



**PORTAGE
LAKE
UNITED
CHURCH**

NEWS

**United Church of Christ & Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
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January 2012

What's Happening @ PLUC

Consistory Highlights

Submitted by Clerk Liz Evensen

December 15, 2011

- Pastor Method welcomed Sandy Goodell, Angel Mission, and newly Ordained Elder Stephanie Gale to tonight's meeting.
- Goodell reviewed her Angel Mission Financial report and updated Consistory on the store's activities. Highlights:
 - Donations received in November were up substantially, in part because of the robbery and one-time giving that followed.
 - The Food Pantry gave out 27 bags of groceries in November and 13 Thanksgiving turkeys and trimmings.
 - A family was able to purchase and install a new hot water heater with cooperative help from The Salvation Army, Community Action, St. Vincent and \$173 from Angel Mission. Consistory was pleased with the community's unified response.
 - Angel Mission will hold an area-wide food drive on January 27/28.
 - The Angel Mission Christmas gift collection will be providing gifts to more than 60 families at Christmastime. PLUC members and friends are supporting this drive.
 - Goodell asked if it would be possible

to open a Checking Account for the Angel Mission donations. Donations have increased and, since the robbery, she is reluctant to leave cash in the store overnight.

- Consistory concurred with Goodell's request. H. Evensen was directed to open a Checking Account for Angel Mission donations; overseen by Goodell and PLUC. The account will include PLUC's Treasurer as a co-signer.

- Church Mutual Insurance Company has agreed to compensate Angel Mission for the burglary loss, minus \$100 deductible. PLUC expects to receive \$355.

- There was a question at last month's meeting on why Advertising was over-budget. The Office clarified how the money for advertising was allocated. It goes primarily to pasty.net as PLUC's computer server/advertising and to the telephone Yellow Pages. Consistory chose to drop pasty.net advertising and is checking into the effectiveness of advertising in the Yellow Pages.

- Mission and Per Capita have been paid for 2011. Helping Hands shows a Balance of \$88.29.

- The Financial Secretary reported that as of December 11, PLUC has met and surpassed its budgeted goals for 2011. *Congratulations to all for their financial support and to all who manage that support...Liz. ☺*

- The Office/Stewardship Drive continues to receive pledge cards for 2012. To date, thirty-two Pledges have been received; six are the same as last year, one is down from last year and twenty-five have increased their pledges.

- Lou Ellyn Helman and Dianne Sprague have agreed to continue serving on the Audit Committee. They will include the 2011 books in their Audit Report.

- In September, Consistory agreed to donate \$100 to the Little Brothers 'Turn On the Heat' program. There is currently less than \$100 in the Helping Hand Fund and Smock is asking for direction on how to make this donation. Consistory suggested taking the money out of the vonBatchelder fund. However, there is concern that the Helping Hands Fund is so low. Smock reported that the Office had to deny two requests for Helping Hands money in November because of insufficient funds. It was suggested that this become a Minute for Mission item to make members/friends aware of the insufficient funds.

- Eight letters were received over the past month from groups asking for financial contributions. Unfortunately PLUC is not in the position to support these programs but is saddened that so many others are in need.

- Consistory is waiting to hear from the NWA/WI Conference regarding PLUC's proposed membership transfer from UNA/MI. It is hoped that a lot of business can be done with a conference call. Consistory is aware that PLUC members must approve the transfer, as supported by Consistory.

- During Worship on December 11, newly elected Elders Stephanie Gale and Kathy Lekvin were Ordained as Elders and Barb Brookhouse was Installed as Elder. It was a very meaningful service for the Elders and Congregation.

- Received the Clerk's Statistical Report for 2011. Total Membership in 2011

is 56; three fewer Members than in 2010.

- The Clerk was notified that the Presbytery apportionment for 2012 is \$33.33/member, an increase of 11%. The apportionment notice from the UNA has not yet been received. Consistory suggested that the Clerk write a letter and invite members to pay their own apportionment; this is a considerable help with budget expenditures.

- The Kitchen ad-hoc committee gave a progress report. Bids are being received for replacing the kitchen counters and sink. The committee is also considering updating the kitchen appliances, bathroom counters and sinks and painting those areas. L. Evensen reported that Fellowship Guild has designated \$500 towards the Kitchen upgrades.

- Seven bags of cookies, dry soup and fruit were distributed to college students attending Worship on December 11, the week prior to exams.

- *Please note in the Choir Room, the 'Photo Gallery of Students' that has been assembled by the Christian Formation committee.*

- A letter was received from Karen Hubbard and Judy Albee, proposing that \$75 be allocated in the Christian Formation budget to help with purchasing supplies for the 'Welcome Bags' that are given to visiting children. Consistory noted that the Christian Formation budget exceeded its 2011 allocation and approved increasing their line item in the 2012 Proposed Budget by \$100.

- The Worship committee is working on the Jan. 1 Worship Service, when Pastor Method is on vacation. Ole Kristensen will be leading a Music Worship that Sunday.

- Communion will be served on January 8, with Elders Brookhouse and Helman assisting Pastor Method.

- The Potluck with a Purpose will be on January 15. The 'Purpose' will be a report on the proposed Kitchen upgrades.

- Appreciation is extended to Elders Harold Evensen and Lois Jambekar as they complete their terms of service on Consistory. Both have served faithfully and Consistory will miss their leadership.

- Consistory wishes All our Members and Friends a very Merry Christmas!

The complete December 15 minutes will be available following approval at the January 26, 2012 Consistory meeting

December Financial Report

Information received from Financial Secretary

Received in December

Pledged	\$7191.00
Un-pledged	0.00
Loose Plate	270.00
Building Repairs	339.00

Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation

The annual meeting of the Congregation/Corporation will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2012. Copies of the Annual Report will be available at least one week in advance of the meeting. For those submitting reports for the Annual Report, they are due to Beth by January 16, 2012. Please put these dates on your calendar.

What not to take into the new year

Tape measure — Consider only God’s standards; don’t compare yourself to other people.

Rearview mirror — Don’t live in the past. You’ll miss out on what God is doing in your life now.

In Other News

Mark Your Calendar

**January Potluck With a Purpose
Sunday, January 15, 2012**

**Good food and fellowship
guaranteed**



Report on kitchen upgrade

From the Christian Formation Committee

submitted by Barb Brookhouse

On behalf of the Angel Mission a big THANK YOU to all who purchased gifts for area children and youth. Over 50 families, many with several angels in the family, were helped by you and other generous people of the Copper Country.

Seven Christmas bags filled with cookies, soup mix, and oranges were handed out to the students who attended worship on Cookie Sunday. All bags were received with smiles and expressions of gratitude.

Two more pictures of students with accompanying information have been added to the bulletin board in the choir room. Stop in and find out about the students who join us for worship.

Beth's Buzz

Can you believe it. Another year is done. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the love and support I receive from you every day.

This has been somewhat of a challenging year for me, especially physically. As many of you know, I started the year getting rear-ended and hurting my back. Then I hurt my shoulder and now I have a fractured right foot. (My resolution for 2012 is to not break myself.) All of your prayers have been appreciated.

Have a great 2012. I will be seeing all of you.

News for Fellowship Guild

submitted by Judy Albee

Three things that Fellowship Guild members do really well are sharing, socializing and eating. That was evident as 15 women gathered at the Kangas Café, Monday, December 12. The individuals in attendance and the private room were decked out for the season although the weather wasn't quite in holiday mode.

Members arrived with home-made treats for Portage Lake United Church staff gift baskets. Stephanie Gale, Liz Evensen, Bobbie Dalquist and Judy Albee facilitated the filling of the trays with generous monetary and edible gifts. They were topped with Christmas spider ornaments made by Nathan Lekvin's class and wrapped in festive red cellophane.

As we finished our noon repast the Fellowship Guild year-to-date financial report was reviewed along with a brief discussion of the anticipated kitchen renovations. After our meal Biruta Lowther read several selections from books by Maya

Angelou. "Hallelujah! The Welcome Table" was particularly appropriate to this group as it related how a special cake and a grandmother's caring affected others.

We each shared a family holiday tradition or what we anticipated doing this Christmas before departing. January 16th will be our next event when we will socialize, share thoughts about church banners and perhaps even have something special to eat at our 'welcome table'.

Don't let your worries get the best of you. Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

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May you have as much fun as you can before someone makes you stop.

