

## Executive Committee Meeting Notes

February 17, 2009

Attendees: Deb Durland Phil Guymont, Paul Durland, Sonja White, Larry Bedell, Kevern Joyce, Margaret Forbush, Will Sencabaugh, Daphne Siegal, Lee Murray

There was discussion of the date for Will's Installation ceremony. May 3<sup>rd</sup> was chosen as a tentative 1<sup>st</sup> choice, with April 26<sup>th</sup> as a second choice. Will mentioned that he thinks it is great that every Sunday is scheduled with something going on. If the May date works out, the annual meeting will be moved to May 31<sup>st</sup>, which is Pentecost. If the meeting is scheduled for the 31<sup>st</sup>, it was noted that Kevern will be away and may not be back by then and Lee would not be able to be at the meeting and a fill in would be needed to take notes.

**Junior Fellowship:** On March 8<sup>th</sup> there will be 2 hour program discussing "values and challenges." The curriculum now is more faith based than in the past. On March 29<sup>th</sup> a Pasta Dinner is planned. The Junior Fellowship would like permission to take reservations during coffee hour on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Permission was given.

**RE:** The kids started making the sleeping bags. They started with small attendance. Sonja noted that they ran into a problem and will have to make some adjustments on how the bags are made -- the fabric is very stiff.

We are starting plants for the green house. And they are going to resume work on the greenhouse March 8<sup>th</sup>.

On February 28<sup>th</sup> will be the overnight at the Aquarium. There are 50 children and parents now going. There will be no Sunday School March 1.

The Confirmation class meets every other Sunday and is going well.

The High School Sunday School group, which is called the breakfast club, meets this Sunday. A different parent helps out each time.

For Lent there are a lot of activities being planned -- foot washings; stations of the cross.

On Super bowl Sunday 16 high school kids slept over. It was an amazing and good experience. They helped with the music and greeters. At about 2 in the morning Will said they did a Catacomb communion service -- did the best they could to recreate a communion service that they might have had in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> a subcommittee of 10 for the mission trip met. They are looking at Pipestem, West Virginia in 2010. They need to get moving and meet with parents and talk about how to fund this and all the variables.

**Ways & Means:** Chocolate Cook off raised \$500 plus -- 1/2 from the admission and 1/2 from the silent auction. We had pretty good attendance and at least 10 participants. Sally Lemlin won the amateur dessert category with lava cakes, Jane Rioux won the amateur confection category with butter cream chocolates and Maddie came in 2<sup>nd</sup> with her chocolate zucchini cake.

The Lees Dinner is coming up. Sallycakes will make the dessert. Greg Morton, is the chef. The dinner will be Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Grange. Tickets are on sale; we have 25 tickets

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reserved. There is a maximum capacity of 75-80. We are hoping for 50 or 60. The food is being donated by Al Lees.

The Garden Market is still on schedule for May 16<sup>th</sup>

Kite making will be March 29<sup>th</sup> with plans to fly them on April 5<sup>th</sup> at Fort Taber. On the kite flying day you are certainly welcome to bring other kites; it doesn't have to be one you made at church.

**Nominating:** Bob and Paul met with Will. They have been discussing the committees and the direction of the committees. The idea of a vice-moderator came up -- so that the vice moderator can move into the position of moderator and the possibility of shortening the commitment to 2 years; maximum 3 years

**Reorganization:** Will said that he had asked Bob & Paul not fill any positions for this time around; mainly because we don't know what's going to happen. There will be a slate of officers though. There are plans to do something after the reorganization. Will has a list of names of interested people for the restructure team and he plans to get in touch with them. His plan is to get it done in 3 consecutive weeks -- have an hour and ½ meeting on 3 Mondays and then basically our work will be done. There are 8 people on the list; it would be nice to have 9 to work in teams of 3. And then have each of the 3 teams meet as one group and talk about the best practices that each team has come up with and how we can make it work. And the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting would be how we put it into effect.

**Trustees:** Paul stated that they met and had a round table on the financial situation. In 2008 our investments went down \$455,000. Three fourths of that is due to the stock market and ¼ due to our spending over budget income. We are probably below \$700,000 by now. We have been saying that we have to stop living above our means for a long time. That time is here. For 2009 our income, not counting money taken out of the endowment -- just pledges, etc. will bring in about \$260,000. We are going to spend \$356,000. That's almost \$100,000 that we are going to pull out of the endowment this year. If we keep pulling money out of the endowment, even if the stock market comes back, there won't be much left in the endowment for the money to grow again. He feels that we need a committee of knowledgeable church members to take a look at how we are going to cut spending. Eighty per cent of our spending is salaries and building expenses. So some very difficult decisions have to be made. He thinks that is way above the current trustees' ability -- a lot of them are not necessarily that knowledgeable about how the church works. There was discussion about getting rid or just about anyone who draws a salary. There was discussion of charging for programs -- youth fellowship, Sunday School, or having all outreach funds be directed toward programs like Sunday School. Those were the type of items discussed. He suggested a committee that represents all committees to put their heads together to decide what really big changes we want to make in this church. In 2011 the big gift will not be there and that is \$40,000 less. Some big changes have to be considered and we have to come to grips with financial reality. Every town, business, etc. is having this type of discussion. We should involve the congregation in the process. Don't think the reality has hit home; there has been no serious financial discussion. It has been 13 years since this church raised enough money in pledges to pay the bills. We can grow the congregation or limit programs. In the past we had volunteers in the office, volunteers in the church school, and the choir rehearsed somewhere else. Do we continue to support the nursery school? The study committee should meet after February 15<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion of how to work on some sort of growth for the endowment fund and talk about planned giving; the possibilities of user fees. Now is a good time to begin discussions with the congregation and the long term effect. It was suggested we ask a professional to come

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talk to the congregation; or possibly use the resources from the UCC. It was asked how do we develop and promote a culture of giving so that people are more willing to support the church?

The level of commitment; time, money and involvement are not a new problem and things are not going to happen quickly. We have gone from a manageable withdrawal to a much larger amount from endowment funds. In regards to salary, every one is making close to market rate. It is also the Insurance costs too.

At the annual meeting devote time to discussion about long term plans. At the March quarterly meeting bring forth and discuss the financial problems. We haven't frequently held the March meeting, but it would be a good place to start the discussion of our financial future. The meeting will be March 29<sup>th</sup> right after church.

Do we prepare literature before hand or use the shock factor. We need to put together the numbers to announce at meetings.

The scholarship committee is planning a pasta dinner.

**Outreach:** Sue McLaren is trying to change the blood drive to the 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 2:30. Julie Sencabaugh will spearhead the organizing of our church group to serve Lunch at market ministries and work on a calendar for next year.

**Women's Guild:** Sonja white said that the White Circle did a great job cleaning the kitchen. They are looking for the sandwich signs that were used for the rummage sale. If they can't find them, they may have to get some new signs done.

The Women's group gave a donation to the church scholarship and to the town's youth advocate.

**Deacons:** Larry said they are becoming more visible. Five people are in the experimental group -- planning events for Palm Sunday through Easter.

**Minister:** Will talked about the worship team planning for Holy week and all the worship services. Initial planning has been done and they will probably tweak it some. If it works out well, and he suspects it will, it is the model for how worship is going to be planned in the future with a small group that is just worship.

It was asked is there a collection taken in Sunday School?

The Bible project is all but done. We are waiting for installations of the racks. Lee volunteered to type the donor plates. There are 7 cases of bibles. And some money was made.

Bible 101 – Will is planning a bible study, discussion group to meet on Wednesdays during Lent from 7-8:30 p.m., beginning February 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be a regular, but brief service (about ½ hour) on Ash Wednesday.

He talked about the complaint free bracelet. There are over 300 bracelets in the office and he will explain in more detail on Sunday. He will invite everyone to wear one -- without complaining for 21 days and change behavior. Switch arms and start over if you complain. This is a Lenten discipline.