

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

So, I recall hearing at one time or another that we may find that "**SMALL PACKAGES**" contain "**BIG GIFTS**"!!!

So, I begin to think, when it comes to the twelve months of the year February could be considered a very "**SMALL PACKAGE**"!!!

Well now, very early in the month of February we have something called "Ground Hog's Day" which has something to do with the ground hog and its shadow and the length of winter, that doesn't really seem like a very "**BIG GIFT**"!!!

Well now, February is also noted for the birthday days of two fairly famous presidents whose names would be George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. However I would suggest that we can look at any day in any month and find that there is someone's birthday worthy of being celebrated, so as much as I may like George and Abe, this doesn't really seem like a very "**BIG GIFT**"!!!

Well now, February is the only month of the year that has that extra day thrown in every four years, what do we call that; ah yes, Leap Year. However, February is already the shortest month of the year and adding one day each four years really doesn't seem to change that fact, so neither does this seem like a very "**BIG GIFT**"!!!

Say now, doesn't February also have something called Valentine's Day? Ah yes, Valentine's Day a special reminder and a special focus on **LOVE**!!! Now, **LOVE** is something to celebrate, **LOVE** is something to get behind, **LOVE** can take a "**SMALL PACKAGE**" and turn it into something of a very "**BIG GIFT**"!!!

Indeed, **LOVE** is something which can be celebrated in February but also in every other month, on every other day of the year, in every hour, minute, second, and moment of the day, the month, and year!!! Indeed, now we are talking about a "**SMALL PACKAGE**" and a "**BIG GIFT**"!!!

Ah yes a special reminder and a special focus from the gospel of John 3:16 "**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.**"

Ah yes, a special reminder and a special focus from the gospel of John 15: 13-14, 15c, "**No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you....but I have called you friends because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father.**"

Wow, **LOVE** and the reminder of **GOD'S LOVE** for us as God's children; wow, **LOVE** and the reminder of **JESUS' LOVE** for us; that is a very "**BIG GIFT**"!!!

Wow, we have the opportunity to call **JESUS** friend!!! If we take the time to allow ourselves to be reminded of this we allow ourselves to be warmed by a very "**BIG GIFT**"!!!

Love in Christ,

Dana

PASTY REPORT JANUARY 2015:

Pasties Made	----750
Total Deposit	-----\$4,500.00
Total Cost	-----\$1,518.48
Net Gain	-----\$2,981.52

“3 SIMPLE RULES”:

Yes, coming, in the New Year, 2015 we will be having a follow-up study program to piggy-back on and off of our 2014 “ALPHA” program of 2014.

We will be running the program on Sundays like we did “Alpha” from 1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.---with adjustments on Nursing Home Sundays (One or Two).

“Alpha” is **NOT** a requirement for “***3 Simple Rules***” we were just looking for a means to expand and enhance our potential for growing as a Church Family! This new **STUDY** is for everyone!!!

This is a 6 week course starting **Sunday February 1, 2015** through **Sunday March 8, 2015.** The study focuses on living life with three basic rules:

- 1. Do no harm
- 2. Do all the good you can
- 3. Stay in love with God

CONFIRMATION CLASSES:

6:15 – 6:55 P.M.

February 2015 Wednesday February 18
 Wednesday February 25

March 2015 Wednesday March 4
 Wednesday March 11

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES:

“Boundary Waters Care Center”

Sunday February 22
2:30 P.M.

MEN’S GROUP:

Two up and coming events-

- 1. Men will lead Worship Service
 Sunday February 8, 2015
- 2. Tuesday February 3, 2015 7:30 A.M.
 Men’s Breakfast Gathering at “Grand Ely Lodge”

SPECIAL THANK YOU:

We would like to thank all those who helped with Christmas Tree and Decoration put away, those who helped with the Senior Apartments and those who helped with the sanctuary:

WALLY & JERI WALBURN DAN JOHNSON
NORM & DONNA RUSCO LINDA HANE
BOB & LAVERNE LINDHOLM
JAY & JEANNE TOMLINSON

THANK YOU ONE and ALL !!!

REACH, RENEW, REJOICE:

PLEASE HELP as we participate in the Minnesota Annual Conference “Reach, Renew, Rejoice” special campaign for 2015-2019 (5 year campaign).

Our **ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** goal as set by our Administrative Council for this year **2015** is **\$2,020.00**.

This goal, of **\$2,020.00** amounts to 2% of our **2014** Budget, as was set by our Church Conference meeting.

The Administrative Council will set a new goal for each of the next four years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 with nothing set in stone at this time.

If we continue for the next four years on the same pace we will **ultimately** be giving a **TITHE** of what our **2014** Budget was, to this Minnesota Annual Conference Campaign which is titled “Reach, Renew, Rejoice”.

2015 GOAL-----\$2,020.00

RECEIVED TO DATE IN 2015-----\$ 375.00

SPECIAL REMINDER:

2014 is A Non-**BAZAAR** Year!!!

Begin thinking **BAZAAR** Year **2015!!! 9 MONTHS!!!**

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Ely United Methodist Church

January 21, 2015

Number Present: 9

Chairman Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Pastor Dana Thompson began the meeting with an Opening Thought from “The Upper Room” devotional for the day.

The minutes of the December 17, 2014 Administrative Council meeting were approved as printed in the Church Newsletter for December, 2015. Jeanne/Mark/Approved.

The Treasurer’s report for December, 2014 was accepted as presented. The November end of the month General Fund balance of \$1,868.80, a Building Fund balance of \$20,981.57, Undesignated Funds \$5,000.00, and a Memorial Fund balance of \$11,157.53.

Committee Reports

Board of Trustees – No report

Memorial Committee – Will meet in February. Will consider purchasing a new projection screen.

Finance Committee – The 2014 financial reports completed and filed with the Conference office.

Nurture and Membership Committee – No report.

Outreach Committee – No report.

Worship Committee – No report.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee – No report.

Parish Health Ministries – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **New Church Pictorial Directory** – Will be done during the summer of 2015.

2. **REACH - RENEW – REJOICE!** - MN Annual Conference revitalization initiative.

Jeanne reported that \$75 in donations was collected in the basket by the Sanctuary door. Our church goal is \$2,020 this year (2% of the 2014 church budget).

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Hand Sanitizer Dispensers** – Members of the Church suggested considering installation of hand sanitizing dispensers near the entrance doors of the Church. Motion by Lucy/Second by Jeanne – to purchase and install two (2) hand sanitizing automatic dispensers. The purchase and installation cost not to exceed \$200, from Parish Health Ministries funds. Motion Approved. Acquisition and installation offer of Jim Nicholas accepted, with appreciation.

2. **CCLI Music Copyright Licensure** – The Church received information about the need for a copyright license, if the Church made copies of covered music. It was decided that the Church is not making copies of covered music, hence does not need a license.

3. **Annual Church Audit** – The Church Audit Committee (Lee Tessier, Bev Johnson, Rich Floyd) completed the Annual Audit for 2014 on January 15, 2015, with high praise for account managers Mark Olson, Margie Olson and Sharon Luthens.

ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE - None

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **January Pasty Making Report** – Made 750 Pasties, Sales Income Deposit: \$4,500, Expenses: \$1,518.48; Net Receipts: \$2,981.52.
2. **February 8, 2015 Worship Service** – Will be conducted by Men of the Church.
3. **Three Simple Rules Study Group – Begins Sunday, February 1, 1:00 P.M.**
4. **Men’s Group Breakfast Meeting** – Tuesday, February 3, 7:30 AM at Grand Ely Lodge

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M. The meeting was closed by those attending reciting “*The Lord’s Prayer*”.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blaine “Butch” Diesslin, Administrative Council Secretary

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday February 18

Open Communion Table

2:00 – 6:00 P.M.

LENTEN SUPPERS

Begin the following week on Thursdays

We think--- no schedule yet