

Where We Are – September 20, 2009

1. The Parish Meeting is confirmed for November 8th. It will be held here at Crissey Farm. It will be a full lunch potluck. Valerie and Pennie are the organizers. The children will be providing some special touches and food for that day. More to come at a future time.
2. Yesterday, Francie and I attended the Berkshire Summit held at St. Stephen's Church. Last week, I shared information with you about the five South Berkshire churches exploring the idea of joint worship in the two or three months of winter. Our church meeting is next Sunday evening.

Well, the Holy Spirit is actively moving in the Berkshires: St. Marks in Adams and St. John's in North Adams have both entered into an agreement to further explore a coming together. Reverend Ed King is now the Priest in charge at St. Mark's. They have joint worship twice a month and their Vestries are having some joint meetings. Also, Grace Church in Dalton, St. Helena's in Lenox and St. Martin's in Pittsfield are going forward on some joint experience. Grace Church will be doing shut-in visits for St. Martin's, many of whose parishioners are shut-ins. St. Martin's will worship at St. Helena's for the winter.

Eight months ago, the diocesan staff presented Berkshire churches with some stark realities and we all obviously listened and heard. Yesterday's meeting was filled with stories of hope and newly-discerned futures.

Where We Are – September 13, 2009

1. St. Paul's Church has invited all of the five Southern Berkshire churches to worship with them on November 15th. They are commemorating 150 years of the placing of the cornerstone for their building. The Vestry decided we will worship and celebrate with them. There will be reminders in the *Bulletin*.
2. At our last South Berkshire Summit in August (with Christ Church, Trinity Lutheran, St. George's, Good Shepherd, St. Paul's and St. James' churches) the question was raised about the possibility of opening only two church building during the two-three months of winter and worshipping together. This would help to save some heating dollars. We learned during those conversations that some congregations worship in their Parish Hall in the winter and not in the church, which can be drafty and difficult to heat. We were asked to bring that idea back to our Vestries. We discussed it on Thursday and our Vestry has agreed to continue this conversation. There is still a lot of dialogue that must continue in order to make this happen.
3. The clergy at all five churches are also working on a "pulpit swap" and
4. Because of our experience at Partnership Missional Church, this weekend we are rethinking the date of the Parish meeting. It will not be October 18th but will probably be in November. We will get back to you with the date.

Where We Are – August 30, 2009

1. Parish meeting is set for October 18th. Worship and meeting will take place at Berkshire South Community Center. Worship will be at 10:00 AM. We will have the use of the auditorium from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM. We will have a simple Pot Luck lunch. Valerie Smith and her helpers will organize this.
2. A package of information will be sent this week to legal counsel and our insurance broker. They will be negotiating with Lexington, the insurance company.
3. Mr. Garducci will begin work this month on removing the Ascension Window.
4. Please stack the chairs against the window wall.

Where We Are – August 23, 2009

1. The fence has been erected. We are looking for some gate entrance to provide access for weeding, watering, etc.
2. We have received a letter from the insurance company, informing us that there will not be any more dollars coming. That letter has been sent to our legal counsel, who will have 30 days in which to respond.
3. We are deciding the date for our Parish meeting.

BONJOUR

Where We Are – August 16, 2009

1. We received a check for \$190,000 from the insurance company. This will help us pay a number of invoices from the engineers and the contractor.
2. There has been no movement on opening the Parish House. The original engineer (Sacco McKenney) must sign off on the stabilization work done and then everything will go to Edward May, the Building Inspector.
3. This week we expect the fence company to be on site to erect the barrier fence around the church. Remember, this is to ensure the public's safety. It is one of the items on the safety list to be done within two months by Ryan Biggs. The last item on that safety list is to define and implement a monitoring program. You can help by reinforcing with your friends and neighbors that the fence is only for safety reasons – no other decisions on the building have been made.
4. Early this evening, Francie, Doug and I will be participating in our work for the Berkshire Summit with four other churches from Southern Berkshire (St. George's, Good Shepherd, St. Paul's and Christ Church). We are preparing for the September 16th Berkshire Corridor Summit.
5. We will be planning a Parish-wide meeting. I hope to have a date for next week, although with summer vacations happening now, we do not expect that it will be much before mid-October.