

IN ATTENDANCE:

*Pastor Paul Bulgerin	*Darlyne Holle	Aimee Lempke
*Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen	*Trudi Biefeld	*John Walch
*Laurie Gosselin	*Lisa Bernd	*Peg Lade
Jim Mulholand	*Alissa Burgos	*Pat Murack
*Kerry Feutz		

The meeting began at 7:20p.m. with President Darlyne Holle presiding.

Devotion: Alissa Burgos

✓ Approval of the March 2016 minutes

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

“Forward In Grace” Stewardship: The stewardship packets have been mailed to all members. These packets include the beautiful brochure designed by Steve Korinek, personalized and signed letters asking for “hoped for gifts” from most members, commitment cards and forms for automated giving. Members can start returning them on November 20.

Mara Schwartz gave a talk during the sermons last week and Pat Murack is doing the same thing this week talking about how they are rolling their “Grow In Grace” contributions into their regular giving for 2017.

Thanks to several gifts we have received enough money to cover the \$1,000 cost of participating in the “Stewardship For All Seasons” pilot project this year and also to cover the cost of printing the brochures.

In my presentations and stewardship materials I have been using the figure that we will need “at least \$60,000 more” in giving in 2017. I did this since we did not have an estimated budget number yet. Once we see what the giving responses are the budget numbers will become more concrete.

Phoning Volunteers Needed: We still need volunteers to make about ten phone calls to members who do not turn in their faith commitment packets on Sunday, November 20. Volunteers will receive a script on what to say and a list of people to call. I will have these lists available by Tuesday, November 22.

If some council members will help with this it will make my work a lot easier! Please consider this.

Nominating Committee: Mike McGraw has accepted the nomination to serve as President-Elect. We are thankful to him. The committee continues to work to find candidates for the other positions.

Retreat: I will be on retreat November 11-12 with the eighth grade confirmation students at Pine Lake Bible Camp. Jessica Korrison is going as the female chaperone and retreat leader.

Church Play: I’ve got an idea for a play and hope to start writing next week. Rehearsals will begin in early January.

Service of Remembrance: Thirty-three people attended the service on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 6. This is always a meaningful service to those who have lost loved ones. My thanks to John Conto who created the video tribute to our loved ones.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: I am meeting with two families to discuss upcoming baptisms, and one to discuss a wedding. We will be installing Katie Eippert and Erica Dimmett at both services this weekend.

I’m excited to play my flute on some choir songs during a special musical service on December 11.

I look forward to planning the Christmas Eve services this year. If you have any feedback or ideas, please do share them.

Advent Devotional: The devotional is done and it's very moving. Please make sure to pick one up and use it. Thank you to all the Grace members of varied ages who have shared their faith bravely and honestly.

Publicity/Grace Community Crew: Thanks to Pat Murack for an awesome job setting up and promoting the craft fair. There were so many vendors, but best of all it brought in many new people to see our wonderful space, all while benefiting some of our great ministries!

We took an ad out in the Grafton Basketball programs for this year, thinking that would be a nice way to support our kids and invite families to check out Grace.

Women's Book Group: We are finishing up our current book next month, and will start a new book in January. Lydia Circle is also finishing up their book in December, and we will be meeting at church starting in January. The hope is that more people will feel comfortable joining the circle if they don't have to find a different person's home every month, and we also want to enjoy our beautiful new building.

Christmas Sing-a-Long: Since we had such an awesome turnout last year, we're planning to do this event again at the Milwaukee Ale House in Grafton on December 20 (we chose this date with the Ale House months ago and are just waiting for final confirmation). We'll start singing at around 6:30, encouraging people to come early to order food. I'll be working on publicity for the event with Lisa once the date gets confirmed.

Meet the New Bishop: On Tuesday, January 31 Bishop Paul Erickson is going to be at Grace in Thiensville for meetings with clergy and congregation members. If you'd like to meet him and have discussions, you can come for dinner at 5:30 and/or a discussion session that starts at 6:30. Let one of the pastors know if you're planning to attend.

TNT: I'm hosting a Hot Chocolate Party at my house on Friday, December 16.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT:

Stewardship Program: I completed mailing all of the stewardship packets. I individualized every letter for every member of the congregation, made all of the copies of the e-giving forms, made & folded all of the return envelopes, stuffed all of the with all of the information.

Starting next week the pledge cards will come becoming in & I will enter them into servant keeper & keep Pastor Paul informed with all of the information.

Property: I have made the snow plowing & shoveling list for the winter. I contacted all of the volunteers & got them the list.

I contacted a plumber to get the urinal fixed in the men's bathroom. The plumber stopped & Dennis worked with him to get it fixed.

I set up an appointment for Accurate to come & inspect our kitchen hood. They will be here this Wednesday, November 16 between 9-11am.

I spoke at length with the Grafton Fire Marshall about what & when our building needs to be inspected for the Village. I will be seeking bids for all of that in the spring.

Time & Talents: Time & Talents are coming in. I will be compiling them over the next few weeks. I will then get you the people who signed up for your groups.

Trunk or Treat: Trunk or Treat or should I say Table or Treat was a huge success this year. We had more people than ever. The weather kept us inside but that was the only difference. Everyone enjoyed playing the games & eating lunch. Because we have our beautiful new building it was not a problem to switch everything to

inside. Plus we had some of our friends from All Peoples Church here for worship & lunch which made the day extra special.

Building Promotion: Has anything been worked on for building promotion or advertising the availability to use our building? We had someone inquire about using the kitchen. I did not know what to say since nothing has been established for building usage.

Book Study: We finished part 2 & had a wonderful discussion. This is a lovely group of women.

Funeral: I had the privilege of serving a meal for Joyce LaLoggia's family & friends after her service on November 17.

Regular Things: I also continue doing the weekly inset, Grace Notes, the Good News, responsibility emails, entering contributions, e-giving & the million things that come up daily.

I will need your annual report articles emailed to me by Sunday, December 11. The annual report needs to be published & out by January 5.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Here are the month-end reports for October (attached) and my notes:

1. Our offerings through September are behind by \$21,908.32 (were \$23,100.66 behind at the end of September) – so a slight improvement. Our total income for the year to date has fallen behind our expenses for the first time this year - by \$749.79 (we were still \$8707.32 ahead at the end of September). Our total budget cash decreased by \$9,457.11 in September, down to a total of \$1,308.70 as of month-end.
2. The most significant expense in October, was the hit from the WeEnergies annual budget 'balance' payment of \$6,587.97. The November bill amount (which is our new budget amount) is \$1,138.00 – which does not make any sense at all since we were expecting it to go up to about \$2202.00 going forward and we already fell short by 457.98 in the first month at this rate. I will be giving them a call to ask that they look at this again and adjust it.
3. Let's keep an eye on income vs. expenses through November and then December, and we can decide what if any steps need to be taken to balance things. With any luck we will have our usual end-of-year surge and catch up before we close the year.

Update from Ed on WE Energies. We will be billed each month for actual usage because we are in a new rate class. This will mean that we will have a variation throughout the year but we won't have a large lump sum settlement in October.

VPT:

No meeting for Vision Planning - we are scheduled to meet Tuesday November 29th. Pastor Paul will be attending to provide instruction on direction of group.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

November 14th CEC Meeting: 6:30pm Fellowship and 7pm Meeting

Keeping the Promise and Parent Fellowship hour went really well. These were well attended events that continue to engage parents.

Erica is still working on the texting program. Currently we can send texts but can not receive them back.

It is proposed to do a bake sale/silent auction one of the last two Sundays in February by the Sunday school students. The money raised would either go to helping pay for the trip to Nicaragua or help off set costs of youth trips. We would like council approval to proceed.

We also discussed trying to identify Thrivent members we can utilize Thrivent Action Teams to better help our fund-raising efforts.

FELLOWSHIP:

Working on details for the Pie Social following the Thanksgiving Eve service. Also working on the Birthday Party for Jesus on December 18th.

OUTREACH:

Several smaller projects have been completed in November:

1. Six very full grocery bags of plastic containers to St. Ben's Meal Site
2. Approx 40 coffee cups to St. Ben's Meal Site (Mugs brought in after APC Collection was completed)
3. Six bags of groceries delivered to Family Sharing
4. One grocery bag full of personal care items to Family Promise
5. Praise Dinner info remains in Grace Notes (For APC)

Correction from Oct report: \$75 was sent to APC for the KWTS instead of \$80.

November's project is the Food Collection from Thanksgiving Eve Service.

Family Promise

Our next host week begins Sunday Nov. 27-Dec 4th.

While we never know for sure who we will be hosting until the Friday prior to Sunday set up, there is a good possibility our guests will consist of one older single female and a family of one Mother, Father, and 3yr.

Daughter. We have not had a male in the program previously, therefore it is important to have a male volunteer as an overnight host each night. Many Overnight host slots are still open.

During our host week, we will be preparing for our FP fundraising Christmas cookie sale. Funds will be sent to our FP affiliate office. As per our signed covenant, we are asked to provide funding each year. We have kids in KFC and FP guests helping prepare tags and crafty treats, Grace team and church members are baking, packing and selling, along with members from our support church, Living Hope. Sales begin Saturday, December 3rd at 9-12 and Sunday morning between services. Some boxes will also be sent to Living Hope. We still need a lot of cookie donations. They can be dropped off anytime on Thursday December 1st.

I would like to request a permanent bulletin board to post Family Promise sign ups and news. In the past I set up a free standing board that was a temporary solution during construction. It is not large enough for all our materials. This will need to be placed in or near the Gathering space area.

WORSHIP:

Opening Devotion – Deb

Pastor's Service Plans

Upcoming meeting dates: Dec. 6th, Jan. 3rd, Feb. 7th

Replacement Team Members – Found two new members

Progress on Christmas "cantata/song"? Special/additional rehearsals? Rehearse with bells?

Thursday evening, 12/8/16 – condensed version?

Sunday, 8:00am, 12/11/16 – full service

Praise Team – Advent/Christmas special music?

Roundtable

PROPERTY:

Updates:

- Replacement windows for the church came in and will be installed in the next few weeks.
- A member of the congregation will be donating funds for a new men's bathroom door.
- A member of the congregation will be donating a snow blower to replace the broken one.
- The 2016-17 snow removal list went out. There are four teams.
- The Nativity scene will be set up in the next week.
- All donations for the new sculpture have been received.

CHRISTIAN CARE: No Report

BUSINESS OLD: None**BUSINESS NEW:**

- ✓ JYG Special Collection for Lasata
 - A motion was made to allow a special collection be held, by JYG, to collect donations to buy gifts for Lasata. Collection will take place 12/4/2016.
 - The motion was seconded and passed with 10 approval vote.
- ✓ Council is discussing the current alcohol policy at Grace. With the new addition/remodel, council would like approval to begin discussions regarding potential updates to the policy.
 - A motion was made to put before the congregation a change to our alcohol policy which could allow catered events and personal consumption in the church. Approval would be made on a case by case basis by council.
 - The motion was seconded and passed with 10 approval vote.
- ✓ Bake Sale/Silent Auction
 - The Sunday School students would like to do bake sale/silent auction in February. The money raised would either go to helping pay for the trip to Nicaragua or help offset costs of youth trips.
 - A motion was made for approval for the youth to do a bake sale and silent auction on February 19th, pending date availability.
 - The motion was seconded and passed with 10 approval votes.
- ✓ Council discussed the new FLSA rule that raises minimum salary thresholds for exemption from overtime.
 - A motion was made to have the Personnel Committee look into Grace's overtime policies for salaried staff.
 - The motion was seconded and passed with 10 approval vote.
- ✓ Bulletin Board for Family Promise
 - Council will look for another bulletin board to put in the gathering space and have it dedicated for Outreach use.
- ✓ Draft of Budgets – Darlyne Holle
 - The first draft of the 2017 budget was reviewed. Council had some questions and updates. The final budget will be discussed at the December council meeting.

NEWS/NOTES/SHARING:**CLOSING PRAYER:** Pastor Paul