

**August 8, 2023**

### **IN OUR HOUSE**

Many of you have heard this by now, but I wanted to say something a little more directly. I will be retiring effective October 31, 2023. I have been considering this for some time. I was eligible to retire in late 2019. I felt the need to carry on through the pandemic, and the “coming out of it” year. In 2022, I recognized the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination and 15 years at UCF. As you know, anniversaries can amplify reflections that have been happening at a lower level. So it was for me.

A circumstance of the vocation is that for more than 30 years, I have had six weekends a year off, spent one Christmas morning with my family in that time and a handful of Christmas days and missed many week end family events. It is time for me to make different choices and retirement now is the right choice for me. I will, of course, do everything possible to facilitate a smooth transition.

Your Board and Personnel Committee are already addressing short-term needs that will arise as I retire. The Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse and the ABC-NYS have been notified. They will provide the Board and congregation with support and resources as you go through this transition. There are and will be many questions. You can expect many communications from those groups, providing information, forums for questions and answers and information about processes going forward.

I look forward to being in service with you these last few months. You will hear this again, but it is and has been a privilege to serve Christ with you in this place and I am thankful for your faithfulness and commitment to ministry.

In faith, Linda

### **OUR SUMMER OF THANKS**

#### **The Fiscal Oversight Pod**

Our summer of thanks rolls on. Today we turn our attention to all those – and there are many - who tend to our financial resources. The various tasks to be done to make the wheels go round in ministry all have their challenges. For those guiding our financial resources there are demands that can make it difficult for folk to answer the call with yes.

There is some necessary knowledge about bookkeeping, accounting and budgeting, as well as computer use; and they seek professional guidance for investment management. Not everyone needs to be an expert in those things. The ability to count is good:-) But more than that, these folk are often called upon to share challenging news, issue calls for sacrifice, reduce budgets, not because requests aren't for very good things, but because there are not enough resources to fund all our dreams. They can only guide the use of resources we have. (I always look to see what our gardeners are up to in Memorial Garden – as they are regularly adding to the growth there. However, to-date, I do not believe they have planted a money tree.)

I don't know many folk who like to ask for money and it is as uncomfortable for these folk as it is for any of us. Altogether, we tend to remember the daunting tasks they do and not see much of the behind-the-scenes work.

However, just like our households, towns and nation, the church needs to tend and manage its financial resources. Let us take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to those who carry out what are often the unsung tasks that are key to sustaining our ministry.

Fiscal Oversight Pod: Jenny, Pod Coordinator; Financial Officers: Bob, Treasurer, Greg, Assistant Treasurer, Sandy, Auditor; Counters: Deb, Carol, Kim y, Cindy , Dick, Julie Co-Head Counter, Scott I, Co-Head Counter, Steve; Investment Advisory Group: Carl, Jenny, Sandy , Cindy; Memorials: Penny, Jane, Chair, Beth, Cindy; Stewardship: Carol , Linda, Coordinator, Scott, Linda, Gail

### **TRANSITIONS AND GREAT JOY**

\*Barb had a crazy, emotional end of the school year and beginning of the summer. Within a two-week period, she retired after 30 years as a 1st grade TA for FM and she went from having 2 grandchildren to officially welcoming 2 more amazing kids into the family! Her older son Jason and his wife Heather adopted siblings after fostering them for almost 2 years. The love and pride are overflowing! Retirement came at just the right time so there can be more trips down to the Clemson, SC area to spend more time with Emmarie 5 and Bryson 7.



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