



The Hamilton Beacon

October 13, 2020

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM JACK

It was exactly twelve months ago that we were discussing the opportunity of working in ministry with Hamilton Presbyterian Church. Session, trustees, interim pastor selection committee, we were all in it together.

We ended up developing “The Ten Point Plan.” Here’s the first point:

Rather than an interim position, Jack’s service will be a part-time Temporary Supply, with compensation at 27 hours. The Temporary Supply period will be four months: January 1 – April 30, 2020.

All that great planning was before Covid-19 knocked everything into a cocked hat. Uncharted territory was laid upon us all. Flying by the seat of our pants (*don’t you love these mixed metaphors*), no one was really sure what to do.

Our time together expanded into a year. In this time, despite the pain and anguish of Covid-19, we’ve achieved some significant goals:

- Repaired the men’s restrooms in the church, cleaned up fallen plaster, repaired walls, painted, and turned it into a handicapped restroom for general use;

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- Repaired Sanctuary and Tower roofs, many broken slate and rotted gutters (price tag - \$32,000);
- Sold a portion of our parking lot we do not need for \$100,000;
- We are now on course to sell the manse; but first, we need to complete the subdivision process;
- Cleaned Westminster Hall (it took six dumpsters);
- We now have programs and groups using the facilities.
- Looking at the September financial report, our member giving is 3.3% beyond expectation for this time: 75% of the year. Our problem is with other income streams (rentals, etc.) which are lagging far behind.

So we seem to have reached several plateaus.

This is good, because I have reached the point where my left knee (as well as my right!) need some medical intervention. You have observed the need if you have seen me climb stairs.

At the October 11th Session/Trustee meeting I indicated the time had come. So I will be with you through October and into Sunday, November 1st. After that, I will not be available for any preaching or pastoral work because of quarantine. The Presbytery will name a new moderator for Session.

However, with the unanimous approval of Session/Trustees, I will continue in the specific area of sub-division work, seeing it to completion. This is something I can easily do at home since this Covid-19 age, all contacts are by phone and computer.

There will be plenty to say to each other in the days to come, but do know that my time with Hamilton has been a great blessing in my life. All-in-all, I think our immediate financial future has been secured. Hamilton now has time to do what it needs to do. But this will require “stepping up to the plate.”

I am very optimistic!

Grace and Peace!

Jack

THE PROJECTS

The major project of importance was to fix the Sanctuary and Tower roof. We are confident water problems are solved.

REMAINING PROJECTS

1. Entry Hall leading to Church Office, Kitchen, and Women's Restroom
✓ completed
2. Westminster Hall -
Large Garage Door and Floor Drains
✓ *completed*
3. Men's Restroom -
Replace stained walls, ceiling, and lights
Renovate into one person handicapped restroom
✓ *completed*
4. Harford Road Ground Floor Entry - Water came through walls and stopped drains. We have rebuild baseboard and walls, paint is to come
✓ *partially completed*
5. Westminster Hall -
Clean/paint interior rooms
6. Tower Stairwell -
clean mold, patch, plaster, paint on the ground floor and main floor
7. On Harford Road, the three Sanctuary Entry Doors -
Scrape, sand and paint the exterior of the Doors
8. Sanctuary Walls - -
Repair and plaster where necessary, paint the east, south & west walls. The north Chancel wall seems fine.