

Pastor's Report to Consistory August 7, 2017

Given that this was rather a short month for me, having taken the last of my vacation from July 31 through August 6, I do not have a great deal to report. I did do quite a bit of visiting during the time that I did work, and right before I went on vacation three people were hospitalized: Wayne Frye, Shirley Weber and Ethel Hill. I was grateful that Pastor Joseph Hedden of Hill's church could cover for me during my absence. I have done the same for him in the past. My vacation began on a Monday, but Ethel became gravely ill on Sunday. She knew that she was dying, and was very much at peace about it. Also, she had left very specific instructions about her funeral, which included hymns, some of which are not in our hymnal, but which I had in my own collection of hymnals. I was able to copy these on Sunday, July 30, and pass them on to Ira and Rheba. On Monday, I spoke with Pastor Hedden, and communicated with him the special instructions that Ethel left. Pastor Hedden's comment about the whole funeral, from the printing of the bulletins to the funeral to the luncheon that followed, was that it all "ran like a well-oiled machine." A special thanks to Rheba for preparing the bulletin and for coming in an extra day to print it, to Ira for playing Ethel's special music and to Lynn Zimmerman and her volunteers and all the people who brought food for the luncheon. The family is most grateful as am I.

On another subject, even though our grant money and my continuing education money will have been expended as of the end of this month, The Rev. Jan Nolting Carter is willing to work with me through the end of the year, which will be a great help to me and subsequently, to the leaders of the congregation.

As a follow-up from our last consistory meeting, I contacted The Rev. Dr. Dierdre King-Hainsworth regarding her availability to come and spend time with the consistory helping us to think about Millennials and how to reach out to them. Dierdre, who does consulting with businesses as well as churches has offered to come at an extremely reasonable cost of \$200 plus her mileage from Pittsburgh. We are very blessed that she is willing to come for such a reasonable honorarium. We talked about her sharing correct information about these folk, since our assumptions may not be correct, and helping the consistory brainstorm some approaches to outreach. I suggested that we might use an entire consistory meeting to do this, taking about 1 ½ to 2 hours. I thought that this might be something to do after the first of the year to bring the newly elected officers on board. There might be some other people that we might want to invite, including Trude Hayes, who has now taken responsibility for our Facebook page. Trude is doing a

marvelous job, and this information might be helpful to her in deciding content for the page.

I heard from Chris, the organ repair person and he told us that the Lowry organ that was available to us, is a home organ and not a church organ. Also, it is expensive to repair, as the Lowry Company no longer makes parts for this organ. His comment was to stay with the Hammond, which we presently have.

We have made the amendments to the constitution and bylaws available to the congregation and scheduled a congregational meeting for September 24. We have already begun to announce the meeting in the bulletin and from the pulpit.

We need to begin to think about the fall corn-roast and barbecue. As far as I know, nothing has been done about this yet.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meredith Ann Hutchison". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Meredith Hutchison