

FAITH FLIGHT

March 2014



The Times They are A-Changin'

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., said "it is appalling that the most segregated hour of Christian America is eleven o'clock on Sunday morning." It has been fifty years since MLK uttered these words as well as Bob Dylan singing the familiar words, "*The times they are a-changin'*". A half-century later, how have things changed?

Membership statistics for PC(USA) by race/ethnicity for 2012 show that 89.9% of Presbyterians are white, 3.8% Asian, 3.3% Black/African American, 1.6% Hispanic, 0.4% African, 0.3% Native

American, 0.1% Middle Eastern, and 0.6% as other or unknown. If we were to examine our brothers and sisters of other denominations, I am sure the findings would be the same.

I heard a speaker support this as 'birds of a feather flocking together.' This does not sit right with me. I believe this is at the heart of social discord. If we 'flock together', we form communities that share similar interests and the same sources for our information. This results in communities that not only share similar interests, but also similar socio-economic circles and shared political ideologies which leads to living in a community with a lot of people who are 'like me.' Fun—sure, at least I think so. Genius—just ask my wife... Shared interest is good if we were a chess club, car enthusiasts, or sampling fine wines, but we are called to be so much more as a community of faith.

Formational for me in my seminary study in studying the Bible was the idea that we understand our story best by reading it as a

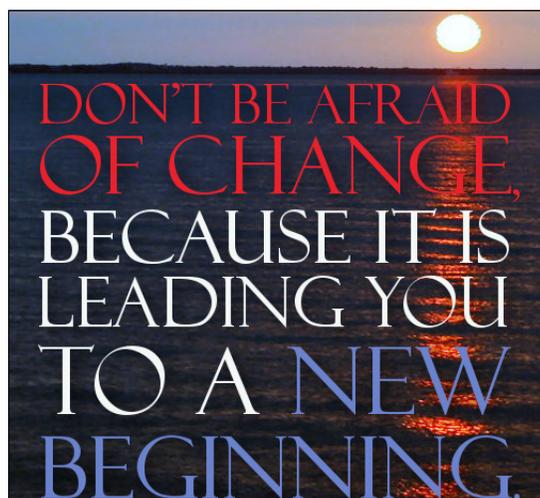
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community. The more diverse this community, the better understanding we have of Scripture, and more importantly, the better we know God and each other. To hear the story of suffering from someone in our community who has lived in a refugee camp helps me hear the story from a different perspective. When I am quick to judge another who is different, I am changed when I truly get to know them and hear their story.

God is doing something amazing at *Spirit of Life*. Our community is growing in many ways. I celebrate from the mountaintops that we are growing in diversity. Just look around and see the beautiful children sitting up front for our children's sermon. Take some time to get to know many of the new families that are part of our family. We are changing—and this is good news. May we be open to how every new member of our family changes who we are as a family. We are a new family with every person that we are blessed to share this road with. This will open us up to new traditions, new songs, and a new way of hearing an ancient story that continues to bless.

As we continue to grow, may we embrace change as God is doing something new. Rather than fearing the loss of familiarity, may we celebrate all of our traditions together. As a friend of mine says, "sing the new songs, but don't forget the old". Such is the way of life. Or, perhaps, such is the way God is calling us at *Spirit of Life*: place where the Spirit transforms and makes us new. Together, may we always be stretched in working towards being inclusive, extending hospitality, seeking justice and equality, and removing barriers by finding unity in the vast diversity of all of God's creation. The times they are a-changin', thanks be to God.



Statistics sourced from pcusa.org/research

VITAL SIGNS...for January

WEEK	ATTENDANCE		(+/-)	CONTRIBUTIONS		(+/-)
	2013	2014		2013	2014	
Week 1	61	43	-18	\$2,184.00	\$1,672.00	(\$512.00)
Week 2	51	60	+9	\$856.00	\$2,883.00	\$2,027.00
Week 3	50	66	+16	\$2,667.00	\$2,347.00	(\$320.00)
Week 4	45	65	+20	\$1,166.00	\$1,245.00	(\$79.00)
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE / TOTALS	52	59		\$6,873.00	\$8,147.00	\$1,274.00

For questions in regard to the church finances or your personal giving statement, please contact our financial team: Barb Ostlund—Treasurer or Steve Raatz—Financial Secretary



March 2014

- 06 Fred Johnson Jr.
- 07 Janna Warren-Perry
- 11 Van Wilgus
- 13 Richard English
- 14 Susanne Plaszc
- 15 Deon Ford
- 18 Vern Hauser
- 19 Joseph Cornomira
- 21 Raymond Gracek
- 22 Bob Shepard
- 23 Lois Hauser
- 24 Peggy Roeske
- 26 Larry Buchholz

**Spiritcare
Prayer Team
call 1.507.263.5975
952.423.2212 (office)**



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NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Alice Gracek

CARD CARE LIST REMINDER :
If you had someone on Loving Community Ministry Team's Card Care List in February 2014 and wish them to remain on in March 2014, please resubmit them with an update to Ruth Shepard at:
rshepard2@frontier.com or 507.263.5975 or by filling out a blue Prayer Request card during worship.
*BE SURE TO CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(S) ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE CARD.
*NOTE: Each month our Card Care List starts with new and updated submissions only.



ATTENTION MEN ONLY

The March *Spirit of Life* Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday, March 8th at 7:15 a.m. at the Panera in Apple Valley.** Bring a friend. Please let Bob

Shepard (shepardsprairie@gmail.com) or Pastor Rob (pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org) know if you're able to attend so they may reserve the appropriate size table.

WEDNESDAY CLUB

A discussion of Lent guided by Pastor Rob is on the agenda for the March Wednesday Club meeting held on **March 12, 2014 at 1:00 PM.** Refreshments with tea and coffee will be served.

During the month of March, our congregation is joining people of good will from across the state to help alleviate hunger. Minnesota Food Share's March Campaign is the largest food drive in the state, and congregations like ours are the heart of the campaign. Last year the campaign raised more than 12 million pounds and dollars for Minnesota's food shelves. This year our congregation will be collecting both food and cash contributions throughout the month of March for our local food shelf. [Please check the bulletin board and the bulletin inserts next month for specific requests by our area food shelf.](#)



We have exciting plans for our **2014 Lent Season**. Each Sunday we will explore the various aspects of "*Cross Training*". Wednesdays we will add to our regular "M&M" meeting-in-the-middle/midweek

program by inviting the entire *Spirit of Life* church family and friends to join us for the 6-7pm kid-friendly **Meal and Devotions**.

Ash Wednesday, March 5: Help us kick off Lent by joining us for the **7pm Family Worship Service**. Our M&M children will be assisting in leading worship! (M&M resumes next Wednesday at 3:30 pm.)

Sunday, March 9: "Cross-Training" I Corinthians 9: 24-27

Wednesday, March 12: 6-7 pm meal with devotion

Sunday, March 16: "Cross-Lifting" Luke 9: 21-27

Wednesday, March 19: 6-7 meal with devotion

Sunday, March 23: "Perseverance" 2 Timothy 4: 6-8

Wednesday, March 26: 6-7 meal with devotion lead by our youth!

Sunday, March 30: "Endurance" Romans 5: 1-5

Wednesday, April 2: 6-7 meal with devotion

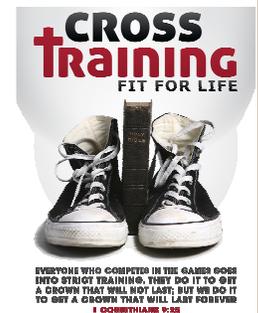
Sunday, April 6: "Plateau" John 11: 1-45

Wednesday, April 9: 6-7 meal with devotion

Palm Sunday, April 13: Matthew 21: 1-11

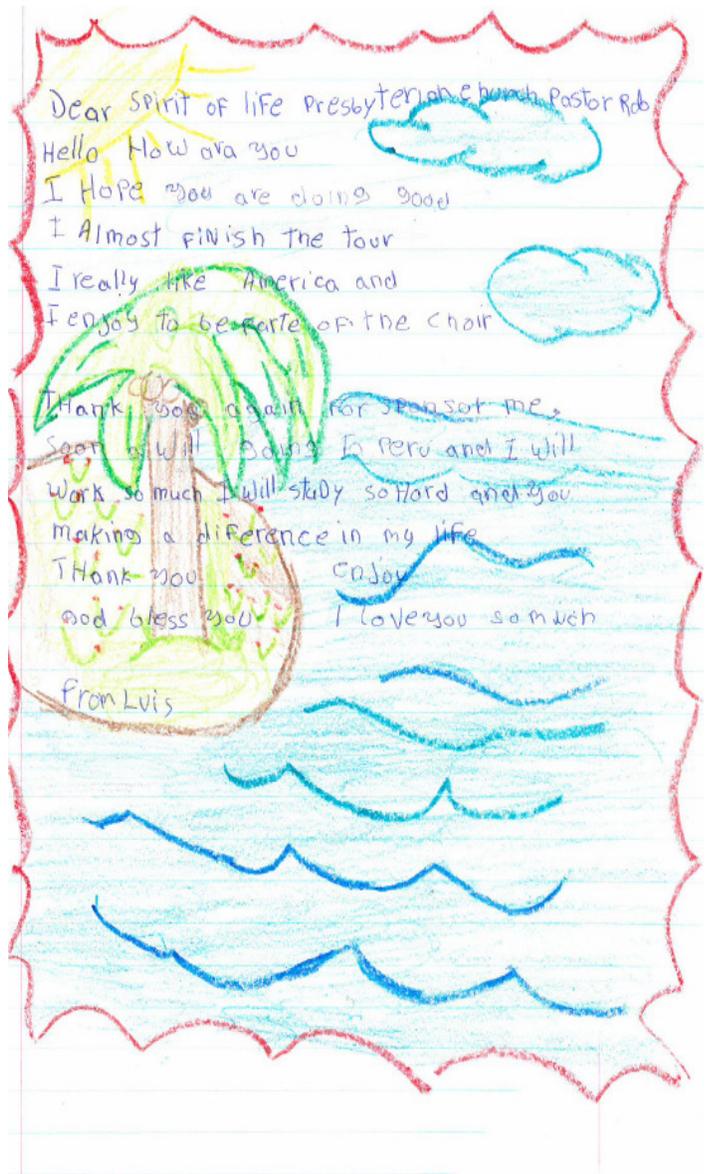
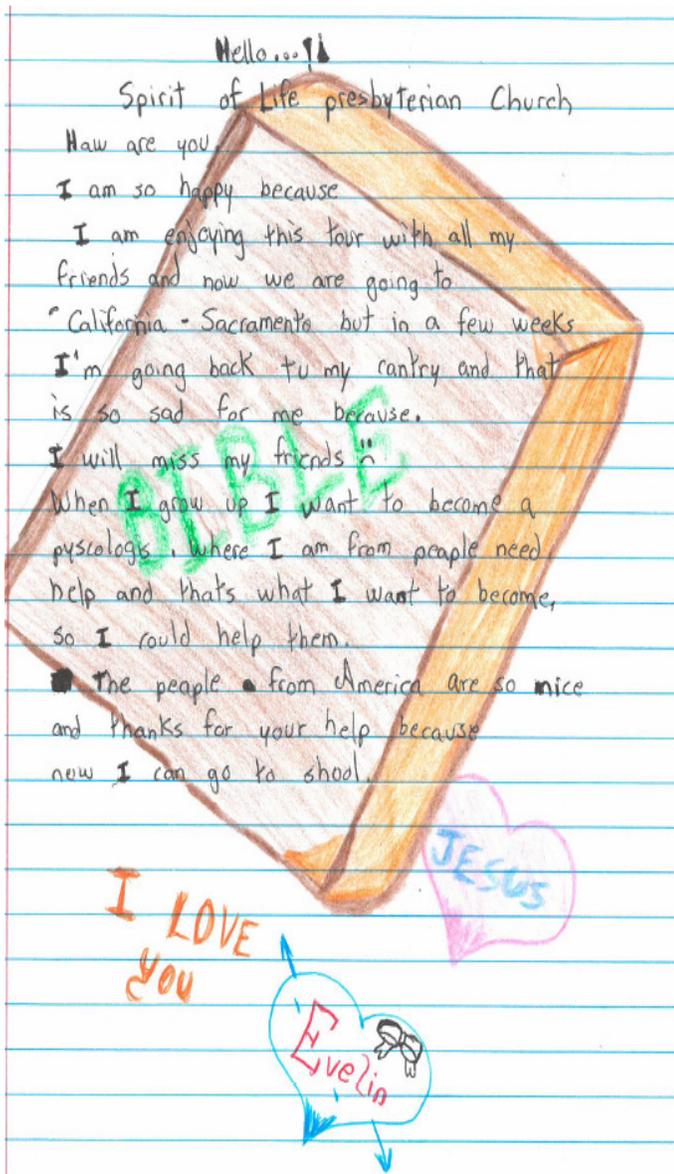
Thursday, April 17: 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Potluck and Communion Worship. We will experience the Last Supper, serving each other. (Activities are suspended Wednesday, April 16)

Easter Sunday, April 20: Our choir will present their Easter Contata in morning worship, with Communion served in the seats.



14401 Pilot Knob Road
Apple Valley, MN 55124
www.spiritoflifeav.org
952.423.2212

News from our MATSIKO Choir friends.



MAKE THE MOST OF WRITING YOUR CHILD BY FOLLOWING THESE SIMPLE TIPS

Mail your letters to ICN, P.O. Box 7695, Covington, WA. 98042

- Write plainly and clearly. You may use this form or your own stationery
- Write about things your child will understand, such as family, pets, hobbies, sports, etc.
- Encourage your child to further their studies and schooling
- Please do not ask your child if there is anything they need or desire. We will communicate any needs with you, the sponsor.
- Send photos of yourself and your family, your pets, your surroundings.
- To ensure your privacy and safety, do not include your address, email or phone number.





Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 9, 2014
(Approve February 20, 2014)

The annual congregational meeting of the Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church was called to order by the moderator, Reverend Robert Smith at 11:12 a.m. on Sunday, February 9, 2014. After determining that 31 members were present, Clerk

Johnson confirmed that a quorum was present.

Pastor Smith opened the meeting with prayer.

Clerk of Session Johnson served as Secretary for the meeting.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Clerk Johnson discussed the Clerk's report and the Membership report. It was noted that there were 91 members up from 83 members in 2012. There was 1 death and 3 baptisms.

Rebecca Brandt gave the Stewardship report on the 2013 Stewardship campaign. There was a \$4000 increase in giving over the 2012 stewardship campaign but we will still run a budgeted deficit again this year. She discussed several options for raising money including: a rummage sale, refinancing the mortgage, asking members to give a one-time donation from their tax refunds, asking each pledging unit to give an additional \$10 per month donation, encouraging all members to pay their per capita and maybe pay an additional one to cover members who are not able to pay their per capita.

Bob Shepard gave the Personnel report. He reported that we had a full staff all year which has given the church stability and allowed for a stable platform to grow the church and support the ministry teams. Pastor Smith excused himself while Bob Shepard gave the report on Terms of Call for the minister. The salary and housing expenses are split half and half. The pension expense as required by the Presbytery went up to 35%. Salary went up 5%, all other categories stayed the same at the minimum level as required by Presbytery. Don Roeske moved, Pat Buchholz second, and the motion to approve the Terms of Call was carried.

Treasurer, Barbara Ostlund presented the 2013 yearend financial statements. The report included a balance sheet with assets, liabilities and net worth and an operating statement showing income and expenses. The report indicated negative financial results with a deficit of \$8,094 with a general fund balance remaining of \$43,864. Barb Ostlund was thanked for all of the volunteer financial work that she does for the church.

Finance chair Leslie Hohmann presented the 2014 budget that has been approved by session. It included projected flat revenues from 2013 but expenses higher therefore giving a projected deficit budget of \$30,000. No motion was needed to accept the budget as the session had already approved this budget. Don Roeske volunteered to assist with looking into insurance coverage.

A slate of church members was presented to serve on the Nominating Committee. This committee will identify members interested in serving as Elders on the Session and Deacon members to be elected at a Special Congregational Meeting in May. Members named to serve on this committee are Chair Elder Leslie Hohmann, Deacon Jerry Johnson, Barb Ostlund, Steve Raatz, and one more Session member to be determined. There was a reminder that our by-laws were amended last year to require a nominating committee of at least 5 members (3 of which are Session members or Deacon members, 2 are members from the congregation). A motion was made by Nominating Committee chair Leslie which then did not require a second and carried to appoint the proposed slate to serve as the Nominating Committee.

Duane Brause gave the Deacon report. The goal of the Deacons is to take care of the congregation. Therefore the Deacons have been working to provide home communion for shut-ins, provide a process for coffee and cookie hosting, develop a guide for funeral arrangements and refreshments, and investigate providing meals to shut-ins and rides for those needing transportation. The Deacons also work closely with the Loving Community team.

Duane Brause gave the Hub report. The furnace should be ok this year. The Air conditioning unit was new last year. The Scouts and church members helped with outdoor cleaning. Trees were trimmed by Bob Shepard. There is a planned Spring Cleaning before Easter. The sound system will be updated in 2014 and a changing table will be added to the Men's room.

Marge Lewis gave the Worship and Music report. Their goal is to try new things and remember that some will work and some won't. There was discussion on inviting the Matsiko Children's choir back this summer.

Leslie Hohmann gave the adult Education report and Karen Johnson gave the Children's programming report. Eric Scott was thanked for his work with the Middle School/ High School class and Carol Osweiler was thanked for her work with the M&M children's programming.

Chris Sachs gave the Community Service report.

Ruth Shepard gave the Loving Community report. There were 100 requests for Spirit Care this year.

Peggy Roeske gave the Outreach report.

Pastor Smith gave his report. He is thankful to be here, thankful for our growth of kids, families, diversity and especially thankful for a congregation who are agile and flexible as we stretch and grow. We will look different a year from now. Pastor Smith thanked the Session and Deacons for working hard this year.

Respective in depth team reports for the year appear in the printed Annual Report. It was suggested that the Scouts be invited to submit a report for next year's Annual Report.

A motion was made by Leslie Hohmann, seconded by Marge Lewis and carried that the meeting adjourn.

Moderator Reverend Robert Smith closed the meeting with prayer at 11:55 a.m.

Robert M. Smith, Moderator

Karen Johnson, Clerk of Session

Favorite Chocolate Brownies from Carol Osweiler
2 cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 cup butter
1 cup water
2 eggs
2 cups sugar
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 cup cocoa powder
1/2 cup buttermilk
2 tsp vanilla extract

Frosting
1/2 cup butter
6 Tbsp buttermilk
1 tsp vanilla extract
5 Tbsp cocoa powder
1 pound powdered sugar (4 1/4 cups)
1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)



Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 10x15 rimmed pan or a 9x13 pan (for cake like brownies) and set aside. Sift together the flour, sugar, baking soda, and salt. In a medium saucepan, melt the butter. Add the cocoa and water and stir well to combine. When the mixture starts boiling, remove from heat, pour over the dry ingredients and stir. Add the buttermilk, eggs, and vanilla. Mix well. Pour into the pan and bake for 18-20 minutes, 25 if baked in 9x13 pan.

During the last 10 minutes of baking, make the frosting. In a saucepan, melt the butter. Add the cocoa and buttermilk and stir. Remove from heat and add the powdered sugar and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Fold in the nuts if desired. Pour over the baked brownies while still hot.



Easter Flowers Order Form, 2014

Your name and phone number: _____

Displayed in "HONOR OF" or in "MEMORY OF" (circle one):

Flower choices (where more than one color is listed, please circle your preferred color)

ITEM	COST	HOW MANY?	TOTAL COST
6" Easter Lily, (single, 5-8 blooms)	\$15	_____	_____
8" Stargazer Lily, (pink, triple, 12 blooms)	\$20	_____	_____
5.25" Calla Lilies, PINK or YELLOW	\$15	_____	_____
6.5" Hydrangea, BLUE or PINK	\$20	_____	_____
6" Tulips, PINK/LAVENDER or YELLOW	\$10	_____	_____
.5" Hyacinths, Mixed Colors	\$10	_____	_____

Turn in your completed order form **and full payment** in the collection plate, or in the office. **Thank you for your order!**

YOUTH NEWS

Wednesday nights we share in a meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by youth gathering and confirmation.

March 9: **Youth Sunday!**

Youth meeting, 11am,

followed by lunch & filling out Mission trip paperwork (Pizza & soft drinks provided).

March 12: **M&M/Deeper in our Faith**

March 19: **M&M/Deeper in our Faith**

March 26: **M&M/Deeper in our Faith**

April 2: **M&M/Deeper in our Faith**

April 5: **Girls Night / Boys Night**

Girls dress up dinner, shopping at MOA & slumber party at Johnson's!

Boys paintball & gaming/movies, sleepover at Eric's.

April 6: **Youth Meeting, 11am**

April 9: **M&M/Deeper in our Faith**

April 26: **Rollerskating**
at Skateville, 7-10 p.m. Cost; \$10
plus food

April 27: **Confirmation Sunday**

May 4: **Baccalaureate Sunday!**

Youth Meeting, 11am
Followed by tool training



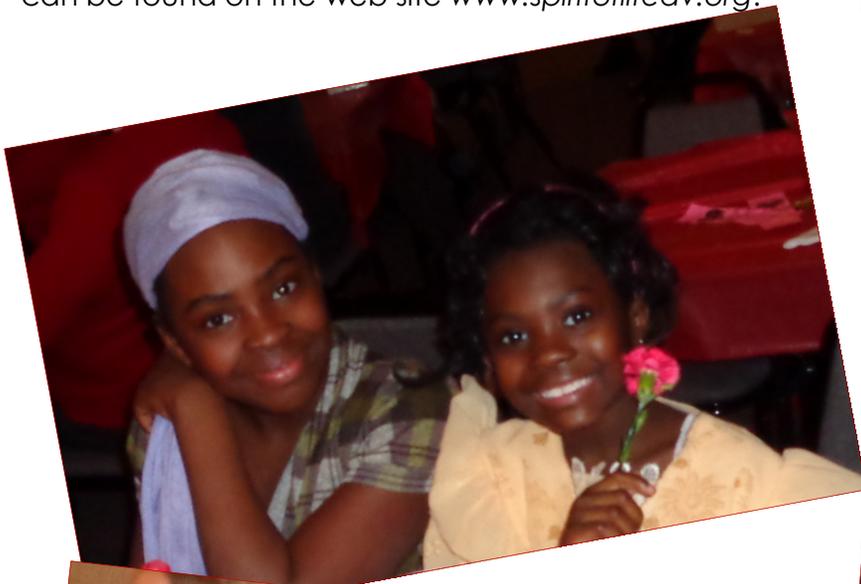
Information about our Mission Trip for 2014 to Chandler Oklahoma:

****The second Mission Trip payment of \$171.00 is due March 1.**

Final payment of \$171 (less fundraising) is due May 1. After this date there are no cancellations and no return of any fees. If financial assistance is needed please contact Pastor Rob Smith. Watch for more Youth News in the Sunday Bulletin.

Thank you to the people who donated to the *Valentine Cabaret* Silent Auction. \$3064.75 was raised for the youth trip to Chandler OK. More Valentine Cabaret pictures can be found on the web site www.spiritoflifeav.org.

Valentine Cabaret



Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church Session Minutes – January 16, 2014

A quorum was present (6 of 9 Session members) for the Session meeting on January 16, 2014. Pastor Smith offered an opening prayer and devotion based on Hebrews 3:1-11.

Pastor Rob gave his report. There was discussion concerning the church supporting Will Massey on his “Mosaic of Peace” mission to the Holy land April 28-May 10. It was moved, seconded, and passed that Will be invited and paid to guest preach and that a fund raising dinner for Will would be hosted by the session. Pastor Rob will be pricing sound systems to be paid for from special designated funds.

The financial report was given by Barb Ostlund. It was moved, seconded and carried that we accept the financial report. Discussion was held on how to fund Camp in a Van and other children’s programming. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Anita Story Memorial fund be designated for youth and children’s programming.

Clerk’s report was given by Clerk of the Session Karen Johnson. The minutes were approved as read. Attendance report was reviewed. Discussion was held on Clerk’s reports to Presbytery and General Assembly. These will be updated and submitted by January 31, 2014.

Team Reports were given. Christian Ed committee had no report. Outreach committee report was submitted by Peggy Roeske. No Session action was required. Worship and Music committee report was submitted by Marge Lewis. Communion schedule was approved. Session will be host for the March 26th Lenten supper. Community Service committee thanked everyone for their support of Armful of Love and Operation Christmas Child. They will have a new year planning session soon. Stewardship committee had no report. HUB will meet later in January so they have no report. Personnel committee discussed vacation policy and compensation for staff. It was moved, seconded and carried that the figures presented by the personnel committee on compensation be approved by Session and included in the 2014 budget numbers. Deacon’s report was submitted by Loretta Hunt, recording secretary for the Deacons. There was no Session action required.

Old Business

Mentoring project was discussed. Leslie Hohmann will be Cole Smith’s mentor. Jeff Mortimer will be Nathan Plaszcz’s mentor, Karen Johnson will be Ashton Mikoloski’s mentor. Duane Brause will be Ethan Grimm’s mentor, Deon Ford will be Scott Milbradt’s mentor. Jesse Lowinske will be Sam Hagen’s mentor. Committee chairs were reminded to prepare a committee report for the Annual meeting and submit them to the office by the third week in January. Annual meeting will be February 9, 2014.

New Business

The 2014 budget was presented by Leslie. Discussion was held and some items in the budget were modified. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Session approve the budget with the modifications that were made. Nominating committee needs 3 members from the Session and Deacons and 2 members from the congregation. Chris Sachs and Leslie Hohmann will be the Session representatives. Leslie will be the chair. They will fill the other committee positions in time for the Annual Meeting on February 9th. The Annual meeting needs to be announced in the January 25th and February 2nd bulletins and in a blast e-mail.

Concerns and joys of individuals were expressed and prayers were offered to close the meeting.
Clerk of Session, Karen Johnson

2013-2014

Officers

Session

- Rebecca Brandt
- Brian Gracek
- Leslie Hohmann
- Karen Johnson
- Marge Lewis
- Denise Lewis
- Julie Raatz
- Peggy Roeske
- Chris Sachs

Board of Deacons

- Duane Brause
- Pat Buchholz
- Alice Gracek
- Loretta Hunt
- Jerry Johnson
- Janna Warren-Perry

Treasurer

Barb Ostlund

Financial Secretary

Steve Raatz

Please contact the
Clerk of Session,
Karen Johnson,
in regard to membership changes and any Session member with questions or concerns.

NEXT LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

<u>DEACON MEETING</u>	<u>SESSION MEETING/</u>
7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2014	6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2014

Lectionary Texts and Service Highlights

	<p>Sunday, March 2 Exod. 24:12-18; Ps. 2 or Ps. 99 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17: 1-9</p>
<p>Sunday, March 9 Gen.2:15-17; 3:1-7; Ps. 32 Rom.5:12-19; Matt. 4: 1-11</p>	<p>Sunday, March 16 Gen.12:1-4a; Ps 121 Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17</p>
<p>Sunday, March 23 Exod. 17: 1-7; Ps. 95 Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-42</p>	<p>Sunday, March 30 1 Sam. 16:1-13; Ps. 23; John 9: 1-4 Eph. 5:8-14</p>

M&M is a wonderful energetic ministry for *Spirit of Life*. The kids arrive right after school so they are “always” hungry and need a snack. If you are unable to help support this ministry by cooking, setting up tables & chairs, or helping with the re-set for the sanctuary, YOU can make a snack for the kids! The only requirements: delicious, enough for 24 people & have them in the kitchen by 3pm on Wednesday. If you are interested in helping make snacks, please let Carol Osweiler know at 952.237.5894 or caosweiler@comcast.net. “It takes a village” to make a ministry flourish. **Blessings to all those who are participating in M&M. There will be no M & M on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014.**

Communications Policy Statement

It is Spirit of Life's policy to...

- ▶ list names, and place photos of members associated with church events, in the newsletter and on the website.
- ▶ Spirit of Life also acknowledges birthdays (month & day) in the newsletter, during the member's birthday month.
- ▶ Finally, Spirit of Life plans to put a copy of the monthly newsletter on its website.

Any member who does not want his/her name, likeness, or birth month listed in these, or any other church publications, is requested to contact the church office with a formal request to keep their personal information confidential.

Send newsletter announcements to: spirit@spiritoflifeav.org.

SPIRIT OF LIFE STAFF

PASTOR Rev. Rob Smith:
pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org - 952.807.4413

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR Shari Shaw:
spirit@spiritoflifeav.org - 952.423.2212

MUSIC DIRECTOR Kate Olaf:
music@spiritoflifeav.org - 952.423.2212

NURSERY CAREGIVER Trista Hansen:
spirit@spiritoflifeav.org - 952.423.2212

OFFICE spirit@spiritoflifeav.org / www.spiritoflifeav.org
14401 Pilot Knob Road / Apple Valley, MN 55124
952.423.2212

Office Hours

10:00 AM—3:00 PM M
10:00 AM—3:00 PM TU
10:00 AM—3:00 PM W
10:00 AM—3:00 PM TH

FOR PASTORAL EMERGENICES
PLEASE CALL 952.807.4413



10 PM ~ SUNDAY, MARCH 16
for the April issue.



14401 Pilot Knob Road
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Office 952.423.2212

spirit@spiritoflifeav.org
www.spiritoflifeav.org

Mission Statement

Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church, created by the Holy Spirit, seeks to be a loving community where all can grow in faith while serving and worshipping the God made known in Jesus Christ.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 2** **Communion Sunday**
- March 3 New Sociables 8:30 AM
- March 5** **Ash Wednesday Service 7:00PM**
- March 8 Men's Breakfast 7:15 AM at Panera in Apple Valley
- March 9** **Youth Sunday**
- March 12 Wednesday Club 1:00 PM
- March 12** **Worship Music Committee Mtg / M & M /6PM Family Dinner / Youth**
- March 13 Deacon Meeting 7:30PM
- March 16 Newsletter Deadline
- March 19** **M & M /6PM Family Dinner / Youth**
- March 20 Session 6:30PM
- March 26** **M & M /Family Dinner / Youth**

Weekly Events

- | | | | |
|------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| MON | Cubs @ 6PM | TUES | Scouts @ 6:30PM |
| WED | 6:30PM BELLS, Scouts | THURS | Cubs @ 6PM |

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Sunday School/Youth Group/Adult Ed 11:10 AM (September thru May)
* Nursery provided during Worship & Education time