

THE PORTLIGHT

A newsletter for members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church



Christmas Cantata

The combined choirs of Church of Peace, Hillcrest and Portland United Methodist Churches, along with an orchestra and children's choir, presented *The Silence and the Sound* on Sunday, Dec. 13. There were 229 people present for the afternoon performance. A special offering of \$944.80 was received to benefit Walker Methodist Health Center's MUSIC & MEMORYSM program, a program in which seniors living with Alzheimer's or dementia are issued an iPod or mp3 player loaded with music that is personalized for them. Then on Dec. 20, the children blessed us with a short program in worship, "The Party."



The Children's Christmas Program



Images of Christmas

January 2016

Our Mission

"To grow followers of Jesus who change the world."

Our Vision

"To be a safe harbor along life's journey."

The **PORT**
A safe harbor along life's journey.

Pastor's Message *Rev. Carol Zaagsma*

With the end of the calendar year comes preparation for the Annual All Church Conference scheduled on Sunday, January 24, after worship. A light lunch will be provided (free-will offering appreciated). All are invited to this meeting, where 2015 year end reports, the 2016 budget, and a proposal for a new leadership structure will be presented for discussion and adoption.

I want to introduce this new leadership structure to you now, so you'll have time to look it over and think of any questions you may have before being asked to adopt it. The Lay Leadership Team (Russ Cox, Linda Lounsbury, Mary Nelson, Nancy Slagg) and I have been working on this proposal for several months, and it represents the direction many other congregations are moving toward in a single board model.

In this new structure, the Church Council will retain responsibility for overall direction of the congregation and the primary responsibilities of our administrative committees. Along with that, they will rely on sub-groups and ministry teams to maintain day to day tasks related to those areas of administration and ministry.

The Board of Trustees will continue to function as they have in the past, while the Finance Committee, the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and the Lay Leadership Team (Nominations) will transition to sub-groups of the Church Council. When the Church Council meets each quarter, they will take any necessary action related to financial, staffing or nomination matters.

The members of the sub-groups will be responsible for bringing their related business to the Church Council for action, so instead of separate occasional Finance or SPRC committee meetings where decisions are made, the Church Council meetings become the

place for those decisions. The sub-groups will be staffed with fewer people than their full committees were, and they will meet as needed in advance of a Church Council meeting to do their necessary work (i.e. prepare a draft of the budget or create a job description for a staff position). Many of these committees have already implemented sub-groups to do specific tasks, so this isn't that far off the mark from how our committees have actually operated.

The proposal also includes a significant change to our ministry teams. Instead of having six ministry teams (Children/Youth/Family, Faith Formation, Hospitality, Outreach, Samaritan, and Worship), the proposal calls for four ministry teams (Evangelism & Church Growth, Spiritual Growth, Mission Outreach and Congregational Care). Our ministry teams have not been fully staffed for several years now, and the four proposed teams provide attention to ministry areas that haven't had designated committees to focus on for some time.

Please take a look at the insert in this month's newsletter, where you'll see a diagram of our current structure alongside the proposed structure. A primary reason for this proposal is the difficulty we've had in fully staffing all our committees. The diagram illustrates how we will need fewer designated leaders with the new structure. We'll have a Q and A session after worship on January 17 in the Wesley Room if you'd like to hear more and discuss the proposal.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Carol



Bits and Pieces

Invitation to the All Church Conference

All are encouraged to attend the All Church Conference scheduled for Sunday, January 24 immediately following morning worship. During this meeting, we will receive 2015 reports, review and approve our 2016 budget, and elect our leaders for the coming year. We'll begin our meeting with a light lunch (provided, but free will offering welcomed).

Thank you!

A big "thank you" for the generous gifts at Christmas this year. Your thoughtfulness and kindness was a nice surprise and very much appreciated.

Dale, Leann, Peggy, Paul and Pastor Carol

Children, Youth & Family Ministries

January 2016

- Jan. 3 Emma & Katelyn
- Jan. 10 Luke & Carl
- Jan. 17 Rylie & Janea
- Jan. 24 Clara & Jeremiah
- Jan. 31 Emma & Carl



Youth Group Update



2016 will bring familiar activities for the youth but new topics to discuss about. Some things they are interested in talking about are life and death, values, goals, heaven and hell along with an always popular Sammy on the FLI (Fun, Learn, Interact). FLI time is something we used to do at camp which is similar to workshops where our speaker comes and the kids can ask him questions and have a more intimate and honest conversation about their religious questions or views. Who is Sammy? He was our speaker at Ultimate Challenge Camp last year and are very excited to have him back. Sammy is a youth pastor at Blue Oaks Church in Brooklyn Park, MN, and works with Jared Kuyper at North Education Center in New Hope, MN, as an Education Assistant for the ALC program. Sammy has motivated one of our own youth, Blake Richardson-Mahre, to seek out a pastoral calling he has been feeling.

What we are most excited about is our Ultimate Challenge Camp reunion that is on January 16 and we will be volunteering at Feed My Starving Children from 7-9pm. There is very little sleep to be had this night but to be able to reconnect with camp friends is well worth the sacrifice!
~ Melissa Kuyper

Baptism

Blessing Osei Wilson was baptized December 6. Blessing is the daughter of Mary Fosuhemaa and Joseph Dorbar.

Blessing's grandfather, Alex Osei, Sr., was here from Ghana, West Africa, to witness and take part in this very special day.



Hospitality Ministries

2015 Christmas Dinner

Nearly 40 members and friends kicked off this festive season with the annual Christmas Dinner on December 5. Round tables were set up in the Wesley Room, where a roast beef dinner catered by Affordable Best Catering was served. Many thanks to JoAnne Volden, Ardy Anderson and Heather Anderson for organizing the dinner this year, along with JoAnne and Ardy's daughters who served.



Bingo!

SAVE THE DATE! On the afternoon of Saturday, Jan. 23 the Hospitality Team will be hosting a FAMILY BINGO event. We will gather at 1:30 for fun, fellowship AND prize! Please bring a 'snack' to share as well as your own beverage. More information will be coming about the event but plan ahead. It may be just what you and your family need to do on a cold winter afternoon!!

BINGO				
15	28	37	51	73
6	17	32	45	61
9	15	★	60	70
12	26	44	52	66
7	22	34	48	72

Hospitality Ministries

We celebrate YOU during January

If your birthday isn't on our list, **please let us know**, so we can update our records for next year.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Kumba Sheriff | 12 - Chaz Brobst |
| 2 - Kathy Soucy | Inge Lystad |
| 4 - Larry Seldon | 14 - Carol Cox |
| 5 - Jeanne Hansen | Nancy Stinson |
| Emma Mahre | 15 - Merlin Gilbertson |
| 6 - Marilyn Anderson | 19 - Neil Livingston |
| Donna Livingston | 22 - Alisa Smith |
| 8 - Megan Mahre | 24 - Peter Anderson |
| 10 - Jael Medzagoh | 25 - Dale Miller |
| - Olivia Smith | 28 - Traci Darnell |
| 11 - Rod Bacheller | 31 - Linda Dicks |
| - Nancy Slagg | |



Can you smell that coffee brewing?



The tradition of offering coffee and treats on Sunday mornings continues at The PORT. Many volunteers stepped up to provide the goodies and do the set up this fall. THANK YOU to all for this gracious hospitality. A sign up sheet for the new year is in the Narthex. If you feel like you would like to sign up for some Sunday but couldn't "go it alone," invite someone to partner with you - twice the fun, half the work. Homemade or store-bought goodies are graciously received—whatever you can offer is a blessing.

Coffee & refreshments are served from 9:30-10:00 am in the Wesley Room.

January Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Coffee & Treats	Cookie Sunday	Cookie Sunday	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeters	LaVonne Robinson Ardy Anderson	Tim & Dianne Madsen	Charles & Karen Groth	Barb & Bob Deese	George Dalin
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Chaz Brobst, Myron & Ginny Karki	Guy Moore, Scott Rice, Dave & Linda Schesso	Guy Moore, Jerry Solheim, Jim & Marilyn Anderson	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Steve & Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson, Pat Ekstrom, Leland & Lucille Thorn
Welcomers	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Kathy Swenson	Helen Witt	Jeff Chamberlain	Marilyn Anderson
Reader	Steve Soucy	Katelyn Hagerty	Jeff Carroll	Pat Ekstrom	Rod Bacheller
Sound	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre
Media	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury	LaVonne Robinson
Closer	Paul Richardson	Harvey Erstad	Tom Wellman	Floyd Ekstrom	Wayne Andersen
Communion Stewards	Jim & Marilyn Anderson	<p>Want to serve on Sunday mornings?</p> <p>Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</p>			
Communion Servers	Carol Emdy, JoAnne Volden, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt				

Operation Christmas Child Update

14 volunteers went to the distribution processing center on December 11 to prepare shoeboxes for shipping to children all around the world.



In an act of the Holy Spirit, that night's donations were being shipped to Togo. After filling a huge shipping container, we were invited to pray and lay hands on the cartons going to Togo.

Here's a picture of Jocelyne Medzagoh and daughter Jael just before the shipping door was closed. Jocelyn moved to the United States from Togo in 1999.



Thank you to all who filled a shoebox gift this year. All together, we donated 54 shoeboxes from The PORT!



Winter Clothing Drive Thank You

Thank you for your support of the Winter Clothing Drive. Because of the efforts at Portland Avenue UMC we were able to collect over 1000 items for all students in Bloomington Public Schools. In addition, the program supports students with disabilities in the Transition PWS Program by providing them with a service learning opportunity. This year the students managed the counting, sorting and distribution of all items. They also created a winter clothing closet for ongoing support to students in need.

Your efforts have been met with gratitude from those who are being served. Here is a letter from staff at Westwood Elementary:

“We had a family with twins move to our school from a warm weather climate state and we were able to provide them with the necessary winter gear to stay warm this season. The family is experiencing economic hardship right now and truly appreciated the support.”

Please extend my thanks to your parishioners. Your generosity is extending far beyond the walls of your church to make a great impact on the lives of youth and families across Bloomington.

Sincerely,
Emily Janssen

Human Relations Day Special Offering is January 17

Human Relations Day is one of six special offering days of the United Methodist Church. This offering helps young people on the road to healing and healthy lives. Your gift helps recovering addicts and ex-offenders, along with hundreds of other ministries.

Tai Chi Classes

Tai Chi Class will be starting up again on Mondays, January 4, at 6:30 pm. This ancient Chinese tradition involves focused breathing along with a series of slow movements. It is excellent for improving balance. All ages and physical abilities are welcome.

Architectural Committee

The Wesley Room has continued its transformation in the last few weeks with installation of a new commercial-grade vinyl floor and baseboards; the return of our conference table, newly refinished; and the arrival of new conference table and chairs for the north end of the room. See the pictures below for a glimpse of the new look.



Before



After

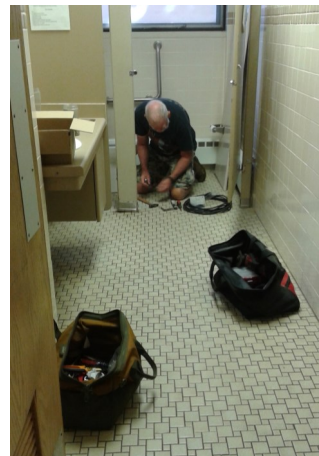


Trustees

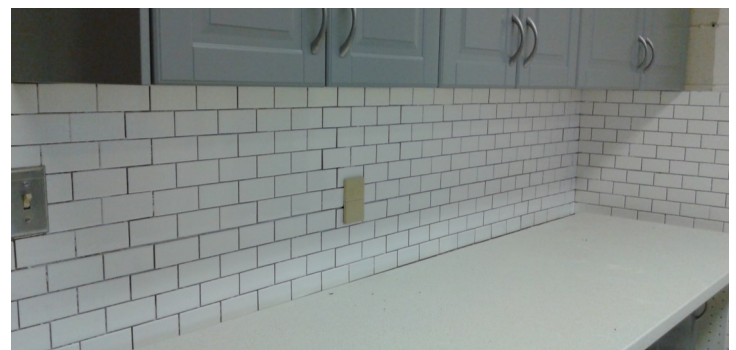
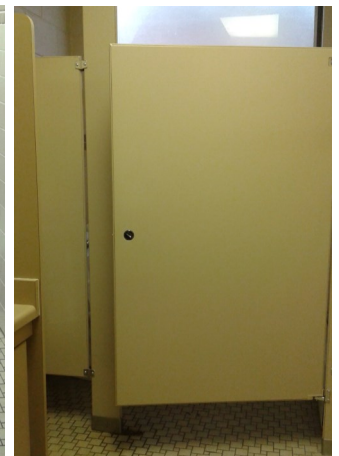
The Board of Trustees was busy with a few more improvements to The PORT's building since our last newsletter.



New LED light fixtures for the Fellowship Hall (installed just in time for the Holiday Bazaar).



A new privacy door in the men's restroom.



New tile in the nursery diaper changing area.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2
3 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am NO Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:15am Confirmation	4	5	6 7:00pm Choir Rehl	7 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 6:30pm Girl Scouts	8	9
10 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	11	12 7:00pm Trustees Mtg	13 6:00pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl	14 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp Newsletter Deadline	15	16
17 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am New Leadership Proposal Q & A	18 MLK, JR. DAY	19	20 7:00pm Choir Rehl	21 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 6:30pm Girl Scouts	22	23 8:00 am District Lay Leaders Meeting 1:30 pm BINGO!
24 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am All Church Conference	25	26	27 6:00pm SonRise 7:00pm Choir Rehl	28 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp	29	30
31 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am NO Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship						

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church
8000 Portland Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55420



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Staff

Rev. Carol Zaagsma (Pastor) carol.zaagsma@paumc.org
Leann Olsen (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org
Peggy Larson (Music Director) peggylarson@comcast.net
Dale Miller (Accompanist) miller.daler@gmail.com
Judy Richardson-Mahre (SonRise Singers Director) jembrm@charter.net
Mary Nelson (Handbells Director) nelsonc2m@aol.com
Paul Herrmann (Custodian) 612-916-3376

Church Office E-mail: PAUMC@paumc.org
PAUMC Website: www.paumc.org
www.facebook.com/pages/Portland-Avenue-United-Methodist-Church/109195009206962

The PORT Ministry Teams (Current)

<u>Children, Youth & Family</u>	<u>Faith Formation</u>	<u>Hospitality</u>	<u>Outreach</u>	<u>Samaritan</u>	<u>Worship</u>
To grow faith through education.	To encourage spiritual growth through study and discussion.	To welcome and connect people to the life of The PORT.	To serve the needs of our neighbors.	To serve and extend support to church members in need.	To create a variety of spiritual experiences that grow faith.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sunday School •Youth Group •Confirmation •Family Education •Family Events •Garage Sale •Plant Sale <p><i>7 members plus Pastor</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Adult Education in Small Groups & Sunday School classes •Discipleship Process <p><i>4 members plus Pastor</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assimilation Process •Food Services •Greeters •Usher Training •Church Bazaar •Adult & Family Fellowship Opportunities <p><i>7 members plus Pastor</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Local Missions •National and International Missions •Special Mission Offerings (local & UMC) <p><i>9 members plus Pastor</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Prayer Shawl Ministry •Prayer Chain •Homebound Visitation •Transportation Services <p><i>0 members</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Worship Planning (Sunday & Special) •Music Groups •Fine Arts •Communion •Altar Guild •Liturgists •Ushers •Audio/Media <p><i>6 members plus Pastor</i></p>

The PORT Ministry Teams (Proposed)

<u>Evangelism & Church Growth</u>	<u>Spiritual Growth</u>	<u>Mission Outreach</u>	<u>Congregational Care</u>
Invite, welcome, and share information about the church with members, friends, and beyond.	Encourage spiritual growth that lasts throughout a lifetime.	Put faith into action thru service near and far.	Support and care for one another in all stages of life.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Guest follow-up •New Member Classes •Marketing/Advertising •Website •Social Media •Newsletter •Greeters •Welcomers & Welcome Desk <p><i>6 members (3 classes of 2) + Pastor; meet bi-monthly</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sunday School (all ages) •Youth Group •Confirmation •Small Groups •Music Groups •Worship •Communion •Altar Guild •Liturgists •Ushers •Sound/Media <p><i>6 members (3 classes of 2) + Pastor; meet quarterly</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Local Missions •National and International Missions •Special Mission Offerings (local & UMC) <p><i>6 members (3 classes of 2) + Pastor; meet bi-monthly</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Adult & Family Fellowship Opportunities •Prayer Shawl Ministry •Prayer Chain (email and telephone) •Hospital Visitation •Homebound Visitation •Follow-up for members w/waning attendance •Funeral Lunches •Sunday Coffee Fellowship <p><i>6 members (3 classes of 2) + Pastor; meet quarterly</i></p>

The PORT Administration Teams (Current)

<u>Communications</u>	<u>Finance</u>	<u>Lay Leadership</u>	<u>Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)</u>	<u>Trustees</u>	<u>Church Council</u>
To share information about the church with members, friends, and the community.	To raise, manage and distribute the necessary funds for ministry in the church.	To identify, develop and deploy lay leadership within the congregation.	To manage relationships between laity, staff and pastor.	To oversee, maintain, and supervise all church property. Function as the legal entity of the church.	To plan, coordinate and implement the church's program for ministry.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Newsletter •Facebook •Website •Marketing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Budget •Endowment •Stewardship Team •Financial Secretary •Treasurer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Nominations •Training •Organizational Leadership Structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Job Descriptions •Hiring •Staff Reviews •Salaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Property Maintenance & Upkeep •Facility Repairs •Building Usage •Service Contracts •Insurance •Articles of Incorporation •Custodian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All Committee & Team Chairpersons •Council Chair •Secretary •Lay Leader •Lay Member AC •Historian •Treasurer •UMW & UMM •Young Ad/Youth •Pastor
4 members plus Pastor	15 members plus Pastor	6 members plus Pastor	9 members plus Pastor	9 members plus Pastor	27 members

The PORT Administration (Proposed)

Church Council: Provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. Provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life. Envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church. Be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the charge conference. *2012 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶ 252 & 244*

Church Council Seats:

- Chairperson (may be Lay Leader)
- Lay Leader
- Lay Member to Annual Conference
- Secretary (may rotate)
- Nominations sub-team member
- Three SPRC sub-team members
- Three Finance sub-team members
 - Financial Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Finance sub-team chair
- Board of Trustees chair or designate
- Youth & Young Adult members
- Four Ministry Team members
 - Evangelism & Church Growth
 - Spiritual Growth
 - Mission Outreach
 - Congregational Care
- Pastor *[19 members]*

Nominations Sub-Team

- Nominations
- Training
- Organizational Leadership Structure

Three people (chair, Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference) plus Pastor

Finance Sub-Team

- Budget
- Stewardship
- Endowment
- Money Counters

Three people (3 classes of 1); plus financial secretary and treasurer plus Pastor

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Sub-Team

- Relationships across congregation
 - Job Descriptions
 - Hiring
 - Staff Reviews
- Three people (3 classes of 1) plus Pastor*

Board of Trustees

- Property Maintenance & Upkeep
- Building Usage & Contracts
- Insurance
- Articles of Incorporation
- Custodian

Nine people (3 classes of 3) plus Pastor