

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Pastor's Report

In March of 2020 I will have been with you for three years. I feel blessed to have been with you all this time. 2019 was full of opportunities to serve God in many ways.

On March 31, 2019 we Blessed and Dedicated the Hygiene Kits for the Peru Project. Thanks to Nancy Eisenhauer who brought together friends from her Quilt Guild and the ladies of this church, to make this project a reality.

Sharon Banjavcic, Co-Convener of Illinois South Conference Region 9, brought us together to serve the needy in a different way. Many of us participated in the "Give a Hand Ministry" at Trinity UCC, preparing and serving lunch and leading worship for those in need. We also collected healthy snacks for the TWIGS summer lunch program lead by Rev. Carol Shanks from the Cahokia UCC. Of course, we have donated to many other missions with our "Penny Collection" every Sunday.

Some of us participated in the Metro-East Pride Festival in June and some participated in the non-violent protest on the steps of Madison County Court House to bring awareness of the mistreatment of children at our southern borders.

During Lent we had Soup and Study on Wednesday evenings, two Ash Wednesday services, followed by Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Services. We were "snowed out" three Sundays in the winter of 2019, but we persevered the other Sundays, including out lively and enlightening Sunday morning Adult Sunday School Class.

We said farewell to three members and family of the congregation this year, Eileen Cox, Jacque Mantel, Sheri Bryant, and Chuck Kistler's mother-in-law. On Communion Sundays, I try to visit our shut-ins to offer them the Sacred Meal. I continue to assist or lead monthly worship services at the Lebanon Care Center and Cedar Ridge Nursing Home. I also serve on the Illinois South Conference Council and Personel Committee. Thank you for allowing me to walk with you on our faith journey to be the church God is calling us to be.

Peace and blessings to you all, Pastor Rosemary Captain

St. John United Church of Christ Annual Congregational Meeting

Minutes - Sunday January 20, 2019

Present: 30

President Lew Thomasino opened the meeting at 10:55 after church service. Pastor Rosemary Captain followed with a prayer. Minutes from the January 21, 2018 Congregational meeting were accepted as printed. Motion made by Nancy Eisenhauer and seconded by Dorothy Ovelgoenner. Motion passed unanimously.

Ginny Ganschinietz presented the financial report. An audit of the books has found the records to be in accurate good order. The 2019 Budget was presented. Nancy Eisenhauer moved to accept and Sue Williams seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ginny Ganschinietz, Janice Petroff and Wayne Schlosser and Tom Miller agreed to serve on Council. Nancy Eisenhauer moved that Ginny, Janice, Wayne and Tom be elected by acclamation. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Sue Ganschinietz, Secretary

Special Congregational Meeting – Parking Lot Repairs

Sunday June 30, 2019

Present 30 (25 Members)

Council President, Lew Thomasino presented information regarding patch, repair and sealing of the church parking lot. Four bids had been received. Council voted to award the bid to Sonnenberg.

A question and answer period followed.

This project can be paid for out of savings. However, the savings will have to be replaced for use in the future. The congregation was asked to please give monthly to the Building Fund to build back savings.

Nancy Eisenhauer made a motion to give Church Council the authority to spend up to \$13,000 to repair and seal the church parking lot. Tiffany Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Ganschietz

To be voted on at the January 26, 2020 Congregational Meeting

We have four people who have agreed to serve on Church Council for 2020 and 2021 - they are Lew Thomasino, Sharon Banjavcic, Sue Williams & Judy Hartmann.

Our membership as of December 31, 2019 is 91.

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. December also 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, DuBois, the Fairview Heights Food Pantry, Kinder cottage, OCWM, Hoyleton and the building fund.

In April the ladies met at The Hop House in O'Fallon for our last get together.

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

Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry 2019 Summary

The St. John UCC congregation did a remarkable job of supporting the Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry during 2019. Food items and money were donated each Sunday communion was served. Pennies for Missions were designated for the pantry during several months. The ladies of Evening

Circle made monetary donations to the pantry on multiple occasions. Over 1,252 food items and more than \$3100.00 were delivered to the pantry after communion. Other food items and cash donations were sent directly to the Pantry by St. John members. The cash donations were used to purchase milk, margarine, eggs, bread, ground beef, and other items needed but not met by donations such as detergent, pancake mix and personal care items.

The pantry served more than 1252 families (4021 people) in 2019. There were 110 new families that sought food assistance. The number of Fairview Heights residents in food crisis continues. The Fairview Heights Food Pantry serves residents of Fairview Heights. Clients must bring a photo ID and a piece of mail such as a utility bill to prove residence. A client may obtain food once a month. Emergency orders are provided for non-residents who are referred to the pantry. Thank you all for helping meet the needs of others. May our giving spirit continue during 2020.

Sue Ganschinietz

Music Ministry

The choir sang at least once a month, except for summer months. They prepared special anthems for Easter, Pentecost and Christmas. 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!

In October we welcomed two groups to Sunday morning worship. On World Communion Sunday the Uku-Ladies and Guys led us in singing not only hymns, but some of the voluntaries for the day. Everyone enjoyed singing some old hymns with ukuleles! Later in the month Humble Servants shared their ministry in music with us. They sang many old gospel tunes for us.

Sunday School and Faith Formation

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, and Nancy Eisenhauer. 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 bible study. 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. We are currently reading and discussing our second book by Debbie Blue, "From Stone to Living Word - Letting the Bible Live Again". It has been interesting studying varying points of view of scripture. There is room for you in the group!