

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2023

PASTOR'S REPORT

For another year I have had the great honor and privilege of being your pastor and teacher. Another year and we have lost some loved ones from our church family and gained one. I appreciate your patience when I am ill or having surgery. The best thing that happened this year is that we are still together; St. John not only survives but thrives.

The many months we had to be apart during the pandemic taught me how important togetherness is. In this crazy and sometimes broken world, we need each other to laugh and cry together, to pray together, and to pray for each other. St. John is a faith family of truly caring and compassionate people. They lend their help whenever and to whomever needs it. They jump in where others would turn away.

St. John is truly a God centered and Jesus following church. I look forward to many more years of togetherness as we serve God's will. Peace and blessings to all,

Pastor Rosemary Captain

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Worship services were suspended in from January 16 through Feb 6 due to an increase in COVID. Pastor Rosemary continues to send out weekly bulletins containing the sermon via US mail and email.

We hired Chapman Lawn Services to mow the lawn at the cemetery and they will continue to do so in 2023. We had quite a few repairs that needed to be done this year. The cemetery fence was damaged by a car and has been repaired. The water fountain in the hall outside the office was replaced and the water shut off valve in the furnace room had to be replaced. The biggest expense occurred when we had to replace the HVAC system for the sanctuary. We also removed a tree and a large tree stump in the cemetery as they violated the city code.

At the semi-annual congregational meeting we informed the congregation of the repairs that needed to be done at that time. A second special congregational meeting was held to discuss the replacement of the HVAC system and the congregation voted to spend the funds to do the replacement.

Sue Williams

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES - January 23, 2022

26 Members Present

President Lew Thomasino opened the meeting at 11:00 am via Zoom. Pastor Rosemary opened the meeting with a prayer.

Eric Moayer agreed to serve on the Church Council. One person is still needed for the Church Council. Judy Hartmann and Sue Williams agreed to remain on the Council for another term. Pastor Rosemary moved that Eric be elected by acclamation. Motion passed unanimously

Minutes from the January 31, 2021 Congregational meeting and the June 13, 2021 Semi-Annual Congregational meeting were accepted. Motion made by Chuck Kistler and seconded by Tom Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

Ginny Ganschinietz presented the financial report. The income was greater than expenses for the year leaving a positive balance in the general account. Each year Illinois South Conference sets a guideline for salary increases for the conference. This year the guideline for salary increases was 5.9% to keep up with the cost of-living increase. Ginny Ganschinietz proposed a budget for 2022 which included this increase for employee's salaries. Wayne Schlosser moved to accept the financial reports from last year and the 2022 budget. Tom Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. An audit of the books will be completed by Jim Eisenhauer and Sharon Banjavcic.

Eric Moayer was installed by Pastor Rosemary as the new Church Council member.

Pastor Rosemary led the group in saying The Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35. Sharon Banjavcic, Secretary

SEMI ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES June 12, 2022

President Sue Williams called the meeting to order at 10:47am.

Sue Williams informed the congregation of the projects that are happening:

Cemetery: The Boy Scouts cleaned up the cemetery and took care of the tree that had fallen down. They also cleaned up the garden area. We have contracted with Chatman's Lawn service to mow the cemetery. The fence was damaged in March and we have contracted with Chesley Fence to make the repairs. This will be paid for by State Farm Insurance who insures the person who hit the fence.

Water Fountain: The old water fountain by the office is broken and we will replace it with a new fountain. The cost is \$493 and Tom Miller will do the installation.

Furnace room: We need to replace the old water shut off valve in the furnace room. The cost will be \$2930 to replace the valve, remove the concrete and patch the concrete.

Pictorial directory: we have been approached by the company that did our last directory about doing a new one. We will need 25 family units to do this at no cost. We can update it without pictures.

Ginny Ganschietz presented the financial report. Ginny stated that while we are not in bad shape right now our expenses have risen due to inflation and are about \$600 more than last year. We have had \$2,800 more in expenses than income.

Nancy Eisenhower asked that we recognize Tom Miller for all of the work he does around the church.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am

Sue Williams, Secretary

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES - July 17, 2022

Sue Williams called the meeting to order at 10:40am

The council has recommended replacing the heating and a/c units for the Narthex and Sanctuary with new units at a cost of \$16,986. Tom Miller explained to the congregation what needs to be replaced and that the current system is over 20 years old. Sigman Heating will do the work and has the necessary parts in stock.

Jim Eisenhower moved that the units be replaced and Rosemary Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50am.

Sue Williams, Secretary

EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month after worship from September through April.

We met in September for election of officers. Eileen made envelopes for our regular donations and special envelopes for the Thank Offering and Christmas donations. This year we gave special offerings for OCWM and the Fairview Heights Food Pantry. In February we distributed funds to DuBois, and the Food Pantry.

The group gave filled easter eggs to KinderCottage this year and In June we held a rummage sale to raise funds since we were unable to do some of our usual fund raisers.

In December we sent Christmas cards to church members over the age of 75 and sent cards to Veterans also. We also sponsored a child at KinderCottage with Christmas gifts.

In December we were able to hold our annual Christmas party

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

Eileen Gammon

PENNIES FOR MISSION

Hurricane Relief	\$122.08	January
Belleville Christian Center	\$250.57	February
One Great Hour	\$246.93	March
Heifer Project	\$ 70.00	April
FH Food Pantry	\$265.88	May

Strengthen the Church	\$373.63	June
DuBois	\$232.83	July
Disaster Relief	\$378.67	August & September
OCWM	\$570.69	October
Hoyleton Family Services	\$ 66.46	November
Christmas Fund	\$279.46	December

ST. JOHN CHOIR

St. John choir sang once a month during 2022, with the exception of the summer months. We have three paid choir members to supplement our small numbers. Those who participated during the year are Anne Brown, Kim Christ, Jackie Canterbury, Shara Toennies, Vicki Hartmann, Lew Thomasino, Oxby Thomasino, and Adam Reynolds. Scott and Shannon Banjavcic also sang with us on Christmas Eve. We were accompanied by Sharon Banjavcic and once by Lisa Cleveland.

It is my pleasure to work with all of these musicians. Not only do they show up extra early on the Sundays we sing, but they also use performance videos at home to help with learning their parts. We may be small in number, but we are big and beautiful in sound!

As in all efforts, we need someone who understands us and is the perfect complement to our personality and goals. I am so fortunate to have Sharon Banjavcic faithfully in that position. She is always prepared and knows just how to help the choir sing their best. Thanks, Sharon!

Nancy Eisenhauer, Choir Director

FOOD PANTRY RECAP 2022

St. John UCC did an amazing job of supporting the Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry this year. The congregation donated food items and money each Sunday Communion was served. Evening Circle also made donations.

Over 700 food items graced the altar on their way to the pantry. More than \$3500 was collected during church services. Other members sent donations directly to the pantry and therefore are not listed in this accounting. These funds are used to purchase milk, butter, margarine, eggs, bread, meat, and other items needed that are not met by donations.

The pantry served 983 families (3096 people). There were 86 new families who sought food assistance. The number of Fairview Heights residents in food crisis continues. The pantry also serves emergency orders to non-residents who are referred to the pantry.

Thank you all for helping to meet the needs of others. May our giving spirit continue during 2023.

Sue Ganschinietz