

## **Report of the Lead Pastor for September 2017**

Rev. Dr. Jack M. Horner

October 9, 2017

Baptisms: Declan Krotzer 9/10; Faith Yoffee 9/10

Funerals: Judy Hempt 9/12; Ed Morton 9/21; Bob Sadler 9/26

Weddings: Messick/Skrocki 9/23; Kessler/Bennett 9/30

### **Asking the right questions**

As we prepare for a capital appeal to improve our facilities for ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century its important that we ask ourselves and each other the right questions to aid in our discernment

- What might happen if we expand our gathering space to connect better?
- What may happen if our offices were more accessible and designed to enhance collaboration among staff?
- What might happen if our worship space was more flexible for concerts and worship setup, would that help our outreach/evangelism?
- What might happen if our pre-school could expand its ministry?
- What might happen if our nursery care was central to our worship spaces? How would guests with young children respond?
- What might happen if we had flexible meeting space that could accommodate 100 people?

These are the types of questions that can help see (vision) what might be possible for the future.

### **Retirement of the Debt**

On September 17 we offered prayers of thanksgiving to retire our debt. I thought the prayer was particularly helpful to give thanks for what was but also inspire us for the future.

*Eternal God, you have brought us to a day of celebration in the life of this congregation. You have accompanied us in times of excitement and discouragement; you have guided us in our visions and plans; and you have given us the joy of working together for the sake of the gospel. We rejoice in the completion of a task that was begun with trust in your promise, and we give thanks for all whose courage, energy, and resources have contributed to its fulfillment. In the days ahead, use us and our gifts in new ways. Send us forth renewed in the life of baptism, so that we continue to live together as your faithful people, carry out the ministry of word and sacrament, proclaim Christ in word and deed, serve all people in his name, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

### **Staffing**

Thank you to all who helped with our discernment through our staffing survey. It helped clarify our needs. The following recommendations from A&P are the result...

- Bishop Dunlop is willing to have Pastor Crist to stay on with us if we choose. I think she has been an excellent addition to our staff and she would continue working with our Missions, Social Ministry and Evangelism Teams.
- Have Bishop Edmiston fill a new position of Director for Mission Advancement.

- Remove the property responsibilities from Paul Hensel's position.
- Create a new position of Lead Sexton/Facilities Manager.
- Approve the position of Ministry Director for Ministry Engagement for the new associate pastor.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Jack Horner