

The History of the First Presbyterian Church Ontario Center, New York

Post July 2012

2012Through a series of fortunate circumstances and a little paper work, we have seized the opportunity to square away the West side of the church property. We were granted a fill permit issued to us by the town that has allowed us to receive some of the excess dirt from the excavation site at the corners of Route 104 and 350 where the Rite Aid store is being built. The dirt is environmentally clean and approved by the DEC. This is s a joint effort between us and our next door neighbor to the West, along with input from our neighbor two doors to the West. The church property extends behind both of these dwellings. The hope is to blend all three properties at the junction of the property lines to achieve a more pleasant viewing environment, while providing proper drainage for the area.

- New Form of Government from PCUSA begins with restructuring and updating documents and policies.
- Discussions begin around the Parish Hall roof support structure and tear-off of roofing materials. Submission of a loan application to PC USA is initiated for \$20,000 for the roof project.
- Neighbors of Wayne (NOW) team is formed to continue the momentum from the summer's REACH Workcamp energy. Small, do-able projects from neighbors in the area that were not accepted by REACH are being considered by the team to accomplish as day projects.
- Disaster Donation Distribution Center (3DC) proposed and approved by Session as a community outreach project for immediate supply of personal needs for those experiencing a personal disaster such as a house fire.
- Sacred Sites and other grant funding for projects in need of repair are sought. Memorial Fund provides \$3,500 and Friends for Fellowship donates \$2,000 as matching funds to the grant application specifically for stain glass repair.
- Presbytery of Geneva approves the sale of the manse and is listed for \$135,000.

- Roof project approved at the January 2013 meeting to include building stabilization with posts installed from basement to roof along with trusses. It was also approved to replace the shingled roof with a metal roof.
- An unused communion set found under the mechanism for the old organ behind the chancel area and was used last by Rev. Janice Fitzgerald was given to Bryan Bond who is starting a new church called Mercy Place.
- Pastor Carson has received a call to the Calvary St. Andrew's Church in Rochester to commence April 15, 2013.
- A Capital Campaign was approved by Session to commence with guest preacher, Rev. McMickle from Rochester-Colgate Divinity in October 2013 for \$70,000 for multiple contracted projects throughout the buildings including stained glass repair, Parish Hall & tower roofs, air flow, table storage in Parish Hall and add and update electrical outlets, electrical light switches in church, and parking lot sealant. Other tasks to be completed by members including refinishing church floors and adding a coat of protectant to Parish Hall floor, painting Pastor's office and church rails, and rehanging radiator in nursery. An outside locked spare key was added to Parish Hall exterior. Old hymnals were removed and given to members and donors and other general clean-up tasks were completed.
- Five children are confirmed on Sunday, April 14 becoming members of the congregation. They are: Abi DeWitte, Ben Grisley, Abi Pevear, Morgan Pevear and Margaret Stein. On the same day, the congregation enjoyed a luncheon to welcome the new members and to say farewell to Pastor Carson, Interim Pastor.
- A team of members formed Welcome New Pastor Task Force to begin discussions on ways to make our new pastor feel at home in the community, to help bring him/her up-to-speed on the daily/weekly activities of the church and to meet the pastor's needs. Buildings and Grounds members and the church secretary have been sprucing up the campus and the Pastor's office.
- Buildings and Grounds, along with Session approval, accepted the purchase offer of the manse with proceeds expected at approximately \$107,000 to be used exclusively toward housing allowance for the pastor. Closing of the sale occurred by year end 2013.
- Three high school graduates, class of 2013 were honored June 16. They include Nicole Stein, Adam Crumb and Evan Grisley.

- The Pastor Nominating Committee announces a candidate for congregational approval to occur on July 14, 2013. Reverend Deborah Grohman was approved to lead the church forward and will commence the call on September 4, 2013. Debbie's mother, Pastor Carolyn Grohman served as Interim Pastor (July, 1997), prior to Rev. Cheryl Galan's tenure.
- The week-long Workcamp 2013 concluded on Saturday, July 27 with 21 campers and 8 adults from Ontario responding to the needs of neighbors in Newfane, NY.
- WiFi was installed in the church sanctuary July 2013 along with restoration work on some of the stain glass windows.
- Copyright for music and video licenses were purchased.
- The installation service for Pastor Debbie Grohman occurred on Sunday, November 24, 2014. A delightful service of high-spirited lines of brass and percussion notes, balanced with sweet and tender tones from the woodwinds and piano provided the perfect blend and amen to complement the words of installation. Many speakers were from the Presbytery of Geneva along with personal friends and family members of Pastor Deb. A reception followed in the Parish Hall.
- Christmas Eve service was held in very snow conditions and was well attended.
- The 2013 Annual Meeting occurred on January 26, 2014 with installation of new elders and deacons occurring the following Sunday.
- Marybeth Masker steps down after 10 years serving on Session as Clerk. A reception for Ken and Marybeth occurred on Sunday, February 2.