

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

St. John UCC Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 21, 2018

Present 36 members

President Sue Williams opened the meeting at 11:05 a.m. after the church service. Pastor Rosemary Captain followed with a prayer.

Minutes from the January 29, 2017 Congregational meeting were accepted as printed.

Ginny Ganschietz explained the Financial Report. Questions were asked and answered. Nancy Eisenhower moved to accept it and Judy Hartmann seconded. Motion passed.

Ginny then presented the 2018 Budget. A question and answer period followed. Tiffany Baldwin moved to accept the budget. Eileen Gammon seconded. Motion passed.

Nancy Eisenhower and Sue Ganschietz agreed to continue to serve on council. Lew Thomasino and Sharon Banjavcic were elected to serve on Council. Motion to accept. Wayne Schlosser. Second, Dorothy Ovelgoenner. Motion passed.

The congregation voted unanimously to call Pastor Rosemary Captain to be their Settled Pastor.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Sue Ganschietz, secretary

Pastor's Report – Congregational Annual Meeting January 20, 2019

Another year filled with blessings at St. John UCC. My first Sunday with you was March 26, 2017. After a year of being your “designated” pastor, the congregation voted to offer me a Call to be their 3/4 Time Pastor and Teacher. I gratefully accepted. After no longer having the “designated” status, we were able to plan a celebration of installation. The congregation and choir from St. Paul UCC in Lebanon, my home church, was invited to participate along with the St. John Choir and pastors throughout the area. The joyous and moving service was held on April 15, 2018.

This congregation has expressed their hospitality by opening their doors to an Alcoholics Anonymous weekly meeting, the Quilt Guild, a Spiritual Writing Group, and a LGBTQ youth group which met twice a month. Unfortunately, the LGBTQ group no longer meets due to insurance purposes.

We've had several speakers and music groups join us for worship: "Celtica Light" accompanied our hymns with Celtic music; Rev. Donna Pupillo, RN, the Executive Director of Deaconess Parish Nurses shared the message with us; and Mark Knott, an Addiction Counselor with Gateway Services who spoke on "Hope and New Life in Recovery." On September 30, our worship was held outside on our grounds, as our pets were blessed and we dedicated our new roof.

To "celebrate" the 200th Anniversary of Luther's Reformation, we had a spaghetti lunch after Sunday worship preceding a showing of the movie, "Martin Luther; the Idea that Changed the World." During Lent we had Wednesday evening suppers followed by a video and discussion about forgiveness. Our Adult Sunday School continues each Sunday before worship when we have read and discussed several books including "Making Sense of Scripture", the theology of Martin Luther, "Making Sense of the Cross", and presently "Making Sense of the Bible." We enjoyed several different authors expressing their theology, as their words continue to facilitate our own faith formation.

This past year we celebrated the lives of several past members as they transitioned to Life Eternal: Dennis Ford, Charles Bogner, LaVerne Kistler, and Eileen Cox. The first Sunday of the month, I have visited and shared communion with those who are shut-ins. I also sent out Christmas cards, greeting cards, or get-well cards to members who have not attended worship recently.

Personally, I attended "Boundary Training", "Day of Discipleship", and Illinois South Conference (ISC) Annual Meeting this past year. I continue to serve on the ISC Personnel Committee and the Conference Council. Community wide, I participated in the Metro East Prayer Breakfast, and the Swansea Memorial Day Service.

I am very proud that this congregation has participated in the Five UCC Offerings throughout the year. At ISC Annual Meeting we received a certificate noting that we are a 5 for 5 Congregation.

Every day I give thanks for all of you, as I feel blessed to overflowing for being your pastor and teacher. All praise and glory to God, Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, that makes all things possible. Amen.

Rev. Rosemary Captain

Food Pantry 2018 Recap

St. John UCC once again did an outstanding job supporting the Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry. The congregation donated food items and money each Sunday Communion was served. Evening Circle made several cash donations throughout the year. Pennies for Mission were donated on multiple occasions.

St. John donated over 900 food items and more that \$3600 in cash. Other food and cash donations were sent directly to the Food Pantry by St. John members. This amount of cash donations equals the average monthly cash spending by the pantry for milk, eggs, margarine, fresh ground beef and other items not met by donations such as detergent, pancake mix and personal care items.

The pantry served 1355 families (4,237 people) in 2018. There were 97 new families that sought food assistance. The number of Fairview Heights residents in food crisis continues.

Thank you all for helping meet the needs of others. Sue Ganschinietz

President's Report

St. John saw several big changes in 2018. As everyone knows, we completed the sale of the parsonage. A big thank you to Sue Williams for staying involved to help complete the sales effort at the beginning of the year. While it was sad to lose a part of our church property, the sale gave us the funds we needed to pay off the parking lot/parsonage loan, replace the leaky roof we have struggled with for at least ten years (another thank you to Janice Petroff for finding and coordinating with the roofer), and add a new shed to replace our previous garage storage. The council has also received bids to replace the walkway outside the back door and improve the drainage in that area to prevent our occasional floods where the water has risen high enough outside to work its way under the door and down the hallway by the office. In addition, we are beginning to investigate if we can take advantage of an Ameren discount program to update the lighting in the L-room and classrooms. We thank you for your support in 2018 and look forward to continuing to serve St. John in 2019.

Lew Thomasino
Council President

Evening Circle

The Evening Circle meets at 7:00pm on the third Monday of each Month from September to April.

Sub Sandwiches and Turtles were made in January. We also signed Valentines to be sent to local veterans and of course sent birthday cards to church members.

In September we planned events for the coming year. November's Thank Offering was given to OCWM and in December we had our annual Christmas party complete with games and prizes a special offering was given to the Fairview Heights Food Pantry. December brought our annual Bake Sale and we again sponsored a child at KinderCottage for Christmas and had a special offering for the Fairview Heights Food Pantry. The ladies signed Christmas cards to be delivered to senior shut-ins.

As always, we donated the proceeds from our fundraisers to several causes: the St. John camp fund, the Fairview Heights Food Pantry, KinderCottage , OCWM, Hoyleton and the building fund.

In April the ladies met at Houlihan's for dinner for the St. John fund raiser.

All ladies of the church are welcome. We would love to see you there!

Choir

The choir sang at least once a month, except for summer months. They prepared special anthems for Easter, Pentecost and Christmas. During Advent we also lead the congregation in a music-filled Advent candle lighting ceremony each Sunday. Among our faithful singers were Scott and Shannon Banjavcic; Anne Brown; Jackie Canterbury; Kim Christ; Vicki Hartmann; Stacie Pickens; Jennifer Riess; Mike Stidham and Lew Thomasino. Many thanks to all of them and especially to Sharon Banjavcic who always makes us sound great!

Sunday School and Faith Formation

Our Sunday School numbers have grown of late! The children start each Sunday in church with their families. After children's time, they come to the Sunday School area for a lesson. Among our rotating teachers are Judy Schmitt, Jan Miller, Eileen Gammon, Becky Riess, Anne Brown and Nancy Eisenhauer. We are currently using Gemma Thomasino in the nursery each Sunday. If you are interested in sharing the joy of working with youngsters, please let Judy Hartmann or one of the Sunday school teachers know.

For adults, there was a Lenten study of forgiveness. On Wednesday evenings, we gathered to share a meal and then to read, pray and study. There is adult Sunday School each Sunday at 8:45. The topics change from time to time. Recently the group has focused on Adam Hamilton's book on the Bible. There is room for you in the group!

Mission Projects

In addition to our ongoing mission to support the Fairview Heights Food Pantry, St. John undertook a large project to make 200 feminine hygiene kits for girls in the Andes mountains of Peru. Without them the girls miss a week of school each month. Barb Whitaker touched our hearts with a presentation of the living conditions of indigenous people of the Andes mountains. Her plea for 200 kits was met with, "We can do this!"

About 20 women gathered each month to trace, cut, sew, assemble, apply snaps and ribbons in the various parts of the kits. We met September through December and we have very nearly completed the kits that include 200 bags, 400 holders, 1600 pads, 200 washcloths, 400 panties, 400 zip-loc bags and instructions. Soap will be purchased for the kits when they get to Peru.

Those of us involved have found it to be a fulfilling activity and have enjoyed the fellowship of old and new friends. Oh, and the lunches!

Council Members

This year the four people completing their terms are Wayne Schlosser, Rosemary Williams, Janice Petroff and Ginny Ganschinietz. There are four people nominated for the next two year term. Ginny Ganschinietz, Tom Miller, Wayne Schlosser and Janice Petroff.

Statistics for 2018

Our attendance averaged 35.

Our membership at beginning of year 97.

Our membership at end of year 94.

We had one new member and 4 deaths.