


THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 (Congregational)
 13740 Pearl Road
 Strongsville, Ohio 44136
 Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor



Church Telephone: (440) 238-6697
Email: StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
Website: www.strongsvilleucc.com
Traditional Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday
Contemporary Worship 11:15 A.M. Sunday

JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p>JANUARY 4 Second Sunday after Christmas</p> <p>Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-12 Sermon: <i>What Gift Shall I Bring?</i></p> <p>Communion at Both Services</p> 	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Ted Bickley Greeters: Lloyd and Barbara Bridle Ushers: Lloyd and Barbara Bridle Gary and Kathie Paul Nursery: Sharon Heinrich Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Lora Rung Graphics Operation: Michele Mihlack Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer</p>
<p>JANUARY 11 First Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>Scriptures: Psalm 29 Sermon: <i>The Voice of God</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jim Studer Greeter: Prudence Richards Ushers: Needed Nursery: Cathy Hawk Coffee Hour: Sharon Heinrich</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Michele Mihlack Graphics Operation: Rosemary Bechtel Coffee Hour: Sharon Heinrich</p>
<p>JANUARY 18 Second Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>Scriptures: John 1:43-51 Sermon: <i>Jesus Is Calling</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Kenn Oerkfitz Greeters: Kenn and Ginny Oerkfitz Ushers: Needed Nursery: Beth Giuliano Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jim Nicoulin Greeters: Kenn and Ginny Oerkfitz Graphics Operation: Rosemary Bechtel Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer</p>
<p>JANUARY 25 Third Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>Scriptures: Rev. 3:7-13 Sermon: <i>What Does It Say?</i></p> <p>Annual Meeting of Congregation after 11:15 A.M. Worship (preceded by Pancake Breakfast)</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Pam Keenen Greeters: Ed and Cheryl Sobek Ushers: Needed Nursery: Sarah Hayes</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Betty Craig Greeters: Ed and Cheryl Sobek Graphics Operation: Michele Mihlack</p>

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

QUESTION:

Pastor, how did we do as a church this past year?

Whenever I'm asked how well we did, I am always cautious with my answer. How well we did depends on the criteria we use to make the determination. For some the criteria are based on facts and figures. How much income did we have? How many people attended the church? What is our average attendance at each service? Did we pay all our bills? For others the criteria are less factual and need some intuitive values. How did we do reaching out to the community? Did many people find a new relationship or grow in their relationship with Jesus? Did we care for our shut-ins? Were we faithful this year? Trying to make sense of these questions is often complex and always open to interpretation.

This year we saw an increase in the attendance at worship of about 15 persons per week or about a 12% increase. We also saw a general increase at many of the special services held throughout the year such as Lenten services and Blue Christmas. While this is a positive report, I believe we could have done better. I had hoped for about a 25% increase for the year.

This year we saw an increase in our giving in worship, as well as funds raised through special activities such as the Pirates Party and breakfasts. There was a slight decrease in the overall income due to not having the special offering for purchasing new property we experienced last year. Overall, we did well this year with our income.

Areas where we did well were in beginning a new advertising program and completing another phase of the organ restoration. We did some remodeling of the sanctuary that created a renewed sense of being in worship for those in the side room. The addition of the new TV is wonderful. The praise band and choir have also blossomed this year under the leadership of Ken and Elena. However, there is still much work to be done to expand our extravagant welcome to new visitors. This year we started the new free lunch program. The program has started slow but I believe it will continue to grow. Thanks to all who are helping in many ways.

I also believe we have continued to grow spiritually. While there is no way to give a quantitative measurement, I feel a growing focus on Jesus and His mission to the world. We also reached out to the world through the Missions and Outreach Committee in new ways. There are many other factors I will cover in my report to the Church for the annual meeting but for now I can say WE DID GOOD. Thanks, everyone, for all your work this year to spread the Gospel into our community and world.

Pastor Becky

DIACONATE DAILIES

As we move from the Advent season, I hope you have had a joyful Christmas and a wonderful beginning to the New Year. I hope you enjoyed the wonderful events and services we have had over the last month. I would like to thank everyone for attending and helping with the various services; and if you would like to get more involved in the coming year, we would love to have you! If you have any questions or feedback, please let any Diaconate member know.

As we head into a new year, there is much we would like to see and hope you can be a part of it. Please become involved on a committee/team or special project. We need any and all help. If you would like to spend time helping with coffee hour, volunteering as a greeter or usher, we really need your help. Please sign up in the Gathering Area for a Sunday!

The Diaconate has a few openings for the coming year. If you are interested in serving, please see Sally Herzog, Vice Moderator. Also remember to join us for the Annual Meeting on the last Sunday in January! This is where you can become informed about the church and plans for the coming year.

Also, as many know, last year we worked on goals throughout the year. The Diaconate did well with their goals by improving Coffee Hour, working on the Contemporary Service, working to clean up public areas, and more. We will be re-evaluating and picking new goals for the coming year. We hope we can complete them all! I know with the church's faith and help we can!

I would like to personally thank all the members of the Diaconate for their time and dedication over the last year. It has been a great year!

Thanks,
Rachel Zielinski
Diaconate Chairperson

Strongsville UCC

SWISS STEAK DINNER

Saturday – January 31, 2015

Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 P.M.

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults \$10.00 Ages 6-12 \$5.00 Under 6 years Free

Help is needed. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

For safety reasons, no children under age 6 (with or without parent) can be helpers in any capacity during the serving hours of 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Children 6 to 10 must have a parent helping them.

The Thrift Shop will be open.

MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

It is with great pleasure that the Music Committee announces the selection of David Kay to fill the position of Choir Director. David's impressive resume, musical talent and enthusiastic spirit will surely further strengthen and expand our Music Ministry.

David earned his BA from Michigan State University and his Masters from Indiana University. He currently teaches music (jazz studies) at the University School and Interlochen Arts Camp.

David's wife, Lalene, is also a gifted musician and Music Therapist at Baldwin Wallace University. They live in Berea.

David will take over choral director duties from our wonderful interim director, Ken Mehalko, beginning January 1. We extend our profound gratitude and appreciation for Ken's excellent leadership of the choir since stepping in this October.

Please join us in welcoming David and Lalene into our church family.

THE THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop will be closed on Thursday, January 1. Regular hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. will resume on Thursday, January 8, 2015.

We'll have a special sale each week. Join our email list, and you will know our weekly sales!

Stop in for some amazing bargains.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The profit from the Candy Sale was \$435.97. Thank you to everyone who helped or supported the sale in any way.

Betty Craig
Candy Chairman

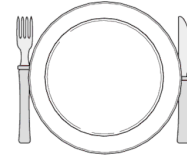
IN SYMPATHY



Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to Barb Camp and family on the passing of her mother, Hallie Strine, on December 9. The funeral was held on December 12 in Ashland

WEDNESDAY FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

The program is in operation! All are welcome to attend this free weekly lunch. Volunteers who prepare meals are asked to be at the church no later than 9:00 a.m. Servers can arrive at 10:00 a.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Donations of canned or dry goods will be accepted, and monetary donations will be appreciated.



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Thank you to all who brought items or contributed financially for our Thanksgiving Baskets. Thirteen families received baskets, and \$1,770 was collected. The remaining food and funds will be used for our Free Wednesday Luncheon program or to provide grocery gift cards to hungry families. Thanks again for your support of this community outreach project.



JOURNEY IN FAITH Membership Class

Pastor Becky will again teach a 12-week Journey in Faith class that will meet on Thursdays, beginning January 8, 2015, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the church. Members, as well as potential members, are welcome and encouraged to attend. Topics covered include: *Establishing the Group, The Bible as Our Authority, Discovering Jesus, What We Believe and How We Got Here, The Nature of the Church, From the Early Church to Us, We Are ALL Gifted, Investigating the Local Church, Christian Giving, Understanding Different Levels of Living and Giving, The Meaning of Christian Covenant, and Investigating Worship*. Both members and nonmembers will enjoy the camaraderie and the knowledge that Pastor Becky shares.

To register for the class, please mark the back of your Attendance Card on Sunday morning, or call the church office at (440) 238-6697.



BIRTH



*Congratulations to
great-grandmother Betty Bushea,
grandparents Frank and Karen Bushea,
and parents PJ and Abby Church
on the birth of Reagan Marie Church
on Sunday, December 7, 2014!*

OUR PRAYER LIST

Hospitals no longer provide names of members who are patients. If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please inform the church of updates to this list.

Long-Term Care or Homebound Members: Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Sandra Kornick at Southwest Commons, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Betty Babics, Betty Bushea, Rachel Kovatich, Dolores Matchett, Barbara Morgan, Ann Sullen at Parkside Villa, Rachel Zielinski

Extended Church Family: Bob Allwood (brother-in-law of Dale Hawk), Marianne Allwood (niece of Dale Hawk), Don Antos (friend of Judy Carte), June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Ryan Brubeck, Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Nicole Dangelo (daughter of Ginny), Sister-in-Law of Ginny Dangelo, Rebecca Deeb (Goddughter of Lora Rung), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Pam Doubell (friend of Sue Gigliotti), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Christine Knudsen (friend of Lora Rung), Nancy Leasure (friend of Pastor Becky), Lily (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Paul Mhlack (father of Allen) at Southwest General, Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Donna Wadden (friend of Gayle Sperber), Marilyn Woodward (mother of David and Carol)

THANK YOU

Dear church friends,

Thank you to everyone for all the lovely cards, calls, and visits. I miss seeing everyone.

Betty Bushea.

STRONGSVILLE CITY JAZZ SWING BAND FUNDRAISER CONCERT December 12, 2014

A heartfelt thank you to the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band for their wonderful benefit concert on Friday, December 12, in our Sanctuary. \$725 was raised for our church's Music Ministry.

Thanks also to who all who purchased tickets, to all who provided refreshments, and to all who supported the concert in any way. It was fine event. Thanks again.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Sunday mornings:

GREET OR USHER

Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area.

COLLATE ANNUAL REPORTS in Pilgrim Hall

(Tentatively) **Sunday – January 11, 2015**
during Coffee Hour and after worship

HELP and / or PROVIDE BAKERY

for the

Swiss Steak Dinner on January 31, 2015

Please see the signup sheet in Pilgrim Hall.

MISSING: 2 LARGE PINK LAUNDRY BASKETS

that are used at church dinners for towels and aprons. One has been gone since before the Turkey Dinner; and the other, since the Turkey Dinner.

Please return them.

Thank you.



NEW SIGN-UP CHARTS IN GATHERING AREA

The 2015 sign-up charts for Greeters, Ushers and Altar Flowers are now on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Please help in these areas if you can. Assistance is greatly appreciated!



For the Altar Flowers chart –please indicate how many vases you want that day. Our church typically has two vases on the altar on Sunday morning, but we will accommodate as many as are wanted. The cost is \$15 per vase. Additional information is on the flower form that is beneath the flower chart in the Gathering Area.

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Strongsville Food Bank currently has 215 families on file and is providing for 418 individuals every month.

Adopted Families – Our Mission and Outreach Committee has adopted two families recommended as needing extra help by Kelly Kling, the food bank administrator.

The one family has five children ages 12 and under. They have been offered free tickets for the upcoming church dinners. Our Thrift Shop is giving them credit for their Thrift Shop purchases

The second family has three children—ages 18, 12 and 11. The father is employed as a part-time carpenter. They recently had to junk their car and do not have the ability to buy another. The father is taking a bus to work.

If you have an older car or van that you are thinking of donating to a charity, this can be done through our church. The church will provide a tax donation receipt to the donor.



Quilt – The Mission and Outreach quilt was won by Irene Jannsohn on December 14, and the raffle generated \$615 for the Mission and Outreach Committee. Thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets, and to Ha Bennett for creating the beautiful quilt.

Next meeting of the Mission and Outreach Committee is Tuesday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Interested members are most welcome and are encouraged to attend the meeting.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS from Caroline Y

We received a colorful picture of a Christmas tree with a note from our eight-year-old adopted daughter from India, Caroline Y. She is attending the Village Farm School in Vellore, which is a part of our UCC–Disciples of Christ Christian Global Ministries program.

Caroline writes:

*WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 2015*

Dear Aunt and Uncle,

Here I am fine. How are you? On November 14 we celebrated Children's Days (and) on December 2 my school celebrated "Suppose Christmas". I enjoyed (it) very much. My Christmas greetings and New Year wishes to you. I am studying well. Here the weather is very cool. I am praying for you. Please pray for my studies. Thank you for help and support.

*Yours loving,
* Y. Caroline*

We have an 8 x 12 picture of her on the Mission and Outreach display in Pilgrim Hall, as well as some interesting displays of Global Ministries work in the world. Take a few minutes to see it. Support for Caroline is given on a monthly basis at \$30.00 a month. **Please sign up as a sponsor for a month in 2015 – on the display itself.** Thank you for your generous support throughout 2014!

A THANK YOU from Global Ministries

Greetings from Cleveland, Ohio, and the Global Ministries staff! This remarkable and unique program is making a difference in this world—one child at a time. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your gift of \$120 (the balance for 2014) to help defray the cost of operations.

We look forward to your continued commitment and devotion to this ministry. Again, that you for taking an active role in the future of children and the program (at King Matriculation School in Vellore, India). Please know that we deeply appreciate your being a part of our Global Ministries family.

*Sincerely,
Patricia Cornacchione
Global Ministries*

STEEPLE LIGHTING

For the Week of December 14, 2014

*Happy Birthday to Bill Craig on December 17
With love, Mom*

For the Week of December 21, 2014

*In Memory of Baby Clare Molnar
In Memory of My Dad, Ray Higham
Happy 86th Birthday, Mom, on December 24
Happy 30th Birthday, Jonathan, on December 18
Happy 45th Birthday, Rachel, on December 30
Dianne and John Maringer*

To light the steeple for a week, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Information and donation forms are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Multiple donations for the same week will be accepted. Thank you to all who light the steeple.



STRONGSVILLE UCC'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

As part of our church's 200th anniversary In 2017, we will be printing a new, one-of-a-kind . . . cookbook! We would like to include old recipes passed down through generations from your families and friends. Also we want any new recipes you are currently loving! Please submit all recipes in an envelope with your name and phone number to Marty Winch, Dianne Maringer, or place under the church office door. Thank you.



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

For Annual Reports

December 31 – Annual Reports are due in the church office.

January 2-10 – Annual Reports booklets are prepared and printed.

January 11 – Annual Reports are collated in Pilgrim Hall. Volunteers are needed.

Beginning January 11 – Members may pick up their Annual Reports booklets at the church. If you need a copy mailed to you, please call the church office at (440) 238-6697.

FINANCIAL OFFICERS OF CHURCH GROUPS:

Please turn in your financial statements to the Auditing Committee through the Church office now. It is extremely important that all books be audited before the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2015. All organizations are required to submit:

1. ALL bank books (savings and/or checking).
2. ALL bank statements for each month for each account. Checking accounts statements should show completed reconciliation on the back.
3. ALL monthly recap forms.
4. ALL bank deposit slips, withdrawal slips and bank check receipts (if received), attached to monthly recap forms.
5. ALL receipts and bills paid.
6. Copy of Annual Financial Report (original provided to church office for Annual Report).

Thank you for your cooperation! For questions or concerns, please call the church office, (440) 238-6697.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Many offices in the church are available for this year. Please consider saying yes when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve. Some of the positions available include:

Diaconate is the board that oversees the worship operations and church services.

The committees of the Diaconate are Acolytes, Altar, Coffee Hour, Funeral, Greeters, Membership, Nursery, Pastoral Relations, Special Events, and Ushers.

The Board of Trustees oversees the finances and physical plant of the church.

The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long Range Planning.

Remember the old but true saying "Many hands make light work" and plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Barb Fraunfelder

RECYCLING

The River Valley Paper Company picked up—

SEPTEMBER – 5,280 lbs. of recycled material at \$25 per ton for a total payment of **\$70.95**.

OCTOBER – 8,860 lbs. at \$30 per ton for a total payment of **\$132.90!!!**

THANK YOU for continuing to recycle. As most of you may know, we collect newspapers, office and school paper, phonebooks, magazines, catalogs, brown paper bags, mail, hard and soft bound books, and cardboard (please collapse boxes before placing them in the recycling bin).

FUN FACTS – Published by River Valley Paper Company (and posted on our Pilgrim Hall bulletin board):

	SEPTEMBER 2014 Our 5,280 lbs. of recycled paper saved:	OCTOBER 2014 Our 8,860 lbs. of recycled paper saved:
WE SAVED:		
Trees	44.88	75.31
Pounds of CO2	660	1,107.50
Cubic yards of landfill space	8.71	14.62
Gallons of water	18,480	31,010
Kilowatts of electricity	10,824	18,163
Homes heated for 6 months	2.64	4.43
Pounds of air pollutants	158.40	265.80

Did you know? The United States is the world's largest consumer of newsprint.

THANK YOU for RECYCLING!!!

Giving Statements – Statements for the year 2014 will be distributed or mailed by the end of January, 2015.

Giving Envelopes – The envelopes for the new quarter, January through March, 2015, should have arrived in your mailbox the last week of December. If you did not receive yours, please contact me at 440-331-3673 or bfraunfelder@ameritech.net.

Barb Fraunfelder

2015 ANNUAL ALL-FAMILY CHURCH WINTER RETREAT AT PILGRIM HALLS

The Church's Annual all-family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills will take place on President's Day weekend 2015: February 13, 14 and 15. The sign-up sheet to attend and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer have been posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please reserve your space NOW. The cut-off to sign up—January 18—will be strictly enforced this year. We will not have the same luxury as we've had in the past, in which we were able to take reservations up until the event weekend. Also, please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. Finally, those that wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation by January 18.

HERE IS THE COST BREAKDOWN:

ADULTS (12 and up): \$65
CHILDREN (6-11): \$10
CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

JANUARY 18, 2015:
Reservations close AND MONEY DUE

FEBRUARY 1, 2015:
All special dietary needs must be reported

FEBRUARY 8, 2015:
Retreat planning meeting at church
(time and room to be determined)

In preparation for a new game at the Winter Retreat (after 2 consecutive years, "The Best Game" will be sent to the bench), we have prepared a 50-question survey in which **ANYONE CAN PARTICIPATE**. You don't need to be a regular church retreat goer, and it's OK if you've never even attended the retreat. (But if you've never gone, shouldn't you be asking yourself, "Why not?")

For each question on the survey, just give the first answer that pops into your head. For example, when the survey asks you to name a church organist, it can be any organist past or present. We're not asking you to name the current person in each position, but if that's the first answer you think of, by all means, write it down. There are no right or wrong answers. Don't overthink it, just jot down whatever answer you think best fits the category. After you complete it, please give to Charles or Aimée Jannsohn. Or you can fill it out and e-mail it to us at jannsohn@cox.net. There will also be extra copies on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall for people to fill out. We're doing this now before we get too busy with the holidays. Won't you please do us a favor and take just 10 minutes to fill out our fun little survey? It would be much appreciated.

2015 RETREAT GAME SURVEY QUESTIONS

- 1) CHURCH MEMBER FIRST NAME BETTY: _____
- 2) CHURCH DINNER: _____
- 3) CHURCH FUNDRAISER: _____
- 4) CHURCH THRIFT SHOP WORKER: _____
- 5) CHURCH CHOIR DIRECTOR: _____
- 6) CHURCH CHOIR MEMBER: _____
- 7) CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER: _____
- 8) CHURCH ROOM / AREA: _____
- 9) CHURCH SET OF TWINS: _____
- 10) CHURCH MINISTER / PASTOR: _____
- 11) CHURCH SECRETARY: _____
- 12) CHURCH COMMITTEE: _____
- 13) CHURCH BOARD: _____
- 14) CHURCH CONFIRMATION TEACHER: _____
- 15) CHURCH PART OF THE SANCTUARY: _____
- 16) CHURCH MIDDLE-ROOM WORKER: _____
- 17) CHURCH PIE-ROOM WORKER: _____
- 18) CHURCH PART OF PILGRIM HALL: _____
- 19) CHURCH GARAGE SALE WORKER: _____
- 20) CHURCH FAVORITE CHRISTMAS EVENT: _____
- 21) CHURCH BOX-LUNCH AUCTIONEER: _____
- 22) CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICE JOB / DUTY: _____
- 23) CHURCH ORGANIST: _____
- 24) CHURCH FAMILY: _____
- 25) CHURCH 50-YEAR MEMBER: _____

- 26) CHURCH TREASURER / FINANCIAL SEC. _____
 - 27) CHURCH RETREAT GAME / ACTIVITY: _____
 - 28) CHURCH RETREAT LOAF: _____
 - 29) CHURCH CLUB OR GROUP: _____
 - 30) CHURCH RETREAT COORDINATOR: _____
 - 31) CHURCH PICNIC ACTIVITY: _____
 - 32) CHURCH RETREAT BUILDING: _____
 - 33) CHURCH MEMBER FIRST NAME BILL: _____
 - 34) CHURCH BELL CHOIR MEMBER: _____
 - 35) CHURCH MEMBER FIRST NAME DON: _____
 - 36) CHURCH MEMBER FIRST NAME BARB: _____
 - 37) CHURCH PART OF WORSHIP SERVICE: _____
 - 38) CHURCH FAVORITE HYMN: _____
 - 39) CHURCH MEMBER FIRST NAME JIM: _____
 - 40) CHURCH MEMBER FIRST NAME SARAH: _____
 - 41) CHURCH TALENT SHOW ACT: _____
 - 42) CHURCH EASTER-TIME EVENT: _____
 - 43) CHURCH BETTY CRAIG RELATIVE: _____
 - 44) CHURCH DEFUNCT ACTIVITY: _____
 - 45) CHURCH ADULT EDUCATION ACTIVITY: _____
 - 46) CHURCH YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITY: _____
 - 47) CHURCH BOOK OF THE BIBLE: _____
 - 48) CHURCH OFFICER POSITION (TITLE): _____
 - 49) CHURCH DIACONATE JOB: _____
 - 50) CHURCH PART OF THE NEWSLETTER: _____
- BONUS: NAME ANOTHER LOCAL UCC CHURCH:** _____

TREASURER'S REPORT

It looks like we could end the year with a slight excess headed into the next year. That is a relief. But, the new year looks scary with about \$8400 of quarterly and semiannual bills to be paid by the middle of the month. I know we will meet these obligations, and the Lord will provide.

As I am involved in the budgeting process, I have the opportunity to see where the money was spent and to a small degree what was the result. The largest amount, like in any organization, went for salaries. Some of the smaller costs were perhaps the most rewarding. Things like the following: The Rotary Breakfast, the Family Fun Day, the November Open House, the new Free Wednesday Lunch program, Blue Christmas, and the revamped music program. They have exposed our congregation to the community and let them know we exist and want to reach out. Have you also noticed new faces in church this year—ones that come and then come back again? I believe we are doing what Christ said we should do in the last chapter of Matthew when he said, *Go, therefore, and teach all nations*. Our nation is our community at present. That being said, we have also done a good job of reaching out to the church at large with contributions to the wider ministry of the United Church of Christ.

I know this next year will bring a lot more programs and hopefully growth. We may have a problem with cash flow, but we are doing the mission of the church. Let the new year begin. We can meet all challenges through Him who leads us.