

**Prospect United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2015**

Present: Diane Ashworth, Lang Ashworth, Heidi Flower, Luisa Gladu, Carla Heister, Bill Katt, Lynn Limeburner, Janet Nadhazi, Jackie Palance, Terry Parker, Tammy Pelletier, John Rioux, Joyce Rioux, Pastor Sorozon, Matti Verzino, Christa Zaldivar. **Excused:** Vivian Bracket, Sue Powers, Beth Provost, Bill Thibodeau

Opening: Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm. Opening prayer and remarks by Bill Katt

I. Updates and/or new items

- Correction to November and January minutes (Luisa Gladu's name is misspelled in November's minutes; Christa Zaldivar's name is misspelled in January's minutes). *Motion made to accept November and January minutes; seconded and passed*
- Mum Festival Committee has requested use of our lower parking lot on March 21; permission given. A discussion followed regarding payment for use of the lot. It was suggested that we could mention that donations are accepted.

II. Reports

Education Committee

- Christa lists the following activities:
- 2/21 – Church-Wide Service Day--a Lenten practice of "cleaning up space". A sign-up sheet will be set out.
- 3/8 – Pretzel Sunday.
- Joyce states that communion will be served each Sunday during Lent.

Terry notes that the next Staff Parish Meeting will take place on 2/24.

Stewardship Committee

- John reports that the Committee has received a loan of \$7200 from the Trustees to pay our apportionment, with the stipulation that one-half will need to be repaid. He wonders how the money for that, and for our deficit, will be raised. We need to brainstorm some fund raising ideas.
- Lane states that we can't stress enough the importance of electronic gift giving; this should be strongly encouraged. Sign-up sheets could be more readily available in Sessions Hall. Also, the "I Gave" cards should be more widely distributed, perhaps even available in the pews.

Music

- Another Soup Sunday sale has been planned for Feb. 22. She noted that the soup sale is a good fund raiser, not only for the bell choir, but for any group wishing to raise some money. It was mentioned that perhaps we shouldn't sell soup on potluck sundays, as some people can't afford to purchase soup.
- Heidi also mentioned that the choir is currently rehearsing for the Palm Sunday Cantata, and that the bell choir is down a few members.

Trustees and Middle Agers Group

- Luisa has received a quote of \$3430 for the installation of a security system. She states that Dimchex will pay 50% of that fee.
- A pay loader will need to be brought in to "relocate" the parking lot snow build-up; this will cost \$200.
- Luisa wonders what the cost will be for the next stage of organ repair, and if funds from the Book of Remembrance could be used for that. Jackie questioned the possible use of using donations given in Jan Moore's memory for the repair. A question was asked as to how to request funds from the Book of Remembrance—the procedure is to put the request in writing and give to the Trustees Committee.
- Heidi reported that she has been unable to get a response from the Austen Organ Company regarding the repair. Luisa replied that the Trustees could get involved with that matter.
- The Middle Agers are looking into a grant writing program—perhaps a class offered at Tunxis CC??
- The group is starting rehearsals for the spring dinners. Outside help may be brought in this year to assist. The group also did a major cleaning job of our Hall recently!!

Women's Group

Upcoming activities:

- Feb. 17th – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper , 6:00 pm. Goodwill offering, games and activities.
- Mar. 13th – Movie night at 6:00 pm, featuring "Box Trolls". Supper to include baked potatoes, hot dogs, desserts, popcorn. BYO chairs and blankets, if desired.

- Matti adds that the Gift Card sale is going well. She has some eye-catching posters to hang up. She suggests that the cards would make great gifts.

MYF and Faith Action:

- Tammy Pelletier reports that 40 coats were collected during the January Coat Drive, and that the Youth Group is currently holding a Valentine Bake Sale.
- A future project will be a bottle/can drive.

Pastor's Report

- The outside door to the Sessions Hall entrance will be closed until the icicles hanging from above melt! Use the office door instead.
- Apportionment needs to be paid--we have raised \$675 so far.
- Pastor Bob will be on vacation from Mar. 2-10. Rev. Russell Wildman will be available for emergencies, and Pastor Rhodes will give the Mar. 8th sermon.
- Pastor Bob has challenged each Council member to think of five things PUMC could do to bring attention to our church and attract members.

Works of Mercy

- Diane suggests that in keeping with the February Valentine's theme that we show acts of kindness to our fellow parishioners and others. A loving touch goes a long way!!

Closing – Pastor Bob closed our meeting with a prayer.

The next council meeting will take place March 10th.