

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Lay Leadership

- The Lay Leadership Committee will meet in January

Worship

- Baptisms will be offered during the “Baptism of the Lord” Sunday in January
- After the Fellowship Dinner on January 20th Pastor Barre will do a presentation of “The Way Forward” @ 2:00 PM
- February 2, 2019 - UMW Day at the First Arena - will be a hockey game – est. cost \$7.00

Finance

- Looking great and satisfied with how close we are to the budget plan prepared last January
- Finance Committee Meeting will be held January 7, 2019 at 7:00 PM – all committee chairs and the Financial Secretary are members of this committee

Membership

- Currently, 93 members
- 27 members were approved for removal from membership during the 2018 Charge Conference

Mobile Food Pantry (MFP)

- 152 Families (414 Individuals) were served at the December 12th MFP
- These families enjoyed “shopping” for the Lighthouse Gift Shop items remaining after the Christmas giveaway
- Implementation of the computerized registration system is going well
- The Food Bank purchased two scanners for our PantryTrak system
- We need additional volunteers

Chatter on the Ladder

- Self-sustaining financially
- Averaging 10-15 men each time

Lighthouse Christmas

- All 60 Food Boxes were picked up
- The Gift Shop was amazing – what was not taken Saturday was offered to the MFP visitors Wednesday

- Very few items from the Gift Shop were kept – Balance taken to the Quota Club Clothing Barn, the Salvation Army, the Animal Shelter, etc.
- Tremendous support was received from the Boy Scouts the past two months in all activities of the Lighthouse Christmas as well as the pancake breakfasts
- Thirty-five volunteers stayed for lunch Saturday – several volunteers and all the Boy Scouts and Leaders had already left – sincere thanks to all who came to help with the distributions, with donations, with moving and setting up the Gift Shop, with packing the food boxes, and your support and prayers during this whole project.

Fundraisers

- Merchant Card Program - YTD - \$620.84
 - Top’s Cash for Causes - YTD - \$378.75
 - Pizza Hut Program – YTD - \$499.91
 - Superior Steam Cleaners - YTD - \$300.00
- Total 2018 Earnings: \$1,799.50**

Concerts

- Dave Burdick– December 15, 2018 @ 7:00 PM –preceded by a Roast Beef Dinner @ 6:00 PM was a huge success. Thanks to all who worked so hard to made such an enjoyable evening.
- Patti Dahl - Friday, April 26, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

THANK YOU !!

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Bill Snyder thanks the congregation for the outstanding support given to the Avoca UMC this year.

The eleventh month finance report at Administrative Council shows that we are on plan with the budget plan prepared last January. This is in spite of an unplanned \$36,000 expense to pave the parking lot which was so generously supported that it was paid in full without impacting the normal budget of the church. We are a blessed church.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Report for 06 Nov 2018

Submitted by Bill Heard

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Nov 06, 2018 with nine members present including, Bill Snyder, Janet English, Don Loveland, Fred Wood, Bev Belanger, Al Belanger, Gary Weldy, Pastor Barre, and the writer.

- Approved purchase of sheet metal and wood structure for the sign at the parsonage. Bill Heard to procure the materials.
- Additional jack post will be purchased to support the floor at the parsonage.
- Projects Complete
 1. Church furnace repaired.
 2. Door stops installed on the two storage sheds
 3. Confirmed Ryan Goodrich is plowing the parking lot for 2018/2019 winter season
- New Business
 1. Discussed pressure washing the church in the spring.
 2. Discussed materials required to install a makeup air system in the furnace room. Pricing to be presented at the December meeting.
 3. The stone chips and holes in the church siding needs to be repaired. This will be a spring project.

Next meeting Dec 04, 2018.

Trustee Report for 04 Dec 2018

Submitted by Bill Heard

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on 04 Dec 2018 with eight members present including Janet English, Don Loveland, Gary Weldy, Bev Belanger, Al Belanger, Pastor Barre, Fred Wood, and the writer.

- Project complete
 1. Parsonage furnace has been serviced and repaired.
 2. Three jack posts have been installed at the parsonage. Additional repair of a split floor joist and installation of an additional jack to support this joist is required.
- Old Business
 1. The materials for the parsonage sign have been purchased. Installation will be planned weather permitting.

- New Business:

1. Approval was given to purchase materials for the makeup air damper in the furnace room.

Next meeting Jan 08, 2019.

TREASURER'S REPORT

for the month of

November 2018 – Ron Salles

We have spent more in our General Fund than we have received during November 2018. The General Fund reserves are maintaining about a two week margin entering 2019. We continue to receive more than we spend in our Mission Funds, will have a good reserve going to begin 2019. We are very close to our annual fund raising goals for 2018. Our monthly apportionments are current and all bills received to date have been paid or are in the process of being paid including the 2019 Multi-Peril Insurance for 2019. Oh yeah, we have a paved parking lot that is paid in full during 2018!!! Thank you!!!

Please remember your United Methodist Church Membership Pledge, "To faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness."

If you have any questions please contact Ron Salles (ronald.salles@me.com).

AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT

Ron Salles

Please visit our webpage at avocaumc.com and find the links to our Facebook page and Youtube Channel.

We are recording the Sunday Service and publishing it on our Youtube Channel. Unfortunately anything that is copyrighted must be removed from the recording and things that are private (like prayer requests) are also removed. Our views (visits) continue about the same and we have about 14 subscribers.

Remember we do have the service recorded on DVD, so if you can't attend for any reason and you want to see the entire service with the prayers and music, etc., let me know and we will get a copy to you.

If you have any questions please contact Ron Salles (ronald.salles@me.com).

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Sunday, January 13th
Sunday, February 10th
8:00 AM – 10 AM

RAMP MINISTRY

Glenn Davis, Ramp Guy's Coordinator

The Ramp Guys had a busy year. We constructed 29 ramps in 2018, which brings the total number of ramps built over the last 20 some years to 508. Those 29 ramps we constructed would be valued at \$28,987.83 if they all were constructed with new materials, but we only purchased \$8,488.26 of new materials. We recovered 30 ramps which were no longer needed and that were donated back to us for refurbishing and reinstallation. Refurbishing and reinstalling used ramps saves a considerable amount of funds, but also adds to the labor time required. The Ramp Guys donated 2610 man hours to the Ramp Ministry in 2018. Our Ramp Guys are very dedicated and go about our Ministry with cheerful, willing hearts. They enjoy the Fellowship, Comradery and being able to help "Our Neighbors in Need" by demonstrating the Love of the Lord. They are the GREATEST.

We still have 32 ramps on the "to do list" to start 2019. The weather and availability of volunteers limited the number of ramps we were able to build in 2018. We had several new volunteers join us this last year and hopefully we will see an increase of volunteers in 2019 to help us with the ever increasing need for ramps. Most of us joined RSVP and RSVP is working to hopefully recruit more volunteers for us. Centenary United Methodist Church, where the Ramp Guys got their start, decided to transfer their sponsorship to the Avoca United Methodist Church. That means a bit more paperwork and responsibility for our Church, but the transition went smoothly and the Ramp Ministry never missed a beat.

The Office of the Aging provides us with most of the names of people needing ramps and supplies much of the funds for new materials. We also rely on donations for those people who are not eligible for funding from the County. The Steuben County Office of the Aging is the only agency in New York State with a program for building ramps. As such, they and The Ramp Guys were honored by the New York State Government at a Celebration in Albany. Since then, we have been contacted by other

counties looking to start a ramp program. We are anxious to share our information with them.

We were blessed this last year by being able to build ramp number 500 for Dan Reppert's sister. Dan was responsible for starting the Ramp Guys and was the Coordinator for over 14 years. We had a Marvelous celebration of ramp number 500 with TV and newspaper coverage, cake, punch and lots of support from our congregations, Pastors, past Ramp Guy volunteers, and our support staff from the Office of The Aging and others. We are truly BLESSED.

PPRC

Glenn Davis, Chair

On behalf of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, it is my pleasure to inform you that we are BLESSED to have Pastor Barre continuing with us for another year. The committee has only needed to meet occasionally as everything has been progressing smoothly. If there ever is a concern that needs our attention we will be glad to address it that time. We are anticipating another great Spiritual year for the Avoca United Methodist Church under his guidance.

LIBRARY CORNER

COMING HOME – THE BAXTER FAMILY

By Karen Kingsbury

Reviewed by Rita Slayton

I just have to tell you about this great book. It is the story of a God-blessed family and faith. Their whole lives were centered on God and putting Him first. They are all coming home for their Dad's 70th birthday. They have always put God first in their lives and tried to recover from mistakes and carry on; closer to God and family than before. This time their lives are sorely tested as God says, "no, but trust me". He seems to speak right out to them even as He holds them closely and their tears wash His feet. God is there and the reader can feel Him too. He helps them through this crisis and then helps them to accept this "no" even as their faith grows stronger by the miserable hour until their FAITH is strong enough for them to say Thank You to God for holding them and helping them come out the other side; more whole and closer together than ever before. Even if you have to get in line, this lesson in strength and faith is something you should not miss.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

On January 13th we will celebrate the Baptism of Jesus which also is a celebration of our own baptism. On that day Pastor Barre will baptize church family members and others who wish to receive this sacrament. Please see Pastor Barre if you know of those who may be interested.

“A WAY FORWARD”

At 2:00 PM, Sunday, January 20th (following our potluck fellowship dinner) Pastor Barre will present a preview of “A Way Forward”. The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. Three leading proposals will be discussed during the General Conference February 23-26, 2019. Pastor Barre will discuss each and explain the affects each would have on our church if approved.

I AM MY NEIGHBOR’S BIBLE

Author Unknown

I am by neighbor’s Bible
He reads me when we meet;
Today he reads me in my home,
Tomorrow on the street.

He may be relative or friend,
Or slight acquaintance be;
He may not even know my name,
Yet – he is reading me.

Dear Christian friends and brothers,
If we could only know
How faithfully the world records
Just what we say and do.

Oh, we would make our records plain
And labor hard to see
Our worldly neighbors won to Christ,
While reading you and me.

Anniversaries

January

February

10 Jim & Bev Young

Birthdays

January

5 Dave Welch
10 Bonnie Green
13 Alice Robinson
19 Megan Hardy
22 Carrie Picarro
24 Mindy Garrison

February

2 Jim Young
4 Bev Belanger
6 Forrest Slayton
8 Lois Cagle
8 Howard Warner
12 Neil Simpson
14 Penny Sorge
15 Don Loveland
22 Al Belanger
22 Martha Cleland
26 Barbara Martin
29 Linda Davis

RECIPE CORNER

Elephant Stew

1 Elephant – medium size
Salt – pepper
2 rabbits (optional)

Cut elephant into small bite-sized pieces. This should take about 2 months. Add enough brown gravy to cover. Cook over kerosene fire for 4 weeks at 465°. This will serve 3,800 people. If more are expected, 2 rabbits may be added, but do this only if necessary, as most people do not like to find hare in their stew.

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn’t need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator.

On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

“I don’t know,” he said, “She’s still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.”