

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“O Boy”, “O Girl”, let us give thanks that February is now upon us! Why, should we give thanks? We should give thanks because once February arrives we can begin to think a little more seriously about the closing days of **WINTER!!!**

We can add to our sense of anticipation about the closing days of **WINTER**, this little “tidbit”: February is the shortest month of the year!!!

Now, February is noted for a couple of other things as well, like President’s Birthdays and Valentine’s Day!!!

However, let us go back to this whole **WINTER** thing again for a few minutes. There is an old saying that says something about “Cold Hands” and a “Warm _____”!!!

Ah yes, when you reach out to shake some one’s hand and you discover that their hand seems to be quite “cold”, either the other person or you yourself, might be found to make this proclamation “Cold Hands, Warm Heart”!!!

Well, I am left to wonder a bit, who is there among us that has not experienced or encountered something of “Cold Hands” this **WINTER** beginning with the month of December??? Indeed, we have already had a fair amount of frigid, cold, harsh, extreme weather, during winter 2013-2014!!! Therefore, it seems quite

reasonable to assume we might also have had the opportunity to encounter “Warm Hearts”!!!

Ah, “Cold Hands, Warm Hearts”, but where do “Warm Hearts” really come from???

“Warm Hearts” come from allowing ourselves to be open, allowing ourselves to be open to the experience of something we call **LOVE!!!** The **ULTIMATE** example of **LOVE** is found in the **WONDER** of **GOD’S** gracious **LOVE** for us, God’s children!!!

GOD has shown, **GOD** has highlighted, that precious and deep love for us that “warms hearts” through the gift of God’s Son baby **JESUS** born in Bethlehem, born to go to a cross in Jerusalem, and to display victory over death on the cross through the power of the “Empty Tomb” and the **RESURRECTION!!!**

Loved by **GOD** through **JESUS**, we as God’s children are called upon by **GOD** to in turn “love one another”!!!

Indeed, **WINTER** may continue to linger on after all, as short as the month of February is, it is only just beginning. So now, as we continue to journey through the month of February and the rest of **WINTER** may we do so renewed and nurtured by an awareness of God’s gracious love for us which **“WARMS HEARTS”!!!**

As we, God’s children, experience anew the wonder of God’s love that empowers “warm hearts” may we share that love with one another in ways that allow other hearts to experience the very precious gift of a **“WARMING HEART”!!!**

What is that Hymn we sometimes sing??? Ah yes, **“PASS IT ON”!!!**

Love in Christ,

Dana

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

January 15, 2014

Ely United Methodist Church

Number Present: 9

Chairman Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Pastor Dana Thompson began the meeting with an Opening Thought from “The Upper Room”, followed by an opening prayer. The minutes of the December 18, 2013 Administrative Council meeting were approved as printed.

The Treasurer’s report for December, 2013 was accepted as presented, with an end of the month General Fund balance of \$3,927.97, a Building Fund balance of \$20,698.73, Reserve Fund balance of \$5,017.05 and a Memorial Fund balance of \$11,612.98. The **Board of Trustees** met January 2, 2014. Volunteers are being sought for March to remove snow from the Church Sidewalks. See the Sign-up Sheet in the back of the Church

The **Outreach Committee** thanked the members of the Visioning Committee for updating the “*Welcome Visitors*” tri-fold placed in the pew cardholders.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of old business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Church Audit** – The Audit Committee completed the audit of the Church’s financial accounts and the related account bank statements. The committee found that the balances of the Church’s funds were correct. The Audit Committee recommended that the Building Fund and the Administrative Reserve Fund each have a separate bank account.

2. **Financial Account Rearrangement** - Per the recommendation of the Audit Committee, motion by Keith Rue/second by Jeanne Tomlinson – that the Administrative Reserve Fund be closed with the balance of \$5,017.05 be moved to the Building Fund where \$5,000 will be recorded in the account ledger as Undesignated Funds. Motion Passed.

3. **Natural Church Development Survey** – The Visioning Committee requested approximately \$150 for administering and evaluating the Natural Church Development survey within our

church. Motion by Lucy Diesslin/Second by Margie Olson. Motion Passed.

4. **Outreach Project** – Pastor Dana Thompson was contacted by a representative of the Outdoor Endeavors Club, a group within Vermilion Community College’s Campus Life Program. The Outdoor Endeavors Club will be having a fundraising event on Saturday March 22 and invited the church to have a mutual fundraising activity. Those in attendance agreed that the Club is worthy of voluntary support from our Church in the form of a free will offering. Moved by Lucy Diesslin/Second by Jeanne Tomlinson, that the Church will collect a free will offering on Sunday March 16, 2014 to go to the Outdoor Endeavors Club. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. January Pasties – January 20-21, 2014.
2. **The Alpha Course** – Had the introductory session on Sunday January 12, with 24 people attending. A total of 29 people have signed up, with other interested in attending the course are encouraged and invited to sign up.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM. The meeting was closed by those attending reciting “*The Lords Prayer*”.

Respectfully Submitted, Blaine “Butch” Diesslin

Feb 2014:

**Save the date for our
all-Church Potluck
on March 24:**

We will be having an all-church potluck on Monday, March 24 at 6 pm. At 7 pm we'll have a speaker, Heidi Schneider, who will help us learn more about Judaism. Watch for more details in the March newsletter.

Refreshments Calendar

Will you or someone in your family be celebrating a special birthday or anniversary this year? How about celebrating with the church family?

Or maybe just help out with our church fellowship time. Check out the refreshments calendar sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary and sign up for a Sunday (or two). If you aren't sure what's involved, just talk to someone who's doing it or pick up one of the *Guidelines for Sunday Morning Coffee* that are pinned to the bulletin board near the calendar.

JANUARY PASTY REPORT:

Total pasties Made-	802
Total Deposited-	\$4,797.00
Total Product/Supply Cost-	\$1,470.86
Net Income-	\$3,326.14

Finance Committee Year End Report

The Finance Committee is concerned that the Church's Operating Income for 2013 was about \$2,600 less than the Cost of Operating the Church in 2013. The 2013 Cost of Operating the Church was about \$1,300 less than the 2012 Cost of Operating the Church. The problem was not due to the Church spending more in 2013, the problem is the Church's Operating Revenue was less than it was in 2012.

The Good News is the Church was able to pay all the bills in 2013, because there was enough money in the bank from previous years.

The Not So Good News is the amount of money in the bank at the beginning of 2014 is about \$2,600 less in the checking account than was at the beginning of 2013.

Looking ahead to 2014 – the Finance Committee's Church Operating Budget for 2014 is about \$6,400 more than the Church's received from offerings, pasty sales and the Church Bazaar in 2013.

The Finance Committee is sharing its concern that the Church will not have adequate General Fund income in 2014 to pay all of the Church Operating Expenses, unless the Church receives more income from pasty sales and more income from our offerings to the Church's General Fund than was received in 2013.

The Finance Committee is encouraging each Church Member to reconsider his or her financial support of the Church. If each of us increases our giving by a small amount on a regular basis our financial concerns will disappear.

As an example, if everyone increased our giving by a nickel for each dollar we gave last year; or give \$21 this year for each \$20 given last year, this will result in about a \$5,000 increase in income to the Church.

Blaine "Butch" Diesslin, Finance Committee Chairman

BIBLE STUDY:

February 2014

Thursday 2:00 P.M.

Thursday February 6 Esther Chapters 1 & 2

Thursday February 13 Esther Chapters 3 & 4

Thursday February 20 Esther Chapters 5 & 6

Thursday February 27 Esther Chapters 7 & 8

INSPIRATION:

I John 4: 7-12

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is Love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.”

SENIOR WORSHIP SERVICES:

February 2014

“BOUNDARY WATERS CARE CENTER”-

Sunday February 2, 2:30 P.M.

“ELY CARE FREE LIVING”-

Wednesday February 12, 1:00 P.M.
