

**Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
April 14, 2011**

**In Attendance:** Charlie Cline, Renita Hillis, Darby Graves, Beth Bolyard, Lynn Chrisman, Brian Meinardi, Pastor Tim Kuenzli, Carol Low, Craig Werner, Kris Huffman, Rachel Arps, Mike Poyer, Rick Wuerth, Jerry Kisner, and Mike Renner were present. Carol Ackerman and Don Wachtman also attended.

**Excused:** Don Maurer was excused.

**Opening:** Vice President Kris Huffman opened the meeting with a prayer.

**50th Anniversary Celebration:** Carol Ackerman and Don Wachtman, co-chairs of the Celebration Committee, attended the meeting to discuss several issues with Council. In commemoration of the event, Trygve Skarsten is writing a booklet entitled "50 Years of Grace - The Light Shines On." The committee has funding to publish 300 copies of the book for approximately \$975. Carol and Don recommended the number of copies be increased to 500 which would cost an additional \$525. They requested that Council approve the additional expenditure.

In November 2010, Carol and Don suggested that their Committee would like to sponsor an appeal to congregation members to make a onetime special offering to the church for the purpose of reducing indebtedness. At the April meeting, they presented a written proposal for an Anniversary Celebration Gift Program. Council received the proposal favorably and discussed specifics including coordination of the appeal with other events on the church calendar. Council decided that the best approach was to introduce the program to the congregation during the Celebration Sunday in May and to target a Sunday in June as "Love Sunday" to collect donations. A special envelope mailing would be worked in between those dates.

Carol and Don also reported on preparations for the congregational dinner to be held at Seton Parish in September.

After Carol and Don departed, Council discussed their request for funding to purchase additional copies of the booklet being prepared by Trygve Skarsten. Upon motion of Jerry Kisner, seconded by Renita Hillis, Council unanimously approved the request. The expenditure will be paid with funds in the special 50th Anniversary Celebration account and if they are insufficient, from our general account as an unbudgeted item.

**Devotion:** Rachel Arps provided a devotion entitled "Do Everything Without Complaining" based on Phi 2:14-15.

**Meeting Minutes:** Council reviewed the minutes from the March meeting. Upon motion of Beth Bolyard, seconded by Darby Grave, Council approved the minutes.

**Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports:** Rachel Arps reported that, during March, we budget receipts (unrestricted funds) of \$74,112 funds and non-budget receipts (restricted funds) \$6,491 for a grand total of \$80,604. Our March budget receipts during were \$19,028 over budget. Through March, our year to date budget receipts are \$21,224 over budget. We are doing better than last year at this time. During March we received several large annual family gifts which may distort the picture some. Receipts may even out during the summer.

Brian Meinardi reported that our budget receipts (unrestricted funds) during March exceed expenditures by \$7,848. Year to date, budget receipts have exceeded expenditures by \$16,190. We have \$97,312 of unrestricted cash as of the end of the month and an increase of \$15,463 from year end, 2010. Brian noted two out of budget line items. The debt retirement account will remain over budget for the rest of the year because the budget was based on twelve months of reduced payments under the mortgage refinancing. The new mortgage payments did not start until March. The other item is Parish Education. The figure reflects a large payment made to LOMO during March. The Parish Education account should come into line with the budget as the year progresses.

Mike Poyer moved that the reports be approved. Charlie Cline seconded the motion. Council approved the motion unanimously.

**Leadership Workshop:** Rachel Arps and Kris Huffman reported on the Leadership Workshop held at North Community Church and presented by the Southern Ohio Synod. Synod representatives presented the idea of having a Synod-wide meeting for all adult church members in Synod. Representatives also promoted the health assessment program for persons enrolled in the Synod health plan. Jeff and his family and Terry are the only Epiphany employees insured under the plan. Both have done the health assessment. There was also a presentation on boundary issues, i.e. sexual misconduct issues. The presenters emphasized the necessity of maintaining appropriate policies and procedures, training programs and liability insurance.

### **Pastor's Topics:**

**Maundy Thursday:** Next Thursday Evening Service will include foot washing. All Council members are encouraged to participate. Council members will perform the foot washing and should bring a volunteer to participate.

**Contemporary Worship Service:** Pastor Tim and Renita Hillis reported that progress has been made in finding a replacement for Jen Greenawalt. One candidate is presently a music teacher in the Pickerington School System who is scheduled to be laid off in connection with staff reductions. Our current pay scale is an obstacle. We have been paying Jen \$80 per Sunday for a long time. \$125 per Sunday is more appropriate. This is typically what we pay substitute organists. The amount contemplates about 5 hours work per week considering planning, rehearsals and services. Tim and Renita proposed raising the annual budget for Contemporary Service music from \$15,392 to \$18,460 This would include giving the three continuing band members a raise from \$54 to \$60 per service and hiring a new drummer at \$50 per service. After discussion and motion duly made and seconded, the proposal was unanimously approved. Expenditures for contemporary service music beyond the current budget for the Worship and Music Committee will be booked as unbudgeted.

**Southern Ohio Synod Assembly:** The Synod Assembly will be held at Wittenberg University on May 20 - 21. Tim and Jeff are scheduled to attend. Ali may attend part of the assembly. The Synod has allotted four

openings for Epiphany members - one male and one female and two of either gender. Accommodations are available in University dorms or at the Marriot in Springfield. Council members interested in attending or other Epiphany members wishing to attend should contact Tim.

**Haiti:** Pastor Tim learned from Pastor Binou that the situation in Haiti has stabilized sufficiently that the Haiti Timoun Foundation is offering its first immersion trip to Haiti since the earthquake. The trip is scheduled for July 13 -21 and costs \$800. There is room for 3 or 4 people from Epiphany. Anyone who is interested should contact Tim.

**Trinity Lutheran Seminary:** Tim reported that he has been nominated to serve on the Board of Trinity Lutheran Seminary. He does not know whether he will be elected.

**TGIW Proposal:** Tim presented a written proposal for a new program entitled TGIW standing for Thank God It's Wednesday. In a way it's an elaboration on the AC20 program referring to the after choir practice dinner and games for the original twenty or so kids involved. AC35 would be more accurate today. The idea is to have a regular Wednesday evening at church for all church members and their guests. The evening would feature a professionally prepared dinner, offered at a nominal charge, followed by educational, social and/or entertainment programs geared to specific age and interest groups. Development of the program will require resolving a number of issues including the employment of professional food preparers and clean up staff, development of a curriculum and faculty, publicizing the program to the community and establishing a realistic budget. In the discussion which followed, the consensus among Council members was that the proposal had good potential and that it was appropriate for Tim to develop the concept further.

**Cleaning Service:** Tim reported that a number of people, himself included, were dissatisfied with the cleaning service, considering the amount of money we are paying. He has requested that the Property Committee look at alternatives.

## **Round Table:**

**Property:** Craig Werner reported that he believes the property committee as located a motor and other parts necessary to repair the dishwasher in the kitchen. He also noted that there is a small roof leak in the vicinity of the cupola which needs to be addressed.

**Preschool:** The Preschool is making progress on its sign. Beth Boylard displayed a copy of the design drawing for the sign. She indicated that the Pickerington zoning inspector requested several changes to the design to bring it within compliance with the new sign ordinance. She hopes to have these matters resolved soon so that we can commence construction. Jeff Baker will be providing the brick. She estimates that total costs will be in the range of \$4,600 which is consistent with Council's action earlier this year approving the project.

A number of other events are on the calendar including Teacher Appreciation Week and a preschool mom's event. Beth will be treating preschool teachers to breakfast on Tuesday and Wednesday the week of April 17.

**Youth:** Lynn Chrisman anticipates that Epiphany will be sending a huge group of kids to the National Youth Gathering this year. His Committee is always on the lookout for fundraising opportunities to help defray the cost of the Youth Gathering. The Youth Group will be sponsoring a silent auction on May 15th. All proceeds will be used for the Gathering.

**Stewardship:** Stewardship Committee has designated May 1st as "Simply Giving Sunday." The Committee will promote enrollment in the Simply Giving automatic offering payment program. Charlie Cline, also, reminded Council members that the Jen Greenawalt Farewell Concert will be presented on May 21 at 7:30 PM.

**Congregational Life:** Darby Graves reported we had a great turnout for last Sunday's luncheon with Pastor Dave Shugert and his family. The Worship & Music Committee will be assisting with the Luncheon following Celebration Sunday in April.

**Evangelism:** Carol Low reported that the Evangelism Committee will be hosting a new members reception on May 1, 2011.

**Closing:** Kris Huffman led Council in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Wuerth  
Recording Secretary