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## **A MOMENT WITH PASTOR MILT...**

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The beginning of a year always gives us the chance to reflect on the past and establish priorities for the New Year ahead. I'm reminded of something I read long ago – author or source is lost in the cobwebs of my mind – about the three most important books for Christians. Reviewing them, we find out a lot about ourselves and our values. In alphabetical order they are:

**THE BIBLE** – here we most clearly see God's love for each of us. Here we read of the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We can see the kind of life God wants FOR each of us and the kind of life God wants each of us to LIVE. Want to know how we are doing? We'll find the answer when we consider the next two books.

**OUR CHECK BOOK** – review the checks we've written over the last year. Are there patterns? What has been important to us? If we had to do it all over again, would we? Is our checkbook a reflection of us – and what we say is important? Are any adjustments needed? What more might we do in 2017?

**OUR DATE BOOK** – how have we spent our time? All of us have the same amount of time – it comes 24 hours per day – no matter what!! Are there any patterns here? What have we spent our time on? If we had to do it all over again, would we? Are any adjustments necessary?

The last 3½ months of my life did not work out as I had expected or planned – at least not by me -- or Peace UCC -- but perhaps they were not a great surprise to God? I am grateful that I was able to walk beside and with you during these emotional, bewildering, roller-coaster months – a time of mutual sharing, caring and support. Thank you for the gift of the time we have shared together. You are a generous and caring people.

I wish and pray only the best for each of you and for Peace congregation. While we never know what the future holds, we do know it is God who holds that future. God is with us through all the ups and downs of life. God goes before us to prepare a way; God comes after us and picks us up if we fall. Best wishes and fullness of life to you in 2017.

*Pastor Milt*

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## **SINCERE THANKS**

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It is with sincere gratitude that we thank Rev. Milton Staskal for helping us out as our Emergency Supply Pastor since mid September. We wish Rev. Milton and his wife, Trudy, much health and happiness in their retirement.

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## **OUR NEW INTERIM PASTOR**

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We welcome our new Interim Minister, Rev. Thomas Williams and his wife, Jennifer. They reside in Whitefish Bay, which is located near Milwaukee. He will begin on Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

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## **EMERGENCY HELP OUT FOR JANUARY, 2017**

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We are excited to announce that Rev. Barb Loose will be helping us out on the Sunday's of January 8, January 15 and January 29<sup>th</sup>. She feels it is like a home-coming, since she is related to our own congregational member Duane Loose.

On Sunday, January 22, 2017, we welcome back Rev. Roger Mealiff. He was recently here for Harland Kuchenbecker's funeral and on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> he will baptize, Kendyl Kalies, the daughter of Lance and Lacey Kalies.

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## **WELCOME LITTLE ONE**

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Congratulations to Thomas & Elizabeth Horn who welcomed a precious little girl, Lily Mae, into this world on December 5, 2016. Weighing in at 7 pounds, 5 ounces, and 20 inches long; she is welcomed by big sister, Emily and is the granddaughter of Brian and Lori Horn and the great-granddaughter of Alice Horn.

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

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January 8, 15 & 29 – Rev. Barb Loose will lead us in worship. (Communion Sunday, January 8, 2017)  
January 15– Council Meeting immediately after Sunday Worship  
January 22 – Rev. Roger Mealiff will lead us in worship  
February 19 – Annual Meeting after Worship

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## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ON COUNCIL, ENDOWMENT OR PASTOR/PARISH COMMITTEES

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We will have three Council positions to be elected for the coming year. Phil Koenigs has completed his term leaving a vacancy and the first term of Dawn Voight and Jane Kopidlansky has also been completed. Phil is ineligible for re-election and Dawn & Jane may run for another 2 year term.

We have one position available on the Endowment Committee. Jill Greve has completed her four year term and she is not eligible to run again.

We have three positions available on our Pastor/Parish Committee. Carla Zander & Todd Hillmann have completed their terms and Carol Krueger has faithfully filled her two year term and may run for another two years.

If anyone is willing to serve on the council, pastor/parish or the endowment committee, please speak with Carla Zander our council president.

So, if you feel able and willing to have your name placed in nomination or if you can think of anyone who you feel would do a great job serving on the Council, Pastor/Parish or the Endowment Committee please see Carla Zander, president of the Council. All nominees will be contacted prior to the election to verify willingness to serve. Elections will be held the day of our annual meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> immediately after worship.

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## E-GIVING & STEWARDSHIP

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Thank you to the members who have signed up for e-giving. We are asking that you double check your financial accounts to make sure everything is working properly regarding your e-giving donation to the church. On Tuesday, January 3rd, will be the first date of funds being transferred for all of our givers. If you have questions or concerns, please call the church office immediately. (756-3334)

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## SCRIP

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Have any new year's resolutions? How about staying on budget! With SCRIP you can do just that. By using SCRIP cards in place of your debit or credit cards you're more apt to stick to your budget. Purchase your weekly groceries, gas, dining, and downright fun cash in SCRIP

equivalents and go armed with a better defense against overspending in 2017.

Change is in the air, and no I don't mean that bitter cold draft blowing the dust off the back pews. I'm excited to reveal that Barb Wittmann is retiring and stepping back from administering the SCRIP program at PUCC. I want to express an enormous gratitude to Barb for all the years that she has tirelessly serviced as the SCRIP program organizer and the amazing progress she has made. I pray that I am able to continue with as much zest, however, please forgive some bumps along the way.

You can purchase SCRIP cards before or after worship every Sunday or during office hours from Kathy Daun. Here are some of the cards we have on hand: *Econo Foods, Kwik Trip, Cobblestone Creek Dining, BP, Mobil, Cabala's, Dairy Queen, Subway, McDonald's, Shopko, Cenex, Gander Mountain, Sears, Pizza Hut, Papa Murphy's, Marcus Theatres, Red Lobster, Festival Foods, Fleet Farm, Gordmans, Kohl's, JC Penney, Lowe's, Menards, Home Depot, Piggly Wiggly, Target, Wal-Mart, Applebee's, Chili's and Olive Garden.*

***Remember, when you use SCRIP, you're donating to the church just by buying the things you need every day!***

If you have any questions regarding SCRIP, a special order, or just trying to stay ahead of your budget, please speak to Todd Schneider (920-810-8951). Also, keep a watchful eye on the weekly bulletin and our website, [www.peaceuccbrillion.com/scrip](http://www.peaceuccbrillion.com/scrip), for exciting things to come!

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## BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2017

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If anyone would like to sponsor the monthly bulletins for 2017 in loving memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for their family or for a special anniversary, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. **Please note we have the months of April, July, August and November available yet.** The cost is \$30.00 for the month. If you would like to sponsor the palms that cost is \$25.00.

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

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### Sunday, January 1, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship  
No Sunday School

### Sunday, January 8, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship/Communion –  
Sunday School and  
Mini-Missions for Food for the Poor  
10:15 a.m. – Coffee Hour & Fellowship

### Sunday, January 15, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship – Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. – Coffee Hour & Fellowship

### Sunday, January 22, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship – Baptism &  
Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. – Coffee Hour & Fellowship

### Sunday, January 29, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship – Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. – Coffee Hour & Fellowship

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## CAN YOU GIVE OF YOURSELF?

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Jane Kopidlansky would appreciate a couple of wonderful volunteers she could call upon who would like to do some dusting (every few weeks in the fellowship hall & nursery), cleaning of church pews, dusting walls, washing windows and vacuuming of brick walls. As like any household many of these jobs are done yearly, monthly or every other week or when the need arises. So, please consider calling Jane at 1-920-428-5974 and let her know that you are willing to help, even if it is only for a once a year good cleaning of God's House! Thank you!

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## SUPPORT ENVELOPES, YEAR END STATEMENTS & ANNUAL MEETING

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**THE 2017 CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES** are now available. Adults please destroy your old envelopes.

**END OF THE YEAR STATEMENTS:** All financial statements for the 2016 giving year will be run and distributed the first full week in January.

**OUR ANNUAL MEETING** will be held on February 19, 2017 immediately after worship. Deadline for information to be placed into the annual report is Wednesday, February 1, 2017. Our council will be hosting the coffee hour the day of our annual meeting.

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## FINANCIAL GIVING

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### November 2016

Sunday School Children - \$108.50  
Loose Collection – \$87.00  
General Fund - \$3,525.00  
E-giving - \$2,516.50  
Sunday School donations- \$20.00  
Women's Guild purchased Candle Oil - \$35.97  
Neighbor In Need - \$773.00  
In Memory of Harland Kuchenbecker into  
General Fund - \$45.00  
In Memory of Harland Kuchenbecker as a birthday memorial from Lillian to help pay for Rev. Milton Staskal's salary - \$1,000.00

### December 2016

Sunday School Children - \$139.36  
Loose Collection – \$145.00  
General Fund - \$6,432.00  
E-giving - \$2,551.50  
Sunday School donations- \$10.00  
UCC Association Christmas Fund - \$410.00  
Bulletin Sponsor - \$55.00  
Mission & Outreach donation - \$100.00

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## THANK YOU TO ROMAN AND JANET GENNIGEN

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Peace Church has been named as a beneficiary in the Will of Janet Gennigen. Janet and her husband, Roman were married here at Peace United Church of Christ. We have received a partial distribution in the amount of \$85,000. Once the estate is settled there will be a final distribution payment. The Will states it must be used for "a worthwhile purpose", so we must be good stewards of this very generous gift.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

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### **Pre-School – Grade 2**

January 8 – Teacher: Jane Kopidlansky  
Helper: Joselyn Heritage  
January 15 – Teacher: Jane Kopidlansky  
Helper: Greg Loose  
January 22 – Teacher: Amber Horn-Leiterman  
Helper: **need volunteer**  
January 29 – Teacher: Amber Horn-Leiterman  
Helper: Dara Schuh

### **Grades 3-6**

January 8 – Teacher: Becky Schneider  
Helper: Jacob Schneider  
January 15 – Teacher: Becky Schneider  
Helper: Emma Schneider  
January 22 – Teacher: Ann Vande Hey  
Helper: **need volunteer**  
January 29 – Teacher: Becky Fischer  
Helper: Emma Schneider

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## GREETERS

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January 1 – Alice Horn, Amanda & Alyssa Sommers  
January 8 – Deb Schuh  
January 15 – Kay Wachal  
January 22 – Tammy Williams Family  
January 29 – Sandy M. Kuchenbecker

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## ACOLYTES

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January 1 – Rachel & Jacob Fischer  
January 8 – Nick & Nathan Loose  
January 15 – Collin Greve & Grant Leiterman  
January 22 – Aubrie & Brynn Williams  
January 29 – Morgan Janas & Emma Schneider

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## SUNDAY HELPERS

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January 1 – Council  
January 8 – Phil Koenigs  
January 15 – Todd Schneider  
January 22 – Dave Sommers  
January 29 – Dawn Voight

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## COFFEE HOUR

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January 1 – No Coffee Hour  
January 8 – **need volunteers**  
January 15 – **need volunteers**  
January 22 – Jane Kopidlansky  
January 29 – Sandy & Sandy M. Kuchenbecker, Kay Wachal

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## LAY READERS

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January 1 – Barb Wittmann  
January 8 – Ashley Eickert  
January 15 – John Seefeldt  
January 22 – Karla Miller  
January 29 – Tony Reese

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## USHERS

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January 1 – Don Wittmann  
January 8 – **need volunteer**  
January 15 – Duane Loose  
January 22 – Todd Schneider  
January 29 – Chuck Burich

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## PARENT CONFIRMATION HELPER

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January 4 – Krahn Family  
January 11 – Barth Family  
January 18 – Aplin Family  
January 25 – Williams Family

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## JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

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January 18 – Michael & Brittney Horn

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## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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January 2 – Stacey Barth  
January 4 – Carla Zander  
January 7 – Dawn Eijtjes  
January 14 – Mason Aplin  
January 16 – Rhonda Klessig  
January 19 – Bennett Reese  
January 19 – Reilly Loose  
January 20 – Amber Horn-Leiterman  
January 20 – Teagan Eijtjes  
January 21 – Brandon Wachal  
January 23 – Joselyn Heritage  
January 25 – Marcella Bohman  
January 26 – Jacob Schneider  
January 28 – Margo Kees  
January 28 – Becky Schneider

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## MISSION AND OUTREACH

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We cannot begin a new year without looking back over 2016 and lift our praises for the many ways the congregation worked as a team to reach out and bring others the gift of God's love. Thank you for your dedication to missions and commitment to the work the Lord has put before us.

**Love Baskets:** On December 11<sup>th</sup> an energetic group of people gathered after service to pack and decorate forty-nine baskets of love, which were sent out from the doors of Peace. These baskets symbolize the desire our congregation has to seek out those needing to hear that people care. We thank those taking the time to complete the basket recipient slips and the countless people making donations to fill the baskets.

As thank-you notes are received we will share them in the newsletter so you realize how deeply your gifts are felt.

- Thank you so much for the wonderful basket. It was nice of you to think of me.
- I want to sincerely thank you for the Love Basket. It meant a lot to me, to know that other people are thinking of me and care. I heard from other people who I delivered baskets to, what a wonderful idea. Thanks again
- ...it makes me feel appreciated by all the members of Peace because of the love put into by the home-made breads, cookies and thoughtful other gifts and treats.

**Adopt A Family:** Due to your generosity and compassion, two families with small children will have presents under the tree and a turkey for Christmas dinner. The Salvation Army voiced their heartfelt appreciation for the generosity shown to "our" families.

This was our first year our church addressed the need for toys and clothing for the many families that were not adopted. Those not having sponsors are given the chance to pick a toy and an article of clothing from the Gift Room...a huge area resembling a toy store. Your donations for the Gift Room were extremely needed and will enable numerous additional children to have at least one gift under the tree.

**Mini Missions:** Your December Mini Missions will indeed go into our record books as the LOUDEST

collection ever taken! Our personal rendition of The Kettle Drive generated \$113.12 and was sent to the Salvation Army for purchases needed in the Gift Room. The children did a fantastic job of getting your attention with their kitchen pots and kettles along with the lone bell ringer! Thank you for making this project fun and a true blessing to many.

**Looking Ahead:** The Mission and Outreach Committee has begun plans for the new year including long range plans addressing housing throughout the world and local needs of food, clothing and other basic needs. Many of projects come from the congregation and the Committee is always open to new ideas – keep those thoughts coming our way!

### **Fisher House**

We received a thank you from the executive director, Curtiss Apeck, for our donation of \$120.00 to the Milwaukee Fisher House. He especially said to give his gratitude to the children and the congregation for supporting this worthy cause. Since they opened on April 25, 2016 they have been able to help 409 families at a time when their need was the greatest. Families can stay as long as they need and there is never a cost to stay at the Fisher House. Veterans from 26 states travel to the Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee for treatment at the Spinal Cord Injury Treatment Center. Thank you again for your support of this mini-mission.

### **January Mini-Mission: Food for the Poor**

Imagine seeing your children slowly starving... and having nothing to feed them. For countless destitute families, this is a grim reality. Food for the Poor is a charitable Organization that is helping to feed the starving in the Caribbean and Latin America. Our mini-mission for January is to help fill the bellies of the children that live there. We want to help replace the rotten fish, weed soup or even just salt water with nutritious rice. For a mere 6 cents a child can have a healthy meal. This food is distributed to nutritional centers, clinics and feeding programs in communities whose children are being devastated by malnutrition. Let's show our generosity again and help feed the poor children during our children's mini-mission.

God Bless You all.