

The Not Quite Mid-Week Reflection

November 20, 2018

Thoughts About Us

You are receiving this a day early as I will be working on Sunday's sermon tomorrow, Thanksgiving Eve. I hope you all do have a happy and healthy Thanksgiving and are able to share time and your love for family and those who have become like family to you.

This past Sunday afternoon, we made it through our annual All Church Conference. Honestly, I wish we are able to use a different format so we would all be together and so we could authentically celebrate all we have accomplished this past year. We met with our assigned "network." That is new to the Great Plains and the Topeka District. We are now connected to Berryton, Big Springs, Highland Park, SHUMC, Stull and Tecumseh. The idea is each pastor and several lay members of each church will meet regularly to determine how we might do some of our work together. One thought has been to plan and execute some shared youth and children's events. On a small scale we are already doing that with Big Springs. We had a fall event at "Henry's" and plans are being made for a Pre-Christmas event. Additionally, attempts have been made to plan youth activities. Another possibility is to focus on mission for our surrounding area. I will keep you posted. Meanwhile, if you would like to represent SHUMC, do let me know. It is likely these gatherings will be mid-week evenings. Our first gathering was at SHUMC and I am happy to host future gatherings here as well.

The business of the evening meant my salary package was approved. Thank you. My base will be increased to meet conference standards for a Full Elder. That is now \$44,040, an increase of almost \$850. The rest of my package (housing, health insurance, reimbursements for education and travel, and pension) remains unchanged.

Our total budget for 2019 will be approved at our November Church Council meeting which is Wednesday, November 28 at 6:00. This will be the final meeting for the 2018 SHUMC Leaders. Our new leadership begins in January of 2019. Those positions were approved at Church Conference as well. Packets with that information will be available on the information desk and will be in the January *Echoes*.

I am especially grateful for Jo Scott and the work she does to provide Finance Team with monthly statements and helps me with our annual monetary reports to the Great Plains Conference. Bethany Hendricks was also a big help

gathering the data about our membership. Both of them are a huge help to me and indirectly then, to each of you.

This past week Trustees purchased a new heating unit for the north wing/nursery area. They are now wrestling with a repair needed for a unit that provides heat to the Pre-K classrooms off the gym. The more fun news is that a new table and chairs arrived for the parlor and the furniture for the youth room is scheduled to arrive next Monday. More parlor furniture will arrive soon.

I know that several of you designated extra giving in 2019 to go to Capital Improvements. Thank you. It is not too late to make a donation to that fund. Remember, your estimate of regular giving all goes to operating. That includes all salaries, and funding all of our ministry areas as well as day-to-day upkeep of the facility. Major repairs or improvements come from Capital Improvements or the Succi Fund, which is designated for maintenance. A church as young as SHUMC does not have an Endowment Fund that grows significant interest and can fund special projects in the future. For now, we depend on the generosity of each of you today. Trustees will continue to inform you of repairs and plans for future upgrades. Thank you for all that you do, especially Trustees. We continue to receive complements about how nice our facility looks.

I do hope you each have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Do take time to thank those who have made a difference in your life, especially this past year. The *Echoes* will be out next Wednesday. We appreciate all the info many ministry teams have already turned in. The deadline was this Monday, 11.19.2018.

This coming Sunday, November 25th will be "The Hanging of the Greens" immediately after worship. Wreaths and trees will be put up along with other Christmas decorations. Fellowship time can be in the sanctuary as not everyone will be needed for the work. The next Sunday, December 2nd will be the presentation of our Memory Tree Ornaments. This is your heads-up so you can find the ornaments you will hang on the sanctuary tree.

One more thank-you goes to the many that brought food and monetary donations for the Breakthrough House Thanksgiving Dinner. Again, Natalie Copeland and Kris Denton helped organize this. What an awesome job. As my family gathers around our table, I will offer prayer for those we serve and those who will serve on this special day. Take care of yourselves. Be kind. Forgive. Find time to be with God...whatever that means for you. I hope to see you...and your families in worship this Sunday. The scripture is John 18: 33-37 and the sermon is "Not From This World." When have you notice something that can only be explained by the presence of God?

Blessings and joy and endless love,

Barb