November 17, 2014

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is around the corner and I am always amazed at how quickly the autumn

passes. Those of us on your Council always have staunchly held beliefs that we will

accomplish great things in a short amount of time. Then reality steps in and we march

slowly towards the goals set at our June retreat. The main item of business has been to

move forward long range strategic financial planning as mandated by last May’s annual

meeting. The Council received a well thought out and thorough report from the Long

Range Financial Planning ad hoc committee made up of Tim Maroney, Chair, Mark

Royalty, Greg Stivland, and Linda Stout.

The Council spent a good part of the summer working on the recommendations of the

committee. The first part of this work includes a recommendation to change our church

by-laws to include the formation of an endowment fund for The Pinehurst

Congregational UCC Church. You will be asked to vote on the attached document at a

congregational meeting on December 14th. Please read it over and if you have any

questions please feel free to contact any Council member.

In the meantime, the Council is also taking a look at restructuring our debt. That

process includes planning for all deferred maintenance items such as replacement of

the roof, HVC system, carpeting, etc. We are taking the time to take a long view at our

church building, our growing attendance, the pre school rental, the burgeoning use of

our facility and what impact this has on our mission as a community of faith. Please do

not be alarmed. We are exploring many ideas, but the operative word is exploring!

Nothing will be decided without adequate input from everyone--member and friend!

Kate Cote, our treasurer, has been very hard at work. She has followed in John Kelly’s

footsteps, streamlining further the work he had begun. In an effort to keep everyone

informed regarding the finances of the church, the Council asked Kate to post in the

bulletin an update on the budget figures as we move through the fiscal year. Also, she

was directed to send out quarterly pledge figures to all who pledged for the 2014-15

year. This has been met with mixed reviews. Not everyone was interested in receiving

this information. If you would rather not get an update, please let Kate know.

(katekote71@gmail.com)

And by the way, it’s not all about fiscal issues! A document of Guidelines for Facility

Use, put together by John Arnold, Bob Hoffman and Beth Daniels, was accepted and

added to the file. A new sign for the front of the church is in the works, the electrical

work for lighting the cross on the building has been accomplished (watch for a special

lighting celebration), a successful yard sale has come and gone, and we look forward to

the Madrigal dinner (pot luck) on December 6th. Study groups (book and the Bible),

and plans for Mission, Peace and Justice initiatives are either just finished, under way or

in the future. Possible plans for a study of Centered Prayer may also be on the horizon.

Know that as a congregation you have an impact in so many ways. Thanks to the

ongoing Coalition contributions, Back Pack Pals work, Spiritual Care Ministry, music making, garden growing, fellowship creating, and all the additional time individuals put into church teams or community volunteering.

Don’t forget December 14th Congregational Meeting!!

God is still speaking!

Kathy Nekton

Council Chair