

St. Paul's U.C.C. Exton, PA

Annual Congregational Meeting, February 24, 2008

The meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Jonathan Hauze at 11:25 a.m.

The minutes of the November 2007 Congregational meeting were reviewed and approved.

The annual reports of Consistory and each committee were summarized and reviewed:

- The Consistory is the governing body of the church, made up of 6 Elders, 6 Deacons, and 6 Trustees, with the Treasurer and Pastor serving as ex officio member. Boards meet on the third Monday of every month at 7 pm, followed by Consistory at 8 p.m. Discussions of ministries, missions and operations of the church occur with decisions made to forge directions and actions of the church. The work of Consistory and the Boards carry on throughout each month. Consistory makes up the Lay Leadership of the church.
- The 2008 Church Officers and other positions are as follows:
 1. President of Consistory Russ Brierley
 2. Vice President Greg Allen
 3. Secretary of Consistory Barbara Schneller
 4. Treasurer Dan Shoop
 5. Financial Secretary Joan Trimble
 6. Records Clerk Diane Battilana
 7. Organist Muriel Lewis
 8. Choir Director George Haughton
 9. Office Secretary Mary Lou Esposito
 10. Nursery Aides Lori Fair, Edda Nardoni, Allison Wenger, Mary Scripko
 11. PA S.E. Conference delegates Don and Mary Raudenbush
- The Pastor's Report: Jonathan Hauze, called to be our pastor in 2004, is responsible for preaching and teaching, administering the sacraments, providing pastoral care, and working to equip the church members for their own ministries. The Pastor reported the following activities during 2007:
 1. Worship: Silent prayer service on the second Thursday evening of each month, Advent Devotional, 4 baptisms, 1 wedding, 1 funeral, Ursinus Fall Meeting Worship.
 2. Christian Education: Church retreat in February 2007, Lenten seminar series "Countering Pharaoh", Fall seminar series on the Apostle Paul, Music and Mission stories for Vacation Bible School.
 3. Visitation: Numerous hospital and home visits along with lay people throughout 2007.
 4. Weblog: Grace Notes weblog launched in January, 52 postings.
 5. Habitat for Humanity: 8 churches and organizations with ground breaking this spring.
 6. General Synod XXVI delegate
 7. Continuing Education: Wholeness in Ministry, Clergy Convocation, seminar on older adult ministry, Disaster preparedness
 8. The Wider Church: Ursinus Association Committee on Ministry, OCWM Development Mission Team, Exton-Lionville Ministerium, PSEC New Church Start task force.
- The Elders Report: The Elders, Nancy Greger, Barbara Coover, Don Raudenbush, Kendra Schramm, Barbara Schneller, and Chris Baumann are responsible for oversight of the spiritual

life at St. Paul's, provide the elements for the Lord's Supper, assist in baptisms and receiving new members, visitation of the sick and home bound, Christian Education and music along with all matters of worship. During 2007 the accomplishments of the elders were an expansion of the Christian Education program, recruitment activity for a Christian Education coordinator, appointment of a Christian Education committee chairperson, assisting with the church retreat, running Vacation Bible School, and review of the Pastor's evaluation.

- Deacon's Report: The Deacons, Mary Lee Sailer, Russ Brierley, Diane Battilana, Beth Kirschner, Mary Lou Esposito, and Muriel Lewis, are responsible to aid in securing funds for the operation of the church, foster the principle of stewardship, dispense the charity of the church, and oversee/audit the financial records of the Treasurer and cemetery. Accomplishments for 2007 include tremendous mission donations with over \$18,000 raised through One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, Christmas Fund, Mensch Mill, Church Change, Wyncote Home, Bethany House, All Saints Sunday, Crop Walk, Souper Bowl, Lord's Pantry, Christmas Adopt-A-Family, Exton-Lionville Ministerium, and Our Churches Wider Mission. The "We Can Do All Things – Big Secret Stewardship campaign resulted in 30 pledges totaling \$89,206. One hundred three offering envelopes have been distributed for 2008. The 2008 budget has been approved with \$22,000 budgeted for Mission and Outreach and \$15,000 for OCWM. St. Paul's ended 2007 with a budget surplus of \$2,177.
- Trustee's Report: The Trustees, Greg Allen, Lorraine Nowlan, Matthew Kilaeski, Reid Hoover, Marg Perina, and Jon Kopf, are responsible for the care and custody of the church property including the building, grounds and equipment, as well as the utilities and services. They coordinate use of the church by outside groups, and transact business of the cemetery. Accomplishments for 2007 include the appointment of Bob Norwood as the church Sexton, oversaw various building and grounds projects including the Sunday school classroom and nursery makeover, church windows, kitchen remodeling planning, parking lot paving planning, new roof, organ installation and church cleanout. The trustees also organized fall and spring work days and maintain the "Honey-do list."
- Committee and Group Reports:
 1. Worship and Ministry
 - Christian Education – Lisa Allen, Committee Chair, is putting together a scrap book of activities with children in the church, it is kept in the green Sunday School room – check it out!
 - Adult Sunday School - Barb Schneller, leader, studying Paul's letter to the Romans this year, meets at 9 am.
 - Vacation Bible School – Mary Raudenbush, chair, had a very successful program in 2007, will have VBS during the last week of July 2008, always looking for people to assist. Next meeting April 7.
 - Youth Group – Liza Hauze, meets Sunday evenings
 - Boy Scout Troup 482 – Nancy Greger, donated over 300 hours of community service in 2007, Easter flower sale in 2007 and again in 2008, Eagle scout project to do maintenance/repair to cemetery.
 - Church Growth Committee – Mary Raudenbush, chair, develop ideas to grow the church, always looking for good ideas, meetings are open to all.
 - Greeters & Readers – Nancy Wilson coordinates, new sign-up sheet on bulletin board in the social hall, please sign up.
 - Loaves & Fishes – Mary Raudenbush coordinates – please sign upon the bulletin board in the social hall.

- Music Committee – Mary Raudenbush, chair, received approval to purchase hand bells for a hand bell choir and is looking for interested people to sign up to participate in the hand bell choir and for donations to help cover the cost of the hand bells.
 - Pastoral Relations Committee – Fran Pluchino, chair.
2. Mission and Outreach
- Atkinson Men’s Shelter – Diane Battilana coordinator, served dinner to the men at the shelter on the first and second Monday each month, please let her know if you are interested in participating.
 - Community Outreach Committee – Don Raudenbush, represents St. Paul’s at this outgrowth of the Lionville-Exton Ministerium.
 - Memorial Scholarship Committee- Don Raudenbush, chair.
 - Food Bank – Nancy Wilson coordinates bringing food donations to the Lord’s Pantry in Downingtown about once per month; this is an ongoing mission of St. Paul’s and donations are always appreciated.
 - Prayer Community – Barb Coover coordinates the prayer phone chain, please notify her of any prayer concerns and she will activate the prayer chain.
 - Sunshine Committee – Barb Coover and Robin Madison send cards to members for birthdays, get well and other occasions.
3. Church Operations
- Treasurer – Dan Shoop. The last two years have been very gratifying; we have funds to work with. The 2007 audit has been completed. Please see the budget report for details.
 - Endowment & Financial Planning Committee– Russ Brierley, Chair. The committee recognizes that the church belongs to all of us and all are responsible for fiscal soundness and has made an effort to make the church financial information available to all through the bulletins and newsletter. The focus for the coming year will be on planned giving. The investment and endowment policies of the church lay the foundation for planned giving.
 - Memorial Fund – Don Raudenbush.
 - Cemetery – Ron Trimble, Mary Lou Esposito, Bob Norwood, and the Trustees oversee the operation and maintenance of the cemetery. The headstones that are down will be put back into place this spring/summer. Michael Scripko will make a map of the cemetery as part of his Eagle Scout project.
 - Records Clerk – Diane Battilana.
 - Fundraising – Fran Pluchino, chair. The major fundraising activities are the Easter Candy Sale and the Christmas Holiday Fair. Help and ideas are always welcome.
 - Historical – Mary Lou Esposito keeps the historical records for the church.
4. Communications & Public Relations
- The Clear Voice Newsletter, edited and produced by Cynthia Harrison and Russ Brierley, comes out monthly, please let them know if you have items to add. They are looking for some assistance if you would like to help, please contact either one of them.
 - Weekly Bulletins, produced by Mary Lou Esposito, if you have items for the bulletin, please contact Mary Lou.

- Publicity Team - Mary Lee Sailer and Lorraine Nowlan will arrange publication of church events in local papers. If you have events to publicize in the community, please contact them.
 - Web Site- Don Raudenbush is the web master for St. Paul's website with assistance from other church members.
5. Fellowship
- There are a variety of fellowship activities at St. Paul's, if you are interested in participating in any of these activities, please contact the individuals listed:
 - Book discussion, meets the last Tuesday of most months. Barb Schneller coordinates this group, please contact her with any suggestions of books that you have read or to get information.
 - Day Timers is coordinated by Barbara Coover and take local trips of interest during the day, contact Barb with suggestions or if you would like more information.
 - Men's Fellowship, coordinated by Don Raudenbush meets for breakfast at the Exton Diner on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30.
 - Bridge Club is coordinated by Mary Raudenbush and is looking for new members. If you would like to learn how to play bridge, this is the group for you.
 - Minglers, coordinated by Mary Raudenbush plans occasional dinners and activities, if you are interested, please contact Mary.
 - Mom's Morning Out, coordinated by Liza Hauze for Moms who would like some time out. Dads and other volunteers provide child care at the church.
 - Church Growth Committee, chaired by Mary Raudenbush, has also provided impetus for many fellowship activities including family game nights, picnics, pot luck luncheons, dining out, travelogues, baseball outings, movie nights and coordinates the loaves and fishes fellowship time between services on Sunday mornings.
6. Abraham Feters-White School Preservation Society
- Frank Perina, Fran Pluchino, and Amy Layman form the Preservation Society and are engaged in the restoration of the school building which sits on St. Paul's property. Funding from the congregation in the amount of \$15,000 for 2007 and \$15,000 for 2008 was approved at the November congregational meeting. Voluntary donations with matching by an anonymous donor were approximately \$25,935. The current project is installation of a new septic system. Once that is complete and utilities are installed, work on the inside will begin with the goal of opening the school house in the fall. It will be available for use by St. Paul's and community groups.

Photos of some of the physical plant work that has been accomplished at St. Paul's were shared these included the new organ dedicated to Bessie Rogers, the roof and window projects, and the Sunday school classroom and nursery makeover.

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the reports of Consistory and each board, committee and group as printed in the booklet that was prepared and distributed to each church member.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Schneller,
Consistory Secretary.