

The Wesley Message From Center Street

Clarence UMC Monthly Newsletter December 2008

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Clarence United Methodist Board Meeting

The Clarence UMC regular board meeting was held November 19, 2008 in the Connector Room. Attending were Barbara & Reese Blaine, Lee Schoonover, Amy Presson, Jeff Barry, DeEtte & Ivan Carroll, Jim Watson, Rev Beryl Cragg; Susan McCarty, Dawn Masten, Sharon Schoonover, and Lynda Proper.

Rev. Beryl opened the meeting with prayer asking God's blessings. He then informed the board of the fire accident which occurred earlier in the day involving David Mefford. David was life-flighted to Columbia with severe burns to his face and hands resulting from a grease fire in his home.

Amy Presson then presented her treasurer's report which was reviewed by the board. The board was made aware that our youth groups are in need of funding for their Wednesday night suppers. DeEtte stated that the UMW had recently donated \$200.00 to them, along with the Lydia Circle collecting another \$60.00, both which had been presented to Kim Thompson, youth leader. It was decided that since there was no funding in our budget this year, we would ask for a special offering November 23 from church membership. This is to be announced by Rev. Beryl during church services on the 23rd. The moneys are to be placed in the Special Offering Bowl. Amy also stated that she needs to have copies of ALL the d & b sales tickets whenever someone buys supplies, so that she can credit to the appropriate fund. The report was then accepted as presented.

Jeff Barry reported for the Trustees. The tuck-pointing is progressing on the north side of the church. The insurance has sent a check in the amount of about \$29,000.00 towards the settlement for the repairs to the basement. Approximately \$3,000 additional payment may be received at a later date. The insurance company is asking for three estimates from building contractors, for the restoration. Jeff has contacted Mike Foucht, Larry Maupin, and Shad Fisher for them to submit bids, which they are putting together now. Their preliminary walk-through has been done, and a quick estimate is it will take about \$70,000. A separate bank account will be opened to keep track of all expenses relating to this project. The congregation is to be informed Sunday, as special offerings are going to be needed to complete the remodel. Jeff reported that the project for placing a covering over the east assessable parking area has not progressed.

Reese and Barbara Blaine reported on the planning for the Advent program for 2008. Advent bags prepared by the youth have been prepared for each church family. These bags include Devotional Books and Advent candles to be used throughout the Advent Season. DeEtte Carroll will have the children's story for the first Sunday of Advent, telling the Christmas story. This will be on November 30, during church services. E. W. Carroll will place the Nativity Scene outside the church, and Florence Schoonover will be responsible for the Advent Wreath. The Youth will take turns lighting the Advent Candles each Sunday and doing the readings. Decorating the church will be done on Saturday.

Dawn Masten reported that the grant has been submitted requesting funds for new Audio/visual equipment.

Reese suggested that we make plans now for our Spring Revival. He will contact Randy Berry, who spoke at last year's revival, to see if he can do it again. The proposed date we want to hold the revival is March 15, for perhaps 2 or 3 nights. Easter is April 12th in 2009.

Dawn reported that eleven people attended her Safe Sanctuary training meeting last Sunday. She also requested a copy of Clarence UMC Safe Sanctuary policy.

Meeting Adjourned.

Lynda Proper, Secretary

How Did Christmas Cards Come To Be?

Henry Cole, an Englishman, was too busy to write personal greetings for Christmas 1843. Cole hired artist John Calcott Horsley to design a ready-to-be-sent card. The hand-colored card Horsley designed was lithographed on stiff, dark cardboard and featured adults and children raising wine glasses in a toast. The first Christmas card also had various religious symbols. Sprigs of holly symbolized chastity, while ivy symbolized places God had walked. Feeding and clothing the poor were also encouraged on the card's cover. Under the picture was written "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you." Printed in an edition of 1,000, Horsley's card was sold in London stores. Only one of those cards exists today. Two reasons for the initial popularity of Christmas cards are given: The custom may have caught on because greetings could be mailed for a penny each in 1843, London. The other reason is attributed to a scandal with Horsley's design. A family, surrounded with religious symbols, holding glasses of wine, offended some. The controversy is thought to have helped promote Cole's idea.