

## What do Our Trustees Actually do?

Good question. Answer: maintenance and oversight of all church buildings and grounds; management of recurring expenses, such as for gas and electricity, new office equipment, furniture, fixtures—you get the idea. Trustees are also involved with safety at our church. They participate in the management of funds designated for our church's mission activities and participate in financial stewardship strategy, including developing the annual budget and planned giving. Our church Treasurer serves as a Trustee and contributes to the management of the church's finances. Trustees also serve on the Personnel Committee, the Preschool Board, the Nominating Committee and the Scholarship Committee.

## "Let There be Light"

has an extra **special** meaning for our church this Christmas season. The back parking lot and walkway lights of our church are not working. The Trustees are on top of the situation and have contracted with a vendor to install new wiring and upgrade our parking lot lights. **We anticipate the new lights to be beaming brightly just in time for Christmas Eve.** To keep everyone safe until then, the parking lot and walkways will be illuminated via temporary flood lights. To alert pedestrians of uneven walk surfaces, construction sawhorses with flashers have been placed in areas where the sidewalks have been cut. If you will be at the church after dark, please use extra '**special**' caution as you enter and exit the building. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this temporary inconvenience.

## Preschooler Seen Walking on Water in Kirk Center.

In a scene reminiscent of Peter's famous tenuous steps from the boat onto the Sea of Galilee, a pre-schooler was seen cautiously traversing the water soaked carpet in Kirk Center C3/C4. Upon closer inspection the child was walking *through* the water rather than on top of it. Once the non-miracle was revealed the question became "where is that water coming from?" After much investigation it has been determined that a drain line was the problem. New fixtures, piping and draining are all required. The Board of Trustees authorized \$8,000 at their October meeting to remedy this water situation.

## First Pres Bistro Gets Upgrade

Have you eaten any of the meals prepared in the main kitchen of our church? Good, right? It is truly amazing how much good food, sometimes serving hundreds of people, comes out of that kitchen. Well, the 50-year-old ranges and ovens finally gave out. Our trustees approved the purchase of new, safer, more-efficient, restaurant-quality equipment that was installed in late September. The cost of \$22,000 will be offset by many future years of serving hungry church goers, like the people that attended the recent Thanksgiving feast. Some of that money was actually donated by members who "put their money where their mouth is."

## Parking Lot Update.

The potholes and worn parking area lines in the parking lot and roads around the church have been an eyesore and annoyance for some time. Earlier this year the trustees autho-

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rized repairs to the potholes and repainting of the lines. Although we have many parking spaces for people with disabilities, we have many visitors and members needing those spaces. Please remember be courteous to others who use our facilities: **Park only in designated areas; No parking on the grass; No parking around the flagpole.**

## Youth Lounge to Make Saul-like Transformation.

The Youth Lounge had been treating its occupants poorly for some time. This designated fellowship and spiritual education area had been deteriorating and was generally unpleasant. Problems included broken appliances and fixtures, worn out carpet and flaking paint. In a transformation akin to Saul's on the road to Damascus, the Youth Lounge is undergoing a change in both name and personality. The Trustees have authorized \$3,500 to transform the former Youth Lounge into the newly-named 'Commons' a comfortable space where members and guests can gather for fellowship and education.

## 2010 Electric Rate Increases

In anticipation of the upcoming increases, we did our electricity shopping earlier this fall. After receiving several bids, we selected an alternative supplier and are under contract through December 2010. For our rate classification, PPL's newly adjusted kwh cost will be 10.48 cents per kwh. With our alternative supplier we will be paying 8.805 cents per kwh. A cost reduction of 1.675 cents per kwh. Historically FPC uses an average of 64,000 kwh per month, so roughly speaking our cost reduction over the newly published PPL rates is approximately \$1,072 a month.

## Wish List

Everybody has a wish list, even our Trustees. If you have a particular passion for something at our church, be it classroom renovations, bathrooms upgrades, new kitchen appliances, air conditioners, Christmas trees or whatever, let us know. We welcomed financial help and volunteer time and talent with all of these projects in 2008 and 2009. We will work with you to make your wish a reality. After all, stewardship of God's church is the responsibility of each one of us.

## Financial Update.

Stewardship commitments for 2010 are still being received. To date nearly 800 families have made commitments of over \$2 million to support Christ's mission and ministry in 2010. As we conclude 2009, we look to **finish strong** with 2009 commitments fulfilled at our usual 102% of expected. While some may have encountered financial road bumps this year, others have been able to give generously beyond their original commitments. As Pastor Alf has reported, we expect to end 2009 with a positive General Fund balance. Please help make that hope become our reality. As a **reminder**, for your 2009 contributions to be credited to your account for tax purposes they must be received in the finance office by closing at noon on December 31, 2009 (or postmarked that day).

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