

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Well, we are now coming into the month of February and we are likely stretching it to say “Happy New Year”!!!

However, coming into the month of February it can't be too much of a stretch to say “Happy Birthday”!!! Reflecting on days gone by, I do believe that George and Abe each had February birthdays which inspired someone to come up with “Presidents Day” in honor of both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Wow, coming into the month of February it can't be too much of a stretch to say “Happy Leap Year”!!! Indeed, all we have to do is look at the end of the month and we will notice that February 2016 has a 29<sup>th</sup> day rather than the standard 28 days.

Wow, coming into the month of February it can't be too much of a stretch to say “Happy Valentine's Day”!!! Yes indeed, each February on the fourteenth day the calendar often hints at the idea of “Valentine's Day” and a special little celebration promoting the possibility that “love is in the air” or at least on the tip of “Cupid's Arrow”.

“**LOVE is in the air**”; and the “**LOVE”** we are talking about goes far beyond anything imagined by those who came up with “Valentine's Day”.

**JESUS** in speaking about “**LOVE”** proclaimed “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends”. (John 15:13)

**JESUS** in speaking about **HIMSELF** while laying down some clues as to what would happen in the near future during his earthly life proclaimed “I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep”. (John 10: 11)

“**LOVE is in the air**”; the “**LOVE”** we are talking about today is the love **GOD** has for us as revealed by **GOD'S** Christmas Gift of **JESUS** climaxed by **JESUS'** Death and Resurrection which we will be celebrating yet again on Easter Sunday!!!

Wow, coming into the month of February we have the opportunity to begin to “**STRETCH”** our hearts, our minds, and our spirits!!! Indeed, as we enter February we enter the Season of Lent as a time of preparation for the celebration of **GOD'S** awesome “**LOVE”** for us climaxed by **JESUS'** Death and Resurrection which we celebrate on Easter Sunday!!!

**Crucifixion, Resurrection, Obedience, a Salvation Story** written by **GOD** and lived by **JESUS!!!** When we think about it the “**C.R.O.S.S.”** it truly does warrant our taking the time during Lent to focus anew in heart, in mind, and in spirit on the “amazing grace” of **GOD'S** very precious “**LOVE”** for us!!!

**Crucifixion, Resurrection, Obedience, a Salvation Story** written by **GOD** and lived by **JESUS!!!** When we think about the “**C.R.O.S.S.”** may we as God's Children be warmed in heart, mind, and spirit, in such a way that our “**LOVE is in the air”** with joy filled praise and thanksgiving unto **GOD, JESUS, and the HOLY SPIRIT!!!**

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dana

# Care Ministries

Almost everyone goes through at least one period of time during their lives when they need help or comfort. It might be brought about by a tragic event, such as the loss or incapacitation of a close loved one. It might come about by losing a job. It could involve dealing with health issues. There are many circumstances that can lead to troubled times.

There are also a number of organizations who's missions are to help distressed people. The trouble is that someone in need of help may not know assistance is available for them, or how to get it. That's where our church can help. The Visioning Committee has come up with a plan to get people in need in touch with organizations that can help.

The plan works like this: We would establish a Care Ministries Team whose members act as facilitators to help those in need—people requiring food, shelter, medical or emotional support, substance abuse treatment, transportation, or the like—get the help available in our community.

The plan itself is only as useful as the paper it's printed on. Implementing the plan will require people willing to carry it out. We need volunteers. Would you be willing to help? Jesus lived and taught charity and compassion. Christians profess the same. Let's demonstrate it.

More detailed information will be given during upcoming church services, and will be available on our web site: <http://www.elyumc.org>.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

### OPEN COMMUNION TABLE:

Wednesday February 10, 2016

2:00 – 6:00 P.M.

Ash Wednesday provides each one of us as Children in the Family of God the opportunity to begin the “Season of Lent” by sharing in “Holy Communion” with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

The Sanctuary and the Communion Table will be open from 2:00-6:00 P.M., just come in and help yourself to a bit of quiet time with God!

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## LENTEN SUPPERS

### Are COMING:

Thursday Evenings During the Season of Lent

5:30 P.M.

February 18, 2016

First Supper at First Presbyterian Church

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**BIBLE STUDY:**

*February 2016*

We will not be having Bible Study during the month of February.

We will re-start Bible Study with the first Thursday in March at 2:00 P.M.

We would like to invite you to come and join us as we focus on the book of Philippians.

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***MOVIE DAY:***

Sunday February 21, 2016  
2:00 P.M.

***“War Room”***

We will yet again be hosting a movie day here in the church sanctuary---

- free of charge
- with refreshments

---please consider attending this special occasion and give though to inviting someone else  
---“War Room” is a powerful movie which encourages turning to God and prayer

***“BOUNDARY WATER CARE CENTER”***

*Worship Service*

*February 28, 2016*

*2:30 P.M.*

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***“CARE FREE LIVING”***

*Worship Service*

*February 3, 2016*

*1:15 P.M.*

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***CONFIRMATION CLASS***

*Wednesday 6:15 – 6:55 P.M.*

Wednesday February 3

Wednesday February 10

We have two awesome young people, Luke and Lauren working their way through the second year of Confirmation Classes.

We are hopeful of having Confirmation for Luke and Lauren around Mother’s Day in May or when all of our work is completed.

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**JANUARY PASTY REPORT:**

<u>January</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Pasties Made-	755	750
Deposit-	\$4,527.00	\$4,500.00
Expense-	\$1,299.35	\$1,518.48
Net Income-	\$3,227.65	\$2,981.52

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**REACH, RENEW, REJOICE:**

During 2015 we made a “Pledge” to give \$2,020.00 to “Reach, Renew, Rejoice”. Well done! We accomplished meeting our “Pledge”!

Here we are, in 2016 and the second year of a five year Annual Conference Campaign. So, the Administrative Council has decided to set a “goal” not a “Pledge” of giving \$1,000.00 to “Reach, Renew, Rejoice” this coming year.

To date we have received \$306.00 towards meeting our “reach, Renew, Rejoice” “goal” for 2016.

**Hearts 2 Hands:**

Motto:

**What we make with our two hands we give from our hearts.**

Our 12<sup>th</sup> year together at EUMC finds us going strong. We have made 280 quilts for Toni’s Quilts for at-risk Kids Project. These quilts went to Ely Social Services, Virginia Foster Care, St. Mary’s Preemie Unit, Virginia Children Infusion Center and a special Alzheimer’s Study Project.

Two special projects this year were Wounded Warrior Quilt Project on National Quilt Day and our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “Pillowcase Party,” making 87 pillow cases that day for St. Mary’s pediatric ward.

Toni started making quilts for at-risk kids on The Range in 1998 with many wonderful people and groups helping fill the need here on the range. She has delivered 1345 quilts since then, and what keeps her going is the fellowship and the continued support of the H-2-H members.

If you are interested in helping us with this year’s ALS Project on National Quilt Day, Saturday, March 12, 2016, contact Toni Floyd at 365-7420.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES**  
**Ely United Methodist Church**                      **January 20, 2016**  
**Number Present: 7**

Vice Chairman Keith Rue called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Attendees (7) – Dana T., Lucy D., Keith R., Margie O., Mark O., Butch D., Bob L.

Pastor Dana Thompson began the meeting with an Opening Thought from “The Upper Room” of the devotional of the day, followed by an opening prayer.

The **Secretary’s Report** of the Minutes of the December 16, 2015 Ad Council meeting were approved as printed in “**The Fish**” Church newsletter for January, 2016.  
Margie/Lucy

The **Treasurer’s Report** for December, 2015; and is also the annual spending report for 2015; was presented by Treasurer Mark Olson. The January end of the month account balances:  
- Checking Account: General Fund Balance: \$8,540.27; Parish Health Funds: \$481.61; Reach-Renew-Rejoice Project Funds: \$56.00  
-: Building Fund Savings Account: \$24,973.08; Building Fund: \$21,973.08; Undesignated funds \$3,000  
- Memorial Fund Savings Account: \$11,809.16  
The Treasurer’s report was accepted. M/Lucy/S/Margie

The **Board of Trustees** reported that all of the old and badly worn folding tables have been removed from the Church Garage and taken to the solid waste transfer station.

The **Memorial Committee** will meet on February 2, 2016.

The **Outreach Committee** Chairperson Toni Floyd reminded everyone that the annual **National Wear Red Day** of the American Heart Association, is Friday, February 5, 2016. Wearing red that day will show support of the need for heart health awareness by women.

The **Visioning Committee** will be sponsoring a showing of the movie **War Room** on **Sunday, February 21, 2016, 2:00 P.M.** There will be a time of refreshments and discussion to follow. All are invited to participate.

**Old Business**

1. **New Church Directory - Update** – Jay Tomlinson has completed the layout of additional informational and Church Life pages for the directory and has sent them to the printer. The printer will finalize the page layouts and return a proof copy for approval prior to the printing the directories.
2. **Visioning Committee** – Continues to develop the proposal for a Care Ministries Team of volunteer congregation members.
3. **Church Furnace Replacement** – The Christmas-New Year holiday season, and cold weather placed a hold on the replacement of the church furnaces by Rusco Plumbing and Heating. Rusco Plumbing was going to order 2 new furnaces. The working furnace has kept the building warm.
4. **Ecumenical Prayer Service** – The Churches of Ely are jointly sponsoring a community-wide Ecumenical Prayer Service at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, beginning at 7:00 P.M. on Sunday, January 24, 2016. The service will be followed by a time of refreshments and fellowship.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of new business.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

1. **LENTEN SUPPERS** – Begin on Thursday February 18, 2016.
2. **Ely UMC Lenten Supper** – Will be on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church Fellowship Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

The meeting was closed by those attending reciting **The Lord’s Prayer**.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Blaine “Butch” Diesslin, Administrative Council Secretary

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**LENTEN SUPPER SCHEDULE**

(Thursday’s 5:30 P.M.---Individual \$3.00---Family \$6.00)

**February 18- First Presbyterian Church  
with St. Mary’s Episcopal Church**

**February 25- First Lutheran Church**

**March 3- Ledgrock Church  
With Grace Lutheran Church**

**March 10- Ely U.M.C.  
at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church**

**March 17- St. Anthony’s Catholic Church**