

PASTOR'S REPORT to the CONSISTORY of RICHVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 5th, 2020

PASTORAL CARE for August "By The Numbers"

- Visits/Counseling Sessions: 15
- Communion (off-site): 1
- Hospital Visits: 3
- Nursing Facility Visits: 2
- Home Visits: 5
- Funerals: 1

I want to begin this report by giving great affirmation and thanks to all of those who made our Fall Festival such a remarkable success despite the strains and changes we had to face this year. Everyone pulled together and adjusted "on the fly" remarkably. Additionally, beyond volunteers and donors, the parishioners and community members who came by to purchase meals and raffle tickets was

impressive and encouraging. Even with the wear-and-tear of the weekend and the reduction in attendance since the pandemic began, we still had 21 in worship yesterday (we have been averaging between 20 and 29 since "Back-To").

With the Festival wrapped for another year, it is now time to get ready for Stewardship Season (beginning on November 1st). The Finance Committee and I have discussed doing testimonial videos as we did last year (so if you are willing, I would welcome and appreciate your volunteerism). I still have to run it past the committee, but my proposed theme for this year is "What's Next?" and I will be using the Lectionary to encourage us to think about how GOD's promises have carried us through good and difficult times in the past, so we ought to orient our living and giving toward a faith-filled future (even amidst the many challenges of our current realities).

Here, I would like to share updates on a couple of the projects I have been working on. By this point, everyone from Consistory and Staff have had at least a couple of contacts made with them via the DialMyCalls "All-Call" system that we've been using. The free trial has some limitations, but is pretty close to what the paid version will be. I have attached to this report the proposed fee for an annual membership with this service. Most everyone has informed me that the system worked for them (even if they only received 1 or 2 of the methods of contact -as some people do not utilize texting, etc.). Along the lines of communication, the website redesign is under way and looking good. There are edits and additions to be made before completion, but you can see how it is progressing by going to <http://8fu2d7tx.attwebpace.com/>. Next, I including an "invitation" in my last newsletter article to participate in "Porch Time with The Pastor/Meals with The Minister" and have had 3 visits and a few people schedule with me as a result.

Moving on, Christian Education has been facing some challenges with long-range planning (as our Chairperson has been exceptionally taxed of late), but Gar Bickel and Jennifer Schumacher have continued to pull things together. Since Sunday School resumed, Jen has been exceptionally faithful in teaching the couple of kids we've had return to worship. The core group of the committee is also in the process of planning their Trunk-or-Treat/Best-Dressed-Pet event for the beginning of next month.

As regards pastoral care, the last couple of weeks have been quite intense. In addition to the routine work of my position, a number of families have been contending with difficult medical situations with their loved ones, we have seen more people beginning to feel the effects of Covid-19 (emotionally, spiritually, etc.) and a few folks moving to palliative care &/or hospice settings. Here, I want to once again extend my gratitude to Bonnie Willis, Called 2 Care, and the Prayer Chain for helping keep the congregation connected and lifting one another up.

On a pleasant note, Patrick McCann contacted me and wants to gift the church with a pump organ that his mother and Jack Isler had restored some years ago. I am inserting pictures of it on the next page...



Please advise me how to respond to this offer.

Looking into next month, we are quickly approaching Advent (which begins on November 29th this year). I have shared my proposed theme and possible devotional book with the Spiritual Life Committee. In addition to those normal, annual considerations, we, of course need to be discussing what special services, seasonal mission projects, and activities like the Kids' Christmas Skit will "look like" this year.

Finally, I ask everyone to help Jenny and me ensure that the church office has accurate and updated contact information for our members. And with that, I thank you all for the hard work, tenacity, generosity, creativity, flexibility, faithfulness and more that you've exhibited so thoroughly in recent months!

Respectfully submitted...

*All Peace, Love & Blessings;
your brother & servant in Christ-Jesus,*

Will Stuart (pastor)