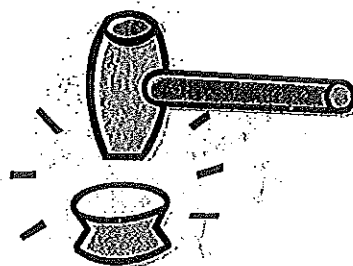


# St. Stephen United Church of Christ

*Worshiping God Loving People Making a Difference*

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

*Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 26, 2014*

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## PASTOR'S REPORT – 2013

Another year has passed at St. Stephen UCC and with the completion we want to stop and thank God for being present. [Thank you God for You were still speaking to us this past year; hopefully we attempted to be faithful in listening.] We had some difficult waters to tread this year and we also had some moments of joy. In the end, we hopefully are attempting to remain faithful to God's call and God's invitation to becoming a place of faith that is extravagantly welcoming as well as a place where faith development of the individual is valued and promoted.

Worship is still a cornerstone of our faith community and we are constantly trying to design and offer corporate worship in a manner that speaks and encourages many or most of the faithful that gather on any Sunday morning during the year or a Wednesday evening during the season of Lent. From the liturgy, to the music, to the use of multi-media we strive to integrate all elements of worship to offer multiple ways in which can and does God speaks to us in the sacred space we call home.

Faith development is important at St. Stephen. Confirmation classes, Bible Studies, Sunday School and the special offerings we produce are designed to give tangible opportunities to strengthen one's faith to all who participate. From new insight into reading and living the Bible, to ideas of how social justice can be tied to ones faith, to simple elements of prayer and stewardship; faith development is integral to one's spiritual journey.

Missions and hands on ministry opportunities is another way that we as the people of God can let God's light shine in the world that can be dark for many people. Food Baskets and Gift Cards twice a year; Kroger Cards and Gas Assistance throughout the year are a few ways that we reached beyond ourselves and tried to be present in other peoples lives as a representation of God's love and light.

I hope and pray that as we enter this new year of ministry and church life together that we will be sensitive to God's voice; that we will follow the life and teaching of Jesus; and that we will let the Spirit lead us daily as people of extravagant love and faithfulness.

The Rev. Jim Harper III

## STATISTICAL REPORT – 2013

**Members Deceased:** 5  
**Funerals:** 3  
**Members Transferred:** 1  
**New Members:** 13  
**Weddings:** 1  
**Baptisms:** 1  
**Average Weekly Worship Attendance:** 68.3

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2013

With 2013 and my four year period as your President ended, I have prepared a different report than those in the past. This one will be short and full of thanks for all of you who have supported me over the past four years. As always, the first thing that I must do is thank you, the Congregation, for four years of great support. The Council, without whom I would have been lost, has never failed to provide support, expertise and a great dedication to me and to the congregation. They're zeal for and service to St. Stephen has not faltered.

This past year, 2013, I must admit, was not an easy one for me. We started with a staff dismissal, fought through a very difficult financial crisis and have ended with another staff resignation. Through all of this, your unwavering support to St. Stephen and to its leadership has been overwhelming to me. We have come through every crisis and I think we are all stronger for it.

Now as I close with one more round of thanks. It has been my honor to serve as your President this past year and for the three previous years. I believe the Congregation knows how I feel about "my Church". I love it dearly, but this will probably be the last President's Report I will ever write. Thanks so much for letting me fulfill one of my dreams. Please maintain your high level of support for Jenny and the 2014 Council, I certainly will. Wishing everyone a happy and Blessed 2014.

Yours in Christ,  
Sam Raderer

## FUNDRAISING REPORT – 2013

Many people participate in and attend the fundraising events that help supplement our income, and our members who plan and work at these events should be applauded for their efforts. There are lots of hours spent by dedicated people and committees to make these events happen, and we are very grateful for everything that they do. The events held this year and their net profit are as follows:

Spaghetti Supper	\$ 928.07
Golf Scramble	\$1,200.00
Yard Sale	\$1,130.00
Chilifest	\$5,483.11
Trivia Night	\$ 927.00
Total Income Generated	\$9,668.18

Submitted by Jenny Elmore and Richard Storm

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT - 2013

Business before the Personnel Committee this year was as follows:

Associate Pastor - After many hours of discussion and soul searching, the Council recommended to the congregation that Rev. Brenda Burney be terminated. The congregation voted in favor of the motion, and the committee worked with the Conference and Association to structure the terms of the termination and severance package.

Secretary - The Council regrettably accepted the resignation of Beth Tanner in December, and the committee is currently searching for a replacement.

Committee Members - Sam Raderer, Jenny Elmore, Don Bauer, and Rev. Jim Harper

## MINISTER OF MUSIC REPORT – 2013

The year of 2013 went fairly smoothly. We were without a featured vocalist for most of the year, but we had Eva Morse for the last two months of the year. We also had Dwight Ashley join us for worship in December.

We have attempted to incorporate elements of contemporary worship into our services with varying degrees of success.

I seek your prayers and am grateful to those faithful ones who give of their time each week to help me lead our church in worship through music. I am also grateful to those who offer their support and encouragement to all participants in the music ministry.

Janet Storm

## FAMILY LIFE CENTER - 2013

The St. Stephen Family Life Center was used for many different activities again this year. Thanks to the faithful volunteers who give their time to keep the F.L.C. open mornings, evenings and weekends. We still need some new volunteers to fill open slots or to back up our "regulars" for vacation and illness. Give me a call for information and how you might help relieve the load from current workers.

Several Church activities would have been hard to accomplish without this facility. Vacation Bible School and Chili Fest to name a couple. St. Stephen a "home away from home" for many youth groups and organizations giving assistance to the community, or just passing through,

What would you like to see happen there? We are always open to suggestions and assistance in making new activities a part of the F.L.C. and St. Stephen.

To the volunteers who keep the doors open, THANK YOU! Your service has supported our church financially by allowing us to rent the F.L.C. and serve the walkers. The following is a breakdown of how much you have helped in just the last three years.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Basketball / misc. sports	\$780.00	\$1,370.00	\$1,130.00
Private parties /banquets	\$1,870.00	\$1,315.00	\$1,275.00
Walker fees	\$990.00	\$1,290.00	\$1,140.00
	=====	=====	=====
Total	\$3,640.00	\$4,5075.00	\$3,545.00

Respectfully submitted,  
Carleen & Gary Leitner

## FOOD BASKET SUMMARY – 2013

This holiday season, with the approval of the Council, we looked into making a few changes in the way we distribute our holiday food basket monies. We still felt a need to provide the food baskets for our community families that needed help. We also felt drawn in another direction that we became aware of just recently. With the help of Kerrie Fullen, who works for Norton Cancer Institute, we were able to obtain 10 names (Thanksgiving) and 10 names (Christmas) of very deserving people who are struggling with various medical diagnosis and financial hardships. Hopefully, we can make a small difference in the lives of families in both these areas. Thanks to everyone who helped this year by picking up food, fixing lunch for the workers, packing boxes, loading cars and delivering. Special thanks to Kerrie for distributing the gift cards to the patients at the various centers. Thanks also to you, the congregation, for your generosity over the past 32 years. You have certainly provided many families with a brighter holiday. God Bless!

<u>THANKSGIVING</u>			<u>CHRISTMAS</u>		
# of Baskets	Gift Cards	Amt. Given	# of Baskets	Gift Cards	Amt. Given
30	10 (\$100)	\$3,020	30	10 (\$100)	\$3,181

### GRAND TOTALS

**32 YEARS**                      **3,196 BASKETS**                      **20 GIFT CARDS**                      **\$166,447**

Respectfully Submitted,

Carleen Leitner

## CHANCEL COMMITTEE – 2013

Thank you to all those who placed Easter flowers (64 total) and Christmas poinsettias (65 total) in the sanctuary during the Easter and Christmas holidays.

Also, thank you to all those who placed flowers on the altar in memory of loved ones or due to celebrations of special events during the year.

Special thanks goes to Don Bauer and Scott Jennings, who always arrange to have the Christmas tree assembled and ready for decorating during the Christmas Season.

Thanks again to all.

In His Name,

Linda Jennings  
 Carleen Leitner  
 Barbara Perry  
 Nancy Skinner  
 Frankie Williams

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 2013

The Christian Education Committee presented hand sanitizer and holders from Bath and Body Works to the women of the church for Mother's Day. We thought this was a nice change and hopefully the women enjoyed it. We also presented tie tacks/lapel pins to the men for Father's Day. We felt they deserved some recognition, too.

Vacation Bible School was to be held June 29, July 27 and August 17. We were advertising it as "SONshine in the Summertime". However, this idea did not work out, as no children attended the first session. As a result, we cancelled the last two. We did collect shoes for WaterStep (formally Edge Outreach). We collected 436 pairs of shoes. Thank you to everyone for helping with this community outreach project.

During the summer months, we had Sunday school after worship in June only.

We had another Confirmation class this year. There are four young ladies in this class. They were confirmed on Palm Sunday and served communion on Easter Sunday. Three joined St. Stephen, with the fourth joining Plymouth.

We held our tenth annual Holiday Soiree on December 1 after church. We had a catered dinner, fellowship, door prizes, and a Christmas ornament game. We had about 65 members and friends join us for this event.

We made Santas out of individual Kleenex packages for the residents of Summerfield Manor Nursing Home. On December 15, we went caroling and delivered the gift bags. We had a group of about twenty-five church members and friends sing. The residents really enjoy seeing the children and just having company.

We again sponsored the Mitten Box. We had the box out for five Sundays and the response was terrific. We collected over 75 items to send to Shively Area Ministries. Thank you for your continued support.

I would like to personally thank everyone on the Christian Education Committee for their loyalty to this committee. Everyone attended most meetings and brought some new and fresh ideas to share. A big thank you goes to Carol Hawthorne, who continues to agree to be our Superintendent. I would also like to thank you, the congregation, for your continued support. Whatever we asked of you - be it money, supplies, time or prayer - you gave to us. We could not have accomplished what we did this year without your support. We had more volunteers for our activities than I ever hoped to have. Thank you!

We will be working hard in the coming year to, hopefully, grow both spiritually and in numbers. Please, if you have any suggestions, see someone on the Christian Education Committee, or leave a note in the office. As you can tell, we are willing to try different things.

Yours in Christ

Janet Storm  
Lisa Nolley  
Kathy Bauer  
Frankie Williams

Suzy Storm  
Carleen Leitner  
Rachael Elliott Bauer  
Anne Goble

## FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE – 2013

The Food Service Committee, with the help of numerous other church members, prepared and served the following meals in 2013:

- Chili Fest
- Spaghetti Dinner
- Congregational Dinner
- Six Wednesday Evening Lenten Meals
- Easter Breakfast
- Bereavement Meals
- Snacks for Trivia Night

The members of the committee also assisted with other functions that involved the use of the kitchen.

Committee Members: Russ and Penny Kline, Becky Flaherty, Linda Jennings, Gary and Carleen Leitner, Lisa Nolley, Barbara Perry, Herb and Jeannie Raderer, Sam and Marcie Raderer, Greg Schmidt, Irv and Peggy Schmidt, and Frankie Williams. My thanks to all the members of the committee for their hard work and dedication. I'd also like to thank the many other members of the church who volunteered covered dishes and desserts, and those who helped set up and clean up after the various activities.

Russ Kline  
Food Services Coordinator 2013

## MISSION / SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE REPORT – 2013

The Mission Committee found the year 2013 to be a very thought provoking year. After much conversation we committed ourselves to the UCC Mission 4/1 Program. This project was designed to get all Members of a Church involved in learning how to be attentive to God's earth. Simply put it required us to think about what we are doing to the earth and to become more conscious of taking care of what God has given us. For one month we kept tabs on what we did to help the earth. St. Stephen UCC Congregation spent 521 hours of performing earth care. We planted 37 trees. We wrote 5 letters of advocacy. One member wrote a poem concerning earth care. We think that we all became a little more enlightened as to what God expects of us in taking care of His World.

Later in the year we again left our comfort zone when we reached out to the Prison Ministry. We made three trips to the Dismas House to attend Worship Services with the ladies that are housed there. Rev. Harper lead the Worship each time and not only preached but led everyone in a very meaningful Service of hope which also included music which the ladies really enjoyed. It was interesting to talk with the ladies and hear of their excitement regarding their release and also their fears in returning to life outside the prison. We hope that this Mission will continue into the new year.

Shut Ins also remain a concern to our Committee. They were all visited during the Easter Season and again during the Advent Season. We ask that all Members of the Church keep the Shut Ins in your prayers and visit them if you can. Cards mean a lot as well.

Our Committee helped two families during the Christmas Season. Shively Area Ministries provided us with their names. They were each single parent families with three children each. Gifts were bought for the families and a visit was made to each family as well.

Good Friday Service for the Nursing Home next door was held in the afternoon hours of Good Friday. It was well attended and the Mission Committee provided light treats for everyone and Rev. Harper led the Worship Service for them.



We would also like to update the Congregation on the Refugee Families. We have helped a total of three families in their journey to make a good life for themselves in America. All three families obtained jobs within three months of arriving in Louisville and have continued to work everyday with no breaks in their employment. Two families have bought homes with their own funds. The third family from Africa will be moving into their new Habitat Home within the year. All the children are attending school and doing quite well and mostly have become very American in their ways! And we are proud to report that Paw Eh Tay (the mother of our first family) hopefully will become an American Citizen this summer. We thank you, the Congregation, for your support throughout the year. When you help us it has far reaching consequences. Many lives are changed for the better when you extend yourselves. God bless you as you endeavor to make the world a better place for those lives you touch.

The Mission Committee

## **The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Stephen UCC**

January 27, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:55 am. Rev. Harper led the prayer.

Parliamentarian – Bill Kroeckel  
Chief Teller – Don Bauer

Sign- in sheets were passed and a quorum was established.

### **Minutes of Congregational Meetings**

Congregational Meeting of January 22, 2012. A motion was made by Gary Leitner and seconded by Donna Schneider to approve the minutes as typed. Motion carried.

Special Congregational Meeting of October 28, 2012 – A motion was made by Jenny Elmore and seconded by Donna Schneider to approve the minutes as typed. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

A motion was made by Herb Raderer and seconded by Bill Kroeckle to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

### **Reports**

Pastor's Report – As printed  
Statistical Report – As printed  
Associate Pastor's Report – As printed  
President's Report – As printed  
Fundraiser Report – As printed  
Minister of Music – As printed  
Family Life Center Report – As printed  
Food Basket Report – As printed. President Sam Raderer took a moment to give special thanks to the Leitner family for all their hard work on the Food Basket Committee.

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

Personnel – As printed

Chancel - As Printed  
Christian Education – As printed  
Facilities Management – As printed  
Food Service – As printed  
Stewardship – As of this date we have received 25 pledge cards for a total of \$81,682.  
Missions/Spiritual Council – As printed

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Old Parsonage – We will have an appraisal of the property before the next congregational meeting. George Rogers suggested that we sell the property as soon as possible. A question was asked by Cliff Ellis as to how long it will take to get an appraisal since the church needs the money as soon as possible. The council will discuss this and start the process at their next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A recommendation was made on behalf of the church council to terminate the employment of Associate Pastor Brenda Burney. Frankie Williams asked what the reason for termination was. President Raderer replied that Pastor Burney's performance was disappointing and her outreach ministry failed to bring in any new members which in turn mean no increase in revenue. Donna Schneider cited the fact that other pastor's have failed to bring in new members and were not fired for that reason. Pres. Raderer replied that the main task for an associate pastor is get out in the community and spread St. Stephen's message.

Pastor Burney stated she thinks hiring her was an experiment. She said she has tried to get St. Stephen's name out in the community. St. Stephen's goal was for a multi-racial, multi-cultural membership. She regrets she did not get a written job description. Herb Raderer stated the financial report is the main reason to eliminate the Associate Pastor position. It's not a matter of like or dislike but a matter of finances for survival.

Rev. Harper asked to take the floor. He admitted he as been characterized as stubborn. Pastor Burney has told him nothing she does is good enough for him. Rev. Harper cited lack of compliance and no accountability on the part of Pastor Burney as a matter of contention. She has disregarded his instructions and went solo. Rev. Harper feels he as failed as a supervisor. He has heard from Pastor Burney that she has tried but cannot accept him as her supervisor. Rev. Harper is willing to try reconciliation but feels they need to try to resolve issues first. He feels there is no common ground.

Cliff Ellis said the church needed to be pragmatic. This should be looked at as a business decision. If a performance review is not up to standard and it is not financially feasible to keep a position filled then it should follow the rule of last in-first out.

Pastor Burney said she understands the business model but still contends that nothing she does is ever good enough.

Richard Storm suggested we move forward with the council's recommendation and vote whether or not to terminate Pastor Burney. The meeting was suspended until after the vote.

The meeting was called back in order at 12:55. The result of the vote was 53 with YES votes and 5 with NO votes. The council will start work of the termination package effective 90 days from this date.

**Delegate to the Indiana/Kentucky Conference** – Jenny Elmore was nominated. Don Bauer made a motion that the nominations be closed. Bell Kroeckle seconded. Motion carried. Jenny Elmore accepted the nomination.

**Delegates to the Kentuckiana Conference** – Nominees were Sam Raderer, Don Bauer, Jenny Elmore and Madison Harper. Associate nominees were Herb Raderer and Mary Lee Simpson. A motion was made by Gary Leitner and seconded by Don Bauer to close the nominations. Motion carried. The nominations were accepted by all.

### **Proposed Budget 2013**

It was noted the budget for 2013 would be about the same as 2012 as far as administration expenses go. The benevolences would be the same as last year except for New Church Start. The Capital Improvement would decrease. A motion was made by Bill Kroeckle and seconded by Cody Bauer to accept the Budget for 2013 as printed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Gary Leitner and seconded by Nancy Skinner to adjourn. Motion carried. The time was 1:05. Rev. Harper led the prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Hoback

### **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

October 27, 2013

President Sam Raderer called the meeting to order at 11:11am. The sole purpose of this meeting is the election of candidates to the Church Council and the Christian Education Committee. Rev. Harper led the prayer.

Chief Teller – Irvin Schmidt  
Parliamentarian – Bill Kroeckel

Sign in sheets were passed and a quorum was confirmed.

Nominations for the Christian Education Committee were made open to the floor. A nomination was made by Lisa Nolley to add Tina Harper to the current ballot of Frankie Williams. A motion was made by Herb Raderer and seconded by Donna Schneider to close the nominations. Motion carried. A recommendation for a motion that the secretary cast one unanimous vote for the slate was given by Sam Raderer. The motion was made by Herb Raderer and seconded by Donna Schneider. Motion carried.

Nominations for Church Council were made open to the floor. Jenny Elmore nominated Donna Schneider and Don Bauer nominated Richard Storm to the current ballot of Gary Leitner and Jenny Elmore. Richard Storm accepted the nomination on the provision no one objected to his election on the grounds of conflict of interest since his wife, Janet Storm, is a member of the church staff. A motion was made by Jeannie Raderer and seconded by Mary Lee Simpson to close the nominations. Motion carried. A recommendation for a motion that the secretary cast one unanimous for the slate was given by Sam Raderer. The motion was made by Herb Raderer and seconded by Donna Schneider. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Lee Simpson and seconded by Jenny Elmore. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hoback

**ST. STEPHEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
TREASURER'S REPORT - YEAR OF 2013**

	BENEVOLENCES			REACH FOR CHRISTIAN ED FUND	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/ DEBT LIQUIDATION	PIPE ORGAN FUND	MEMORIAL FUND	TOTALS
	GENERAL FUND	GOOD SAMARITAN	TOMORROW					
BALANCE 12/31/12	(\$9,125.13)	\$1,385.52	(\$638.97)	\$2,663.79	\$8,789.40	\$1,694.27	\$6,598.48	\$15,474.52
RECEIPTS								
FUND TRANSFER	245,180.72	8,899.15	500.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	6,613.00	\$261,858.87
FUND TRANSFER	(28,185.34)	25,836.56	2,348.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(\$0.00)
	7,432.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(7,432.95)	\$0.00
TOTALS	\$215,303.20	\$36,121.23	\$2,209.81	\$2,663.79	\$8,799.40	\$1,694.27	\$5,778.53	\$277,333.39
DISBURSEMENTS	\$223,075.75	\$34,016.34	\$1,920.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$575.00	\$93.53	\$261,245.13
BALANCE 12/31/13	(\$7,772.55)	\$2,104.89	\$289.56	\$2,663.79	\$8,799.40	\$1,119.27	\$5,685.00	\$16,088.26

NOTE 1: SALES OF KROGER CERTIFICATES NETTED ST. STEPHEN DURING 2013		RECAPITULATION OF DEPOSITORIES:	
	\$211.40	BALANCE 12/31/2012	INCREASE/ (DECREASE) 12/31/2013
CHECKING ACCOUNT:			
PNC CHECKING		\$5,185.07	\$2,569.17
FIFTH THIRD BANK GAMING ACCT. (GAMING ACCOUNT MOVED TO PNC)		\$127.25	\$212.88
SAVINGS - FIFTH THIRD BANK (SAVINGS ACCOUNT MOVED TO PNC) FIFTH THIRD CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT		\$0.00	\$7,993.89
		\$10,162.20	(\$10,162.20)
TOTAL		\$15,474.52	\$613.74
LESS NET TAXES DUE 4TH QTR.		\$0.00	\$0.00
GRAND TOTAL		\$15,474.52	\$16,088.26

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 TREASURER

December 31, 2013  
 Year End

## Facilities Management

I would like to thank everyone for helping throughout the year. I was fortunate this year that when a problem arose there was always someone willing to help. Our workday attendance was down a little from recent years, but people that could not make it on Saturday, came in the next week and worked on projects that we did not completed Saturday. The week of the workday, normal projects were done (mulching, weeding, basic cleanup of areas around the church) and we need to thank Scott Jennings and his employees for building a new roof over the rear entrance of the church. Thank you all for the use of your talents and energy during that week and through the year. Throughout the rest of the year we have trimmed some trees, continued to spray for weeds and changed lights other projects inside the church. 2014 is already here and I know we will be cleaning out the garage and parsonage, getting them ready to go on the Market. Trees in that area will also need to be trimmed and cleaned up. Richard Storm will be the committee coordinator this year, so when he calls, be ready with your talents and energy once again.

Thank you

Don Bauer

## Special Called Congregational Meeting

July 14, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Sam Raderer at 11:12am. Rev. Harper opened with prayer.

Chief Teller – Irv Schmidt and assisted by Russ Kline and Richard Storm.

Parliamentarian – Bill Kroeckel

Sign-in sheets were passed and a quorum was confirmed.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss whether or not to begin proceedings to sell the church's property located at 1867 Farnsley Rd. a.k.a. the Old Parsonage. Receipts for the last six months of this year have been down and there is a need to liquify this asset. A motion was made by <sup>Y</sup>Bill Kroeckel and seconded by Russ Kline to start the discussion. Motion carried. <sub>B</sub>

It was noted that this property includes a four car garage. Cliff Ellis asked if we knew what the selling price would be. That can't be determined until the survey is completed. A question was asked by Peggy Schmidt if the property is zoned as residential since the building is part of church property. That will also have to be determined if the process goes ahead. Cliff Ellis asked about the condition of the heating and air units. The boiler was purchased in 2008 and the house is cooled by window units. Since the whole process will include survey and realtor fees the council will look into getting a line of credit not to exceed \$5,000.

A motion was made by Bill Kroeckel and seconded by Gary Leitner to give the St. Stephen UCC Church Council the authority to sell the property located at 1867 Farnsley Road. This authority includes the ability to establish property boundary lines, the enlistment of a realtor, negotiations with prospective buyers, final disposition of the property and establishment of a "line of credit" with a local financial institution to cover incidental costs (survey, closing, etc.) which may occur during this transaction. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gary Leitner and seconded by Herb Raderer. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with a prayer from Rev. Harper.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hoback