

Elmwords

Pastor's Corner

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these... Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6.28-29, 33.

A few weeks ago before a special meeting to discuss renting our sanctuary to another church, there was a dark foreboding atmosphere here. It seemed as though lines were being drawn. It seemed that whatever was decided/some here at ECC would “win”, while others would “lose”. As it turned out, the other church decided to stay where they were. We held the meeting anyway and thanks to the grace of God, foreboding gave way to a positive climate. All felt that they had been heard and were appreciated. Hearing and honoring each and every voice, and loving one another is the very essence of our Congregational tradition.

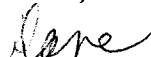
When we set our minds to moving into the future TOGETHER we all win. Since the meeting there have been many conversations, phone calls, and emails. From many quarters, young and old, there has been a surge of positive energy. People are filled with ideas and determination.

There is a wonderful spirit in this church. We love one another. We are doing everything a church should do. Many have said things like, “This church feels like home”, “It is my anchor for the week”, “The Choir is so inspiring”, “It is a joy to know that our young people have such a good Sunday School and Youth Group.” A seasoned member said that he had grown up here, was baptized here, married here, it is always his home. Someone else cherished memories of being cared for through a crisis. They appreciated prayers, rides, meals, cards, and people caring. Another said the best solution is for us to be the best church we can be and continue to do the things we do well.

True, we have financial issues. Let there be no mistake about that. Yet our church is a real church, filled with the love of God, the love for God, and a love for one another. In the weeks and months to come we will be sharing new ideas and plans. Some seem like they will be tons of fun. Some may succeed beyond our hopes, some may be disappointing. How will we know until we try? God wants there to be a church here. Nothing is impossible with God.

Let us believe in God and believe in one another. Let us move into the future with a positive outlook. Let us operate with the attitude that our God is a God of abundance. There is no reason, or even excuse for “doom and gloom”; we need not feel we lack anything. The message of Jesus is always new; God is always renewing the church. We are beginning a new chapter in our church's history. We are on a joy-filled journey of discovery and faith. Truly, we are blessed

Peace,



Dave

Church Council Meeting –March 19, 2012 – Agenda/Moderator’s Notes

Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm with eleven members present: Diane Ludwick, Al Croxall, Robin Lindemann, Susan Wiley, Barb Hesse, Patrick Nobou, Jerry Gray, Wendy Leonard, Rev. Dave Congdon, Bill Alberti, and Mickey Allgaier

Opening Prayer and Scripture (Pastor Dave):

Minutes of the previous meeting: approved with minor correction.

Old Business:

- Congregational meeting discussion
- Letter from Susan Giaccotto shared
- St. Patrick’s Day Dinner absolutely delicious – profit of \$419.00!! \$93.00 more than last year.
- OGHS could have used more pre-advertisement.
- Parsonage number needs to be on Sunday Bulletin.

New Business: Need someone for Tag Sale June 2nd, Strawberry Festival, Holiday Fair and Chicken Barbeque.

Committee Reports:

Deacons – Jerry Gray

- Holy Week plans: Maundy Thursday with communion by intinction; Friday Vigil 12-3pm by Prayer Team; no Sunrise Service.
- Flowers – Profit will be used to cover unsponsored wreaths, etc.
- Susan Giaccotto will do welcome notes.
- Working on laminated cards: “Who we are, what we do, etc.” Mickey will share with Jerry Gray an outline and notes compiled by Geri Noonan earlier in the year.
- Daysha will investigate bulletin advertising.
- Will get two small pulpit lights for evening services.
- May sponsor southern cooking fundraiser, or chowder fest.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Dave

- Norm making progress...card sent from Council.
- Pat Johnson feeling somewhat better.
- Ellen Bucchere and Pat MacDougall compiling historical report of past fundraisers.
- Paul Mawn volunteered to draft codicil for members’ use free of charge.

Missions – Robin Lindemann

- Not yet met this month.
- Scholarship applications due May 11th.
- South Park Inn April 1st.
- Possible use of Scrip Cards to purchase supplies.

Trustees – Bill Alberti

- Considering hiring an independent contractor for sextant services; cost of cleaning.
- Painting Geri’s office, copy room and Conte Hall entry.
- Hartford Boiler donated many services.
- A thank-you note was sent to Hartford Boiler, as well as another to Shirley Marshall.

(moderator's notes continued)

Christian Ed – Patrick Nobou

- Officers: Patrick, Chair; Diana Collins, Secretary; Gail O'Connor, Nominating Committee Representative
- Easter egg hunt – planning on 15 children – outside or Conte Hall.
- June 17th – Children's Sunday.
- Youth Group considering summer mission.
- Crib Nursery – fair amount of trash and food found there.

Controller's Report – Susan Wiley

- Current deficit (\$9,559)
- Some one shot rentals up for April and May.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Senior Member-At-Large – Al Croxall

- Conte kitchen (lower) cabinets dirty.
- Potential fundraisers; car wash? Bingo?

Junior Member-At-Large – Barb Hesse

- Request Memorial Garden fountain be started.
- Excellent job on St. Patrick's Dinner Daysha and crew!!
- Special thanks to Prayer Team.
- Will be more pro-active about Scrips. Prestopay discussed.
- Colleen will be caring for Memorial Garden.

Newest Member-At-Large – Diane Ludwick

- Many thanks for excellent St. Patrick dinner.
- Pews need dusting/waxing.
- Sometimes tables not setup when requested of cleaners.

Upcoming Events (Just so we're all on the same page)

- April 1st – Serving South Park Inn
- April 5th – Maundy Thursday – 7pm Service
- April 6th – Good Friday Vigil – Noon – 3pm
- April 8th – Easter Sunday Service at 10am

June 15th, 2013 at 4pm: Official 140th Anniversary

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55pm

Next Meeting: April 16th

Scrip Cards

I need your help. Recently, my life has gotten more hectic than usual. I haven't been able to actively promote the Scrip Card Program and the Scrip Card purchases have dwindled down to almost nothing.

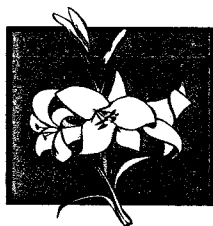
By purchasing Scrip Cards for your favorite retailers, you provide financial support for the church without spending a single penny more than you would normally spend at your favorite stores!

- For those who have computer access, go to www.ShopWithScrip.com (no "t" in Scrip).
- Your enrollment code will be **D63528FF24554**.
- Click on "Create Account".
- Fill in all required information and click, "I accept."
- Choose two challenge questions from the list and provide answers.
- If you have trouble creating an account, it might be because I've already created an account for you. Call me and I'll walk you through the process.

Once on www.ShopWithScrip.com, you'll be able to view the list of ALL participating retailers, and you'll be able to place your order for Scrip Cards 24 hours a day – 7 days a week! There are TWO payment options – One is to continue writing a check (made payable to Elmwood Community Church) and leaving it at the church. The other is to sign up for the OPTIONAL electronic debit from your checking account. That option is called, "PrestoPay" -- Susan Wiley and I have been doing the PrestoPay option for over two years and find that it's a LOT easier than writing checks! With the PrestoPay option activated, you can ALSO print out PAPER VERSIONS of the Scrip Cards FOR IMMEDIATE online use or for use in "brick and mortar" stores and restaurants.

I will continue to take orders at church on the FIRST and THIRD Sundays of every month. Mark your calendars! If you have questions, please call me at 860-716-7346. Thanks...Barb Hesse

EASTER FLOWERS



Easter plant orders and payment must be in and paid for by April 1st. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by Sunday, April 1st. If you are paying by check, please make check payable to the Elmwood Community Church and indicate Easter Flowers in the memo field.

Prices are as follows:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Cost</u>
6" Pot	Easter Lily	\$ 9.00
6" Pot	Tulips	\$ 9.00
6" Pot	Hyacinths	\$ 9.00

Choice of plant _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

In Memory of _____

Given By _____

I would like the plant to go to someone on the church visitation list.

Name of Person: _____

I would like to take the plant home after worship _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

The Elmwood Community Church
-----United Church of Christ-----
26 Newington Road
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860-233-8203 fax: 860-233-4202
Secretary's e-mail: eccsecretary@snet.net
Pastor's e-mail: elmwoodchurch@snet.net

**PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
DATED MATERIAL**

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 1st.....PALM SUNDAY
April 1st.....ECC Serving South Park Inn
April 1st.....6:30pm Youth Group
April 4th.....6:30pm DEACONS
April 4th.....NO BIBLE STUDY
April 5th.....MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00pm Service
April 6th.....GOOD FRIDAY Noon-3:00pm
April 8th.....EASTER SUNDAY
April 9th.....6:30pm Circle 6
April 11th, 18th, & 25th.....10:00am Bible Study
April 11th.....6:30pm TRUSTEES
April 12th.....NO CHOIR
April 15th.....CE MEETING
April 16th.....6:30pm COUNCIL
April 17th.....NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE IN OFFICE
April 19th, & 26th.....7:00pm Choir
April 22nd.....MISSIONS MEETING
April 29th.....MAY NEWSLETTER