

# PASTOR'S POTPOURRI

## Zach

We welcomed Zach Wright to SPLC on September 9. He will be with us until May 5. Zach is our twenty-second field ed student (the 17th from Princeton Theological Seminary). Read more about him in this newsletter. Zach will be on site 10-12 hours/week. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to and continues to support this ministry through the Raising Up Leaders fund. RUL enables us to help future pastors discover and develop their gifts for parish ministry.

## Irene

Earlier this year, SPLC received a \$33,474 undesignated bequest from the estate of Irene Friedman. Our policy is to designate at least 10% of an undesignated bequest to ministries beyond our congregation. A bequest may be designated for a specific area of ministry at SPLC, such as a new organ or piano. If it is not designated, then at least 10% of the bequest will be used as Irene's was.

In August, Council approved a motion to distribute \$3,500 of Irene's bequest as follows:

- \$1,000 to local ministries that provide feeding programs. \$200 to the TASK venues at the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Hightstown; and \$200 each to RISE, Project Head Start, and Better Beginnings.
- \$1,500 to the NJ Synod's Bishop's Challenge – Changing the World One Cow at a Time.
- \$1,000 to the ELCA for immigration and refugee services and microloans.

The Congregation Council will determine how the remainder of Irene's bequest will be used.

## Forward in Faith

Our Mortgage Reduction Campaign began in May 2017. In sixteen months, you have given \$339,551 and lowered our principal from \$725,000 to \$289,760. Is this an accounting error? No, the \$289,760 includes MRC giving and monthly mortgage payments of \$5,954. Because of the MRC, the monthly principal is now over \$4,700. Not too long ago, it was less than \$1,000. Thanks to your stewardship, we are well on our way to defeating what once seemed like an unconquerable Goliath -- our mortgage.

## Fearless Generosity

Pr. Scott Schantzenbach, Assistant to Bishop Bartholomew, will meet with the Congregation Council on September 10 to lead a discussion on generosity. He will return to preach at both Services on October 21 and speak at Adult Forum. Scott is our Synod's Stewardship (or Generosity) Specialist and a dynamic preacher. Some of you may remember that he was the keynote speaker at our *Growing through Grace...Building in Faith* Capital Campaign Kick-Off Dinner on Sunday, June 4, 2006. On that evening, the "fearless generosity" of the people of SPLC was on full display.

## Lights Out! (And off and on and ...)

The lighting system in the Sanctuary was damaged in early July by either a power surge or lightning strike. The control panel was effected, and since then we have been working on a solution to correct it. The system is over 25-years-old, and the part cannot be repaired, nor can a replacement part be found. In the meantime, the lights in the Sanctuary work, but cannot be dimmed or used in preprogrammed settings (eg. wall sconces only, pendant lights only, sconces and center aisle together, etc.). For now, it's all lights on or all off. The Property Committee is working on a fix which could be a new system.

Watch for new lights along the office entrance sidewalk. Attached to the building, they will replace the three worn light posts which are over 35-years-old.

## Favorite Sunday Sights and Sounds

- Parents and children sitting together at Worship
- Parents in Adult Forum while their children are in Sunday School
- A visitor warmly welcomed
- Little voices praying the Lord's Prayer
- Laughter at Worship, Education Hour, and Fellowship Time
- Corporate silence during the Confession and the Prayers of Intercession

*Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.*

*James R. Egan*