

**Prospect United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2015**

Present: Diane Ashworth, Heidi Flower, Luisa Gladu, Tim Kraus, Lynn Limeburner, Jackie Palance, Sue Powers, Pastor Sorozon, Matti Verzino, Jill Wilson, Christa Zaldivar.

Excused: Vivian Brackett, Mike Fasci, Gary Gladu, Bill Katt, Terry Parker, Beth Provost, Carol Rivard, Bill Thibodeau.

Devotional: Diane read a selection from The Upper Room

Approval of October minutes

Sanctuary will be adorned with the greens on Sat., 11/28, at 9:30 am. All invited to help—Pastor Bob will bring the donuts.

Committee Updates:

Jackie

- Thinking of movie for next movie night.
- Bargain Box doing OK
- Pledges are being received, but haven't been entered.

Matti

- Roberts Fund – OK
- Gift Card sales are so-so. She's hoping that sales will go up for Christmas giving.

Jill

- She'll skype with our missionary, Helen, on 11/20.
- With Giving Tuesday coming up, people could put in Helen's code to make a contribution. Other giving choices will be UMCOR disaster projects.
- We're \$160 short of our commitment to Helen. Perhaps we could make that up with our Dec. 6th communion offering. Helen could tape a short presentation on what's happening with her Cambodian ministry. Heidi would like a simple song that the choir would sing and Helen could relate to. It would be fun if Helen could see us presenting our offering to her as Lang recently set up a system in the sanctuary that allows access to Skype and internet.

Sue

- All apples pies have been sold; 12 pumpkin pies still available.
- On Sun., 11/22, 50-yr church members will be recognized.

Heidi

- Caroling to shut-ins will be on 12/13. After service there will be a soup & rolls lunch—caroling will follow.
- On Sun., 11/22, there will be a "Turkey Trot" for kids--at coffee hour the kids will collect canned goods from the grown-ups.
- Game night was a success. Another such night will be planned in the future.
- Christmas Eve services will be at 5 pm and 10 pm. The earlier service should include a children's message and lighted candles. College kids could be invited to light the bigger candles at the 10:00 service. The info regarding our Christmas services should be posted on Facebook and our website.

Christa

- The Christmas Pageant will be on Dec. 13.
- The New Year's Eve party will be 4-6 pm. We should extend invitation to Plainville PUMC and maybe community.

Luisa

- The contract for the organ repair has been signed and returned to the company.
- Steve Cowdell, who did our Tower work, has signed a contract for 2015-2016 snow plowing.
- Colonial Tree Svc. has been contracted to trim trees on the side of the upper parking lot.
- Carpet repair has been completed in the sanctuary, but gutter coiling has yet to be done.
- Victorian Tea—30 tickets are available in Sessions Hall.
- Santa's Breakfast—14 tickets remain to be sold.
- Relay for Life kick-off held recently. Event will happen on June 11 with a Caribbean theme.
- Christmas Children's Parade will be on 12/6 at 1:00 pm. PUMC table will be in front of Dupont Funeral Home.

Tim

- Budget is currently \$9504 in the red but is an improvement from Sept.
- He has asked the Foundation to pay for 6 months of our apportionments.

Pastor Bob

- Charge Conference will take place on Sun., 12/6 at 3 pm (Rev. Kieffer will be at Asbury in the morning). We could invite him to join us afterward for coffee/cookies and a chat—a good idea!!
- Adam Hamilton's "A Not So Silent Night" will be presented during Advent.
- There will be a city-wide Thanksgiving Eve service at St. Joseph's church at 7:30 pm.
- The Job read-through with a small cast of characters took place during the fall and will be repeated in the spring.
- The West Point Gospel Choir will need a follow-up invitation.
- The Golden Hill UMC steel drums have been invited, with a date TBD.
- Police Explorers have presented the church with four turkey dinners for needy families. To date, two have been distributed.
- At a recent Bristol Clergy Assoc. mtg., Pastor Bob and others discussed the need for an informational presentation by representatives from the Islamic and Jewish faiths. While our council agreed that PUMC could be used for the presentation, it was noted that interfaith discussions could potentially stir up some emotions.

NEW ITEMS

Ideas for the Education Committee:

- Reinstate our Lenten "save-a-quarter-a-day" folders
- Get Chinese take-out boxes with slits cut into the top for saving spare change

A spirited discussion took place regarding last month's council vote to discontinue a paid nursery childcare person during service. While some felt that lack of attendance and the lack of a qualified childcare person warranted the vote, others felt that childcare is needed regardless. It was decided to revisit this issue by sending it back to SPAC in the beginning of 2016 (after our busy holiday season).

Therefore, a motion was made to increase the childcare budgeted amount to last year's budget line. It was voted to accept the 2016 budget as amended.

Closing Prayer by Pastor Bob