



## *Celebrating Our Journey*

### **Celebrating Our Journey Special Newsletter 3**

As you read this special newsletter the family of Jonesville United Methodist Church is quickly approaching Celebration Sunday, May 18. Those involved with the campaign are continuing an intense effort, we hope has been well received and successful, to inform all members of our church and those who attend.

Our recently completed Information Sessions had two objectives: one, to provide information and answer individual questions and two, gathering the ideas of our members for the future role of our church in missions, ministries and programs or creating our vision for the future. This newsletter will address a few of the questions asked during the information sessions and share some of the ideas generated during these sessions.

Celebrating Our Journey is a special three year campaign with much discussed objectives. Concurrently with Celebrating Our Journey is our annual stewardship campaign. Both these efforts need our full support and neither should be lost in our prayerful consideration of our commitment. Stewardship must not suffer as a result of Celebrating Our Journey. The ongoing mission of our church depends on our annual commitment to stewardship. Celebrating Our Journey will allow us to do more in the future as we operate from a sound financial and physical foundation. To reach our goals will require sacrifice over the next three years.

**Take Note:** Enclosed you will find two pledge cards. One pledge card is for our annual stewardship giving. The second pledge card is for Celebrating Our Journey. These cards should be presented on Celebration Sunday, May 18. We would appreciate all cards being submitted prior to June 1.

**Take Special Note:** Celebration Sunday is May 18. All are invited to attend a special 10:30 AM service. There will be no early service that day. However, Sunday School classes will continue as usual. The special 10:30 service will be followed with a celebration meal and other activities. You will be receiving a reminder phone call in the next few weeks.

### **Questions asked during Information Sessions:**

Who decides how money raised for missions from Celebrating Our Journey will be spent?

If fully subscribed, the sum for missions over and above our annual budget for the next three years will be considerable. Our “Outreach Ministries Team” is responsible for creating and directing our budgeted mission’s effort. However, the sum for missions coming from Celebrating Our Journey will be channeled in a somewhat different manner. The actual procedure has not been determined, but Administrative Council will examine all ideas submitted. Ideas will come from both Administrative Council representatives and the “vision checks” distributed in our info sessions. Ad Council will compile and evaluate these ideas, then discuss these ideas within the council. The Ad Council, with some form of additional input from the church family, will determine the use of the available mission funds.

If the campaign falls short, what will be funded and what will be left out?

As proceeds from Celebrating Our Journey become available they will be allocated to the Trustees for work on our facilities and restoring the endowment, to prepayment installments on our debt and to missions. The Trustees have their priorities and will be responsible for decisions regarding facilities during the campaign. They are committed to do as much as possible with the resources available. Our present plan for paying off our debt calls for maximizing our annual payments without incurring prepayment penalties. This approach will allow us to pay off the debt in six years. If we are unable to pay off all our debts through Celebrating Our Journey efforts, we have a choice. We could restructure our debt and reduce our payments or continue our current payments for a short, period paying off the debt early. In either case, we would be able to increase our programs, ministries and missions within a few years following the campaign.

What fee are we paying our consultant RSI for the campaign?

RSI will receive a fee of \$29,000. The Consultant provides three levels of service. We have chosen RSI consultants to provide guidance, organization and training. Those involved with the campaign believe these services are indispensable to our success.

How will funds raised during the campaign be accounted for?

Several bodies within the church are responsible for the funds that are held in endowments or received and expended by the church annually. This is also true for the fund that will be available from Celebrating Our Journey. The church has both internal and external audits completed on a regular basis as well as oversight by the Troy Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Trustees are responsible for endowment funds while the Finance Committee oversees the budget. Our treasurer dispenses funds and the financial secretary is responsible for receipt and recording of funds. Financial transactions are all recorded in the church office. In addition, the Bridge Team, a committee within the Celebrating Our Journey leadership, will continue to function through the entire three years of the campaign, with oversight responsibility and with the charge of providing periodic updates to the church membership. No two functions are done by the same group or persons. Therefore, there are sufficient checks and balances to feel confident that all funds are safeguarded and spent as intended.

What are the costs of the various projects included in the Trustee's list of projects?

The projects included in our campaign were tentatively prioritized by the Trustees after an evaluation of our facility by an architect and restoration contractor. However, the list presented here is not in order of priority. While examining the list, please keep the following in mind. Any list prioritized or not, is subject to change over time as a result of changing circumstances such as, emergencies arising, the resources available and cost inflation of individual projects. All costs given are estimates from contractors, not formal bids. We are still gathering information on some projects. Once a project is started, more will be uncovered and learned about underlying conditions, which may lead to additional costs. (See following "Summary of Projects")

## Summary of Projects

Stained Glass Windows – remove widows – replace missing or broken glass, repair and repaint wooden frame and trim, replace and ventilate protective window covering.

\$110,000

Replace all rotten or infested structural components replace, repair rotten clapboard and trim, power wash wood surface, repair cracks and renew the coating on the foundation.

\$ 55,000

Scrape, seal, prime and paint the exterior of the sanctuary and attached structures.

\$20,000

Replace worn and stained carpet in classrooms and hallways; replace worn and damaged kitchen floor.

\$15,000

Repairs to parsonage including: mechanical systems, upgrade kitchen and bathroom, replace front porch and rotten wood along fascia, repair slate roof and address other issues related to exterior.

\$65,000

Replace asphalt shingles and flashing on main church roof. This was identified as needing replacement within 5 years by the architect as part of the assessment completed in April of 2006.

\$25,000

Replace funds used from the endowment to pay for rebuilding the bell tower, replacing three rooftop HVAC units on the flat roof, three main heating units, asphalt shingles for the fellowship hall and rubber roofing system for the flat roof.

\$115,000

Various upgrades to the church that have been considered but never completed, they include: retrofit kitchen to correct the cause of freezing pipes, electrical upgrade, ADA compliant automatic doors for lower side entrance, air conditioning the sanctuary, canopy for the fellowship hall entrance connecting to the side entrance canopy.

\$50,000

## **Ideas proposed in the “Vision Checks” submitted from the Info Sessions.**

The list of suggestions below is not all inclusive. The ideas represent a sampling of those submitted during our info sessions. All ideas will be considered by the Administrative Council though there is no expectation that all will be implemented. The suggestions are those having to do with missions supported by Celebrating Our Journey and those that will be possible as a result of not having debt service in our annual budget. Suggestions that relate to our facilities already listed by the trustee have not been listed again here.

### **Missions -**

Missions involving the participation of children

More “hands on” ministries and missions

Increase giving toward existing missions

Support for the Capital District US Center for Refugees and Immigrants

Support for the Ministries Covert Relationship through UM Board of Global Ministries

Additional support for Habitat for Humanity

Educational scholarship for a single parent

Assist struggling families with vocational training and education to break the cycle of poverty

### **Ministries, Programs –**

Additional Sunday School offering for adults

Take care of “older member”

Community wide program(s) for young adults

Establish or enhance programs, functions and activities for various sub populations, young, elderly, singles, young families, empty nesters etc.

More gender specific retreats and special retreats for other groups, e.g. married couples, young parents, widows, divorced etc.

## Facilities –

Establish fund for preventive maintenance

Piano for the Upper Room

Upgrade technology to attract younger families

Upgrade restrooms

Improve “curb appeal” with improved landscaping, signage, lighting, etc.

Large “youth friendly space” just for youth

A large Sunday School / Children’s Church room

Wider hand bell tables

## **If you have questions or concerns – contact –**

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*From the past.....*  
*Into the future.....*

