

Official Board

Annual Report 2015



At our October Board meeting, Pastor Don told the board of his desire to retire at the end of the year. His announcement was met with surprise and sadness, but we had to respect his wishes. We held an “Open House” to celebrate his retirement on December 12, 2015. It was a wonderful afternoon remembering fond memories, seeing old friends, and of course great food. We want to thank Pastor Don for his love and dedication to our congregation. Not only is he God’s faithful servant, leading His people, but Pastor Don has a heart as big as the world. He will be missed.

The budget is always a concern, especially when our church is at the point where we are looking at some major capital improvements soon. It has to be said that the Stewardship Committee did a wonderful job this year. Their campaign and sincere concern for the welfare of our church inspired our church members to step up and accept the challenge. We were able to pay back the money this year that we borrowed from the Restricted Account. We were blessed with several generous contributions at the end of the year and we are looking good to start 2016 .

One of our most successful programs this year was “Be A Blessing”. Monies received from the Lenten offering were divided and put into the hands of approximately 25 church members to go out into the community and “be a blessing” to someone who needed to be lifted up. The members then told of their interactions over several weeks during the church service. It was an amazing and humbling experience for the entire church.

We continued with our small group meetings twice this year. Both were well attended. There are plans for the next small group to meet in early 2016. We have also continued with our prayer meetings. Many will agree that we have seen the hand of God at work through our prayers. Both of

these events are facilitated by Pastor Donna. We want to thank Pastor Donna for all that she does for our church and for the many wonderful programs she has started. Her love for the Lord and enthusiasm for spreading His word is very contagious.

Our worship services are constantly blessed with special music from our church members. We also have a group of members, led by our Christian Ed. Director, Mary Keith, who are always willing to entertain with a special message or skit. Our Praise music at the beginning of our worship service has been enhanced by the pink "praise booklets" that are now located in the pews. Thank you to Pat Stressman for her hard work and dedication to our music program. Pastor Donna continues to preach at least once a month and assists with the serving of communion. One change to our service was to offer communion before the offering so that those Trustees who count money can participate in communion with their families.

We are excited to announce that we have 13 new members who joined our church in 2015. Many of them had been attending regularly and participating in our church programs and even serving on committees. Welcome! Welcome! We are so happy that you are a part of our church family.

The Official Board held several meetings during the month of November to begin the process of finding a new minister. It is wonderful to report that 16 church members agreed to serve on the Pulpit Search Committee. We did a blind draw and chose 12 members to sit on the board, with 4 alternates in case someone cannot serve the entire time. Ken Kriger agreed to chair the committee. We did meet with Jody Betten, a pastor from the Michigan UCC organization, to conduct Pastor Don's exit interview and to lead us as we begin the search for a new pastor.

While we are searching, we are excited to have Pastor Ken Babcock as our Interim Pastor. Pastor Ken and his lovely wife, Sue had been attending our church for a while until he accepted an Interim position in September. It is very fortunate for us that he was available when we asked him if he would be interested in serving as our Interim Pastor.

We have a very special bond in our congregation. I have heard it said that we are friendly, warm, inviting, giving and loving. And we can't forget generous. We pray that God will continue to pour out His Grace our church and bless each and every one of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Chappell, President of the Congregation