



I wanted to share with you some information that is coming to us from the Conference Office about the upcoming election. Voting is a personal freedom, I will never tell you for whom you should vote, – that is a violation, I believe, of my role as a minister. Neither do the following reflections by members of the Conference Staff tell you how to vote. I will encourage you to do your research and vote according to your faith and ethics. I pray that you exercise your right to vote for whatever candidate you believe is most fit for the office for which they are running. – Pastor Joyce

### **John Wesley's Three Simple Rules: Do no harm, do good, stay in love with God.**

Do No Harm By: Rev. Becky Jo Messenbrink – our Conference Superintendent

Divisiveness. Polarization. Animosity. Us versus them. The descriptors used for the upcoming elections have become influenced more by hatred and discord than by love, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. As we approach our election day in America, it seems good to pause and ask ourselves if we will lean into the fruit of the Spirit at work within us, or if we will be persuaded by the rhetoric of our current political climate.

As Americans, we have the privilege to vote. More foundational than that, though, is our identity as Christians, filled with the Holy Spirit, who are called to be faithful disciples. And because we are United Methodist Christians, we follow Jesus through the Wesleyan way. Does this make any difference in election season? It should!

John Wesley, the founder of our Methodist way of following Jesus, challenges us to be guided by Three Simple Rules: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. To follow Jesus in the Wesleyan way is to, first, do no harm.

If we are going to do no harm, we are going to have to pause for self-reflection, especially in election season: Have I said things that have caused harm to someone else? Does the posture I take about a candidate or an issue cause injury to my neighbors? Have I wounded my community by speaking into or remaining silent about an important social concern? Have I failed to advocate for “the least of these” that Jesus names in Matthew 25?

Continued on page 2.....



Do no harm is a lens with which to reflect on my actions. It is also a north star to guide my future behavior. When I cast my vote, does the way I vote do no harm? Beyond that, how will my behavior or my words post-election seek to do no harm? Will I gloat my candidate's win? Or complain about my candidate's loss? Will I speak ill of those who voted in a different way than I did? Will I pray for each candidate elected, whether or not I voted for them?



Two voices are rolling through my head as I think about what it means to do no harm as we approach, inhabit, and live beyond the upcoming elections: John Wesley.

More than 200 years ago, Wesley gave the following advice to the people called Methodist in his day:

*"I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them, 1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy: 2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against: And, 3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."* John Wesley, October 6, 1774

Wesley invites those of us who are intentional Christians to choose a particular way of being. He invites us to have strong political opinions. Vote for who you think is most worthy. At the same time, he invites us to live in charity or love. To choose to say nothing at all as opposed to something "evil" about those for whom we did not vote. And even more than that, to continue to be in loving relationship and conversation with those who voted differently than we did. That's the Christian (or Wesleyan Christian) response to the political climate in which we live.

### **Do Good** By: Rev. Hope Hutchison – Assistant to the Bishop

Like many millennials, I grew up watching "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." In times of stress, I often turn to his well-known quote: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" Throughout 2020, as our world and our state experienced one unprecedented event after another, that is what I found myself doing—and I saw many kinds of helpers.

What struck me the most happened in the aftermath of the 2020 election. I saw many election officials—people who come from across the ideological spectrum in the United States—doing their very best to both help carry out the electoral process so that the voices of the people could be heard and to explain that process to the public so the election results could be understood.

But as I continued to look for these helpers, I saw yet another unprecedented event that I found to be particularly disconcerting. What I saw was those same election officials being denigrated and their lives threatened. I continued to hear news reports of election officials around the country resigning because they no longer felt safe in their jobs and their communities. And as I sat in my discomfort with this series of events, I felt a movement of the Holy Spirit deep within my soul. This movement elicited great empathy for those hurting and in pain, but also a strong sense that it was not enough to simply look for the helpers.

As United Methodists who use Wesleyan methodology to follow Jesus, we have John Wesley's rules to guide us: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. The more I thought about those rules, the more it became clear to me what the Holy Spirit was trying to tell me in 2020: It is not enough to look for helpers in times of crisis; to do good in this world, we as Christians in the United Methodist tradition are called to be the helpers.

It is still important to look for helpers, as they can help us maintain and find hope when the world around us makes that difficult. But it is also important to find ways of *being the helpers* that can inspire that hope in others by doing good that transforms the world.

Continued on next page....

## **Stay in Love with God** By: Rev. Joyce Slostad

This one doesn't really need any unpacking. Election results whether they go our way or not, should not affect the love we have for nor the relationship with have with God.

Blessings, and See You in Church!

*Pastor Joyce*<><



## **November 2024 Sermon Topics, Scriptures and Main Hymns**



### **11/3 "Pillar of Faith" Deuteronomy 6:1-9 All Saints & Communion Sunday**

Moses and Jesus agree on what's really important — and how to keep God's commandments front and center in our lives.

Hymns: For All the Saints, Let Us Break Bread Together. **For All**

**Saints Sunday we will light candles for those in our church family who have passed away since last All Saints and you will be invited name aloud those you love that passed away in previous years.**

**11/10 "God's Balance Sheet" Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 Joint Service, 10:30 @ Vergas UMC, Band of Faith will be our musical guests, potluck lunch to follow & "The Good Stuff Sale" – crafts & baked goods available for freewill donations.**

Will Ruth and Naomi get voted off the island? Tune in to today's Old Testament reading to find out ... Hymns: Take My Life, O worship the King, God Be With You.

### **11/17 "What is 'Dechurching'?" Mark 13:1-8**

People are leaving church at an alarming rate. Does it mean they are no longer Christian, or is there something else going on? Hymns: We Are the Church, My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less, The Church of God, United.

### **11/24 "Now Introducing ..." Revelation 1:4b-8 Christ the King & Thanksgiving Sunday**

You are asked to introduce Jesus. What do you say? Hymns: He Is Exalted, Rejoice the Lord Is King , There's Something About That Name.



**Vergas / Dent UMC  
November 10th  
10:00am  
in Vergas**



***Band of Faith / Pot Luck Lunch / Church Ladies Good Stuff Sale***

## The Vergas Church Ladies

**Next meeting will be Nov 19th,  
12:30 pm at Vergas church.**



The Church Ladies are busy again planning for November 10<sup>th</sup> at Vergas. We will be having a Good Stuff Sale as well as a Potluck dinner after church. This will be a combined service with Dent at 10:30 and the Band of Faith will be providing the music. A quilt for Silent Auction is currently on display by the bookcases in Vergas. All proceeds from this sale will be used to pack and send the Shoe Boxes for Samaritan's Purse.

Start accumulating items for the shoe boxes as well. There will be boxes to place items in the front of the church. We are looking at packing the shoe boxes on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Help is always welcome.

The next meeting, in November, is where we get to decide which charities are supported this year, we have nearly \$4000 to give away. It was a great year, thank you to all who supported our projects!

Winner of the Silent Auction for the Quilt will be announced during the service



We have a meaningful worship opportunity each week, sharing our God Moments. These are not necessarily our stories about how we became a Christian – some of us have been one all our lives, and they aren't just big event stories – most of us will never experience talking to a burning bush.

These are stories of how we have seen or experienced God during the past week either ourselves, something we observed in others or saw on t.v. or read in the paper. Be on the look out for these moments and share them during the God Moments , Joys, & Concerns time during worship. God is working daily in our world friends – we just need to look and feel for these moments!



### **Ad Council**

Wednesday, Nov 20th  
Dent 3:00pm  
Vergas 6:30pm



### **Next Meeting**

Tues, Nov 12th 12:30pm at  
The DugOut in Dent

### **Books:**

“The Latecomer” and  
“40 Autumns”;  
The Bible: Daniel




**Campership**  
**Holiday**  
**Wreath Fundraiser**



**Nov 3rd thru Nov 17th**

Wreaths & Swags \$18ea  
 Crosses \$20ea

See order sheet in the social hall or talk to Connie Zitzow

Delivery will be at the Vergas church on Sunday, Dec 1st

Make checks payable to: VUMC Campership






**JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS EVE**  
 Dent UMC 3:30pm / Vergas & Livestream 5:30pm

## OUR MISSION STATEMENTS

### **Broad mission of The Methodist Church:**

The Mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God's grace and by exemplifying Jesus' command to love God and neighbor, thus seeking the fulfillment of Gods reign and realm in the world.

### **Current Mission of Dent Church:**

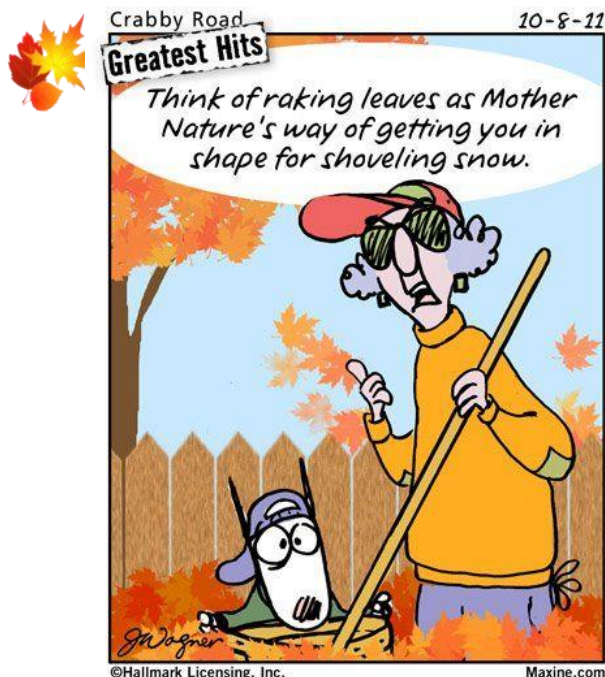
A Group of Believers in Jesus Christ Working Together to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.

### **Mission of the SPPR Committee:**

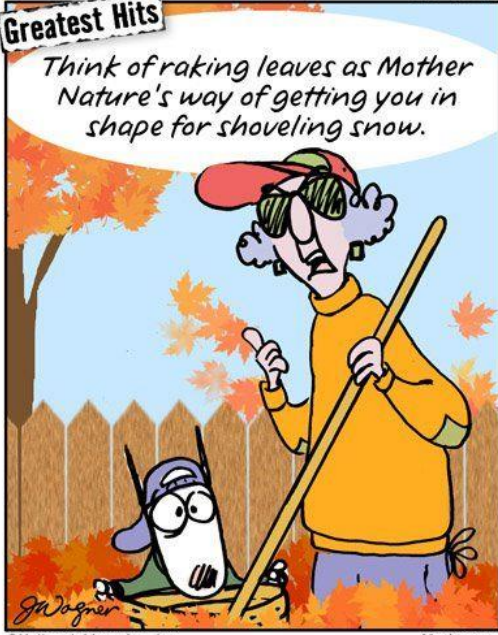
To build relationships among members of the congregation and the staff that is most effective for accomplishing the mission and purpose of the church.

### **Current Mission of Vergas Church:**

As Gods' family, we are privileged to accept Gods' challenge to nurture people's spirituality and promote New Life. Prayerfully, we will help people discover the gift of the Holy Spirit and it's power within them. Respecting each other's differences, we will use our God-given gifts to demonstrate caring community among ourselves and to the world.



Crabby Road 10-8-11  
**Greatest Hits**  
*Think of raking leaves as Mother Nature's way of getting you in shape for shoveling snow.*



©Hallmark Licensing, Inc. Maxine.com

# Church Quarterly Mission October / November / December

## Vergas Mission ~ Local Food Pantry's



Minnesota is a leader in agriculture. Yet every day in Minnesota, over 9,000 people visit a food shelf to get help meeting their daily food needs. Let's work together to advance solutions that tackle hunger on a large scale. At this time of year, with the holiday season on hand, there are so many families that can't afford to have a special meal. The Food Shelves fulfill a great need in our communities.

A check for \$890 was sent to the Salvation Army for the last quarterly mission.

## Vergas Local Outreach

The Local Mission dollars \$300 will be given to the Band of Faith. They will be at our service on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The Band of Faith is a group of musicians that get together weekly in Pelican Rapids to share music and monthly play for various churches and nursing homes in the area. This Band is totally made up of volunteers, the group is under the direction of Mike Nettetstad and began in 1996. The Band's mission statement is, "Have fun, enjoy music, put a smile on your face and Christ in your heart." Dollars are used to purchase music and uniforms for the band members.

Please let the Ad Council know of any local needs you may know of. Thank You!

## Dent Mission of the Quarter is Salvation Army



The Salvation Army has been helping people in need for more than 150 years. We have seen many changes since then, but one thing remains constant: God calls us to serve those who are most vulnerable. Today, The Salvation Army provides emergency services, including food, clothing, shelter, a safe space, and a hopeful word to everyone who needs it regardless of religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. For many, making ends meet is a daily challenge, forcing people to choose between things like heating their homes and putting food on the table. We understand the stress these situations put on families and are here to help. With utility assistance, our goal is to provide resources that will help families stay in their homes.



# NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS LISTS

<b>November Ushers</b>	
Doris C / Peggy Me.	
<b>Nov Liturgist</b>	
Doris C.	
<b>Nov</b>	<b>Fellowship</b>
<b>3rd</b>	Ivy & Rob M.
<b>10th</b>	Comb. Service Vergas
<b>17th</b>	Doris C.
<b>24th</b>	Gretchen & Roger D.

Nov	Vergas Liturgist	Vergas Ushers	Fellowship
<b>3rd</b>	Bev F	Bryan & Eileen G	Faye C.
<b>10th</b>	Needed ?	Neil & Donna S	PotLuck
<b>17th</b>	Bryan G	Faye & Tonya	Tonya J
<b>24th</b>	Carla R	Rick & Margy N	Margy N.



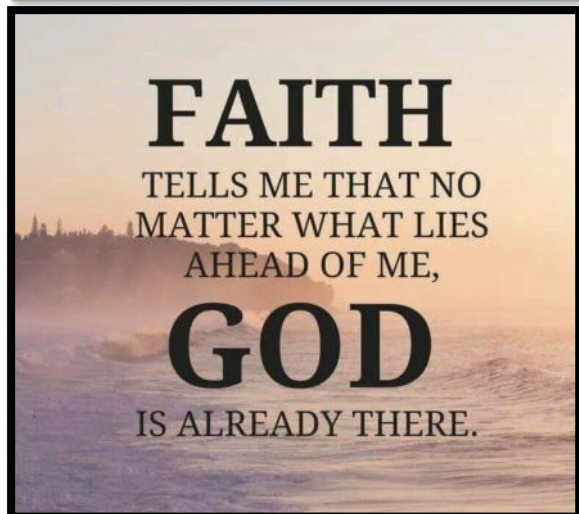
If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!

<b>Vergas Birthday's</b>	
15th	David Reiten
26th	Pete Slostad
27th	Eileen Giese

<b>Dent Birthday's</b>	
3rd	Don Garber
3rd	Trish Satter
7th	Rose Thompson



A Thought for The Day



Let us  
**WORSHIP**  
Together

## "Worship Times"

### Dent UMC

8:30am Pre Fellowship  
9am Worship Service

### Vergas UMC

9:30am Adult Sunday School (Sep thru May)  
10:30am Worship Service  
11:30am Coffee Fellowship



**Livestream Service begins at 10:30am on the [Vergas Facebook page](#)**



**Recorded Service will be posted on YouTube and [dentvergasumc.org](http://dentvergasumc.org)**

Click on the icon or link to go to the site

Are there things you would like to see each month in your newsletter? Would you like to write an article? Submit photographs? Share a recipe? Please let us know and we will do our best to include it here. Also, If you want your Newsletter delivered by email. Please let Sheri Schoenberger know at [sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com](mailto:sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com) or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, **deadline for December is November 26, 2024.**

We will be sending out the newsletter on the first or second Sunday of each month, if possible. To defray costs the newsletter will be offered in the following formats:

**Email - Website - In person pick up** at church - 1st or 2nd Sunday of the month.

**US Mail** - Remaining newsletters will be mailed on the 1st or 2nd Monday of the month.

### Church Secretary / Newsletter editor

Sheri Schoenberger  
Phone or text: 218-329-7465  
email: [sheri.lschoenberger@gmail.com](mailto:sheri.lschoenberger@gmail.com)





**Ad Council Minutes**  
**Vergas United Methodist Church**  
**October 16, 2024, 6:30 pm at the Church**

Present: Joyce Slostad, Jane Wasvick, Sheri Schoenberger, Tonya Johnson, Faye Courneya, and Doreen Schwarzrock

Absent: Lisa Wrabek, David Reiten

### **Opening Prayer**

Joyce opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Review of Church Attendance**

Sheri stated that attendance has remained steady. Online and in person are close to the same.

### **Secretary Report**

The minutes from August 21 were reviewed and approved.

### **Treasurer Report**

The Treasurer report was accepted as handed out pending audit. Faye reported that there is no news on Iona's estate. Insurance has increased for next year to \$319 per month.

### **Trustee Report**

- The thermostats are installed. Jane is working on the thermostats but having difficulty due to email addresses and Wi-Fi passwords in the church. Jane will check with Jody.
- The fire extinguishers should be mounted on the wall, so they don't get damaged and they are accessible.
- The lawn was fertilized, but we need to kill the weeds around the church. Jane will call UR Ready to see if they would do the job.
- Faye painted the shed, but it is rotting away. This should be fixed or replaced with a metal shed.
- The windows need to be fixed.
- Faye called Summer Construction about the cement work and hasn't received a call back.
- The two trees need to be cut down. Jane will call the tree guy that she used and see if he can do it.
- The carpets need to be cleaned, we will set this up after the Good Stuff Sale. Tonya will set this up.
- Snowplowing, we will assume that Hoffmans will continue with this.

### **Pastor Report:**

- Pastor Joyce reported that there is a mandatory meeting in Minneapolis October 25<sup>th</sup>, and she will attend.
- Bible Study in Vergas is only Tuesday evenings online and in Dent in person Thursday mornings.
- Joyce will be gone December 1 so communion will be delayed till December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will try a hymn sing on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- We discussed timing for Christmas eve services. We will have services at Dent at 3:30 and Vergas at 5:30. Joyce will make up presents for the children that attend.
- December 15<sup>th</sup> will be Angel Sunday, when the angels will be hung on the tree. Sheri will work on selling these and the money goes to charity.
- The SWAP which was a prayer session walking around was not attended so Joyce is thinking about doing a prayer time at church where people could come and pray.
- There is a Fresh Expression session Thursday evening about community needs.
- It was felt that Adult Sunday School should resume. Joyce will talk to Rick.

## **Mission**

The Missions of the Quarter for the year.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, Relay for Life, Vergas Looneys

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, UMCOR

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, Salvation Army

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, Local Food Shelves, Perham, Pelican Rapids, and Detroit Lakes

The Local Mission dollars of \$300 will be given to Band of Faith for November. We have not yet heard when there is going to be a fundraiser for Addie Danielson and we may contribute to that in the future.

The Local Mission dollars for December will be used for the Living Faith by Giving envelopes to be handed out. These will be \$50 each.

Faye will contact the Frazee/Vergas school about items for the Giving Tree and Tonya will contact Pelican Rapids to see what is needed. We will do the Giving Tree again.

## **New Mission Statement**

The new Mission Statement is on the wall. Joyce will introduce this at the annual meeting on October 20. Tonya will make small copies to hand out at the meeting.

## **Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be held October 20<sup>th</sup> after church. Items on the agenda will be:

New Mission Statement

Financial split between Dent and Vergas, changing to 60/40

Attendance

Financial and budget

Missions

Leadership List

Encourage participation, communion, liturgist, fellowship, committees

## **Halloween**

Joyce started a sign-up sheet for cars and treats for Trunk or Treat on October 31<sup>st</sup>. This will be planned outside from 5-7 pm-unless the weather is bad, and it will move inside. Joyce has prizes. Sheri and Joyce will work on flyers to insert with treats. It was felt that it would be good to include VBS dates. Decision was to hold VBS July 28-31 from 5:30 to 8:00.

## **SPPRC Report**

- Jane presented a report from the SPPRC meeting. The committee felt that the churches were doing well with a core group of dedicated members at each church. It was felt that Joyce's leadership is positive with new ideas being tried as well as good messages and bible studies. Overall positive feelings with some areas of improvement including engaging more members and cultivating new leaders.
- This committee makes the recommendations for salary each year for the pastor and staff. The recommendation was for a 3% increase in salary for Joyce as well as adding \$900 per year added to housing for TV service at the apartment. Jane talked with the conference and determined all the other benefits and gave this information to Faye. They recommended that Sheri's salary be increased by 3% as well.
- Tonya made a motion to accept the recommendation by SPPRC for changes to Joyce's salary and housing allowance, seconded by Doreen. Motion carried.
- Tonya made a motion to accept the recommendation by SPPRC for changes to Sheri's salary, seconded by Faye. Motion carried.
- The SPPRC also reviewed the current split of expenses between the two churches. Jane reviewed the past 3 years' offering and membership. SPPRC recommended changing the split from 59/41 to 60/40.

- Tonya made a motion to change the split to 60/40 starting in January, seconded by Doreen. Motion carried.

### **New Request**

Faye was approached by a local day care provider to look at the possibility of using the church basement for daycare. The consensus was that they could explore what it would take to accomplish this and discuss it at future meetings.

### **Joint Service on November 10th**

We are planning a Joint Service in Vergas on November 10<sup>th</sup> which will include a potluck, the Band of Faith, and Good Stuff Sale by the Church Ladies. Dent has spaghetti for potluck.

**The next meeting will be on November 20th at 6:30 at the church.**

## DENT UMC LEADERSHIP TEAM

October 16, 2024

The regular meeting of the DUMC Leadership Team was held on Wednesday at 3:00 at the church. Members present were Doris Champlin, Karen Johnson, Lyndon Maasjo, Peggy Meissner, Ivy Mickelson, Pastor Joyce Slostad.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Lyndon called the meeting to order and Joyce opened with a prayer.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from previous meeting were reviewed and a motion was made by Karen to accept the minutes and Ivy seconded, motion passed.

**FINANCE:** The monthly finance report was reviewed and Ivy reported that all bills were paid without having to take from the savings. Ivy closed the CD accounts and reinvested \$37000 in a 13-month CD at the bank with an interest rate of 3.96%. The balance of the CDs was deposited in the savings account. Peggy made a motion to accept the report with subject to audit and Kren seconded the motion, motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** We served 57 people at the spaghetti dinner and made about \$585 after expenses. We discussed how to do more outreach for the dinner. Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Oct 31 5-7, setup will be at 4:30 on that day. Karen agreed to get it on the Dent Community announcement board. There should be enough volunteers for the event. Ivy said the church directory should be done and hopefully people will get a copy on Sunday. Ivy got new name tags for those that did not have one. The young Stanbrough boys were thrilled to have them. The joint worship service with Vergas will be in Vergas not Dent on November 10 at 10:30 with a potluck to follow. Dent will provide spaghetti hot dish and garlic bread along with bars.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Rudolph's Closet is scheduled for December 14 from 8-12. We are in need of paper bags with handles for the kids to carry the gifts in and we will also be serving cookies and hot chocolate. Set up will be on Thursday December 12 at 9:00. Christmas Eve Service is scheduled for 3:30 in Dent and 5:00 in Vergas. Ivy received the bill for the church insurance and it has doubled this year. This will be turned over to the Trustees to check out the reason for the increase or if we need to look for something else.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Joyce reported that she will be attending a Mandatory Boundaries Training in the Cities on October 25<sup>th</sup>. She will be on vacation from November 25 thru December 4. We will reschedule the Communion Sunday for December 8. Lyndon will do the service on December 1. We talked about possibly having a Hymn singing with history about the songs on that Sunday. Joyce will also be on vacation December 25 thru January 2.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Lyndon reported that the carpet has been spot cleaned and looks pretty good. They will cut down the shrubs on the south side this fall. Karen will replant the flower bed behind the church. Thanks to Kren for all the work she has done outside.

**NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT:** Next scheduled meeting will be November 20. Meeting Adjourned.