

Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ

515 East Third Street

Dayton, OH 45402

April 2019



I'll be honest: I have no idea how we're over half-way through Lent. As I write this, the Dayton Dragons are having their first exhibition game, folks are learning to use the new parking kiosks, the daffodils are blooming, and it seems very clear that Spring is most definitely upon us! I can't speak for all of you, but I am very glad to be moving into April and leaving March behind.

March was a month of struggle at St. John's. We had a congregational meeting to discuss some uncomfortable, but necessary, steps to tackle deferred maintenance. Believe me when I say: that meeting was just the tip of the iceberg for all the work that has been done in this arena. I have just finished compiling almost 100 pages of documents for the Cornerstone Fund and our loan application and I am forever grateful to Bill Smith and the Building and Property team for their thorough and expeditious work in securing both bids and explanation of our needs. Suffice it to say: this venture has been a beast ...and the real work hasn't even started!

As if deferred maintenance weren't enough, it's baseball season and that brings with it a load of "fun" around St. John's. As I mention later in this issue, the work to get us a fair deal on usage of our parking lots has been far more lengthy and complicated than I or anyone else probably anticipated. I am thankful to say, however, that there is indeed light at the end of that tunnel and we soon might have some finality with all of this. (Though, we'll have a little learning to do...)



Tack on the normal craziness of life at St John's and phew, I think it's fair to say I and the rest of church leadership are more than a bit tired! Still, all of this work mirrors, in a way, the work that we are exploring through this season of Lent. Lent is the season of recreation and re-evaluation; of spiritual remodelling, you might say! Just as I think we soon shall see new physical life in the building and operations

of St. John's, I am prayerful that we will also see new spiritual life blooming and coming into existence as we approach Easter morning. With that in mind, I invite you to peruse through this issue, see what is available for you to learn and grow with, and consider how you might serve and care as well! We're moving, growing, becoming, and doing, St. John's! Thank you all for your hard work and let's keep up this physical and spiritual remodelling!

Words from the Loft

by Rev. Jeffrey Campbell, Minister of Worship

Our worship time in April is a combination of somber and joyful. We commemorate Jesus' death on the Cross and celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead. This theme of dying and rising is one of the central parts of our Christian faith. Our worship and music reflect this. We go from "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" to "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today! Alleluia!" We confess our sins and rejoice that they are forgiven. We reflect on our shortcomings and celebrate God's amazing grace!

Don't miss a moment of our Holy April!

Thursday, April 4 at 7:00 pm. Lenten Service

Theme: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Sunday, April 7 - Lessons and Carols for Lent

The Passion of Christ with Musical Responses

Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 pm. Lenten Service

Theme: Lead us not into temptation , but deliver us from evil.

Palm Sunday, April 14,

Wave your Palms and Welcome Jesus! Hosanna!

Maundy Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 pm

Remembering "the night he was betrayed"
and the gift of Holy Communion at The Last Supper.

Good Friday, April 19 at noon

Jesus' death is remembered.

Easter joy is only complete
as we remember the events of Good Friday.

Easter Sunday, April 21

The Lord Is Risen Indeed!

A Children's Choir is being formed for Palm Sunday, April 14. Practices will be at 3:00 pm Saturday, April 6 and Saturday, April 13. Do you have a child that could participate? A son or daughter? A grand-child? A niece or nephew? A neighbor kid? Please let Rev. Jeffrey know if you can provide a young person for the Children's Choir..



~Rev. Jeffrey

Warm greetings!

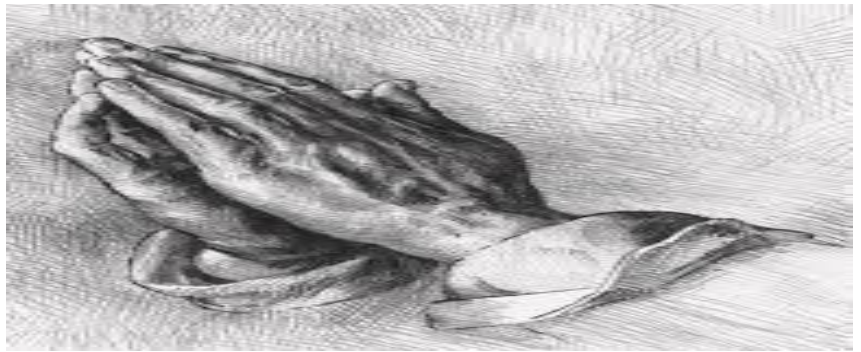
How is our Lenten season going? Do we find time amidst our hectic schedules to be still and be quiet to reflect and meditate where we are now in our faith-journey? Do you have the experience of moving from thinking and talking about God to encountering God personally? Can we point to a time when God became so real in a way that caused us to set aside all our questions and simply rest in him?

It is my prayer that we open ourselves to receive God, welcome God even when we do not understand and even when our questions remained unanswered. Because I believe, being with God is more important than understanding God.

Before I forget, please include in your prayers our effort to form a PRAYER GROUP at St. John's. Our intercessory work of prayer is very essential in the life and work of the church, for prayer is the means that God has given us to invite his engagement in his work.

PRAYERS,

Rev. Hector



Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee will host fellowship the third Sunday of each month for the remainder of 2019.

Any Sunday that is not hosted by others, only coffee will be provided. PLEASE consider hosting a fellowship after Sunday worship.

VP's Report and Reminders

Thurs., April 4 & Fri., April 5 – DRAGON's - Opening Week – VOLUNTEERS STILL WELCOME!!
We're working on the parking lot kiosks.

It is important that the community realizes, part of their parking fee goes to ST JOHN'S!!
Our guests should not be frustrated, as they learn how to use the kiosks.

That's why we are going to help them. (FYI: They will need to enter their license plate #.)

See Rev. Adam or myself. We have a sign-up sheet. We're working on a calendar.

THANK YOU!!!

In April - WDPR (Dayton Public Radio) - St. John's Day (TBD) – funding already completed.
More details to come.

Tues., April 23 – Think TV Auction – on Channel 14 (not 16)

St. John's will be on the first board of each round.

If you are able to get Channel 14, please look for St. John's! You'll see our logo.

Thurs., April 25 – Pecha Kucha (Pe- Chak-cha) – Grace - United Methodist Church
7:30 - 1001 Harvard Blvd., 45406

April 23-28 - WYSO Drive – St. John's will be featured during the fund drive.
Don't yet have the particulars.

Sat., May 11 – 1-5:00 – Downtown Housing Tour – opportunity to visit the neighborhood.
<http://www.downtowndayton.org/things-to-do/summer-in-the-city/housing-tour/>

Respectfully submitted,

Chris van Breukelen



Budget & Finance Committee Report to Council

March 11, 2019

The Budget & Finance Committee met on Monday, March 11, 2019. The meeting was called to order.

Present at the meeting were Patty Staley, Chair, Nicholas Schumacher, Secretary, Isaiah Ashba, Treasurer, Norm Neubauer and Debbie Watts. Ron Duckson is out of town and was not in attendance. Reverend Wirrig had a full day with memorial service, funeral and other meetings and was unable to attend.

Nick was late getting back into town and will e-mail the February meeting minutes out for everyone's review and comments. They will be up for approval at the April Meeting.

Before getting to other business on the Agenda, guest Steve Boggs addressed the Committee. Steve has requested that the Committee consider allowing him to make a pre-tax donation of \$100 from his medical coverage costs to be put back to help with the needs of the Church – i.e. the deferred maintenance, etc. The Committee thanked Mr. Boggs for his generous offer and advised him that we would discuss the matter and see if it was a possibility. The Committee did discuss the matter. Patty advised that if it were considered, we would need to check with legal counsel and tax advisors to see if it is even allowable and to make sure that it would not be detrimental to Mr. Boggs at the end of the year. While we appreciate the generous offer, the Committee was unanimous in its decision to not accept the offer as we feel that Mr. Boggs is a valuable employee and deserves all of his compensation and benefits without any further deductions. We also feel that with the IRS structure when it comes to benefits that this would not be an option that could be pursued. A motion was made to decline the offer and unanimously passed.

Isaiah Ashba presented the Treasurer's report. He noted that giving is down versus last year by \$8,283 this being due to two very generous donations this time last year but in looking historically we are tracking very closely to years prior to last year. The line item for B&P Service Contract & Organ will be revised to properly reflect just B&P Service Contracts as the organ is

now just under Service Contract for routine maintenance. There was an expense for the security system that was paid under this line item for \$947.08 which included approximately \$400 that was somehow missed in payment in 2018. The Checking Balance stands at \$8,611.32, we will continue to monitor this and giving to make sure we do not need to access funds any earlier than necessary. Electric and Vectren was high this month due to the extremely cold temperatures we had for the month. This should hopefully start to trend in the other direction. The Percy Jones Scholars fund balance is currently \$180.00, we need to recommend that an ask be made to the congregation through the appropriate committee to ensure we have funds to cover the program until the summer break, and through the end of the year following return of Choir after summer break. The bill for the new Chapel Chairs was paid, a donation has been received to cover the expense and will be posted with the March deposits. A question was raised regarding the "Bank Service Charges". It was explained that a couple of the credit cards (Loews and one other) were paid late due to the transition between Jeff and Isaiah causing us to incur late fees and this was the account to which those charges were posted. This account is not strictly for "PNC" Bank charges/service fees, it applies to all bank fees.

In Old Business, Patty briefly touched on the Constitution & ByLaws noting that we will shortly begin working on establishing an ad hoc committee for the Fundraising that could become the Fundraising Team under the new structure they will then take on Stewardship and other fundraising projects and the Budget noting we need to work to maintain the spending to continue the progress towards eliminating the deficit. It was pointed out that in Sunday's Tower Times there was a call for people that would be interested in the various Teams to let Reverend Wirrig know of their interest.

In New Business Patty touched on Expectations / Roles of Committee noting she still needs to discuss with Ron Duckson the roll of Vice Chair. Patty stressed that items in the meetings are not final care should be exercised to not release information that would be premature in nature.

Financial Controls. Patty noted that we are working on the transition to a more secure means of accounting including paperwork, etc. Norm Neubauer asked when the transition would be complete. Patty indicated that the goal was to have people identified and trained and procedures in place to be effective by April 1st. Norm then tendered his official resignation with respect to the counting of the weekly giving, processing of envelope orders and distribution, validation and distribution of end of year statements, etc. He was asked if he was resigning from

the B&F Committee and he clarified that he is not resigning from the committee, just the additional accounting functions he has performed for a number of years. Patty thank Norm for putting together written information on the procedures he and Betty Lou have used to process the weekly giving, Nick Schumacher had met with Norm and Betty Lou to learn the process and also has his notes. We have names of a few others that we will be reaching out to assist with this process and if anyone is interested in helping out on Sundays, they can contact Patty Staley. Patty and Isaiah will also be working on securing all of the accounting records in a more secure manner.

Form 1023 status – Patty had given the form and information she has started to Isaiah to review. They will meet and finish up the paperwork which Patty will have an attorney in her office review to make sure we are meeting all of the necessary requirements. The goal is to have this process completed by the end of March so that we can get moving on applying for available grants and funding.

Credit Card Kiosk & Online Giving – The options were reviewed by the Committee and it was unanimously agreed to go with Vanco and their GivePlus Options. Nick will work with Isaiah and our contacts with Vanco to put the system in place. Patty will run the final approval through Council on Wednesday and then forward Nick various e-mails that will assist in the process.

Parking was discussed. At this time, contracts are still in negotiation with ABM, Square One and the Developer. Patty will get an update on the status at Council on Wednesday. It was questioned as to why only Patty and Isaiah had access to the drafts of any of the contract and why they weren't provided to the Committee members for review and comment. Patty explained that the drafts go back and forth and until there is something more formal, it doesn't make sense and causes incorrect information to be disseminated. She at the time did not think to mention that technically, the Committee should only be presented with the final contracts for final review and approval of its financial impact on the Church and in relation to the budget. It is the responsibility of the party negotiating the contract (Bill or Adam or Isaiah) to include pertinent Council Members or Committee Chairs in the review process. But also, we have legal council that reviews our contracts. There is no need for every Committee Member to review every draft of every contract. It would bog down the process even more than it is now.

Grants & Fundraising, Chairlift/Replacement/Repair, ADA Compliance/Accessibility are all still priority projects, dependent on the Form 1023 but other options still need to be researched and considered as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 8, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Staley, Chair



WORSHIP

Pat Kern

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH APRIL INCLUDE: LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE Thursdays 7 p.m. with Rev. Jeff centered on 'The Lord's Prayer'; SUNDAYS 10:30 WORSHIP with Rev. Adam preaching. Sunday April 7 communion and LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR LENT. Bar Church at 4 p.m. MJ's. HOLY WEEK begins April 14 with our traditional PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION OF THE PALMS. A children's choir will participate. (see below). MAUNDY THURSDAY Service, April 18 at 7 p.m. with communion and the stripping of the altar. GOOD FRIDAY service at 12 Noon. EASTER Sunday morning begins with our traditional EASTER BREAKFAST served from 9 to 10 a.m. FESTIVAL SERVICE at 10:30 with communion. Special guest artists and music are planned throughout the season.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR CHILDREN A CHILDREN'S CHOIR is in the planning for Palm Sunday. Rehearsals are set for 3 p.m. Saturdays April 6 and 13. If you know of a child, grandchild, friend's child who might be interested in participating, contact Rev. Jeff as soon as possible. PRAYGROUNDS area in the front of the sanctuary provides a space for young children 5-11 to be a part of the morning worship experience. Bulletins, Bible story books, activity sheets, crayons and coloring pages, soft, cuddly stuffed toys are available. Parents may choose to sit in the pew(s) behind the area. If a child needs a break, follow the lamb posters in the hallway to our Children's Room.

OUR STIVERS STUDENTS

If you've been at church lately, you've noticed Logan has been missing from choir for a few Sundays. He's busy visiting colleges and fielding scholarship offers, which we understand he's received more than one to date. Jaelynn, a junior, is on a plane this morning, as I type, with a group of Stivers students for a 2 week experience in Japan. What great young people Stivers has sent us over the last four years. THANKS to Susan Kolze and Bill Smith, Pat and Doug Goudy for recent contributions to the Percy Jones Scholars for Sacred Choral Music (the Stivers fund).

GOOD GRIEF will NOT meet in April (Holy Saturday)

MARCH TOWER TIMES

EASTER FLOWERS

A spring mix of Easter flowers will be available for ordering beginning March 24. Prices this year are the same as last year: Tulips, Daffodils , Lilies at \$9.50. Daisy Mums are priced at \$11.50. Note these are not hardy mums. All come in 6" foil wrapped pots. Colors will be assorted. Order blanks will be in the Sunday bulletin March 24, 31 and April 7, Order deadline is the week of April 7. You may designate 'in memory of' or 'in honor of' on your order. Flowers will be available to take home following the Easter service.



St. John's United Church of Christ March 2019

Building and Property Brian Dunkle, Ed Humphreys, Marlene Miller, Bill Smith, Brian Thompson, Wilfred van Breukelen, Tim White - in memorial, Support: Steve Boggs and Rev. Dr. Adam Wirrig. Important technical (and physical) support: Jill Johnson and Jim Miller.

Psalms 116:14 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

Tim White was a long-time member of Building and Property and of St. John's. He gave of his time and talents in service and worship. Not in the spotlight nor highly visible, Tim worked in the basement and dust and messy areas of keeping the church operating to meet the needs and challenges of worship, community outreach and maintaining a physical presence as witness of God in downtown Dayton. Tim's memory will remain a part of the continuing history of St. John's United Church of Christ.

Chapel Renovation

To meet the continuing needs of the church and its programming, the Chapel is nearing completion of the renovation project. Carpet removed, walls painted, new chairs purchased, new audio equipment with monitor, new and improved LED flexible lighting installed, and electrical repairs have all happened over the past three weeks. There was need to repair the wall behind the old platform and electrical problem with ceiling fixture. Carpet installation, wall molding replaced and panel repair and refurbishing needs to be completed. We recommend replacing bulbs, tubes and light fixtures as necessary for more efficiency and cost savings. That would be at a later date.

Electrical Repairs

Evans Electric was out to repair lights in the sanctuary and a fixture in the chapel. As frequently happens, this revealed some other problems and opportunities. What could be fixed within the maintenance and Chapel renovation budget has been completed. A new estimate is being developed to improve fixtures in Chapel to be more efficient and some additional work in the sanctuary. After review we will report to Council the recommendations for future work.

Major Repairs and Renovation Through the LORD we find a way

With confirmation from the congregation we can begin the process of building repairs and renovation to support our mission and visions. Documents need to be completed and it will be a few weeks before we can see visible signs of progress in meeting the needs of delayed maintenance. Immediately, we will work with our contracted companies to start the various

projects. Painting, Brick and Heating work will begin when the weather breaks. We need dry and warmer temperatures. Hopefully, that will not be long in coming. The Roof work is a continuing process. Leaks result in immediate action, but some major tasks need a longer dry period and will happen as possible.

Now that there is a plan in place to repair damages we can begin to plan for interior repairs. In the meantime, we can assess the damage to both the Church and Educational Wing to determine the scope of damages and repairs. B&P will develop a damage report with suggested scope of work at each point. That will enable us to determine what we need from outside contractors and how to write specifications for bid.

As we review the damages to the building, we may discover other problems (electrical or plumbing) that may need attention. Those will be identified, and later, prioritized with suggested resolutions of problem and timeline.

B&P is discussing preventive maintenance and periodic and regular walk-throughs in order to attempt to stay ahead of major problems. The Church is an older building and “surprises” are possible at any time. However, there are areas that we need to inspect on regular basis and can assist in maintaining and reducing future costs.

B&G is exploring cost-saving measures in several ways. One is to move to sustainable energy, lighting and heat. Other measures include grants and maintenance contracts. As our services continue the needs of the building need to be considered. As we know from our own homes, the repair list is never empty, and the work is never finished. It is an on-going labor of love.

Our internal goal is to have a document for consideration by Council by the last quarter of this year.

Exploration of moving to “Green” environment

B & P began exploration of policy needs and ramifications of striving to become “Green Friendly.” This means using safe and renewable products. How can we use sustainable and environmentally friendly products? For example, the act of using non disposable cups and dishes.

Other items for discussion are: • Solar energy; • Raised bed community gardens; and • Change to LED and long-lasting electric lighting.

Dishwasher Replacement

Plans are moving forward to improve use of dishwasher and meeting our needs. We are in contact with electrical and plumbing companies and based on those discussions are

modifying proposals (and bids). B & P have some options to discuss with WOSJ in the next month. We are striving to have some recommendations in place by May council meeting.

Interior Repairs

Several projects are on-going: • Repairing the curtain fixture in Fellowship Hall • Continued planning for water damage walls and ceilings o Stairway to Fellowship Hall o Education Wing second floor • Chair Lift discussion • Clock Face -- repair and maintenance • Bell Strike repair • Cleaning and repair of storage areas • Outside flower beds – spring cleaning and planting

Committee Membership

If you have an interest in being involved with the physical facility, please, think about volunteering to be part of Building and Property. We do what we can to meet the maintenance needs of the building and grounds. We make recommendations to Council for major repairs and improvements. We typically do projects on Saturdays as needed and other times as needs arrive. A willing spirit is perhaps the only requirement.

~Bill Smith, Chair





Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped thus far with our chapel remodel! So far we have: removed the old carpet , dividers, pews, and recessed lighting. We've re-painted, patched, repaired, and replaced the recessed lights with new LED and digitally controlled lighting. New seating for the chapel was donated by a very generous donor and The Wirrig family will be laying carpet as soon as it comes in. We hope for this project to be finished well before Easter and are grateful for all the help that has kept this venture under \$1,000! We look forward to utilizing the new space for many years to come!



Parking Update!!!

The journey to be good stewards and reasonably monetize our parking lots has been one that has taken far more time than anyone might have expected at the outset! Between developers, neighbors, tenants, and our own needs, this is, as I've taken to calling it, very much a "rodeo" of sorts! Thankfully, just in time for Dragons season, we have things in place with ABM parking that will help us move forward in this arena.

As some of you will notice, in both our front and rear lots, there are now parking kiosks. These kiosks are where folks who park in our lots (from baseball, to Square One, and the Black Box) will pay to use our spaces. The kiosks are solar-powered, easy to use, and will save us lots of \$\$\$ on labor costs! Parkers can also use the ABM app on their phone and skip the kiosk all-together.

Now, the big question from everyone is: how does this affect us at St. John's? Will I have to pay on a Sunday morning? (No!) Will I have to pay if I come to the church for a meeting during the week? (No!) Firstly, ABM will not be monitoring our lots M-F until after 1pm; so-as to allow our ESOL school to proceed without incident. Moreover, from April 1st, we will have a batch of parking pass stickers in the church office. If you are a person who comes down for meetings, attends study groups or mid-week worship, etc., we encourage you to take one of these stickers and place it in your rear windshield. This will let ABM know that your car is allowed to be here for free! It's that simple!

Obviously, needing a parking pass for the church lots is something that is very new for us. Nonetheless, especially as traffic in Webster Station continues to increase rapidly, this will allow us to be good stewards of our assets and help ensure the future of St. John's. Naturally, we expect some hiccups in this venture –though we've tried to plan just about everything– so if you find yourself with a problem, please don't hesitate to contact the church office or Rev.

Adam and we'll work to get things sorted ASAP!

Thank you for your patience in this venture and for your grace as we lean-into something new!



April Celebrations

Birthdays:

1st Helen Rex 24th Doug Goudy

6th Heather Sturgill

8th Chere Hile

14th Susan Kolze

23rd Dave Abbott

23rd Jillian Carroll



Flowers & Fellowship

Flowers for the altar in the sanctuary can be purchased each week to help beautify the worship service and then take and enjoy in your home. Sign ups for the flowers are on the corner by the coat rack beside Reverend Adam's office, and priced as follows: one bouquet is \$13.75 and two bouquets are \$27.50. Flowers can be dedicated in memory or in honor of a loved one or event. Checks can be made to the church with indication that they are for flowers. Thank you for participating in this tradition.

Fellowship hours are open for sign up as well. Please contact the church office if you can help supply snacks and refreshments for our weekly fellowship hour here at St. John's.

Flowers

4/7—Pat Kern

4/14—Palms

4/21—Butch and Betty Lou Martin

4/28—The Yates Family

Fellowship Hour

4/7—Open

4/14—Open

4/21—Easter Breakfast (Christian Nurture)

4/28—Smith/Kolze

In Loving Memory

Memorial Contributions were made in memory of Elijah Ashba by:

Steve Boggs

Christine and Wilfred van Breukelen

Memorial Contributions were made in memory of Tim White by:

Bill Smith and Susan Kolze, Norm and Janet Neubauer, Michael and Renee Phillips, Steve Boggs, Christine and Wilfred van Breukelen, Anne Pepiot, Butch and Betty Lou Martin, Karen Clark, Anita Torgeson, Ann and Tony Morrissey, Pat Caroots, and Anita Hedeker.

"Thank you to everyone for making Tim's service so very special. It meant a great deal to us."
The White Family, The Thompson Family & The Cunningham Family.

April 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31  10:30am Worship Service	Apr 1	2 8am Evans Electric 6pm Christian Nurture	3 8:30am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Martial Arts	4 6pm Dragons Opener 7pm Lenten Services	5 11am Staff Meeting 6pm Dragons Game	6
7 9am Building and Property 10:30am Worship Service 4pm Spirit(s) Bar Church	8 6:30pm Budget and Finance	9	10 8:30am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Martial Arts	11 6pm Church Council 7pm Lenten Services	12 8am Organ Tuning 11am Staff Meeting	13
14 Palm Sunday 10:30am Worship Service	15	16	17 8:30am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Martial Arts	18 7pm Maundy Thursday	19 11am Staff Meeting 12pm Good Friday	20 Earth Day - TBD
21 Easter Sunday 8:45am Breakfast 10:30am Worship Service	22	23	24 8:30am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Martial Arts	25	26 11am Staff Meeting	27 HTWH2G
28 10:30am Worship Service	29	30	May 1 8:30am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Martial Arts	2	3 11am Staff Meeting	4