

PASTOR'S REPORT for 2024

For another year I have had the great honor and privilege of being your pastor and teacher. I appreciate your kindness and patience when I am ill or having procedures. 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 ANNUAL REPORT

It has been my pleasure to serve as Council President in 2024. Other members on the Council are: Vice President – Jan Miller, Secretary – Sharon Banjavcic, Treasurer – Ginny Ganschinietz, Financial Secretary – Judy Schmitt, Assistant Financial Secretary – Russ Hartmann, Building and Grounds -- Lew Thomasino. Each of these people have done their jobs well and gone beyond what is required.

Some members of Council have terms that are expiring: Nancy Eisenhauer, Jan Miller, Ginny Ganschinietz, and Russ Hartmann. Each of them has agreed to serve another 2-year term.

This year we hired a new custodial staff – and we hit the jackpot!!! Carol and Joe Bulva have not only done what is expected, but much more! They have cleaned out and reorganized cleaning supplies, done a lot of deep cleaning, and gotten rid of supplies and furniture we no longer use. (If you need info on Facebook Marketplace, Carol is the expert!) The church is clean and ready to go each Sunday. The Bulvas also keep up with the groups that use and rent our church facilities (an AA group and quilters).

We have hired a lawn service to take care of our grass-cutting needs. Even with paying for custodians and lawn service, we are coming out ahead financially.

Speaking of finances, we are in good shape. We were over budget in our giving – not by much, but it was nice to be in the black! We had an unexpected bequest from a member who passed away. That sum has been put aside for “special projects”.

We took on a special UCC project – Justice 100 Campaign, for the Open and Affirming Coalition. Our goal was to raise \$1000. We not only met our goal, but surpassed it, raising over \$1100!

Our small congregation reminds me of “The Little Engine that Could”. We think we can, we pray we can and we get it done! *Nancy Eisenhower, Council President*

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES - January 21, 2025

20 Members Present

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes January 21, 2024 20 Members Present President Sue Williams called the meeting to order at 10:48 am. Pastor Rosemary opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes from the January, 2023 Congregational Meeting were accepted. Motion was made by Nancy Eisenhower and seconded by Sue Ganschietz. Motion passed unanimously. An audit of the books was conducted by Sharon Banjavcic and Jim Eisenhower on January 17, 2023. They reported that everything was in order. Ginny Ganschietz presented the financial report. The expenses exceeded income by \$167 this year. Salaries for the year were down \$12,000 due to a secretarial vacancy and janitorial vacancies. Ginny notified the congregation that the insurance company has raised the value of the church to \$1,000,000, so our insurance went up quite a bit. She proposed a budget for 2024. Eileen Gammon moved to accept the budget, and Mary Lou Baum seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Eric Moayer and Sue Williams terms on Church Council have expired. Lew Thomasino and Sharon Banjavcic will be joining Nancy Eisenhower, Ginny Ganschietz, Russ Hartmann, Jan Miller, and Judy Schmitt on Church Council for 2024. Judy Schmitt made a motion to accept the new council, and Tom Miller seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. Sue Williams was thanked for her many years of serving on the council. Ginny Ganschietz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Judy Schmitt seconded it. Meeting was adjourned at 10:57. *Jan Miller, Secretary*

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES – June 23, 2024

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes June 23, 2024 14 Members Present Council member, Lew Thomasino, called the meeting to order at 10:54. Sharon Banjavcic read the minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 21, 2024. A motion was made by Dorothy Ovelgoenner and seconded by Tiffany Baldwin to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously. Lew Thomasino reviewed the financial report. The increase in expenses is due to the increase in the church’s insurance. A new insurance company was selected to provide coverage since the previous carrier’s rate increased. Ginny Ganschietz, Church Treasurer, paid the entire

premium for the year to avoid paying an additional fee charged by the insurance company. A lawn care company is mowing the lawn each week. The lawn tractor that was used previously is very old and in need of much repair. Cody Brink purchased the lawn mower for \$200. Bill and Amy Underwood purchased the shed since it is not needed to house the tractor. They will move the shed by July 1. The church parking lot handicap area will be sealed. Jim and Nancy Eisenhauer asked the person who seals their driveway to do the job. Materials and labor for sealing the specified area of the parking lot are being donated. The church will pay for materials and labor to have that area striped. Lew Thomasino asked Jim Eisenhauer if he could get a bid from this person about sealing the rest of the parking lot.

Sue Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Judy Schmitt seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10. *Sharon Banjavcic, Secretary*

CIRCLE

Circle meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month after worship from October through April. 2024 was a busy year for the Circle!

In February we signed Valentines to be given to Senior through the PSOP also for our shut ins. This year the group held a Prom dress sale in March and helped with Urban and Mary Lou Baum's Anniversary celebration.

In April we held a rummage sale which was a big success. We also donated funds to OCWM, Kinder Cottage, Fairview Heights Food Pantry, DuBois and gave money for any needed projects at St. John.

We met in October 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 December we sent Christmas cards to church members over the age of 75, signed Christmas Cards to be given to Veterans and Seniors and for a fundraiser we held a Christmas cookie sale. In addition to the above activities, we had a mini craft sale during this event.

The Circle also sponsored a child from Kinder Cottage and numerous gifts were given.

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

PENNIES FOR MISSION

Dubois Camp	\$ 69.54	January
Fairview Hgts Food Pantry	\$483.55	February

One Great Hour	\$281.20	March
Kinder Cottage	\$181.80	April
Strengthen the Church	\$180.07	May
Emmaus Homes and Ministries	\$142.90	June
Hoyleton Ministries	\$ 80.66	July
O C W M	\$1,689.03	August
Deaconess Parish Nurse Ministries	\$ 97.19	September
Open & Affirming Coalition	\$1,124.65	October
Neighbors in Need	\$ 750.52	November
Christmas Fund	\$ 224.12	December
TOTAL:	\$ <u>5,305.23</u>	

ST. JOHN CHOIR

Our faithful choir members have provided music for Sunday services once a month and our candlelight Christmas Eve service. We have also used instrumentalists to enhance our music.

Thank you to all who have sung and/or played at St. John.

I especially want to thank Sharon Banjavcic for giving her time and talents to rehearsals and performances. People who have never before been to our church have commented on the beautiful music Sharon provides for us!

Music is one way to worship and thank God for all the good things we are provided. We have much to be thankful for. *Nancy Eisenhauer, Choir Director*

2024 FOOD PANTRY RECAP

The Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry continues to see an increase in residents requesting food assistance. The pantry served 1,398 households (3995 people) in 2024. Ninety-eight new families sought help to meet their food needs.

Our church family did an outstanding job of supporting the pantry. On Communion Sundays more than 820 food items and over \$7,570 were donated. Women's Circle made cash donations. Noisy offerings were collected. Produce from gardens were brought to the pantry. Grocery bags were brought in by many of you and as a result the pantry did not have to purchase bags this year. Many others made donations directly to the pantry.

Thank you all for helping to ease the food insecurity of others. May our giving spirit continue in 2025. Susan Ganschinietz