

What's "News" at the Church of the Palms?

January, 2018
By George Wall

The Church Council met on January 20, 2018, and this is what has happened since the last meeting on December 16, 2017:

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was a real blessing especially with harpist Adrienne Bridgewater plucking the strings.

The Treasurer announced that we ended the year of 2017 with \$5,000 to the good. This money will roll over into the reserve fund. Let's do even better in 2018.

The **Board of Deacons** has really been busy. They provided communion on Christmas Eve and twice on January 7th. They also encouraged their sub-committee for Ushers and Greeters led by Sandy Krueger to fill any vacancies for the New Year. This is a nice way to help in our church.

The **Board of Evangelism and Growth** did the entire kitchen and serving work for the New Member Orientation held on Wednesday, Jan 10th. At the Sunday Service on January 14, 2018, the 10 were accepted into our church. They were Michael Balch, Kay & Max Klinkenborg, Beth Moore, Michaela Ortega, Jill Regan, Tina Chancey-Regan, Joe Reyes, and Marti & Ed Riffle. They are working with the Board of Stewards for the Silent Auction and Potluck on January 27th.

The **Board of Finance and Investment** reported there was over a \$55,000 gain in Endowment and Seminary Funds. The rise in stocks has certainly helped.

The **Board of Lifelong Learning**

The monthly Tuesday Fellowship Breakfast was held on January 9, 2018. Amy Alves gave a fascinating program on REIKI. Jan Hutchins and Peter Lewis assisted Amy. There were 35 in attendance. The next Tuesday Fellowship Breakfast will be Sharon Christianson again with a presentation of her trip, but this time with sound. The Bonnie Green and Judy Jondahl are again working in the library, but this time on the devotional books which is more daunting than the authors of fiction and non-fiction books which are already catalogued.

The **Board of Mission and Outreach** had another successful "Baby Shower" as many of our members donated boxes and packs of diapers and baby clothing which were taken to the New Life Center. The Board donated to several worthy causes like putting aside \$1,275 to support the UCC Youth Summer Camp Program. They also received a \$500 donation from the Men's Club.

Social Justice Team had their meeting on January 12th and they welcomed new member Beth Moore who is a new associate member of our church. Lots of issues are being addressed like White Privilege, the Palestinian-Israeli Issue, 15 Environmental Issues, Homelessness and Criminal Justice Reform. If you are interested in any of these areas, join them.

The **Board of Stewards** has been participating in the January 27th Service Auction. They have other fund raising projects they are discussing and will be announced soon.

The **Board of Trustees** met on January 9th. They discussed 20 different items all the way from carpet cleaning to replacing some church doors. The Trustees are going to be extremely active getting all the discussed items finished. Some of them have just recently been done like the parking lot has been swept, a pew has been repaired and there is a bike rack outside now. Bids are being taken on replacing the blinds. There is lots more to do and you may want to help.

The **Board of Worship and Fine Arts** put together another outing and this time to the Spicery in Glendale on Saturday, January 13th. It was located in an 1895 house that was built in that year and is on the National Registry of Historic Places. They are only open from 10:30am – 1:30pm and reservations are required. The 10 attendees were Elaine Bunney, Margret Carpenter, Mary Funck, Bonnie Green, Carl Gruber, Peter Lewis, Beth Malmgren, Linette Stenberg, George Wall, and Jan Zukowski. It was a unique little place.



Standing Committees:

The **Personnel Committee** is currently working on one more evaluation for the current committee that will end their year.

The **Budget Committee** has submitted their report for approval at the Annual Meeting.

The **Technical & Digital Committee** had no report at this time.

The **Nominating Committee** has already submitted the new roster of candidates for all of the vacancies in the Officers and Boards. We need to vote on them on the 27th.

The **Ecumenical & Interreligious Committee** The "Week of Prayer" was held January 15-19, 2018. Our church hosted it on the 18th. There were 106 people at our church on the 18th, but only 10 from our church. When it's held next year, hopefully more from our church will attend. It just takes one hour, 30 minutes of devotional and 30 minutes for lunch. Everyone is welcome.

Other Items of Interest:

After the service on Sunday, January 7th, there was a Membership Meeting for the Call of Jim Alexander to be an ordained Pastor and if approved, he will be ordained at 3pm. I presided over this meeting for the Call which was the only item on the agenda. Margaret took the minutes and tallied the votes that the ushers Barbara Arnold, Linda Kehl, Sand Krueger, Nancy Mueller, Warren and Judy Pinter brought to her. The 112 votes were tallied and it was unanimous vote for Jim to be ordained.

At 3pm on January 7, 2018, there was the special service for the Ordination into Christian Ministry for James Edward Alexander. It was a great sight to see the many clergy file into the Sanctuary. The Valley Women's Ensemble provided everyone with their chorale singing which was directed by Paula Foley Tillen, There was an Ordination Message by the Reverend Brittani A. Rush (daughter of Jim Alexander). There was a greeting by our former Reverend Len Silvester and then I, as the local church representative, requested that the Southwest Conference ordain him to the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ and install him as our Associate Minister for Pastoral Care and Worship. After some more ceremony, Jim was ordained. This was followed by Communion. Then the Ordination Reception was held in King Hall with lots of food and congratulations and fellowship.

Don't forget, coming up on Saturday, January 27th, is our Annual Meeting, Service Auction and Potluck Lunchen.