

# PASTOR PETERSON'S COUNCIL REPORT – DECEMBER

**1. FUND RAISING** – I have been getting push back on the decision to try and limit the fund raising activities in the narthex. It's coming from the Nicaragua Task Force. They had their bake sale this past weekend, and were not pleased about being relegated to the hallway. (As it turned out, the bake sale was very successful and they sold all of their items.) They see inconsistencies to the "policy". (It's not really a formal policy, but more of a suggestion at this point.) So...coffee is still being sold in the narthex. Poinsettias are being sold. And there is a quilt auction going on. So why can't they sell baked goods? They do have a point. I think what members were objecting to were the tables that were set up in the narthex, like a bake sale. Especially when there were two or three such events going on during a given Sunday. The other "sales" are much more low key and unobtrusive. I'm not sure we can make a policy that covers all scenarios for fund raising. I personally think it is working. Your input is welcomed.

## **2. WORSHIP**

- a. Jazz Service – Ray Leake keeps trying to improve the jazz service. This year he invited Wendi Harston to join us. She was outstanding and raised the service to a new level.
- b. Taize worship – I have been very pleased with the Advent Taize services. Jasmine has taken the lead in planning those and done a good job. John Christianson and Kristi Moore have also provided excellent musical leadership. We are averaging about 25 per service which is perfect for the way it is set up. It has been a good mix of LOC and BLC members. I know that personally I have been moved by this worship.
- c. NCD – The NCD team will be compiling the data they have received from the focus groups regarding our "minimum factor" of Inspiring Worship. I see this as a major emphasis in the New Year.
- d. Ecumenical service – This Thanksgiving service remains strong. This is the first time that we have held it at Central Presbyterian. Two of the supporting churches have had pastoral changes, but they remain committed to it. I was pleased with the turn out from Bethlehem, both in the congregation and choir.

## **3. FACILITY**

- a. Narthex project - The narthex project is almost done. It has included: new light fixtures, installing new lights over the stained glass windows, new carpet, painting, new storage benches with cushions, new hanging rods. There has been a very positive response from the congregation. The last item to be addressed is the bulletin boards.

- b. Offices – Given the generosity of the congregation, we were able to purchase enough carpet squares to recarpet all of the offices. Some of that carpet was very worn. It looks great. Thanks to Larry Twito, Bob Cotton and Ken Wright and folks on one of the Sundays (and the staff) for moving all the office furniture.
  - c. Outdoor area – Ryan Bloemker erected the support structure for the shade system. It now gives us an idea of the actual size of the structure. We will need to set a dedication date for it in the spring.
4. **COUNCIL RETREAT** – We need to talk about a council retreat for 2012. Last year we did a Saturday retreat at First Lutheran. LOC has expressed interest in joining us again.
5. **D. Min.** – One of the real joys of this degree program has been the Parish Response group. This is a group of six church members (Bob Ritzen, Barb Gordon, Todd Bishoff, Katie McNeely, Alan Olson, Margot Hoffmeyer) who have committed to critique my submitted sermons. They met with me twice for each of the two sermons that I had to submit. The discussion, their suggestions, their critique has been invaluable.