

December 2017 Newsletter

*But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no,
not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.
Matthew 24:36*



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The Day and Hour Unknown

³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

PASTOR'S LETTER



“Do not owe anyone anything.” Rom. 13:8

The common sounds of Christmas are now being heard on the streets and in the homes of many communities. It used to be that “jingle bells” meant the bells on the horses pulling the sleigh. Now, as times have changed, the only sound that comes close to the sound jingle bells is the sound of a cash register as it “dings” when it is opened.

Ah, yes, times do change—and even the bells of busy Christmas cash registers have now given way to another sound. That would be the “zip” of a credit card as it slips through the machine. You give the salesperson your plastic credit card and “zzzzzip” the card makes its sound as you now have assumed another financial obligation.

That’s right, you have another financial obligation destined to be paid at a “more convenient time.” Perhaps this obligation will be paid over the months of January and February and—well, how generous do you get at Christmas time? If you’re generous enough you may still be paying for Christmas of 2017 in July and August of 2018 and so it goes: “zzzzzip” the card makes its noise as you have now assumed yet another financial obligation.

St. Paul says, **“Do not owe anyone anything”** and that’s what this newsletter article is all about. If God were to send us a statement at the end of any month, it would show that we have amassed some very great debts. Out debts to God are what the Bible calls “sin.” Sin is a debt not easily paid at a “more convenient time.” Furthermore, our debt of sin has to be paid in full!

But, blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God’s statement shows that our debt of sin already has been paid—“in full!” That’s what the Christmas Season is all about. The whole story of Christ throughout the year is about God the Father forgiving us on account of Christ Jesus: his birth in Bethlehem, the worship of the shepherds and the wise men, his presentation in the temple—It’s all about him whom God sent to forgive our debt of sin.

And, all that it requires to obtain this gift is faith in the goodness of our great and gracious God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Faith says, “I believe that! I believe that Jesus was born for me. He died for me. He rose from the dead for me. I believe that.” That’s faith, and it is the means by which God the Father credits the merits of Jesus Christ to your account. Merry Christmas!

Ever in Christ,

Pastor Leon
Schultz



MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Oct. 19, 2017

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 7:07 p.m., on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017 by President David Ballah. Present were: President Ballah, Vice President and Chairperson of the Board of Finance Richard Sinnigen, Treasurer Dan Robinson, Secretary David Martin, Financial Secretary Donna Buco, Chairperson of the Board of Stewardship Bill Oehlkers, and Pastor Schultz. Dawn Nahlik was also present as an observer. The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Pastor. Chairperson of the Board of Deacons Joe Norris joined the meeting at 7:09 p.m. Chairperson of the Board of Social Ministry Danlette Norris joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Treasurer Robinson left the meeting after giving his report and giving the information about accounting software which appears at the end of these minutes.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the Sept. 21, 2017, Church Council meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Dan Robinson distributed a Treasurer's Report for the period Jan. 1 through Sept. 30, 2017. Total income during this period was \$165,432.08 and total disbursements were \$149,319.31, resulting in net ordinary income of \$16,112.77. The balance of Memorial Funds as of Sept. 30, 2017, was \$250,414.07. This is an increase of \$47,259.11 from Aug. 30, 2017. The increase is due almost entirely to a gift of \$47,158.61 for replacement of the school roof by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The rest of the increase is due to the addition of interest.

Call Committee. At this point in the meeting, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to dispense with the regular order of business and to proceed immediately to the recommendation from the Call Committee. Bill Oehlkers, Chairperson of the Call Committee, then explained that the Call Committee had unanimously concluded that no changes had occurred since the decision of the Voters in January and February 2017 to (1) call a pastor from the field and (2) contract with Pastor Schultz as vacancy pastor to the end of Feb. 2018. Accordingly, the Call Committee was recommending that this finding be ratified by the Church Council. Bill further noted that the Call Committee had asked President Ballah to inquire of Pastor Schultz if he would be willing to stay on if we have not obtained a new pastor by March 1st. President Ballah said that he had spoken with Pastor Schultz and that Pastor was willing to stay on until a new pastor has been obtained.

David Martin said that he had sent an email earlier in the day (Oct. 19) informing the Call Committee that Pat Martin was seeking to have a special meeting called "for the purpose of having the congregation decide whether to continue with the Call process or to end that process and have Pastor Schultz continue as our pastor after Feb. 28, 2018." Copies of the email were distributed. After extended discussion, it was the consensus that the Council was not in a position to act upon the recommendation from the Call Committee.

Pastor's Report. Pastor reported that the confirmation class has three members: Dane Watson, Cameron Arrundell, and Hawa Cole. New members will be received into membership on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017. They are: Mr. Robert and Mrs. Charlene Mastrostefano, and their sons Andrew and Jacob; Mr. Derek and Mrs. Kate-Lynne Laroche; Ms. Eva Gaines; and Ms. Rachel Hutchins.

Trustees. David Martin reported that he had asked a third roofing contractor, Mr. Gordon H. Chandler, to look at the school roof for the purpose of giving an estimate of the cost to replace it. Mr. Chandler did so and said: (1) that the existing roof must have been installed after July 1990 because the rubber on the roof was manufactured in July 1990 (the date is printed on the rubber); (2) that the roof is in basically good shape and does not need to be replaced; (3) that the fact that water pools in some spots on the roof is not a problem; (4) that he does recommend that the seams be resealed; and (5) that without doing the measurements he could not give an estimate of the cost for replacing the roof, but fifty or sixty thousand would be a ballpark guess. David Martin noted that Derek Matuszek had spent an extensive amount of time preparing (at our request) an estimate for a new roof and that he had also fixed on an expedited basis two or three leaks in the school roof without charging us. Because we want to be able to continue to call upon Derek in the future, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to authorize the Trustees to compensate Derek up to \$250 for the time he spent preparing the estimate. It was agreed that normally contractors are not compensated for preparing estimates, but given that Derek has done work for which he has not charged us, the Council concluded that the authorization was warranted.

Old Business.

Accounting Software. The accounting software on the church computer is a 2006 version of Church Helpmate. Our computer is aging, and we do not have the original installation disc for Church Helpmate. If the computer dies, we will not have any accounting software. Dan reported that he called the computer person at Our Redeemer regarding our problem. That person offered three suggestions: (1) he will look to see if Our Redeemer has an installation disc for Church Helpmate; (2) we could try to have a commercial computer company migrate the program from our old

computer to a new computer, a difficult process; and (3) we could try using Quickbooks. It was suggested that we should contact the New England District and ask if they could ask churches in the District if they have an installation disc for Church Helpmate.

Because of the lateness of the hour, the Council did not reach the other items on the agenda. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting ended at 8:32 p.m. with the recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin,

MINUTES OF VOTERS' MEETING

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017 A meeting of the Voters' Assembly was held on Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017, in the Sanctuary following the worship service. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by President David Ballah, Sr.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the Sept. 17, 2017, Voters' Assembly.

Pastor Schultz proposed that Dawn Nahlik be admitted into voting membership, and a motion was made, seconded, and passed admitting her to voting membership.

The next item on the agenda was the election of a vice president. Richard Sinnigen had been nominated by the Nominating Committee which was composed of Bill Oehlkers, Joe Norris, Pastor Schultz, and David Martin. There were no nominations from the floor. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed to elect Richard Sinnigen as vice president to serve a term ending June 30, 2018.**

The last item on the agenda was the second and final vote on the proposed amendment to the church constitution. The amendment had been previously approved by more than a two-thirds majority at the last Voters' Meeting on Sept. 17, 2017. The amendment would amend the first sentence of Article 10 of the constitution by inserting

the six words which appear below in bold italics:

This constitution may be changed and amended by a two-thirds majority ***vote of the voting members present*** in two consecutive meetings, following the meeting in which such change or amendment is proposed.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed by more than two-thirds of the voters present to approve the proposed amendment. As this was the second and final vote on the proposed amendment, it is now effective.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary

MINUTES OF
SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING

Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017

A special meeting of the Voters' Assembly was held on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017, in the Sanctuary following the worship service. The meeting had been requested by Pat Martin and a group of other voters pursuant to Article 4, Section 2 of the By-Laws (allowing a special meeting to be called by twenty voting members of the congregation). The purpose of the meeting was to decide whether to continue with the Call process or to end that process and have Pastor Schultz continue as our pastor after Feb. 28, 2018.

President David Ballah, Sr., called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. He turned the meeting over to Secretary David Martin because he had just returned from a tiring trip. Pastor Schultz was recognized, and he addressed the meeting. Pastor Schultz expressed his willingness to continue serving as pastor but also said that he would accept whatever the congregation decided. Pat Martin was recognized, and she read a statement, explaining why the special meeting had been requested and why she felt that we should end the Call process. At the end of her statement, Pat moved to end the Call process and have Pastor Schultz continue as our pastor after Feb. 28, 2018. The motion was seconded by Danlette Norris and discussion followed.

Bill Oehlkers addressed the meeting as chair of the Call Committee. He said that the Call Committee would accept whatever decision the Voters' Assembly made. Bill then addressed the Voters in his individual capacity and explained why he felt the Call process should continue.

After further discussion by several other voters, a vote on the motion was taken by paper ballot. Pat Martin and Bill Oehlkers counted the ballots. **The motion to end the Call process and have Pastor Schultz continue as our Pastor after Feb. 28, 2018, passed by a vote of 73 to 5.**

Pat Martin then moved that Pastor Schultz continue as our pastor indefinitely. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. No nay votes were heard.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary

Fall Clean-up on Dec. 9th. We are having our annual fall clean-up on Saturday, Dec. 9th from 9:30 a.m. to noon. (Rain date Dec. 16.) Please come and help rake and bag leaves. Let's make St. Paul's look good for Christmas!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DATE	READERS	COMM. ASSISTANTS	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS
3	Youth	Bill Oehlkers Joe Norris	Mary Abbenante Hellen Miller	Leela Ballah Seaniah Ballah Solomon Paye Hardlyn Dauda
10	Titi Adeyeke		Mary Abbenante Hellen Miller	Rick Sinnigen Mack Makor Joe Norris
17	Rick Sinnigen	Joe Norris Rick Sinnigen	Mary Abbenante Hellen Miller	Kim King Bill King Dennis Kollie Helen Miller
24 Xmas Eve	Kevin Riley		Mary Abbenante Hellen Miller	Kevin Kehyei Dan- lette Norris George Dauda Grace Dauda
25 Xmas Day	Pat Martin		Mary Abbenante Hellen Miller	As Available

31	Abel Dobson	Corvah Akoiwala Rick Sinnigen	Mary Abbenante Hellen Miller	Kim King Bill King Dennis Kollie Hel- en Miller
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3 Janet Hencler

4 Martha Richard

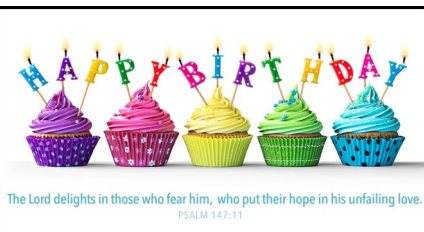
7 Beatrice James

8 Kollette Barclay

14 Eleanor Sinnigen

15 Melanie Cooke

16 Sackie Makor



24 Constance Stoskopf

Marie Makor

25 Comfort Kehyei

29 Brian M. Pendergast

Dec. 1 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Richard (61)

Dec. 28 Mr. & Mrs. William Varfley (32)

Dec. 29 Mr. & Mrs. Felix Cintron (26)

