

Dear FPC family and friends,

This past Wednesday we had our officer's gathering and about 40 of us got together to enjoy dessert and to thank the off going officers for their work and dedication to this church. Every year when we do this and we then gather in the sanctuary to give thanks to God for His faithfulness and their loyalty, I remain amazed at how many people are present and how many people it takes to run the church. There is something to be said about a church that is able to point to 40 people who at any given time have dedicated their time and their effort for the purpose of serving their church. We should consider ourselves blessed.

Session also had their meeting on Wednesday and a number of decisions were made that might be good for all of you to know. We were brought up to speed on the construction project that began this past Wednesday. We will be completely remodeling the Fellowship Hall bathrooms and the entry way to the hall. You will see the workers in there for probably over the next two months. It will have an impact on the life of the church, but we also know that this is necessary and something that when it is over we will forget the inconveniences that we have had. I need to call out Steve Szczeniak for his perseverance and for his patience during this whole process as he has been shepherding us through it. Thank you Steve!

We were also told that we will be getting a new floor in the hallways because the original flooring is not up to par and the manufacturer and Wall to Wall have agreed to replace it for free for us. Thank you Steve, and Wall to Wall! Wow, there is a lot of construction stuff to talk about. On that note our Second Service Improvement Committee (SSIC) is moving forward and were given approval by session to purchase a microphone modernization package.

We also are in the process of partnering with Bridge of Hope so that they will be able to use our 119 S. Decatur Street house for their ministry by placing a family in that home. Our long-time resident, Sue Powl, has moved out so you may see a new family in there sometime soon. Also discussed was the possibility of an endowment given by the children of a recently deceased member that would establish scholarships for college students from FPC who will remain active within the life of FPC. Session signed off on that and we are working through the details of that now. Stay tuned!

What I am sensing is that there is a lot of movement and a lot of excitement happening around the life of the church which inevitably leads to creativity and thinking outside the box. It is fun to be in ministry when ministry is not static, but everchanging. It is fun to be in ministry when the presence of the Holy Spirit is tangible and moving in unpredictable directions which requires us just to hang on and follow the lead of wherever the wind may blow.

On that note, you all did an amazing, amazing job with the auction. I had hoped that with the generous donations that we had received before the auction toward the mission trip, and the auction itself that we would raise close to \$25,000. Well, you all blew past that. We were able to bring in over \$45,000 between auction items and donations. That is simply amazing. Thank you, and again, isn't this fun?!?!

I wonder how Jesus' disciples felt after the feeding of the 5,000, weren't they fired up and excited for what would come next. Or when he raised Lazarus from the dead, they had to have been

so looking forward to what comes next. There is a sense that when things are going well that we can't wait to see what comes next. Folks, I wish I knew, but just hang on and follow the wind, the Holy Spirit, wherever it blows you.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Bob

### **HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...**

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Save the date for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4th! To prepare, we will be Stuffing Eggs on Saturday, March 28th, starting at 9am in Fellowship Hall. Please look for sign ups under the TV by the welcome area. We will need lots of hands to help! There are also sign-up sheets for items needed to fill the eggs. Donations will need to be back by Friday, March 27th. All items should be individually wrapped and NUT FREE!

**LENTEN SERVICES & LUNCHEONS:** Lent is upon us! Join us for weekly services here at First Presbyterian Church offered by the Strasburg Ministerium.

12 pm Wednesday Lenten Service Schedule with lunch

March 4 St. Michael's Lutheran Church

March 11 ACTS Covenant Fellowship

March 18 First Presbyterian

March 25 Lampeter UMC

\*All services will be held in the sanctuary here at First Presbyterian Church. Noon services will be followed by a luncheon. Join us!