have accused the ELCA of caving in to the culture, of abandoning our core beliefs. We did not. We did make decisions about human sexuality that threw into sharp, almost painful contrast the way brothers and sisters in this church interpret scripture, but the foundation of our faith, of our life, of our hope has not changed and was not put to the vote. That foundation is Christ and Christ crucified. The Lutheran doctrine of grace, the theology of the cross – the Word of God revealed on the cross is as alien to our culture as God's righteousness conferred on sinners. The Left Behind series, The Prayer of Jabez and all of its spin-offs, Rick Warren's Purpose-Driven Life, Joel Osteen's Your Best Life Now, and the third use of the law that has become a kind of new Pharisaism are all perfectly suited to the religious culture that surrounds us. We are up to our ears in a theology of glory, a triumphalism that values the lion over the lamb, the crown over the cross. Many of you are worried about what your neighbors will think of Lutherans after the churchwide assembly – trust me, if they really knew what we believe, we wouldn't be very acceptable anyway.

So, here we are, in January, in the cold and the dark. Mission support is down. Some congregations are trying to decide to stay or go. Are we helpless? On our own, yes. Is the situation hopeless? If our hope is in ourselves and our efforts, yes. But our help is in the name of the Lord and "our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness". And I think it is time for us to preach, teach and live this witness boldly and without apology. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been accused of not being willing to stand for anything. This is what we stand for – the death and resurrection of Christ. In the end that is the only thing that really matters and it is the only thing that can bring life, and light and hope to our bleak mid-winter.

Professor Mark Allan Powell of Trinity Seminary will be the presenter at two stewardship gatherings. The events are scheduled for March 16 at St Stephen Martyr, Canton and March 18 at Parma, Parma, 5:30-8:00 p.m. In preparation for these events we encourage everyone to read his book, Giving to God: the Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life (Augsburg Fortress \$13.00). I know that many of you approach financial stewardship with the same enthusiasm you would a colonoscopy, but face it, at an average giving rate of 1.7% Lutherans have a lot of work to do.

Peace,
Elizabeth A. Eaton,
Bishop, Northeastern Ohio Synod

PRESIDING BISHOP'S LETTER

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

*"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;
if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." –1 Corinthians 12:26*

Almost two weeks have passed since the devastating earthquake in Haiti. The outpouring of gifts from members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to ELCA Disaster Response has enabled a swift response on behalf of this church.

Thank you for your generous financial support which now totals more than \$1.6 million. Thousands of other gifts are still being counted. Our community-based partners are already providing:

Two **water** purification systems to bring clean water to 25,000 people.

Emergency **food** and **medical supplies** to thousands.

Blankets and tents to **shelter** 10,000 people who are homeless.

Funding, distributed through three partners, will increase as giving continues.

\$300,000 has been sent to The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a key responder and member of Action by Churches Together (ACT). The funds support LWF efforts to provide shelter to people left homeless by the quake.

\$150,000 has been sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Baltimore, for material aid.

\$150,000 has been sent to Church World Service (CWS) for construction of temporary water systems and distribution of water purification materials.

In addition, \$25,000 has been sent to Lutheran Services of Florida for initial support to refugees and Haitian Americans entering or returning to the United States.

We are pleased that Louis Dorvillier, director for International Development and Disaster Response in the ELCA Global Mission program unit, is part of a delegation to his country of origin with LWF and ACT.

Your generosity makes this life-saving work possible. As we celebrate this outpouring of gifts and prayers, we also know that we have a long road to travel together. There is so much more to be done. This church is committed to walking with our brothers and sisters in Haiti for years to come; your continued support is needed to provide ongoing care.

I encourage you to visit the ELCA Disaster Response (www.elca.org/disaster) Web site for updated information, worship resources, bulletin inserts and details on how to offer financial support. General mission-support dollars and gifts to ELCA Vision for Mission make it possible for 100 percent of your gifts designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief to be used entirely for this response effort.

To give today, go online (www.elca.org/haitiearthquake) or call 800-638-3522.

In God's grace,

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Guardians Meeting Minutes of January 12th, 2010

Present for the meeting: Mike Bing, Chris Laux, Nancy Martin, Scott Gerhart, Nancy Snyder, Pastor Doug and Ruth Lindsey. Devotions were by Nancy Martin with readings from Philippians and Second Corinthians. After reflection and sharing, we closed with prayer.

Scott Gerhart moved to accept the minutes from the December meeting, Nancy Snyder seconded and the minutes were approved. Mike Bing moved to accept the treasurer's report for December 2009. Nancy Snyder seconded and the treasurer's report was approved.

NEW BUSINESS PART ONE: 2010 Budget

Ruth Lindsey presented the proposed budget for 2010 as submitted by the finance committee. The Guardians reviewed the entire budget and Nancy Martin moved to approve the budget as presented and present it to the Ministry body for approval at the annual meeting on January 31st, 2010. Nancy Snyder seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pastor Doug has asked a member to consider the position of Faith Developer and is waiting for their decision.

It was decided that all the policies developed by the Guardians this year (i.e. Media and Music, Child Safety Policy, First Communion) by published in the Annual Report for review by the Ministry Body.

Pastor Doug moved to purchase an AED unit and two first aid kits for the Church, using Memorial funds. Mike Bing seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Chris Laux and Pastor Doug are completing the staff evaluations with most of them to be done on Thursday 01/14/2010.

Nancy Martin pointed out that it would be advantageous for the Guardians to formulate a streamlined, organized procedure for hiring any future Church staff. The Guardians will pursue this.

NEW BUSINESS PART TWO:

Will Humphrey presented a letter of resignation as Child Ministry Coordinator effective January 31st, 2010. This action resulted in a lot of discussion and reflection. Nancy Snyder moved that we accept Will's resignation but with an effective date of January 15th, 2010. Mike Bing seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

The next Guardians Meeting was set for February, 11th, 2010; Mike Bing volunteered to do the devotions.

Scott Gerhart and Nancy Martin were thanked for their wonderful service as two term Guardians as this was their last meeting. Mike Bing moved to adjourn and Nancy Snyder seconded. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Bing, Secretary